

VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



First Lady Suzanne Younkin along with Governor Glenn Younkin present the 2022 Virginia Oaks trophy to jockey Arad Ortiz, Jr. and the connections of the winning horse Spirit And Glory.

Virginia Racing Commission

2022

COMMISSIONERS

Stephanie Nixon
Chair
Ashland

Stuart Siegel
Richmond

John F. Tanner Jr.
Exmore

Marsha Hudgins
Vice Chair
Suffolk

Bette Brand
Roanoke

STAFF

David S. Lermond, Jr. - Executive Secretary

Kimberly C. Mackey – Director of Operations

Ada K. Caruthers, DVM - Equine Medical Director

Rhonda F. Davis – Director of Pari-Mutuels and Licensing

Joseph R. Rudisill – Historical Horse Racing Specialist



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Racing Commission

J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr., Chairman
Stuart C. Siegel, Vice Chairman
Marsh K. Hudgins
Stephanie B. Nixon
John F. Tanner Jr.

David S. Lermond, Jr.
Executive Secretary

February 20, 2023

TO: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of Virginia
Members of the General Assembly

In accordance with Code of Virginia Title 29, Chapter 59.1-369 (9) as related to horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering, I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Virginia Racing Commission.

The Governor Ralph Northam signed House Bill 1609, which authorized Historical Horse Racing (HHR), into law in April of 2018. Since that time, the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) has written and promulgated the permanent regulations for HHR, awarded six licenses to the Colonial Downs Group (CDG) for Satellite Wagering Facilities (SWFs) to conduct pari-mutuel wagering through HHR. The Virginia Racing Commission also monitored the successful opening of these six SWFs, and has effectively regulated the wagering activity that has taken place through a total of 2,607 HHR terminals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Funding for the Virginia Racing Commission comes solely from revenue generated by a small percentage of all pari-mutuel wagers made in the Commonwealth. This revenue enables the agency to meet its financial obligations associated with the regulation of horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering and revert any excess to the General Fund.

The Racing Commission remains steadfast in protecting the integrity of racing for those who participate and the loyal customers who enjoy it, in addition to the health and welfare of the equine athletes. As always, we rely on the continued support of the Virginia Equine Industry, from you and your administration, as well as from the General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DL", written over a horizontal line.

David S. Lermond, Jr.
Executive Secretary

THE RACING COMMISSION

The Racing Act, Title 59, Chapter 29, effective as of January 1, 1989, vests control of all horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering conducted in the Commonwealth to the Virginia Racing Commission.

The Commission:

- Prescribes regulations and conditions under which racing and wagering is conducted;
- Maintains horse racing in the Commonwealth of the highest quality free of corrupt, incompetent, dishonest or unprincipled practices, and;
- Maintains in such racing complete honesty and integrity.

Horse racing offering pari-mutuel wagering is permitted in the Commonwealth with the intention of “promotion, sustenance, and growth of the native industry, in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people”.



A beautiful rainbow appeared on August 3, 2022 at the conclusion of live racing at Colonial Downs.

The closure of Colonial Downs in 2014 adversely affected the Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing and breeding industries in the Commonwealth. However, we are pleased to report that through the efforts of the Virginia General Assembly, the Governor's Office, the Virginia Equine Alliance, the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, and the Virginia Harness Horse Association, horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering has been revitalized in the Commonwealth.

On March 10, 2022, Churchill Downs Incorporated (CDI) submitted a request for approval of the acquisition of ownership interest in Colonial Downs Group, LLC (CDG) from Peninsula Pacific Entertainment, LLC (P2E) and its licenses for Colonial Downs Racetrack, its Satellite Wagering Facilities, and the licenses to conduct Historical Horse Racing (HHR) at its six Rosie's locations. This request was approved unanimously at the June 8th Virginia Racing Commission meeting and the sale was finalized on November 1, 2022.

Live Thoroughbred racing at Colonial Downs Race Track in 2021 was conducted for 26 days over a nine week period beginning on July 11, 2022 through September 7, 2022. Horsemen from more than sixteen different states came to New Kent, Virginia to compete on the Secretariat Turf Course, which is considered one of the best in North America. As always, a special emphasis was put on the safety and welfare of the horses.

Live Steeplechase racing with pari-mutuel wagering was conducted on May 7, 2022 at Great Meadow Racecourse in Fauquier County for the Virginia Gold Cup races and again on October 22, 2022 for the Virginia International Gold Cup Races.

