



Issue Three

July 2020



IN THE NEWS



Online Presence Bolsters OTTB Adoptions Amid Pandemic

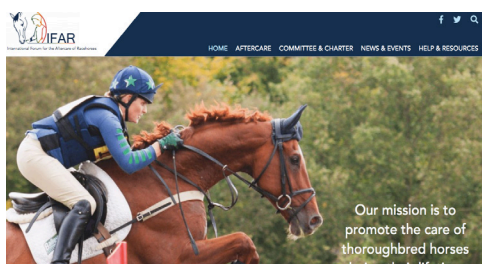
*BloodHorse By
Erin Shea*

RoR unveils schedule for Online Show



Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) are pleased to announce that the full schedule of classes for the upcoming RoR Online Show is now available to view. Entries for classes at the show close on Wednesday 15th July.

Check out our new IFAR website



Following the cancellation, due to Covid-19, of the RoR Goffs UK National Championships, Britain's biggest event for showcasing the versatility of the Thoroughbred, plans were announced for an online show. The schedule reveals that the show features a total of 30 classes exclusively for former racehorses.

The RoR Online Show will also have an international flavour. Over twenty of the classes will be open not only to horses registered in Britain with RoR, but also to former racehorses based overseas. Using the network of partners RoR has developed with IFAR, the international body for aftercare providers, invitations have been extended to horses all over the world, from Europe to Asia, Australia and the USA. To find out more click [here](#).

Welcome to the third edition of Global Aftercare



**Introduction by Di
Arbuthnot, Chair IFAR**

“At the dawn of a new decade, racing stands at the doorway of incredible opportunity and unprecedented challenge.” These words are from the strategy paper, ‘IFAR 2020 and beyond,’ written in April, when the pandemic was already a worldwide issue and many countries were in lockdown. Three months on they remain very fitting; it is important to remember that even in these most challenging of times, there are also opportunities.



However, back in February, life was for most of us still relatively normal. We were allowed to travel and the IFAR group and speakers arrived in Cape Town to glorious sunshine and a warm welcome from the organisers of the 38th Asian Racing Conference. This was IFAR’s fourth international forum and our thanks go to the Asian Racing Federation and the local South African team for helping to make it such a success. I would also like to thank Newton Phillips of the Western Cape Equine Trust, who hosted several members of the IFAR Steering Committee and educated us on the important work that the trust does to rehome former racehorses.

I am sure everyone on the IFAR Committee felt as I did, that this forum substantially increased awareness of IFAR at a time when animal welfare, and aftercare in particular, is rightly becoming a focus for global racing administrations. All of the presentations were recorded and are available on the IFAR website.

We are in a fast-changing world where there is generational change, rising activism, and community expectations are high. For those involved with Thoroughbreds, there is a real opportunity for IFAR to help shape the future for these horses when their racing days are over.

Despite all the restrictions, the IFAR committee has continued to keep busy, including working on this newsletter which now has an expanded circulation. We are also very grateful to the team at Godolphin and The US Jockey Club, for a new look given to the IFAR website.



In the UK like many other countries, our busy summer programme of events for former racehorses has been cancelled. However, we are determined to keep our members engaged and we have been running online training tips, welfare advice and competitions, where riders send in photos and videos, as well as staging an online International show in August. It is not the same, but we are attracting new members who previously were unable or who did not want to attend events and we intend to continue with some of these initiatives when competitions open up again.

With this in mind, together with uncertainty about the future, discussions are underway about hosting a virtual IFAR conference in 2021. Details of this conference are a work in progress but we hope to cover topics that will engage all parts of the racing industry, as well as aftercare providers and equestrian participants.

I hope you enjoy the content of this newsletter which gives an insight into what is happening globally in aftercare, as well as highlighting the versatility of the Thoroughbred through a number of success stories.

Top news

Fourth International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses Highlights Global Progress in Care of Thoroughbreds Following Racing and Breeding Careers

The fourth International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR), held February 20 as part of the Asian Racing Conference (ARC) in Cape Town, South Africa, featured presentations from representatives of four racing jurisdictions on their advancements in aftercare practices as well as discussions pertaining to the importance of developing effective aftercare programs.

