



### **A Dignified Ending for 28 year old Son of Secretariat**



Almost twelve months ago The Exceller Fund received a call that a 27-year-old son of Secretariat named Verifiable was in need of help. He had been living within the confines of a stall with no access to turnout or means of exercise. The only time he left the makeshift stall was when he was lead to another while it was cleaned. This had gone on for over six years.

“I will never forget the day I learned about his situation,” Nicole Smith, Volunteer Executive Director for the organization commented. “We had not yet confirmed his identity, or that he was even an off-the-track Thoroughbred for that matter, but that made no difference.

I had already made a vow to get him out of that situation, no matter what had to be done. No horse should have to live like that.”

With the help of Sallee Horse Vans, The Exceller Fund brought the thin geriatric stallion back to Kentucky in October 2012. He was first sent to KESMARC for an initial evaluation, rehab and time to acclimate to being turned out on grass before going to one of the charity’s facilities.

“There is nothing more fulfilling than watching one of these horses that have come out of a bad situation look out across the pasture for the first time and breathe a sigh of relief,” Smith said with tears forming in her eyes. “It’s like they just know everything is finally going to be okay.”



Verifiable spent the last year of his life enjoying the sunshine on the lush pastures of a small private farm in Paris, KY where he was boarded for The Exceller Fund. On

September 28<sup>th</sup>, The Exceller Fund said goodbye to the son of a legend when the 28-year-old stallion became severely ataxic and was humanely euthanized.

“I admit the tears came freely when I hung up the phone after hearing the news that Verifiable was struggling and the vet was on the way,” Smith said. “It’s hard to describe what I was feeling. I was sad he wouldn’t be waiting for me on my next visit. Yet, I was grateful we had been able to provide him with the retirement he deserved, even if it was only for the last year of his life.”



In honor of Verifiable, The Golden Years Fund was started in 2012 to help support The Exceller Fund's older equine residents. Donations to this special designated fund go directly toward the care of the organizations geriatric Thoroughbreds to help provide the specialized care they need. Horses are boarded, or fostered, at private facilities and are placed according to their individual needs to ensure they receive the best care possible. The charity currently cares for approximately 50 Thoroughbreds nationally.

Website

[www.excellerfund.org](http://www.excellerfund.org)

Golden Years Fund Webpage

<http://www.excellerfund.org/goldenyears.html>

Original Story

<http://www.excellerfund.org/Domains/www.excellerfund.org/CMSFiles/Docs/Verifiable%20Intake%20Press%20Release11-12-2012-20-3-37-45.pdf>