

STANDARD BRED OWNERS' GUIDE

Welcome To Harness Racing!

On behalf of Standardbred Canada, we extend a warm 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 booklet provides some very basic advice and information for anyone contemplating purchasing a harness horse. It also provides sources to find further information.



The best investment you can make before entering this business is your time. Investigate thoroughly, ask questions, read the trade publications, attend new owner seminars and feel free to call the various organizations.

New owners, trainers, drivers, grooms, breeders and fans are essential to the continued growth and well-being of our sport and

we would like to ensure that your experience in harness racing is a rewarding one.

Owning a Standardbred can be one of the most exciting and unique investments you can make. Most trainers welcome the opportunity to teach an owner how to jog his or her own horse, and some owners have enjoyed the experience so much that they have become accomplished amateur drivers. Others make ownership a family affair and visiting the barns becomes an anticipated outing.

If your involvement consists of simply watching your horse race, prepare for some unbelievable thrills! 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.

We are attempting to make the route to the winner's circle a little smoother and less uncertain with this Standardbred owners' guide.

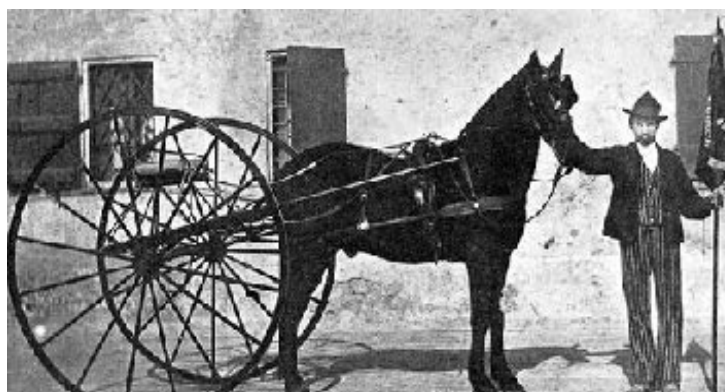
We wish you success, good luck and good racing!

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The History of the Standardbred



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 "everyman" 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. Armstrong Bros. of Inglewood, Ont., is annually one of the top three breeding farms in North America, and horses bearing the "Armbro" prefix have won virtually every major stakes race.

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 they feel deserve this honour, as well as the Horse, Trainer, Driver and Broodmare Of The Year. The winners are announced each year at the O'Brien Awards, hosted by Standardbred Canada.

Selecting A Trainer

If you're interested in buying a horse to race, one of the most important decisions you'll have to make is selecting the person to train your horse.

The majority of trainers do not advertise their services. Finding a reputable person to manage your investment will make the difference between success or disillusionment in the sport of Standardbreds. 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 horses which seem to be competitive every time they race, frequently picking up cheques and winning one out of every four or five starts. In other words, a horse that you would be happy owning yourself. Make a list of the trainers of these horses.

Find out from the racetrack or associations if any new owner seminars are being held. Ask the racetrack publicity office 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.

When you have gathered enough information to make a list of several trainers, call your racetrack and explain that you would like to meet 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.

Find out exactly what your financial obligations will be up front. Speak to the grooms and second trainers. 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 which person would best suit your needs.



Training Costs

Training fees can vary as much as \$40 a day by individual trainers. The top trainers will naturally be charging the top prices. At the other end of the scale are young people willing to negotiate in order to attract owners until they get established.

You will likely be billed monthly, but charged a daily rate. If your trainer is charging \$40 per day, your monthly training bill will be \$40 times the number of days in the month. Each horse needs to be shod, at least once a month, more if a trainer is trying to improve or correct a horse by changing his shoeing and blacksmith bills will be included monthly.

Veterinarian bills will vary from horse to horse and some trainers will include these charges on their monthly invoice and some will have the veterinarian bill the owner directly. Even healthy horses will have regular veterinary bills for worming, flu vaccines, electrolyte jugs, etc. Sick or injured horses can run up some healthy bills!

