



GETTING INVOLVED

IN THE ALBERTA
THOROUGHBRED
INDUSTRY

WELCOME

Anyone that has been a newcomer to the world of Thoroughbreds knows there is a lot to take in at the beginning.

Long time supporters and professionals within the industry can provide valuable insight, but it can be difficult to know where to start.

This how to guide will serve as a brief introduction to the Alberta Thoroughbred Industry.

Use it as a source for basic information, a place to take notes, or as an inspiration for future conversations as you begin your adventure with the Thoroughbred breed, the sport of horse racing and the industry that we all love.





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Create Your Own

SPORTS TEAM



Team Members

Owners and Fans

Trainer

Groom

Horse

Jockey



STEP ONE

LEARN ABOUT THE BUSINESS

OBTAIN SOUND, HONEST ADVICE

Select a person you can talk to about your interest in Thoroughbreds and the racing industry that is an acknowledged professional, capable of giving an experienced perspective.

In most provinces, there are several organizations representing owners, breeders, trainers and others in the industry.

The contacts for the Alberta industry are listed in the back of this guidebook. Any one of these people would be happy to talk to you about your interests!



WORK OUT A PLAN FOR YOUR INVESTMENT

Consider the costs and risks very carefully before you start a serious investigation into Thoroughbred ownership.

Whether you view the venture purely as a diversion, or largely as an investment, there are financial implications.

Carefully estimate the probable costs. If you do this, and ownership still looks attractive, then investigate further.

Decide whether racing or breeding Thoroughbreds most appeals to your interests or whether you wish to participate in both.

BE PATIENT

The rewards that come with breeding or owning a winning Thoroughbred racehorse require a significant contribution of time, effort, planning and money.

REMEMBER! Commitment and patience will let you follow through with your plan and enjoy the success.

Many people believe that racing is the most exciting and rewarding prospect. For others, breeding offers greater personal challenge and perhaps less risk.

STEP TWO

WAYS OF OWNING A RACING THOROUGHBRED



There are a number of ways to achieve ownership. Remember to consider the scope of your involvement before committing to your racehorse investment.

There's no better feeling than watching your horse compete and carry your colors into the winner's circle.



You can choose between
Sole Ownership●Partnerships● Syndicates

Owning a Thoroughbred racehorse can lead to one of the most thrilling experiences of your life!

HOW TO BUY YOUR TEAM OWNERSHIP

● Sole Ownership

A single person is the owner of the racehorse. The horse runs in your name, stable or company name established for your racing ventures. You make all the decisions and benefit from all the rewards but are also responsible for all the associated costs.

● Partnership

Two or more registered owners who run a racehorse under their own names or a partnership name. Partnerships offer an opportunity to enjoy the thrills of thoroughbred racing with friends, family or associates while making it more affordable through the division of costs. It is especially suitable for a new Thoroughbred investor just starting out and it lets you gain knowledge and experience while sharing the risks and responsibilities.

● Syndicates / Clubs

A group of like minded individuals who all own a share or multiple shares in one or more racehorses. You can either join an existing syndicate or create a new one with your family and/or friends. Syndicates are always available for new owners so make sure to choose the right one to match your needs.

Make sure to obtain INDEPENDENT, EDUCATED advice on the market value of the horses owned by the syndicate or club partnership. Have a full understanding of the fees and commissions charged by the management.

Partnerships, clubs and syndicates offer an affordable way to share in the fun of racehorse ownership!

GETTING INTO THE GAME

PURCHASING

There are THREE MAIN METHODS to purchasing a racehorse

Public Auction - Claiming Races - Private Sales



Method One - Public Auction Sales

The bidding begins, our hearts are thumping, the pressure grows... will we get the horse of our dreams?

An auction sale is an exciting place to look at a lot of prospects! Establish your budget and don't get carried away with the thrill of bidding and the energy of the sale environment. A trusted advisor can guide you in the sale process or do the bidding for you. Establish credit with the sales company and review the sale conditions well ahead of time.

