



Issue six

April 2022



2022 IFAR
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
5 and 19 April 2022

LIVE STREAMING
Registration open

IN THE NEWS



Registrations are Open for the sixth IFAR Conference

The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) is delighted to host its sixth conference, which will be held as a series of two virtual webinars on 5 and 19 April at 12 p.m. BST (11 a.m. GMT). Each webinar will last approximately two hours. IFAR is partnering with the Japan Racing Association (Japanese Consultative Committee on Aftercare of Racehorses) to host this year's event.

The conference theme of "Many paths – One goal" is reflected in the speakers and organizations represented in both sessions. The keynote address will be given by Annamarie Phelps, chair of the British Horseracing Authority. She will provide unique insights regarding the contemporary challenges facing racing and how aftercare has become a critical element for racing's future sustainability.

The lineup of speakers features experts addressing key topics including equine traceability, equine therapy, and veterinary science. A key highlight will include a Young Professionals Panel, where Australian racing presenter Caroline Searcy will explore the attitudes and views of emerging industry leaders regarding current and future aftercare strategies. To find out more or to register click [HERE](https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com).

Welcome to the sixth edition of Global Aftercare

Introduction by Jim Gagliano
President and Chief Operating Officer
The Jockey Club

An Update from North America and Looking Ahead:

As we have navigated the first quarter of 2022, I am optimistic that this year in horse racing will most closely resemble the world we remember pre-pandemic. Fans are back in the stands, and we are returning to holding large gatherings in-person. However, due to uncertainties that still exist with international travel, we will be hosting IFAR's conference virtually in April for the second consecutive year. We are confident that the event will be a success following positive feedback from last year's virtual series.

Aftercare continues to be a significant focus for our industry in North America, and the success of our programs indicates that our stakeholders recognize the importance of looking after our horses throughout all stages of life.

The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.), which was first announced in 2011, recognizes and rewards the versatility of the Thoroughbred through sponsorship of Thoroughbred classes and high point awards at sanctioned horse shows, performance awards, and non-competition awards. This year, T.I.P. has approved more than 7,000 awards and classes at more than 1,400 shows in 46 states and six Canadian provinces. We were also excited to announce an expanded T.I.P. Championships horse show in 2022 that will span multiple locations and include classes in 11 disciplines.

T.I.P.'s Barrel Racing and Central Region Dressage Championships will be held in partnership with the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) as part of the Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, which will be held in October in Lexington, Kentucky. The Thoroughbred Makeover is the world's largest retraining competition for ex-racehorses and will return to a single-year format this year following the combining of the 2020 and 2021 competitions.

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, which was possible in part due to initial seed money from The Jockey Club, accredits aftercare organizations in addition to providing grants to approved aftercare organizations. In November, it was announced that \$3.7 million would be awarded as grants to 82 aftercare organizations.

These initiatives, all founded within the last 12 years, demonstrate our industry's progress in the realm of aftercare. However, there is still more work to be done, and April's virtual IFAR conference represents a great



opportunity for leaders from different jurisdictions around the world to share best practices in aftercare that can be replicated elsewhere as well as to discuss challenges that we are all facing.

April's conference, themed "Many paths – One goal," will be held as two virtual sessions at 12 p.m. BST (11 a.m. GMT) on April 5 and 19. The agenda, list of speakers, and registration information are now available on the IFAR website. Topics to be discussed include traceability, transitioning horses off the racetrack and assessing suitability for other careers, the use of Thoroughbreds in unique careers, responsibility in making end-of-life decisions, and the next generation's perspective on aftercare. For anyone who has an interest in the Thoroughbred industry and the welfare of our equine athletes, I encourage you to tune in to what are sure to be two insightful and thought-provoking sessions.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the generous support by the Japan Racing Association (Japanese Consultative Committee on Aftercare of Racehorses) to assist the activities of IFAR going forward. The Japanese have established effective aftercare programs for their own racehorses, and we are grateful to them for recognizing the value of IFAR in improving aftercare practices around the world.

The Thoroughbred industry faces its share of global challenges, but the increased prioritization of aftercare is a cause for optimism, and IFAR will continue our work in pursuit of this mission.

