



LEARNING WITH CENTAUR GIRLS: INTRODUCTION TO THE THOROUGHBRED



When one hears the term 'horse racing,' the first thing that comes to mind is usually betting, but I'd like to shed some light on horse racing's real star, the thoroughbred.

I hope this book inspires an interest in the largely unknown world of the backbone of horseracing: the thoroughbred.



LEARNING WITH CENTAUR GIRLS: INTRODUCTION TO THE THOROUGHBRED

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1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THOROUGHBRED

(1) Origins of the Thoroughbred

Thoroughbreds are selectively bred for the sole purpose of running under the specific conditions of horse races. However, how did these horse races begin in the first place?

The actual concept of making horses compete in a contest of speed is incredibly old. For example, in ancient Rome, competitions were held using horses that pulled chariots. In those days, much of an army's strength was in its horses, and thus horses that won in the aforementioned competitions were revered as "great warhorses," and horses that were exceptional performers were used to breed numerous offspring once they retired. Even so, just because a horse was the fastest in an ancient Rome-style chariot race doesn't necessarily mean that horse would make a good farm horse, and each country and region had their own views on what defined a good horse, so the victorious horse may not necessarily have actually made a "great warhorse." From these conditions, all the way until "modern horse racing" was born, horse races were held using various rules in various areas. Those races held using various rules were changed to races that use a standard race course and set of rules, and began to be used as a way to judge a horse's worth. (There were also other factors, such as it becoming the hobby of nobles, and those that wanted to make a name for themselves, but...)

In 1540, the Chester Racecourse, the first racing grounds for modern horse racing, was completed in England, and it was here that the start of modern horse racing began. (Furthermore, the age and gender restrictions that are used even now in some horse races are there to be able to "determine a horse's reproductive value through races," but, there are also those who say the goal is to select the most excellent horse.)



The beginning of the Thoroughbred



And onto the next generation...

And so, that was how modern horse racing slowly began to take form, but early on there were no large sums of money connected to the races, and because these races were simply a gathering of the fastest horses in their respective areas, there were no horses that were bred specifically for the purpose of horse racing.

That changed when reward money was given to the winner of the races. This is when specialists who dedicated themselves to breeding fast race horses, training horses to win in races, and finding the best way to ride a horse during races began to appear. In other words, this was the origin of the thoroughbred breeder, the trainer, and the jockey. This led to the breeding of horses not based upon being healthy and easily tamed, but of horses that were fast enough to win in the races, with no regard to whether they had an unwieldy or weak temperament. This is the beginning of the modern day thoroughbred.

(2) Thoroughbred Basics

What kind of animal is a thoroughbred?

Or, to say the opposite, they aren't able to carry 100kg over long periods of time. Because there are many restrictions associated with agriculture and transport, and because we now have much more efficient methods of transportation, such as trains and cars, the only real path for thoroughbreds is the path of a racehorse. (If the world were to change to that of a certain end of the century manga, then perhaps the thoroughbred could find other ways of living.)

①

Able to carry 48 to 59kg at high speeds over 60 to 70km for a few minutes!



Thoroughbreds are very unpredictable in nature, so much so that there are cases of people letting down their guard and being kicked to death when the horse became excited, even when being treated with care. But, their bodies are weak to the point that a broken bone more or less means death, and the flash from a cellphone camera is enough to scare them, making them a mix of strength, weakness, and frightfulness.

③

Violent temper, weak body, and easily frightened

②

Highly intelligent

Memorizing where the goal is and stopping on their own is just the beginning. Thoroughbreds are even said to be able to 'read' the atmosphere around them and control their performance during big races.

