

## **Racing Briefing—Presented by Allie Conrad**

Good Morning. My name is Allie Conrad, I am the Executive Director for CANTER Mid Atlantic, one of many Non-Profit racehorse re-homing agencies in this country. I am honored to be here to speak on behalf of the horses that you do not see on TV—The horses running at the bottom of the barrel, the horses at low-level claiming tracks. Today I'm going to talk about several issues we face when dealing with the end of a thoroughbred's racing career. I'd like to make clear that most of us have loved racing our entire lives. We are not zealots, we are not anti-racing, we just want the industry to take better care of the animals they make a living on

I am here to point out the issues we see EVERYDAY, so that they can be discussed by the esteemed members of this panel and resolved as they are in every other sport in this country -- through an independent oversight agency.. I began CANTER Mid Atlantic in the year 2000, with the help of JoAnne Normile who started the flagship organization in Michigan. For the past eleven years, the eight CANTER organizations have worked to move over 5000 horses off of the track and into new homes both by offering a free advertising service for healthier racehorses at the end of their careers and by taking in the less fortunate victims of this industry. We are one group of many doing this work out there today.

I am sure you are wondering who I am, and what qualifies me to be sitting amongst these esteemed panelists. I am qualified to be here because I rehabilitate and re-home racehorses from what is thought to be one of the most infamous tracks for breakdowns in the country, Charles Town --just 60 minutes from where we sit today.

I have personally visited the Charles Town barns on average of 40 Saturdays a year, for the past 8 years, and my team of volunteers is present nearly every weekend.

I am qualified to be here because I touch these animals everyday. I see the condition they are in Every. Day. I am qualified to be here because I must make the heartbreaking decision to turn horses away from our organization every day due to lack of financial resources.

One thing that was made very clear to me early on is that racehorses are not protected from horrific ends by their pedigree. They are not protected by their high sales price at the High-End Auctions. They are certainly not protected by the money they win for owners.

We have cared for and re-homed sons and daughters of Derby, Preakness and Belmont Winners. We have saved horses who were purchased in excess of

100,000\$ only months before. We have rescued horses who have won over half a million dollars. None of it mattered once they could no longer perform. The only thing that protects a racehorse from a horrific death is having the good fortune of being owned and trained by caring, honest people.

And there ARE caring people in this sport. There are people that ensure the well being of their charges is the utmost importance. While I'd like to acknowledge and profusely thank these people, we are not here to talk about them, except to note that if there were more of them, we would not be here today. Instead we are here to talk about the dark side, the people who do not care, the people ruining what used to be the Sport of Kings. The people who are running their horses on injected joints to hide fractures, the people using claiming races to dump their crippled horses. The people who send their hard-working racehorses off to the kill pens on sore and broken bodies, collecting a paltry \$300, rather than spending that small amount to give that same horse a more dignified, peaceful ending

Consider these statistics from our first CANTER Program in Michigan, which started in 1997. They humanely euthanized 41 horses in 2007 alone after removing them from the racetrack. This program alone actively spends over \$50,000 per year on surgeries to restore those more fortunate horses to a serviceable career.

CANTER Mid Atlantic is currently home to 15 ex-racehorses, and over 60 have passed through our hands in 3 years. We have taken 15 of those 60 horses, only to use our funds to euthanize them because their racing injuries were too severe to recover from. Over the course of a year I see hundreds of horses whose only recourse at this point in their careers is euthanasia, but we can only afford to take in a fraction of them.

These horses weren't injured from a freak accident or a tragic misstep. They were injured over time with the assistance of trainers, owners and veterinarians--all who should have put the horse's welfare as a higher priority. Like horses all over the country,-these horses were injected with legal substances--both anabolic and catabolic steroids (cortisone), race day pain killers, and diuretics. We see the horses that pass through the claiming ranks and through multiple owners. The subsequent repeated use and abuse of these drugs on these horses is catastrophic. Worse, the legal drugs mask the use of the illicit drugs in these horses, which include EPO and cobra venom.

The result? Bone-on-bone arthritis, multiple inoperable bone chips, ligaments and tendons completely torn away from the structure they once supported. They raced on fractures and they raced to exhaustion, but they always ran as fast as their bodies would allow.

But even the small mercy of a peaceful death was one their owners could not or would not do for these horses who did everything ever asked of them.

I'm going to insist that every person in this room carefully read the handout I've provided (Michigan Horses), so you can see the lives that were wasted. This is not speculation, this is not hear-say. This is hard evidence of what is happening to our horses. I assure you that this spreadsheet is applicable to every low-level track in this country.

There is no magical green field waiting for permanently injured racehorses. There is at best, a needle waiting and far too often something much worse. Racing authorities need to insist that owners take responsibility for injured horses and NOT pass them along, they need to do the right thing and put the welfare first of an animal that cannot speak on its own behalf. To do anything less is irresponsible and inhumane.

I want to tell you some of the good stories, to show that if responsible decisions are made, if tougher rules against race-day medications was made, there is life for these animals. There is an ever-growing demand for Thoroughbreds for Sport Horse Careers. I am lucky in that for every animal we receive whose joints are trashed and must be euthanized, two are retired before that point by owners and trainers who care about them. Due to my limited time here, I have provided several wonderful success stories in the handouts.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of our hard work is that we are trying our best to clean up Racing's mess without financial support from the racing industry. An informal poll of 5 different non-profits revealed that less than 5% of funding came from racing itself. Taking away the much appreciated grants received from Thoroughbred Charities of America and Blue Horse Charities and that number drops still more. Consider this, the re-homing groups get Less than 5% from a billion-dollar industry, to care for the horses they've made their living from.

Simply put, Racing is not bothering to take care of it's own horses, and are allowing the public--often not even racing fans- to take care of the problems. This MUST change. It should be an owner's responsibility to provide veterinary or surgical care when they injure a horse through racing. It should be their responsibility to maintain that horse at during its rehabilitation. Then at that time, they turn the horse over to a re-homing group -- healed and sound -- and pay a fee for the group to take their horse and use their donated time to find it a good home. Those funds, if they do not come from the owner and trainer need to be set aside through starting fees or percentage of purses.

Couldn't The Jockey Club collect a fee for each horse registered? Could every racetrack collect even One Dollar per starter? Perhaps set aside a tenth of one percent of purse winnings be collected nationwide to pay for these animals. Caring for these animals should not be an afterthought, it should be the FIRST thought.

Racehorse Outplacement Agencies or Re-homing programs are too scarce. It is time to put programs in place at every track in the United States. To do anything less is a disservice to the horses and to the people who want options to do the right thing for the welfare of their horses.

New York Times Article published June 15th states just over 3000 horses died at racing facilities in 2007, which included TBs, STBs and Quarter Horses. It states that this number includes non-race accidents. I'd like to respectfully, yet strongly object to this low number. Nowhere are they accounting for the horses that pulled up, vanned off, and got sent to the sales. Nowhere are they accounting for the animals whose greatest ironic misfortune was to die in CANTER's barn instead of in front of a crowd of race-goers, when xrays of their joints revealed the abuses they have suffered were irreparable.

I am here speaking for the horses who cannot speak for themselves. I am here to represent every group in this country dedicated to their welfare. I am here to implore racing to address these issues.

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

**Michigan Data compiled by CANTER founder Jo Anne Normile. For further information please contact her at 734-455-5116.**

Please note that Racing trainers are nomadic as tracks close for the season. They will move to other low-level tracks in Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia among other states. The Michigan racing commission compiles no injury or death records for horses injured on the track. These figures do not include breakdowns that resulted in death on the racetrack. These horses are only those who were able to enter the CANTER program, not those sent to the sales.

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
<b>2007 Horses removed directly from racetrack or farms with injuries needing treatment, surgery or euthanasia</b>							
4/16/2007	Abby Coole	10	Redman, Deb	donated	severely underweight, lice-ridden, UTI, back injury	Euthanized	2007
11/20/2007	Angel	3	Sobczak, Adam	donated	dangerous behavior, questionable unsoundness	Euthanized	2007
10/4/2007	Backside Sunrise	4	Martinez, Alex	donated	knee fractures. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	10/12/2007
7/20/2007	Barbara's Jewel	7	Bennett/Nicks	donated	<b>Non-repairable ankle fracture, chronic and end-stage arthritis, ran only 4 days before intake to CANTER</b>	Euthanized	7/23/2007
9/19/2007	Belle d' Elite	4	Spiess, Shane	\$500	<b>Fund-raised for the \$500 to retire this injured filly, non-repairable knee fracture. Euthanized</b>	Euthanized	10/12/2007
10/13/2007	Buck's Secret	3	Bennett/Crone	donated	severe ankle arthritis at only 3 years old	Euthanized	11/2/2007
10/27/2007	Cabriolass	6	Russell, Randy	\$600	<b>Knee with large fracture, loss of joint cartilage, end-stage arthritis...CANTER notified Racing Commissioner of the gelding's upcoming race with hopes he would be vetted and scratched...not scratched. Fund-raised to pay trainer to retire the gelding...nonsalvageable knee fracture and euthanized</b>	Euthanized	11/2/2007
1/5/2007	Call Me Tuiti	6	Grassell, Mike	donated	contracted tendons, owner left horse with the condition	Euthanized	1/7/2007
10/27/2007	Can't Catch G.I.	3	Martinez, Pedro	donated	severe arthritis, bilateral ankles...at only 3 years old	Euthanized	11/2/2007
7/20/2007	Cat Stick	4	Atwood, Julie	donated	<b>Old knee chip injury which track vet told owner didn't need surgery, just some time off..6 months. Later x-ray by track vet said OK to race but horse still lame. After CANTER received horse, MSU evaluated. Unsalvageable and Euthanized</b>	Euthanized	7/27/2007
11/8/2007	Claims My Name	14	Widmark, Dana	\$100	broodmare found at farm with hoof sloughing from leg, determined to be a chronic and ongoing injury. Mare immediately Euthanized. Mare had foal at side.	Euthanized	11/8/2007
9/30/2007	Court Ace	4	Thibodeau, Pam	donated	non-repairable injuries, left front ankle and right hock	Euthanized	10/17/2007

