

## Should the use of whips within horse racing be banned in Australia?

### 1. Do you believe the use of whips within racing perceives people to believe horse racing is a cruel sport?

I believe a small degree of people do, but the majority don't, a lot may also defend the idea that horses don't feel much pain being whipped. The popularity and support of horse racing in the Melbourne Cup across Australia annually is much higher than any complaint of the practice of whipping.

### 2. Do you believe the use of whips upon horses whilst being raced is acceptable?

I don't believe any form of unnecessary mistreatment towards animals is acceptable - whether it inflicts severe harm or not, however whipping is just an extension of problematic industries. There is popular misconception that whipping is believed to be one drive to a horses' racing success. Therefore, if we want to address whether whipping is acceptable or not, I think it's crucial to address the industry of horse racing as a whole.

### 3. Do you believe the use of whips upon horses whilst being trained is acceptable?

No, if we are whipping, hitting, beating or soliciting any sort of altered and/or neurotic behaviours, then we need to question how this is acceptable to begin with. Forcing animals to perform tricks (and in this case we are, as we use whips) that they cannot possibly consent to is cruelty.

### 4. Do you believe race horses are physiologically damaged after having whips continuously used upon them?

I'm not sure, as I haven't found enough conclusive evidence to whether it affects them physiologically. On *Horseracingkills.com*, it is stated whipping causes injuries and psychological pain. I am also mindful that the racing industry has escaped many accounts of abuse and has successfully hid common cruel practices from the public.

### 5. Do you feel horses could still reach their full potential without the whips as motivation?

I can't say as I try to inform myself before making any claims, there is little research to suggest that it actually supports them in running faster (Livescience). That being said, I don't support the sport altogether, many premature horses that are injured during training are euthanised as they cannot compete and are useless to profiting industries. Statistics show 18,000 are killed annually. They are considered economic commodities to the billion dollar racing industry. Horses are injured and euthanised after races, is this worth the entertainment?

### 6. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being ineffective and 10 being it makes horses compete at a much higher level, how well do you believe horses respond to the whips.

This is taken from LiveScience:

***[McGreevy and his colleague David Evans enlisted the help of experienced "stewards of racing" — officials charged with judging jockeys' adherence to Australia's racing rules, including those limiting the use of whips. The stewards viewed five recorded thoroughbred races and counted whip strikes on 48 animals during the last 600 meters (656 yards). Electronic sensors in the horses' saddle blankets recorded the animals' times and their places at the finish line.***

***Through a statistical analysis of the data, the researchers found, rather predictably, that jockeys began whipping their horses in the second-to-last leg of the race, between 400 and 200 meters (438 and 219 yards) from the finish line, and they whipped the animals most during the final leg, when the horses were tired and slowing down.***

***But by the time the whipping started, McGreevy said, whether or not the horse would finish among the first three was usually already settled.***

***"A horse's performance before the final 400 meters, when it wasn't being whipped, was the strongest predictor of its racing success," McGreevy told LiveScience. "The highest speeds in these horses were achieved when they weren't being whipped."]***

With that information in mind, I say a very low number with effectiveness in racing, however I cannot define it by a number as there is still a lack of research on whether it affects them in other ways such as neurotically, physically etc.

#### **7. How would you feel if the use of whips was completely banned from racing?**

I would feel a very minuscule level of triumph but nothing compared to what it would be like if the horse racing industry was boycotted as a whole. The dark reality and gruesome facts behind the capitalist money making industry needs to be exposed - horse racing should be abolished, not re-adjusted. It can never be ethical when it's profit over multiple lives.

#### **8. Do you believe horses feel a great deal of pain when being whipped?**

I believe parts of my answer to this lies within some of the previous questions. I cannot form a definite opinion but I have found some information (from [horseracingkills.com](http://horseracingkills.com)) that it is responsible for countless injuries and psychological effects. I definitely don't support it and it is completely unnecessary.

#### **9. Do you believe horses show certain signs whilst in pain, and could this be visible whilst being whipped in a race?**

I'd like to address the overall impact of the industry. Horses have been severely injured on track and after, many have died. One example just last year is a horse Admire Rakti, a seven-year-old stallion from Japan, who died unexpectedly in his stall shortly after finishing last in the race due to acute heart failure. Araldo was killed due to an injury (broken leg).

I think due to that, it is more important to question the practice of racing rather than focusing on just whipping. Now I am unsure if there are any observable signs but is death and injury not enough

evidence of signs?

10. Finally, do you think there is a way of improving the image of horse racing and alleviating animal welfare concerns?

With all the points raised in previous answers, my conclusion is to boycott horse racing altogether, not negotiating ways to improve the "image" of horse racing because it won't change the capitalist system of the mass killing of horses and use as horses as commodities for betting and making money. The industry relies on exploitative practices. The only way to seek meaningful improvement is to continuously work on phasing out horse racing altogether.

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