Harness racing with pari-mutuel wagering presented by the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) was conducted for a seventh straight year at Shenandoah Downs in Woodstock, Virginia. The Shenandoah County oval formally known as Woodstock Racetrack has conducted harness racing without pari-mutuel wagering for many years in conjunction with the Shenandoah County Fair. In 2016, the VEA invested \$750,000 in track renovations producing a quality racing surface, which has been very well received by the horsemen and racing fans. There were 15 days of live harness racing conducted at Shenandoah Downs distributed over seven weekends beginning on September 16, 2022 through November 6, 2022 on Fridays and Saturdays for the first ten days and on Saturdays and Sundays for the last five days.

The total wagering on Historical Horse Racing (HHR) at the Rosie's locations increased from \$3.3 billion in 2021 to \$4.04 billion in 2022. This represents a 22% increase in the amount wagered on HHR. There are Rosie's currently located in Richmond, New Kent, Hampton, Dumfries, Vinton, and Collinsville. The Commonwealth received \$30.3 million in taxes and the localities in which the Rosie's are located received a combined \$20.6 million in taxes from this form of pari-mutuel wagering. HHR wagering began in 2019 at Colonial Downs Racetrack and has been expanding since then, providing funds for the Commonwealth, the localities, and also the horse racing and breeding industries in Virginia.

Pari-Mutuel Wagering by Source in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Year	Wagering at Racetrack and at Satellite Facilities	Account Wagering	Historical Horse Racing	Total Taxable Wagering
1996	\$36,952,607.00			\$36,952,607.00
1997	\$95,094,161.00			\$95,094,161.00
1998	\$120,717,190.00			\$120,717,190.00
1999	\$121,324,249.00			\$121,324,249.00
2000	\$121,754,800.00			\$121,754,800.00
2001	\$123,879,396.00			\$123,879,396.00
2002	\$124,064,569.00			\$124,064,569.00
2003	\$130,382,875.00			\$130,382,875.00
2004	\$145,394,480.00	\$1,287,541.00		\$146,682,021.00
2005	\$151,758,202.00	\$12,691,398.00		\$164,449,600.00
2006	\$164,208,077.00	\$28,300,972.00		\$192,509,049.00
2007	\$167,684,686.00	\$33,206,726.00		\$200,891,412.00
2008	\$149,629,200.00	\$47,303,439.00		\$196,932,639.00
2009	\$122,461,456.00	\$49,850,493.00		\$172,311,949.00
2010	\$105,505,800.00	\$53,392,088.00		\$158,897,888.00
2011	\$97,737,892.75	\$62,646,843.85		\$160,384,736.60
2012	\$91,927,194.10	\$69,233,852.85		\$161,161,046.95
2013	\$86,220,534.60	\$73,205,095.00		\$159,425,629.60
2014	\$21,198,320.50	\$93,858,388.30		\$115,056,708.80
2015	\$291,173.50	\$79,478,622.50		\$79,769,796.00
2016	\$2,726,163.80	\$76,725,493.00		\$79,451,656.80
2017	\$20,803,619.10	\$81,076,535.12		\$101,880,154.22
2018	\$32,681,651.30	\$83,958,599.27		\$116,640,250.57
2019	\$39,078,097.10	\$86,629,347.47	\$1,078,283,481.45	\$1,203,990,926.02
2020	\$23,154,730.50	\$135,486,989.11	\$1,578,675,788.98	\$1,737,317,508.59
2021	\$36,186,620.60	\$126,229,799.62	\$3,271,958,939.08	\$3,434,375,359.30
2022	\$35,979,206.50	\$118,164,453.72	\$4,042,351,553.40	\$4,196,495,213.62
Totals	\$2,368,796,952.35	\$1,312,726,676.81	\$9,971,269,762.91	\$13,652,793,392.07

