Retraining of Racehorses – a global approach to aftercare

Di Arbuthnot
Chair of IFAR & CEO of Retraining of Racehorses
IFAR Mission

To promote the care of thoroughbred horses during their lifetime
Thoroughbreds are athletic, versatile and highly intelligent
Do racehorses deserve a second career?

- Versatility
- Promotion
- Education
Equine therapy is a fast growing area and a variety of aftercare programmes use retired thoroughbreds to assist people in need:

- Horseback UK – supporting war veterans
- Greatwood – disadvantaged children
- Turkey Jockey Club - riding for the disabled
- Man-O-War Project, Columbia University Irving Medical Centre, USA
- Racing NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust – Correctional Services Programme.
- Riding for Hope, Kentucky, USA
Retirement is a racing problem with an equestrian solution.

Dr Eliot Forbes, BVSc Hons MBA GAICD MRCVS
Why does welfare matter – and aftercare in particular?
IFAR - WHERE NEXT?

• IFAR has achieved its objective of taking the aftercare message to the world.

• Second year goals nearing completion. Plans for year three underway inc. delivery of a new Strategy to achieve IFAR’s long term vision.

• 2019 Forum with the European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation – Racing industry working together on Brexit with proposals to recognise the High Health status of thoroughbreds, to allow for ease of movement and with it, better traceability.

• Enhance communications, social media and website - more regular exchange of information through a quarterly newsletter.

• Annual steering group meeting - Hong Kong 2018, Oslo 2019, Cape Town 2020, USA 2021.
It is the entire Racing Industry’s responsibility for the welfare of the thoroughbred racehorse.

Racing needs to lead the way – there will be no racing if we fail on welfare and aftercare.

We owe it to the horse to have a life after racing.