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

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6/20/2007	Dream Deliverer	5	Bennett, Gerald	donated	severe arthritis right front, unsound at a walk	Euthanized	7/24/2007
11/3/2007	Goinritpast	4	Barron, Bobby	donated	Gelding with known knee fracture. Not salvageable when finally donated, Euthanized	Euthanized	11/8/2007
9/14/2007	Havana Anna	6	Spiess, Shane	donated	previously foundered then injured rear leg in gate accident and again laminitis after injury, Euthanized	Euthanized	12/31/2007
9/19/2007	Hesasonofagun	2	Spiess, Shane	donated	2 year old with wobblers, only thing that could be done for him was euthanasia	Euthanized	10/6/2007
11/20/2007	Indigo Rock	4	Sobczak, Adam	donated	back injury, non-healing and non-repairable	Euthanized	12/13/2007
11/15/2007	J Aled Rudolph	9	Cavanaugh, Ed	donated	old sesamoid fracture front, also lame in rear	Euthanized	12/31/2007
10/20/2007	Kiss On The Run	3	Klump, Matt	donated	right shoulder injury, continuing lameness	Euthanized	11/2/2007
11/8/2007	Kiss The Flame	5	Sobczak, Adam	donated	severe arthritis bilateral ankles	Euthanized	12/3/2007
11/8/2007	Los The Loot	5	Spiess, Shane	donated	degenerative myopathy	Euthanized	12/31/2007
5/29/2007	Meadow Gift	4	Spiess, Shane	donated	navicular	Euthanized	6/10/2007
10/21/2007	Ms Traitor	5	Pattah, Shahab	\$300	end-stage arthritis, bilateral ankles	Euthanized	11/2/2007
10/4/2007	Oh No Uno	3	Uelman, Jason	\$250	Surgery for knee fracture; colicked after requiring euthanasia	Euthanized	12/26/2007
2007	Peppermint Promise	13		donated	aged and arthritic broodmare	Euthanized	1/31/2007
9/3/2007	Restrike	5	Wilk, Barbara	donated	severely neurological	Euthanized	10/10/2007
11/15/2007	Runaway Easter	4	Widmark, Dana	\$250	Removed from Widmark farm: neurological, emaciated, no shelter in crowded/muddy conditions	Euthanized	
2007	Salty Lover	4	from Ohio CANTER	donated	severe OCD's stifles, surgery performed but not sound after	Euthanized	10/2/2007
6/26/2007	Search for a Star	5	Belknap, Dave	donated	right knee fracture, unsalvageable	Euthanized	7/2/2007
11/8/2007	Seeya Trouble		Sobczak, Adam	donated	Neurological	Euthanized	
8/5/2007	Siphoned	5	Russell, Randy	donated	fracture of right knee. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	8/10/2007
8/25/2007	Storming	5	Pattah, Shahab	donated	<b>Stood for almost 2 weeks with severe fracture of knee, donated to CANTER and had the horse euthanized at the track to avoid pain of transport to MSU</b>	Euthanized	8/26/2007
10/27/2007	Sunder Bay	6	Spanabel, Kelly	\$250	<b>Raced with bowed tendon, 90% of tendon torn away when CANTER received him. Euthanized</b>	Euthanized	11/2/2007
10/13/2007	Sunny Charmer	4	Robillard, Josh	donated	slab fracture, unsalvageable	Euthanized	10/17/2007
11/13/2007	That's My Chance	4	Cluely, Andrea	donated	bench-kneed, unsound	Euthanized	12/5/2007
8/1/2007	Top Faith	4	Martinez, Pedro	donated	lumber spine injury, right front joint injury, Euthanized	Euthanized	10/10/2007
9/9/2007	Tricky Tyler	10	Jackson, James	donated	severe, end-stage arthritis, very lame	Euthanized	10/6/2007

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11/3/2007	Unreal Dancer	10	Pranito, Frank	\$250	severe arthritis and old chips	Euthanized	12/5/2007
6/20/2007	Valentine	5	Martinez, Pedro	donated	swollen hock, non-healing and longstanding infection of the hock from repeated injections	Euthanized	8/10/2007
5/30/2007	Whitmark	6	Spanabel, Kelly	\$250	Old, chronic and repeated injury to knee, unable to flex or even lie down	Euthanized	6/11/2007
11/7/2007	Winds of Love	9	Spanabel, Kelly	\$250	raced with hardware in ankle, end-stage arthritis, bone degeneration from repeated injections, Euthanized	Euthanized	12/3/2007
					<b>TOTAL 2007 EUTHANIZED: 41</b>	<b>TOTAL 41</b>	
11/23/2007	Aggravating Annie	6	Sobczak, Adam	donated	broodmare sound only		
11/7/2007	Baltic Hydra	6	Uelman, Larry	\$250	Surgery for RH apical fracture of sesamoid		
10/20/2007	Beulah Special	4	Pattah, Shahab	\$500	crooked legged, unsound		
9/14/2007	Call Me Danny	5	Martinez, Pedro	donated	Surgery for ankle fractures-remove bone chips		
7/28/2007	Can't We Smooch	4	Woods, Karla	donated	Surgery for condylar fracture		
11/8/2007	Claudines Kitten	8	Widmark, Dana	\$100	broodmare sound only		
9/14/2007	Count the Facts	3	Waite, Del	donated	Surgery to remove bone chip of carpal bone		
11/7/2007	Devilsville Slew	6	Spiess, Shane	donated	ankle chip, non-surgical, attempt rest/re-evaluate		
7/23/2007	Edens Lite	8		donated	emaciated broodmare		
9/3/2007	Fluent Edge	6	Bennett/Plever	donated	Surgery ankle fractures, chips removed		
11/3/2007	Holy Words	3	Uelman, Larry	\$250	Surgery medial sesamoid fracture of RH fetlock and sesamoiditis		
11/3/2007	Independent Gliter	3	Uelman, Larry	\$250	Examined and sound but totally body sore.		
8/26/2007	Inmylifetime	3	Uelman, Larry	donated	Surgery for fractures of middle carpal joint and torn ligament back of knee		
11/21/2007	Juan's Bouncer	7	Widmark, Dana	\$500	Removed from same Widmark farm as other horse. Horse very thin and in poor condition, fund-raised to purchase him to remove him from farm		
10/20/2007	Lil Dots Binkissed	4	Klump, Matt	donated	bowed tendon, just needs time off		
11/10/2007	Lil Eva	7	Sobczak, Adam	donated	broodmare sound only		
11/15/2007	Love and Hope	6	Widmark, Dana	\$250	Removed from same Widmark farm as Euthanized Runaway Easter but mare had just arrived at the farm and was in good condition		
9/8/2007	Mister P	2	Williams, Charlie	donated	sesamoid fracture right front, only 2 years old.		
8/26/2007	Naturally Swift	4	Waite, Del	donated	Surgery - knee fracture and repair of bowed tendon		
10/13/2007	Odd You Should Ask	7	Frejje, Claudette	donated	Surgery for removal of bone chips		

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

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8/1/2007	Palacious Summer	3	Spiess, Roger	donated	Surgery 8-9-07 to damaged stifles due to repeated injections. Still lame and most likely will need euthanasia		
11/7/2007	Rainbow Rose	7	Wood, Robert	donated	sore backed		
7/14/2007	Sarah's Goldengirl	9	Martinez, Pedro	donated	gate accident, lacerations and abrasions		
9/3/2007	Sassy Susie Q	2	Inman, Ron	donated	Surgery for sesamoid fracture		
5/23/2007	Saucon Creek	7	Benjamin, Kelly	donated	Surgery for tendon injury		
11/7/2007	Savvy Soiree	4	Spiess, Shane	donated	Surgery to remove bilateral knee bone fragments of the radiocarpal bone fragments		
11/3/2007	Secret Stripes	3	Spiess, Shane	1500*	<b>*Trainer refused to not race injured horse unless CANTER bought the horse for \$1500. Immediate examination after purchase revealed knee fractures. Non-surgical. Broodmare only</b>		
10/20/2007	Silkie's Diz	7	Foggiano, Donna	donated	Surgery for removal of bilateral OCD's in hocks		
2007	Single Again	6		donated	Surgery for displaced condylar fracture of RF. Screws, cast. Continuing with rehabilitation.		
2007	Supermarket Queen	5	from CANTER Ohio	donated	Surgery for knee fracture, removal of bone fragments with degenerative joint disease		
11/12/2007	Tissues	13	Sobczak, Adam	donated	broodmare sound only		
11/3/2007	Town Man	3	Foggiano, Donna	donated	Surgery LF fetlock fracture - removed bone chip		
5/6/2007	Untamed Irish	14	Reynolds, Lori	donated	Found at farm 200-300 pounds underweight, pregnant, lice ridden, broodmare sound only		
<b>2006 Horses removed directly from racetrack or farms with injuries needing treatment, surgery or euthanasia</b>							
6/28/2006	Astor Street	6	Benjamin, Kelly	donated	ankles destroyed, multiple injections, severe arthritis	Euthanized	6/28/2006
2006	Bold Joi'ski	4	Zimmer, Tom		Rearing under saddle and kicking. Suspected spinal problem	Euthanized	2006
8/22/2006	Buckflanker	4	Spanabel, Kelly	donated	bilateral knees, slab fracture and chips	Euthanized	8/22/2006
8/26/2006	Celtic Trick	2	Londono, Odin	\$250	severe knee slab fracture. Only 2 years old	Euthanized	8/31/2006
10/6/2006	Del's Choice	20+	Miller, Bob	donated	Aged broodmare no longer able to get in foal..	Euthanized	2006
2006	DeSoto	9	Grace/Sobczak	donated	dangerous to handle and questionable soundness	Euthanized	2006
2006	Etbaur's Gift	5	Benjamin, Kelly	donated	Surgery for knee fractures. Colicked post surgery	Euthanized	8/23/2006
2006	Flash of Cash	3	Hirt, Chett	donated	severe founder, coffin bone through sole, probable etiology is "bad" injection. 3 years old	Euthanized	5/22/2006