Live Thoroughbred Racing Statistics

Year	Daily Average On-Track Handle	Total Handle	Daily Average Total Handle	Daily Average Attendance	On-Track Per Capita
1997	\$183,594.00	\$28,182,006.00	\$939,400.00	3,620	\$50.72
1998	\$141,154.00	\$21,293,467.00	\$881,473.00	2,263	\$62.37
1999	\$107,881.00	\$23,420,243.00	\$975,854.00	1,628	\$66.27
2000	\$90,589.00	\$27,923,752.00	\$872,617.00	1,247	\$72.65
2001	\$117,818.00	\$27,579,707.00	\$1,103,188.00	1,940	\$60.73
2002	\$140,067.00	\$31,039,485.00	\$1,193,826.00	2,202	\$63.61
2003	\$140,305.00	\$36,090,262.00	\$1,203,009.00	2,193	\$63.98
2004	\$138,236.00	\$36,205,494.00	\$1,064,867.00	2,155	\$64.15
2005	\$124,122.00	\$44,710,190.00	\$1,117,755.00	2,028	\$61.20
2006	\$113,438.00	\$51,587,415.00	\$1,258,230.00	1,804	\$62.88
2007	\$164,557.00	\$50,507,580.00	\$1,262,689.00	1,996	\$82.44
2008	\$126,195.00	\$50,343,446.00	\$1,118,743.00	1,668	\$75.66
2009	\$128,093.00	\$31,241,633.00	\$781,041.00	1,712	\$74.82
2010	\$131,908.00	\$29,287,463.00	\$732,187.00	1,499	\$88.00
2011	\$127,542.00	\$27,041,285.00	\$845,040.00	1,864	\$68.42
2012	\$116,525.00	\$18,733,192.00	\$604,297.00	2,008	\$58.03
2013	\$118,086.00	\$14,343,174.00	\$597,632.00	1,942	\$60.81
2014	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	N/A
2015	\$13,130.00	\$13,130.00	\$13,130.00	3,478	\$3.78
2016	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	N/A
2017	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	N/A
2018	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	N/A
2019	\$133,271.00	\$18,101,453.00	\$1,206,764.00	2,588	\$51.50
2020	\$20,963.00	\$7,774,939.00	\$1,110,706.00	258	\$81.25
2021	\$66,032.18	\$47,087,639.51	\$2,242,268.55	1,329	\$49.69
2022	\$66,351.00	\$75,157,080.00	\$2,890,657.00	1,529	\$43.39



A young racing fan gets to visit with an outrider's pony up close at Colonial Downs.

Live Harness Racing Statistics

Year	Daily Average On-Track Handle	Total Handle	Daily Average Total Handle	Daily Average Attendance	On-Track Per Capita
1998	\$56,661.00	\$7,260,770.00	\$172,875.00	1379	\$41.09
1999	\$41,319.00	\$5,795,265.00	\$193,175.00	909	\$45.46
2000	\$19,270.00	\$5,903,010.00	\$147,575.00	258	\$74.69
2001	\$30,912.00	\$2,459,010.00	\$163,934.00	486	\$63.60
2002	\$30,860.00	\$3,716,853.00	\$154,869.00	478	\$64.56
2003	\$34,585.00	\$4,148,072.00	\$148,145.00	580	\$59.63
2004	\$40,361.00	\$5,815,294.00	\$181,728.00	645	\$62.58
2005	\$36,959.00	\$6,217,238.00	\$172,701.00	620	\$59.61
2006	\$20,498.00	\$6,562,653.00	\$182,296.00	312	\$65.70
2007	\$43,183.00	\$5,726,362.00	\$178,949.00	613	\$70.45
2008	\$35,945.00	\$5,320,909.00	\$156,497.00	509	\$70.62
2009	\$27,552.00	\$3,885,199.00	\$107,922.00	353	\$78.05
2010	\$40,575.00	\$2,748,428.00	\$98,194.00	511	\$79.40
2011	\$33,198.00	\$3,125,901.00	\$104,197.00	431	\$77.03
2012	\$22,856.00	\$1,993,949.00	\$83,081.00	495	\$46.17
2013	\$20,503.00	\$2,425,357.00	\$101,057.00	376	\$54.53
2014	\$14,812.00	\$1,723,748.00	\$71,823.00	265	\$55.89
2015	\$7,953.00	\$31,811.00	\$7,953.00	557	\$14.28
2016	\$10,553.70	\$105,537.00	\$10,553.70	299	\$35.30
2017	\$12,499.30	\$124,993.00	\$12,499.30	324	\$38.58
2018	\$11,908.34	\$119,083.40	\$11,908.34	312	\$38.17
2019	\$14,818.76	\$148,187.60	\$14,818.76	318	\$46.60
2020*	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	N/A
2021	\$15,715.51	\$157,155.10	\$15,715.51	352	\$44.65
2022	\$12,940.00	\$413,825.70	\$29,558.97	389	\$33.26

* Due to COVID-19, racing was conducted without spectators or wagering.



Driver Tyler Shehan appears to be pleased with his close finish for the win at Shenandoah Downs.

