

Stalls Handler

Race Day Roles

Job Summary

A stall handler's role is to load the correct horse in its designated stall prior to the start of a flat race, taking responsibility for the safety of both horse and rider in the stalls and managing the activity in a timely and orderly manner. Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) manage the starting stall system at 21 of the Irish racecourses.



Main Duties

- Travel to the race meeting on assigned rota, meet with team leader once on-site and receive instructions for that particular race meeting;
- Prior to the commencement of racing assist in stalls testing, set-up of the stall numbers / banners and moving of stalls into place;
- Work as part of a team and under the instruction of the starter load/push horses into the starting stalls and secure back gates;
- Maintain physical fitness levels including upper body strength;
- Maintain relationships with team, jockey's and other industry personnel;

Job Level

Skilled Role

Typical Employer

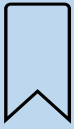
Horse Racing Ireland



Case Study

Matthew Whyte - Stall Handler

I have been a stall handler since the year 2000, so it's safe to say I like my job. I come from a racing background having ridden as an amateur jockey and driven horse transportation so when I became a stall handler I had plenty of experience with loading and handling horses. The key to this job is horse sense, knowing the animal you are dealing with and being aware of what's going on around you. I have 12 full timers and 18 causals on my team and we must attend every flat meeting in Ireland. The job requires a lot of travel and long hours, but it is very enjoyable as you have good banter with the jockeys and trainers plus get to be up close and personal to the best and most valuable of racehorses.



Competencies (Behavioural)

- A love for horses, horse riding or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Intrapersonal skills (perseverance; initiative; self-motivation), Critical thinking skills (problem solving), Interpersonal skills (communication; teamwork);

Knowledge & Skills

Equine Knowledge & Skills

Horse care and welfare;
Horsemanship skills;
Equine anatomy & physiology;

People Knowledge & Skills

Communication skills;
Health & safety regulations;

Racing Knowledge & Skills

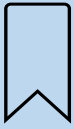
Racing industry knowledge;
Racing rules & regulations;
Integrity of the sport;
Raceday operations;
Riding skills (some requirement);

Business Knowledge & Skills

I.T. / digital skills;

Education

While no specific qualification or training is required to begin the role of stall handler, many new entrants to the industry have a qualification in Level 5 Horsemanship or completed a Level 4 Trainee Jockey programme with Racing Academy and Centre of Education (R.A.C.E).



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

- Raceday official
- Stud Groom
- Stable Staff

Experience

Stall handler's are required to be experienced and confident handling thoroughbred horses of all ages and be physically fit with good upper body strength. Stall handler's are typically experienced stable staff or former jockeys.

Job Availability

Job availability is limited. Follow www.equip.ie for information on job opportunities within the breeding, racing and racing administration.



Certification

No certification is required.

Working Conditions

The role requires lots of travel following the flat Race circuit each season and working outdoors in all weather.

Pay & Benefits

As it is a job that only involves work on race days, most stall handlers are either part time or seasonal.