Top news

International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses Enters into Sponsorship Agreement with Japan Racing Association

The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) announces that it has entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement with the Japan Racing Association (JRA) to support the activities of IFAR. The partnership commences with the JRA's support of the upcoming virtual IFAR conference through the Japanese Consultative Committee on Aftercare of Racehorses.

"The JRA has already demonstrated its commitment to Thoroughbred aftercare in Japan, and we are so appreciative of their generosity in furthering the work of IFAR and that they recognize the importance of our group's work on an international scale," said Di Arbuthnot, chair of IFAR. "With the assistance of the JRA, IFAR will be able to enhance its efforts to promote formal and effective aftercare programs in racing jurisdictions around the world."

In addition to hosting the upcoming IFAR conference, the sponsorship funding will enable IFAR to expand its communication and marketing efforts.

"The IFAR committees have devised a range of new promotional strategies to showcase the tremendous work that is being undertaken across many countries and hopes the materials under development will help inspire other jurisdictions to enhance and expand their aftercare initiatives," said Arbuthnot.

"The JRA, along with others in the Japanese racing community, has supported IFAR's work on the aftercare for retired racehorses since it began and have worked together to address this welfare issue," said Masayuki Goto, president and chief executive officer of the JRA.

"Year after year, IFAR shares its activities with horse racing professionals around the world, fostering an understanding of our racing industry and demonstrating the great potential of Thoroughbreds, so we have decided to sponsor IFAR in the hope that its activities will continue to be stable and be able to support the global horse racing industry. Here's hoping that our retired Thoroughbreds will be found well in all sorts of places!"



News from around the globe

Treo Eile , Ireland

TREO EILE is delighted to announce the introduction of the Thoroughbred Eventing League, aimed at those competing Thoroughbreds in Eventing Ireland competitions this year. The first event was held at Blackstairs in Wexford on March 19th, the league will run until the final event of the calendar in Punchestown in October. Carrying €2,000 in prize money, with a pot of €1,000 to the winner, points will be allocated for completion, double clears and placings to any rider competing on a Thoroughbred. Each combination may move through the classes to keep progressing.

With over 70 registered Thoroughbreds competing in Eventing Ireland, the competition will be tough and the aim is to increase participation of former racehorses. Treo Eile founder, Sarah Sands explained "Eventing is a perfect discipline for thoroughbreds, the stamina required during cross country is becoming really important and this is where they excel in terms of bravery and speed as they're natural athletes. They're also bred for movement and conformation so dressage is usually very achievable. Show jumping can catch them out sometimes, but with training the technique improves considerably and we'll be supporting this with clinics as the season goes on".

Eventing Ireland Chairman, Chris Hunt added "We are delighted to have Treo Eile on board sponsoring a league for Thoroughbred horses. The TB pedigree has always brought stamina, speed and courage, vital characteristics in the performance of a top level event horse. We look forward to following the league, seeing what horses come out on top and hopefully the addition of some new horse and riders competing in the sport of Eventing."

The league will be updated weekly, after each event. All TB registered horses will be taken from the Event Programmes, so please ensure you have submitted all the details to Head Office so breeding is recorded correctly. If you have a thoroughbred and it is not showing please contact head office or nominate their combination to hello@treoeile.com.



The Retired Racehorse Project (RRP)

The Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) announced in mid-February the acceptance of 482 trainers, including both individuals and team members, to the 2022 class of the Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, presented by Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). The Thoroughbred Makeover is the world's largest and most lucrative retraining competition for ex-racehorses, awarding over \$100,000 in prize money annually since 2015. The Makeover returns to its single-year format in 2022 after the postponement of the 2020 event led to a "double" Makeover in 2021, with two competition years running simultaneously. The 2022 Makeover will take place on October 12-15, 2022 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

Open to professionals, juniors, amateurs, and teams, the Thoroughbred Makeover is a retraining competition for recently-retired ex-racehorses. Competition is available in ten disciplines, with trainers choosing to compete in up to two: barrel racing, competitive trail, dressage, eventing, field hunter, polo, ranch work, show hunter, show jumper, and free-style (a free-form discipline to demonstrate skills of the trainer's choice). Trainers have signed up to bring a total of 505 horses.