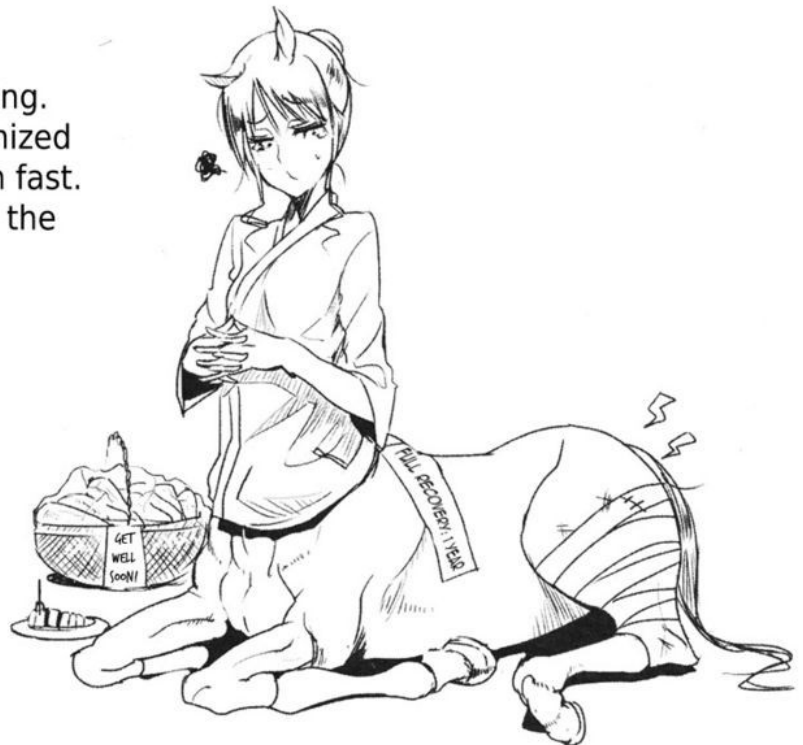


Scared of flashes, easily frightened



Violent tempers

They are selectively bred, born and live to run under the specific rules of horse racing. In other words, they are recognized for nothing but being able to run fast. They are horses born solely for the purpose of competition. That is a thoroughbred.



Unexpectedly weak

2. THE DEFINITION OF A THOROUGHBRED

There is a rule in place now that did not exist during the start of horse races, and that is that a horse must be a thoroughbred, or thoroughbred-type to enter races. So what exactly is the definition of a thoroughbred? The definition from the General Stud Book, a breed registry published in 1791, is as follows: A horse with certification of 8 to 9 generations of thoroughbred breeding, proof of lineage dating back to a century ago, and actual results that the horse can compete with other thoroughbreds. In other words, a horse without proven origins cannot participate in the modern horse race. (Although, perhaps a normal horse wouldn't even have a chance...)

If breeding with thoroughbreds for 4 generations takes place, then the resulting offspring is recognized as a thoroughbred-type, and can enter in most races. If that horse is then bred with thoroughbreds for another 4 generations, then the resulting offspring will be recognized as a thoroughbred and can enter any race. Incidentally, if one wanted to turn the offspring of any horse into a thoroughbred, technically it can be done within 16 to 20 years. But, taking into account the requirement that a thoroughbred must have "actual results that the horse can compete with other thoroughbreds," then it will most likely take at least more than 50 years, perhaps even 100 years, of selective breeding.

Horse racing - collection of "The General Stud Book"



Some volumes from the General Stud Book.

3. THE LIFE OF A THOROUGHBRED

(1) Breeding

Popular, high-grade breeding stallions breed close to 100 times during mating season!

Racehorse breeding begins during the mating season of March to June, when the covering of the mare takes place. The following criteria is considered when choosing the stallion to pair the mare with:

- **Lineage** (Whether or not a horse from the same line has proved themselves in races, etc.)
- **Body** (Whether or not the stallion is healthy, whether its muscular build is solid, whether currently sick or injured)
- **Race Ability** (Whether or not the stallion has won in high-profile races, its speed and endurance, whether its strong-willed or not)



Selection of the breeding stallion

Because most of the high profile races are mid to short-length races, mares are bred more for speed rather than temperament or stamina.



Popular breeding stallions have what is akin to a harem



(2) Breeding Procedures

In order to make the mare receptive to the breeding stallion, a teaser stallion is brought to the mare.



Once the mare's readiness to mate is confirmed, the teaser stallion is taken away, and the mare is bred with the actual breeding stallion.



Mating is continued until pregnancy is confirmed.



Teaser stallion and mare right before intercourse



Actual breeding stallion switches places with teaser and actual mating begins



It's a cruel world for teaser stallions

(3) From Delivery to 1 Year of Age

The gestation period of horses is eleven months, and since the majority of breeding takes place during April to May, births of foals peak in February to March.

About 6 months after birth, the foal is taken from the mother and is conditioned to human interaction. (I guess it doesn't really matter, but mares are usually bred again as soon as they give birth, so they are usually carrying another foal. The foal inside them may very well have a different father than the foal they are with, so...)

- **Acclimation to Tack**
- **Acclimation to being ridden by a human** (but often bucks them off)
- **Training** (Serious training for being ridden, how to behave at an auction, etc.)