Live Steeplechase Racing Statistics

Year	Total Handle	Daily Average On-Track Handle	Daily Average Attendance
2013	\$119,956.00	\$59,978.00	43,500
2014	\$240,302.00	\$80,100.67	34,400
2015	\$222,682.00	\$111,341.00	50,000
2016	\$241,859.50	\$120,929.75	50,000
2017	\$179,930.50	\$89,965.25	47,500
2018	\$194,528.00	\$97,264.00	47,500
2019	\$196,358.00	\$98,179.00	47,500
2020*	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
2021**	\$41,424.00	\$41,424.00	3500
2022	\$113,532.00	\$56,766.00	5,000

* Due to COVID-19, racing was conducted without spectators or wagering.

** Due to COVID-19, the Spring races were conducted without wagering and there were a limited number of spectators for the Fall races.



Steeplechase horses going over the water jump at Great Meadow.

The Virginia Breeders Fund

This fund establishes awards and incentive programs to foster the horse breeding industry in Virginia. Funding for these programs is derived from a one percent contribution from wagers on live and simulcast horse racing and HHR placed in the Commonwealth. Since 1996, a grand total of \$35,536,519.00 has been contributed to the fund and the amount per year has nearly tripled since 2015. This fund administered by the collaborative efforts of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and the Virginia Harness Horse Association with oversight from the Virginia Racing Commission.

1996	\$263,517.00	\$105,288.00	\$368,805.00
1997	\$755,900.00	\$195,041.00	\$950,941.00
1998	\$917,484.00	\$289,688.00	\$1,207,172.00
1999	\$915,431.00	\$297,811.00	\$1,213,242.00
2000	\$942,714.00	\$274,834.00	\$1,217,548.00
2001	\$967,123.00	\$271,671.00	\$1,238,794.00
2002	\$970,555.00	\$270,091.00	\$1,240,646.00
2003	\$1,035,181.00	\$268,647.00	\$1,303,828.00
2004	\$1,136,789.00	\$317,156.00	\$1,453,945.00
2005	\$1,176,374.00	\$341,208.00	\$1,517,582.00
2006	\$1,285,476.00	\$356,604.00	\$1,642,080.00
2007	\$1,318,153.00	\$358,693.00	\$1,676,846.00
2008	\$1,167,875.00	\$328,417.00	\$1,496,292.00
2009	\$960,763.00	\$263,852.00	\$1,224,615.00
2010	\$1,266,614.00	\$287,607.00	\$1,554,221.00
2011	\$1,301,040.00	\$286,961.00	\$1,588,001.00
2012	\$1,338,896.00	\$276,548.00	\$1,615,444.00
2013	\$1,325,659.00	\$262,990.00	\$1,588,649.00
2014	\$854,434.00	\$287,360.00	\$1,141,794.00
2015	\$651,792.00	\$118,890.00	\$770,682.00
2016	\$729,940.00	\$96,759.00	\$826,699.00
2017	\$875,229.00	\$140,971.00	\$1,016,200.00
2018	\$997,228.00	\$175,765.00	\$1,172,993.00
2019	\$1,065,244.00	\$189,711.00	\$1,254,955.00
2020	\$1,374,865.00	\$177,521.00	\$1,552,386.00
2021	\$1,413,875.00	\$225,956.00	\$1,639,831.00
2022	\$1,721,437.00	\$340,891.00	\$2,062,328.00
Totals	\$28,729,588.00	\$6,806,931.00	\$35,536,519.00

