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ASPCA Grants \$290,000 to Equine Rescue Groups Assisting Retired Racehorses

*Fourteen groups join ASPCA Million Dollar Rescuing Racers Initiative,
now in its third year*

NEW YORK—The [ASPCA](#)® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) today announced that 14 equine rescue organizations from across the nation have joined the ASPCA Million Dollar Rescuing Racers Initiative, now in its third year. This major grants program aids in the rescue and rehabilitation of retired racehorses to save them from [slaughter](#), repurposing the horses for other areas of the equine world and giving them a new lease on life for events or pleasure riding.

“Too often, thoroughbreds end up at livestock auctions—or worse, are sent to slaughterhouses—when their racing days are over,” said Jacque Schultz, senior director of the ASPCA Equine Fund. “There has been some emphasis on increasing the industry’s commitment to after-care for retired racers lately, but the sad truth is these nonprofits are still constantly struggling to find the funding to save more horses. We are thrilled to provide this opportunity to help those organizations working to transition ex-racers out of the racing stable and into someone’s show barn or farm paddock.”

The organizations joining the list of thoroughbred rescues and sanctuaries as part of the ASPCA Million Dollar Rescuing Racers Initiative for 2012 are:

- The Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses (CANTER), with affiliates in Ariz., Calif., Ky., Mich., Middle Atlantic, New England and Ohio;
- Equine Encore Foundation in Ariz.;
- The Exceller Fund in Ky.;
- Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program, Inc. in N.Y.;
- Harry A. Biszantz Memorial Center for Thoroughbred Retirement DBA Tranquility Farm in Calif.;
- Illinois Equine Humane Center;
- Kentucky Equine Humane Center, Inc.;
- MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, Inc. in Md.;
- New Vocation Racehorse Adoption Thoroughbred Program in Ohio and other locations;
- New Vocation Racehorse Adoption Standardbred Program in Ohio and other locations;
- Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program LTD;
- ReRun, Inc. in N.J. and N.Y.;
- Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue; and
- TROTT USA (Training Racehorses off the Track) in Calif.

The selected recipients include a wide range of equine rescues from across the nation and will each be awarded a grant ranging from \$5,000–\$35,000. The grant funding helps the groups increase capacity for rescuing more horses, and primarily focuses on training and rehabilitation costs such as dental care, therapeutic shoeing, and boarding to recover from career-ending injuries. The request for proposals was announced in April in the inaugural issue of the ASPCA Equine Fund’s e-newsletter, the [ASPCA Hoof Beat](#).

“While some grants will help those horses being cared for in sanctuaries, we focused on placement programs that can accommodate more retirees in the long-run,” said Schultz. “The ASPCA is proud to help them responsibly build their capacity to save more racehorses.”

“The ASPCA’s support has truly helped push our marketing efforts forward for our thoroughbreds,” said Bev Strauss of MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, one of six organizations selected in the first year of the Initiative to receive larger grants over a two-to-three year span. “There is a real groundswell bringing back thoroughbreds in the sport and pleasure horse world, and in my opinion, the ASPCA’s Million Dollar Rescuing Racers Initiative provided the impetus for this movement.”

Last year, the [ASPCA Equine Fund](#) awarded nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding to 165 non-profit equine welfare organizations in 38 states whose focus and expertise is concentrated on reducing the suffering of equines who have lost their homes or been cruelly treated. The ASPCA Equine Fund grants program seeks to award equine organizations who strive to achieve best practices, including sound horse care, maintenance of updated websites and robust fundraising practices.

The ASPCA has an extensive history of equine protection around the country and continues to assist domestic and wild horses through legislation, advocacy, targeted grants and enforcement of the carriage horse and cruelty laws in New York City. To learn more about the ASPCA, please visit www.asPCA.org.

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first animal welfare organization in North America and serves as the nation’s leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA’s mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit www.ASPCA.org, and be sure to follow the ASPCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).

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