New for 2022, the Makeover will also play host to The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.) Western Championships and Central Region Dressage Championships. After a successful implementation of the inaugural T.I.P. Barrel Racing Championships in 2021, the RRP and T.I.P. are expanding on their working relationship to add more opportunities for Thoroughbreds and Thoroughbred enthusiasts to make the most of the week at the Kentucky Horse Park.

"Although we're back to our 'normal' Makeover schedule at the Kentucky Horse Park in October, we're pleased to expand other aspects of the event to reach more Thoroughbred lovers and serve a broader portion of the aftercare industry," said RRP executive director, Kirsten Green. "Hosting additional T.I.P. Championship classes and the pilot year of the ASPCA Makeover Marketplace Future Prospects barn is broadening the scope of the Thoroughbred Makeover and making it a true cornerstone event for Thoroughbred enthusiasts."

Learn more about the Thoroughbred Makeover and meet the class of 2022 at www.tbmakeover.org.



New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) – Thoroughbreds in Polo

As part of an ongoing increase in activity around Thoroughbred traceability and life after racing initiatives, NZTR has partnered with the New Zealand Polo Association and individual clubs to deliver a successful “Thoroughbreds in Polo” series.

“Thoroughbred welfare is at the heart of what we do, and NZTR has been progressively rolling out initiatives to fulfil the industry’s collective obligation for the guardianship of our horses,” said NZTR’s general manager, Welfare & Sustainability, Martin Burns. “This includes growing our #NZOTTB brand and community, which aims to showcase the incredible versatility of the Thoroughbred and highlight the wide variety of careers that Thoroughbreds go on to excel in post racing.”

New Zealand has long been a happy hunting ground for polo players from all over the world seeking a horse that is tough, athletic, and trainable. Numerous New Zealand Thoroughbred exports, including notable horses such as Small Person (Blazing Keel) and Riddle (Postponed) have gone on to succeed at the highest level. Domestically, the New Zealand Thoroughbred dominates the sport all the way from high goal down to the grass roots level of schools, where Thoroughbreds are often entrusted with showing small children the ropes on the polo pitch.

The “Thoroughbreds in Polo” scheme identifies Thoroughbreds competing in participating tournaments with quarter stickers and subsequently awards a best playing Thoroughbred prize for each grade of that tournament.

In addition to providing the opportunity to showcase the versatility of the Thoroughbred, the “Thoroughbreds in Polo” scheme has proven an invaluable traceability exercise. Approximately 300 participating Thoroughbreds have been identified so far this year, many of whom have never raced or raced without success. “It is extremely rewarding to see Thoroughbreds, particularly those who may not have succeeded in racing, succeed and thrive in other careers” said Burns.

The initial launch of the “Thoroughbreds in Polo” scheme marks a milestone in collaboration between Thoroughbred racing and Polo in New Zealand. Going forward, continued expansion across all facets of NZTR’s post racing sponsorship and growth of the #NZOTTB community will ensure that horses continue to find their niche post racing and continue to excel in a wide variety of second careers.



Racing to Relate (R2R) - retired racehorses retrain as therapy horses

Racing To Relate (R2R) is a racing charity established to focus on post racing careers for Thoroughbreds in Equine Assisted Services (EAS) for the benefit of people with mental and physical disabilities.

Racing to Relate’s research project with the University of Bristol Veterinary School highlighted by Reuters shares a glimpse of what represents many months of hard work towards creating a robust methodology, providing rigorous research and dissemination of best-practice strategies for off-track Thoroughbreds.

This collaborative three-year study is the cornerstone of Racing To Relate’s long-term research aims under their ‘Thoroughbred Assisted’ banner and has the potential to become a template for developing a global standard.

Their collaborative knowledge platform, www.thoroughbredassisted.org will offer evidence-based guidance for optimal engagement, implementation and welfare outcomes for both horses and the people who work with them.

