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Prompt 1

### Entering the Horseracing Force

Horseracing has been around for a long period of time in fact so far back that the Romans first used this concept for chariot racing. Of course, as time went by horses were then used for fighting in wars, for fun, or for other purposes but people mainly focused more on just racing them. Moving forward to the future, horses are still being raced almost every day, however, there seems to be a bit of a problem which is a shortage on new employees. Why is it that there is a lack of new employees entering the workforce? is it due to conditions, work environment, or who knows what; of course, not to jump to conclusions with all these negative things. As a society, we might not know why there is a struggle to get new employees but there are good reasons.

One way to bring new employees into the workforce would be to improve the working conditions, additionally as a son of a racetrack worker, my father and I have seen. According to an online article Craig Bandoroff a breeder/farmer, called BloodHorse.com says "Our outdated racetracks need to be improved and the facilities upgraded", ("5ways"). Many people wanting to work would agree on this topic as safety is a priority because there could be something bad at the track. My father for example agrees with this statement as he has witness how employees would have many accidents because the track is too muddy, frozen, or the dirt isn't good enough. Then there are other things to worry about like the condition of the horse materials such as the harness, saddles, horseshoes, etc. If one of these materials are worn or cannot be used for another race or

practice, then chances are something is likely to go wrong, and the results won't be so pretty. I remember this one time my dad was riding a horse on the track and the harness didn't budge so then the horse ran straight towards a fence and ended up with a nosebleed and hurt one of his foot.

Another way to bring new employees would be better pay or at least a promotion. Many people have been learning to ride horses for many years and with all that time and dedication something good should come out of that. There isn't anybody there that has a salary wage since my father and would tell me that most people would get paid for how many horses he trains or how many stables he would need to clean. According to ZipRecruit.com horse trainers make around \$16.98 an hour which is equivalent to only \$679 a week, and just only \$2,942 a month but this is just one of many examples that most employees would get paid.

The entry barrier that most people would have to face when entering the racing industry would be taking the risk of safety. The moment somebody gets on a horse the first thing in mind would be whether the horse would be an easy one or get knocked out because horses would react to everything at the blink of an eye. It is understandable that somebody could be scared that the worst thing could happen, but there are good things that could happen from this. Riding a horse can be a learning experience and it can give us confidence to know what to do next time. A rider can also ask for help or advice to prevent any accidents.

Another barrier that people are likely to face would be working in mild or in little tough weather conditions. Weather conditions are unpredictable and therefore can interfere with work. From the crack of dawn or even when it's still dark many people wonder about the weather of the day and if the conditions will be good enough to work or be cut off for the day. One personal example would be winter. During my winter breaks I would wake up at 5 in the morning and go

with my dad to the track The moment I stepped out of the house the cold wind blew to my face and suddenly the warmth from my body flew away. Sometimes the weather would reach almost below subzero, and I would tell myself how conditions like these are still permitted at work and trust me not even a hot chocolate was enough.

Overall while working at a horse industry may seem hard and would require a lot of patience people shouldn't focus on the worst and instead just think about the great times you could have on the track. The best thing about working in the industry would be how everyone helps each other out because everybody has experience some kind of difficult task that requires the assistance of a community. Hopefully more people would consider working in the industry to the point where the number of new employees goes up instead of going at a steep decline.

Works Cited

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Link for paragraph 1 : <http://cs.bloodhorse.com/blogs/industry-voices/archive/2011/03/22/five-ways-to-improve-the-industry.aspx>

Link for paragraph 2: <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Horse-Trainer-Salary--in-Illinois>