

TBA EQUINE WELFARE LEVY – FAQs for Breeders

What is the TBA Equine Welfare Levy?

This is a new mandatory levy to enable British breeders to make standardised contributions to support essential lifetime health, welfare and aftercare services for all horses bred to race.

How much is the TBA Equine Welfare Levy?

The levy is £60 per foal, payable at Foal Registration (a General Stud Book (GSB) process administered by Weatherbys).

Which foals are eligible for the levy?

All thoroughbred foals, and all foals registered for racing from the Non-Thoroughbred Register (NTR), who are born in Britain from January 2026 onwards.

Is the levy amount likely to be increased on a regular basis, or subject to annual inflationary rises?

No, the levy amount will remain fixed until at least December 2029.

How has the breeding sector historically made financial contributions to support aftercare and equine health and welfare initiatives?

There have previously been voluntary (opt in) tick boxes to donate £12.50 per foal to Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), and £12.50 to the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA) (to support equine veterinary research) at Foal Registration. The values of these voluntary donations have not been subject to annual inflationary increases and as such they are no longer representative of the costs of delivering the full provision of health, welfare and aftercare options that are required.

How will the levy be spent?

The £60 levy will be split between the TBA and RoR as follows:

- The TBA will retain £35* per foal, to ensure the continuation of vital work around traceability, genetic diversity, veterinary research, equine infectious disease control and prevention and in supporting breeders to achieve best practice in relation the health and wellbeing of thoroughbreds under their management. Levy expenditure and outcomes will be detailed in the TBA's Annual [Financial] Reports, which are published on the TBA's website (<https://www.thetba.co.uk/about-us/governance/tba-reports.html>).
- £25* will be redirected to RoR*, to ensure that a comprehensive range of services, educational initiatives and safety net mechanisms are available to all thoroughbreds bred to race.

**The TBA Trustees, in consultation with the membership, reserve the right to adjust the amount and recipient(s) to ensure continued alignment with the thoroughbred industry strategy and breeding sector requirements. RoR will be expected to demonstrate the impact and reach of their initiatives to the thoroughbred industry on an ongoing basis.*

Are other industry stakeholders contributing to a sustainable funding model to support thoroughbreds outside of the racing and breeding industry?

Yes, recent commitments for new or increased mandatory financial contributions from a broad range of thoroughbred industry stakeholders have been secured, including from sales companies (also vendors and purchasers), racecourses, bloodstock agents, owners and licensed personnel (jockeys, trainers etc). The press announcements can be accessed on the RoR website, under 'news' (<https://ror.org.uk/news>).

Why might some industry stakeholders have to pay a compulsory aftercare levy at multiple stages of ownership of the same horse?

Breeders may be subject to the aftercare levy on registering a foal; on retaining that horse to race; and on selling it at public auction, but the number of levies is aimed at reflecting the length/nature of the owner's association with each horse. In an effort to develop a proportionate funding model across the sector, the longer the period of ownership across various life stages, the more contributions may need to be paid.

Does RoR only support ex-racehorses?

No, RoR's Articles of Association have recently been amended to broaden their remit to include educational resources and events, and support frameworks for all thoroughbreds bred to race, and not just those who went into training with a licensed trainer. More information can be found here: <https://ror.org.uk/news/retraining-of-racehorses-ror-expands-eligibility-to-all-thoroughbreds-bred-for-racing-strengthening-industry-traceability>.

What about the other centres in Britain that specialise in rehabilitating, retraining and rehoming horses bred to race?

Centres that operate to the expected standards of RoR and whose work is in alignment with the industry strategy are eligible to apply for industry funding via RoR. RoR does not have its own centre, but instead operates programmes and schemes by working in partnership and providing funding to many centres across the country. The centres are all registered charities and may also independently fundraise, to diversify their income streams and the range of services they offer.

What is the position for thoroughbreds born in Ireland?

There is a mandatory foal levy to support the Irish TBA (ITBA), Irish Thoroughbred Marketing (ITM) and the Irish Equine Centre (IEC), which is calculated based on the advertised nomination fee of the foal's sire:

[https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2005/si/826/made/en/print#:~:text=\(1\)%20Levy%20is%20payable%2C%20for,time%20of%20application%20for%20registration](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2005/si/826/made/en/print#:~:text=(1)%20Levy%20is%20payable%2C%20for,time%20of%20application%20for%20registration).

How do breeders know if thoroughbreds they have bred or been associated with are now registered with RoR?

The name of the thoroughbred can be entered into the search facility here:

<https://www.ror.org.uk/registration>

How can I find out more about RoR's plans and progress?

RoR's three-year strategy can be found here: <https://ror.org.uk/ror-strategy-2024-2026>

To understand how RoR's core funding is being allocated, quarterly funding reports can be accessed here: <https://ror.org.uk/about-us/stakeholder-funding-reports>

How can I find out more information about the thoroughbred industry's equine welfare strategy?

The Horse Welfare Board's five-year strategy, *A Life Well Lived* can be found here:

https://www.britishhorseracing.com/press_releases/a-life-well-lived-british-racings-horse-welfare-board-publishes-five-year-welfare-strategy/