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# Glossary

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- ACP Acepromazine:** Mild oral or injected sedative.
- Adequan** Intramuscular injectable aid to joint wear and tear. Oral equivalent is chondroitin sulphate. Seek veterinary advice.
- Back up, or down** State of muscular tension, or relaxation. Indicates whether young horse is, or is not, likely to misbehave.
- Balancer** Proprietary pelleted feed with high protein content.
- Bandage bow** Visible tendon irregularity caused by ill-fitted leg protection.
- Blinkers** Prevent most lateral vision, also called blinds.
- Blow up** Weaken in closing stages of race, specifically due to lack of fitness.
- Blue spray** Antibiotic topical spray, universal 'heal all' in racing stable. Stings violently.
- Boardwageman** Stableman who has done an apprenticeship.
- Boots** Equine leg protectors.
- Breakover** Point [in time] of foot leaving ground to commence next stride.
- Breastgirth** Girth around chest to prevent roller from slipping back on yearlings and to prevent saddle slipping on light-framed horses in training and races.
- Brush** Exercise - short burst.
- Bullring** American, slang for very tight track, as at county fair.
- B\*\*\*\*\*** Comes out of the back end of bulls. Very common both in racing and the military because "B\*\*\*\*\* Always Baffles Brain".
- Canter** Routine exercise gait for racehorse, should be qualified by further description. The ground where such exercise takes place.
- Cheap speed** Ability to run one or two furlongs fast, not very useful in Thoroughbreds as minimum race distance is much further.
- Cheeky** See Coltish.
- Clock in head** Rider's [supposed] ability to accurately assess pace.
- Closer** Finishes well.
- Cold elements** Unregistered ancestors in a pedigree, unlikely to have been completely racing bred.
- Coltish** Male horse's over-awareness of his sexuality, too amorous or too aggressive.
- Comealong** Correctional rope halter for impressing 'Follow Me' lesson. See War bridle.
- Crooked knees** Blanket term for knee deformity. See text.
- Cut** Castrate, geld, make a gelding.
- Curb** Unsightly blemish below rear of hock, rarely a problem once established.
- Curb chain** Flat linked chain fitting below chin on more severe bridles from nonracing disciplines. Only seen on racehorses in South America.
- Dermobion** Antibiotic cream. Seek veterinary advice.
- Desensitise** Remove nervousness by systematic and inescapable exposure to cause.
- Die in his rider's hands** Horse - To weaken after giving erroneous impression that he was travelling reasonably comfortably. See Find nothing.
- Dishonest** Horse - Unwilling to try his best, a rogue, a thief, a villain, a pig [male], a cow [female]. Normally strengthened by expletive.
- DMSO** Excellent circulatory stimulator. Seek veterinary advice.
- Double handful:**
- Jockey** Mount travelling very comfortably.
- Feeder** Along with 'a dirty manger', the amount of their feed horses are reported as leaving. Check it for yourself!
- Draw** Withdraw feed and water for extended period prior to race.
- Drop out** Jockey - allow mount to fall well behind in early stages in order to reserve energy for finish. Also hold up, give a chance [to relax].
- Easy lead** The leader is allowed to set his own pace without being pressured by opponents.
- EPM** Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis: Infection by ingested parasite compromises horse's system and in severe cases leads to loss of co-ordination. Supposedly limited to American-breds.
- Faces** Habitual racecourse visitors. See Punters. Implies, not necessarily accurately, some informed knowledge of the game. Can be very reliable sources of very unreliable information!
- False-run race** Irregular, or very slow early, fractions. Often results in upset result.
- Farmer's race** Informal work, horses of mixed ability in a bunch at catch weights.
- Fever rings** Raised horizontal rings on hoof surface, indicating sickness or violent diet change.

# Glossary

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**Find nothing** See Die in hands.

**Foot/pastern axis [or hoof/pastern]** The relationship between the angle of the hoof and that of the pastern, ideally they should agree.

**Foot, to have [or lack] a turn of** To have [or lack] acceleration. Sometimes referred to as having plenty of toe.

**Fractions** Sectional times of race or work. Fast early fractions the most costly in terms of energy.

**Free Handicap** Year end official assessment of the better runners, now integrated with Europe and America.

**Free runner** Difficult to restrain in early stages of race. In America, rank. See Take hold.

**Free sweater** Inclined to sweat without much exertion, implies nervous, excitable. In America, washy.

**Gallop** Technically fastest racehorse gait. Denotes strong work in Europe, but cantering exercise in America. Also ground where such exercise takes place.