The events were hosted by the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) and the ARC local organizing committee, consisting of Phumelela Gaming and Leisure, the Racing Association, Gold Circle Racing and Gaming Group, Kenilworth Racing, and The National Horseracing Authority of Southern Africa (NHA).

Arnold Hyde, racing control executive for the NHA, and Hazel Kaiya, racing admin executive of the Stud Book Department for the NHA, presented on South Africa's aftercare policies. While the jurisdiction faces challenges due to factors such as economics and gaps in education and traceability, the NHA is making strides to address aftercare. For example, Hyde spoke on new rules written by the NHA to give owners responsibility for the welfare of racehorses throughout their entire lives, and Kaiya stated that the NHA is drafting rules to increase traceability through increased regulation of private auctions and sales.

Yoshimasa Takizawa, chief technical advisor of the Equestrian Affairs Division of the Japan Racing Association (JRA), talked about Japan's progress in the aftercare arena. The JRA has launched a program that provides financial resources to farms that take care of retired racehorses and organizations that work to promote second careers for former racehorses. The Japanese program is modeled after the United Kingdom's RoR and the United States' Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. Takizawa noted the JRA's commitment to supporting the use of retired racehorses in a diverse range of careers.

All presentations are available to watch on the IFAR website.

Dr. Jinkap Kim, chief manager of the Veterinary Regulation & Welfare team at the Korea Racing Authority's (KRA) Veterinary Department, recounted the fallout from videos released by animal activists that documented former racehorses being treated cruelly at slaughterhouses. In an effort to enhance equine welfare, the KRA has expanded its Equine Welfare Committee, revised equine welfare guidelines, introduced equine welfare knowledge as components of qualification and licensing exams, and established a task force for retired racehorses.

Jennifer Hughes, the general manager for equine welfare for Racing Victoria, detailed Australia's approach to aftercare, including categorizing former racehorses by their suitability to progress on to second careers and facilitating incentive-driven traceability programs to follow Thoroughbreds at all stages of their lives.

Roly Owers, chief executive of World Horse Welfare, offered his insights on the evolving welfare consciousness and proper welfare practices during the horse's entire lifecycle, including the importance of euthanasia in certain situations. He discussed the social license of horse racing and the need for the racing industry to build trust with the public regarding the ethical treatment of horses that compete in racing.

Simon Cooper, the operations director for Weatherbys, detailed the importance of traceability at all stages of a racehorse's life and how Weatherbys' e-passport helps improve traceability from conception to death.

Dr. Eliot Forbes, an independent advisor to IFAR and the chief executive officer of AniMark Ltd., presented on the six strategies that comprise IFAR's Aftercare Toolkit and the importance of an aftercare plan in the current climate of animal rights activism.

Arbuthnot kicked off the conference with an introduction of IFAR's mission and progress since inception.



News from around the globe



Peopleton Brook, Horseback UK

Horseback UK is a charity set up in 2009 to empower serving and former military personnel suffering from both physical and mental life changing injuries. Using horsemanship and outdoor activities, we deliver personal development programs that encourage our participants to acquire new coping strategies, life skills and build lasting resilience.

“Brook” came to us in a slightly unexpected way. We were reaching out at the time to new partners, and we had formed a brilliant working relationship with Retraining of Racehorses (RoR). Di Arbuthnot, chief executive of RoR, said she knew an ex-sprinter who needed a home.

We had not considered using ex-racehorses in our work with veterans. We had built up our herd based mostly on Quarter Horses. Racehorses, we thought, were all about speed, strength and power. What we did was much more about slowness, steadiness, and connection. Then, we started to think about the Thoroughbred. Thoroughbreds, much like Quarter Horses, have great intelligence, kindness and courage. Working with people who had life-changing injuries had taught us two vital lessons: don't slap labels on people, and concentrate on what someone can do, rather than what they can't.

