

Head Person

Job Summary:

A Head Person is the senior yard-based member of a racing team, responsible for leading, supervising, and supporting stable staff to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the yard. This role involves overseeing horse care, allocating tasks, liaising with the Trainer and veterinary professionals, and ensuring high standards of welfare and safety. It is a progression role from positions such as Yard Person or Racing Groom and is ideal for individuals with strong equine knowledge, staff management ability, and leadership skills. The Head Person acts as the key link between the Trainer and the stable staff, taking responsibility for the organisation of routines, the monitoring of horse health, and contributing to the overall performance and professionalism of the yard.

Main Duties:

- Oversee horse health and welfare, including spotting early signs of illness or injury
- Supervise and delegate tasks to grooms and support staff to ensure efficient daily operations
- Liaise with vets, farriers, physiotherapists, and other specialists to coordinate care
- Administer medication and treatments as directed by the Trainer or veterinary team
- Assist with veterinary visits, rehab programmes, and medical follow-ups
- Manage feeding routines and ensure accurate nutritional delivery for each horse
- Provide regular reports to the Trainer on horse condition, staff performance, and yard status
- Train, mentor, and support junior staff to develop skills and professionalism
- Monitor yard cleanliness and enforce health and safety protocols
- Order supplies, manage stock, and help maintain yard schedules and budgets
- Maintain high standards of horse care and stable presentation
- Lead by example in day-to-day work, team support, and communication
- Uphold and promote a safe, inclusive, and positive work culture, including safeguarding responsibilities

Competencies (Behavioural):

- Leadership and staff management
- Calm and decisive under pressure
- Professional communication and diplomacy
- High standards and attention to detail
- Mentoring and people development skills



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Core Skills:

- Advanced knowledge of equine health, feeding, welfare and stable routines
- Ability to handle injuries, monitor recovery and support rehabilitation
- Staff delegation, supervision and performance monitoring
- Liaison with the trainer, riders, owners and other professionals
- Mentoring and team development
- Understanding of race prep, daily yard schedules and seasonality
- Adherence to rules, record-keeping and compliance standards
- Resource management
- Scheduling and reporting
- Awareness of legal and welfare responsibilities e.g. safeguarding



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Education:

- No formal qualifications required, but a completed racing apprenticeship preferred

Experience:

- Suitable for individuals transitioning from senior yard/rider roles within a racing yard

Working Conditions:

- Early mornings, weekends and physical work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Full-time role
- High responsibility for people and horses with 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