Animal Aid launch new website that exposes the shocking death toll of 100 horses on Irish racecourses

As the best of Ireland's race horses come over to Britain to run at the Cheltenham Festival, they leave behind in Ireland a shocking death toll of horses who have gone under the public, media and political radar.

Following on from Animal Aid's exposé of Irish race horses being sent for slaughter in England – seen on the BBC's Panorama documentary 'The Dark Side of Horse Racing' – Animal Aid has followed up with an investigation into race horse deaths in both the Republic of Ireland and North Ireland where all racecourses are regulated by the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB).

This March, Animal Aid launch a dedicated website that focuses on horses who are killed due to racing on Irish racecourses: https://irishhorsedeathwatch.com

In line with Animal Aid's long established British race horse death watch website Race Horse Death Watch, the Irish horse death watch gives the names of the equine victims, their age, the date and the racecourse on which they ran, and the fatal injury they suffered.

The devastating fact is that 100 horses have lost their lives in the past twelve months, showing a disastrous horse welfare policy that should be a source of shame. It requires action not only from the IHRB but also from the Irish Government who fund this unscrupulous industry.

Says Animal Aid's Horse Racing Consultant, Dene Stansall:
'For far too long the Irish racing industry has escaped public, media and political scrutiny. The IHRB has failed to protect horses, its welfare policy is appalling. Animal Aid's aim is to change that. An independent horse welfare regulator, not connected to the industry, must be established as a priority, if horses' lives are to be saved from the relentless killing that happens on racecourses across Ireland. The newly launched Animal Aid website will expose the racing industry for what it is – brutal and callous.'

Notes for Editors
- For further information or interview requests please contact Dene Stansall – dene@animalaid.org.uk or Jade Emery – jade@animalaid.org.uk; or call 07864 830589
- Animal Aid has been at the forefront of exposing, and campaigning against, the racing industry for more than two decades.
- Animal Aid's original Race Horse Death Watch website was launched during the 2007 Cheltenham Festival. Its purpose is to expose and record every on-course thoroughbred fatality in Britain. All data appearing on either site is verified and is likely to be an underestimate of the true figures. Race Horse Death Watch

shows that 2,388 horses have been killed on British racecourses (as of 28th February 2022) since it was launched, almost 15 years ago.

- The new website is available at irishhorsedeathwatch.com
- Horse Death Watch is available at horsedeathwatch.com
- Find out more about Animal Aid's previous investigations and campaigns by visiting animalaid.org.uk/horse-racing
- Watch the BBC Panorama programme 'The Dark Side of Horse Racing' at bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000y2xm