

HORSE SENSE: PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR EVERY OWNER

DID YOU KNOW...

That Your "Retired" Racehorse Might Still Be Running?

by Nancy Tripp

YOUR HORSE HAS HAD AN INJURY, NOT LIFE-THREATENING, BUT SEVERE ENOUGH TO COMPROMISE HIS ABILITY AND PERHAPS JEOPARDIZE HIS LIFE SHOULD HE CONTINUE RACING. YOU DECIDE TO GIVE HIM AWAY TO A GOOD HOME. TO ENSURE HIS RACING CAREER IS OVER, YOU KEEP THE HORSE'S JOCKEY CLUB CERTIFICATE OF FOAL REGISTRATION, OR "PAPERS," IN YOUR FILES KNOWING THAT HE CAN'T RUN WITHOUT THEM.

WRONG!

This same mistake has been made over and over again in our business.

A duplicate certificate of registration can be obtained from the Jockey Club if all the requirements are met. These include pictures of the horse; a fee; proof of ownership, such as a bill of sale; and a notarized statement assuring the Jockey Club that the original papers have been lost or destroyed and how this occurred. If this criteria is met, "new" papers can be issued for the horse in weeks.

In the meantime, you may think your ex-racehorse is being saddled up for a day of trail riding by an adoring teenager somewhere, when in actuality the horse is back in training because someone falsified information to the Jockey Club and was able to obtain duplicate papers.

There is a way to prevent this from happening. When you decide to sell or transfer your horse and do not wish for it to be raced again, follow these steps:

1) Notify your trainer and ask him or her to "pull the papers" from the racing office.

2) Contact the Jockey Club, or the Horse Identifier's Office at the racetrack, immediately to obtain a "Sold Without Pedigree" form.

3) Return the completed "Sold Without Pedigree" form and the papers to the Jockey Club.

Following this course of action will remove your horse from the Jockey Club's American Stud Book, and make him ineligible to race.

Be aware, though, that this removal is permanent. Once the registration is canceled, the horse cannot be reinstated into the Jockey Club's registry, and a duplicate certificate cannot be issued. If your horse could have a future as a stallion or broodmare, removing them from the Jockey Club registry would mean that their foals would not be eligible for registration as a Thoroughbred.

However, if you know that your horse does not have a breeding career, and want to assure that he or she will never be raced again, follow the above steps for your peace of mind.

To contact the Jockey Club for forms, call 800-444-8521.

Nancy Tripp serves as an assistant trainer in Southern California. 🐾