When we heard Brook's story, we were struck by how similar his life was to many of our veterans' lives. Like them, he had done an extremely specialised and intense job. Like them, he had to leave that job due to injury, and like them, when his first career was over, the adjustment to a new life was not straightforward. He needed a second act, and we are huge believers in second acts.

We felt that the least he deserved was a new start in the Scottish hills, so we thanked Di for her exciting offer, and we said yes.

Jock Hutchison, co-founder of Horseback, took him on. He fell in love with Brook pretty much from the word “go,” and their retraining went with a swing. Soon, Brook had relaxed into his new life and was serving as a demonstration horse for the courses. He was the first horse our veterans met, and he and Jock showed them the ethos of HorseBack and what they could expect from their week with us. Brook also became a poster boy for the Horseback operation. He turned out to be a favourite for visiting film crews, did a star turn at Perth Racecourse, and appeared at Aintree on Grand National Day.

He was soon established at the heart of the operation. Our veterans keenly identified with his story and found inspiration in his transition to his meaningful new job.

All the same, we were not sure whether he would actually take part in the courses. It's a long way from galloping at top speed to working with people with physical and mental injuries, but his bright mind, good heart, and his willingness to learn were so striking that we decided he could go to the next level. At first, we tried him out with a couple of individuals outside the regular courses.



Brook connected with them with such gentleness and grace that we knew he was ready for his next step.

He now takes part in the groundwork part of the courses, both with our young people on the Youth Development Course and with the veterans. He turns out to have an extraordinary capacity for empathy. We've watched him work with one young girl who had such severe anxiety that she hardly knows what it is to feel relaxed. Horses, being prey animals, pick up on human worry, so anxiety disorders are one of our biggest challenges. Brook was remarkable; he seemed to grow more relaxed, almost as if to show his human how it was done.

Another relationship we will always remember is when Brook worked with a veteran with severe post-traumatic stress disorder. He became what we can only describe as protective. The veteran himself said, “When I feel overwhelmed, when things suddenly get too much for me, Brook will come and stand between me and the rest of the group, as if shielding me from the world, until I can get myself calm again.”

Brook had extensive retraining for his new job, but what he does now is not just due to his schooling. He has got that extra little bit of magic, that generosity of spirit and gentleness of mind, which means he gives the people he meets something that you can't train or teach. We hoped, when he came into our lives, that we could give him his second act, but we had no idea quite how glorious that second act would be. He took every stereotype about ex-racehorses, about Thoroughbreds, about sprinters, and exploded them, one by one. We are so proud of him, and we feel very lucky that he found his place with us.





Equine welfare remains top of mind

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Racing Victoria has been working hard to safeguard the continuation of Victorian Thoroughbred racing. Earlier this month we completed 1000 races since the introduction of strict bio-security protocols back in March.

While this remains an important focus, protecting the 25,000 full-time equivalent jobs that the Victorian racing industry underpins and the continued development of our equine welfare strategy remains top-of-mind. As outlined in Racing Victoria's action plan announced in October 2019 that included a \$25 million commitment to equine welfare, the wellbeing of racehorses leaving the sport is paramount.

In the coming weeks we will launch a number of key initiatives that will underpin our post-racing framework, including a new pathway for Thoroughbreds that have struggled to find the right home following their time on the racetrack. On the 3rd of July Racing Victoria RV established Equine Welfare Advisory Council - more news on this in the next edition.

This newly developed program will provide direct support for those horses that have good prospects but have not been successful in transitioning to a second career outside of racing due to perceived low market value and low likelihood of a return on time and cost expended.

With the goal of responsible rehoming, each horse in the program will receive retraining from a Racing Victoria Acknowledged Retrainer that will be funded by the industry's Equine Welfare Fund.

In the coming weeks you will be able to track the journeys of four horses in the program with video updates on our Off The Track Facebook Page - facebook.com/OffTheTrackRV. On the 3rd of July Racing Victoria RV established Equine Welfare Advisory Council - more news on this in the next edition. <https://www.racing.com/ews>



Some 208 years ago, in June 1812, horse racing was introduced on the tropical island of Mauritius, thus landing the Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) into third place today among the oldest horse racing organizations in the world. Since then, the racehorse has been cherished by the Mauritian population.

