



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AMERICAN GRADED STAKES COMMITTEE POSTPONES RACEDAY MEDICATION IMPLEMENTATION**

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- The TOBA American Graded Stakes Committee has announced that it will not implement a ban of race-day medication for two-year old graded stakes races in 2012, but will continue to work with racing officials, state regulators and others within the industry to advance the goal of conducting American Graded Stakes races at the highest level of integrity.

“Due to the nature of the various entities involved in implementation of rules governing racing, the policy has taken longer to implement than the Committee hoped when the announcement regarding the ban was made in August, 2011,” said Dr. J. David Richardson, chairman of the Committee. “Over the past six months, through the leadership of the American Graded Stakes Committee and others in the industry, a great deal of valuable discussion has occurred regarding the important issue of medication administered to racehorses. Consistent with TOBA’s mission to improve the economics and integrity of the sport, the Committee will continue to engage in productive discussions within the industry, to educate the public and to explore all avenues to effect positive changes with regard to the responsible use of medication for the benefit of Graded Stakes races, and the preservation of the integrity of those races.”

TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred horse 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, The Racing Game, Sales Integrity Program and Claiming Crown. 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 as a founding member.