Giving birth



First is conditioning to accept a bit



But until then , the foal will often buck off their rider



The foal must learn to be ridden



At an auction (She's doing pretty good)



Training to show in front of other people is very strict

(4) From 1 Year of Age to Before Stabling

At 1 year old, actual training for horse riding begins. Also, many foals begin training for behavior in auctions, described below, at this time. Of course, training is important, but the existence of the owner is as well. If the horse does not have an owner, then it cannot debut as a racehorse. There are many ways of establishing the owner, but, the two most common are:

- **Auction**

There are many auctions held for horses that have yet to debut.

- **Direct Sale**

The horse is bought directly from the breeder.

Besides that, horses are also bought from dealers (buyers who buy with the intention of reselling)



Young foal "XX(Mother's name) 20XX (Year of birth)"

(5) From Stabling to Debut

Once the owner has been decided, and the foal reaches 2 years of age, it is registered as a racehorse and its official name is recorded. Most racehorse names are chosen to be unique, like "Deep Impact." (Until then, it's common to simply refer to the foal with its mother's name + year of birth. For example, Deep Impact would be Wind in Her Hair 2002.) Also, in preparation for its debut, training as a racehorse in earnest begins. Right before debuting, there are inspections, such as the gate inspection, to confirm the basic ability that is required of a racehorse. If a horse cannot pass these inspections then they will never get a chance to even debut. In the past, there have been promising horses with great physical ability, but were never able to debut because they could not pass the gate inspection.

If a horse does pass, then it is finally time for their debut. Only horses who have yet to win a race are able to register for a maiden race, and only horses that have not yet debuted may enter a new horse race.

Also, new racehorse races usually start around July, and during summer are held in places like Sapporo and Niigata. (From Autumn, they are held in places like Tokyo and the Osaka-Kobe area.)



Once the centaur reaches 2 years of age, it is given a name

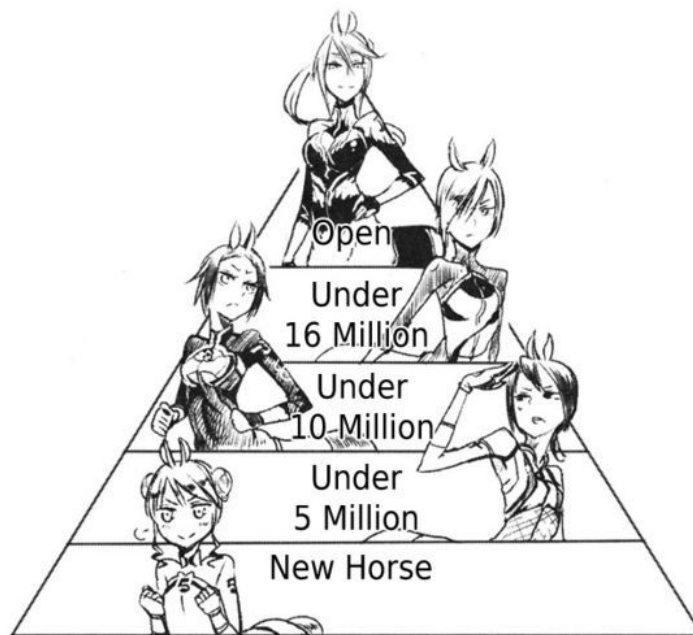
(6) From Life at the Races to Retirement

Horses that have made their debut are ranked according to how much prize money they have earned. From the lowest rank, the order is as follows: "No Victories," "Under 5 million," "Under 10 million," "Under 16 million," and "Open." Races are based upon those rankings, and usually horses are entered into races that match their respective rankings.

However, the rules permit a racehorse to enter into a race above its actual ranking, so registering and running in a race above its current rank is allowed.