YEARLING SALES

Yearlings offer the chance to buy a prospect that just may fulfill your dreams of a winning racehorse in the future. It can be one of the least expensive ways of acquiring a Thoroughbred as you are buying purely on pedigree and conformation.

IN TRAINING SALES

These sales offer two year old Thoroughbreds that have already been training, galloping or breezing and are close to being race ready. Such horses will typically cost more than yearlings since money and time has been spent on training.

Method Two - Claiming Races

You can acquire an 'INSTANT RACEHORSE' by purchasing a horse that is already racing in a claiming race.

This type of race makes up about three quarters of all races.

Claiming may be a good strategy for new owners to gain experience and acquire an athlete **READY TO RUN** without waiting too long for the horse to generate income.

ALL horses in a claiming race are for sale!

Unlike a yearling or in training sale, no veterinary inspection is permitted prior to your claim and the ownership change.



Method Three - Private Sale

A private purchase of a Thoroughbred can be done on or off the track.

Owners can purchase a horse privately from the breeding farm, farm owners or training barns (race track backstretch).

Owners and/or trainers can receive tips on specific horses for purchase or they can have special relationships with the farms themselves which leads to acquisitions.

YOU, YOUR TRAINER AND VET can take all the time you need to consider potential horses and research bloodlines however the owner will have a set price.

Make sure you obtain a formal Bill of Sale and transfer of registration papers for any horses purchased privately before finalizing the transaction.

STEP THREE

PREPARING FOR A RACE

● Who Cares for the Horse

When stabled at the track, racehorses are normally managed by a trainer who is responsible for the day to day care, training and race schedule.

● Choosing a Trainer

As an owner, choosing a Trainer is the most **IMPORTANT** decision you have to make.

The main role of the trainer is to prepare your horses for the race but also to advise you on ownership and selection of the horse.

The trainer will have the responsibility of ensuring your horse is cared for on a daily basis with feed, exercise, veterinary care, farrier appointments and alternative treatments such as chiropractic or massage.



The TRAINER is the COACH of the Team!

● What are the Costs?

The cost of owning a racehorse varies depending upon where you race and the extent of your involvement.

In Western Canada, race meets are typically held between April and November each year. Most horses will be in training for about 8-12 weeks before being race ready.

● Trainer's Day Rate

While at the track, your major expense will be your trainer's day rate. This cost varies according to the experience of your trainer and where you are racing.

The **day rate** is charged for each day that the trainer has your horse in their barn and usually covers the expenses of training, stall, feed, bedding, hay, and staff costs.

Other costs typically incurred in addition to the trainer's day rate are farrier work, veterinarian costs, jockey fees, race entry fees, licensing fees, shipping fees and insurance costs.

You will also need to plan for **race day fees** which will include a percent of earnings paid to the trainer from races where your horse places.

Questions to ask a TRAINER

Select a trainer you can depend on to make the following important decisions in alignment with your own values!



How long have you been a full time trainer?



What other trainers have you worked with in the past?



What success have you had in the past?



How many horses do you currently train?



How much do you charge and what does this fee include?



How will you communicate and how often?

GET REFERENCES FROM OTHER OWNERS



GETTING INVOLVED IN BREEDING

PURCHASING A BROODMARE

A good mare is the life blood of the industry

An investment in breeding stock usually starts with the purchase of a pregnant broodmare from a breeding stock sale.

The selling price of the mare will vary with the success of her previous foals, her age, the success of her family and her race record.

Purchasing a broodmare who has had previous offspring may offer more certainty than a mare having her first foal.

The mare's price will also reflect the commercial popularity of the stallion she was bred to and the success of his progeny.

Look for a broodmare with good conformation and the PRICE, PEDIGREE and BACKGROUND most suited to the market in which you as a breeder intend to sell her foals.

