

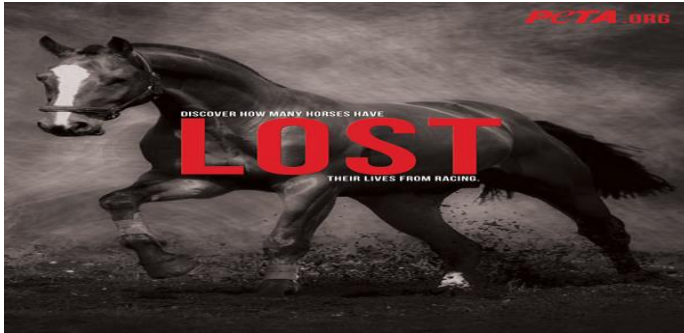
# Saddle up for cruelty

By Ethan Gardiner

The Cheltenham festival is approaching and many people are excited for the upcoming event. Even tens of thousands of Irishmen are travelling down to see how it unfolds. But also the economy hope to make quite the profit out of this scheme. They expect to make £20,000,000 in ticket sales, sponsorships and catering whilst hoping to bring in £100,000,000 for the wider Gloucestershire economy. A mass turn out is to be expected during the race with quite the number of jockeys competing.



But behind the scenes of this horse racing extravaganza majestic creatures are being mistreated and injured. Horses are brought in from an extremely young age to be trained to race upon a hard floor over encumbered by gear and their jockey. They don't stop running day by day with ankles the same size of humans' just to see that their finish line lives in the slaughterhouse to be turned into various products and produce.



What was your reaction the last time you saw a horse fail that crucial attempt at a hurdle? Probably something along the lines of "Poor guy that must've hurt" well this type of thing is common in the horse racing scene but imagine if the injury was severe enough to put him out of racing. Once that's happened he's no use to anyone so off he goes. He made one mess up and that mess up means his life.



Though horses aren't the only ones being affected by that hurdle jump. Imagine the jockey dropping off of that saddle and into the cluster of strong hoofs and horseshoes. The likelihood of that rider getting out of that encounter unscathed is highly unlikely. Most likely severe blows to leave a permanent scar or possibly even a fatal blow to end this man's life. This sport is unforgiving to both man and animal alike. And if this cruelty isn't put to an end soon more horses and jockey's lives will be lost so think about that next time you purchase that ticket to the next horse race.

Organisations such as PETA are working towards a safer environment for animals and have reported on this very subject so if you're looking to help for the cause you can visit their website and see how you can help.