

## Yard Staff

Racehorse Training

### Job Summary

Yard staff are part of the stable staff team in a racing yard. The role includes mucking out, feeding, grooming and maintaining the stables of a racing yard.



### Main Duties

- Clean stables and yards, and general stable maintenance;
- Feed and water animals according to schedules and feeding instructions;
- Groom and care of horses, including washing down after work;
- Clean and care of tack and equipment;
- Unload, and store feed and supplies;

### Job Level

Entry Level Role

### Typical Employer

Training Yard;

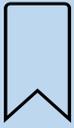


### Case Study

#### *Racehorse Training*

*Ireland has some of the leading trainers in the world amongst its 372 public trainers and 248 restricted licence holders. Whilst there are areas of concentration, notably the Curragh being a global centre of excellence for thoroughbred racehorse training, trainers are located in 31 of Ireland's 32 counties. The largest trainers account for a relatively high proportion of horses in training. In 2016 the largest 32 yards accounted for over 3,500 horses, 45% of all horses in training. At the opposite end of the spectrum the smallest 166 yards accounted for less than 900 horses (11%).*

*[Source: Economic Impact of Irish breeding and racing 2017]*



## Competencies (Behavioural)

- Passion - a love for horses 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 & welfare;  
Facility management & maintenance;  
Horse training, performance & fitness;  
Breeding operations & pedigrees;  
Equine nutrition, anatomy & physiology;  
Equine transportation;  
Horsemanship skills;

### People Knowledge & Skills

Communication skills;  
Health & safety at work;  
Self development;

### Racing Knowledge & Skills

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

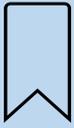
### Business Knowledge & Skills

I.T. / digital skills;  
Media & communications skills;

## Education

While no specific qualification or training is required to become a yard staff, many new entrants to the industry have a Level 5 Horsemanship (Course Code 5M3371) qualification which includes minor awards in stable and yard routine and equine nutrition. See [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for further information.

CPD - The Racing Academy Centre of Education (R.A.C.E.) also provides specialised stable staff training throughout the year including - Basic safety training; Horse care and management. See [www.racingacademy.ie](http://www.racingacademy.ie) for further information.



## Career Path (Alternative Careers)

Travelling Head  
Racing Secretary  
Stud Groom

## Experience

Grounds staff typically have experience working around horses although not necessarily thoroughbred horses. They require basic horse handling skills and ideally have experience mucking out. Some trainers are prepared to provide unpaid work experience.

## Job Availability

Jobs are readily available in areas of the country with a large amount of racing yards. Follow [www.equip.ie](http://www.equip.ie) for information on job opportunities.



## Certification

No Certification is Required.

Trainers are required to apply for a Racing Establishment Card issued by the Irish Horse Racing Board (I.H.R.B.) within 5 days of commencement of employment for all staff within their stable yard.

## Working Conditions

Dedication is needed as stable staff are up early and outside in all weathers, taking care of yard duties such as sweeping, tack cleaning and mucking out.

## Pay & Benefits

Generally, the amount of pay you receive for working is a matter of agreement between you and your employer, these negotiations normally occur when you receive a job offer. The racing industry have an agreed minimum rate of pay as well as other minimum conditions of employment for Irish stable staff including entitlements to sick pay and stable employee bonus scheme. The agreement does not prohibit an employer from paying more favourable terms. Further information is available from the Irish Stable Staff Association at website: [www.issa.ie](http://www.issa.ie).