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
10/1/2006	Hawaiiin Lord	11	Scheurer, Ruth	donated	severe arthritis all joints, severe hock degeneration due to untreated infection	Euthanized	8/21/2006
2006	Heller	9	Grace/Sobczak	donated	Dangerous to handle/questionable soundness	Euthanized	10/2/2006
1/27/2006	Hurricane Bill	5	Mt. Pleasant Track		bilateral enlarged ankles bowed tendon/severe pelvic injury	Euthanized	2/23/2006
2006	Inprint	3			"knee is collapsed" per MSU	Euthanized	2006
2006	Inside Pitch	6			knee had 2 large chips and slab fracture	Euthanized	12/6/2006
2/9/2006	Janna's Flier	6	Leonardi, Hugo		Sore/walking on heel bulbs/ found old pelvis fracture	Euthanized	2006
2006	Jetta's Golden Boy	7	Hirt/Sobczak	donated	laminitis/founder with coffin bone through sole	Euthanized	8/22/2006
10/1/2006	Jette For Money	6		donated	Fractured knee. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	10/1/2006
2/1/2006	Kathy's In	14		donated	severe arthritis, aged broodmare, blind	Euthanized	2/1/2006
9/1/2006	Lady Texas	4	Hirt/Sobczak	donated	From farm with year old slab fracture suffered as a 3 year old. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	8/11/2006
2006	Lake John	4	Grace/Sobczak	donated	Loss of bone due to longstanding untreated infection, "one of the worse vet has seen"	Euthanized	8/14/2006
2006	Lilkiingirl	5	Sobczak, Adam	donated	Knee slab fracture	Euthanized	9/20/2007
10/1/2006	Lou's Expectation	7	Goldenberg, Jim	Donated	Surgery to repair bilateral fractured sesamoids, left him only pasture sound. Was retired but eventually colicked.	Euthanized	Feb-06
2006	Magic Conqueror	5	Spanabel, Kelly	donated	lame, arthroscopy left knee, severe arthritis	Euthanized	2006
10/6/2006	Mustafa	7	Gaffka, Sean	donated	Bilateral ankles with advanced arthritis	Euthanized	2006
10/1/2006	Popularize	6	Squaws Landing	Donated	right hind ankle sesamoid fracture	Euthanized	10/1/2007
10/1/2006	Rip n Roar	6	Mock, Tend	donated	Surgery for knee fracture.Post surgery fractured leg while cast	Euthanized	2006
2006	Teralote	6	Hanneman, Rick	donated	severe bilateral ankle arthritis, chronic injury/previous multiple injections	Euthanized	11/19/2006
2006	The Play's The Thing	3	Hirt/Sobczak	donated	bilateral knee fractures/chips at only 3 years old. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	8/23/2006
10/1/2006	The Suave Commoner	5	Waters, Karl	donated	large chip in fetlock and arthritis "very, very advanced" per MSU	Euthanized	12/11/2006
2006	Tower Six	5	Hirt/Sobczak	donated	from farm with old injury and unsound, chronic and unsalvageable	Euthanized	8/11/2006
6/28/2006	Vague Hint	7		donated	non-healing bowed tendon, continuing lameness	Euthanized	
2006	Villa's Man	6	Hirt/Sobczak	donated	chronic injury, navicular bone fracture	Euthanized	8/11/2007
10/6/2006	Sir Marlin	5	Spanabel, Kelly/ Vanderhyde, Tom	donated	Chronic lameness, arthritis, sore back	Euthanized	2006

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
2006	Sorbie	3	Waite, Del	donated	3 yr. Severe arthritis from old injuries	Euthanized	2006
10/6/2006	Hilary's Crisis	6	Piper, Amy	donated	severe untreated slab fracture, stood for 2 months after injury untreated. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	12/4/2006
10/1/2006	Brett n Butter	6	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Severe arthritis. Nonriding rest failed to show any improvement. Lamé.	Euthanized	2006
10/6/2006	Cut The Ribbon	6	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Surgery for knee fractures. Colicked post surgery	Euthanized	2006
					<b>TOTAL 2007 EUTHANIZED: 36</b>	<b>TOTAL 36</b>	
2006	Codex Dancer	5			Old bowed tendon. Shock wave therapy		
10/1/2006	Crafty Comet	5	Grace/Sobczak	donated	Broodmare/pasture sound only		
2006	Jumpin Joe	5	Hirt/Sobczak				
2006	Katies Cuddles	4	Hirt/Sobczak				
10/6/2006	Loot Tooten Boy	3	Uelman, Larry	\$250	sound but rescue had to purchase the horse		
9/1/2006	Lord Johnny	3	Glenn, Dwaine	Donated	lame, sound after time off		
10/1/2006	Lucky Sixes	5	Slot, Sonia	donated	sound but thin/nervous, on 30-day tranquilizers		
10/1/2006	Marcis Class	3	Hirt, Chet	donated	only broodmare sound		
2/1/2006	Merrimack Zack JC	5	Davis, Joe		?		
2006	Moll It Over	3	Wood, Robert	donated	Surgery for knee fractures		
2006	Super Goodtimes	3	Rupert/VanderHyde	donated	Surgery for knee fractures after horse stood in stall for 10 days before rescue was called		
<b>2005 Horses removed directly from racetrack or farms with injuries needing treatment, surgery or euthanasia</b>							
4/1/2005	Actslikechamp	6	Stevenson, Julie	donated	Surgery 4-18-05 knee fracture. Extended rest. Still lame	Euthanized	3/29/2006
10/23/2005	About Time To Win	10	Cavanaugh, Ed	donated	10 yr.old. Ankles destroyed/hock infection	Euthanized	11/8/2005
7/15/2005	Arkangel	3	Skinner, Diana/Jonna	donated	Old untreated knee fracture.. Nonsurgical/Unsalvageable	Euthanized	8/11/2005
9/20/2005	Castlewood	8	Debino, Roger Chicago	donated	ankles/roach back/sore	Euthanized	9/26/2005
1/15/2005	Chassis	5	Briggs, Asa	donated	Owner states "ankles". Euthanize per Kern Rd. Vet. Xrays	Euthanized	2/3/2005
7/28/2005	Dear Gulch	3	Martinez, Pedro	donated	Surgery 8-2-05 for slab fracture unsuccessful	Euthanized	8/1/2005
7/20/2005	Falling Star	4	Owner?/Leonardi, Hu	500	Xrays to MSU 9-8-05. Ankles nonsurgical	Euthanized.	10/22/2005
7/6/2005	Gold Play	6	Benjamin, Kelly	donated	Ankles - injected 3 wks ago. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	7/22/2005
9/20/2005	Jackdaw	4	Chicago	donated	Surgery -tendon/annular ligament unsuccessful	Euthanized	12/15/2005
1/15/2005	Joe Pat	6	Briggs, Asa	donated	Trainer states "knee chips".Xray/Euthanize per Kern Rd Vet	Euthanized	2/3/2005
7/21/2005	Marchand Volant	7	Benjamin, Kelly	donated	11-22-05 to MSU stifle injury. Extended rest. Still lame	Euthanized	3/10/2006

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
3/5/2005	Moscow Caper	5	Uehlman, Larry	donated	Knee fractures unsalvageable	Euthanized	3/13/2005
9/23/2005	Mustbeamarlin	4	Johnson, Deb	donated	Fracture left hind. Needs injections to ride	Euthanized	10/27/2005
6/10/2005	Northern Thoughts	6	Fitzgerald	donated	Significant arthritis in hind. Rested 60 days. Lamé	Euthanized	7/22/2005
5/11/2005	Out There	5	Morris, Liz	donated	Surgery 5-18-05 for tendon. Painful unresolved abscesses	Euthanized	10/4/2005
3/11/2005	Passionate Soldier	6	Bennett, Gerald/AAC	donated	Knee arthritis/fractures nonsurgical per Dr. Evan Moore	Euthanized	4/1/2005
7/21/2005	Penny Anne	4	Hirt, Chett	donated	Old sesamoid fracture now nonsurgical/unsalvageable	Euthanized	8/11/2005
8/13/2005	Perkin Warbeck	13	Slot, Sonia	donated	Stallion from farm with injury	Euthanized	7/15/2005
12/6/2005	Regal Rebel	6	Pattah, Shahab	donated	Knee collapsed from multiple fractures	Euthanized	12/6/2005
10/12/2005	Ryndam	4	Rupert, John	donated	Unable to properly flex on retraining. Old neck fracture	Euthanized	8/21/2006
7/6/2005	Sara's Circus Boy.	4	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Surgery for knee fractures/castration. Unsuccessful	Euthanized	8/5/2005
7/6/2005	Sharp Response	4	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Old bow/unstable pelvis/spine	Euthanized	7/18/2005
5/22/2005	Steady Ruckus	6	Bennett, Gerald	donated	9 yrs old. Ankle fractures/arthritis nonsurgical	Euthanized	6/4/2005
9/8/2005	Suave Knight	5	Frankina, Guy	donated	Nonweight bearing on slab fracture	Euthanized	9/12/2005
11/29/2005	Visalin	3	Leichty, DVM Chicag	donated	Surgery at MSU spiral fracture of rear cannon bone	Euthanized	11/29/2005
3/5/2005	Winning Affair	8	Uehlman, Larry	donated	Bilateral ankle arthritis - nonsurgical/unsalvageable	Euthanized	3/13/2005
5/31/2005	Overexposed	3	Rupert, John	donated	Surgery 6-10-05 knee fracture		
2/5/2005	Adamexpress	4	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	Surgery 3-8-05 hock lesion.		
11/4/2005	Agricola	5	Russell, Randy	donated	Surgery 11-21-05 tendon and annular ligament old/new bow		
9/8/2005	Cheyenne's Will	4	Kuefner/McKuen	donated	Surgery 9-9-05 knee fracture		
6/7/2005	Diamantis	3	Belknap, Dave	donated	Surgery 6-8-05 knee fracture		
8/28/2005	Elegantly Tricky	3	Karcher, Doug	donated	Previous surgery to remove bone fragments from knee at age 2. No further surgery. Sound for flat work only		
9/8/2005	Pet Your Cat	5	Martinez, Pedro /Mclsaac, Kathy	donated	Surgery 9-9-05 ankle fracture.		
5/11/2005	Stolen Honor	7	Morris, Liz	donated	MSU evaluated. Ankle fused. Light riding only		
4/30/2005	Dunala	2		donated	Knee fracture. Adopted by MSU vet for one dollar.		
8/28/2005	Drunken Monkey	3	Bland, Roy	250	Surgery 9-9-05 ankle fracture		
9/14/2005	Refiners Gold	6	Belden, Sue/Larry	donated	back subluxation. Lamé. Needs therapy and reevaluate		
11/1/2005	Cone of Silence	5	Riker, JD, Indiana	donated	Surgery for bilateral knee fractures. Limited light riding		
8/12/2005	Kona Beau	6	Belden, Tiffany	donated	Surgery 8-18-05 LF ankle/knee fractures		
10/12/2005	Persistant Paul	3	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Surgery 11-8-05 tendon repair		
6/23/2005	Q Royal blew By U	4	Thibodeau, Pam	donated	Surgery 7-7-05		
8/12/2005	Sandra's Brave	6	Bland, Roy	donated	Surgery for old slab fracture in knee		
9/14/2005	Sisters Mister	4	Zimmer, Tom	donated	Surgery at MSU 9-16-05		