**Galloping track** With more emphasis on stamina, suited to long-striding animals.

**Garrison finish** Vigorous last-ditch effort, after Edward 'Snapper' Garrison, 19th century American jockey.

**Get out of system** Violent but not sustained reaction provoked, often deliberately, by incautious application of breaking tackle. See Have a go.

**Green** Inexperienced, unable to concentrate on putting maximum effort into a race because of that.

**Hack canter** Just out of a trot.

**Half speed** Around 27 or 28 seconds per quarter mile.

**Handicap mark** Official assessment of horses ability which dictates weight to be allotted.

**Hands [to keep his mount in his]** Jockey - to have his mount prepared to accelerate on demand.

**Hang** Horse - tend to deviate from straight line. In America, tend not to go through with his effort in closing stages of race, be ungenueine.

**Hard-knocking** Horse - gives his all in a race.

**Have a go** See Get out of system.

**Have it off** Gamble successfully. By implication not really a gamble, due to advance knowledge of likely outcome.

**Headcollar** Halter.

**Hold, to take** Horse - to pull for his head, try to accelerate.

**Hold of, to catch or grab** Jockey - to take, more or less roughly, a shorter hold of his mount as a signal to accelerate. See Pick up.

**Horseman** One able to get a living by hands-on work with horses.

**Horseman's Word** Formerly associated with secret society of elite horsemen.

**Horse sense** What horsemen have. Also what prevents horses from betting on people.

**Humane twitch** Kinder version of the rope loop twisted around the nose to subdue rebellious subjects, this one more like a weak nutcracker. Fairly painless but still effective.

**In soak** Left standing in breaking tackle.

**Isoxsuprine** Circulatory stimulator, particularly effective in some foot problems. Extremely difficult to judge clearance times. Seek veterinary advice.

**Jarred up** Loss of normal fluency of action following training or racing on firm ground. 'Shouldery'.

**Jibber** Specifically horse which is inclined to refuse to go on to the exercise ground. Many actually do their work as normal once they have jumped off, but the starting problem normally gets worse.

**Jocked off** Jockey - replaced by another.

**Jointy** Specifically showing wear and tear in fetlock joints.

**Join-up** Successful theory of bonding with nervous or unco-operative animals. Can achieve very quick results in getting horses ridden for the first time, but mouthing, traffic practice etc. needs to be done afterwards.

**Keys** Small pieces of metal loosely attached to breaking bit to encourage salivation, a moist mouth is thought to be more responsive.

**Laminitis** Internal inflammation of the foot, traditionally associated with over-rich diet, but also symptomatic of more general challenges to the animal's system by systemic disease. Mild cases may not cause lameness, and so not be diagnosed. Very acute and often fatal version known as 'founder'.

**Lay out of ground** Jockey - intentionally or otherwise, lag far behind leaders during running.

**Leary** Unreliable, likely to take advantage of the unwary. Common acquired failing amongst, especially older, racehorses and their associates.

**Leg [noun]** Specifically injury to tendon in foreleg. [adj.] Leg trouble, leg problems - not specific, any limb infirmity.

**Long toe, low heel** Regrettably a common form of racehorse shoeing, minimises lost shoes, maximises leg injuries.

**Lot or Set** Those horses taken out to exercise at the same time, older horses were traditionally first lot, younger ones second lot, spares third lot.

**Look of eagles** Superior expression in outlook of racehorse, quite often indicates a superior runner.

**Lug in** Tend to hang towards the rail, the opposite of bear out.

**Lunge rein** Long rein used in early training from the ground, preferably with a swivel at the buckle to avoid twisting.

**Lyme disease** Infection by spirochete resulting in total undermining of system, although manifestations may not be correctly attributed because they are so varied, in fact often referred to as 'the great imitator'. Quite

# Racing Horses

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possibly inherited, and certainly appears to be rife on certain properties. A very serious, though under-diagnosed, illness in humans.