COSTS TO EXPECT AFTER PURCHASING YOUR BROODMARE

Your costs begin at the moment you purchase your mare. You will need to:

- Transport your new broodmare to her new home.
- Make boarding arrangements with a farm where the manager is experienced in the handling of breeding stock.
- Provide farrier and veterinary care. These expenses will generally be higher for your broodmare than a racing Thoroughbred as *both* mare and foal will need regular attention to their health.

Carefully consider the many factors in making a breeding decision with your mare each year.

DOES your mare have the right quality, temperament, age to achieve your breeding goals?

WHAT qualities does the stallion offer and what is the cost of the stud fee?



Selling Your Mare's Progeny

If you don't wish to race your mare's progeny, you can choose to sell the foal privately or at public auction, usually as a yearling.

Costs of selling include transporting the yearling, sale entry fees, boarding & sales preparation until sale time.





OFF TRACK THOROUGHBREDS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR THOROUGHBRED IS READY TO RETIRE FROM RACING?

Your ex-racehorse still has a future career once the decision is made to retire it from the racetrack.

Most Thoroughbreds are at the track for only up to 5 or 6 years so consider what their post racing career will involve and have a plan in place to transition them smoothly to a new career.

Retired from racing Thoroughbreds are called Off Track Thoroughbreds or OTTBs.

Many of these OTTBs have become proven stars in different equestrian disciplines due to their key characteristics of athleticism, speed, heart and versatility.

OTTBs may be found competing in hunter/jumper, polo, and barrel racing or as trail riding or pleasure horses.

A number of organizations in Alberta work on finding, retraining and rehoming OTTBs. You can locate these groups by checking online or with your trainer who may have contacts with individuals looking for an OTTB. You may also contact any of the following organizations in this booklet for further information.

INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

The Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society - National

www.cthsnational.com

The C.T.H.S. National office determines the requirements for Canadian bred status of foals, maintains the breeder membership roster for Canada, completes registrations, compiles statistics and represents Canadian Thoroughbred breeders nationally and internationally.



The Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society - Alberta

www.cthsalta.com

The C.T.H.S. (Alberta Division) promotes the purchase of Alberta Thoroughbreds, keeps records, organizes sales, disseminates information compiles statistics and assists Alberta members with horse registration.



The C.T.H.S. (Alberta Division) members are the breeders of Alberta bred Thoroughbreds.

INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Horse Racing Alberta

www.thehorses.ca



HRA was established to lead a racing industrial renewal and to manage industry self regulation.

The objectives of the HRA are to govern, direct, control, regulate and promote horse racing in any or all of its forms; to protect the health, safety and welfare of racing participants and racing officials; to safeguard the interests of the general public in horse racing



The Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (H.B.P.A.)

www.hbpaalberta.ca

The H.B.P.A. of Alberta provides the horsemen with an authoritative, united voice providing representation in the conduct of racing.

The objectives are to represent and protect the best interests of Horsemen; to bring about a closer and more understanding relationship between Members; Racetrack Operators; Horse Racing Alberta; other Racing Associations and the Public.



INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

The Jockey Club (TJC) Registry

www.jockeyclub.com

The Jockey Club is the breed registry for Thoroughbred horses in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The primary responsibility of the Jockey Club is the maintenance of The American Stud book in a manner that ensures the integrity of the breed.



The Jockey Club of Canada (JCC)

www.jockeyclubofcanada.com

The Jockey Club of Canada promotes improvements in the breeding, raising and racing of Thoroughbred horses throughout Canada. The JCC works to improve the quality of Thoroughbred racing in Canada for the benefit of all those interested in the sport.



ALBERTA RACETRACKS

Century
Downs
Racetrack
and Casino

www.cnty.com/centurydowns



Century
Mile
Racetrack
and Casino

www.cnty.com/centurymile



Evergreen
Park

www.evergreenpark.ca



Millarville
Racetrack

www.millarvilleracetrack.com



Rocky
Mountain
Turf Club

www.rockymountainturfclub.com





YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

Let's Grow Together



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