PEDIGREE DYNAMICS

A GLOSSARY OF BREEDING TERMS

BROODMARE SIRE Also known as the damsire – the sire of the dam of a horse, or maternal grandsire.

BY A horse is 'by' a certain **sire –** this term is never used for the **dam.**

CATALOGUE-STYLE PEDIGREE A pedigree set out as in a sales catalogue – usually with a **tabulated pedigree** at the top, a description of the sire's achievements at stud, and then detailed information on the dam and her race record, other progeny etc. The second and third dams (and depending on room, sometimes more if there isn't much to say about the family!) are also detailed.

COLT A male under the age of four years which has not been gelded.

CROSS Usually refers to a particular cross of sire over broodmare sire. For instance, Nothin' Leica Dane and Brackenbury are both bred on a Danehill (sire) / Sir Tristram (broodmare sire) cross.

DAM Mother of a horse.

DAMSIRE Also known as the broodmare sire – the sire of the dam of a horse, or maternal grandsire.

DISTAFF The female or dam's side of the pedigree.

ENTIRE Male horse over three years old which has not been castrated, also known as a stallion.

FAMILY NUMBER Family numbers were developed by the Australian Bruce Lowe earlier this last century. Family number 1 had produced the highest number of English Classic race winners, while Family 42 had produced the least. While the system has been found to be severely defective (for instance, he did not consider horses racing the U.S.A.), the family number system is useful to line breeders, who use the family number to help identify horses tracing to the same taproot mares. Family numbers are passed on through the **tail female line** – a stallion cannot pass his family number on to his progeny.

FILLY A female under the age of four years.

FIRST DAM The dam or mother of a horse.

FIVE EIGHTHS SISTER / BROTHER Where five of the eight great-grandparents are the same as those of another horse.

FOAL The offspring of a dam. The foaling season for Thoroughbreds officially commences on 1st August each year. Foals born on or after that date officially turn one year old (**yearlings**) on the following 1st August.

FROM A horse is 'from' or 'out of' a certain dam – these terms are never used for the sire.

FULL SISTER / BROTHER A horse by the same sire and same dam.

FULL SISTER / BROTHER IN-BLOOD A horse whose four grandparents are exactly the same as another horse – even though one or both of the actual parents are not the same, but are full sister or brother to the parent/s of the other horse.

GELDING A male horse which has been castrated. Gelding is usually performed in a horse's second or third year, but it can be carried out from a very early age. Reasons for gelding include unruly behaviour, lack of concentration on raceday activities and excess body weight (stallions generally carry more body fat than geldings or mares and consequently place more pressure on their legs).

HALF SISTER / BROTHER A horse from the same dam. A horse by the same sire is not termed a 'relation' – it is referred to only as being 'by the same sire'. This is because a stallion may have 100-odd **progeny** every year for many years, whereas most mares will only have 10 or so foals in their lifetime, making the relationship more relevant.

INBREEDING Mating a mare to a stallion who carries the same individual within the first three generations is 'inbreeding' to that individual. For example, Danehill is inbred to Natalma, who appears on the second remove of his sire and the second remove of his dam. As a product of that mating, Danehill is said to be inbred 3 x 3 to Natalma. To give even more detail to this description, Danehill is inbred 3m x 3f - ie, through a son (m) and a daughter (f). This method of description was developed by David Bay and is now widely used. See '**sex balanced**'.

LINE BREEDING Takes over as an extension of **inbreeding** – the reinforcement of ancestors further back in the pedigree.

NICKS / CLICKS Crosses (usually of a sire over a broodmare sire) which have proven to have an above average record for producing stakes winners.

OUT OF A horse is 'from' or 'out of' a certain dam – these terms are never used for the sire. It would be physically impossible for a foal to be 'out of' a stallion!

OUTCROSSING No *exact* definition in horse breeding has been agreed upon for outcrossing, however it is the mating of a mare to a stallion who has no significant ancestors common to her pedigree within the first few generations.

PEDIGREE Family tree of a horse – in the Thoroughbred it can be traced back to the creation of the breed (from a mixture of Arab and Barb horses) two hundred years ago. Modern day Thoroughbreds can trace their ancestry back to one of three particular foundation stallions, the Godolphin Arabian, the Byerley Turk and the Darley Arabian.

PEDIGREE The 'family tree' of the horse. Impeccable records of Thoroughbred breeding have been kept since the breed's inception in England 200 years ago. The Australian Stud Book is the authority to which breeders must register all their bloodstock in order for the progeny to be eligible to race.

PINHOOKING The purchase of a weanling with the intention to re-sell it as a yearling.

PROGENY The offspring of a horse.

REMOVES Generations in a pedigree. For instance, a horse may have Star Kingdom on its third remove – that means that Star Kingdom is three generations back in the pedigree (if he was sire of the sire of the sire of the subject horse he would also be the 'great grandsire on the tail male line').

RIG A male horse which has a testicle that has not descended into the scrotum. Gelding of a rig requires a surgical operation.

SECOND DAM The grand-dam (grandmother) on the female side of the pedigree.

SEX BALANCED Usually referred to when **inbreeding**, if the individual to which the horse is inbred (or closely **linebred)** appears through both a son and a daughter, it is said to be **'**sex balanced'. For instance, if a horse was inbred 4 x 4 to Star Kingdom, through his son Biscay and his daughter Dark Jewel, Star Kingdom would be 'sex balanced'. This is a desirable pattern for speed enhancement.

SIRE Father of a horse (a stallion at stud is not termed a sire in catalogue pedigrees until he produces a winner).

STALLION Male horse over three years old which has not been castrated, also known as an 'entire'.

TABULATED PEDIGREE A **pedigree** displayed in table or grid format. The sire is always positioned at the top of the pedigree and the dam at the bottom.

TAIL FEMALE LINE The 'bottom line' of a **tabulated pedigree -** ie the dam, second dam, third dam, fourth dam etc.

TAIL MALE LINE The 'top line' of a **tabulated pedigree** – ie the sire, grandsire, great-grandsire etc.

THIRD DAM The great grand-dam on the female side of the pedigree.

THREE QUARTER SISTER / BROTHER IN-BLOOD Where the dam is the same (or a full sister) and the sire is a half brother to the sire of the other horse (three of the four grandparents are the same).

THREE QUARTER SISTER / BROTHER Where a horse is by the same sire and the dam is a half sister to the dam of the other horse (three of the four grandparents are the same).

WEANLING Horse under the age of one year (at 1st August) which has been weaned from its dam.

YEARLING A horse born after 1st August officially becomes a yearling on the following 1st August.