

Assistant Trainer

Job Summary:

An Assistant Trainer plays a key leadership role in supporting the Trainer with the daily management of the yard, horses, and staff. The role focuses on overseeing stable operations, ensuring that training plans are implemented effectively, and that high standards of horse welfare and staff coordination are maintained. Assistant Trainers are involved in managing training schedules, supervising staff, communicating with owners, and ensuring smooth race day logistics. This role is often a progression opportunity for experienced staff such as Work Riders, Racing Grooms, or Pupil Assistants, and is suited to individuals with excellent horse management skills, good judgement, and strong leadership abilities.

Main Duties:

- Oversee daily training routines and ensure horses are exercised in line with the Trainer's plan
- Supervise staff and delegate tasks to ensure smooth yard operations
- Monitor horse health and welfare, spotting early signs of illness or injury
- Liaise with vets, farriers, and physiotherapists to support care and treatment
- Coordinate race day logistics including entries, travel, documentation, and turnout
- Communicate with owners and provide regular progress updates on horses
- Mentor and train junior staff, helping develop their skills and confidence
- Assist with ordering supplies and managing daily and weekly yard schedules
- Support training sessions under the Trainer's direction
- Manage staff effectively and uphold high standards of care and conduct
- Provide detailed observations and feedback on horse performance
- Represent the yard at the racecourse and manage race day horse preparation
- Act as a point of leadership in the yard and deputise for the Trainer when required
- Promote a positive and compliant working environment, including safeguarding and wellbeing
- Uphold all relevant safety procedures, welfare codes, and industry regulations



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Competencies (Behavioural):

- Strong leadership and decision-making under pressure
- Excellent communication with staff, owners, and stakeholders
- Reliable, organised, and proactive in problem-solving
- Sets a professional example in conduct and care

Core Skills:

- Deep understanding of racehorse training, care and performance management
- Ability to monitor and adjust training routines
- Staff leadership, scheduling and mentoring Owner liaison and professional communication
- Conflict resolution and team support
- Knowledge of all racing protocols, rules, entries, declarations and logistics
- Understanding of fitness timelines and horse preparation
- Record-keeping and contributing to yard planning
- Compliance with employment, welfare and safety standards

Education and Experience:

- Minimum GCSE-level qualifications beneficial
- Previous completion of a racing apprenticeship preferred
- Internal and external CPD encouraged
- Previous experience in a racing yard essential
- Suitable for individuals transitioning from senior yard/rider roles
- Leadership skills required

Working Conditions:

- Early mornings, weekends and physical work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Full-time role with travel often involved
- High responsibility and leadership expectations

Pay and Benefits:

- Salary will be in line with or above the NARS/NTF memorandum of agreement, which provides for a Racing Industry Minimum Rates of Pay Structure and standard conditions of employment for racing staff.
- Pool money and accommodation sometimes available



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