



International Forum
for the Aftercare
of Racehorses

Global Aftercare

Issue One

Autumn 2019

IN THE NEWS

Columbia University Leads Equine Therapy Research for Veterans with PTSD

If the Man O' War Project treatment protocol proves successful, it could help open equine therapy to mainstream clinical acceptance. It could erase the stigma associated with PTSD. It could ensure that veterans get the help they deserve. It could help end the epidemic of PTSD. It could save countless lives.



"This program definitely helped me," says Bolanos. "It brought me to another level." This progressive approach helped him understand his own behavior and engage with those around him. It helped him land a new, satisfying career, and brought him closer to his family once again.

For full story <https://www.americasbestracing.net/lifestyle/2019-horses-healing-veterans-the-man-o-war-project>

ASPCA Grants More Than \$250,000 to Help Rehabilitate and Retrain Retired Racehorses

The ASPCA Equine Welfare department is focused on ensuring horses nationwide have good welfare, which includes working collaboratively with stakeholders in both the rescue community and equine industries to help at-risk horses safely transition to new careers and homes, increasing safety net support for horse owners, and enhancing anti-cruelty efforts. In 2018, the ASPCA awarded more than \$800,000 in equine grants to assist 56 equine organizations across the country.



Raising Awareness Globally



Welcome to the first edition of Global Aftercare

Welcome to the first edition of the International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses' (IFAR) online newsletter. IFAR is an independent forum established to help advocate lifetime care, to increase awareness within the international racing community, and educate the sport horse world and the general public on the welfare of Thoroughbred racehorses.

The forum was established with the encouragement and support of Godolphin, who organised and supported symposiums in Kentucky in 2015 and Newmarket in 2016, bringing together leading aftercare proponents and racing administrators from around the world. While many racing countries have aftercare initiatives in place, there were no formal networks or forums for sharing best practice.



Following the Newmarket meeting, a steering committee was established with representatives from around the world, and work began earnestly to develop an organisational vision, a set of values and a new website. Planning activities commenced immediately for the first forum, which was conducted at the Pan American Racing Conference in Washington, D.C. in 2017.

The first forum was successful in bringing aftercare responsibilities to the top of the racing world's consciousness. The second forum was held in association with the 37th Asian Racing Conference (ARC) in Seoul, South Korea in 2018. The Seoul forum brought the aftercare message to a new Asian audience and generated wider awareness with the presence of an IFAR stand at the ARC Trade Exhibition.

The third and most recent forum was conducted in May as part of the European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation General Assembly in Oslo, Norway. This year's forum included presentations on equine welfare, the roles of regulators, the versatility of Thoroughbreds in second careers, and an aftercare toolkit for caring for racehorses throughout the duration of their lives.

The forums have been successful in generating expert content, media interest, and stimulating constructive dialogue on challenging topics. While pleased with achievements to date, the steering committee remains focused on driving new initiatives. This newsletter will serve as an outlet to publish IFAR's development and disseminate recent aftercare news from jurisdictions around the world so as to share international progress and best practices.

A strong foundation has been set in place, ensuring the racing community recognises the critical responsibility it has with regards to aftercare. Aftercare is non-negotiable, and racing's future depends on the strength and depth of its aftercare initiatives.



"Promoting equine welfare before, during and after a horse's racing career is vital in ensuring the public's confidence in the sport is maintained and is integral to the future health of horse racing" - Jim Gagliano, The Jockey Club

The Aftercare Toolkit - for Racing Authorities

At the recent annual forum in Oslo, Norway, the IFAR Chair Di Arbuthnot introduced the concept of the “Aftercare Toolkit” for racing authorities, in her keynote address.

She noted that societal expectations of animal industries relating to the care, management and traceability of animals are evolving, driven by social change and technology.

New expectations may challenge the traditional regulatory scope and reach of the racing industry, however IFAR encourages the racing industry to continually review its practices, to ensure it can reasonably match those community expectations.