Monthly invoices will also include transportation, race bike and jog cart rental and sundry supplies, such as leg paint, hoof packing, etc.

If your horse is racing, you will normally be charged a "paddock" fee which goes to the horse's groom for looking after it on the night of the race.

If your horse is racing in stakes events, you'll be required to pay an entry fee (in most cases) to start in the stake event. (Most stakes races require nomination and sustaining payments to be made at various stages in the horse's life — yearling, two-year-old, etc.)

If your horse finishes in the top five (at some tracks, six) in his race a percentage (usually five percent, but it varies in different jurisdictions), of the purse money goes to 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.)

In most cases you will be billed once for the particular equipment needed by your horse. Each horse has its own harness, bridle, hobbles (if a pacer), bandages, boots, exercise "coolers" and stable blanket.

Many trainers will also charge one time for the horse's waterpail and feedtub. All of this equipment must be replaced from time to time, usually about once a year.

The feed and bedding needed by your horse is normally included in the daily training rate and is not charged separately. 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.

Memberships

Any person or corporation participating directly in harness racing in any Standardbred Canada (SC) jurisdiction in Canada must be a member in good standing with SC. This includes owners or lessees of racehorses, drivers, trainers, 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.

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.

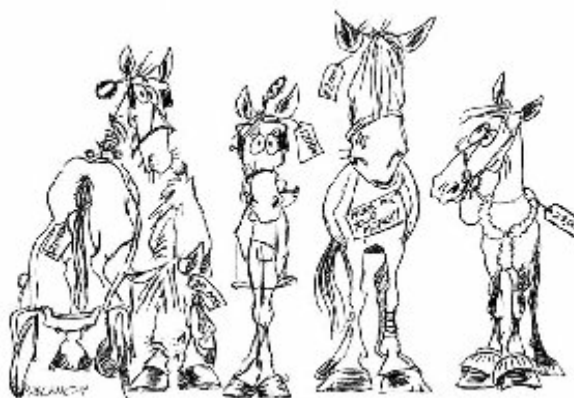
There is an initiation fee and service fee for all new members. The cost of membership is pro-rated from the application date to the member's birthdate.

Where applicable, all persons participating in Standardbred racing must be licensed by their provincial Racing Commission.

Other non-mandatory memberships may be obtained for provincial associations, breeders' organizations, etc.

Buying The 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. You should never buy a horse without expert advice.



Ownership can be individual, shared with one or more other people, or shared with the trainer. This will depend entirely upon the amount of money you want to invest and the amount of control you want to have 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.

Your trainer might have several other owners looking for a partner in a higher-priced horse, or he or she might have his eye on a claimer or

green horse in your price range. You have several different options to choose from.

Claiming Horses

A claiming race is an event which classifies the horses competing by price. Prices range from \$1,000 claimers at the smaller tracks to \$200,000 claimers. 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 one hour prior to 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.

Although there is no sure thing in the horse business, claiming proven racehorses or buying them privately is usually the safest method of investment for the new owner. 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 are 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

Some horses are sold through private transactions. These horses are advertised in trade journals, 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 his 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 can take some of the risk out of 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 up-front what their fee will be. If you are buying a horse privately, it is important to discuss this with your trainer beforehand.

Public Auction

There are many public auctions of harness horses conducted throughout the year. These are called "mixed" sales and feature young horses, breeding stock and racehorses. Most sales companies provide racelines for each racehorse selling. It is important to study the racelines carefully, have your trainer inspect the horse (preferably before the sale), see it race if possible, and, with the advice of your trainer, decide on the maximum you will pay and stick to it when the excitement of the sale begins. Any time it is possible, it is also wise to have a veterinarian inspect the horse.

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 many 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. (Download the PDF example.)

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 make. 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, certainly not all of them will have stakes potential, and some will not make it at all. The two-year-olds which do not race are usually rested at some point and laid off until the spring of their three-year-old year. Stakes payments must be made to keep them eligible to the lucrative two and three-year-old stakes.

