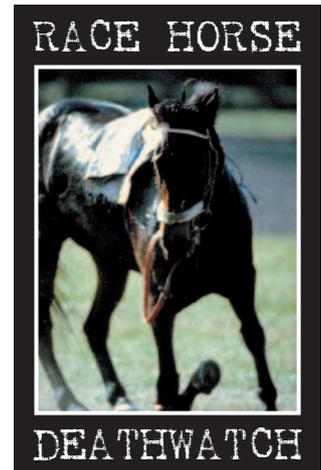
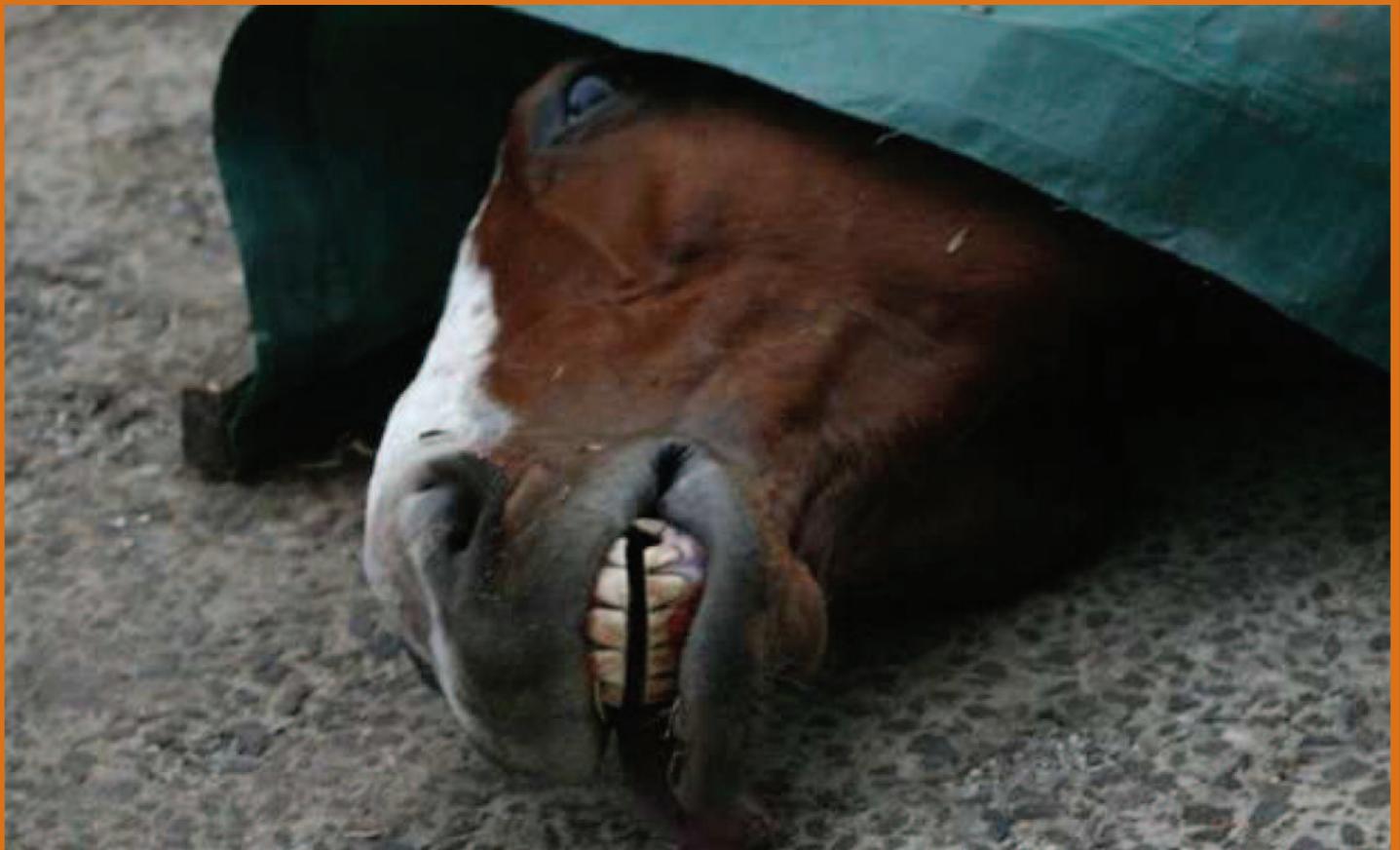


Race Horse *Deathwatch*

Race Horse Deaths on British Racecourses in 2012



An Animal Aid Report



Introduction

Animal Aid's Race Horse *Deathwatch* (www.horsedeathwatch.com) is an online database that catalogues race horse deaths on British racecourses.