The toolkit comprises six strategies, that form the basis of a comprehensive aftercare framework:

1. “Lifetime management” relates to the implementation of rules that provide regulatory oversight, drive awareness and accountability at a participant level and facilitate the collection of relevant data.
2. “Transitioning strategies” look to stimulate demand and supply, for off-the-track thoroughbreds in the equestrian market.
3. The “safety net” requires that jurisdictions implement initiatives that help and support horses at risk of neglect.
4. Racing authorities are recommended to consider the use of off the track thoroughbreds as “therapy horses” to build community engagement.
5. “Thoroughbred advocacy” is identified as an important activity to ensure that the thoroughbred breed remains popular in the equestrian market.
6. “Networking” is highlighted as an important tool to learn from international best practice and build engagement with the equestrian community.

The Aftercare Toolkit has been developed by the IFAR Committee after several years of reviewing and discussing various strategies in place around the globe.

The Committee has selected practical and proven initiatives that will constitute a roadmap for jurisdictions beginning their aftercare journey and that could serve as a foundational checklist for more established countries. Jurisdictions who implement these strategies will best position their racing industries for a robust and sustainable future.

For more information please visit <https://internationalracehorseaftercare.com/Resources/IFARTheAftercare-Toolkit%202019.pdf>

Top Stories

Racing Victoria, July 16, 2019 Finalists announced for RV's Acknowledged Retainer of the Year Award

Racing Victoria (RV) has announced the three finalists for the inaugural Acknowledged Retainer of the Year Award, which recognises the achievements of the equine experts preparing retired racehorses for secondary careers.

Jessica Schneider, Nikki Cook and Amanda Porter are all in the running to claim the title, which will be presented on Saturday, 20 July at the Equestrian Victoria Awards, sponsored by RV's Off The Track (OTT) program. The winner will receive a cheque for \$2,500 to assist with the development of their retraining business, while the two finalists will receive a \$500 voucher courtesy of Peter Horobin Saddlery. To view full article <https://www.racingvictoria.com.au/news/2019-07-16/rv-acknowledged-re-trainer-of-the-year-award>



Thoroughbred Daily News, January 14, 2019 Lion Taming Shows Even Stallions Can Start Over By Chris McGrath

He wasn't just any horse. In 2010, he finished midfield in the GI Kentucky Derby. To those who have taken American Lion in hand now, however, that's the whole point: no horse is just any horse. Because they believe every retired Thoroughbred needs treating like a champion. Each one is bred on the same premise: in the hope that they, too, can become graded stakes winners and maybe even go to stud, as did this son of Tiznow at Darby Dan seven years ago. But it's not as though a horse can ever let us down. It was our idea, and the consequences—for richer, for poorer—are our responsibility. To view full story visit <http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/lion-taming-shows-even-stallions-can-start-over/>

Martin to Return to Japan for Retraining Clinics

Two-time Olympian Boyd Martin will host his third set of Retraining Racehorses clinics in Japan this November.



The clinics represent a significant ongoing investment in the promotion of second careers for thoroughbred racehorses in Japan and have been made possible through the partnership of the Japan Racing Association (JRA), the National Riding Club Association of Japan (NRCAJ), and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation. For more information regarding the clinics, contact Godolphin in Japan's Charity Coordinator Yasuko Sawai at ysawai@darley.co.jp

Racing TV's 'This Racing Life' focuses on the racehorse's versatility Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) July 5, 2019

The July edition of This Racing Life, Racing TV's monthly magazine programme, is devoted to showcasing the versatility and suitability of racehorses to alternative careers after they have retired from racing.

The half hour show features in-depth interviews with experienced horsemen and women who have retrained racehorses to thrive in a second career, such as polo, dressage, showing and horseball.

Each interviewee talks about the attributes required for racehorses to excel in different disciplines and how thoroughbreds have the intelligence and adaptability, allied with their natural athleticism, to succeed in a range of activities. As one of the interviewees says: "Thoroughbreds are my favourite breed, I absolutely worship them!" You can watch the full episode of This Racing Life here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIZWac8cFnU>



David Cricket and Tina Cook win RoR/NTF Eventing Championship at Gatcombe Park

Tina Cook and the seven-year-old gelding David Cricket have won the 2019 RoR/NTF Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship at Gatcombe Park, part of the Magic Millions Festival of British Eventing.