Unfortunately this rosy picture was badly clouded in September 2008 when a former racehorse was callously slaughtered by a group of young persons, putting the whole nation into a state of shock.

The Mauritius Turf Club reacted promptly by creating a Retired Racehorse Committee (RRC) to monitor closely the retirement of racehorses on the island. Major initial steps taken by the RRC required that:

1. The actual owner and the newly proposed owner should fill in an application form to be submitted to the RRC for approval.
2. Trainers would only allow a racehorse to move out of his stable after receiving the greenlight of the RRC.
3. Riding clubs and private establishments should be of an acceptable standard in terms of comfort and safety for the horse.

A complete register of retired horses as well as ponies present around the island was also set up. This is available on MTC's website mauritius turfclub.com and helps the RRC to establish a proper traceability of all horses over the island.



The committee is chaired by an administrator and other members include trainers, racing officials and owners who all work benevolently alongside the MTC to ensure that a retired horse enjoys a peaceful retirement. Over the years some six cases of neglected horses needed the intervention of the RRC and on a few occasions some financial assistance had to be provided to owners for a short period. The horse racing industry is fully supportive to the actions of the RRC and contributed to a fundraising activity during a race meeting dedicated to retired horses. Presently, riding clubs and other private establishments house some 600 horses and ponies in Mauritius.



2020 Thoroughbred Makeover & National Symposium Postponed to 2021

After extensive information gathering, research and consideration, the board of the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) has made the difficult but unanimous decision to postpone the 2020 Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, presented by Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA), until 2021. The RRP plans to host an expanded Thoroughbred Makeover on October 12-17, 2021 that will offer separate classes in all ten disciplines for both 2020 and 2021 entries.

Put on each year by the RRP, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Thoroughbred Makeover typically draws hundreds of competitors from 40+ states and multiple Canadian provinces, each of whom has taken on the challenge of bringing along a Thoroughbred in his or her first year of retraining post-racing. In a normal year, the event also includes the ASPCA Makeover Marketplace (a large-scale horse shopping experience), a vendor fair with more than 70 on-site retailers and other equine businesses, seminars, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Summit and various social and networking events.

To comply with COVID-19 pandemic event guidelines as recommended by US Equestrian and the Kentucky Horse Park, many of these aspects, which monetize a significant portion of the event, would have to be eliminated or heavily modified.

"This was a decision that was not entered into lightly," said the RRP's executive director Jen Roytz. "We went to great lengths to look at the feasibility of putting on the event from various perspectives, including preparedness of our competitors, current sponsorship commitments, the cost and steps necessary to implement COVID-19 risk management protocols for an event like ours, and what changes we would need to make to the event to comply with state and venue regulations. We also explored various 'what if' scenarios with our legal counsel, insurance company, and board, and what their impacts could be on not only the event, but our organization as a whole." For full story click [HERE](#).



New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR)

The challenge of ensuring lifetime welfare in any racing jurisdiction is, at best, complex. While most horses can go on to enjoy long and successful post-racing lives, there is also the possibility of negative outcomes. Occasionally the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in New Zealand can be called to attend to retired Thoroughbred horses that may be neglected and in need of care.

In instances of neglect the reasons can be varied but can be attributed to one or a combination of the following:

- Lack of knowledge of the necessary care and feeding of a horse;
- Financial hardship;
- Stress or depression; and/or
- Other mental health issues which might manifest in the hoarding of animals.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is tackling the issue through collaboration with the SPCA, with the organisations working together to find suitable grazing, foster arrangements, and/or permanent homes with knowledgeable and suitable caregivers for impacted horses.

"As part of our purpose in advancing animal welfare, it is important to work with the right people to ensure the right outcomes for these horses," said Andrea Midgen, chief executive officer of the New Zealand SPCA. Throughout the process NZTR assists financially when required to provide supplementary feed, along with any dental, veterinary and farrier care needed. NZTR is also able to access a network of passionate and highly skilled individuals within the industry when it comes to fostering or rehoming.