The British Horseracing Authority – racing's horse welfare regulator – refuses to publish the names of individual horses killed, the number of horses killed and the racecourse on which they died. Animal Aid launched its *Deathwatch* website in 2007 to address this lack of transparency.

While every effort is made to catalogue all horses who are killed on British racecourses, Animal Aid knows that a large number – likely to be in the region of 50 individuals – will be missing each year from the *Deathwatch* database. This is due to the industry concealing, whenever possible, horse deaths. Animal Aid only includes horses in its listings who have been officially confirmed, through our direct research, as victims.



Summary

- 143 horses died as a result of racing on British racecourses during 2012.
- The causes varied. They included skeletal injuries, suspensory system (ligaments, tendons) breakdowns or cardiovascular failure. Many of the injuries could be directly attributed to the conditions in which the horses raced – for example, if the ground was too heavy or firm, or the fences were too difficult.
- There was extreme variability in the fatality rates at racecourses.
- The five most lethal racecourses, when judged by the number of horses killed as a proportion of the number of race meetings held, were: Aintree, Cheltenham, Southwell NH, Market Rasen and Sedgefield.
- Horses racing on Southwell's National Hunt course were nearly ten times more likely to die than on its All-Weather flat course.
- Horses were killed on 43 of Britain's 60 racecourses.⁽¹⁾
- Of the 42 National Hunt (jump) courses, 31 had horse fatalities.⁽²⁾
- Fifteen of the 33 Flat courses racing on turf saw horses die.
- Each of the four All-Weather racecourses had horse fatalities.
- Cheltenham, Hereford and Taunton each had three horses die in a single day's racing.
- Ten racecourses saw two horses killed in a single day's racing.
- Aintree and Uttoxeter had, on two occasions, two horses die in a single day's racing.

(1) Fifty-eight racecourses will operate in 2013, due to the closure of Hereford and Folkestone.

(2) Eighteen courses race on both the flat (Flat Turf or All-Weather) and jumps.

Statistical Analysis

CHART 1(a) The racing discipline in which horses died

Discipline	Course Conditions	Horse Deaths as a Percentage of Total
National Hunt (NH)	Jumping of Hurdles or Fences, or NH Flat races	100 (70%)
Flat	Racing on a Flat turf course	27 (19%)
All Weather (AW)	Flat racing on Polytrack or Fibresand	16 (11%)
TOTAL		143 (100%)

CHART 1(b) The racing discipline in which horses died

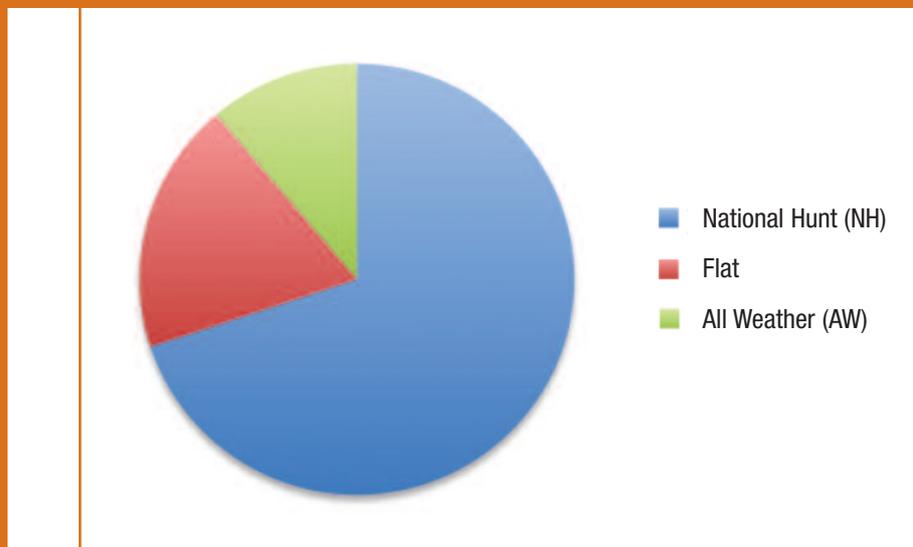


CHART 2 Racing discipline in which horses died and the mean frequency of deaths in relation to race meetings

