



THE  
**WINNER'S CIRCLE**

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR THE PROSPECTIVE STANDARD BRED HORSE OWNER







# CONTENTS

- 2** INTRODUCTION
- 3** RESEARCHING HARNESS HORSE OWNERSHIP
- 4** HISTORY OF THE STANDARDBRED
- 5** OWNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS
  - 6** SELECTING A TRAINER
  - 7** TRAINING COSTS
  - 8** BUYING A HORSE
  - 10** CATALOGUE PAGE
  - 11** TAXATION OVERVIEW
  - 13** STANDARDBRED CANADA
  - 14** NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- 15** PROVINCIAL RACING COMMISSIONS
  - 16** ASSOCIATIONS
  - 17** CANADIAN RACETRACKS
  - 18** GLOSSARY
- 22** THE STANDARDBRED IN HARNESS
- 23** CONCLUSION







# INTRO

On behalf of Standardbred Canada, welcome to the exciting world of harness racing. We know from experience that anyone interested in Standardbred racing and breeding has many questions and concerns. This publication provides basic advice and information for new horse owners or anyone contemplating purchasing a harness horse.

The best investment you can make before entering this business is your time. Investigate thoroughly, ask questions, read the trade publications and web sites, attend owner workshops available, and make calls to the various organizations.

Owning a Standardbred can be one of the most exhilarating and unique investments you can make but it is also very high risk. There are a number of ways to become involved as an owner and they include everything from buying a horse by yourself to owning a small percentage of a horse with a group of friends. Harness racing allows the opportunity for families to be involved and visiting the stable can be a social outing. Owners can also have the chance to be “hands on” and work at the stable or learn to jog a horse. At the other end of the scale, you can simply go to the track to watch your horse race.

Anyone who has experienced some level of success in harness horse racing will tell you nothing matches the feeling of having a horse you’ve bred, raised, owned, trained or driven win a race, regardless of the size of the purse.

Preparation, continuing education and common sense will help you to make a qualified and informed decision about harness horse ownership and increase the chances for fun and success.

We wish you success, good luck and good racing!



# RESEARCHING HARNESS HORSE OWNERSHIP

The best investment you can make before becoming involved in racehorse ownership is your time.

## **READ** \_\_\_\_\_

- Trade publications such as TROT Magazine and Atlantic Post Calls
- ⇒ Industry websites: *standardbredcanada.ca*

## **COMMUNICATE** \_\_\_\_\_

- Talk to owners, trainers and other industry participants

## **CONSULT** \_\_\_\_\_

- An experienced owner

## **PARTICIPATE** \_\_\_\_\_

- In industry-sponsored events and educational programs

## **OBSERVE** \_\_\_\_\_

- Spend time at the races
- Attend horse sales
- Arrange for a tour of the stable area of a racetrack or training center
- ⇒ Observe the professionals in action

## **NETWORK** \_\_\_\_\_

- Contact owners, breeders and horsemen's organizations
- ⇒ Inquire about services offered and membership benefits







# HISTORY OF THE STANDARD BRED

In 1879, the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders agreed upon standards to define horses eligible to the Trotting Register, started in 1867 by John H. Wallace, to record pedigrees of trotting horses. One of the rules stated that a stallion was required to trot a mile in two minutes and thirty seconds or better, or 2:35 if hitched to a wagon.

---

After years of debate over what to name the new breed of trotting horse, the high standards required for registry led to the name we know today: Standardbred.

All Standardbreds trace their ancestry through direct male line to the imported stallion Messenger, an English Thoroughbred who was brought to America in 1788. The modern Standardbred owes its existence to a rather homely grandson of Messenger named Hambletonian.

The story of Hambletonian is a fascinating and well-documented one, and set the precedent for this breed being one for “every man” and not just a wealthy person’s sport. Hambletonian was bought as a foal by his caretaker, an illiterate hired hand named Rysdyk, and eventually made his owner a fortune.

Hambletonian’s sons and daughters were the first to meet the standards of the new trotting breed, including Dexter, the horse you see on every antique weathervane, and Lady Suffolk, the *old gray mare who ain’t what she used to be*.

Canadian influence was strong in the new Standard breed, with the emergence of sires like Pilot, Pilot Jr., and the early pacers, which were brought out of Canada like Copperbottom, founder of the Hal family.

In 1881, the first World Champion was a pacer of the Hal family, and the most prestigious pacing

race in the United States, the Little Brown Jug, bears his name. Originally denigrated as “bush-bred” and considered a poor man’s horse, today’s pacer is making many people rich.

In 1909, the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society was incorporated for the primary purpose of maintaining the official registry of Standardbred horses in Canada. In 1939, the Canadian Trotting Association was formed to become the record-keeping and licensing body. In 1998 the two organizations were amalgamated to form Standardbred Canada. Computer terminals connect racetracks across the country to Standardbred Canada’s central data bank in Mississauga, Ontario.

Canadians have gained international recognition in the sport at all levels. John Campbell, Ron and Keith Waples, Michel Lachance and Bill O’Donnell are legends in the sport and are all Canadians.

The award of excellence in Canadian racing today is the O’Brien Award, named after the late, great Maritime born horseman, Joe O’Brien. At the conclusion of each racing year, voters from across the country make their selections of the horses and people they feel are deserving of this honour. The winners are announced each year at the O’Brien Awards, hosted by Standardbred Canada.













## OWNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

Any person or corporation participating directly in harness racing in Canada must be a member in good standing with Standardbred Canada.

This includes owners or lessees of racehorses, breeders and some licensed officials.

An SC Field Representative is present at each operating racetrack and membership applications may be obtained from their office at the track or from the SC head office in Mississauga, Ontario, or online at [standardbredcanada.ca](http://standardbredcanada.ca)

All new members must meet the requirements of membership before being licensed. All members must renew their SC membership by their birthday if they continue to be active in the sport. There is an initiation fee and service fee for all new members. The cost of membership is prorated from the application date to the member's birthdate.

Where applicable all persons participating in Standardbred racing must be licensed by their provincial racing commission. Owners of stallions standing in Ontario are also required to be licensed by the provincial racing commission.

Other non-mandatory memberships may be obtained for provincial associations, breeders organizations, etc. It is very important to remember that as soon as you acquire any degree of ownership in a horse, the ownership of the horses must be transferred with Standardbred Canada to reflect that change. Racing horses can be considered a hobby, a sport, or entertainment, but because of the gambling aspect, it is a very heavily regulated business. Failure to disclose any financial interest in a horse can result in heavy fines and suspensions.



# SELECTING A TRAINER

Once you've decided to purchase a horse, one of the most important decisions you'll have to make is selecting your trainer.

Many trainers do not advertise their services. Finding a reputable person to manage your investment can make the difference between a good experience or disillusionment. The best method is to obtain a referral from a respected associate, but failing that, you will have to do some homework.

Frequent the track where you would like to have your horse race. Study the program and its statistics to see which trainers are successful. Look for consistent and competitive horses that frequently pick up cheques. Make a list of the trainers of these horses.

Find out from the racetrack or associations if any new owner workshops are being held. Ask the race secretary which local trainers specialize in claiming horses and which are more involved with stake calibre horses, because this will affect their win statistics at that particular track. Talk to other owners, read the trade publications and ask questions.

Once you have made a list of several trainers, call the track and explain that you would like to meet them at their training facilities. The race office, publicity office or management of the track will either give you the phone numbers of the trainers, or give your number to the various individuals so that they can call you.