"While there have only been a few times that NZTR's assistance has been required, it has been very rewarding to have assisted and to be assured about the future care and prospects for those horses," said Martin Burns, NZTR's general manager of Welfare & Sustainability.



Racing Australia appoints National Equine Welfare and Traceability Executive

Racing Australia continues to expand and enhance its commitment to Thoroughbred welfare and traceability with the appointment of Karen Day as the organisation's first National Equine Welfare and Traceability Executive.

Karen was previously appointed the first Equine Welfare Manager for Racing NSW, a role she held from 2016 to early 2019. Karen has many years experience preparing retired Thoroughbreds for life after racing, predominantly in the sport of show jumping, working with young riders and established international showjumpers.

Karen will bring over 25 years of Thoroughbred experience and more than 20 years working in Media, Publishing and Marketing where she has developed a multi-disciplined skill set covering business leadership, marketing, consumer and customer data management, sales and operations.

"The appointment of Karen as the first National Equine Welfare & Traceability Executive for Racing Australia is an important step in the ongoing commitment to the welfare and traceability of the Thoroughbred" said Racing Australia's Myles Foreman Operations Chief Executive Officer (Acting CEO)

Equine welfare and retirement programs remain the responsibility of the Principal Racing Authorities (PRAs) across each State and Territory of Australia. Karen will work closely with the PRAs to help coordinate and promote "best practice" equine welfare standards across the Thoroughbred industry.

Racing Australia has specific operational and system responsibilities for equine traceability and this role will monitor and review these responsibilities whilst also undertaking research, preparing reports and other communications reporting, and promoting equine welfare practices.

Aftercare stories

Aftercare conversations encompass many dimensions, however some of the most compelling and heartwarming stories emanate from passionate people using retired Thoroughbreds to assist people in need.

IFAR forums have provided a worldwide platform for organisations to share their stories and remind us of the remarkable versatility and gentleness of the Thoroughbred. Please see the below stories from around the globe.

Decipher, Japan

Decipher (Deep Impact – Mizna) was bred by Darley in Hokkaido, Japan. He raced for over seven years and proved to be an excellent performer, securing two group 2 and two group 3 wins in a country where group wins are hard to come by. In total, he raced 46 times for a 9-9-4 record and earned nearly US\$4 million.

Following retirement, Decipher entered Godolphin's rehoming programme and after letting down at Darley Japan's farm, he was transferred to Japan Racing Association (JRA) facilities in Honshu where we began his retraining. He was sensitive spooky, and was initially tricky to handle, but after three months of groundwork by the JRA retraining team he was ready to begin riding work. During this time, he featured on a nationally broadcasted television program showing his training from racehorse to riding horse.

He is now a relaxed and focused horse, and JRA staff report that he is a naturally beautiful mover who is ready to begin competing for the JRA equestrian team in dressage once the coronavirus restrictions are lifted. We look forward to seeing him compete!



Sportschu, South Africa

In July 2005, Nichola Mohr and her mother Linda, who live in Cape Town, South Africa, were sent two young geldings by leading Western Cape racehorse trainer Glen Kotzen to be retrained and sold on. One of them, Sportschu, caught Nichola's eye immediately. "I don't know why I chose him," she said. "I just felt like he was the right horse for me. Just before he died, my grandfather gave me money to buy my first horse, and I used that to buy 'takkies.'" (Takkies is a South African slang term for sneakers) Sportschu was a very green 3-year-old, but he and Nichola bonded immediately. They rose up through the dressage ranks to eventually

reach Grand Prix level, and together, they have been selected to represent the Western Cape at national level every year since 2007. They have won more than 10 South African national dressage and showing titles. Sportschu is now a schoolmaster for upcoming riders at home and is fully retired from competition.

