



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grass-roots Recognition by the Jockey Club's T.I.P. Program

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation has received recognition and sponsorship from The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.) for its efforts to provide opportunities for Thoroughbreds to compete after they have finished their racing or breeding careers. Thoroughbreds registered with The Jockey Club will be eligible for participation in all T.I.P. classes at the VHCF's Thoroughbred Celebration and House Mountain series in 2012.

"The Thoroughbred Incentive Program is a natural extension of our ongoing efforts in Thoroughbred aftercare," said James L. Gagliano, the Jockey Club's President and Chief Operating Officer. "We encourage other groups to join us as we assist with the transition of Thoroughbreds into second careers."

Since 2009, the Virginia Horse Center has offered classes specifically for Thoroughbred ex-racehorses at its House Mountain Horse Shows and Thoroughbred Celebration Horse Shows. In 2012, The Jockey Club is sponsoring ribbons and prizes at the House Mountain Horse Shows for The Jockey Club T.I.P. Modified Hunter Division and The Jockey Club T.I.P. Jumper Classes.

On March 16-18, June 8-10, and November 2-4, the Thoroughbred Celebration Horse Shows will offer The Jockey Club T.I.P. Thoroughbred Handy Hunter, The Jockey Club T.I.P. Thoroughbred English Pleasure Walk/Trot, and The Jockey Club T.I.P. Thoroughbred English Pleasure Walk/Trot/Canter classes. Ribbons, prizes and a \$50 purse to each class winner, donated by The Jockey Club, will be awarded in each of these classes throughout the year.

Horse owners interested in participating in T.I.P. can find more information regarding eligibility and assistance with identification of Thoroughbreds at tjctip.com. Information about the program can be found by visiting <http://www.thejockeyclub.com/logos.asp> and scrolling to the bottom of the page.

The Jockey Club, founded in 1894 and dedicated to the improvement of Thoroughbred breeding and racing, is the breed registry for North American Thoroughbreds. In fulfillment of its mission, The Jockey Club provides support and leadership on a wide range of important industry initiatives and it serves the information and technology needs of owners, breeders, media, fans and farms, among others. Additional information is available at jockeyclub.com.

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which owns and operates the Virginia Horse Center. The Foundation is proud to support a 600-acre facility that serves 400,000 people; functioning as a classroom, land reserve, market place, and recreation venue. The VHCF manages 110 events annually, most free and open to the public, and hosts the Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center.