

Thoroughbred Retirement Day at Spa on August 18; NYRA Making Donations to Retirement and Rescue Organizations

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) is hosting Thoroughbred Retirement Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 18 at Saratoga Race Course, including an on-track dressage routine by ESPN's Jeannine Edwards and donations to horse retirement and rescue organizations.

Edwards, part of the ABC broadcast team that won an Eclipse Award for the 2009 Belmont Stakes telecast, will team up with her dressage horse Ashkal Way to perform for the crowd at 12:35 p.m. EDT. They will be in the paddock at 12:20.

Ashkal Way, an 8-year-old gelding, is no stranger to Saratoga, having won the Grade 2 Bernard Baruch in 2006. Edwards and Ashkal Way have combined to win dressage competitions in the Mid-Atlantic region.

In addition to the on-track activities, following the second race, NYRA will be donating \$5,000 checks to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF), Old Friends, and the Exceller Fund.

To raise awareness of horse retirement and rescue organizations, the following groups will also be handing out informational flyers and collecting donations in the community outreach booth and the area in front of the jockeys' room: Exceller Fund, Old Friends, Peaceful Acres, Pure Thoughts, ReRun, and the TRF

"We are thrilled to bring these groups on track and help raise awareness for a very important cause," NYRA President and CEO Charles Hayward said. "It is terrific what they are doing to ensure a future after racing for our thoroughbreds, and I would encourage the Saratoga fans to come out and learn more about their initiatives."

About the Exceller Fund

The Exceller Fund works to transition Thoroughbred horses to a second career off the track. The Exceller Fund acquires horses that might be at risk for slaughter and cares for them until an adoptive home is found or retirement for a few horses when sponsorship is provided. The Exceller Fund also works to facilitate the placement of Thoroughbreds with local horse rescue organizations. We work with many other organizations in any capacity we can in order to save as many Thoroughbreds as possible. Additional information is available at <http://www.excellerfund.org/>

About Old Friends

Old Friends began as a retirement and rescue facility for pensioned Thoroughbreds. Then news broke of the inconceivable death of Kentucky Derby winner Ferdinand in a slaughterhouse in Japan in 2002 (read more about Ferdinand). The discovery gave even more impetus to their organization. "We went from getting five emails a day to hundreds," noted President and founder Michael Blowen. The plan became to bring "at risk" racehorses--those whose racing and breeding careers had come to an end--to Old Friends. By promoting popular athletes such as Gulch, Commentator, Black Tie Affair, Will's Way, Awad, Kiri's Clown, Hidden Lake and Affirmed Success through education and tourism we realized they could generate awareness and income beyond their racing and breeding careers. We now care for nearly 100

Thoroughbreds who earned more than \$64 million on the track and, through the support of the Japanese breeders, we've brought five home from Japan: Creator, Sunshine Forever, Fraise, Ogygian and Wallenda. Additional information is available at <http://www.oldfriendsequine.org/>

About Peaceful Acres

Peaceful Acres Horses, Inc., is a "Sanctuary for Horses and People". A Not - For Profit 501 (c) (3) Organization. The horses at Peaceful Acres are rescued from abandonment, neglect, abuse or are retired by their owners to come live in sanctuary at Peaceful Acres. The horses are rehabilitated emotionally and physically to become partners in equine assisted learning and psychotherapy programs for youth, adults, couples and families. The horses become people's guides to healing emotionally, psychologically, physically and spiritually. Additional information is located at <http://www.peacefulacreshorses.com/>

About Pure Thoughts

Pure Thoughts Inc. is an all volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of horses, yearlings and foals that were bound for slaughter for human consumption in addition to Equines that are victims of starvation, neglect and abuse. Additional information is available at <http://www.purethoughtshorserescue.com/>

About ReRun

ReRun Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Thoroughbred adoption program whose mission is to help ex-racehorses find a second career. Horses accepted into the program are evaluated, rested and rehabilitated as needed. The Thoroughbreds are then placed with qualified adopters to begin their chance at a second career. Additional information is located at <http://www.rerun.org/>

About the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation

Founded in 1983, the TRF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to retiring Thoroughbred racehorses after they are finished racing. TRF operates retraining and adoption facilities and satellite farms across the country as well as vocational training in equine care for inmates at nine correctional facilities nationwide. TRF currently maintains approximately 1,800 horses. Additional information is available at <http://www.trfinc.org/>

About NYRA

Founded in 1955, and franchised to run thoroughbred racing at New York's three major tracks through 2033, NYRA boasts a lineage that actually stretches back almost 150 years. NYRA tracks are the cornerstone of the state's thoroughbred business which contributes more than \$2 billion annually to New York State's urban, suburban and rural economy. In 2009, more than 1.6 million people attended the live races at NYRA tracks. Factoring nationwide off-track wagering, the average daily betting handle on NYRA races alone totals more than \$9.3 million every race day. NYRA has a vast network of websites, including www.nyra.com,

www.belmontstakes.com, and www.nyragroupsales.com. You can also follow NYRA on social media platforms Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and YouTube