Make a list of what you might expect of a trainer and questions to ask when you meet. If you expect to be kept up to date weekly on your horse's progress or informed by telephone whenever he races, be sure to ask if this is part of the stable's policy. Ask to see a copy of their monthly training bill and ask for the names of some other owners, preferably with phone numbers.

## HERE ARE SOME FACTORS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO MEETING WITH A PROSPECTIVE TRAINER:

- ⇒ Where does the trainer stable his/her horses?
- ⇒ What type of horse does the trainer specialize in (ie. claimers, stake horses, pacers vs. trotters?)
- ⇒ How much time do you expect your trainer to spend with you?
- ⇒ How often do you reasonably expect to communicate with the trainer?
- ⇒ How often and under what conditions do you want to be consulted?
- ⇒ Would you like your trainer to attend sales and assist in making purchases?
- ⇒ What is the trainer's daily rate what does it include and what costs are additional?
- ⇒ What is the trainer's view on medication?
- ⇒ What is the trainer's average vet bill per month?

Consider whether a written contract is appropriate; in some racing jurisdictions, a written contract is mandatory. Find out exactly what your financial obligations will be up front. Look around the stable; is this a place where you would feel comfortable bringing your family and friends?

There are many aspects of horse racing which an owner must take on trust and you must feel comfortable enough with the person caring for your investment to talk about anything which involves your mutual relationship.

After you have done your initial research, talked to informed people, met several trainers and checked out their facilities and billing practices, you should have a good indication of what type of person would best suit your needs and personality.





# TRAINING COSTS

Naturally, one of the most important questions to ask a trainer is how much he charges and how much it costs to keep a racehorse. Training fees depend on where you race, where your trainer is, the vet and blacksmith that you use. Basic training fees can vary as much as \$40 a day by individual trainers. The more successful trainers will charge more and at the other end of the scale are young people willing to negotiate in order to attract owners until they get established.

If your horse finishes in the top five in his race, a percentage (usually ten percent, but it varies in different jurisdictions), of the purse money is divided between the trainer of the horse as well as the driver of the horse. (Some racetracks automatically deduct the trainer and driver fee from the purses.)

A trainer's daily rate is usually charged per diem and invoiced monthly. This fee buys you the trainer's professional services, feed, bedding, and the services of a groom during regular working hours.

The trainer will also have a daily rate, lower than the training rate, for horses which are receiving stall rest. When you interview trainers, ask them what their daily rate is and what their approximate monthly bill will be. It is important to know their base rate and their method of charging for extras, so there will be no misunderstandings when you receive your bill.

The trainer's daily rate usually includes feed, bedding, care, as well as training.

## INITIAL SET-UP COSTS

Your horse will require certain equipment and essentials that will be a onetime cost for you:

- Harness/Tack Trunk
- Special equipment (shadow rolls, knee boots, etc.)
- Stable equipment (feed & water tubs, combs, etc.)
- Brace bandages and stall wraps
- Blankets & coolers
- Hopples
- Sulky (race bike)\*
- Jog Cart\*

*\*item may sometimes be rented from the trainer for a nominal fee*

## ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Most trainers invoice the following separately from their daily training rate as many variables can impact these charges:

- Blacksmith charges (usually once a month)
- Vet charges (worming, flu, electrolyte jugs, etc.)
- Vitamins and minerals
- Alternative therapies such as chiropractic, laser therapy, etc.
- Shipping (to the track to race)
- Paddock fees (for the groom taking care of the horse when it races)
- Stake payments (if you have a stake eligible horse)











# BUYING A HORSE

Your initial investment will determine the type of horse you are buying or the extent of your ownership, and this is something you should research and discuss with your trainer. Ownership can be individual or shared depending upon the amount of your initial investment and the amount of control you want over your horse's career and expenses.

If you own a percentage of a horse, you will be billed for your percentage of the expenses and receive your percentage of the winnings.

## CLAIMING HORSES

Review your racing jurisdiction's claiming rules and note 1) the point at which the horse becomes the property of the new owner and 2) the conditions under which the horse must make its next start.

A claiming race classifies the horses competing by price. Prices range from \$1,000 claimers at the smaller tracks to \$50,000 claimers at the larger tracks. Qualified purchasers (those with proper licenses, etc.) may "claim" or buy the horse from the race. A certified cheque or cash for the claiming price (plus GST in most provinces) must be given to the claiming officer at the racetrack at a specified time in advance of post time of the race. Ownership transfers to the claiming party once the race begins, but any purse money earned by the horse in that race goes to the previous owner.

There are no guarantees in the horse business. Claiming proven racehorses or buying them privately is usually the safest methods of protecting your investment. You know the horse is capable of racing, you can gauge their soundness by watching them warm up the day of the race and you can race them under your ownership the very next week.

Disadvantages include the fact that if a horse is hurt in the race you claimed it from it becomes your problem, and a horse which is good enough to be claimed once will usually be claimed again if you continue to race it in a claiming event.

## BUYING PRIVATELY

Private transactions are common to the racing industry. Horses are advertised in trade journals, on web sites, on racetrack bulletin boards or by word of mouth. Some trainers will approach another trainer about a horse in a claiming race and arrange to conduct the exchange privately. There are trainers who make their living by breaking (teaching the basics) and starting young horses which are all for sale.

The advantage to buying privately is that your trainer can thoroughly inspect the horse and drive it in a training mile if applicable and have a veterinarian examine the horse, if agreed upon by the seller.

Buying a young horse with proven potential is often one of the costliest purchases, but it has less risk than buying yearlings.

When trainers buy or sell horses privately, they often charge an "agent" fee or commission, to cover their time and expertise, which is added to the purchase price. This is an accepted practice and reputable trainers will tell you upfront what their fee will be.

## PUBLIC AUCTION

"Mixed" sales are the public auctions of harness horses and feature young horses, breeding stock and racehorses. Sales companies provide racelines for each racehorse selling. Before the auction it is acceptable to have your trainer or veterinarian inspect the horses. Decide what you are willing to pay for the horse and stick to your decision.

## GREEN HORSES

A green horse is usually one which has trained but never raced. They are mostly sold as two- or three-year-olds, and can be purchased privately or through public auction. Ensure you are buying from someone your trainer has recommended because he or she has been watching the young horse's progress, or someone with a legitimate reason for wanting to sell a horse in which they have invested time and money and whose potential has yet to be realized. These horses will often require time and patience.



## YEARLINGS

---

Every Standardbred's official birthday falls on January 1st. Horses are born in the spring of the year and the following year many are sold as yearlings. There are numerous public auctions held, most in the fall, devoted exclusively to these year-old horses. Catalogues detailing the breeding and past performance of the horses in the yearling's immediate family are available about a month prior to the sale.

Most trainers and owners first examine the catalogue to determine which horses they are interested in based on pedigree. They then examine each horse they have selected, either at the consigning farm or at the sale grounds prior to the start of the auction. This physical examination will further reduce their selections as they rule out individuals with conformation faults. It is essential to have a qualified trainer or veterinarian conduct these examinations, unless you feel competent to detect conformation faults which could affect the horse's chance of success.

The purchase price of a yearling is only the initial investment. You must be prepared to pay monthly training bills and incidentals from the time of the auction with no hope of seeing your horse race until the next summer. Only about 50 percent of all yearlings make it to the races as two-year-olds, and of these even a smaller portion qualify for stakes races. Consequently, yearlings are the biggest gamble for new owners. They are the lottery tickets of the business. However, as with so many other things in life, the greatest risk can carry the greatest reward.

## BREEDING STOCK

---

Breeding stock (usually broodmares) is sold through public auction or private sales. The same procedures should be followed as for racehorses. Study the catalogue or research the pedigree of the horses you are interested in and examine them at the sale.