Since retiring from a brief racing career at the close of 2016 and being retrained for a second career as an event horse, David Cricket has made rapid progress under the



tutelage of Tina Cook, the 2009 European Champion and three-time Olympic medallist.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal joined RoR Chairman, Paul Roy, and trainer Richard Phillips, representing the NTF, on the podium to make the presentation to the

winning owners and rider, which included a cheque for £2,000. To read full story visit <https://www.ror.org.uk/news/david-cricket-and-tina-cook-win-ror-ntf-eventing-championship-at-gatcombe-park>

Fourth edition of the charity Au-Dela Des Pistes' Retrained Racehorse

The fourth edition of the charity Au-Dela Des Pistes' Retrained Racehorse Day took place on Saturday at Deauville racecourse. Sponsored by Al Shaqab Racing and the Association Française des Courtiers, this day was organised by in partnership with France Galop.

A Parade of Champions opened the festivities, with lots of memories resurfacing from the brilliant ex-racehorses on show. Fans came in large numbers to admire their former champions such as African Story and Prince Bishop. To read more visit <https://www.audeladespistes.fr/Actualites/Article/123/FR>



Your Retired Racehorse Training Questions, Answered: Getting Started with an OTTB

America's Best Racing,
February 17, 2019

By Melissa Bauer-Herzog

In our second edition of the question-and-answer session about training off-track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs), we talk to Beverly Strauss, the executive director and president of Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)-accredited MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, and Lisa Molloy, program director of TAA-accredited ReRun.

1. What is the first thing you do with a retired racehorse when s/he arrives?

This session's questions focus on getting a horse and transitioning them to life after racing with some things you should keep in mind when riding a horse soon after he retires from the track.

BS: It really depends on the horse and where it came from, etc. In the case of horses that come directly from the track, we generally know the history so we either start under saddle right away or rehab whatever injury the horse might have. As long as the horse is not injured, we turn out right away in a small herd and look the other way for the first 30 minutes while they settle in.

LM: I want to make sure they eat, drink, poop, and have normal temps with no



nasal discharge before I do anything then I want them out of racing plates ASAP. When they are turned down and have grabs, it dramatically impacts the way a horse moves both in the arena and on tarmac, usually giving them a short choppy stride - a little like a needle on a sewing machine. Adopters find long and low movement with little



knee action more aesthetically pleasing for the show ring. I also don't like turning horses out with back grabs on as there is the potential to overreach and do some serious damage to the back of the front legs, making boots necessary. Even though I have very diligent and experienced staff, there is always the chance someone might forget the boots and the horse could suffer an injury from the back shoes. We then want them vet-evaluated to make sure turnout is not going to have an adverse effect or aggravate a prior condition. ReRun has instituted what we call a mini PPE where we do X-rays, basic jog-up and records review before placing the horse up for adoption. We have found this to be tremendously popular with adopters.

2. How do you determine what discipline the horse may be best at once you get him off the track and evaluate him?

BS: It all depends on the soundness, the temperament, and the movement. A horse with soundness issues must be quiet, as that horse will have to be a pleasure horse, generally for people who are less experienced. A hot horse with soundness issues is really, really tough to place, because most riders that can bring along a hot horse also have higher goals riding-wise. We find the quiet horses typically appeal to the hunter and dressage people. The hunter folks want a horse that does not have a lot of action, and rather efficiently covers the ground with a long, sweeping stride. The eventing folks and jumper riders typically want to see a lot of engagement and an uphill build, and generally prefer more forward horses.