Yearlings are the biggest gamble for a new owner and require much patience, but they are the lottery tickets of this business. There are hundreds of examples of yearlings purchased for modest amounts which have gone on and made hundreds of thousands of dollars in a single season.

Thousands of horses have raced successfully and made enough in a season to more than cover their expenses, giving their owners an exciting summer of travelling from track to track.



And some horses never make it to the races at all. As with so many other things in life, the greatest risk carries the greatest reward.

Breeding Stock

As in buying racehorses or green horses, breeding stock (usually broodmares) are 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 buying a broodmare who has had foals, it is a good practice to see some of her previous offspring if possible. You should find out what her offspring has sold for in previous sales. This information can be obtained from the trade journals or the Standardbred Canada resource centre. 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 public auctions are sold with the stud fee paid. In the event that the mare does not produce a live foal, the stud fee may be refundable, or the mare could possibly be returned to that sire free of charge. 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.

Broodmares can also be purchased through private transactions and it is again recommended that the same procedures be followed as in public auctions.

Multiple Ownership

Some new owners will obtain a partner or partners to share in the cost of purchasing a horse and the training bills. Some trainers prefer to own a portion of any horse under their control 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 divided 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 — disagreements about the horse's racing schedule, who should train or drive the horse, when and if you should sell, etc.

It is essential that you and your partners have common beliefs and goals in the horse business. It saves friendships, time and a lot of aggravation if you have an agreement drawn up prior to the purchase and appoint one member of the group to make management decisions regarding the horse. This person should have sole authority to carry out all transactions.

Taxation Overview

NOTE: The Canadian Horse Racing Industry has formed an alliance to lobby the federal government for fairer taxation relating to racehorse ownership. This long term project was underway when this booklet went to press.

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 the above sounds like too much work, maybe you're in 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 is an incorporated non-profit organization whose mandate is to supervise, record, store and distribute information on all registered Standardbreds and to promote harness racing in Canada and beyond.

Standardbred Canada 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.

Each member racetrack across Canada (with the exception of the Maritimes which operates under the jurisdiction of the United States Trotting Association), has a Standardbred Canada field representative who inputs race data as it happens into a computer system linked to the main data banks at the SC main office in Mississauga.

The computerized system has facilitated the production of race programs and provided 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 is recorded and can be easily accessed.

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.

TROT Magazine is the official publication of Standardbred Canada and the monthly magazine is one of the best-read publications in the industry. Every member of Standardbred Canada receives TROT with his/her membership.

Standardbred Canada's vast archives of books, photos, videos, historical materials and publications about the Standardbred horse, as well as other breeds, are located in the resource centre at the main office location in Mississauga. This library also houses the impressive collection of silverware won by Hall of Fame horseman Bill Herbert and donated to Standardbred Canada by Herbert's late wife Ruth.

Operated by an elected Board of Directors from across the country, Standardbred Canada is also responsible for managing and operating horse auctions, traditionally two mixed sales, one in the spring and one in the fall, and a yearling sale, The Canadian Classic, which is traditionally held in September.

The Industry Communications department of SC promotes the sport of harness horse racing through many projects including media training, the O'Brien Awards, Hall of Fame, etc.

This Owners' Guide is just one of many Standardbred Canada initiatives designed to increase the awareness of the sport. We hope it helps in your quest to understand the wonderful world of Standardbred horses.

If you have any questions that we have not answered through this guide, we would be happy to help you by telephone at the SC office, or e-mail through our website at:
<http://www.standardbredcanada.ca>.

National Organizations

Standardbred Canada

Official record-keeping body for harness racing.
2150 Meadowvale Blvd.
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6R6
tel (905) 858-3060
fax (905) 858-3111 or 858-3089
Website: www.standardbredcanada.ca

Agriculture Canada

Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
6 Antares Drive, Phase II, Unit 12
Nepean, Ontario K2E 8A9
mailing address: P.O. Box 5904, LCD Merivale Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3X7

tel (613) 946-1700
fax (613) 952-7466
Website: www.cpma-acpm.gc.ca

Racetracks of Canada Inc.