If you are buying a broodmare, it is recommended to have a veterinarian perform a rectal examination of the mare to determine the status of her reproductive tract. This is doubly important when buying a "barren" mare. Most sales companies have a veterinarian on hand to perform this procedure. It is also important to listen to all announcements from the auction stand, as a mare listed "in foal" in the catalogue may actually be barren by the time she is sold.

If you are interested in a broodmare who has had foals, it is a good practice to research her previous offspring.. You should find out what her offspring has sold for in previous sales. Don't be afraid to ask questions of the consignor at the sale. If the mare has missed a year or two foaling, find out why. Find out the status of her youngest foals; ie. are they in training, is the yearling being sold in the fall, etc. Find out why the consignor is selling.

At sales in the spring of the year, it is sometimes possible to buy a three-in-one package - a pregnant mare with a foal by her side. Broodmares selling in foal at most public auctions are sold with the stud fee paid. If the mare does not produce a live foal, the stud fee may be refundable. It is important to find out what applies, as stud fees can run to thousands of dollars.

Always remember that at a public auction any announcements made from the auction stand take precedence over what is printed in the sales catalogue.

## MULTIPLE/FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

---

Some new owners will obtain a partner or partners to share in the cost of horse ownership. Some trainers prefer to own a portion of any horse under their care and some will purchase an expensive yearling or yearlings and sell shares to several owners.

The advantages of multiple ownership are that you can purchase a horse of higher quality than you could afford yourself, training fees are shared by the owners, and the gamble of yearling ownership is spread more widely.

The drawbacks are the same as any business venture entered with partners. It is essential that you and your partners have common beliefs and goals in the horse business. Draw up an agreement prior to the purchase and appoint one member of the group to make management decisions. This person should have sole authority to carry out all transactions.

## LEASING

---

Leasing is not as common however requires very little capital.

Usually the lessee simply assumes responsibility for all costs associated with the board and care of the animal during the term of the lease.

The lessee enjoys the benefits of ownership with the obligation to share some of the benefits with the lessor per the terms of the lease.

Depending on the purpose of the lease and/or the type of horse leased (race horse or broodmares), the parties may share in revenues derived through racing or sale, or in the ownership or management of progeny. It is highly recommended that a professional be consulted before entering into a lease.





- 1 Name of Consigner (seller of horse).
- 2 Barn and stall, indicates horse's location at sale.
- 3 Registered name of horse selling.
- 4 Hip Number, in order of sale.
- 5 Indicates horse is eligible to race in the Ontario Sires Stakes.
- 6 Extended pedigree showing the family tree of sire (father) and dam (mother) of yearling.
- 7 The first dam (mother) of yearling and listing of her foals and their racing accomplishments.
- 8 The second dam of yearling and listing of her foals, etc.
- 9 Stake engagements indicates the stakes events to which the horse is eligible provided subsequent payments are made.

1 Consigned & Raised by: Northfields Farm Inc, Meaford, ON

4 119

3 **NORTHERN TITAN**

Barn 7 - Row C 2



5 (ONTARIO ELIGIBLE)

Bay Colt - Foaled February 18, 2014 - Freeze Brand #3MR15

Matts Scooter p, 3, T1:48.2 .....	Direct Scooter p, 3, 1:54 .....	Sampson Direct p, 4, T1:56 Noble Claire p, 2, 2:04
Mach Three p, 3, 1:49	Ellens Glory .....	Meadow Skipper p, 3, 1:55.1 Gloria Barmin p, 3, 1:59.2
All Included p, 4, 1:56.2f .....	Abercrombie p, 4, 1:53 .....	Silent Majority p, 3, 1:56.3 Bergdorf p, 4, 2:03.3q
6 <b>NORTHERNTITAN</b>	Debra Ann Hanover .....	<b>Most Happy Fella</b> p, 3, T1:55 Darling Almahurst p, 2, 2:06.2q
Camluck p, T1:48.4 .....	Cam Fella p, 4, 1:53.1 .....	<b>Most Happy Fella</b> p, 3, T1:55 Nan Cam p, 2:05.1f
Southwind Madonna p, 1:49.3s	Lucky Lady p, 3, 1:55 .....	Striking Image p, 2, 1:55 Just Our Luck
My Mystic p, 2, 1:57.4 .....	Falcon Seelster p, 3, 1:51h .....	Warm Breeze p, 4, 1:53.1 Fashion Trick p, 1:59
	Mystical Mood .....	Trenton p, 3, 1:51.3 Whispering Sands

7 **1st dam**  
**SOUTHWIND MADONNA** p, 3, 1:51s, 1:49.3s-'08 (\$1,016,051) 25 wins, by **CAMLUCK** p, T1:48.4. At 3, winner of ONSS Grassroots div at Clinton, div and final at Flamboro Downs, div at Western Fair, ON Sires Spring Series leg at Woodbine; second in Canadian Breeders Ch. elim at Mohawk, ONSS Gold elim and final at Flamboro Downs, ONSS Grassroots div at Hanover. At 4, second in Milton S. elim and final at Mohawk. As aged, winner of Breeders Crown elim at Mohawk, Forest City Pace final at Western Fair, Masters Series leg at Georgian Downs; second in Masters Series leg at Georgian Downs, Roses Are Red S. elim and final at Mohawk. From 2 foals, including a two-year-old of 2015, dam of Northern Prima (f, Jeremes Jet) (\$456). Now 2 and racing, timed in 1:55.3s.  
 Northern Belle (f, Jeremes Jet). Now 3.

8 **2nd dam**  
**MY MYSTIC** p, 2, 1:57.4-'94 (\$20,286) 1 win, by **FALCON SEELSTER** p, 3, 1:51h. Dam of 9 winners (2 in 1:51, 4 in 1:53, 7 in 1:55, 8 in 1:57) including-  
**SOUTHWIND MADONNA** (m, Camluck) p, 3, 1:51s, 1:49.3s-'08 (\$1,016,051) 25 wins. As Above.  
**THE UNSUB** (h, Lis Mara) p, 2, 1:54.3f, 3, 1:51.4f-'12 (\$177,366) 16 wins. At 2, winner of ONSS Grassroots div at Kawartha Downs. At 3, winner of ONSS Grassroots div at Georgian Downs; second in ONSS Grassroots div at Grand River; third in ONSS Grassroots div at Hiawatha Horse Park, ON Prep Series elim at Flamboro Downs.  
**THE BARTENDER** (g, Cams Card Shark) p, 3, 1:55.4, 4, 1:51.3-'06 (\$148,668) 14 wins. As aged, third in William Penn Series leg (twice) at Harrahs Chester Casino.  
**SOUTHWIND MADISON** (m, Pacific Fella) p, 3, 1:57.3f, 1:55f-'05 (\$138,126) 17 wins. At 4, winner of Spring Series final at Northlands Park; second in Spring Series elim at Northlands Park. Dam of **HOLLYWOOD WARRIOR** p, 3, 1:54, 1:53.2-'15 (\$196,770) etc.  
**SO REAL** (g, Artsplace) p, 1:55.1f-'06 (\$127,604) 26 wins. As aged, winner of Southern Fear Series leg at Tioga Downs; second in Southern Fear Series leg at Tioga Downs.  
**SOUTHWIND MAHOGANY** (g, Jennas Beach Boy) p, 2, 1:54.1-'00 (\$66,074) 13 wins. At 2, second in KYSS div at The Red Mile. At 3, winner of Robert J Suslow Series leg at The Meadowlands; second in Forrest Skipper Series at The Meadowlands; third in Forrest Skipper Series at The Meadowlands.  
**SHARKYS MACHINE** (g, Cams Card Shark) p, 3, 1:55f, 1:51z-'09 (\$55,779) 14 wins.  
**MICHAELS DREAM** (g, Village Jolt) p, 3, 1:59f, 4, 1:53.3f-'12 (\$39,213) 15 wins.  
 My Dream Girl (m, Life Sign) p, 3, 2:00.4h-'09 (\$5,869) 3 wins.  
 Mystical Sand (g, Sand Shooter) (\$348). Now 3 and racing.  
 Southwind Missy (m, Artiscape). Dam of **BOLERO TOPGUN** p, 3, 1:54.4f, 1:52.4f-'13 (\$325,324) etc.

