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HORSE RACING SHOULD BE BANNED

Hello everyone, my name is Ella Rodger and today I will be speaking about why horse racing should be banned.

I want everyone to imagine that they are a newborn horse. You are only six months old and are playing around with your mother. Then suddenly these weird looking creatures come towards you and take you away. You are then forced to train to become a professional race horse, without even a choice if you want to or not. These weird creatures are human beings like us. To us they may not seem weird, but imagine if creatures that you'd never seen before came and took you away from your family. I know I would find this absolutely awful and I'm sure many of you would as well. So why should we make poor innocent horses go through this. They are living creatures like us, and they deserve to have a good life as much as we do.

Jockeys who ride these horses are very competitive because they desperately want to win. Unfortunately some of them are a bit too competitive, and they or the horse management team drug their horses to make them go faster. Race horses are being given all types of illegal drugs. Including an incredible amount of pain masking treatments, which make their legs and lungs keep working, even when they have gone way beyond their limit. These drugs can cause many side effects, and can severely damage their bones and feet. The organisation PETA, which stands for: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, did an investigation to find out more about the types of drugs used. They found that some of the horses' legs showed many scars from being burned with liquid nitrogen. This was used to stimulate blood flow to their legs. They also found that drugs such as: Thyroxine, Lasix and muscle relaxants were used to keep the horses running along the race tracks. This is happening to many young thoroughbred horses every day. It's not right! Would you like to be forced to have drugs that may hurt you, damage you, or make you feel utterly awful?

Every day out on the race tracks horses are dying or being severely injured. According to the New York Times, 24 horses die every week on average, at American race tracks. A New York Times Daily News reporter said, “The thoroughbred race horse is a genetic mistake. It runs too fast, its frame is too large, and its legs are far too small. As long as mankind demands that it run at high speeds under stressful conditions, horses will die at racetracks.” According to the website “Horse Racing Kills”, in one year 125 horses died from horse racing in Australia. We were all alive to witness the two deaths of horses in the Melbourne cup, 2014. This is clear evidence that horse racing is dangerous. No one enjoyed the story of their deaths, and to think that this is happening to horses out on the race tracks every day, is just appalling. Not only are horses suffering, but many jockeys have been killed or severely injured from the deadly sport of horse racing as well.

The life of a horse on the race track sounds pretty bad, but horses who don’t even get to see the race track have it worse. According to the Australian Racing fact book, in Australia there are approximately 18,000 thoroughbred foals born each year. Roughly 300 out of 1,000 horses, purpose-bred for horse racing, will actually get to race. This means that approximately 12,000 horses are being discarded each year, without even seeing a race track. When horses are discarded it usually means that horses are sold to places or factories that kill them for pet food or human consumption.

Some people may argue that horse racing is a good form of entertainment, and many people enjoy watching big horse racing events each year. Although it may seem to be good fun, is it really right to put poor horses and jockeys in danger just for our entertainment. We have many other kinds of entertainment in our society like sport, T.V., books and games. I think that we would all agree that treating living creatures decently is much more important than just one more form of entertainment.

To conclude, horse racing should definitely be banned. Next time you watch horse racing on T.V. or in real life, think about everything that I have said, and about how the horses may be feeling during the race. I’m sure that they don’t like getting whipped, or being forced to keep running, even when they are exhausted. We need to stop this cruelty to horses. We need to take a stand.