



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing  
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary

Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

Maryland Horse Industry Board

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

[www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5861 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5780 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

## **Maryland Horse Industry Board—2018 Retired Racehorse Program Report**

*Prepared by Ross Peddicord, Executive Director, Maryland Horse Industry Board*

There are two major breeds of horses used for racing purposes in Maryland: Thoroughbreds, which comprise the majority of the state's racehorses, and Standardbreds.

Per the request of the budget committees of the Maryland General Assembly, this report focuses on these two breeds and how they are cared for, rehomed and retrained once their racing days are over.

In most cases, statistical information is derived from Calendar Year 2017 or State Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

This report was completed in consultation with the Maryland Racing Commission within the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

### **THOROUGHBREDS**

Based on current numbers that vary only marginally from year to year, a pool of 1,361 Thoroughbred runners compete at the state's two major mile tracks—Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park--and at the one half mile track at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium.

According to Maryland Jockey Club officials, approximately 15% or about 204 Thoroughbreds are retired annually and leave the racetrack pool each year. They are replaced by runners from the 500 foals (2017 live foal report) that are born annually in Maryland and reach racing age at 2-3 years.

There are four main avenues that retired Thoroughbreds are cared for once they have finished racing:

1. Organized Thoroughbred Retirement Programs
2. Licensed Rescues Accepting All Breeds
3. METS (Maryland Equine Transition Services) Program
4. Private Placement, including replacement of breeding stock

1. **Organized Thoroughbred Retirement Programs**

- a. **Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)**—This is a national program with 64 total North American TAA accredited groups with 180 facilities across North America. Maryland is an important part of this vast network with 11 accredited organizations represented at 8 facilities. Launched in 2012, TAA is a 501 (c) (3) organization that accredits, inspects and awards grants to approved aftercare organizations to retire, retrain and rehome Thoroughbreds using community and industry-wide funding. During the year ending 2017, **200 Thoroughbreds** resided at or were adopted from these 11 Maryland aftercare programs.

**The programs include:**

Accredited Organizations/Facilities in Maryland—

Days End Farm Horse Rescue—Woodbine (Howard County)

Life Horse—Thurmont (Frederick County)

Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue—Warwick (Cecil County)

The Foxie G Foundation—Libertytown (Frederick County)

Thoroughbred Placement Resources Inc.—Upper Marlboro (Prince George's County)

After The Races—Elkton (Cecil County)

Beyond the Roses Equine Rescue & Retirement—Thurmont (Frederick County)

R.A.C.E. Fund—Thurmont & Libertytown (Frederick County)

ReRun—Adamstown (Frederick County)

Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation—Sykesville (Carroll County)

- b. **Beyond The Wire**—This comprehensive Maryland aftercare program is sponsored by the *Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association*, the *Maryland Jockey Club*, the *Maryland Horse Breeders' Association* and the *Maryland jockeys*. It is an industry-wide initiative designed to facilitate safe and enriching placements for retiring Maryland-based racehorses. Generous annual pledges by involved organizations and citizens (in addition to owner's contributions of \$11 per start and jockey contributions per race) enables Beyond The Wire to place retired Thoroughbreds exclusively with TAA-accredited farms. The program's current stability is maintained by its current resources and is fully meeting the needs of the state's Thoroughbred racing industry. Horses that go through the program receive retraining and rehabilitation as needed.

**Partner farms are accredited by TAA and operate at the highest standards set forth by the aftercare industry.** After horses go through the intake process, they are transitioned from the racetrack to MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, the Foxie G Foundation, After the Races and Life Horse in Maryland and New Vocations and Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue located out of state where they are retrained, rehabilitated and ultimately, adopted.

In state Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30,2018), Beyond the Wire successfully placed **85 Maryland Thoroughbreds.**

Beyond The Wire is considered a national model for its cooperative funding mechanism, professional services and placement record. Program Administrator Jessica Hammond works closely with TAA and is a sought after presenter at national racing forums on the subject of Thoroughbred aftercare.

**NOTE: See Addendum for full Beyond the Wire Report for State Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 –June 30, 2018).**

- c. **CANTER Maryland**—Amy Smith is the Executive Director. Ms. Smith reports: “Our Maryland chapter of CANTER doesn’t intake any horses—we serve as a listing service for racing owners/trainers/breeders. We’ve loved seeing the success of *Beyond the Wire* and have found that with the development of resources and funding for that endeavor, we no longer receive ‘emergency’ calls for listings that are in urgent need of leaving the track or are ‘giveaways.’ Now our niche has become an opportunity to help sell horses on the track that owners or trainers really want money for, and may continue running in absence of being able to get some form of payment for the horse. We’ve observed that horses that are ‘racing sound’ are often networked into sales to trainers at lower quality tracks when they aren’t successful in Maryland; we are marketing ourselves as a great alternative (i.e. “before you sell him to the trainer in the Midwest, we could see if you can get the same amount or more as a sport horse.”) We believe we have helped some quality horses find their ‘forever’ homes by assisting with this outlet and try to use the examples of successful sales for a decent price as a market-based way to counter to the “just one last race” syndrome.