**Monty Roberts** Horseman/showman. Join-up specialist and inventor of reinforced rug for horses unhappy with feel of starting stalls against their sides.

**Mouth** Horse's - good, bad, light, hard, one-sided etc., responsiveness, or lack of it, to bit.

**Naked oat** Hybrid variety with no husk, hence more weight of oats in less volume.

**Need the race** Not yet fit.

**Non-trier euphemisms** Having a run [round], practising.

**No fut, no 'oss** Horseman's saying.

**Normal canter** First daily trip for horses in regular work programme, about 17 or 18 seconds per furlong.

**OCD lesion** Flaw in bone due to its irregular development. The significance of it is not absolutely clear.

**Odds on** The bettor has effectively become the bookmaker, in that the winnings will be less than the amount risked due to the horse's perceived outstanding prospect of victory. A certain recipe for disaster.

**Offset knee** Structurally incorrect, see text.

**Pet** Make a fuss of, show kindness to - and by implication to reward for current behaviour.

**Pick up [his mount]** Jockey - See Hold of, to catch or grab.

**Pick up [his whip]** Jockey - Turn whip into forehand position.

**Pigeon toes** Turn in.

**Plater** Low grade racehorse, originally selling plate standard but competitive in low grade handicaps introduced recently.

**Poling** Touching young horse all over with a light pole in order to accustom to handling without risk of handler being kicked.

**Pony** Horse of any size used for leading or accompanying young or rebellious team members. Not a female in the case of male followers.

**Port** The raised portion of the mouthpiece in some bar bits.

**Punishment** Consequence of misbehaviour. To be effective it must be seen as the immediate and guaranteed consequence - stupidly a racehorse is frequently punished for doing his best.

**Punters** Bettors. More specifically, bettors in the confidence of a lad or jockey who, directly or indirectly, are paid for stable information. Unfortunately, often found amongst the stable's owners.

**Quarter mark** Decorative markings on horse's coat, to emphasise its gloss.

**Races, basic types of:**

**Maiden** Nonwinners. Can be restricted to animals bought at auction below a stated price, or to the

produce of stallions whose median yearling price is stated.

**Condition race/Allowance race/Weight for Age race** Eligibility requirements and weights to be carried are stipulated in conditions at time of entry.

**Stakes race/Listed race** In Britain, 3% of all races. A prestige category, winning confers heavier black type in sales catalogues.

**Group race/Graded race** In Britain, the top 2.5% of all races. Very prestigious, particularly Group One, winning them confers major black type.

**Classic race** The very best races for three-year-olds, run over distances from one mile to almost two miles in Britain, nine furlongs to a mile and a half in America. Five races in European countries, three in America. A winner of three classics is a Triple Crown Winner.

**Handicap** Weights allotted theoretically give all runners an equal chance, based on previous performance. Obviously open to abuse.

**Claiming race** More logical system where connections effectively handicap their own animal. The class of competition is relative to the claiming price. All horses can be claimed by qualified persons, an obvious disincentive to running a horse below his class. Unfortunately, British system includes a friendly claim so that abusers of the system can hope to get their horses back if they run them in too cheap a grade.

**Selling race** Theoretically the lowest grade. The winner is offered for sale by auction after the race, all other runners can be claimed. Useful two-year-olds can occasionally be found amongst selling race winners.

**Racing manners** Horse's acquired ability to conduct himself to best advantage during a race.

**Rein around** Placing second lunge rein on off side so as to first commence using the bit as a steering device.

"Revenons a ces moutons!" "Let us get back to the sheep [to business]".

**Rogue's badge** Unjustified slang for blinkers.

**Rolled toe** Rounding of the ground surface of the foot or shoe at the toe to facilitate breakover.

**Roller** Heavy surcingle with breastgirth attached and buckles for sidereins.

**Rubber** Traditionally a linen cloth for grooming; the groom himself.

**Run down** Abrasion to underside of fetlock joint caused by lack of strength in suspensory apparatus. Protected by run down bandages and/or patches, or by painting on rubber-like skin [Zinnegard].