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
<b>2004 Horses removed directly from racetrack or farms with injuries needing treatment, surgery or euthanasia</b>							
12/20/2004	Two Bit Ginger	3	Brown, Sid	donated	Hock injury. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	1/25/2005
12/28/2004	Light and Lethal	3	Hirt, C./Brown, Sid	donated	Bilateral knee fractures also positive neurological	Euthanized	1/18/2005
8/17/2004	Loaded Six String	4	Turner/Swearingen	donated	Surgery 9-20-05/MSU 6-2005. Still lame	Euthanized	7/10/2005
10/27/2004	Ain't No Yank	10	Hirt/Waltman	donated	Did Not Finish Race -bilateral ankle fractures	Euthanized	11/5/2004
2/8/2004	Tweenthelines	5	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Surgery attempted - knee fracture too severe to repair	Euthanized	3/10/2004
2/25/2004	Pineing Rebel	7	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Multiple lamenesses/very sore	Euthanized	3/26/2004
5/13/2004	AJ Flyer	8		donated	Knees deteriorated, rested, nonsurgical	Euthanized	8/25/2004
5/15/2004	Naseer Spirit	5	Pattah, Shahab	donated	Taken directly from track colicking 12 days	Euthanized	5/15/2004
5/28/2004	Gems Fella	7	Grace, John	250	Ankle fractured- unsalvageable	Euthanized	6/2/2004
6/23/2004	Legendary Halo	4	Hirt, Chett	donated	Lame LF, rested 30 days. Still sore, lame	Euthanized	8/20/2004
6/23/2004	Red Headed Romeo	5	Carrillo	donated	Knee fractured - unsalvageable	Euthanized	7/7/2004
7/22/2004	Winnie's Pooh Bear	6	Bennett/AAC Stables	donated	X-rays, unsalvageable. Euthanized at farm	Euthanized	8/11/2004
7/29/2004	Crafty Jarrett	5	Gonzalez/Stokes	donated	LF basilar fracture/RF arthritis	Euthanized	8/9/2004
8/5/2004	Mystery Dreams	5	Stokes	donated	Racing on old screws/pins - new Injury	Euthanized	8/9/2004
8/18/2004	Little Rosa Lynn	5	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	Ankles damaged/over at knee	Euthanized	8/31/2004
8/24/2004	Lord Rambo	4	Stokes/Hayes	donated	Stallion with ankle deterioration	Euthanized	9/2/2004
9/5/2004	Surprise Package	8	Shannon, Jennifer	donated	LF knee fracture/arthritis -nonsurgical	Euthanized	9/21/2004
9/9/2004	Marland	5	Duffy, Helga	donated	X-rays. Enlarged hock. Euthanized per MSU	Euthanized	10/13/2004
9/28/2004	Pablo Diablo	3	Wood	donated	knee fracture Injected 4-5 wks. Pelvis unstable	Euthanized	9/29/2004
9/28/2004	Smart Alix	4	Cecil, Claude	donated	Ankles destroyed/No flexion/injections, etc.	Euthanized	9/29/2004
10/14/2004	Touch Of Power	7	Bennett, Gerald	donated	3 legs unsalvageable. Black type winner	Euthanized	11/9/2004
10/20/2004	Truth of the Heart	7	Neph, Mike	donated	Nonsurgical sesamoid fracture	Euthanized	11/5/2004
10/21/2004	Hometown	5	Briggs, Asa	donated	Prior RF surgery unsuccessful. Sore. Lame	Euthanized	11/11/2004
10/23/2004	Show On Demand	3	Kizer, Karen	donated	Spinal compression. Cannot be girthed	Euthanized	Nov-04
10/26/2004	Favorite Seat	7	Grace, John	donated	Ankles destroyed. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	11/11/2004
9/23/2004	Spirosandnicholis	6	Rupert, John	donated	Multiple lameness. Positive flexions front and back. 6 months rest and medication—no improvement.	Euthanized	3/2/2005
8/24/2004	Ballistic	8	Stokes/Hayes	donated	Surgery - 9-2-04 basilar fracture..		
10/14/2004	Bringontherain	4	Benjamin, Kelly	donated	Surgery 3-1-05 hock surgery. 3-1-05. Reevaluate 9-2005		
10/27/2004	Cloda's Joy	2	Martinez, Pedro/Mclsaac	donated	Surgery - 11-9-04 knee chip/torn ligament		
8/31/2004	Jimmy's Move	4	Carrillo	donated	Surgery - 9-2-04 Slab fracture of knee		
7/22/2004	Rhythmair	6	Swiatkowski	donated	crushed heels/special shoes/castration		

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
11/5/2004	Salinas Regal Luck	5	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	Surgery 12-17-04 ankle fracture		
10/21/2004	Sunset Side	5	Serafine, Flores	250	Surgery 12-6-04 Bowed tendon in race		
9/28/2004	Teazabull	4	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Surgery 9-29-04 LF ankle fracture		
11/5/2004	Thickett's Ticket	5	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	Surgery 12-17-04 bilateral ankle fractures		
<b>2003 Horses removed directly from racetrack or farms with injuries needing treatment, surgery or euthanasia</b>							
9/1/2003	Ticketed	4	McBride, Barbara	donated	10 mo.post surgery-still severely lame	Euthanized	7/2/2004
9/17/2003	Rambling Native	5	Hollingsworth	250	Pasture rested. Very lame severe arthritis/weaver	Euthanized	7/8/2004
10/27/2003	Hunt The Dream	4	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Awaiting surgery-founded	Euthanized	1/9/2004
8/20/2003	Bingo Brat	7	Glenn, Dwaine	donated	Knee fracture/infected	Euthanized	8/20/2003
8/6/2003	Blaze of Light	5	Bennett, Gerald	donated	basilar fracture	Euthanized	8/20/2003
10/15/2003	Cat Twister	4	Gregg, Carol	donated	Old rear ankle fracture	Euthanized	11/5/2003
8/12/2003	Deer Be Little	4	Grace/Duke	donated	Slab fracture of knee	Euthanized	8/27/2003
1/13/2003	Great Courage	3	Leonardi, Hugo,	donated	neurologic	Euthanized	4/1/2003
9/17/2003	Kuranda	5	Spanabel, Kelly	250	Knee fractures	Euthanized	10/22/2003
8/11/2003	Musical Miracle	6	Jenkins, Bill	donated	RF ankle/Lknee fractures	Euthanized	8/30/2003
8/24/2003	Private Michael	7	Spiess, Shane	donated	Ankle & knee fractures	Euthanized	8/30/2003
9/29/2003	Royal Escapade	4	Reading, John		Rear leg fracture	Euthanized	10/16/2003
7/20/2003	S.A. River Walk	3	Northrup, Butch	donated	Knee slab fracture	Euthanized	7/23/2003
11/20/2003	Sea of Joy	5	Briggs, Asa	donated	X-rays. Severe ringbone	Euthanized	12/9/2003
9/17/2003	Stylish Tour	2	McBride, Barbara	donated	neurologic	Euthanized	9/29/2003
11/28/2003	Turn to Slew	18	La Fleur, Nick	500	Neglect case at TB breeding farm reported to Hooved Animal Rescue which asked CANTER to handle	Euthanized	12/9/2003
10/25/2003	Untenable	8	Hirt, Chett	250	knees/ankles	Euthanized	11/7/2003
6/13/2003	Vidalia Storm	3	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Slab fracture	Euthanized	7/16/2003
10/25/2003	Voice Port	7	Hirt, Chett	250	multiple knee fractures	Euthanized	11/7/2003
9/1/2003	Air Cadet	7	Wood, Nancy	donated	Surgery - annular ligament		
7/16/2003	Fair Hayley	4	Jenkins, Bill	donated	Surgery - cannon bone fracture		
6/12/2003	Grand Horizon	4	Rupert, John	donated	Surgery - ankle fracture		
8/6/2003	Gulfport	5	Bennett, Gerald	donated	Surgery-fractured splint bones		
9/1/2003	Hidden Color	2	Martinez, Pedro	donated	Ankle/knee arthritis/broodmare only		
10/22/2003	Holddedough	5	McBride, Barbara	donated	Surgery - ankle fracture		
7/6/2003	Kim Has The Power	4	Martinez, Pedro	donated	Surgery - knee fracture		
8/12/2003	Lady Lure	3	Grace, John/Duke	donated	x knees		