We have recorded **64 listings of Maryland Thoroughbreds** successfully sold since July 2017.”

- d. **Maryland Horse Foundation**—The charitable arm of the Maryland Horse Breeders’ Association annually sets aside a certain amount of funding to the Beyond the Wire program and to compensate licensed equine rescues in Maryland who provide care and adoption services for Maryland Thoroughbreds.
- e. **Saratoga WarHorse**—The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association contributes funding to this 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization which uses Thoroughbreds to offer Veterans experiences with horses that help them adjust to life after service. Horses are not ridden, but used from the ground and is an excellent use of retired Thoroughbreds

or “sanctuary horses” that cannot be ridden. Saratoga WarHorse has a program located at the Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park –Baltimore County in Cockeysville.

2. **Licensed Maryland Rescues for All Breeds including Racehorses**

- a. The Maryland Horse Industry Board currently licenses 39 Maryland equine rescues that are established 501 (c) (3) organizations or offer rescue facilities for unwanted horses. These facilities care for a variety of breeds from Chincoteague Ponies to Draft Horses. Included in their inventory are former Thoroughbred and Standardbred racehorses. These rescues do not provide a breed by breed breakdown, but many of them care for and re-train retired racehorses although not on the scale of TAA, Beyond the Wire and CANTER Maryland.
- Some, such as Days End Farm Horse Rescue, do receive funding from TAA and others from the Maryland Horse Foundation.
- The Maryland Horse Industry Board licensing program was created in 1968 by legislation initiated and passed by the Maryland General Assembly.

3. **Maryland Equine Transition Services (METS) Program**—This is a new program initiated by the Maryland Horse Council and funded by a \$750,000 grant by the Right Horse Foundation. Brittney Carow is the Director.

The New York-based foundation chose Maryland to jump start this program because of our state’s long history of concern for equine welfare and the Horse Council’s anti-equine slaughter stance, unique among U.S. state-based horse councils.

**What is METS?** Most horses transition an average of 7 times during their lifetime. While many transitions are safe, with each additional transition, a horse’s risk of harm increases. Even healthy, talented, and beloved horses can end up in bad situations. The Maryland Equine Community is working together to keep horses safe from the beginning of their lives until the end with the advent of this program. METS is creating a network of licensed stables, industry professionals, associations, and groups to match horses with their best options when they are in need of transition.

METS official Lee Ayers provided these statistics.

“We have only assessed 8 horses and one horse (a TB) on our website for sale which went up Sept. 5, 2018 (three weeks ago). These numbers are based on owners who called into the METS program.

Between Feb. 20, 2018 and Sept. 1, 2018 calls came in on 18 Thoroughbreds.

3/18 (17%) were under 10 years of age; 7/18 (39%) were 10-15 years; 8/18 (44%) were 16-20 years.

8 geldings, 10 mares

Page 5 –

9 were physically compromised, the other 9 needed training  
Calls came from 8 different counties.

So far METS has received a total of 57 calls.

Thoroughbreds represented 18/57 calls or 32% of our calls have been about Thoroughbreds.

The next most prevalent group were Appaloosas 4/57 calls or 7% and Quarter Horses and Paints, both received 3/57 or 5%

A team of veterinarians and industry professionals assess each horse to determine what is best for it in its next step of transition.

4. **Private Placement**—Maryland has a tradition for repurposing its Thoroughbreds after their racing days are over going back to the days of when the first racehorses were brought to the colony in the 1700s from England. Thoroughbreds have been used for transportation and warfare as well as recreation and sport during the 350-plus years of Maryland history.

Many Maryland racehorse trainers and owners receive their early love of horses and horsemanship through 4-H and Pony Clubs, riding schools, the show ring, foxhunting, steeplechasing and 3-Day eventing—all of which use Thoroughbreds in their programs. So it is only natural that our trainers and owners are accustomed to seeing Thoroughbreds used for cross disciplinary purposes.

From the days of *Billy Barton*, an ex-racehorse at Pimlico who was converted to steeplechasing in the 1920s and competed in the English Grand National to current \$1million earner *Eighttofasttocatch* who is being used as Pony Club mount, retraining Thoroughbreds for other purposes is a Maryland equestrian way of life.

In addition to the horses placed by various organizations, many Thoroughbred racehorses are privately placed, retained or sold by their owners/trainers as foxhunters, steeplechasers, show ring hunter/jumpers, event horses, polo ponies, pleasure horses, riding school mounts and in summer camp and therapeutic programs. These horses do not stay just in Maryland, but are sold in the greater Mid Atlantic, East Coast and national markets.