Sportschu only had three racing starts in total, all at Kenilworth Racecourse and never earned any stakes checks. He made two guest appearances at Kenilworth in May 2017 and November 2018 to show off his dressage prowess, much to the delight of the crowds. Nichola fondly recalls,



Noble Boss, HK

Noble Boss is a UK-bred gelding by Sadler's Wells out of an illusory mare. Foaled in 2000, he was imported to Hong Kong, where he made his first official start in June 2004. He was first trained by Manfred Man before switching stables to Tony Millard in 2005. He finished his racing career with Andreas Schutz in May 2007. He had one win out of 30 starts with Douglas Whyte or Felix Coetzee in the saddle, winning a total of HK\$300k in prize money over his four-season racing career.

Retired in 2007 at 7 years old, he was transferred to the HKJC's retraining and rehoming programme at Beas River Equestrian Centre (BREC). He was rehomed through BREC's Livery Holders scheme in 2010, with his current owner Oi Man Leung - who was previously one of the Club's Junior Riders and competed with Noble Boss, winning numerous national titles.

Oi Man has nicknamed Noble Boss as Nibbles, as he is very affectionate and has a habit of nibbling people and grabbing things with his mouth. Over the years, Oi Man and Nibbles have gone through many ups and downs together, which has helped them to develop complete trust in each other. Oi Man describes Nibbles as an incredibly intelligent and talented horse that always tries the best for her.

With this amazing partnership between Oi Man and Nibbles, they were incredibly successful at multiple discipline in Hong Kong. Nibbles was Dressage Horse of the Year in 2013 and 2015, as well as Overall Horse of the Year 2012 and 2015. Together they competed up to Medium level dressage, 1.10 m eventing and 1.30 m show jumping. He was overall 1st place in the 2016 and 2017 FEI World Jumping Challenge Category B (1.20m and 1.10 m classes). On top of everything, he also came second in the 2018 Longines Horse of the Year Show CSI1* Grand Prix (1.20 m) – which was his last competition before retirement.

Now Nibbles is in his late teens, he has stepped back from high level competition in June 2018 and is now enjoying paddock retirement in the UK.

"When we did the demos at Kenilworth, he knew exactly where he was - he was extremely excited - but he did everything I asked of him. He is one in a million!"

By Ashleigh Hughes



Image courtesy of Jessica Roll

IFAR'S Vision

- All horses are treated in a humane and ethical manner every day of their life.
- All suitable horses find a home after racing.
- Every industry participant, administrator, owner and breeder recognises and embraces their responsibility towards Thoroughbred aftercare.
- All racing jurisdictions have effective and well-funded aftercare, traceability and education programmes in place.
- Thoroughbreds are valued and sought-after athletes by the equestrian community.
- IFAR leads a highly-engaged and global community of horse professionals advocating for Thoroughbred aftercare.

The Equine Welfare Data Collective needs **YOU!**

We're helping at-risk equines and those in transition by collecting and reporting equine welfare data throughout the United States. We can't do this important and lifesaving work on behalf of horses without your organization's help. The best part - **it's free!**

What We Do

Collect, analyze, and report data from organizations helping at-risk equines in the United States.

Equine welfare organizations of all sizes and types are encouraged to participate.

Data reports are released to the public **free** of charge!

Is your organization or business not eligible to submit data, but still interested in helping spread the word about at-risk equines?

Join the EWDC Ambassador Program!



The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) was created by the United Horse Coalition (UHC), a program of the American Horse Council (AHC), with funding partners being: The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), including The Right Horse (TRH), and The Foundation for the Horse.

For more information check out: www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/EWDC/

Dates for the Diary 2020

Australia

August 2020 - RV Acknowledged Retainer of The Year Awards & OTT Horses of the Year

29th September-2nd October - Victoria Equestrian Interscholar State Championships (rescheduled)

15th-18th October - Victoria Show Jumping Championships (rescheduled)

United Kingdom

29th-30th August - RoR Online Show

United States

4th-6th September - T.I.P. Championships & New Vocations All-Thoroughbred Show

3rd-4th October - T.I.P. Championships & New Vocations All Thoroughbred Show (Dressage & Combined Test)

TBC - Virtual Thoroughbred Make-over & National Symposium to include webinars, vendor fair, Make-over Marketplace horse sale



Follow us on our social media platforms



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



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How IFAR can support you

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.