



PURPLE HAZE STANDARD BRED ADOPTION PROGRAM

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Hello, my name is Betty Holt, I am the Executive Director of Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program located in Oxford NY. This 501c3 program was started in October 2018 by Wanda Polisseni known by many as the "Lady in Purple."

This is the only adoption program in New York dedicated solely to Standardbreds.

The mission of the program is to get sound horses directly from trainers and owners and retrain them for a future as riding horses which will hopefully prevent them from ending up at slaughter.

Wanda has spent over half a million dollars of her own money to start this program and as she began to modify the existing farm and set up a program she found it very difficult to get any kind of funding.

Most companies that provide grants require you to be a 501c3 for 2-3 years before you can even apply for grants She understands that it is necessary to prevent unfit or bogus organization from getting funding.

I am telling you this not as a promotion for the adoption program but to explain the problems facing anyone who wants to provide aftercare services for Standardbreds.

She sent me here today to emphasize the very real need for funding to provide aftercare facilities for Standardbreds.

Setting up an Aftercare Commission is a great first start but to provide the aftercare necessary there needs to be permanent funding. The Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program receives funding from the owners purses and matched by the track. Currently the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred adoption program receives \$2.00 from each horse that starts a race. This funding along with grants, donations and fundraisers provides the bulk of their income.

This could be very easily done at all Standardbred tracks in New York.

If a program is funded with NY money it should be used for New York bred horses first.

This will hopefully encourage other states to follow suit and not just try to send their horses to NY for aftercare.

The funds generated in NY should also go to qualified organization in NY.

This will continue to provide the economic benefits derived from horses for example ; greenspace, feed, boarding, hay and employees for NY businesses.

With the number of Standardbred horses bred in NY (current numbers approx. 1,200 mares bred each year with a 60% foal rate made eligible to race) and the number of races and race days declining it may take more than two dollars per start to generate enough funding to make a significant impact on the number of horses in need of homes. The current estimate based on number of race days and races at each track would be about \$150,000 per year statewide at \$2.00 per start.

New York currently promotes breeding, racing and buying NY Bred Standardbreds through the Agriculture and NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund, (The Fund) which is funded by VLT monies and handle from betting.

Currently there is nothing in the laws governing the breeding program that allows any monies to be provided for aftercare. The laws governing the breeding program need to change. When a breeding program has a budget of approx. \$16 million to promote breeding, racing and buying horses in NY, which does have many economic benefits for the state but cannot provide one dime to support those same horses when they are done racing there is a serious disconnect.

Wanda and the board members of Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program look forward to your plans and hope funding for these wonderful animals will soon be in place and more programs will become available.

If you need any information or have questions please reach out to our office.

Please feel free to visit our new adoption center anytime.

Sincerely,

Betty Holt
Executive Director
Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program

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