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Washita Country Joins The Exceller Fund



Washita Country at Firey Ranch in Oklahoma after joining The Exceller Fund.

While a major focus of The Exceller Fund (TEF) continues to be Racing Warriors, the organization has recently taken possession of a three year old Thoroughbred named Washita Country; that was literally a paperwork error away from going into the slaughter pipeline at a livestock auction.

This gelding was purchased by a private buyer attending the sale on behalf of Mr. John Murrell, a gentleman dedicated to keeping horses from going to slaughter. Upon going to pay for the youngster that had just recently come off the track, it was discovered that his paperwork had been placed in the competing bidder's file... a kill buyer. Thankfully, the mistake was corrected and the horse left with the private buyer.

Now safe and happily munching hay at a private farm, Washita Country faced another dilemma. His final destination was originally to be an out-of-state rescue, but three weeks after being pulled from the auction, the rescue was no longer able to take him. He now had no place to go and was essentially homeless.

Washita Country has become the newest addition to the herd of 50 plus Thoroughbreds in the care of The Exceller Fund. "When we first learned about his situation, we didn't know what to expect from the little three-year-old. We had identified him by his tattoo and knew at which track he had been working, but nothing more than that. Now that he's here we could not be more excited for his future," Executive Director, Nicole Smith commented.

Appropriately nicknamed "Junior" by TEF volunteers, Washita Country was foaled three years ago in May. At only 15.1 hands, he still has a lot of physical maturing to do, but he has the mindset of a seasoned pro. Following a recently held clinic, professional clinician and trainer, Robert Hayes assisted TEF by evaluating Junior. Phenomenal may be the best word to describe how he did. Not only did he walk, trot and canter quietly, but he also went on to complete all of the obstacles used in the clinic, which included a teeter totter. Horses accustomed to participating in these types of clinics were more reluctant to comply than this smart little OTTB. While he is still green and will require someone with the ability to give him proper training, he gets an A+ for attitude and behavior. In Mr. Hayes opinion, "He's going to make someone a great horse."



Washita Country with professional clinician and trainer, Robert Hayes during first evaluation.