



## Veterinarian Guidelines for HERF Eligibility

HISA's Equine Recovery Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3, has begun accepting Thoroughbreds with career-ending injuries that occurred during racing or training and are at risk of euthanasia.

- If a racing injury does not require immediate euthanasia due to welfare concerns", transport the horse back to its barn and **take radiographs**. If the owner doesn't want to incur the expense, HERF will reimburse diagnostic costs. The **owner is under no obligation** to sign the horse over to HERF, but x-rays will show the severity of the injury and if surgery is a good option.
- If the horse is a good surgical candidate but the owner doesn't want to proceed with surgery and is planning to euthanize the horse, please tell them there is a charitable option and **contact HERF** for further intake instructions. For example, non-displaced condylar fractures will always be accepted but more serious fractures require additional surgical consultation.
- The **owner will need to sign a bill of sale to transfer the horse** to HERF. The horse will be permanently retired from racing (via The Jockey Club and HISA Portal) and receive medical treatment including surgery, rehab and rehomeing. Photos of the horse during the rehabilitation process and once placed at a final home can be shared with the horse's previous connections. The horse will be assigned a barn nickname that is used to maintain confidentiality and promote the horse's journey into a second career.
- **A decision will be made as quickly as possible**; the goal is under 2 hours. The current trainer needs to provide care (food, bedding, stall rest) for the horse for a maximum of 3 days. It will normally be less time as our goal is to move the horse to surgery as quickly as possible.
- In order to triage injuries and provide a safety net, HERF needs a designated person at each track. As HERF is rolling out faster than planned, we are still

onboarding **HERF liaisons** at several tracks to help coordinate care by tapping into the preferred local equine hospital with board certified surgeons. These ambassadors will make sure all stakeholders are aware of this new charitable program – and assist with logistics, including making sure the horse is bandaged to stabilize the injury during transport (instructions will be shared).

- **Once HERF intakes a horse**, please ensure the horse is appropriately bandaged, stabilized and medicated, including light sedation for transport if indicated. We appreciate the collaboration of the reg veterinarian, attending veterinarian and referral specialist. Any questions should be directed to referral specialist (or Dr. Hassan).

If you have a horse in need or want to volunteer, please contact:

HERF Executive Director Mandy Minger

917-846-8804

[mandy.minger@equinerecovery.org](mailto:mandy.minger@equinerecovery.org)

HISA's HERF Liaison Dr. Karen Hassan

916-742-2657

[Karen.hassan@hisaus.org](mailto:Karen.hassan@hisaus.org)