



# Horse Welfare Board

Horse Welfare Board Update  
March 2022

# Objectives of the Horse Welfare Board

- To achieve the **best welfare outcomes** possible for horses involved in British racing
- To set out a vision and **multi-year plan** for horse welfare, based on shared industry priorities
- To engage racing in the development of an **industry strategy**
- To **commission new projects** and initiatives that may be required to deliver the plan
- To continue to **improve the safety** of racehorses
- To ensure **effective use** of the sport's resources to achieve the vision
- To ensure the sport benefits from an **independent perspective** on horse welfare, with a clear role for animal welfare bodies
- To ensure more **effective communication** and engagement around equine welfare

# Outcomes

1. Best possible **QUALITY OF LIFE**

2. Collective **LIFETIME RESPONSIBILITY**

3. Best possible **SAFETY**

4. Growth and maintenance of **TRUST**

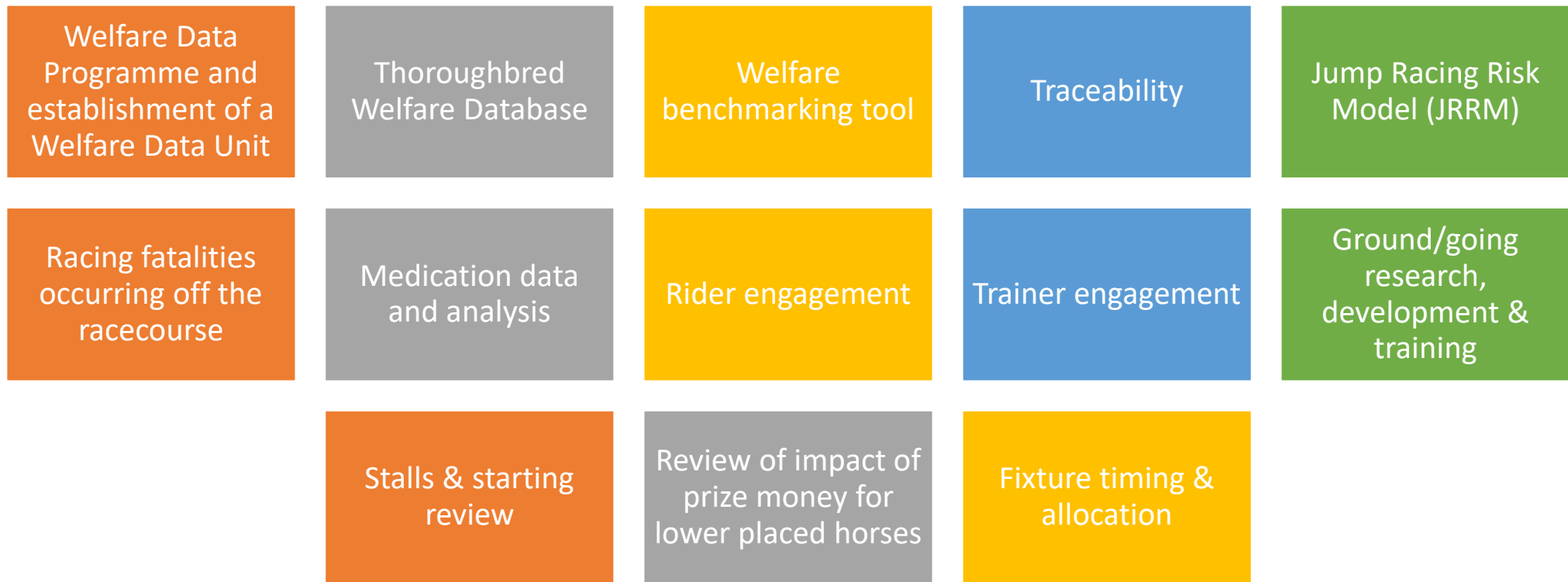


# Best Possible Safety

- Continued, continuous improvement of **obstacle design and structure**, focusing firstly on safer **hurdle design** and **obstacle visibility**
- Review of **stalls design, loading procedures** and **jumps starting procedure** to provide reassurance and address negative perceptions
- Further research into **ground and going** to build a common framework to be applied to racecourses and training surfaces
- Encourage **continuous learning** and participant engagement



# Robust Evidence and Data



# Welfare Communications

Public Welfare Concern	Communications Topic	Storytelling / Creative Focus / Platform
Deaths and Injuries on a racecourse	Course Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety Series videos</li> <li>- Equine vision: Orange to White</li> <li>- Hurdle Review</li> <li>- Stalls and Starting</li> <li>- Ground and going</li> </ul>
	Horse Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R&amp;D advancements, orthopaedic breakthroughs, injury treatments</li> <li>- Race day safety heroes -behind the scenes with key personnel (vets etc)</li> <li>- In-career training - with jumps focus</li> <li>- Suitability to race project</li> </ul>
Lack of lifetime ownership and responsibility	Traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campaign to drive owner updates of Passports across equestrian owners with BHA, TBA, WHW, BHS, FEI</li> <li>- Key data projects as they are completed /implemented</li> </ul>
	Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spotlight a selection of owners to share their experiences and promote their approach to lifetime responsibility</li> </ul>
Racehorses are not well cared for  -Cruelty -Used as commodities -Do not enjoy racing	Every day in-career welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- #LoveTheRacehorse always-on</li> <li>- National Racehorse Week</li> <li>- Godolphin Stud &amp; Stable Staff Awards</li> <li>- Ambassador content "behind the scenes" at yards</li> <li>- Horse to human connection stories</li> </ul>
	Racehorses as Equine Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Myth busting - Exploring the benefits thoroughbreds derive from racing</li> </ul>
Racehorses are not well cared for when they retire	Aftercare - funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding reform</li> </ul>
	Aftercare – second career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retraining of a racehorse</li> <li>- Spotlight on ex-racers in competitive work</li> <li>- Spotlight on grassroots owners</li> </ul>
	Aftercare – retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aftercare Heroes – spotlight series on the organisations and range of lives thoroughbreds have in retirement</li> <li>- Horse to Human Connection – horses as companions. Link to mental health benefits</li> </ul>



# Aftercare

- Aftercare Funding Review published
- Outlined 7 recommendations
  - Funding
  - Focus and integration
  - Traceability and data
  - Accreditation
  - Community
  - Education
  - Communication
- Working with industry partners to scope and implement recommendations

