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Writing the Legacy of the

THE THROUGHBRED CLASSIC HORSE SHOW SERIES

from Racehorse to Sporthorse

THOROUGHBRED

<u>HORSE</u>SF

hey're called racehorses, and in fact they can run fast, but the Thoroughbred horses trained in the sport of racing are so much more. Descending from some of the greatest equine athletes, their crafted bloodlines breathe life into many beloved stories of triumph. The tales of Seabiscuit and Secretariat remind us all of the amazing conquests of horse and rider - stories of underdogs, bravery, and faith.

Bred for their speed, grace, and spirit, the Thoroughbred is a well-known name, especially in Kentucky, Florida, and California, where some of the greatest horses of our time have made history. We watch these amazing creatures; often when they are just two years old, compete at racetracks all over the nation in front of grandstands filled with spectators. No matter what race we watch, or which horses are running, we are always impressed by their ability to effortlessly define the true essence of both sportsmanship and showmanship.

Historically referred to as the 'Sport of Kings,' Thoroughbred race horses are responsible for the financial success of their owners, breeders, trainers, and often-times gambling spectators at the racetrack. Each race they run determines their ultimate value. As there is only one winner in a race, only the top elite out of the thousands competing on the track are able to stay in the racing industry for any significant amount of time. Most are deemed unfit for their job at some point in their racing career due to lack of speed or an injury. Although the fate of the retired racehorse may be uncertain, history has proven that these majestic athletes have the ability, versatility and spirit to excel in a second career. From racehorse to sport horse, these equine can have new beginnings with new families.

True examples of how rewarding a second chance can be, often young and used only for galloping, these horses are introduced to a new world with careers as show horses, pleasure mounts, even therapy horses.

These transitions, however, can be few and far between as often horses do not have a place to go to after being retired from their racing careers.

The racing industry is supportive and reliant on the aftercare organizations to assist in making a transition from the track to a potential home. Facilitating these lifestyle changes for horses are organizations such as the California Retirement Management Account (CARMA) and the 18 various aftercare organizations funded by CARMA's grants. Working with breeders, trai-

ners, and owners, ex-racehorses have a safe, welcoming place to go to before they find their new calling. Taking a fine-tuned, high-strung racehorse and teaching it to become a relaxed, focused riding horse is an art. Done correctly with patience



and commitment, the connection can evolve into an amazing competitive partnership.

In 2013 CARMA is proud to announce the launch of a series of

three horse shows, made possible by the Siegel-CARMA Endowment, dedicated to off the track Thoroughbreds. Aptly titled, 'The Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show,' (TCHS), the first event is on April 20-21, 2012 at the Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano, CA with additional shows in July and October.

With several successful Thoroughbred horse shows on the east coast, the TCHS Series is the first of its kind on the West Coast. With the opportunity to compete in a breed specific show, the strong base of riders who are passionate about this breed can demonstrate as well as advocate how the Thoroughbred can have a successful second career. CARMA is pleased to offer an opportunity for Thoroughbred owners to showcase their horses in a more supportive and loving environment.

Prior to the popularity of Warmbloods, Thoroughbreds dominated the show rings. Providing a supportive forum, the TCHS offers top trainers an avenue to transition Thoroughbreds into the 'A' rated circuits yet accessible enough for those competing at lower rated events.

This effort will help increase the marketability of Thoroughbreds as show horses.

The Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park, a high-end and sophisticated venue, is centrally located in Southern California. The TCHA series will also offer

year-end awards to the champions in each division, including classes for Hunters, Jumpers, Dressage, Combined Training, Western, Showmanship and more. The weekend festivities will kick-off with clinics in multiple disciplines by top professional trainers, an Exhibitor's Welcome Dinner, plus a VIP Luncheon and Silent Auction during the highlight \$1,500 Hunter Derby and \$1,500 Jumper Stakes.

Beyond being a Thoroughbred only horse show, the event will promote the aftercare organizations instrumental in transitioning these horses off the track. An excellent 'arena' to help these organizations gain exposure, the TCHS will work to develop relationships with racehorse breeders and owners by encouraging them to participate in the successful transition from racehorse to sport horse.



The TCHS will also educate the community on the versatility and suitability of the Thoroughbred as both a sport horse and companion.

The TCHS invites all horse lovers who have ever been to a race, loved the story of a racehorse, or had a horse of their own to help promote The Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show Series.

If you want to receive further information, donation or sponsorship opportunities about the show please visit the website for CARMA online. thoroughbredclassic.org