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
7/28/2003	Pito	5	Martinez, Pedro	donated	Surgery - knee fracture		
5/17/2003	Red Eye Bishop	4	Rupert, John	donated	Surgery - knee fracture		
7/10/2003	T Man's Glitter	6	Reading, John	donated	Surgery - knee fracture		
9/29/2003	Tri N One	4	Iacovacci, C.	donated	Knee fx 10-20 surgery		
10/25/2003	Rockport Gal	3	McBride, Barbara	donated	Surgery 11-6-03		
10/13/2003	Witches' Match	3			Bilateral hock arthritis/light work only		
<b>2002 Horses removed directly from racetrack or farms with injuries needing treatment, surgery or euthanasia</b>							
10/10/2002	A Simple Xpression	4	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	MSU x-rayed, evaluated/rested 10 mos./still lame	Euthanized	8/26/2003
10/1/2002	Bankers Catch	7		donated	Surgery-knee fracture. Rested 9 mos/still lame	Euthanized	7/25/2003
7/3/2002	Betty B's Blaster	5	Bartel	donated	Severely destroyed hocks.	Euthanized	2002
5/29/2002	Cherokee Penny	3	Dimi	donated	Fractured knee in a race the night before. Chicago trainer shipping in didn't know what to do so left the horse for us to pick up the next day. Fracture unsalvageable..	Euthanized	
10/31/2002	Dancer's Sparkle	4	Londono, Odin	800	Starved/neglect track case/Club foot surgery/Unsuccessful	Euthanized	2003
10/5/2002	Dancing Laddy	4	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	Hock enlarged with no cartilage. Multiple knee chips in front.	Euthanized	2002
10/19/2002	Decreed	5	Hirt, Chett	donated	Both front ankles destroyed. Unsalvageable	Euthanized	2002
10/12/2002	East Of New Dover	9	Grace, John	donated	Sesamoid fracture, very old. Multiple prior injections	Euthanized	2002
9/8/2002	Fine Air	3	Martinez, Pedro	500	Osteomyelitis rear leg bone	Euthanized	2002
8/31/2002	Halogen	5	Pattah, Shahab	500	Knee fractures, multiple	Euthanized	2002
8/16/2002	Lane's Up At Dawn	4	Hollingsworth	500	Surgery - knee fracture /gelded/continued lameness/behavior	Euthanized	12/15/2005
10/30/2002	Mr. Doctor	7	Pritchard	donated	Vein infection and bilateral knee fractures.. Arthroscopic surgery with recovery time failed to make him sound	Euthanized	2003
6/22/2002	Poised N Powerful	3	Paquette	500	Severe rotation of coffin bone LF. Sesamoid fracture RF	Euthanized	2002
6/20/2002	Royal Order	5	Londono Jr.	500	Bilateral knee fracture/colicked post surgery	Euthanized	2002
7/28/2002	Rumbling Sound	3	Hinshaw	500	Severe fracture of left knee. Prior joint injections. Extremely lame. Thrush infection in soles of all 4 feet. Hole in sole from severe thrush.	Euthanized	2002
9/21/2002	Synastry's Chime	3	Martinez, Pedro	400	Severe sesamoid fracture. Unsalvageable.	Euthanized	2002
8/31/2002	Tenbroke	3	Davis, Joe	donated	Double slab fractures of the knee	Euthanized	2002
10/31/2002	Wild Game	6	Illicin, Al	donated	Slab fracture/nonriding broodmare only		
7/25/2002	Very Dicey	4	Hinshaw	500	Surgery - tendon. Died of colic post surgery		
6/22/2002	Hesobrite	4	Hinshaw	500	Surgery - knee fractured		

Michigan Horses Removed from Racetrack or Farms with Racing Injuries Needing treatment, surgery or Euthanasia

MI INTAKE	HORSE NAME	AGE	OWNER/TRAINER	ACQUIRED	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY or Vet EVALUATED	STATUS	DATE
7/28/2002	Lady Juanita	2	Breckenridge	500	Surgery - tendon		
10/5/2002	Monetary's Best	4	Gallagher	donated	Surgery - knee fractured		
11/1/2002	Sweet Riddle	7	Cluely, Andrea	donated	Surgery - Tendon		
5/11/2002	Pick A Runner	4	Londono, Odin	donated	Surgery - tendon		
10/12/2002	Bid Approval	6	Richards	donated	Surgery -tendon		
6/30/2002	Chosen Devil	6	Thibodeau, Pam	donated	Surgery - Slab fracture		
8/30/2002	I'm A Traitor	5	Rupert, John	donated	Surgery - knee fractured		
7/28/2002	Kit Kat Kit	4	Wood	donated	Surgery- tendon		
8/24/2002	Luke's Abc's	5	Mullens, Buddy	300	Surgery- tendon		
11/2/2002	Marcello	4	Iacovacci, Cindi	500	Surgery-both knees fractured		
5/29/2002	Money Blues	3	Spanabel, Kelly	500	Surgery - knee fractured		
6/30/2002	Mr. Austin High	3	Panitch	donated	Surgery - knee fractured		
7/17/2002	Sorry	7	Remlinger	500	Surgery - knee fractured		
8/3/2002	Texas Topper	8	Spiess, Shane	500	Surgery-ankle fracture		
7/1/2002	Panishe	2	Returned	donated	Surgery - fractured jaw		
8/31/2002	Flash Of Lightning	5	Turner	donated	Surgery - knee fractured		
9/21/2002	La Espuela	4	Leonardi, Hugo	donated	Sesamoid fracture		
12/18/2002	Arctic Course	7	Martinez, Pedro	donated	Surgery - knee fractured		
7/6/2002	Cozy Up To Charlie	3	Grace, John	500	Surgery - knee fractured		
10/5/2002	Jimmie's Annie	3	Bianchi, Jerry	500	Surgery - knee fractured		
10/12/2002	Let's Pretend	4	Rupert, John	donated	Surgery - knee fractured		
10/12/2002	Lights Life	5	Tinkle, Gary	donated	Sesamoid fracture		
10/1/2002	Lucky Mood Dancer	5	Compliment, Chuck	500	Slab fracture		
10/27/2002	Nervous Moment	6	Crone, Mary	donated	Sesamoid fracture		
10/31/2002	River Bluff	5	Illicin, Al	500	Surgery - knee fractured		
10/27/2002	Jugamoney	4	Hirt, Chett	500	Eval/suspensory		
10/27/2002	Painted Rebel	10	Hirt, Chett	500	Sesamoid fracture		
6/17/2002	Thunder Dillon	5	Fritz	donated	Surgery for stifle infection. Trainer attempted to close laceration with office staples. Severely swollen, infected, squirting pus from stapled area while moving 3 legged lame.		
<b>NUMBERS MAYBE DIFFERENT IN TABBED SECTIONS BELOW DUE TO LINES THAT CONTAIN HEADINGS OR NOTES.</b>							
<b>TOTAL HORSES FOR 2002 - 2003 INJURED OR EUTHANIZED BY MICHIGAN CANTER FROM ITS RACING INDUSTRY: 282</b>							

## A Few Thoroughbreds that Racing has Forgotten

### **Sully's Silver-Exceller Fund**

Gray Gelding; Foaled 2001

by Silver Ghost out of Jessie Wyler (by With Approval)

21 Starts, 2 Wins, 1 Places, 2 Shows **Career Earnings:** \$43,183

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This amazingly sweet horse faces an uncertain future due to injuries sustained from racing. Sully has overcome a number of physical obstacles, but he faces many more. Sully was another horse that came off the track in New York and was in danger of being shipped for slaughter. We paid a dealer to secure him and sent him to the ReRun facility in New York. Upon arrival, poor Sully had a huge abscess on his front foot, and a sore ankle and knee on his other leg. He was also wounded behind his ear where another more aggressive horse bit him. Sully has recovered from the bite wound and the abscess. The ankle has now fused, but the knee continues to be a problem.

An x-ray was taken to find out the extent of the problem, and the result is not good. **The knee has a lot of chips and arthritic deterioration. We are taking things one day at a time with Sully, and as long as any pain can be managed, we are not ready to give up.** Throughout all of this, his caregivers report that Sully maintains a calm and gentle nature. Sully's gift is his ability to forgive. He holds no grudges, and you can't help but be proud of this gelding. We are hoping to find a foster care situation or loving adoptive home in a warmer southern climate that will be able to give Sully one-on-one love and attention.



Sully's Silver

# RARE ANGEL – Exceller Fund

Dark Bay or Brown Mare; Foaled 1986

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A Thoroughbred mare foaled in 1986, Rare Angel was rescued from the feedlot just a few days before she would have been sent to the slaughterhouse. By Rare Prospect out of Adorn by Royal Knight, she has very good bloodlines and has many of the great Thoroughbreds in her pedigree, including Mr. Prospector, Bold Ruler, Native Dancer, Princequillo, and Teddy.

Angel has very bad knees. She is pasture-sound but will never be rideable again.

Other than her knees, Angel is sound to live outside and doing very well in her new life as a pasture horse. She is one of The Exceller Fund's pensioners and we will take care of her as long as she lives.



