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Hartpury Research Conference 2024
Abstract Guidelines

Please format your abstract in a Word document as outlined below:
Please use a Sans Serif font such as Calibri or Arial. Unless otherwise stated below, font should be size 12, single spacing and 2.5cm margins.

Abstracts should be structured by 'section' using the listed chapters below as 'headings' in line with the start of the sentence, followed by a colon (bold). Each section of the abstract should begin on a new line.

Title: Should be descriptive, specific, and concise (20-word limit).

Authors: Surname, initial with the corresponding author identified by an asterisk (*) (italic, size 10).

Author affiliations: Institution name and address. Included below the title (bold).

Key words: A maximum of four key words can be included, separated by a semi-colon, and should not include words used as part of the main title.

Introduction: Background and rationale to the work, closing with a concise outline of the study aim.

Material & methods: Clearly reported description of your methods, including details about your sample (size, inclusion criteria) and method of data analysis.

Results: Inclusion of all relevant results and their statistical significance (if appropriate). Results must reflect the methods previously described and provide sufficient evidence to support interpretations. Be accurate and consistent with units and restrict to two decimal places.

Tables & figures: The abstract may include **one** figure or **one** table to display results but must be numbered and appropriately titled; table legends above and figure legends below.

Discussion: These should reflect accurately the data given in the Results section.
Consider why the information is useful to industry or our current level of knowledge in this field.

Acknowledgements: Please acknowledge any party (other than that of the affiliated institution) that has contributed financially to the study.

References: Please reference, in full, any citations given in the preceding text using the Harvard system of referencing. A maximum of three references is recommended.

Abstracts must **not exceed 500 words**, excluding author names and affiliations, figures and table legends, keywords and list of references. Submit the abstract to research@hartpury.ac.uk.

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: TRACKING THE TRACEABILITY OF UK THOROUGHBREDS

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Keywords: Racehorse welfare; biosecurity; horse owner responsibility, social license to operate.

Introduction: Horse racing is subject to public scrutiny questioning if thoroughbreds (TBs) have a good life. Within British horse racing, the Horse Welfare Board's "A life well lived" strategy provides a blueprint for the welfare of TBs. Ensuring industry infrastructure can provide lifetime responsibility for TBs is a core aim of this strategy; however, to be able to facilitate this, accurate traceability of horses bred for racing across their racing and post-racing careers is essential. At birth, TB foals are registered with a relevant stud book, however, for horses which exit training, or transition to a second career/s, tracking changes in circumstances is reliant on owner/keeper compliance to update studbook information. This project aimed to establish a current population density model for the number and status: ownership and use of UK resident TBs, to provide an accurate representation of the TB population and identify areas where additional research and education initiatives are required to enhance horse welfare. Population estimates generally generate census data to create accurate population density models; therefore, a census methodology was employed via an online survey distributed through equestrian stakeholder organisations and media campaigns from May and December 2023.

Materials and Methods: Frequency analysis identified patterns in passport compliance, knowledge and understanding of current systems, and profiled TB demographics: age, use, and history; Chi-squared analyses evaluated differences in passport registration compliance related to the activities participated in.

Results: Mid-point results are presented here; 5505 TBs were registered in the census by 31/10/24. Most horses were geldings (74%), aged between 5-14 years (63%); 90% were owned, 4% were loaned and 6% were resident with a keeper. Of these, 54% had been in the same home for >3 years, with most owners (66%) having kept a TB previously. Ninety-eight percent of horses had a passport, but only 64% of these were in their current owner's name despite 91% of respondents being aware that they should have changed their horse's ownership details. Leisure riding, hacking, and unaffiliated competition were the most common activities participated in; no significant differences in registration compliance was found between activities. The final results will provide an accurate representation of the TB population and identify areas where additional research and education initiatives are required to improve lifetime traceability and support all stakeholders to ensure all TBs have a life well lived.

Discussion: The welfare of TBs within and after racing is often questioned by the public. A census was undertaken to generate accurate profile the UK TB population. Accurate records are needed to support future education, research, and strategy to safeguard TB welfare.

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Timeline for contributions to the conference

Please see below the timeline. For any additional queries please email research@hartpury.ac.uk.

Stage	By….
Calls for Submissions open. Submit abstract for: 1. Oral presentation Or 2. Poster presentation	**8 May 2024**
Submit your abstract to research@hartpury.ac.uk. Please indicate Oral presentation or Poster presentation when you submit.	**Midday 12 June 2024**
Panel selection of abstracts and programme confirmation	**13 June – 14 June 2024**
Received an email from research@hartpury.ac.uk confirming whether your abstract submission has been accepted. 1. Oral presentation Or 2. Poster presentation Guidelines for Poster and Oral presentations will be provided. Draft programme will be provided. If not you have not heard by close of business (5:30pm) on 20 June 2024 please email research@hartpury.ac.uk.	**20 June 2024**
Presentations to be provided to research@hartpury.ac.uk Electronic submission of Poster to be provided to research@hartpury.ac.uk	**Midday 5 July 2024**
Hartpury Research Conference 2024	**11 July 2024**