

Returning unnamed horses in training on RÁS – FAQs

Q. Why is it now necessary for licensed trainers to return unnamed horses in their care in training?

A. In the interests of traceability and welfare, along with increasing Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine requirements, it is now necessary to record the whereabouts of all thoroughbred horses, both named and unnamed, in the care of a licensed trainer.

Q. What do I need to return an unnamed horse in training on RÁS?

A. You need the microchip number of the horse, which can be accessed on the horse's passport. Where the horse is bred outside of Ireland (IRE) and Great Britain (GB) you will need to upload a photo of the passport page with the horse details when completing the horse return on RÁS.

Q. Where do I go to return an unnamed horse?

A. After logging into RÁS, navigate to Registrations, choosing Horse Returns from the drop-down menu. When the Horse Returns screen loads, choose Unnamed Horse in Training

Q. I keep a number of youngstock on my premises over the course of the year, is it necessary to return these horses in training?

A. Yes. All thoroughbred horses in the care of a licensed trainer, regardless of age.

Q. When returning an unnamed horse on RÁS, must I specify the owner of the horse?

A. Yes. As with all returns, the owner of the horse should be specified at the time of return. However, currently unnamed horses can only be returned under sole ownership on RÁS. This means that syndicates and partnerships cannot be registered until the horse is named.

Q. What are the consequences if a licensed trainer does not return their unnamed horses in training?

A. In due course, IHRB horse returns rule 148 will be amended to instruct that all unnamed horses in the care of a licensed trainer must be returned in training. Failure to do so will leave the trainer liable to fine or sanction in the event of a yard inspection. It is therefore recommended that all trainers now begin the process of returning unnamed horses in training.

Q. As a licensed trainer, do I need to return in training horses in my care in possession of a Hunter Certificate?

A. While it is suggested that all horses in the care of a licensed trainer be recorded through the horse in training facility on RÁS, it is not a requirement to return horses in possession of a Hunter Certificate. However, returning such horses may prove favourable to trainers in the course of their administrative work and assist in establishing a practice of blanket return in training of all horses on their premises.

Q. Under a restricted licence, I am limited to returning 4 horses in training if holding a licence under a single code and 8 horses if training under a dual licence. If I also have unnamed horses in my care, how will I overcome this restriction to return these horses?

A. There is no limit on the number of unnamed horses a restricted trainer can return on RÁS, so even if they have reached the permitted number of named horses they can return in training as per their licence type, they will still be permitted to return unnamed horses using the Unnamed Horse in Training returns facility on RÁS.

Q. What happens when the unnamed horse I have returned in training is named?

A. The naming application will link to the unnamed horse and when the name is published it will be applied to the previously unnamed return. The horse will remain in training and will not need to be re-returned in training. It is really important at this stage that the trainer must consider what the racing ownership is and ensure this is updated correctly with HRI before any entries are made. If unsure, please contact registrations@hri.ie for further information.

Q. What happens if an unnamed horse I have returned under my care on RAS subsequently leaves my yard?

A. The same principle applies for named or unnamed horses returned in training on RÁS, you must return the unnamed horse Out of Training and record that it has left your yard permanently.

Q. If I own the horse and in time, I sell it on to one of my registered owners in the yard what do I need to do?

A. You should log in to RÁS and Change the Ownership of the horse. You may do this by selecting the Registrations option and then select Horse Returns from the drop-down menu. Choose "Change Ownership" and select the new owner (there must be an active Authority to Act in place). Please note that currently a syndicate or partnership cannot be registered for an unnamed horse. These types of ownership can only be registered with HRI when the horse is named.