

**THE JOCKEY CLUB  
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION  
August 11, 2022**

**Recommendation: Racetracks and Breeders Associations Develop an Aftercare Liaison Function to Coordinate the Efficient Transition of Retiring Racehorses and Breeding Stock to Aftercare Organizations**

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee commends the efforts that have been made by organizations and initiatives to encourage the retirement of racehorses in a responsible manner and where possible, to ensure the horses have an opportunity to succeed in a second career. Unfortunately, the industry continues to come under scrutiny when Thoroughbreds end up in low end auctions and kill pens, and often the horse's connections are identified and contacted for financial assistance to 'bail' the horse, regardless of how long the horse has been out of their care.

Several racetracks in the U.S. have established and funded aftercare triage programs, often in association with horsemen's groups, for horses that race at their facility. These include Beyond the Wire (Maryland Jockey Club), Take2 (NYRA), Turning for Home (Parx), Second Call (Monmouth Park), and CARMA (California). Three racetracks also have in-house retirement and placement programs accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance: Finger Lakes (FLTAP), Prairie Meadows (HART), and Hawthorne (Gallop Out). In addition, the Pennsylvania Breeders Association set up a program to assist with placement of retiring Pennsylvania-bred mares into retraining programs or sanctuary.

While these programs serve a multitude of functions, one of the most important roles is working with the horsemen directly to facilitate the transition of Thoroughbreds from the racetrack or breeding farm to approved non-profit organizations. The program's liaison provides a service to Thoroughbred owners who need help retiring a horse and ensure the transition of the horse responsibly into the next phase of its life.

To ensure all Thoroughbreds are responsibly retired from racing and breeding, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

“All Thoroughbred racetracks and breeders associations appoint an Aftercare Liaison to coordinate the efficient transition of retiring racehorses and breeding stock from the racetrack or breeders to non-profit organizations that are better suited to place the horses into second careers or permanent sanctuaries. This function should evaluate retiring horses; contact partner rehabilitation and retraining programs to find a placement if the horse is capable of a second career, or for horses that are injured or unsound, work with veterinarians to determine the best course of action for the horse; and serve as a liaison to the horse's owner and/or trainer. Racetracks and breeders associations are encouraged to develop a comprehensive

aftercare program, including funding, protocols and allocated stalls for program horses in transition, to ensure all horses are responsibly retired and transitioned out of the racing industry.”