In addition, a number of fillies and mares are regularly retired for breeding purposes, both in Thoroughbred and sport horse programs, as well as a handful of colts and horses who are retired as stallion prospects.

There are divisions for OTTBs (Off Track Thoroughbreds) in a number of Maryland horse shows. Some shows are devoted entirely to retired Thoroughbreds such as the Totally Thoroughbred Horse Shows at Pimlico and Fair Hill, and the annual Retired

Thoroughbred Makeover in Lexington, Ky., which was founded in Maryland. There is also a new 3-Day Eventing series at 17 recognized Maryland combined training events that showcases both retired Thoroughbred and Standardbred racehorses. The Retired Racehorse Project, a national organization which started in Maryland, encourages rehoming and retraining Thoroughbreds. It is headquartered in Edgewater, MD.

### **Thoroughbred Summary**

Of the 200 Maryland retired horses placed by TAA, the 85 placed in the Beyond the Wire program, 64 by CANTER as well as horses in other rescue and transition programs and retired for breeding purposes, the approximate 204 Thoroughbreds retired each year from Maryland racetracks have ample opportunity to lead useful and successful second careers and/or find permanent sanctuary homes once their racing days are over.

### **STANDARDBREDS**

The Standardbred horse population in Maryland is approximately one fifth the size of the Thoroughbred population based on the 2010 census performed by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

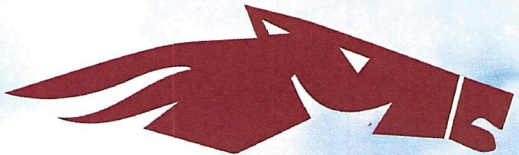
There is a pool of approximately 400 Maryland-based Standardbreds that race annually at the two Maryland harness tracks—Rosecroft Raceway and Ocean Downs. Harness horses race considerably longer than their Thoroughbred counterparts and are less likely to be retired at an early age.

It is not uncommon for them to race more than five or six years. There are no Maryland-based organizations devoted entirely to Standardbred aftercare. But several licensed rescues, such as Horse Lovers United in Salisbury, provide a fostering situation for retired Standardbreds, and another organization, Starting Gate Transition Program, is being formed. There are two national organizations, the Standardbred Retirement Foundation and New Vocations, that accept and place Maryland horses. The United States Trotting Association also plans to develop an aftercare program similar to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

State harness officials estimate that between 10 to 15% of Maryland Standardbreds are placed by these national organizations while the other 85% are placed privately when retired as driving and pleasure horses. Many owners/trainers retire their horses on their own farms.

Horse shows for Standardbred horses such as a recent one conducted at the Great Frederick Fair are increasing in size and popularity.

**Please see ADDENDA 1 (*Beyond the Wire Statistics*) and 2 (Contacts)**



# beyond the wire

MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

[beyondthewire.org](http://beyondthewire.org)

### The Program:

**Beyond the Wire** is an industry-wide initiative designed to facilitate safe and enriching placements for retiring Maryland based racehorses. Generous annual pledges by involved organizations and private organizations and citizens, in addition to owners' contributions of \$11 per start, enables **Beyond the Wire** to place retired Thoroughbreds exclusively with Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance-accredited farms. The program's stability is maintained by its current resources and is fully meeting the needs of the state's thoroughbred racing industry. Horses that go through the program receive retraining and rehabilitation as needed.

### The Sponsors:



**Beyond the Wire** benefits from a committed group of sponsors that are all established leaders in their respective areas of the Thoroughbred racing community. Bound by a shared belief that Thoroughbred horses are the epicenter of racing, and by an undeniable love of the animal, the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, The Maryland Jockey Club, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and the Maryland jockeys have joined forces to create a comprehensive aftercare program.

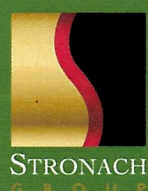


**274** Horses Placed Since Inception

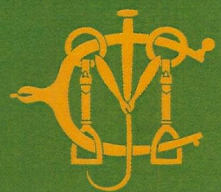
**\$930,000+** Money Raised For Program

### The Partners:

Our partner farms are accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and operate at the highest standards set forth by the aftercare industry. After horses go through the intake process, they are transitioned from the racetrack to MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, the Foxie G Foundation, New Vocations, Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue, After the Races or Life Horse for retraining, rehabilitation and ultimately, adoption.



The Stronach Group has formally adopted a company-wide policy promoting the humane treatment of racehorses. Under the policy, any trainer or owner stabling at an MJC facility who directly or indirectly participates in the transport of a horse from an MJC facility to either a slaughterhouse or an auction house engaged in selling horses for slaughter will be prohibited from having stalls at any MJC facility. The policy also applies to any actions related to the transport of a horse from an MJC facility where the ultimate intended result is a horse's slaughter.





MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

## BY THE NUMBERS

Horse Successfully Placed - Since Inception	
Item	Amount
Total Horses Successfully Placed in 2017	21
Total Horses Successfully Placed in 2018	112
Total Horses Successfully Placed in 2019	121
Total Horses Successfully Placed in 2020 as of 1/31/20	20

**274**

Income - Since Inception	
Contribution	Amount
Owner's PP&R Contribution	\$491,808
Corporate Contributions - MTHA/MJC/MHBA	\$247,389
Jockey's PP&R Contribution	\$83,862
Total Donations Received With Horses	\$79,474
Misc Revenue / Fundraisers	\$35,025

**\$937,558**

Expenses - Since Inception	
Item	Amount
Stipends For Facility Care	\$492,073
Veterinary Expenses	\$116,697
Shipping	\$82,985
Other Expenses	\$91,816
Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Support	\$75,000

**\$858,571**

\* Program received optional \$6 per start deduction commencing in April 2013.

\*\* Deduction increased to \$11 per start on June 1, 2016.



**ADDENDUM 2**  
2018 Retired Racehorse Program Report

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

1. **Stacie Clark**, Operations Consultant, *Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance*  
[sclark@thoroughbredaftercare.org](mailto:sclark@thoroughbredaftercare.org)
2. **Jessica Hammond**, Program Administrator, *Beyond The Wire*  
[jessica@mdhorsemen.com](mailto:jessica@mdhorsemen.com)
3. **Amy Smith**, Executive Director, *CANTER Maryland*  
[amy.smith@canterusa.org](mailto:amy.smith@canterusa.org)
4. **Sal Sinatra**, Pres. & GM, *Maryland Jockey Club*  
[sal.sinatra@marylandracing.com](mailto:sal.sinatra@marylandracing.com)
5. **Georganne Hale**, Vice President of Racing Development, *Maryland Jockey Club*  
[ghale@marylandracing.com](mailto:ghale@marylandracing.com)
6. **David Richardson**, Executive Director, *Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association*  
[info@mdhorsemen.com](mailto:info@mdhorsemen.com)
7. **Cricket Goodall**, Executive Director, *Maryland Horse Breeders' Association*  
[cricket@marylandthoroughbred.com](mailto:cricket@marylandthoroughbred.com)
8. **Brittney Carow**, Director, *Maryland Equine Transition Services*  
[director@mdequinetransition.org](mailto:director@mdequinetransition.org)
9. **Gina Maybee**, Acting Executive Vice President, *Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assoc.*  
[admin@cloverleafsoa.org](mailto:admin@cloverleafsoa.org)
10. **Michael Hopkins**, Executive Director, *Maryland Racing Commission*  
[mike.hopkins@maryland.gov](mailto:mike.hopkins@maryland.gov)
11. **Ross Peddicord**, Executive Director, *Maryland Horse Industry Board*  
[ross.peddicord@maryland.gov](mailto:ross.peddicord@maryland.gov)

January 2020

Good morning Carole,

This is Laurie Calhoun from the Foxie G Foundation. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your email regarding Delegate Krimm's reintroduction of HB1232 for retired racehorses. I wanted to do some research of my own regarding the racing industry's efforts to further advance Thoroughbred aftercare. Although I applaud Delegate Krimm's concern for retired racehorses I am concerned about the negative impact diverting funds from the purse dedication account would have on the future health of Thoroughbred aftercare.

I do agree that there is still work to be done to help retired racehorses but over the last 2 years great strides have been made here in Maryland with more on the horizon. As I am sure you are aware, 2020 is an important year for Maryland racing with the proposed changes to Pimlico and Laurel. In my experience, the states where racing is the most robust are the states that have the best funded aftercare programs. Diverting funds from the purse dedication account could impact the success of Maryland racing which could negatively impact aftercare with potentially less start fees, one of the primary sources of support for Maryland's retired Thoroughbreds.

Here at Foxie G we are working with the racing industry on ways to continue to help our retired horses. Presently, 5 of our retired Thoroughbreds are being used for equine therapy to benefit veterans, first responders, and foster children at the Baltimore Agricultural Center. We have plans to build an equine therapy center at our facility in Frederick County where more of our horses can be used to benefit the citizens of our community while also allowing the horses to have the social interaction they thrive with.

Thank you for your support of Maryland's retired Thoroughbreds. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further if you are amenable.

Best regards,

Laurie

The Foxie G Foundation  
PO Box 39  
Libertytown, MD 21762  
[www.thefoxiegfoundation.org](http://www.thefoxiegfoundation.org)  
301-667-2553 cell