9 **3rd dam**  
**MYSTICAL MOOD**, by **TRENTON** p, 3, 1:51.3. Dam of 5 winners (1 in 1:51, 2 in 1:55, 4 in 1:57) including-  
**MYSTICAL PRINCE** (h, Jate Lobell) p, 2, 1:52.4, 3, 1:50.3-'93 (\$335,293) 8 wins. At 2, winner of Arden Downs S. div at The Meadows, Bluegrass S. final at The Red Mile, Presidential S. elim at Rosecroft; second in Bluegrass S. elim at The Red Mile, Hanover-Hempt S. div at Vernon Downs; third in Governors Cup elim at Garden State Park, Int'l Stallion S. at The Red Mile, Reynolds Memorial div at Pocono Downs. At 3, winner of Adios S. elim at The Meadows, Hanover-Hempt S. at Vernon Downs, Oliver Wendell Holmes S. elim and final at The Meadowlands; third in Berrys Creek S. cons at The Meadowlands, Matron S. final at Pompano Park, Messenger S. at Rosecroft, Tattersalls Pace elim and final at The Red Mile, Wm E Miller Memorial final at Rosecroft.  
**MORE DESIRE** (g, Western Ideal) p, 3, 1:59.4s, 1:55.3h-'09 (\$82,629) 9 wins.  
**KING ART** (g, Artsplace) p, 1:54-'02 (\$57,294) 5 wins.  
**MY MYSTIC** (m, Falcon Seelster) p, 2, 1:57.4-'94 (\$20,286) 1 win. As Above.  
**IDEAL MYSTIC** (h, Western Ideal) p, 2, 1:56.4z-'04 (\$2,117) 1 win.  
**Ellens Bandit** (m, Life Sign) p, (\$3,397). At 2, third in Midland Acres Series leg at Scioto Downs. Dam of **ELLENS TRICK** p, 2, 2:03h, 3, 1:52.4-'03 (\$107,433) etc.; grandam of **ALL TRICKED OUT** p, 2, 1:53.1, 4, 1:53h-'12 (\$118,407) etc.  
 Mysticalscape (m, Artiscape) (\$1,527). Dam of **STAR KEEPER** p, 3, 1:51.1, 1:50.4f-'13 (\$471,370) etc. Deadly Desire (m, Troublemaker). Dam of **REAL DESIRE** p, 2, 1:50.4, 3, 1:49, 4, 1:48.2-'02 (\$3,323,606) etc.; grandam of **PASSION STARLET** p, 3, 1:56f, 1:52.2f-'13 (\$137,028) etc.

9 Breeders Crown Ontario Sires    Cane Simcoe    Stake Engagements    Int'l Stallion    Little Brown Jug    Messenger

# TAXATION OVERVIEW

**NOTE:** *The Canadian Horse Racing Industry has formed an alliance to lobby the federal government for fairer taxation relating to racehorse ownership.*

The tax rules relating to horse racing vary considerably from other businesses. The three most significant areas are:

- ⇒ 1. Reasonable expectation of profit;
- ⇒ 2. Deductibility of losses;
- ⇒ 3. Calculation of profit and loss.

## REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PROFIT

The first consideration in determining tax consequences is the nature of your involvement in the horse business. If your activity is basically one of recreation and personal enjoyment and you are not particularly concerned about earning money, any expenses you incur can only be used to offset income. You are considered to be enjoying a hobby rather than carrying on a business. On the other hand, if you are actually pursuing a profit, operating in a business-like manner, and have sufficient resources both in terms of finances and knowledge to operate in a profitable manner, then you are carrying on a business. In this case, profits must be reported on your tax return and losses can be claimed (within certain limits).

While it is relatively simple to classify people at either end of the spectrum, a large number of horse owners fall into the grey area between a business and a hobby. These people not only find their profit readily taxed by Revenue Canada, but also find that their losses are frequently not allowed by Revenue Canada.

In order to establish that you are operating a business, it is recommended that you manage your horse affairs following sound business practices as follows:

- ⇒ 1. Prepare a plan before you start;
- ⇒ 2. Prepare projections of income and expenses for at least one year in advance (preferably 3-5 years);
- ⇒ 3. Join the necessary Standardbred Associations;
- ⇒ 4. Subscribe to horse journals;
- ⇒ 5. Maintain proper books and records;
- ⇒ 6. Continuously oversee your horse operations and make changes as necessary.

If all of that sounds like too much work, maybe you're looking at the wrong business. Learning more about the business of racehorses should be both enjoyable and profitable. The more you learn and the more you are involved, the greater your overall enjoyment and the better the bottom line.

## DEDUCTIBILITY OF LOSSES

Many individuals express an interest in racing because they have visions of significant tax deductions. While there are tax breaks available to horsemen that are not generally available to other businesses or investments, there are some specific limits. Assuming you can meet the first requirement, which is that you are operating a business with a reasonable expectation of profit, you can deduct losses incurred. However, unless your main source of income is farming, which includes the racing of horses, your loss will be restricted to a maximum of \$8,750 per taxpayer in any one year. In order to claim this maximum amount, your losses would have to be \$15,000 because the tax loss deduction is 100% of the first \$2,500 of losses but only 50% of the next \$12,500 of losses. If your main source of income is farming then you can deduct unlimited losses from a racehorse business. Unused restricted losses can be carried forward up to 10 years for application against farming (including racehorse) profits.

## CALCULATION OF PROFIT OR LOSS

The Income Tax Act defines farming to include "maintaining of horses for racing" so all persons in the business of breeding, training, or racing of racehorses are, by definition, farming. For this reason you are allowed to report income and expense on the cash basis.

Income is reported when it is received. Expenses are reported when they are paid rather than when they are incurred. Income includes racing purse money, horse sales, board or training fees received and so on. Expenses include all reasonable and necessary costs incurred in operating your horse business. This can include horse purchases, feed, training fees, veterinary, blacksmith, driver fees, interest, subscriptions, etc.

The only costs that are reasonable and necessary that cannot immediately be claimed are capital costs. These include the costs





of significant long term assets such as a barn, horse trailer, or a harness. These capital items must be depreciated over a period of years in accordance with the income tax rules relating to capital cost allowance. If the expenses exceed the income for the year, the loss must be reduced by the tax value for inventory owned at the end of the year. For most inventory, such as hay, oats, straw and medical supplies, the tax value is cost.

For horses, inventory value is 70% of cost if purchased during the year or 70% of the previous year's tax value if purchased prior to the beginning of the year. Horses bred by the taxpayer have no value for tax purposes. The maximum value for mandatory inventory adjustment is the amount of the loss for the year so that no taxable income need be created by this inventory adjustment.

You must prepare a statement of income and expense and include it in your tax return. The profit or loss that you claim will then be shown on your tax return under income from self employment farming. The rate of tax you pay (or save), is determined by the total of all your income and deductions.

