



RACEHORSE  
OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION



4 RACING

# Racehorse Ownership IN SOUTH AFRICA



# Mission Statement of the ROA

To protect and advance the interests of  
all owners, while ensuring an excellent  
racehorse ownership experience.



*Pauline Herman*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# The Journey of Racehorse Ownership

## An Experience Like No Other

Racehorse ownership is one of the most exciting and rewarding ways to be involved in the sport of horseracing. Whether you're drawn by the thrill of race day, the camaraderie, or the dream of leading in a winner, ownership offers an unforgettable experience.

While it is an investment with risks, it is also a journey filled with passion, excitement, and lifelong memories.

### Step 1: Is Ownership Right for You?

Racehorse ownership is accessible, but it's important to understand what it involves.

Investing in thoroughbred racing and breeding may offer exciting business opportunities but it is important to recognize that it is of a speculative nature. The investment is not for everyone, but it may be right for you. Before you get involved you need to accept that horses are not machines and there is no "guarantee" to your investment. The risks are high but the rewards, both financial and emotional, can be substantial.

For many owners, the true value lies in the experience: the anticipation, the community, and the thrill of seeing your horse compete.

### Step 2: Define Your Goals

Before getting started, consider:

- **Budget** – What level of investment are you comfortable with? Determine the total amount you are prepared to invest and develop a budget to be allocated towards initial purchase and monthly expenditure.
- **Ownership style** – Do you want full control

or shared involvement? Although your level of investment should serve as a guide in determining the appropriate form of ownership for you, you may be the type of person who prefers to call all the shots, assume all the risks and take all the glory! Or do you prefer to spread your risks and share the rewards?

- **Time period involved** – Are you looking for quick results or a longer journey? In selecting a horse, you need to consider whether you are looking for a quick return offered by a precocious animal or are prepared to wait a little longer for a more stoutly based option.

Your answers will guide the type of ownership best suited to you.

### Step 3: Choose Your Ownership Structure

One of the biggest misconceptions is that you need to own a horse outright. In reality, there are flexible options to suit different budgets:

#### Individual Ownership

- Full control and decision-making
- Higher costs, but full share of winnings

#### Partnerships

- Share costs and responsibilities
- Enjoy the experience with like-minded people

#### Syndicates and Fractional Ownership (Most Popular for Newcomers)

- Lower entry cost
- Share in multiple horses
- Increased chances of being involved in a winner

These options make racehorse ownership far more attainable than many people realize.

## Step 4: Build Your Team

Racehorse ownership is a team effort. Your key partners include:

- **Trainer** – Your most important relationship
- **Bloodstock agent** – Helps select and purchase horses
- **Veterinarian and advisors**

Choosing the right trainer is crucial, they guide your journey and play a major role in your horse's success.

## Step 5: Buying or Leasing Your Horse

There are two main ways to get started:

### Purchase

- Buy at auction or privately
- Full or shared ownership

### Lease

- Lower upfront cost
- Experience ownership without long-term commitment

Auctions are a popular route, offering a wide selection and transparent pricing, with expert guidance available throughout the process.

## Step 6: Protecting Your Investment

Owners may choose to insure their horses due to the physical demands of racing.

- Insurance is optional
- Helps manage risk

- Requires good communication with your trainer
- Owner/Trainer Contract is available as an agreement between you and your trainer

This adds peace of mind as your horse progresses through training and racing.

## Step 7: Registration & Racing Identity

To officially become an owner, you will:

- Register with the **National Horseracing Authority**
- Choose your **racing colours (silks)**
- Register your horse in your ownership structure

Your colours become your identity on race day – a proud and personal moment for every owner.

## Race Day: The Ultimate Reward

Nothing compares to race day:

- Watching your horse compete
- Sharing the experience with partners, friends, and family
- The thrill of the finish
- The unforgettable moment of leading in a winner

For many owners, this is where the journey truly comes to life.

