



Career Paths in Thoroughbred Racing

CTE_ Cdos Standard 1: Career Development/ Elementary

Farm Manager – Farm managers oversee the daily operations of the farm. They make sure the horses on the farm are fed and cared for properly.

Veterinarian – A doctor for animals, veterinarians treat and heal diseased or injured animals. A veterinarian makes sure racehorses are healthy and capable of racing.

Owner – The person who purchased the Thoroughbred racehorses. The owner pays for everything the horses need, from food to veterinarian visits! An owner can be a single person, or a group of people who purchased a horse together.

Breeder – A person who raises and sells horses. A breeder is very knowledgeable about ideal horse characteristics and tries to create the best racehorses with these qualities.

Farrier – The person who is responsible for taking care of a racehorse's hooves. This involves fitting them with shoes and trimming and maintaining their hooves.

Jockey – An elite athlete who rides Thoroughbred horses during a race. A jockey can ride in multiple races a day, for multiple trainers.

Sports Agent – Just like other professional athletes, jockeys have sports agents who assist them with riding contracts and make sure jockeys ride the best possible horses.



Exercise Rider – This person is responsible for exercising a racehorse every morning on the track. They receive instructions from a trainer as to how they should exercise each horse.

Hotwalker – A hotwalker walks a horse around an area after the horse has finished exercising. This is done to ensure the horse is cooled down properly and helps avoid injury.

Groom – A groom is responsible for the day-to-day care of a racehorse. This includes feeding, bathing, and generally watching out for the well-being of the horses in their care. Grooms pay special attention to their horses, often being the first to alert a veterinarian if something seems wrong with a horse's behavior or physical health.

Trainer – Just like sports teams have coaches, racehorses have trainers who are responsible for their day-to-day training regimens. Trainers usually begin as assistant trainers, learning under experienced trainers first. A trainer decides what type of food a horse eats, its feeding schedule, its exercise routine and its grooming regimen. A trainer must be extremely knowledgeable in order to perform these duties well for every horse in their care.