The most significant advantage of using the cash method of accounting is the opportunity it provides for deferring tax almost indefinitely. Since the cost of a horse can be fully expensed in the year it is paid for, horsemen find that they can wipe out all their profits for a year simply by buying additional or higher quality horses. A horse bought and paid for, even on the last day of your tax year, is fully expensed in arriving at your net income for the year. There is also an additional provision to carry forward horse costs into a future year should you have more expenses than you can use in any given year.

Whatever your level of involvement, you should keep records of all your income and maintain proper receipts for all your expenses.

While tax considerations are not the only reason for horse ownership, they also cannot be ignored. More tax problems are caused by lack of records than any other single reason.

The tax rules are complicated and the new owner is advised to obtain a copy of the Farming Income Tax Guide from Revenue Canada and to seek out the assistance of a professional, knowledgeable in horse tax matters.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAXATION ON HORSE RACING

---

The Goods and Services Tax has resulted in additional bookkeeping requirements. However, as long as your horse business is registered with Revenue Canada for GST purposes there will be no GST tax cost. On a simplified basis, the GST will work as follows for your horse business:

1. You will pay GST on most purchases of goods and services;
2. You will collect GST on your sales (but not on purse money);
3. You will complete a GST form on a regular basis;
4. If you have collected more GST than you have paid, you will remit the difference;
5. If you have paid more than you have collected, the government will refund the difference to you.











Standardbred Canada, an incorporated non-profit organization, was formed in 1998 as a result of the amalgamation of the breed's two national organizations – the Canadian Trotting Association and the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society. It is operated by an elected Board of Directors from across the country.

#### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** \_\_\_\_\_

Standardbred Canada is a member of the International Trotting Association (ITA). The objectives of the ITA are to determine strategies for the promotion and enhancement of trotting, globally, and to form uniform rules on breeding, registration, and the regulation of Standardbreds. SC will host the 2017 World Trotting Conference and World Driving Championship.

#### **REGISTRY** \_\_\_\_\_

Standardbred Canada maintains detailed data archives on all registered Standardbreds, including stallions, broodmares and their progeny, in addition to Canadian and North American racing statistics. The information is available through an online database called TrackIT.

#### **SALES & STAKES** \_\_\_\_\_

Standardbred Canada manages mixed sales and a yearling sale annually, as well as co-sponsored stake programs across Canada. The organization's e-commerce initiatives today include online staking services for our membership.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** \_\_\_\_\_

Each member racetrack across Canada has a Standardbred Canada field representative who inputs race data as it happens into a computer system linked to the main Database located in the main office in Mississauga. The computerized system facilitates the production of race programs and provides the means for race secretaries and horse people to instantly establish a horse's eligibility

to certain conditions in a race. Every qualified horse can be accessed and any pertinent information on that horse – colour, sex, date of foaling, current and past owners, breeders, money won, lifetime record, past racelines – can be obtained. Detailed information is also stored on stallions and broodmares and their progeny. Virtually every bit of pertinent information about every registered Standardbred horse and race is recorded and can be easily accessed.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING** \_\_\_\_\_

Standardbred Canada operates the world's top industry harness racing website, produces the monthly, bilingual, multi-award winning publication, TROT Magazine, and administers the O'Brien Awards, Canada's national harness racing awards.

#### **RESOURCES** \_\_\_\_\_

Standardbred Canada has vast archives of books, publications, photos, videos, and historical trophies and momentos located in the resource centre at the main office location in Mississauga. We always welcome visitors interested in making use of our collection!

Standardbred Canada also offers a standardized insurance plan and all licensed trainers, drivers, grooms and officials may be covered by disability income and accidental death insurance.



## NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### **STANWARDBRED CANADA**

2150 Meadowvale Blvd.  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6R6  
T | (905) 858-3060  
F | (905) 858-3111  
[standardbredcanada.ca](http://standardbredcanada.ca)

### **AGRICULTURE CANADA**

#### **CANADIAN PARI-MUTUEL AGENCY**

960 Carling Avenue, CEF Building 74  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6  
T | 1 (800) 268-8835 or (613) 759-6100  
F | (613) 759-6230  
E | [cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca](mailto:cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca)  
[agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/partners-and-agencies/canadian-pari-mutuel-agency](http://agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/partners-and-agencies/canadian-pari-mutuel-agency)

### **CANADIAN HORSE RACING**

#### **HALL OF FAME**

c/o Woodbine Racetrack  
555 Rexdale Blvd.  
Toronto, ON M9W 5L2  
T | (416) 417-9404  
E | [admin@horseracinghalloffame.com](mailto:admin@horseracinghalloffame.com)  
[canadianhorseracinghalloffame.com](http://canadianhorseracinghalloffame.com)



# PROVINCIAL RACING COMMISSIONS

## **HORSE RACING ALBERTA**

### **HRA Corporate Office**

#720, 9707-110 St. NW

Edmonton, AB T5K 2L9

T | 1 (888) 553-7223 or (780) 415-5432

F | (780) 488-5105

E | [reception@thehorses.com](mailto:reception@thehorses.com)

[thehorses.com](http://thehorses.com)

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING DIVISION GAMING POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH**

4603 Kingsway, Suite 408

Burnaby, BC V5H 4M4

T | (604) 660-7400

F | (604) 660-7414

E | [gaming.branch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:gaming.branch@gov.bc.ca)

[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/  
gambling-fundraising](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising)

## **MANITOBA HORSE RACING COMMISSION**

P.O. Box 46086 RPO Westdale

Winnipeg, MB R3R 3S3

T | (204) 885-7770

F | (204) 831-0942

E | [mhrc@manitobahorsecomm.org](mailto:mhrc@manitobahorsecomm.org)

[manitobahorsecomm.org](http://manitobahorsecomm.org)

## **ATLANTIC PROVINCES HARNESS RACING COMMISSION**

P.O. Box 128, 5 Gerald McCarville Dr.

Kensington, PE COB 1M0

T | (902) 836-5500

F | (902) 836-5320

[mphrc.ca](http://mphrc.ca)

## **ALCOHOL AND GAMING COMMISSION OF ONTARIO**

90 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200-300

Toronto, ON M2N 0A4

T | (416) 326-8700

Toll free (Ontario): 1 (800) 522-2876

F | (416) 326-5555

E | [customer.service@agco.ca](mailto:customer.service@agco.ca)

[racing.agco.on.ca](http://racing.agco.on.ca)

## **REGIE DES ALCOOLS, DES COURSES, ET DES JEUX (RACJ)**

### **Quebec:**

560 Boulevard Charest E

Ville de Québec, QC G1K 3J3

T | (418) 643-7667 or (514) 873-3577

F | (418) 643-5971

### **Montreal:**

9e étage, 1 Rue Notre-Dame E

Montréal, QC H2Y 1B6

T | (514) 873-3577

F | (514) 873-5861

[racj.gouv.qc.ca/en/home.html](http://racj.gouv.qc.ca/en/home.html)

## **SASKATCHEWAN LIQUOR AND GAMING AUTHORITY HORSE RACING BRANCH**

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

P.O. Box 5054, 2500 Victoria Ave.

