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Contact: Eric Wing (212) 521-5316

SUFFOLK DOWNS RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FOLLOWING REVIEW BY NTRA SAFETY AND INTEGRITY ALLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) announced today that Suffolk Downs in East Boston, Mass., has been fully accredited by the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance following a complete review of all racing operations at the facility.

The accreditation of Suffolk Downs was the culmination of a lengthy certification process that began with the track's completion of a 48-page written application and continued as Suffolk Downs hosted several meetings with Alliance officials. The on-site review included inspections of all facets of the racing facility, and interviews with track executives, racetrack personnel, jockeys, owners, trainers, stewards and fans. The inspection team was comprised of Ronald Jensen, DVM; racing official Richard Lewis; Mike Kilpack of the Organization of Racetrack Investigators (ORI); and Mike Ziegler, Executive Director of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance.

"Suffolk Downs was reviewed this year during its current live meeting," said Ziegler. "It received 'Best Practice' ratings in several areas including aftercare and transition of retired racehorses; security training; fire safety planning and procedures; and a number of wagering security procedures, including incident investigation protocols. Suffolk Downs should also be publicly commended for strongly advocating to the Massachusetts State Racing Commission that it adopt several ARCI Model Rules not presently in effect within the state."

"It is gratifying for Suffolk Downs to receive this accreditation because the safety of our athletes, equine and human, is one of our primary objectives," said Chip Tuttle, Chief Operating Officer of Suffolk Downs. "We are especially proud of the proactive role we have played in making Thoroughbred aftercare a priority in our industry, and we want to thank our employees and horsemen as well as recognize the ongoing commitment of the Massachusetts State Racing Commission in helping us to achieve this accreditation."

Suffolk Downs is now the 21st racing facility to receive full accreditation, joining Churchill Downs, Keeneland, Belmont Park, Delaware Park, Hollywood Park, Monmouth Park, Arlington Park, Saratoga Race Course, Calder Race Course, Turfway Park, the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Oak Tree at Santa Anita/Santa Anita Park, Fair Grounds, Aqueduct Racetrack, Golden Gate Fields, Woodbine, Pimlico, Canterbury Park, Sunland Park and, most recently, Finger Lakes Casino and Racetrack.

The Alliance, formed in October 2008 with the goal of establishing national uniform standards in the areas of safety and integrity, includes 55 racetracks in North America and every major national horsemen's organization. Alliance certification standards cover six broad areas: injury reporting and prevention; creating a safer racing environment; aftercare and transition of retired racehorses; uniform medication, testing and penalties; safety research; and wagering security. Within those six categories, specific standards focus on areas including:

- Systematic reporting of equine injuries
- Aftercare of racehorses
- Pre- and post-race veterinary examinations
- Post-mortem examinations
- Health and safety of jockeys
- Riding crops and their use
- Horse shoes and hoof care
- Safety research
- Safety equipment for jockeys and horse handlers
- Exogenous Anabolic Steroids
- Alkalinizing agents (TCO2)

- On-track emergency medical care for humans and equines
- Out-of-competition testing
- Freezing and retrospective testing of post race samples
- Continuing education
- Security assessment and training
- Totalizator technology and “stop wagering” protocols
- Wagering incident investigation

The NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance is a standing organization whose purpose is to establish standards and practices to promote safety and integrity in horseracing and to secure their implementation. Information on the Alliance, including the Alliance Code of Standards, can be found at www.NTRAalliance.com.