The research is only at the ‘audit’ phase and to already see so much enthusiasm in the media is hugely encouraging. If you are involved in the Equine Assisted Sector there is still time to participate in this first phase, the research team want to hear from all programmes working with all breeds of horses to assist people, be that therapy (physical or mental health), learning, personal development and coaching, or indeed whatever terminology you would use to describe your work.

For more information please visit www.racingtorelate.org.uk



December Donations save Puerto Rico's Aftercare Program

By BloodHorse Staff

Around \$65,000 in donations and a large commitment from the Puerto Rico Racing Commission made in late November and December have saved Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare from closing, after its coffers were nearly depleted due to a record influx of inexpensive racehorses to the island last year.

The organization that finds new homes for retired racehorses from Camarero Race Track typically handles 40 horses annually. In 2021, CTA took in 73 horses because large purses and exceptionally big bonus incentives tied to handle sparked a flood of imported horses. Most of these horses were inexpensive claimers that were already toward the end of their racing careers.

For the first six months of last year, CTA's expenses were around \$208,000 but its donations totaled \$163,000, according to CTA co-founder Kelley Stobie. By September the organization was running \$10,000-\$12,000 in the red each month and eating away at its reserves. Stobie said back in September the prospect of having to shut down CTA at the beginning of 2022 was a real possibility.

Two \$25,000 donations made up the bulk of the December windfall. One donation came from Camarero Race Track, which made a check presentation during the Dec. 4-5 Clásico Internacional del Caribe, the most important two days of racing for members of the Confederación Hipica del Caribe. The second donation came in late November during a gala hosted by several homeowners in the Bahia Beach Resort in Rio Grande who have become supporters of the CTA's mission.

CTA also got a \$50,000 commitment from the Puerto Rico Gaming Commission through June, which is the end of federal government's fiscal year.

"It works out to \$7,000 a month for which we send them invoices and receipts and we get reimbursed," said Stobie.

For full story click [HERE](#).



Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) Showcase Announced

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) is delighted to announce the return of the RoR Showcase day on Saturday 23rd April at Hartpury University in Gloucestershire from 10am to 5pm. This inspirational day, which is supported by the Horserace Betting Levy Board, will include a range of live demonstrations and clinics, expert advice and the chance to see first-hand the versatility and adaptability of former racehorses now excelling in their new careers.

This year's impressive line-up of renowned trainers and experts includes top show producers Katie and Chris Jerram-Hunnable, dressage coach Cara Hayward and event rider and instructor Diana Burgess. There will be demonstrations from Western Rider Emma Lonie, polo with David Morley and side-saddle with Lucinda Simms. The event will feature a range of equine disciplines including showing, dressage, eventing, polo, horseball and western riding.

The day also features talks with racing industry and other equine experts covering the transition of the racehorse from athlete straight from the track to retraining for its second career. There will be an Ask The Experts Lounge where visitors will have the opportunity to ask one-to-one questions and gather more tips and advice. In addition, the RoR Showcase provides visitors with information about the care of former racehorses with master classes in saddlery, feeding, dentistry and physiotherapy.

Di Arbutnot, RoR Chief Executive explains: "Education forms such an integral part of the charity's work and we are very grateful to the Horserace Betting Levy Board for their financial support. The entire day will be a showcase for the work of the charity all under one roof with a host of experts and industry professionals from the racing and equine worlds."

For more information visit www.ror.org.uk



Interview with Natasha Rose, Hong Kong's Retired Horse Project Manager

Laura King from the Dubai Racing Channel welcomes Natasha Rose, Hong Kong Jockey Club's (HKJC) Retired Horse Unit Manager, to discuss the extensive aftercare program set up in Hong Kong.

Natasha highlights the importance of retired racehorse projects and how wonderful it is to see the different aftercare initiatives setup around the world. These are designed to help former racehorses, once their racing days come to an end.

The HKJC have a national equestrian centre called Beas River that was set up after World War II and then became the home for retired racehorses in 1964.

Since then, the HKJC have expanded the retired horse programme and set up an additional facility at its Conghua Training Centre in Mainland China, named The Retired Horse Unit. To view full interview click [HERE](#).

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.