Regina, SK S4P 3M3

Tel: (306) 787-5563

Toll free: 1 (800) 667-7565

[slga.gov.sk.ca](http://slga.gov.sk.ca)



# ASSOCIATIONS

## ALBERTA

### ALBERTA STANDARD BRED HORSE ASSOC. (ASHA)

#201, 151 East Lake Blvd., NE  
Airdrie, AB T4A 2G1  
T I (403) 263-8903  
or (403) 263-7765  
Toll Free: 1 (800) 852-5985  
F I (403) 294-1510  
E I fred@asha.ab.ca  
asha.ab.ca

### BRITISH COLUMBIA HARNESS RACING BC

17740-62nd Ave.  
Surrey, BC V3S 3S5  
T I (604) 574-5558  
F I (604) 574-5503  
E I info@harnessracingbc.com  
harnessracingbc.com/new

## MANITOBA

### MANITOBA HORSE RACING COMMISSION

P.O. Box 46086 RPO Westdale  
Winnipeg, MB R3R 3S3  
T I (204) 885-7770  
F I (204) 831-0942  
E I mhrc@manitobahorsecomm.org  
manitobahorsecomm.org/

### MANITOBA HARNESS RACING (Comprised of the following groups)

- ⇒ **Manitoba Harness Horsemen Inc.**
- ⇒ **Manitoba Standardbred Sires and Breeders Assoc.**
- ⇒ **Manitoba Great Western Harness Racing Circuit**  
E I info@manitobaharnessracing.com  
manitobaharnessracing.com

### MANITOBA GREAT WESTERN HARNESS RACING CIRCUIT INC.

P.O. Box 280  
Holland, MB R0G 3S3  
T I (204) 526-2005  
manitobaharnessracing.com

### MARITIMES PROVINCES ATLANTIC SIRES STAKES/ ATLANTIC STANDARD BRED BREEDERS ASSOC.

P.O. Box 65  
Port Hood, NS B0E 2W0  
Exec. Director: Lynne MacLennan  
T I (902) 787-2869  
F I (902) 787-2214  
E I the.maclennans@ns.sympatico.ca  
atlanticsiresstakes.ca

### NEW BRUNSWICK STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOC.

365 Smythe St.  
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4Y9  
T I (506) 372-4966  
E I robertanixon@rogers.com  
nbsboa.ca

### PEI HARNESS RACING INDUSTRY ASSOC.

420 University Ave., Suite 204A  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7Z5  
T I (902) 569-1682  
F I (902) 569-1827

### PEI HARNESS RACING INDUSTRY ASSOC. (Its member organizations include)

- ⇒ **The PEI Standardbred Horseowners Assoc.**

- ⇒ **The Prince County Horsemen's Club**
- ⇒ **The Atlantic Standardbred Breeders Assoc.**
- ⇒ **The Maritime Breeders Assoc.**
- ⇒ **The PEI Colt Stakes Assoc.**
- ⇒ **Red Shores Racetrack & Casino at Charlottetown Driving Park**
- ⇒ **Red Shores Summerside Raceway**

E I peiracing@eastlink.ca  
peiharnessracing.com/hria.html

## ONTARIO

### ONTARIO HARNESS HORSE ASSOC. (OHHA)

P.O. Box 429, 35 Crawford Cres.  
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0  
T I 1 (866) 774-OHHA (6442)  
or (905) 854-OHHA (6442)  
F I (905) 854-6103  
E I info@ohha.ca  
ohha.ca

### ONTARIO HORSE RACING Ontario Horse Racing Industry Assoc. (OHRIA) has become Ontario Horse Racing

10 Carlson Court, Suite 400  
Toronto, ON M9W 6L2  
T I (416) 213-1800  
E I info@ohha.ca  
ohha.ca

### ONTARIO SIRES STAKES

c/o Ontario Racing  
10 Carlson Court, Suite 400  
Toronto, ON M9W 6L2  
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0  
T I (416) 213-1800  
F I (519) 369-2563  
E I records@ontariosiresstakes.com  
ontariosiresstakes.com

### STANDARD BRED BREEDERS OF ONTARIO ASSOC. (SBOA)

P.O. Box 371  
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0  
T I (519) 833-2861  
E I aimee@sboa.info  
standardbredbreeders.com

### CENTRAL ONTARIO STANDARD BRED ASSOC. (COSA)

P.O. Box 297, 36 Main St. N  
Campbellville, ON, L0P 1B0  
T I (905) 854-2672  
F I (905) 854-2644  
E I bill@cosaonline.com  
cosaonline.com

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION HARNESS HORSE ASSOC. (NCRHHA)

136-2446 Bank St., Suite 651  
Ottawa, ON K1V 1A8  
T I (613) 769-7035  
E I commentary@ncrha.ca  
ncrha.ca

## QUEBEC

### CLUB JOCKEY DU QUÉBEC

567 Av Victoria, Suite 100-7  
Saint-Lambert, QC J4P 3R2  
T I (450) 890-3963  
F I (450) 890-4139  
clubjockeyduquebec.com/en

### ASSOCIATION TROT & AMBLE DU QUÉBEC

5375 Paré St., Suite 216  
Montreal, QC H4P 1P7  
T I (514) 731-9484  
Toll free: 1 (800) 731-9484  
F I (514) 731-7687  
E I courses@qc.aira.com  
trotetamble.ca/en/index.html

### CIRCUIT RÉGIONAL DES COURSES DE CHEVAUX DU QUÉBEC (CRCCQ)

132 Rue Sylvie  
Québec, QC G1E 6E9  
T I (418) 667-5425  
or (418) 928-0551  
circuitregional.com



## ALBERTA

### CENTURY DOWNS

261095 Dwight McLellan Trail  
Balzac, AB T4A 0V5  
T I (587) 349-7777  
[centurydowns.cnty.com](http://centurydowns.cnty.com)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### FRASER DOWNS

17755 60th Ave.  
Surrey, BC V3S 1V3  
T I (604) 576-9141  
F I (604) 576-9821  
[fraserdowns.com](http://fraserdowns.com)

## MANITOBA

### GREAT WESTERN FAIR CIRCUIT

T I (204) 885-3330

### NEW BRUNSWICK EXHIBITION PARK

P.O. Box 284, 159 McAllister Dr.  
Saint John, NB E2L 3Y2  
T I (506) 636-6934  
F I (506) 636-6959  
[epraceway.com](http://epraceway.com)

### FREDERICTON RACEWAY

P.O. Box 235, Station A  
Smythe & Saunders St.  
(361 Smythe)  
Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y9  
T I (506) 459-3204  
F I (506) 206-2403

## NEWFOUNDLAND

### ST. JOHN'S RACING & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE INC.

P.O. Box 1090 Lakeview Dr.  
Goulds, NF A1S 1H2  
T I (709) 745-6550  
F I (709) 745-6553  
[stjre.com](http://stjre.com)

## NOVA SCOTIA

### INVERNESS RACEWAY

P.O. Box 503, 112 Forrest St.  
Inverness, NS B0E 1N0  
T I (902) 258-3315  
F I (902) 258-2248

### NORTHSIDE DOWNS

P.O. Box 92, 105 Regent St.  
North Sydney, NS B2A 3M1  
T I (902) 794-7633  
F I (902) 794-5066

## TRURO RACEWAY

73 Ryland Ave.  
Truro, NS B2N 2V5  
T I (902) 893-8075  
F I (902) 897-0069  
[truroraceway.ca](http://truroraceway.ca)

## ONTARIO

### CLINTON RACEWAY

P.O. Box 778, 147 Beech St.  
Clinton, ON N0M 1L0  
T I (519) 482-5270  
F I (519) 482-1489  
[clintonraceway.com](http://clintonraceway.com)

### DRESDEN RACEWAY

255 Park St.  
Dresden, ON N0P 1M0  
T I (519) 683-4466  
F I (519) 683-6404  
[dresdenaceway.ca](http://dresdenaceway.ca)