P.O. Box 472, Station B
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9W 5L4
tel (416) 657-4210
fax (416) 657-4212

Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame

c/o Standardbred Canada
2150 Meadowvale Blvd.
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6R6
tel (905) 858-3060
fax (905) 858-3089
*actual site at Woodbine Racetrack

Provincial Racing Commissions

Alberta Racing Corporation

#720, 9707 - 110 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2L9
tel (780) 415-5432 fax (780) 553-7223
Website: www.thehorses.com

British Columbia Racing Commission

Metrotower II
#2003-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4N2
tel (604) 660-7400 fax (604) 660-7414
Website: www.racingcommission.gov.bc.ca

Manitoba Horse Racing Commission

P.O. Box 46086
R.P.O. Westdale
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3R 3S3
tel (204) 885-7770 fax (204) 831-0942
Website: www.manitobahorsecomm.org

Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission

263 Harbour Drive, Suite 15
Summerside, P.E.I. C1N 5P1
tel (902) 888-3489 fax (902) 888-2762

Ontario Racing Commission

20 Dundas St. W. 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2C2
tel (416) 327-0520 fax (416) 325-3478
E-mail: orcinqry@ccr.gov.on.ca

RACJ

(Regie des alcools, des courses, et des jeux/ Alcohol, Racing and Gaming Control Commission)
1, rue Notre-Dame Est
Bureau 901
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1B6
tel (514) 873-3577 fax (514) 873-6934

Website: www.racj.gouv.qc.ca
E-mail: racj.montreal@racj.gouv.qc.ca

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

Horse Racing Branch
8th Floor, 122- 3rd Ave. N.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 2H6
tel (306) 933-5998 fax (306) 933-7532

Associations

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Standardbred Association

P.O. Box 34008, 17790 #10 Highway,
Surrey, B.C. V3S 8C4 tel (604) 574-3633 fax (604) 574-5503
E-mail: harnessbc@direct.ca

BC Standardbred Breeders' Society

P.O. Box 34008, 17790 #10 Highway
Surrey, B.C. V3S 8C4 tel (604) 574-5558 fax (604) 574-5503
E-mail: harnessbc@direct.ca

ALBERTA

Alberta Standardbred Horse Association

P.O. Box 1060, Stn. M
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2K8
tel (403) 263-7765 fax (403) 294-1510
Toll free in Alberta: 1-800-852-5985
Website: www.asha.ab.ca
E-mail: harness@asha.ab.ca

Alberta Sires Stakes

P.O. Box 1060, Stn. M
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2K8
tel (403) 263-7765 fax (403) 294-1510
Toll free in Alberta: 1-800-852-5985
Website: www.asha.ab.ca
E-mail: harness@asha.ab.ca

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Standardbred Horse Assoc.

P.O. Box 4122
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 4W5
(306) 757-4755

MANITOBA

Manitoba Standardbred Sires & Breeders Assoc.

R.R. # 1,
Neepawa, Manitoba, ROJ IHO
tel (204) 476-3801

Manitoba Harness Horsemen Inc.

120 Eastwood Dr.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2E 0B7
(204) 339-4688

Manitoba Great Western Harness Racing Circuit Inc.

P.O, Box 123,
Minto, Manitoba R0K 1M0
tel (204) 776-2306

ONTARIO

Ontario Harness Horse Assoc. (OHHA)

2150 Meadowvale Blvd., Suite 2,
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 5S3
tel (905) 858-5854 fax (905) 858-1680
Website: www.ohha.ca
E-mail: ohha@stn.net

Ontario Horse Racing Industry Assoc. (OHRIA)

2150 Meadowvale Blvd.
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6R6
tel (905) 812-0168 fax (905) 812-1948
E-mail: ohria@ica.net

Standardbred Breeders and Owners of Ontario

2150 Meadowvale Blvd.,
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6R6

Ontario Sires Stakes

2150 Meadowvale Blvd., Suite 3,
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 5S3
tel (519) 836-6241 fax: (519) 822-8216
Website: www.standardbredcanada.ca
E-mail: ohha.oss@bmts.com