I'manood Lass AKA Duchess, NZ

Cambridge horseman Kit Brooks acquired Duchess off the track as a 5-year-old, and has been a part of his polo team for the past three years. To see her winning the prestigious 'Best Playing Pony' of the New Zealand Polo Open tournament award in this amount of time is an absolute credit to the versatility and adaptability of the Thoroughbred.

'Duchess' had also picked up the Best Playing Thoroughbred prize a week earlier in Cambridge. Kit describes Duchess as "the most genuine, willing horse in the world - I love her!"

Former racing connections at Peter Lock Racing were also thrilled to see Duchess' success in her second career - "we are so proud of former stable members achievements - we send a lot of our small fillies to Kit for polo and it's rewarding for us to see our horses get every opportunity after racing".



Daiwa Sugar, Japan

Daiwa Sugar (2007, Daiwa Texas [JPN] × Daiwa Candy [JPN]) retired from racing without ever winning a race, but her talent as a show jumper has never been in doubt as she has achieved outstanding results in her second career. Last September she won the Japan Young Rider Championship with her 18-year-old rider Sota Nakajima. Sota retrained Daiwa Sugar with the help of his father, and they are currently competing in the 130cm class, but are planning on challenging the 140cm class before the year is out.

Photo credit: Japan Equestrian Federation



One Pekan, UK

Kerry Humphries met her "absolute world" One Pekan on her "very first day" of her job with top trainer Roger Varian.

"Pekan is a bit of a character and he can be pretty grumpy in the stable. But I just fell in love with him straight away," she said.

"I remember going up to the office, it was in January, and Roger saying that if I would like to have [Pekan] I could have him. I remember saying 'thank you, Boss, thank you'.

She left the office and screamed, before running up to the first person she saw and hugging them.

"He definitely was my favourite, we had a great bond straight away. He really is special to me. He did have me off a couple of times, though, in training - he's actually had me off more times now!" Four years on from that first meeting and their bond is as strong as ever.

"All the girls here love him, because he is that much of a character. He loves going out into the stubble fields, there's one we go in where the deer run alongside us," she said.

In 2021, Kerry's mother died unexpectedly, and she has thanked Pekan for being there to help her through.

"I've spent a lot of time just sitting in the stable with him, cuddling him. I just sit in his hay while he munches and he nuzzles me," she said.

"He acts like a tough horse, but he knows when I'm down. They know. They can sense it on you. He is the reason I do everything. He is more than just a horse to me, he is my best friend. He is my world.

"We'll go out on a hack and I'll chat away to him about my day. If I'm having a bad day, I can let it all out and he doesn't judge me.

"I think everyone who knows Pekan and I do understand what we have done for each other. I've given him a home out of racing, and he has helped me in tough times.

"He is not perfect, he's definitely got his quirks, but that's Pekan - that's the character of him and I wouldn't have him any other way."



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.

Dates for the Diary 2022

Australia

28th April - 1st May - Best performed OTTs at Jumping Victoria State Title, Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre

30th April - 2nd May - Jumping Victoria State Titles, Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre

9th-13th June - Melbourne International 3 Day Event, Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre

New Zealand

24th - 25th May - NZTR Acknowledged Retrainers Residential Clinic

28th - 30th October - Beyond The Barriers Dunstan Ex-factor Competition

United Kingdom

26th June - The Al Shira'aa Hickstead Derby Meeting

13th July - RoR Racing to Polo Challenge, Cowdray Gold Cup Semi Finals Day

3rd - 10th August - RoR/British Showjumping Championships

24th-27th August - The Jockey Club RoR National Championships, Aintree

United States

7th - 10th April - RRP Booth at Equine Affaire, Columbus, OH

28th - 1st May - RRP Booth and Demos at Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event Lexington, KY

15th - 17th July - RRP Demo at Breyerfest, Lexington, KY

6th - 9th October - 2022 T.I.P. Championships at Stable View & East Coast Dressage Championships, Stable View, Aiken, SC

12th-15th October - Western Championships at the 2022 Thoroughbred Makeover & Central Dressage Championships Lexington, Kentucky

12th-15th October - Retired Racehorse Project Thoroughbred Makeover, Lexington, Kentucky



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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.