### FLAMBORO DOWNS

P.O. Box 8220, 967 Hwy 5  
Dundas, ON L9H 5G1  
T I (905) 627-3561  
F I (905) 627-0480  
[flamborodowns.com](http://flamborodowns.com)

### GEORGIAN DOWNS

7485 5th Side Rd.  
Innisfil, ON L9S 3S1  
T I (705) 726-9400  
F I (705) 726-8364  
[georgiandowns.com](http://georgiandowns.com)

### GRAND RIVER RACEWAY

7445 Wellington Rd 21, RR 2  
Elora, ON N0B 1S0  
T I (519) 846-5455  
[grandriverraceway.com](http://grandriverraceway.com)

### HANOVER RACEWAY

265 5th St.  
Hanover, ON N4N 3X3  
T I (519) 364-2860  
F I (519) 364-7314  
[hanoverraceway.com](http://hanoverraceway.com)

### HIAWATHA HORSE PARK

1730 London Rd.  
Sarnia, ON N7T 7H2  
T I (519) 542-5543  
F I (519) 542-3538  
[hiawathahorsepark.com](http://hiawathahorsepark.com)

### KAWARTHA DOWNS

1382 County Rd. 28  
Fraserville, ON K0L 1V0  
T I (705) 939-6316  
F I (705) 939-6342  
[kawarthadowns.com](http://kawarthadowns.com)

### LEAMINGTON RACEWAY

194 Erie St N  
Leamington, ON N8H 3X4  
T I (519) 326-8082  
[lakeshorehorseraceway.com](http://lakeshorehorseraceway.com)

### MOHAWK RACETRACK

P.O. Box 160, RR 1 9430 Guelph Ln.  
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0  
T I (905) 854-2255  
F I (905) 854-7828

### RIDEAU CARLETON RACEWAY

4837 Albion Rd.  
Gloucester, ON K1X 1A3  
T I (613) 822-0247  
F I (613) 822-1586  
[rcentertainmentcentre.ca](http://rcentertainmentcentre.ca)

### THE RACEWAY AT WESTERN FAIR DISTRICT

316 Rectory St.  
London, ON N5Y 5P8  
T I (519) 438-7203  
F I (519) 438-2388  
[westernfair.com](http://westernfair.com)

### WOODBINE RACETRACK

P.O. Box 156, 555 Rexdale Blvd.  
Rexdale, ON M9W 5L2  
T I (416) 675-RACE  
F I (416) 213-2129  
[woodbineentertainment.com](http://woodbineentertainment.com)



CANADIAN  
RACETRACKS

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### RED SHORES RACETRACK & CASINO AT CDP

21 Exhibition Dr.  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 9S8  
T I (902) 892-6823  
F I (902) 892-1052  
[redshores.ca](http://redshores.ca)

### RED SHORES AT SUMMERSIDE RACEWAY

55 Greenwood Dr.  
Summerside, PE C1N 1T2  
T I (902) 888-5666  
F I (902) 888-5685  
[summersideraceway.pe.ca](http://summersideraceway.pe.ca)

## QUEBEC

### HIPPODROME 3R

850 Rue de l'Hippodrome  
Trois Rivieres, QC G8Z 0A2  
T I (819) 374-6734  
or (819) 376-4453  
[clubjockeyduquebec.com](http://clubjockeyduquebec.com)

# GLOSSARY

**ALSO ELIGIBLE** Horse officially entered in a race, but not permitted to start unless field is reduced by a scratch.

**BACKSTRETCH** The straightaway on the far side of the racetrack. Also refers to the stable area.

**BARREN** A broodmare who has had at least one foal, but is not pregnant.

**BLANKET FINISH** One which finds several horses finishing very close together at the wire.

**BOXED IN** When a horse is racing along the pylons and cannot improve his position in a race because of the presence of other horses in front, behind and beside him. Also called Locked In.

**BREAK** When a horse breaks from its gait into a run or gallop. Denoted in the program with an X.

**BREEDING SEASON** The usual breeding season runs from February 15th to July 15th.

**BROODMARE** A mare who has had at least one foal.

**CARD** Another term for a program of racing. For example, someone might say there are ten races on tonight's 'card', meaning there will be ten races contested that night.

**CATCH DRIVER** A driver who doesn't train his/her horses and is hired by other trainers and owners to drive their horses.

**CHALK** The favourite horse in a race.

**CHART** A comprehensive account of a race showing the positions of all horses at various stages of the race.

**COLOURS** The special colourful jacket worn by drivers in a race. Unlike Thoroughbred jockeys, drivers register their own colours and wear them every time they race.

**COLT** A male horse three years or younger.

**CONDITIONED RACE** A race where eligibility is based on age, sex, money won or races won. An example would be: 2 year old colts, non-winners of \$5,000 or 2 races life.

**CONFORMATION** The physical attributes of and bodily proportions of a horse; how it is put together.

**COVER** A horse which races with another horse in front of him is said to race with cover, as the leading horse cuts the wind resistance.

**CROSS FIRE** When a horse's hind foot strikes the opposite front foot or leg.

**DAM** The mother of a horse.

**DEAD HEAT** When the judges cannot separate two horses at the finish line even with the aid of the photo finish, it is called a dead heat.

**DISTANCED** When a horse finishes more than 35 lengths behind the winner.

**DIVISION** A race that has too many entries and must be split into two or more divisions.

**DRIVER** The person holding a license or permit to drive harness horses. There are different types of licenses, which correspond to differing levels of experience.

**EARLY/LATE CLOSER** A race requiring payments which start much closer to the actual race date than a stake *Early* and *Late* involve specified periods of time.

**ENTRY** Two or more horses starting in a race owned by the same person.

**FARRIER** Also called blacksmith. The farrier specializes in shoeing the horse.

**FAVOURITE** The horse considered most likely to win based on odds and past performance.

**FILLY** A female horse three years of age or younger.

**FIRST OVER** The first horse to make a move on the leader in a race, moving up on the outside.

**FREE LEGGED** A pacer which races without wearing hobbles.

**FOAL** All baby horses are called foals.

**GARDEN SPOT** The second position on the rail during most of the race.

**GELDING** An altered (or neutered) male of any age.

**GESTATION PERIOD** The gestation period for a mare is 11 months.

**HAND** A unit of measurement (four inches) by which a horse's height is measured. A horse which stands 15 hands is five feet tall at its withers.

**HANDLE** The total amount of money wagered on a racing card.

**HANDICAPPING** The first step in successfully picking a winner (or handicapping) is becoming familiar with reading the racing program. Each program has a section explaining the information format used at that track. Probably the best place to start when handicapping Standardbreds is time. Since over 99 percent of all harness races are conducted at the one mile distance, valid comparisons can be made among the horses.

**HARNESS** The gear which is used to attach the sulky to the horse, to carry the hobbles and to enable the driver to steer the horse.

**HOME STRETCH** The straight length of the track, nearest the spectators, where the finish line is situated. It is called this because it is the final part of the track a horse travels down during a race, on its race home (or to the finish line).

**HOPPLES** The straps which connect the front and rear legs on the same side of a horse. Most pacers wear hobbles to help balance their stride and maintain a pacing gait. The length of hobbles is adjustable and a trainer registers the length that best fits his/her horse. There are also trotting hobbles that work through a pulley system to help trotters maintain their gait.

**HORSE (STALLION)** A male horse four years of age or older.

**IN FOAL** A pregnant mare.

**INQUIRY** A review of the conduct of a race, called for by the judges.

**LAPPED ON** At the finish when a horse's nose is at least alongside the hindquarters of the horse which finishes ahead.

