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MidAtlantic Horse Rescue is Recipient of ASPCA's Million Dollar Rescuing Racers Initiative

Major Grant Will Save More Retired Racehorses

Chesapeake City, MD—The ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) today announced the Million Dollar Rescuing Racers Initiative—a major initiative made possible by a generous donor—that will aid in the rescue of retired racehorses from neglect, abuse, and slaughter. Six equine rescues and sanctuaries across the country were selected to take up the challenge of saving more thoroughbreds than ever before. MidAtlantic Horse Rescue in Chesapeake City, MD, was chosen as one of those grantees, and will receive a grant for \$100,000 over three years.

Co-founders Beverly Strauss and Virginia Suarez are thrilled with the announcement. “The rescues selected for this initiative are among the top thoroughbred programs nationwide. We are honored to be selected and are the only organization in the group that regularly buys ex-racehorses from kill pens in order to find them homes as riding and sport horses. We are perhaps the smallest operation selected but we work extremely hard to place these wonderful, intelligent horses in good homes,” Strauss said.

“Many thoroughbreds rarely live out their final days in peace and comfort when their racing careers are over,” said ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. “Too often, they end up at auctions or worse, are sent to slaughterhouses where their lives come to a brutal end. These grants will enable organizations devoted to equine rescue the ability to save more horses and further advance their mission.”

“We met with visionaries who were extremely grateful to be selected for this opportunity to responsibly build their capacity and save more racehorses,” said Jacque Schultz, Senior Director of ASPCA Community Outreach. “The thoroughbred that has given its all on the racetrack deserves to live out his life free of pain, fear, and suffering.”

MidAtlantic Horse Rescue has big plans in place in order to rehome more rescued thoroughbreds. Later this month they are moving their base of operations to the nearby historic Woodstock Farm, birthplace of the great racehorse Kelso, and home of the late Mrs. Allaire duPont. Mrs. duPont was one of the first in the country to speak out about the welfare of thoroughbreds after their racing careers. She co-founded Thoroughbred Charities of America with Herb and Ellen Moelis of nearby Middletown, DE.

In addition to utilizing this grant for a new marketing campaign promoting thoroughbred adoption, MidAtlantic Horse Rescue is launching a pilot program called “On the Right Track” in which new adopters will receive vouchers worth up to \$200- for lessons or training with a professional of their choice for their MAHR horse. Strauss is excited about this innovative program. “Bringing a new horse home can be intimidating for many people. There is often an adjustment period while the horse and rider develop a partnership. The On the Right Track program is designed to facilitate a smooth transition between our rescued horse and his new owner in order to reinforce a successful placement. We could not have started this program without the support of the ASPCA Rescuing Racers Initiative.”

Founded in 2002 as a division of Paws for Life, Inc., a 501c3 non profit dog rescue, MidAtlantic Horse Rescue has placed over 450 rescued thoroughbreds in new homes. In addition, they have purchased another 500 horses for other rescues across the country. For more information or to adopt a horse, please visit www.MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org.

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