LM: Although I started and worked

extensively in the Thoroughbred industry, over a decade of working in the Quarter Horse world at the top level stood me in good stead for evaluating what makes a good prospect, and an even better show horse, especially for the amateur rider. Long, low, flat-kneed with a little set to the hocks makes not only a superior hunter but a comfortable and relaxing trail horse or ground

covering endurance prospect. Uphill with freedom of movement from the shoulder and well driven from behind is more appealing to those hunting or eventing. People are in too much hurry to talk up the horse and close a sale instead of watching the horse go and really "listening" to what their movement is telling you. Of course a prior injury might be limiting to some degree but with a good farrier that understands the way a horse travels and some maintenance, most horses can make it to the local shows or through the lower levels.

3. What is the most common misconception you hear from people about off-the-track horses and how do you explain the information isn't correct?

BS: That they are all hot, need to be "rebroken", have a lot of soundness issues and bad feet. These horses are smart, trainable, and have more mileage by the time they are 3 or 4 than most warmbloods at age 6! The longer a horse has run, the sounder it probably is.

LM: People that visit the farm frequently comment about how quiet the barn is and how settled the horses are, along with how fat they appear. They appear to be expecting thin horses with bad coats cribbing furiously. Horses are like dogs are like kids ... it's all in the handling, training, and your own expectations and capabilities. It really is a case of leading by example - calm and quiet with reasonable expectations and positive reinforcement and reward. To read full article visit <https://www.americasbestracing.net/lifestyle/2019-your-retired-race-horse-training-questions-answered-getting-started-ottb>

IFAR - Principles of Aftercare

- To promote the care of Thoroughbred horses during their lifetime.
- This care should be in line with accepted veterinary standards, national practices and end of life management.
- To make provision for the care and welfare of vulnerable former Thoroughbred racehorses through an appropriate body/bodies.
- To promote the suitability, adaptability and use of Thoroughbred racehorses for a variety of equestrian activities so as to have an active life after racing, and raise awareness amongst racing's participants and third parties of horse welfare and the lifetime care of Thoroughbred racehorses.
- To improve education for all those who own, use or care for Thoroughbred racehorses with easier access to advice and guidance.
- To facilitate cooperation between horseracing regulators and aftercare providers to communicate effectively, share information and develop greater expertise in all matters as they relate to the lifetime care, retraining, and second career options for the Thoroughbred racehorse.
- Agree that a national/international system for tracking Thoroughbreds throughout their lives, including registered current ownership, is desirable in order to establish accountability and traceability.
- To increase awareness within the international racing community, the sport horse world and the general public, of the role and benefits of IFAR and a much greater understanding of the position in relation to the activities of former racehorses.

Dates for the Diary

United States

9th - 22nd September
Keeneland Yearling sale,
Lexington, Kentucky

2nd - 5th October
Thoroughbred Makeover,
Lexington, Kentucky

28th - 30th October
Thoroughbred Owner
Conference, Arcadia,
California

1st - 2nd November
Breeders' Cup, Arcadia,
California

United Kingdom

10th September
RoR Racing to Polo Challenge,
Berkshire Polo Ground

19th - 20th September
RoR Dressage
Championships, Blenheim

6th October
RoR HOYS Parade

27th October
RoR Hunting Championships,
Aintree Equestrian Centre

23rd November
RoR Showcase, Hartpury

France

3rd November
ChampionsParade,
Auteuil Racecourse

Japan

21st November
Boyd Martin - One Day Demo Clinic,
Northern House Park,
Hokkaido

23rd November
Boyd Martin - One Day Demo Clinic
Hanshin Racecourse, Hyogo

25th - 27th November
Boyd Martin - Three Day Clinic, Gotenba
Equestrian Centre, Shizuoka

Next Conference Date:

38th Asian Racing Conference, Cape Town
South Africa - 18th - 23rd February (TBC)



Below you will find links to the websites of IFAR Steering Group Members



Contact

The Jockey Club
40 East 52nd Street
New York, NY 10022
Phone: (212) 371-5970
Fax: (212) 371-6123

Supporting IFAR

IFAR comprises members with significant knowledge and expertise and is ready to assist those seeking help. This assistance may be general advice or guidance or it may be tailored to specific issues relating to the welfare of Thoroughbred racehorses and how to develop aftercare provision in their countries, taking into account cultural differences.