**LAME** The term used to describe a horse which is limping or has difficulty walking.

**LEASING** As opposed to buying a harness horse, people have the option of leasing one. Just like some people lease a car instead of paying the money up front, leasing a horse



gives people use of a horse without large capital outlay. An agreement or contract must be drawn up between the two parties and the lease must be registered with the relevant controlling body.

**LENGTH** Measure of distance based on average length of horse.

**LONGSHOT** Refers to a horse that appears not to have a good chance to win a race. When the longshot wins, it usually pays very well.

**MAIDEN** A horse who has never won a race at a particular gait. (Also refers to a mare who has never had a foal).

**MARE** A female horse four years or older.

**OBJECTION** A claim of foul lodged by a driver, upheld or dismissed by the judges.

**PARKED OUT** When a horse cannot find a position along the rail in a race and is forced to race outside those on the inside. It is also called taking the overland route.

**PHOTO FINISH** When two horses cross the finish too closely to identify a winner, officials call for a photograph of the race, taken exactly at the finish line, to help them determine the winner.

**PEDIGREE** Refers to a horse's family tree, paternal and maternal ancestors. A horse's pedigree provides insight into its potential ability and value.

**POST POSITION** Generally, the closer a horse starts to the inside rail, or barrier of the track, especially on smaller tracks, the better its chance of winning. At the start, horses must either *leave* (start quickly) to get a good position or else find a place on the rail to avoid racing on the outside of other horses. When racing on the outside the horse is said to be parked out and loses ground on every turn. A horse on the inside has a better chance to get to the rail or quickly get a good position.

**POST TIME** The starting time of a race.

**PURSE** The prize money which is offered and paid in each race to owners of horses finishing in the first five positions.

**QUALIFIER** A race in which a horse must go a mile below an established time standard to prove itself capable of competing in pari-mutuel races.

**RIDGLING** A male horse with one or both testicles not descended into the scrotal sac.

**SCRATCH** The removal of a horse from a race after its entry has been accepted.

**SIRE** The father of a horse.

**SIRE'S STAKES** Stake races designed to promote Standardbred breeding and racing within a jurisdiction. Eligibility to compete in the Sires Stakes events depends upon the rules of the jurisdiction.

**SPAYED MARE** A neutered female horse of any age.

**STARTER** The person responsible for starting a harness race. The starter controls the start of the race from the back of the mobile starting gate.

**STRETCH** The final straight portion of the racetrack to the finish.

**STUD** A stallion used for breeding.

**SULKY** Also known as the cart or racebike, the sulky is attached to the harness and carries the driver which the horse pulls.

**TOTE BOARD** An electronic board, usually in the infield of a racetrack, which posts the odds, amount of money bet, results of a race and the wagering pay offs.

**WEANLING** Foals weaned from their mother until they reach their first birthday.

**YEARLING** Any horse between its first and second birthday.

**PACER** Pacers move the legs on one side of their body in tandem-left front and rear, right front and rear. Pacers are also referred to as sidewheelers. Pacers account for approximately 80% of all harness horses and are aided in maintaining their gait through plastic loops called hobbles. Some pacers perform without the aid of hobbles and are called free-legged pacers. Pacers are generally faster than trotters due to the sureness of their action.

**TROTTER** Trotters move with a diagonal gait, the left front and right rear legs move in unison, as do the right front and left rear. Trotting is the more natural gait for the Standardbred, but it takes a great deal of skill to train and maintain a trotter.

## CONDITION SYSTEM

**CLAIMING RACE** A race in which each horse carries a price tag (claiming price) and may be purchased. Claiming races are established

according to price; ie. \$25,000 claimers.\_\_\_\_\_

**CONDITIONED RACE** A race in which eligibility is determined based on age, sex, money or races won. Example: Four-year-olds and younger, non winners of \$50,000 lifetime, or 7 races.

**EARLY & LATE CLOSING EVENTS** A race requiring payments starting closer to the actual date of the race compared to stake events. Early and late refer to the time period involved.

**INVITATIONAL (OPEN OR FREE FOR ALL)** Usually a weekly race for the top horses at that racetrack.

**STAKE RACE** An event or series of events in which horsemen have made payments well in advance to keep their horses eligible to compete. If a payment is missed, the horse becomes ineligible to race.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENTRY** Some stake events allow you to make a supplemental payment days prior to the running of the stake if your horse(s) is ineligible to the stake.

## BETTING TERMINOLOGY

**WIN** The horse you select must finish first in the official order.

**PLACE** The horse you select must finish first or second in the official order.\_\_\_\_\_

**SHOW** The horse you select must finish first, second or third in the official order.

**DAILY DOUBLE** You must select the winners of two consecutive races.

**EXACTOR/PERFECTA** You must select the first two finishers in exact order.

**TRIACTOR/TRIFECTA** You must select the first three finishers in exact order.

**QUINELLA** You must select the horses that will finish first and second in any order.

**SUPERFECTA** You must correctly select the first four finishers in the exact order of finish.

# THE STANDARD BRED IN HARNESS

## HARNESS HORSE EQUIPMENT

There are a lot of different elements that make up the equipment a harness horse wears to race. The diagram below addresses the basic equipment that make up what Standardbred Pacers and Trotters are required to wear.

- |                 |                       |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 DRIVER        | 8 CRUPPER             | 15 MURPHY BLIND |
| 2 RACE BIKE     | 9 SADDLE PAD          | 16 SHADOW ROLL  |
| 3 WHEEL DISK    | 10 QUICK HITCH        | 17 DRIVING BELT |
| 4 LINES         | 11 OVERCHECK          | 18 MARTINGALE   |
| 5 SHAFT         | 12 EAR PLUG (REMOVED) | 19 BUXTON       |
| 6 HOPPLE        | 13 HEAD NUMBER        | 20 GIRTH        |
| 7 HOPPLE HANGER | 14 BLIND BRIDLE       | 21 SHIN BOOT    |





# CONCLUSION

There is no experience that can compare with racehorse ownership! Imagine how exciting it would be to cheer your horse on to victory or stand in the winner's circle as the proud owner of your very own horse. Racehorse ownership has the potential to be one of your most enjoyable and unique experiences in your life whether you win or lose, are financially successful or not.

It's a sport in which the non-athlete by virtue of a small investment has the chance to quickly become a major league participant.

Standardbred owners come from every walk of life and every economic level. It is a unique sport in that neighbours who share the ownership of a \$5,000 claiming horse rub shoulders and are every bit as important as the tycoon who spends a million each year on yearlings. They share a common interest in their love of this exciting sport and the beauty of the animals.

There are many Canadian success stories, the trainer who was given a major share in a trotter who turned into one of North America's top trotters with earnings of more than \$3 million; the grandmother and grandson who purchased a yearling that ended up winning the Hambletonian and becoming one of the sport's top three year old trotters; the young couple whose homebred earned them an all expenses-paid trip to Sweden to win the prestigious Elitlopp and close to a million dollars.

It is realistic to hope to recoup the money you invest and you can have a lot of fun and great experiences while you do this! Horse racing has turned a lot of pragmatic people into dreamers and a lot of dreams into reality.

We hope that you will get the love of harness racing in your blood, as it is in ours, that you will use common sense and every available resource to get started. Good luck!



2150 Meadowvale Blvd. Mississauga, ON, L5N 6R6  
Tel: (905) 858-3060 Fax: (905) 858-3111 [standardbredcanada.ca](http://standardbredcanada.ca)