## Why Become an Owner?

- Be part of an exciting and historic sport
- Enjoy unique access and behind-the-scenes experiences
- Build lasting friendships and connections
- Experience the pride of ownership

Most importantly, it's more accessible than you think.

### Your Journey Starts Here

Whether you're looking to dip your toe in through a syndicate or take the reins as an individual owner, there is a pathway for you in racehorse ownership.

**You don't have to be an expert – just bring your passion.**

## TYPES OF OWNERSHIP

You have two ownership options, namely owning or leasing. Owning entails purchasing a horse from a bloodstock auction, or privately from a trainer, breeder or stud farm.

Individual ownership means that you are responsible for all the costs and collect the lion's share of the winnings.

Partnerships can be formed. Sharing the costs and benefits, the thrill of ownership and the excitement of racedays makes this a popular one for first-time owners. It also allows owners to spread their investment and enjoy an interest in more than one horse.

Syndicates consist of between five and twenty people. It's a low-cost option and allows owners to invest in quite a number of horses, increasing the chances of having an interest in a winner.

Companies and Close Corporations can also register with The National Horseracing Authority as owners of racehorses.

- **Individual colours** – in the name of a natural PERSON
- **Estate colours** – in the name of the estate of a natural PERSON if he had COLOURS REGISTERED in his name at the time of death
- **Partnership colours** – in the name of the partnership or in the names of the individuals, syndicates and/or JURISTIC PERSONS comprising the partnership
- **Syndicate colours** – in the name of the syndicate which shall comprise not less than 5 natural PERSONS and/or JURISTIC PERSONS and not more than 100 natural PERSONS and/or JURISTIC PERSONS, or such greater number as the CHIEF EXECUTIVE in his sole discretion may allow
- **Close Corporation colours** – in the name of the nominee of a CLOSE CORPORATION the membership of which shall comprise not more than 10 natural PERSONS, including the NOMINEE
- **Company colours** – in the name of a COMPANY
- **Trust colours** – in the name of a TRUST
- **Fractional colours** – in the name of a COMPANY or a TRUST, the nominee is the registered colour holder



# Become A Member of the Racehorse Owners Association

This membership option is available to all individual colour holders or members of a syndicate or partnership.

The mission statement of the Racehorse Owners Association is to protect and advance

the interests of all owners, while ensuring an excellent racehorse ownership experience.

We believe this should be an experience that extends from the sales ring to the racecourse.

## The Benefits Of Being A Member Of The Racehorse Owners Association

### Services:

- A personalized members' badge plus guest badge which includes owners' racing colours that gives members and their guests free access to all racecourses and facilities in ROA jurisdictions
- A parking disc which entitles members to utilize the members parking area on racedays
- Assistance in arranging trophies, photographs and mementos
- Monthly Newsletter
- Eligibility to enter monthly giveaways
- Access to information webinars to address information and questions posed by members
- Assistance with
  - Horseracing syndicates and partnerships
  - Tax matters relative to racehorse ownership
  - Terms and conditions contracts between owners and trainers
  - Contracts relating to advertising on silks
  - Administration matters and dealing with the National Horseracing Authority

### Social

- An invitation to quarterly networking/ social functions where members may interact with each other as well as members of the Board

- Free on-course entry to the Summer Cup
- Preferential meal prices and discounts in members' restaurants
- Preferential rate for Tuffontein Private Box hire
- A dedicated members restaurant at Turffontein, Vaal and Fairview
- Invitations as guests of the Racehorse Owners Association for special racedays, giveaways and competitions
- Complimentary breakfast, stable visits and track work events

### Representation

- The right to nominate and/or vote for representation on the Racehorse Owners Association Board
- Representation by the Racehorse Owners Association Board in matters relating to racehorse ownership, such as
  - Stakes
  - Racing facilities
  - Training facilities
  - Programming
- Liaison with Thoroughbred Breeders Association
- Liaison with National Horseracing Authority
- Liaison with Operators

