

For Immediate Release
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MADE POSSIBLE BY
A GRANT FROM THE **ASPCA**[®]



The Exceller Fund Receives \$10,000 Grant from ASPCA

Lexington, KY – The Exceller Fund (TEF) recently announced that the ASPCA[®] (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals[®]) has awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the non-profit organization to assist with the intake of five new horses during a 12-month period.

This grant is made possible by the ASPCA's Rescuing Racers Initiative, which 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. The grant funding also helps 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.

"There is no way we can help all of the Thoroughbreds out there, but with the help of the ASPCA, we are going to be able to make a difference for at least five more of them. For that, we are extremely grateful," commented Volunteer Executive Director Nicole Smith.

The Exceller Fund offers lifetime retirement for off-the-track Thoroughbreds that are no longer able to race, regardless of their adoption potential.

"When we take a horse into our program, we make a lifetime commitment to that animal," said Smith. "They will either remain in our care or at the very least, under our safety net, for the rest of their life if they are re-homed."

"Too often, thoroughbreds end up at livestock auctions – or worse, are sent to slaughterhouses – when their racing careers end," said Jacque Schultz, senior director of the ASPCA Equine Fund. "Horses have been central to the ASPCA's work since our founding, and we are honored to be able to offer this grant to The Exceller Fund to assist them in their efforts to save more horses by transitioning ex-racers out of the racing stable and into someone's show barn, farm paddock, or established sanctuary."

Currently, TEF is caring for over 50 horses, more than 40 of which are permanently retired and will not be re-homed as riding prospects. Approximately 20 percent of the herd is over 20-years-old and considered geriatric.

TEF recently welcomed three-year-old Washita Country, rescued from a livestock auction and 11-year-old Mfazi, a racing warrior with 99 starts, who joins the organization from the NE racing circuit.