

RACING OF TWO YEAR OLD HORSES

Policy

NZVA considers that the racing of two year old horses is acceptable provided the horses are adequately developed and are free of significant conformation faults.

Explanation

- There is good evidence that exercise at a young age advances tissue maturity. Adult levels of tissue maturity have been shown to have been attained in horses at an age before two year old racing usually commences.
- There is good evidence that racing as a two year old does not reduce the length of a horse's racing career.
- NZVA does recognise that training and racing of horses is inevitably associated with some risk of injury.
- NZVA recommends that the minimisation of these risks should be a responsibility for the industry as a whole.
- There should be close attention to the diet, training and racing schedules of young horses to reduce the incidence of exercise-induced injuries.
- Measures to decrease injuries to all racing horses should include improvements in track design and educational programs for industry personnel.

References

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