# Racehorse Owners Association Social Membership Option

In addition to providing a superior service to existing owners, we strive to encourage the participation of new owners to horseracing. It is the current as well as the prospective owner that the ROA must attract, retain and reward. In response to much of the research we have conducted and as an attempt at removing some of the barriers to entry for potential ownership, one of the initiatives we have developed and are proud to present is the Racehorse Owners Association – Social Membership

With this new option, our aim is to attract and retain 18–35-year-old, diverse, and upwardly mobile individuals through social membership. While we will strive to enlist a new younger audience, there will be no age limit on this membership option. Any person interested in horseracing and ownership is welcome to apply.

Social members need not be individual colour holders with the NHRA nor own shares in a thoroughbred racehorse just yet. By partnering with select, established owners within the ROA, social members will have the opportunity to preview racehorse ownership and enjoy the many benefits that come along with it. Members will also have the chance to meet fellow young racing fans as well as network with professionals in the industry. Our focus is to introduce new patrons to the sport through positive experiences participating in horseracing, hearing the stories first-hand and therefore removing intimidating factors and preconceptions. Racehorse ownership should be aspirational but attainable and we believe

this initiative provides one way where we can enable potential owners to begin their journey to owning a racehorse.

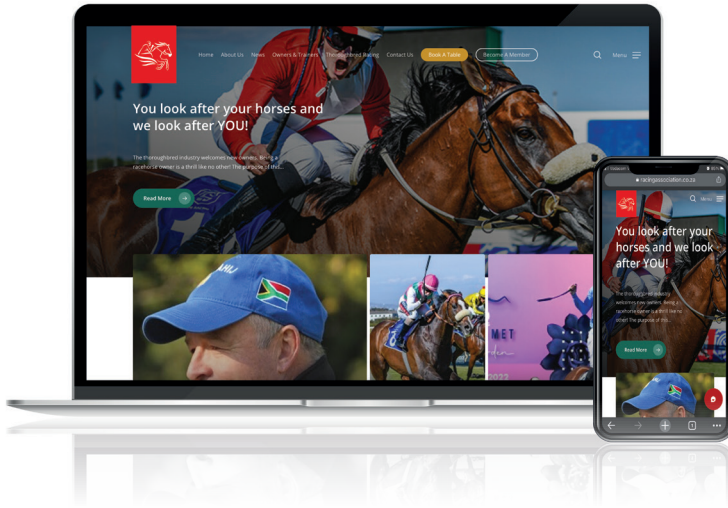
## Benefits Include the Following:

- A glimpse of thoroughbred ownership including meeting in the parade ring prior to races, visits to stables, morning gallops and visits to the winner's circle
- Regular updates and involvement with top quality racehorses
- Networking opportunities with other members and industry professionals
- Personalised members badge and parking disc
- Eligibility to enter monthly giveaways
- Access to information webinars and monthly newsletters
- Invitations to quarterly networking/social functions
- Free on-course entry to the Summer Cup
- Preferential food and beverage prices and discounts in members' restaurants
- Invitations as guests of the ROA for special racedays, giveaways and competitions
- Preferential rate for Turrfontein Private Box hire
- Complimentary breakfast, stable visits and track work events.

Social members are non-voting members of the Racehorse Owners Association



# Racehorse Owners Association Website



[www.racehorseowners.co.za](http://www.racehorseowners.co.za)



**Scan Here**  
to access our website

## Features of the Racehorse Owners Association Website

Owner of the month  
Horsingracing calendar  
Useful contacts  
Galleries  
Newsletters

Memorandum of Incorporation  
Engage with the ROA board  
Book a table  
Become a member  
Awards of excellence



## ROA Staff

### Chief Executive Officer

Natalie Turner  
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### Member Relations & Admin Officer

Laiken Martin  
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### Finance & Admin Manager

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