# DAVID'S SHADOW—Exceller Fund

Gray/Roan Gelding; Foaled 1996

David's Shadow was welcomed into the Exceller Fund family in the beginning of July 2002. He is a large gray, about 16.1 to 16.2 hands, and the rumor is that he is VERY handsome. He had a slab fracture in his right front knee but was injected and raced again. The Exceller Fund was contacted about him by Mylestone Equine Rescue, who took him in immediately. A generous donor paid \$500 to a dealer for him and will, in turn, donate David's Shadow to us.

He has a knee full of bone chips and arthritis. He is not in pain all the time and runs around as much as he can but he will come up lame. Mylestone tells us that he doesn't like to be bathed because he doesn't like water dripping off him. He is sociable and good with other horses although a bit studdish with the mares. They nicknamed him Jules because he is so dashing!



## Brave Miner-One of Racing's Disposable Horses

Written by Joy Aten



I first saw Brave Miner in 1999. It was opening year of TB racing at Great Lakes Downs in Muskegon, Michigan, and being a lifelong fan of the "sport of kings", I was thrilled to have live racing only 45 minutes from my home. He was larger than life to me...a gleaming chestnut that exuded confidence, class, and dignity. I could only dream of having him as a member of my beloved equine family.

The following year, I became involved with CANTER-Michigan. The Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses was only 3 years old at the time, having been started by Jo Anne Normile in 1997 when TB racing took place at Detroit Race Course. CANTER is now one of the leading organizations that transitions TB racehorses off the track when their racing careers have ended.

By 2000, I was on the backside of the track, walking through the shedrows to take listings for the owners and trainers. Brave Miner was now 6 years old and had accumulated 18W, including 4 black type, from 48 starts on dirt and turf, going long and short. He was extraordinarily beautiful, even more so up close, but the wear and tear on his body was already evident. I had never seen ankles that large and misshapen. I was becoming acutely aware of the fate of so many racing TB's, so I made myself and Brave Miner a promise that I would take him from the track before his body and spirit were broken beyond repair.

Over the next 7 years, from 2000 to 2007, I watched and waited...making frequent requests and monetary offers for Brave Miner. On two separate

occasions, I was promised him only to have the first promise broken when he was sold to yet another racing owner/trainer for \$500.

By the fall of 2007, the courageous gelding had run an incredible 131 times and had stuffed his connections' wallets with over \$340,000.00 from 31 wins, 18 seconds, and 19 thirds. But in his last several races, as a 13 year old with tired and hurting legs, he struggled to come in anything better than last.

In October of 2007, the second promise made to me by his current owner was one race away...only one more race and I could take him home! It didn't matter to me that he no longer possessed the physical beauty as when I first laid eyes on him 8 long years ago. I just wanted to take him from the place where he had been the best, but due to human greed, had become the place where he was stripped of everything he once was.

At Hoosier Park, on October 13, Brave Miner ran in his 132nd start. As I watched the replay through partially closed eyes with the sound turned down to barely audible, I heard his name called only once and never saw him cross the finish line.

Brave Miner broke bones that night that would never be repaired nor could ever heal. 31 times he had stood in a crowded winner's circle, but on that night, he laid in the dirt alone...only the track vet kneeled beside him, administering the lethal injection to end his suffering and his life. Human greed had taken from that amazing creature...one with a heart few can comprehend and even fewer appreciate...EVERYTHING he had willingly given.

My promise to Brave Miner is broken and so is my heart. But the pain I feel is nothing in comparison to the pain and suffering he endured. There were enough opportunities to retire the overworked warrior and give him a chance to live, but instead, his "people" dug his grave and ran him into it.

Brave Miner's story has no neat and pretty ending...but then, neither did his life.

Joy Aten

Hudsonville, Michigan

### Brave Miners Race Record:

#### In North America / USA

Year	Age	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings (USA\$)
1996	2	1	0	0	0	\$125
1997	3	12	6 (1)	2	1	\$97,865
1998	4	14	4 (3)	3	2	\$104,092
1999	5	8	2	1	1	\$27,470
2000	6	3	6	1	2	\$26,249
2001	7	14	2	2	4	\$14,298
2002	8	12	3	3	0	\$14,945
2003	9	13	2	2	2	\$9,860
2004	10	10	1	1	2	\$8,171
2005	11	11	2	2	1	\$16,810
2006	12	13	2	1	1	\$14,179
2007	13	4	1	0	1	\$5,760
Totals		125	31 (4)	18	19	\$339,824

## Editorial written by former CANTER Michigan Board of Director member Joy Aten

I have never responded to any published opinion or editorial before today. But your misconceptions, like the abuses in the Thoroughbred horseracing world, must be addressed.

I have loved and followed horseracing for years, but it has become increasingly difficult to maintain my enthusiasm for a sport that has such disregard for a living creature. As a member of the Thoroughbred racehorse rescue and rehabilitation organization CANTER, I have become painfully aware of the abuses that too many of these magnificent animals endure.

You state that the 1.6 out of 1000 death rate is "hardly evidence of vast disregard". What is conveniently absent from that statistic are the horses so damaged from their racing injuries that death is the only option. They are still racetrack casualties, but are far from the public's eyes. **Winds of Love**, a big dark bay with a huge heart, had 102 starts and ran the majority of his races with hardware in his ankle. That ankle finally could take no more and the gelding was humanely euthanized by CANTER only days after his last race. The Florida-bred **Barbara's Jewel** ran 73 times and was a winner at Saratoga and Belmont, but 4 days after his final race, he limped onto my trailer with a collapsed ankle...euthanasia was his only option. **Sunder Bay**, a 2001 striking chestnut by Mr. Greely, won only one race and made only \$28,000, but his connections continued to race him for a total of 36 starts. Half of those 36 races were in 2007 and were run on a bowed tendon. When CANTER was finally able to take him from the track, 90% of his tendon was torn away from the bone. Again, only days after his last race, euthanasia was all that could be offered the suffering gelding. And these are just a few of the many.

Your "guess that fewer horses receive better overall care...from the day of birth until racing and breeding days are done" couldn't be further from the truth! For a limited number, yes...but for most, no. A recent Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner ran those races with knee chips, according to his trainer in a televised interview. The million dollar colt was "cared for" through the Triple Crown campaign, and his connections reaped the rewards. **Lou's Expectation** likely received the "care" you mentioned while a winner at DelMar, Santa Anita, and Hollywood Park. But when the Valid Expectations gelding could no longer compete at that level, the care and concern for his well-being diminished. The beautiful "Lou" dropped to being a \$5000 claimer in 2005, and in early 2006 he was vanned off the track after one of his 43 starts. Yet he was made to run again. When he was finally donated to CANTER, his owner demanded he be removed the very same day. This aging warrior that made over \$300,000 for

his connections didn't even have a stall to stay in. And he left the track with fractured sesamoids in his right front ankle, never to be sound again. **Dream Deliverer**, a 2000 bay gelding by Kentucky Derby winner Sea Hero, was bred by Sez Who Thoroughbreds. This stunner, winner of \$137,000 from 49 starts, came into the CANTER program and onto my small farm in June of 2007. But his good care ended long before his racing days were over. His ankles were damaged beyond repair from injuries that were exacerbated by continued training and racing. He was euthanized. **Cabriolass** ran 34 times with earnings of over \$200,000. 5 of his races were won at Woodbine. His 7th and last win was on October 22, 2007, at Great Lakes Downs. He won that race with a known pre-existing fracture. After having to purchase the gelding for \$600 to get him off the track, CANTER had him evaluated at Michigan State University. His films showed large fractures with loss of joint cartilage...and the knee was in the final stages of arthritis. Good care was in the very distant past for this gallant gelding as well. And these are just a few of the many.

You mention that we "suppose them unhappy because they are trained and ridden...". With no verbal language with which to tell us how they are, we must rely on body language, demeanor, and behavior. And just as Larry Jones, in explaining Eight Belles must have been OK at the end of the race because her ears were pricked, we must then accept that the door swings both ways and translate certain behaviors as the horse is not OK. **Overnight Angel**, a 1998 mare, would literally shake from head to tail as soon as she was tacked up for a race. Her eyes wide and her tail held tightly to her body before running, she consistently trailed the field the entire race and would finish last or near last. But she was kept in racing until the age of nine. **Greenwish**, a 1990 near-black son of Green Dancer, started 85 times during his 8 year career. But as a 10 year old, he tried to show his "unhappiness" by refusing to walk into the starting gate. This was ignored by his trainer and his ears were twisted to get him to load. The gorgeous 5 year old **Storming**, a Wild Again grandson, had 3 wins from 15 starts. Even though he communicated his "unhappiness" well, showing himself very sore, he was not stopped on until he sustained a severe and non-repairable knee fracture. He then stood for 10 days before his trainer called CANTER to donate him. To save the suffering horse from the additional pain of transport, he was euthanized at the track. But he spent the last 10 days of his life with no pain medication...at all...at anytime. **Siphoned** had a "bad knee", but a big heart and alot of class. So when he could be picked up for a mere \$500, the Siphon gelding went to what would be his last owner and trainer. Raced with that bad knee, it shattered in his final race. CANTER received the broken-down gelding and humanely euthanized him. The bay gelding had shown he was not OK prior to that last and fatal race, but no one chose to acknowledge it. And these are just several of many.

You liken horses that get injured romping in pastures to those that suffer injuries on the track. Accidents happen and horses die. That is true, but when fame and fortune are at the finish line, horses are pushed beyond their limits to reach it first. A paddock or pasture accident is just that...an unfortunate accident with no human involvement. But put a jockey on their back, drugs in their system, and the pot of gold at the end of the race, and calling it an accident truly minimizes the tragic event. The public's reaction to a paddock accident, such as Saint Liam's, as opposed to their reaction to a track breakdown might certainly be a warning signal that something is amiss. But it makes one feel better to just dismiss racing deaths as "part of the business" and reminding the public that horses break their legs playing in their owners' pastures or while cantering on a trail ride. But were these latter two money-driven?

