

Other JRA-related Facilities

JRA Horse Racing School

The JRA Horse racing School was established in Shiroy City, Chiba Prefecture in 1982, with the aim of cultivating jockeys and stable staff with the knowledge and skills needed to adapt to the change of the times. Anyone who wants to acquire a jockey's license and ride in JRA races must attend the JRA Horse racing School. The current curriculum features a three-year course for jockeys, in which the students go through the practical work in the stables, step-by-step drills in equestrian riding and practical training in preparation for racing. The school also has a six-month course for stable employees. The 264,500-square meter site has a 1,400-meter dirt track and is also home to the international quarantine stables used for quarantining horses entering or leaving Japan.

Prospective students are required to pass an entrance examination for enrollment in either course. Students who wish to enroll in the jockey course must meet the following requirements:

- a) Age: Must be under 20 years old when entering the school, and must have graduated from junior high school or an equivalent educational institution.
- b) Weight: Must be 46.5kg (or lower, depending on age) when entering school.
- c) Eyesight: Over 0.8 for both eyes (without glasses or contact lenses)
- d) Must have color visibility, hearing ability, and must be in good health.
- e) Prospective students must not have any imprisonment records, or have been fined by breaking Horse racing Law or other gambling-related laws. Also he/she must not have any record of suspension or termination of involvement with horse racing by law.

After completion of the course, the prospective jockeys may take the jockey's license examination and the stable employees are eligible, with JRA approval, to be employed by trainers licensed by JRA.



JRA Equestrian Park

JRA Equestrian Park in Setagaya, Tokyo, was constructed in 1940 to promote equestrian events and for the training of prospective jockeys. During the 18th Olympic Games in 1964, it hosted some of the equestrian events, and at one time, the park was used for the training and education of prospective JRA jockeys. Today it is the center of equestrian events in Japan.

The park occupies an area of 180,000 square meters, including stables, an equestrian competition field, and office buildings. The park currently undertakes a variety of

promotional activities to encourage familiarity with horses and increase understanding of horses and racing. Along with events that afford opportunities for direct contact with horses, such as Hippophile Day, horse shows, Horse Familiarity Day, and weekday attractions involving interaction with horses for area residents, the park hosts an equestrian competition almost every weekend as part of its efforts to promote equestrian culture by providing its venues for events and competition. Known familiarly as "Horse Park" in the urban area, the park is also open to the public all year round and contributes to the local community.



JRA Equine Research Institute

This JRA-affiliated institution was founded in 1959 with the goal of maintaining racehorse resources and running races efficiently. Its principal aims subsequently became the prevention of injuries to racehorses and research into developing strong horses. Its research is not limited to active racehorses, as it has conducted successful research on breeding and training, which has been widely applied at training centers and private training farms, as well as in breeding regions.

The institute has two branches: Joban Branch and Tochigi Branch. The primary function of the Joban Branch is to provide rehabilitation facility which includes balneotherapy and physiotherapy. Various forms of medical research are also conducted at the branch. The Tochigi Branch, Epizootic Research Center was established as a research laboratory for equine infectious diseases in June 1970. This unit is the only laboratory conducting research needed for the prevention and control of equine infectious diseases in Japan.

JRA Yearling Training Farms

JRA owns two yearling training farms – Hidaka Yearling Training Farm in Hokkaido and Miyazaki Yearling Training Farm in Kyushu Island - and conducts basic training on about 80 yearlings purchased at various sales until the spring of their 2-years-old season. The information and training data obtained during this period, as well as improved methods, are passed on broadly to breeders and training farms, and used to improve Japan's racing industry. After the research in the basic training period, the horses are sold in the training sales such as the JRA Breeze Up Sale, and then follow-up research is conducted on how they perform as racehorses. As a horseracing organization, the JRA's comprehensive research system involving actual horses is unparalleled anywhere in the world.

Laboratory of Racing Chemistry

This laboratory is responsible for all DNA testing of racehorses in Japan. The laboratory and its research facilities were established in 1965 as Japan's only testing institute for horses, as well as the only one which provides dedicated research within that field. The laboratory is primarily concerned with drug testing for racehorses, indispensable for ensuring fair races. It also provides blood and DNA analysis to maintain accurate pedigrees. This research institute was chartered as an experimental laboratory eligible for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation in 2004.



Museums

The JRA Racing Museum opened at Tokyo Racecourse in 1991. The museum's main theme is horse racing, tracing the sport's development to the present day through exhibits on famous horses of the past. Exhibit materials cover racing not just in Japan, but also that of other countries.

The Equine Museum of Japan was built on the site of the former Yokohama Racecourse, the birthplace of modern horse racing in Japan, in Negishi, Yokohama, and was opened in 1977. This museum's functions are the collection, preservation and study of a broad range of materials on the relationship between people and horses.