Discipline	Deaths	Meetings	Approx. One Horse Death per Number of Meetings
National Hunt (NH)	100	513.5	1 in 5
Flat	27	532	1 in 20
All Weather (AW)	16	321.5	1 in 20
TOTAL	143	1,367	1 in 10



CHART 3 Racecourses with the most horses killed in 2012

Racecourse	Discipline	Most Horses Killed in 2012
Cheltenham	NH	10
Market Rasen	NH	8
Uttoxeter	NH	8
Wolverhampton	AW	7
Aintree	NH	6
Sedgefield	NH	6
Southwell	NH	6

CHART 4 The most lethal racecourses when judged by deaths and total days' racing. Equated to a common denominator per 100 days' racing

Most Lethal	Racecourse	Discipline	Horses Killed	Days' Racing	Deaths per 100 Days' Racing
1	Aintree	NH	6	8	75
2	Cheltenham	NH	10	16	62.5
3	Southwell	NH	6	14	42.85
4	Market Rasen	NH	8	19	42.11
5	Sedgefield	NH	6	15	40
6	Ludlow	NH	5	13	38.46
7	Uttoxeter	NH	8	22	36.36

CHART 4(a) The most lethal racecourses with regard to type of obstacles

Racecourse	Chase	Nov Chase	Hurdle	Nov Hurdle	NHF	Total
Aintree	2	1	1	1	1	6
Cheltenham	4	3	3	0	0	10
Southwell	1	3	2	0	0	6
Market Rasen	2	4	2	0	0	8
Sedgefield	2	1	0	3	0	6
Ludlow	2	1	2	0	0	5
Uttoxeter	1	3	3	1	0	8
Total	14	16	13	5	1	49

CHART 5 Flat (turf) racecourse fatality figures in relation to days' racing; indicating the most dangerous

Most Lethal	Flat (turf) Racecourse	Horse Deaths	Days' Racing	Deaths per 100 Days' Racing
1	York	3	17	17.65
2	Thirsk	2	14	14.29
3	Newcastle	2	15	13.33
4	Ascot	2	17	11.76
5	Brighton	2	18	11.11
6	Goodwood	2	18	11.11
7	Newmarket	3	38	7.89





CHART 6 All-Weather fatality figures in relation to days' racing, indicating the most dangerous

Most Lethal	All Weather Racecourse	Horse Deaths	Days' Racing	Deaths per 100 Days' Racing
1	Wolverhampton	7	111	6.3
2	Southwell	2	43	4.7
3	Kempton	4	88	4.5
4	Lingfield	3	79.5	3.8
Total & Mean		16	321.5	5

CHART 7 Racecourses with the most single-day fatalities in 2012

Racecourse	Date	Deaths in Single-days' Racing
Taunton	1 March	3
Cheltenham	13 March	3
Hereford	24 June	3

CHART 8(a) List of British racecourses, their racing discipline (Flat, National Hunt, All-Weather) and horse deaths

Racecourse	Discipline	Horse Deaths
Aintree	NH	6
Ascot	Flat	2
Ascot	NH	1
Ayr	Flat	0
Ayr	NH	1
Bangor	NH	4
Bath	Flat	0
Beverley	Flat	0
Brighton	Flat	2
Carlisle	Flat	1
Carlisle	NH	1
Cartmel	NH	2
Catterick	Flat	1
Catterick	NH	1
Cheltenham	NH	10
Chepstow	Flat	0
Chepstow	NH	0
Chester	Flat	0
Doncaster	Flat	2
Doncaster	NH	0
Epsom	Flat	0
Exeter	NH	4
Fakenham	NH	0
Ffos Las	Flat	0
Ffos Las	NH	0
Folkestone	Flat	0
Folkestone	NH	0
Fontwell	NH	2
Goodwood	Flat	2
Hamilton	Flat	0
Haydock	Flat	0
Haydock	NH	1
Hereford	NH	5
Hexham	NH	0
Huntingdon	NH	0
Kelso	NH	2
Kempton	AW	4
Kempton	NH	2