The mention of the \$30,000 operation for the "expensively coddled" horse...you must realize that \$30,000 is a drop in the bucket when you are talking about a horse that had a purchase price of millions, and whose winnings after the operation will hopefully be in the millions. Expensive procedures aren't coddling, but are in fact done to get the maximum return on a pricey investment. Surgical straightening the legs of yearlings, whose legs would likely straighten on their own if given the time, makes them more attractive and correct in the auction ring and drives the purchase price higher.

Mention of the good care these horses receive also included the breeding farms. **Untamed Irish** was found starving and lice-ridden at the farm. Fortunately, she was rescued 2 weeks before her tiny foal was born after a difficult delivery. I have witnessed and have been given first-hand accounts of emaciated mares with scant haircoats and weak foals at their sides and a mare that was found cross-tied late on a cold January night, her newborn foal lying behind her, its tiny body partially frozen to the cold cement. A 3 year old filly at the farm was starved to where euthanasia was all that could be done for her, and the three 2 year old colts that were urine-soaked and manure-covered stood day after day in a dark barn with a stench so strong that it made breathing difficult.

I have more stories and many names, but I hope it doesn't take more than these mentions to open some eyes. And I'm sure some will say "well, those are the cheap horses"...I have heard it before. But the thing is, imperfect humans assign value to these horses. The 16 million dollar purchase **The Green Monkey** was a dud on the racetrack, whereas the \$7500 dollar yearling purchase **Top Bunk** made over \$550,000. The Green Monkey's failure on the track shouldn't make him any less worthy of respect and true value as a living, breathing, and feeling creature on this planet. And the same should be expected for those with small purchase prices or no to little return of their owners' investments.

I don't feel that being responsible caretakers of the animals that we have domesticated and, in the case of the racing Thoroughbred, have created a sport for our entertainment and financial gain is too much to ask or expect. It's a sad fact that some humans need to be "dictated to regarding what they can or cannot do". Look around and see the evidence of outright defiance of rules and regulations created to protect the racehorse from neglect and abuse.

Horseracing doesn't need any new laws to bring it to an end. Its demise will be brought on by those that have poisoned the true beauty and the pure competition of the sport...those that have total disregard for the welfare of the ones on whose backs millions are made.

Thank you for your time.

Joy Aten  
Hudsonville, Michigan

## Momentum Gains for Changes in Claiming Rules

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Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella, speaking at Symposium on Racing & Gaming.

Photo: Michele MacDonald

**By Michele MacDonald**

A suggestion from Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella that rules for claiming races be changed to protect against horses with physical problems being passed along as "hot potatoes" to someone else appears to be taking root.

"There's been a great response -- positive -- to it, and I think something will happen," Mandella said this week during the Symposium on Racing & Gaming in Tucson, Arizona.

Participating on a panel called "Equine Career Counseling," Mandella said that, in addition to his original idea that claims should be voided for horses that do not finish races, another possibility would be to change claiming events to races in which runners are sold through an auction system after they compete. That format would allow prospective buyers to examine horses' soundness immediately after racing **and thus would be an incentive for owners and trainers to provide runners with rest or treatment if they have physical ailments rather than using medications that allow continued racing even if a problem is lurking.**

**"This would encourage people to stop and fix the problems,"** said Mandella, who first raised the general issues involving claiming races and unsound runners during the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit in Lexington in October. He has strongly urged the industry to take action.

Ed Bowen, president of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, which coordinated the summit with The Jockey Club, said on Wednesday at the Symposium that he thinks that American racing leaders will follow up on Mandella's proposal and make changes in the system.

"I think it's got a lot of resonance," Bowen said of reaction so far.

Some of those from which Mandella said he has received an initial positive response are Santa Anita Park Racing Secretary Rick Hammerle and John Harris, an owner and breeder who is a member of the California Horse Racing Board. Dr. Rick Arthur, the CHRB's equine medical director who also was attending the Symposium, agreed that some action would be in the best interests of both horses and prospective owners.

"There are different ways to slice this cake. We just have to figure out what works and is palatable," Arthur said, noting the high costs involved with some surgeries and resulting off time that lead to use of medications as temporary fixes. "The problem is that no one in horse racing ever likes to change."

Bowen said future debate on the overall topic likely would include how rules about voiding claims could be written to fairly encompass a variety of situations. For example, if a jockey pulled up a horse before the finish line, fearing something was

wrong, but no physical problem was detected, perhaps a claim on that horse should not be voided. On the other hand, any new rules should not influence riders to avoid easing runners who are in distress, he said.

As far as an auction system goes, post-race sales have been conducted in England and were a part of early American racing tradition, although Bowen said those events, which were called "selling races," disappeared in the United States around the 1920s.

Regardless of which approach might be adopted, Bowen described the proposed changes as having an "exciting potential" to discourage the racing of unsound horses. There could be many benefits, including fairer and safer competitions and more opportunities for future careers for Thoroughbreds.

"To this day, we have far more people looking for sound racehorses to adopt than we have sound racehorses available for adoption," Diana Pikulski, executive director of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, said while participating on the Symposium panel with Mandella.

New York Times articles:

**The New York Times**

**June 15, 2008**

## **Deaths in Racing**

In the wake of Eight Belles's breaking down and being euthanized after finishing second last month in the Kentucky Derby, a House subcommittee on commerce, trade and consumer protection asked for the number of horse racing fatalities in the past five years. These numbers were culled from 19 of the 38 racing jurisdictions, and include all breeds — standardbreds, quarter horses and thoroughbreds. In some cases, the deaths were not caused by catastrophic racetrack injuries, but natural illnesses as well as training accidents.

JURISDICTION	5-YR DEATHS	STARTERS	DEATH PCT.
Washington	170	39,806	0.427%
California	749	350,000	0.214
New Mexico	61	29,939	0.204
Louisiana	150	76,247	0.197
New Jersey	75	38,871	0.193
Oregon	61	32,540	0.187
Kentucky	208	114,668	0.181
Maryland	130	71,953	0.181
Minnesota	42	27,090	0.155
Iowa	58	40,900	0.142
Delaware	141	101,583	0.139
North Dakota	10	7,280	0.137
Texas	198	146,452	0.135
Virginia	23	18,057	0.127
Indiana	103	130,200	0.079
Ohio	289	387,000	0.075
New York	388	521,703	0.074
Illinois	173	278,714	0.062
Colorado	6	14,558	0.041

*Source: Racing Commissioners International*

## **AP IMPACT: AP finds 5K horse deaths since '03**

By JEFFREY McMURRAY – June 14, 2008

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Thoroughbred racetracks in the U.S. reported more than three horse deaths a day last year and 5,000 since 2003, and the vast majority were put down after suffering devastating injuries on the track, according to an Associated Press survey.

Countless other deaths went unreported because of lax record keeping, the AP found in the broadest such review to date.

The catastrophic breakdown of filly Eight Belles at the Kentucky Derby last month made the fragility of a half-ton horse vivid for the millions watching, but the AP found that such injuries occur regularly in every racing state. Tracks in California and New York, which rank first and sixth in thoroughbred races, combine to average more than one thoroughbred death for every day of the year.

Questions about breeding, medication, synthetic surfaces versus dirt and other safety issues have dogged the industry for some time, and a congressional panel has asked key players in the sport to testify this week about its direction, particularly the influence of steroids.

The AP compiled its figures from responses to open records inquiries sent to the organizations that govern the sport in the 29 states identified by Equibase Co., a clearinghouse for race results, as having had at least 1,000 thoroughbreds start a race last year.

Arkansas, Michigan, Nebraska said their organizations don't track fatalities at all, and only one of Florida's three main thoroughbred tracks provided numbers. There were wide differences among the other states in what types of deaths are monitored and how far back the records go.

"Nobody really knows how big of a problem it is," said Rick Arthur, California's equine medical director. "They just know it's a big problem."

When a horse breaks a leg — let alone two, as Eight Belles did — often the only choice is to euthanize the animal. A thoroughbred's bones are thinner than most breeds. Usually it's not possible for the horse to lie down for long periods because that could disrupt the blood flow to the arteries in the lower limb, causing an extremely painful hoof infection called laminitis.

Barbaro, who won the Kentucky Derby in 2006, broke down in the Preakness and was euthanized with laminitis several months later after a gallant effort to save him.

Despite the regularity of such breakdowns and the money involved in the sport, no one is certain how many horses are lethally injured on the nation's tracks each year. The Jockey Club, which registers all North American thoroughbreds, did not know of another comprehensive, state-by-state tally of fatalities at tracks before the AP's, said Bob Curran, a Jockey Club vice president.

Larry Bramlage, the on-call veterinarian at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., who made the grim announcement that Eight Belles had been euthanized after the Derby, said fatality numbers don't seem to be dropping, despite major medical advancements. To Bramlage, that suggests racing injuries are becoming more frequent because vets are already pulling the most injury-prone horses before post time.

"We're able to pick them up better, with digital X-rays, bone scans and MRIs, which give us the information we need to take those horses out of training," Bramlage said. "In spite of that fact, we're not denting the total number of deaths."

California officials became alarmed in 2005 when the number of thoroughbred racing deaths there spiked by nearly 50 percent from just two years earlier. Last year, 314 horses — 261 of them thoroughbreds — died at California's tracks, including those hurt in training or barn accidents, and a few that suffered other injuries or medical complications.

"Just seeing the totals and the recurrent theme, it's eye-opening," said Bon Smith, assistant director of the California Horse Racing Board.

Beginning this year, California has mandated that all its major tracks replace their dirt surface with a synthetic mixture found in some studies to be safer for horses and jockeys.

While California's thoroughbred fatalities are nearly triple those reported by any other state, its warm weather and bounty of tracks make it the nation's busiest racing state. And it has received high praise across the industry for the way in which it tracks deaths — every death that occurs on the public grounds of a California racetrack is recorded in detail, largely through veterinary reports.