QUEBEC

Société Nationale du Cheval de Course (SONACC)

Hippodrome de Montréal
7440, Decarie boulevard,
Montréal, Québec H4P 2H1
tel (514) 739-2741 fax (514) 341-0165

Coopérative des Encans Standardbred du Québec (CESQ)

Hippodrome de Montréal
7440 Decarie boulevard, 2e Etage,
Montréal, Québec H4P 2H1
tel (514) 341-2249 fax (514) 341-2699

Société des Propriétaires et Eleveurs De Chevaux Standardbred du Québec (SPECSQ)

Hippodrome de Montréal
7440 Decarie boulevard, 2e Etage,
Montréal, Québec H4P 2H1
tel (514) 341-3348 fax (514) 341-0799

Association Trot & Amble du Québec (ATAQ)

5375 rue Paré, Suite 230
Montréal, Québec H4P 1P7
tel (514) 731-9484 fax: (514) 731-7687

Circuit Régional des courses de chevaux du Québec (CRCCQ)

18 Rue Tanguay #301
Lévis, Québec G6V 6Z6
tel (418) 835-2584 fax: (418) 835-2585

Atlantic Standardbred Breeders Assoc.

R.R. #5

Tatamagouche, N.S. B0K 1V0
(902) 657-3068

Glossary

Also Eligible: Horse officially entered in a race, but not permitted to start unless field is reduced by scratch(es).

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 on 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.

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.

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 of the hindquarters of the horse which finishes ahead.

Lame: The term used to describe a horse which is limping or has difficulty walking properly.

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.

Maiden: A horse who has never won a race with a purse. (Also refers to a mare who has never had a foal.)

Mare: A female horse four years of age 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

Colt: A male horse three years of age 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.

Favourite: The horse considered most likely to win based on the 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 hoppers.

Foal: All baby horses are called foals.

race outside those on the inside. 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.

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.

Sires 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.

Stakes Race: A race where owners make a series of payments, starting well in advance, to keep a horse eligible. If an owner misses a payment, the horse is ineligible.

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.

Sulky: Also known as the cart or racebike, the sulky is attached to the harness and carries the driver.

Garden Spot: The second position on the rail during most of the race.

Gelding: An altered (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.

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).

driver which the horse pulls.

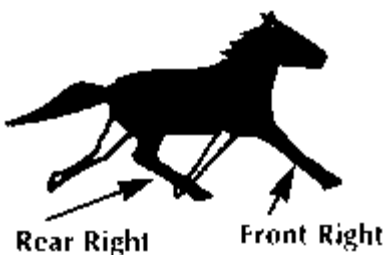
Time Trial: An attempt to have a horse beat its own best time in a non-competitive event. A time trial is not a race. Galloping horses hitched to sulkies, called prompters, are used to push a horse to its best effort.

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.

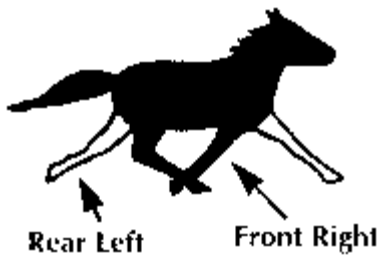
Weanling: Foals weaned from their mother until they reach their first birthday.

Yearling: Any horse between its first and second birthday.

Gaits



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 or Perfecta: You must select the first two finishers in exact order.

Triactor or 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.



Conclusion

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 two school teachers who paid less than a thousand dollars for a trotting mare and had great fun spoiling her before she repaid their kindness by winning over \$400,000; the young couple whose homebred earned them an expense-paid trip to Sweden to win the prestigious Elitlopp and close to a million dollars; the businessman whose three-year-old won over two million and became horse of the year and on and on.

Realistic hopes would be to recoup the money you have invested and have a lot of fun doing it. However, this business 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!