Tax Revenue to Localities

Year	New Kent	Chesapeake	Henrico	Richmond	Hampton	Brunswick	Vinton	Henry	Scott	Fauquier	Woodstock	Dumfries	Total
1996	\$157,871.00	\$144,304.00	\$6,783.00	\$6,783.00									\$315,741.00
1997	\$408,498.00	\$159,665.00	\$113,726.00	\$113,726.00	\$1,430.00	\$855.00							\$797,900.00
1998	\$520,316.00	\$128,530.00	\$107,693.00	\$107,693.00	\$101,062.00	\$43,538.00							\$1,008,832.00
1999	\$524,049.00	\$132,641.00	\$108,839.00	\$108,839.00	\$101,396.00	\$46,906.00							\$1,022,670.00
2000	\$532,156.00	\$129,419.00	\$104,967.00	\$104,967.00	\$108,412.00	\$49,836.00							\$1,029,757.00
2001	\$539,392.00	\$131,455.00	\$107,885.00	\$107,885.00	\$115,242.00	\$51,140.00							\$1,052,999.00
2002	\$544,937.00	\$136,127.00	\$107,043.00	\$107,043.00	\$110,778.00	\$50,791.00							\$1,056,719.00
2003	\$574,992.00	\$145,928.00	\$103,758.00	\$112,388.00	\$113,880.00	\$59,092.00							\$1,110,038.00
2004	\$645,979.00	\$146,406.00	\$89,652.00	\$167,027.00	\$125,476.00	\$59,268.00	\$9,817.00						\$1,243,625.00
2005	\$676,257.00	\$146,065.00	\$84,164.00	\$165,595.00	\$119,218.00	\$52,244.00	\$44,660.00	\$14,615.00					\$1,302,818.00
2006	\$727,828.00	\$171,176.00	\$70,299.00	\$175,246.00	\$114,814.00	\$41,761.00	\$44,349.00	\$43,288.00	\$26,478.00				\$1,415,239.00
2007	\$743,077.00	\$172,558.00	\$79,755.00	\$165,331.00	\$110,160.00	\$45,105.00	\$46,583.00	\$51,189.00	\$29,266.00				\$1,443,024.00
2008	\$656,347.00	\$160,286.00	\$71,940.00	\$148,229.00	\$96,737.00	\$40,619.00	\$35,164.00	\$41,901.00	\$32,365.00				\$1,283,588.00
2009	\$537,046.00	\$121,016.00	\$55,955.00	\$120,425.00	\$88,982.00	\$30,613.00	\$32,241.00	\$37,024.00	\$24,824.00				\$1,048,126.00
2010	\$463,010.00	\$102,607.00	\$57,802.00	\$100,312.00	\$77,853.00	\$29,467.00	\$25,096.00	\$31,866.00	\$17,070.00				\$905,083.00
2011	\$436,914.00	\$94,877.00	\$57,104.00	\$86,180.00	\$72,505.00	\$25,339.00	\$24,079.00	\$32,532.00	\$16,435.00				\$845,965.00
2012	\$409,436.00	\$88,681.00	\$75,208.00	\$69,123.00	\$61,255.00	\$23,622.00	\$22,076.00	\$31,618.00	\$15,602.00				\$796,621.00
2013	\$384,745.00	\$91,428.00	\$72,231.00	\$58,969.00	\$59,531.00	\$21,880.00	\$15,642.00	\$31,733.00	\$15,062.00				\$751,221.00
2014	\$95,193.00	\$29,432.00	\$21,429.00	\$18,738.00	\$17,126.00	\$1,657.00	\$1,069.00	\$2,536.00	\$1,331.00				\$188,511.00
2015	\$66,269.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$853.00	\$109.00		\$67,231.00
2016	\$268,539.00	\$0.00	\$9,515.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$767.00	\$382.00		\$279,203.00
2017	\$283,768.00	\$6,093.00	\$49,582.00	\$36,041.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$571.00	\$451.00		\$376,506.00
2018	\$293,855.00	\$53,539.00	\$44,778.00	\$30,086.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,831.00	\$0.00	\$639.00	\$440.00		\$440,168.00
2019	\$3,821,691.00	\$44,832.00	\$39,581.00	\$1,092,579.00	\$304,665.00	\$0.00	\$405,440.00	\$18,181.00	\$0.00	\$624.00	\$528.00		\$5,728,121.00
2020	\$4,735,817.00	\$20,915.00	\$22,756.00	\$1,489,793.00	\$1,355,359.00	\$0.00	\$440,196.00	\$10,499.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$8,075,335.00
2021	\$9,625,702.78	\$32,759.28	\$33,982.34	\$2,963,051.48	\$2,468,999.71	\$0.00	\$799,984.29	\$113,244.13	\$0.00	\$118.16	\$561.46	\$635,277.62	\$16,038,403.63
2022	\$11,675,065.97	\$28,612.50	\$31,026.34	\$3,526,933.51	\$2,909,986.86	\$0.00	\$1,184,269.86	\$554,696.46	\$0.00	\$343.31	\$657.00	\$967,641.53	\$19,911,591.81
Totals	\$40,348,750.75	\$2,619,351.78	\$1,727,453.68	\$11,182,982.99	\$8,634,867.57	\$673,733.00	\$3,130,666.15	\$1,031,753.59	\$178,433.00	\$3,915.47	\$3,128.46	\$1,602,919.15	\$69,535,036.44