**Run in all shapes and sizes** Excuse used for purchase of poor individuals.

**Saturday horse** High class performer, stakes races tend to be at the weekend.

# Glossary

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- Scalping** Injury inflicted by forefoot on lower hind leg. Often difficult to protect with bandage because of angle of blow. Harness horses wear specific boot to protect themselves.
- Scope** Physical frame showing likelihood of considerable development and hence a racing career lasting beyond the juvenile season.
- Scope** Veterinary endoscopic examination of the horse's airway by portable machine.
- See speed** Ability of experienced horsemen to identify likely successful runners on first quick inspection.
- Set fair** Symmetrical arrangement of bedding in stable, flat middle, banked sides.
- Setfast** Azoturia, in America 'Tied-up'. Acute muscular cramp after exercise, call vet.
- Sharp** Physically precocious, likely to come to hand early as a two-year-old runner.
- Sharp** Canter. See swinging canter, two minute rate.
- Sharp track** With tight turns or undulations, unsuited to long-striding animals.
- Short hip** Measured from hip to furthest point of buttock. A long hip is more likely to indicate speed.
- Sidereins** Reins fixed to saddle to keep head moderately raised during driving and initial riding, attached to saddle by keepers fixed to girth straps.
- Slack** Long weak pasterns.
- Something about him** See Look of eagles.
- Spares** Newly arrived or lowly regarded horses not allocated to a particular lad.
- Speed crazy** Over-excited once fast work regime commences, unable to relax at exercise.
- Splay feet** Turn out. 'Charlie Chaplin'.
- Splint** Bony enlargement on [usually] foreleg below knee.
- Splint** Strap of material incorporated between up and down runs of exercise bandage and passed under the fetlock to increase support to suspensory system.
- Standing martingale** Runs from head to girth and prevents young horses adopting high head carriage. Fix to noseband or headcollar - not on to bit, which is too severe.
- Stargazer** Carries his head much too high.
- Strapping** Vigorous and prolonged grooming, previously a great annoyance to many horses. No longer practised.
- Stuffy** Thick in wind, by implication due to insufficient work.
- Sucked along** An inexplicably good effort, usually in a small field or a false-run race, and usually not repeated.
- Sweetfeed** Proprietary feed, a mix of grains in a molasses binding.
- Sweet mouth** Iron rather than stainless steel bit, promotes salivation.
- Swinging canter** About 15 seconds per furlong. See Two minute rate.
- Systemic disease** Any disease undermining the system generally.
- Taken off his feet, or legs** Unable to keep up, unbalanced because of this. Outpaced.
- Talking horse** His reputation precedes him, often unjustified!
- Three parts [or three quarter, speed]** About 25 or 26 seconds per quarter mile.
- Toe** See Foot, to have [or lack] a turn of.
- Toe grab** Banned in Britain. Flange of about 1/4 inch on the ground surface of the toe of a racing plate.
- Tongue tie or strap** Means of securing tongue in order to avoid breathing or steering problems caused by its getting over the bit.
- Trial** Formal work, at predetermined weights, in which there is at least one horse with known capabilities.
- Trip** Distance of race, or work.
- Trip** The race itself, as in 'horse had a rough trip.'
- Trot out** Safe transition from working to walking.
- Two minute gallop [or rate (per mile)]** See swinging canter, sharp canter.
- Unbalanced** Unable to initially attain a rhythmic stride through being outpaced, or having lost it through exhaustion. Often involves a degree of poor riding.
- Ungenuine, ungenerous** Horse unwilling to do his best at finish.
- Use up** Jockey - exhaust, implicitly through faulty tactics, his mount's energy.
- Vetrap** Proprietary self-adhesive bandage.
- Virus** Coverall excuse for poor performance, although viral infections are common.
- War bridle** See Comealong. May actually predate any Native American contact with horses.
- Washy** See Free sweater.
- Waste** Jockey - To reduce weight severely.
- Weight for age** Scale of weights designed to neutralise difference in maturity and strength between age groups. Must always be considered in a trial.
- Whoa** Common usage for all slow down and desist commands for racehorses.
- Windgall** Soft swelling above of fetlock indicating some trauma in the area, quite common but requires constant monitoring. In America, windpuff.
- Winding up** Thrashing.
- Wipe over** A quick grooming.
- Work for benefit of the two-year-old** Older horse not to try to defeat younger work companion.
- Working blister** Irritation induced to improve blood supply to injured limb, in order to promote healing. Not severe enough to completely stop training.