Basic gait training also starts at this time



Pyramid diagram of racehorse rankings

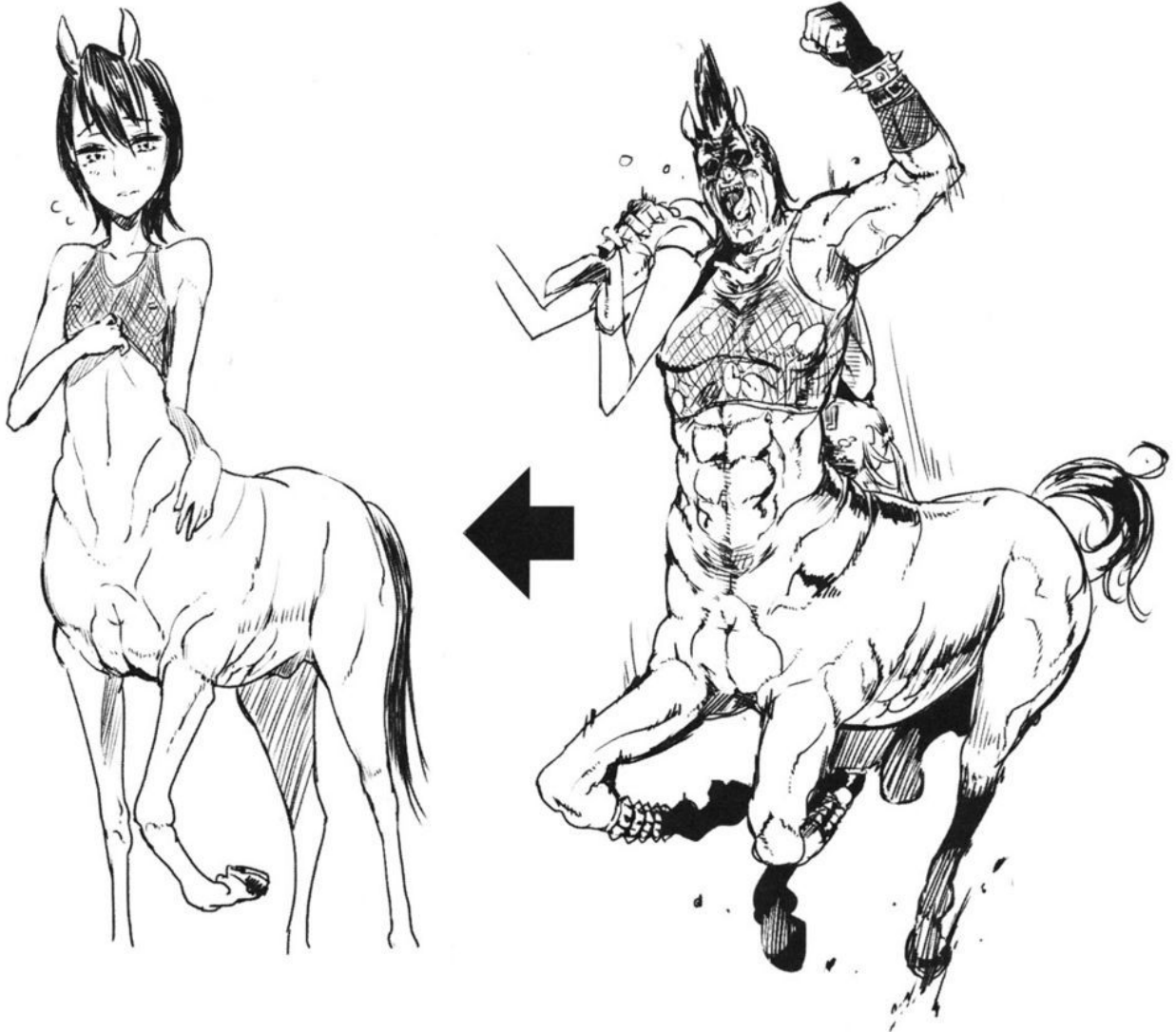
[Back to the Main Subject]

Additionally, while horses are separated into stallion and mares, there exists a third gender, the "gelding."

In short, it is a stallion that has been castrated. Horses that are ill-tempered and have lineage of little note are sometimes made into geldings.

However, overseas, it is normal for stallions that have been judged as having no value as breeding stallions to be castrated, and there has even been a case where the horse that came in 3rd place in the famous Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was castrated.

It seems that overseas, it is a world of suffering for males.



Sometimes ones like this ill-tempered mohawk stallion are made into geldings too



Her second life begins

Retirement is considered from about 5 years old, when the horse's ability begins to decline. Depending on injuries, the owner's situation, and breeding expectations, retirement may be considered sooner or later than this. After retirement there are several paths:

- **Breeding**
- **Re-debut as an equestrian competition horse**
- **Serve at places like schools as a riding horse**
- **Lead horse**



A triumphant return to her hometown



Life goes on after retirement



GLOSSARY

[New Horse]

A horse that has been registered as a racehorse, but has yet to debut. In human years, they are about 12 to 13 years old. Every year around June, races limited only to new horses are held. Winning this race adds to their accomplishments as a racehorse, and helps build their status up.