Racecourse	Discipline	Horse Deaths
Leicester	Flat	0
Leicester	NH	1
Lingfield	AW	3
Lingfield	Flat	0
Lingfield	NH	0
Ludlow	NH	5
Market Rasen	NH	8
Musselburgh	Flat	1
Musselburgh	NH	2
Newbury	Flat	1
Newbury	NH	1
Newcastle	Flat	2
Newcastle	NH	3
Newmarket	Flat	3
Newton Abbot	NH	1
Nottingham	Flat	0
Perth	NH	2
Plumpton	NH	2
Pontefract	Flat	1
Redcar	Flat	0
Ripon	Flat	2
Salisbury	Flat	1
Sandown	Flat	0
Sandown	NH	0
Sedgefield	NH	6
Southwell	AW	2
Southwell	NH	6
Stratford	NH	1
Taunton	NH	3
Thirsk	Flat	2
Towcester	NH	0
Uttoxeter	NH	8
Warwick	Flat	0
Warwick	NH	0
Wetherby	NH	3
Wincanton	NH	2
Windsor	Flat	0
Wolverhampton	AW	7
Worcester	NH	4
Yarmouth	Flat	1
York	Flat	3
Total		143

CHART 8(b) List of British racecourses, their racing discipline (Flat, National Hunt, All-Weather), horse deaths at the course, number of days' racing in 2012, and deaths equated to a common denominator per 100 days' racing

Racecourse	Discipline	Horse Deaths	Days' Racing	Deaths per 100 Days' Racing
Aintree	NH	6	8	75
Ascot	Flat	2	17	11.8
Ascot	NH	1	8	12.5
Ayr	Flat	0	16	0
Ayr	NH	1	10	10
Bangor	NH	4	14	28.6
Bath	Flat	0	20	0
Beverley	Flat	0	17	0
Brighton	Flat	2	18	11.1
Carlisle	Flat	1	8	12.5
Carlisle	NH	1	10	10
Cartmel	NH	2	7	28.57
Catterick	Flat	1	17	5.88
Catterick	NH	1	8	12.5
Cheltenham	NH	10	16	62.5
Chepstow	Flat	0	11	0
Chepstow	NH	0	10	0
Chester	Flat	0	15	0
Doncaster	Flat	2	24	8.33
Doncaster	NH	0	8	0
Epsom	Flat	0	12	0
Exeter	NH	4	12	33.3
Fakenham	NH	0	10	0
Ffos Las	Flat	0	7	0
Ffos Las	NH	0	16	0
Folkestone	Flat	0	12	0
Folkestone	NH	0	8	0
Fontwell	NH	2	22	9
Goodwood	Flat	2	18	11.1
Hamilton	Flat	0	15	0
Haydock	Flat	0	22	0
Haydock	NH	1	9	11.1
Hereford	NH	5	15	33.3
Hexham	NH	0	12	0
Huntingdon	NH	0	13	0
Kelso	NH	2	11	18.18
Kempton	AW	4	88	4.55
Kempton	NH	2	10	20
Leicester	Flat	0	14	0
Leicester	NH	1	8	12.5

CHART 8(b) ctd.

Racecourse	Discipline	Horse Deaths	Days' Racing	Deaths per 100 Days' Racing
Lingfield	AW	3	79.5	3.8
Lingfield	Flat	0	10.5	0
Lingfield	NH	0	6	0
Ludlow	NH	5	13	38.46
Market Rasen	NH	8	19	42.11
Musselburgh	Flat	1	15	6.67
Musselburgh	NH	2	9	22.2
Newbury	Flat	1	16	6.25
Newbury	NH	1	12	8.33
Newcastle	Flat	2	15	13.33
Newcastle	NH	3	11	27.3
Newmarket	Flat	3	38	7.89
Newton Abbot	NH	1	15	6.67
Nottingham	Flat	0	16	0
Perth	NH	2	12	16.67
Plumpton	NH	2	15	13.33
Pontefract	Flat	1	15	6.67
Redcar	Flat	0	15	0
Ripon	Flat	2	14	14.28
Salisbury	Flat	1	14	7.14
Sandown	Flat	0	16.5	0
Sandown	NH	0	8.5	0
Sedgefield	NH	6	15	40
Southwell	AW	2	43	4.7
Southwell	NH	6	14	42.85
Stratford	NH	1	18	5.6
Taunton	NH	3	12	25
Thirsk	Flat	2	14	14.3
Towcester	NH	0	16	0
Uttoxeter	NH	8	22	36.4
Warwick	Flat	0	7	0
Warwick	NH	0	8	0
Wetherby	NH	3	13	23
Wincanton	NH	2	15	13.3
Windsor	Flat	0	21	0
Wolverhampton	AW	7	111	6.3
Worcester	NH	4	15	26.7
Yarmouth	Flat	1	25	4
York	Flat	3	17	17.65
Total		143	1367	