Some other major racing states have no records of fatalities that occur during morning training exercises, even those that happen on the tracks where races are run in the afternoon. Kentucky listed 228 deaths since 2003, but none of them from training accidents, which in some states that track them account for nearly a third of the total.

Other states, such as Colorado and Iowa, run mixed breed meets, in which quarterhorses might appear in one race a day while thoroughbreds make up most of the rest. Often, these states list the deaths only by meet, not breed, although veterinarians say the more muscular torsos and spindly ankles of thoroughbreds make them more susceptible to injury.

Many states that do closely track horse deaths haven't been doing it for long. New Mexico counted 52 deaths in 2007, but its racing commission said it had no records before that.

Some states that do monitor deaths don't differentiate between horses that die in freak accidents in their barns, for instance — the consensus is that such deaths are rare — and those that break down training or racing and are destroyed.

Such discrepancies have made the task difficult for Mary Scollay, a veterinarian at two Florida racetracks who has created a uniform national injury reporting system that aims to record every thoroughbred fatality. Scollay, who next month will become Kentucky's equine medical director, said 65 tracks are participating in the program now, but only 30 have compiled a full year's worth of data.

She declined to release the preliminary numbers, explaining the sample size is still too small to draw conclusions. It could take years, Scollay said, before major trends can be identified.

"Certainly we know more than we did last year at this time, and one fatal injury is one too many," Scollay said. "We know we need to do better. I think within the last few weeks, there's been a mobilization of the industry to do some pretty serious things."

Those who own and handle the animals stand to lose plenty when a horse is put down.

Timothy Capps, a professor at the University of Louisville's equine industry program, said most racehorses don't carry mortality insurance. The ones that do typically carry only a fraction of their projected value as a stallion or mare, Capps said.

After the gruesome breakdown of Eight Belles, the Jockey Club created a national panel to examine safety, and the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority did the same on the state level.

Among the topics being reviewed are track surfaces, medication (particularly steroids), the use of the whip by riders, and whether — as Bramlage suggests — thoroughbreds are becoming less durable because they're being bred to emphasize speed rather than stamina early in their careers.

"Those that do get hurt maybe get hurt worse because of their speed and size," said Larry Jones, who trained Eight Belles. "A good big horse will outrun a good little horse, and they can be more fragile because their legs and joints have to hold a lot more."

A House Energy and Commerce subcommittee has asked states for the figures they have on fatalities ahead of a hearing scheduled for Thursday.

Of particular interest to Congress is the influence of steroids, which were legal this spring in most racing states including Kentucky, Maryland and New York — which host the Triple Crown races.

Those advocating a steroid crackdown got ammunition when Big Brown, who easily won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes with the steroid Winstrol still in his bloodstream, ran the Belmont without it and finished last.

Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., said steroids should be banned — not regulated — in horse racing but questions whether the sport has the ability to police itself.

"There are enough people I have great respect for who say this industry is really beginning to be in trouble," Whitfield said.

Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas said the sport gets a bad rap for what he believes it does best — take care of the animals.

"There isn't a trainer worth his salt that doesn't look into this 24 hours a day," Lukas said. "I'll guarantee you that if any one of those purists who feel like it's an abusive sport would spend two weeks in my barn, they'd walk away a different person and have a greater appreciation for the care. Animals don't have a say in it, but when they get to this level, they have a pretty good deal going."

## Making the Right Decision

For every sad story we are faced with every day, there are good stories. Horses that were not pushed beyond their limits. Horses that were not given injection after injection into tired joints. Horses that were not given drugs – legal and illegal, until they were used up.

This is our chance to show that if the right decision is made, the decision to retire a horse before it is too damaged, they can have value and **life** outside of the racetrack.

**There is another life waiting for these horses.**

## So what happens when they don't run the legs off a Thoroughbred with no talent (at racing)?

*Written by Denice Klinger*



**Welcome Back**, a 1992 TB should have been a winner on the track, if for no other reason than everything his dam produced that made it to the track was a winner. And usually a stakes or allowance race winner at that. Welcome Back was born to it – he was elegant and well balanced, he *looked* the part. He was *bred* to the part.

He was a dud.

His breeding suggests he might have been happier on the turf going a mile and a half, but there aren't a lot of those races for maidens so he was a spectacular failure as a 2 year old running shorter distances on the dirt at Belmont. Still, there was that breeding. The temptation to run him down the levels must have been there, and

“rock bottom” is a long, long way from Belmont. So maybe it was Welcome Back's stroke of good luck that he mildly strained his tendon – the mildest of mild bows. His next stroke of good fortune was that he was owned and trained by people who just didn't think the now three year old dud was worth any more of their time and money. So they contacted the person who handled their racehorses when they needed some R&R and asked if he knew anyone who would take Welcome Back off their hands. He did. He called her and asked her if she wanted Welcome Back. She did.

So Denice Klinger became Welcome Back's new owner early in his four year old year and she took him on to his new career, as a hunter competing in shows recognized by the United States Equestrian Federation. This is where Welcome Back, now known as “Kings and

Vagabonds" showed what all that breeding, elegance and balance was meant for. Not only was he good at his job, he was - and is - great at his job. He has placed in top shows from West Palm Beach to Lake Placid, and his awards include numerous champions and reserve champions in the adult amateur division at shows, year end reserve champion in his state association, first in the Performance Horse Association's zone awards and top 10% in the United States Equestrian Federation's zone awards on multiple occasions.

The ironic thing is that horses that compete in these divisions can cost anywhere from the mid five figures to low six figures. Welcome Back is worth FOUR times the value he raced at, and that assumes he'd been successful at that level. But the likelihood he would be that same valuable, successful horse in this second career if his trainer/owner had not stopped on him early is almost nonexistent. His current job isn't as tough as racing, but it still has zero tolerance for a horse who hurts.

The really important thing is he has a good home and an owner who enjoys every day of their partnership in and out of the show ring for the last 12 years. But it's also important to recognize that he has a job and a value, because a horse who has those things is an important part of the economic machinery that is equestrian sports in this country. It's not just racing that employs people and uses goods and services, competitive horse sports also generate jobs and use goods and services.



## **A Feel Good Story**

Comp, a 2000 model gelding by Top Account, was an allowance winner at Suffolk Downs who earned a great deal of money for his connections. He was starting to show some wear and tear, and his trainer, a very caring man named Chris Rubera, refused to push him at the allowance level for fear of getting him hurt. At the same time, while many trainers would have simply dropped the horse into a claiming race to get rid

of him and pick up a check, Chris wouldn't go that route either. He instead approached us and said he would like to donate Comp to CANTER New England so that we could find a good home for his sweet and hard-working "bread and butter" horse.

As luck, and maybe fate, would have it, we found an approved adopter who was originally interested in another horse. She saw Comp, however, and realized she had "met" him at the track when he was a 2-year-old! It was love at second sight, and she took him home to her farm in New Hampshire. Now known as "George," he is a very happy "pet," trail horse, and companion, and Chris has already come to visit him. Chris has been so supportive of the CANTER rehoming program from day one, and is proof that trainers who care and who make the right decision for their horse, can see those animals into new homes.



## Freedom On the Wind

Freedom was donated to us by his owner, Paul Rodliff. Paul is known for taking excellent care of his horses and has also donated a second horse, The Lights Are On, who is currently in foster care. Freedom, a KY-bred son of Fly So Free, was a good racehorse, but was slowing down competitively due to some lumps and bumps and nagging leg issues. Paul didn't want to push the horse and risk

a serious injury. He tracked us down to inquire about the best route for ensuring Freedom's safety and well-being now that his racing days were over.

Freedom was eventually adopted by his foster mom, Liz Goldsmith, who does volunteers her time doing Public Relations for CANTER. He is now a healthy, gorgeous boy, stabled at a beautiful farm west of Boston, MA. He has also competed in several of our benefit hunter paces.



## Lone Fan – aka Gumby

(Told by Allie Conrad, Executive Director, CANTER Mid Atlantic)

When I first received the call from Lone Fan's owner, I found myself doing the math in my head as to where he could go. We were full, and low on funding. His story inspired me to find a way.

As his owner told me about his successful racing career and sad breakdown in the stretch of his last race, I found myself thinking "Wow".

Gumby, as he was known around the barn, had one last race before he was to retire. His owner invited all of his family and friends to send his horse off in style, and described the moment he

saw his beloved horse tumble in the stretch of a Turf race at Laurel.

"He dislocated his pastern" he said. But that was more than a year ago. You see, this owner loved this animal and he decided to do right by him. Surgery was arranged, followed by intensive stall rest and gradually, months later, he was hand walked on the fragile leg. A year later Gumby was happily galloping the fields of his layup facility. Dave, his owner, went on to describe the humongous vet bills Gumby incurred.

I remember asking him why he spent so much money and time to fix his horse, when so many people would have just euthanized him or sent them off to the sale. His answer resonates with me to this day:

**"It wasn't his fault he got hurt"**

Because this caring owner took the time to heal his broken horse, and then the time to find it a loving home, he thrives as a dressage and trail horse with his new owner. Please find her

account below:

From Gumby's new owner: When I first saw Gumby at his foster care home, I fell in love with him. He was like a big puppy dog. I had to have him. I already had another TB gelding, so Gumby had a buddy to pal around with. They have been best buds from the moment they met. Since the first day home, he has been wonderful. He is so laid back. On his first trail ride that summer, he acted like he had been doing trails for years. He was so quiet and enjoyed his walk in the woods.

Since then, we have done many overnight camping trail rides. He is wonderful on the picket line and enjoys those late night snacks. He loves to go out and is always eager to get on the trailer. Going out alone with him is no problem. We don't do much jumping other than the occasional log on the trail. He really enjoys water.

He is such a good boy and loves his new career. I am so lucky to have been able to get him and give him the easy life he has (don't ask him about that after a 5 day ride). Thank you CANTER!

Lisa DeLauder, Maryland