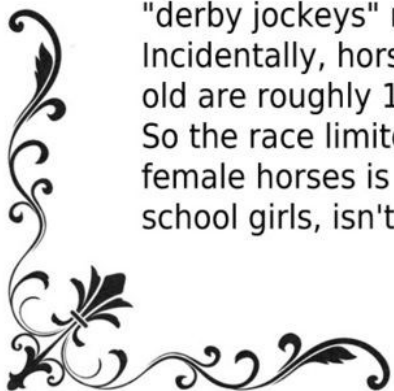


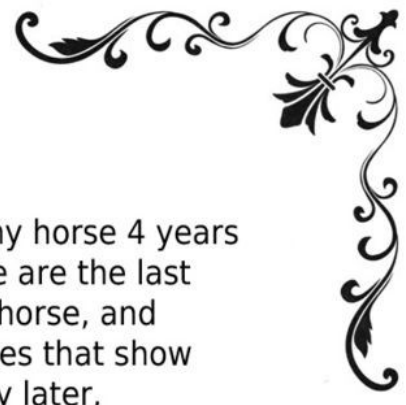
[Classic]

A race limited to horses 3 years of age. There are 5 classics: the Satsuki Sho, the Cherry Blossom Race (limited to mares), the Japan Derby, the Japanese Oaks (limited to stallions), and the Kikuka Sho. The horses that enter into them, or into the trials for such races, are referred to as classic horses. For a horse registered as a racehorse, these are the races that are aspired to.

Also, in general, the Japan Derby is the most famous, and the horses and jockeys who come out victorious gain special status as "derby horses" and "derby jockeys" respectively.

Incidentally, horses that are 3 years old are roughly 16 in human years. So the race limited to only female horses is like a race of high school girls, isn't it?





[Old Horse]

This term refers to any horse 4 years of age or older. These are the last years of being a racehorse, and except for those horses that show exemplary ability only later, retirement is now getting close. 4 years of age would be about 19 in human years, but even so, being called an "old horse" from 19 makes the world of horse racing seem even worse when it comes to age than the world of the otaku.

[Individual Racing Association]

A system created in recent years with the goal of popularizing horse racing in different regions. The major difference is that the person who applies for the race can choose the race name. (Of course, there are some restrictions.) There are also other privileges, such as being able to watch races from special box seats, and being able to take pictures with the jockeys in the winner's circle. In the past, races such as "Idolmaster 4 Year Anniversary," "Hatsu Miku Status," and "Happy Birthday, Kotobuki Tsumugi from Sakurakou's Light Music Club," have been held. Freedom.





[Weight]

Refers specifically to the amount of weight a horse must carry during a race. (This amount includes the jockey, racing uniform, and tack.) There are races that designate this amount by way of age and gender, and also handicap races that take into account a horse's past performance in previous races.

[Above Rank Challenge]

Refers to entering a grade of race that is above a racehorse's own ranking. Horses with great ability occasionally do this, but it usually goes without saying that they lose very quickly.





後書き

●Zトン（本編作画）

どうやったたらサラブレッド馬ン
コにチンポ突っ込めるんですかね？

●肉どうふ（本文）

「2012年12月23日の有馬記念
予想」

2-9-14のワイド十三連複

根拠は以下に

ここ2年有馬では逃げ馬不在の
スローペースで追込有利だったが
今回は④アーネストリー、⑭ビー
トブラックと逃げ専門馬が2頭い
る上④アーネストリー陣営が大逃
げ宣言。となると、④無いし⑭よ
り早いラップで直線を走らなきゃ
いけないが該当馬は②エイシン
フラッシュおよび⑨ルーラーシッ
プ、⑬ゴールドシップのみ。た
だ、ゴールドシップは直前調教で
調子がイマイチっぽく、しかも④
より早いラップで直線を上がって
きたのは前走のみ安定して上回っ

てる②と⑨には劣る上に外枠のた
めコーナーを大回りする不利を背
負って先着できるとは思えないた
め②と⑨、および⑬と④より早い
ラップで上がってこれる⑭が残る
と見て上記の組み合わせで決定。

という感じで稿料の全額を有馬
に突っ込もうと思しますのでよろ
しくお願い致します。
ご清聴ありがとうございました。
（もし勝てたら、今回喋れなかつ
た地味な地方競馬の話とか、地味
な条件馬の話を中心にした誰得
な本も作りたいと思います。運
がよければ次回作でお会いしま
しょう）

●あまぎみちひと（ゲスト）

馬娘さんです馬娘っ！（ご挨拶）
という事でした、今だとちょうど
寒い時期ですし体温ほかほかなケ
毛娘さんを抱いて、もふもふしな
がら寝たいです。兎娘さんとか狼
娘さんとか牛娘さんなども最高で
すねっ。もふもふ。



ケンタウロス娘で学ぶ はじめてのサラブレッド

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無断での転載・複製を禁止致します。

ドムドムドム



ドム

行夜鬼
ヒヤツキヤコウ