

Horses exploited for racing weigh at least 1,000 pounds and have legs that are supported by ankles the size of a human's, yet they are forced to run around a dirt track at speeds exceeding 30 miles per hour while someone sitting on their back kicks and whips them.

Many racehorses can only run because their trainers and veterinarians give them drugs to keep them going when they are really far too injured or sore to run — which leads to breakdowns and even death. Very few racehorses are ever put out to pasture. Many are left to waste away or are abandoned or sold into the horse-meat export industry, which still sends 100,000 horses every year to Canada, Mexico, and Japan for slaughter.

From 2003 to 2008, 3,035 horses used by the racing industry died. Of those, 208 died in Kentucky, home of the Kentucky Derby. Others were shipped abroad to be made into dog food and to be used for human consumption.