



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Top Owners, Breeders to be Honored at 29th Annual
TOBA National Awards Dinner**

Lexington, Ky. – The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's 29th Annual National Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, September 5 at the Lexington Convention Center in Lexington, Ky. The TOBA National Awards Dinner honors the achievements of Thoroughbred owners in the four major North American racing regions and breeders in 22 states and Canada.

The following regional owners will be honored:

Eastern Region Owner of the Year: Phipps Stable
Midwestern Region Owner of the Year: Kenneth L. & Sarah K. Ramsey
Southern Region Owner of the Year: Willis D. Horton
Western Region Owner of the Year: Gary & Mary West

A National Owner of the Year will be selected from these regional owners. The National Owner will be revealed at the Awards Dinner.

The state and Canadian breeders of the year are:

Arizona: Richard Owens	Minnesota: Richard Bremer & Cheryl Sprick
California: Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Williams	New Jersey: Quiet Winter Farm
Canada: Sam-Son Farm	New Mexico: Mike Carson & Bill Carson
Florida: Gil & Marilyn Campbell	New York: Patricia S. Purdy
Illinois: Darrell & Sadie Brommer	North Carolina: Elizabeth H. Muirhead
Indiana: Deann & Greg Baer	North Dakota: Leigh Backhaus
Iowa: William Hobbs	Oregon: George Hurliman
Kansas: Lance & Valerie Gabriel	South Carolina: Franklin G. Smith
Kentucky: Kenneth & Sarah Ramsey	Texas: Sam Stevens & Sammy Stevens
Louisiana: Glen C. Warren	Virginia: Estate of Edward P. Evans
Maryland: Robert E. Meyerhoff	Washington: Keith & Jan Swagerty
Michigan: Jerry & Lisa Campbell	

TOBA's National Breeder and National Small Breeder of the Year will be selected from the above list of breeders and announced at the Awards Dinner.

TOBA will also honor Helen Alexander with the new Robert N. Clay Award. The purpose of this award is to enhance awareness and promote education among horsemen regarding the impact of land loss on the equine

community. In partnership with the Equine Land Conservation Resource, this award recognizes a member of the Thoroughbred community who has made an outstanding contribution to preserving land for equine use.

Additionally, TOBA will honor Take Charge Lady as the National Broodmare of the Year. This award offers catalog designation from the North American International Cataloguing Standards Committee.

Owned by Katie Ruppel, successful competitive eventer Houdini will be named the Rood & Riddle Thoroughbred Sport Horse of the Year. This award is presented to the owner of the ex-Thoroughbred racehorse that has excelled in sport horse competitions as tracked by the United States Equestrian Federation.

National Awards Dinner sponsors include H.E. Sutton Forwarding Company, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC, Jackson Family Wines, Woodford Reserve, Zoetis, John Deere, Flair Nasal Strips, Daily Racing Form, The Stronach Group, OwnerView.com Thoroughbred Owner Conference and Blood-Horse Publications. Tickets for the National Awards Dinner may be purchased at www.toba.org.

TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred breeders and owners. TOBA's mission is to improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders. Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, Claiming Crown, Ownership Seminars, Ownerview.com and the Sales Integrity Program. TOBA provides international representation for U.S. owners and breeders on the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee, International Cataloguing Standards Committee and International Breeders Federation. Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA) is the charitable arm of TOBA. TOBA is the owner of The Blood-Horse Inc., and is represented on the board of directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium as founding members.

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