

Presenter: Jo Anne Normile Topic: Thoroughbred Racing: What *Really* Happens on the Backstretch

## SAVING BABY EQUINE CHARITY

We are pleased to announce the founding of a non-profit corporation for the purpose of funneling financial assistance to approved IRS 501 (c) (3) organizations that have a mission of providing for the welfare and protection of horses. Please visit our web site at [savingbaby.org](http://savingbaby.org) for further updates.



**Jo Anne Normile** founded the country's first onsite racetrack rescue organization, CANTER, which works to take horses from their last race to a loving home rather than the slaughterhouse. In 2001, Normile received the Catalyst of the Year Award from the Michigan Horse Council for her "significant contribution to the Michigan horse industry," and in 2005 she won the prestigious Dogwood Stable Dominion Award as an "unsung hero of the racing industry" for assisting more than 4,000 Thoroughbred horses nationwide. Stated *The Thoroughbred Times*: "According to Blue Horse Charities, which helps fund CANTER, Normile's organization has rescued more horses than any other organization in the equine industry." There are now 10 CANTER affiliates: CANTERs Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New England, Mid Atlantic, California, Arizona, Colorado, Gulf South, and Kentucky.

Normile has been written up in the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *St. Louis Dispatch*, as well as in *Equus*, *Horse Illustrated*, *Dressage Connection*, *Practical Horseman*, *ASPCA's Animal Watch*, and numerous other publications. In addition, she has appeared on *CNN Headline News* along with several local television stations.

Last year, she was encouraged by New Mexico Senator Tom Udall and Kentucky Representative Ed Whitfield to assist them in going over and interpreting letters to Congress by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, the Jockey Club, and the Association of Racing Commissioners International, all of them written in response to a request for information on what the racing industry had done since a 2008 Congressional hearing held to clean up the industry. Normile was asked to provide exhibits for that hearing, and CANTER was the only rescue group invited to testify.

Normile's dedication to horses also includes research on equine self-mutilation syndrome and compulsive behavior in formerly feral horses. Her work has been written up in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* and the *Journal of Applied Research in Veterinary Medicine*.

Normile is an active member of the Michigan Horse Welfare Coalition and is on the board of directors of Animal Advocates of Michigan. She is currently collaborating with *New York Times* best selling writer Larry Lindner (see below) on a memoir about her racing experiences entitled *Saving Baby*.



**Joy Aten** has had horses as part of her family for more than 20 years, but her love for them has been life-long. Shortly after the creation of CANTER in 1997, she became a volunteer and executive board member. Her responsibilities as chair of that rescue's Track Committee at Great Lakes Downs in Michigan took her to the barn area "backside" weekly for six months of the year. In the shedrows, she became aware of the dark side of racing and of what happens too often to the noble creature that is the very heart of the racing industry.

Aten devoted nine years of service to CANTER Michigan, working with owners and trainers to sell her their "used-up" horses rather than send them to the slaughterhouse and then

rehabilitating and retraining the off-the-track Thoroughbreds. She remains active through personal and group efforts in the rescue and placement of retired racehorses, and in the rescue and placement of horses of all breeds from negligent owners and from the direct-to -slaughter pens at auctions.

In addition to her equine work, Aten has 20-plus years as a health-care professional, previously providing direct patient care as a specialized oncology registered nurse at Spectrum Health Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and currently as a nursing shift administrator at Metro Health Hospital in Wyoming, Michigan. Along with her human family of four children and 10 grandchildren, her immediate “relatives” include five horses, two of which are off-the-track Thoroughbreds, Greenwish and Saucon Creek. Says Aten: “Greenwish and Saucon Creek came off the track injured, worn-out, and used-up. Sharing their lives, looking at them every day, is a constant reminder that there are thousands of horses just like them. Daily across this country, Thoroughbred racehorses are giving of their very bodies for the financial gain of their owners and trainers. As if that is not enough, thousands give their lives on the slaughterhouse floors.”

Joy lives by the credo: “I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.”



One of the world's most noted and celebrated veterinary behaviorists, **Nicholas H. Dodman, BVMS MRCVS DVA DACVA DACVB**, is a professor, section head, and the program director of the Animal Behavior Clinic at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

A founding member of Vets for Equine Welfare and a member of the leadership council of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Dodman has written five books for the lay public. His first book, *The Dog Who Loved Too Much* (Bantam Books, 1995), sold more than 100,000 copies, as did his second book, *The Cat Who Cried for Help* (Bantam Books, 1997). His third book, *Dogs Behaving Badly* (Bantam Books, 1999) was also a bestseller. In addition, he wrote *If Only They Could Speak* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2002), recently released as a trade paperback. His latest book, *The Well-Adjusted Dog* (Houghton Mifflin Co., 2008) was released in July of 2008.

A strong advocate for equines and all animals, Dr. Dodman has testified before a Congressional committee about the inhumanity of horse slaughter and has assisted New Mexico Senator Tom Udall's office with legislature to prevent wild horses from being captured from the Nevada range.

Dr. Dodman is internationally recognized and sought after as a leader in his field. In addition to his five trade books, he has authored two textbooks and more than 100 articles and contributions to scientific books and journals. He appears regularly on television and radio including: *20/20*, *Oprah*, *NBC's Today* show, *Good Morning America*, *Dateline*, *ABC's World News Tonight*, the Discovery Channel, *NOVA*, *Animal Planet*, the BBC and CBC, *CNN's Headline News*, *Inside Edition*, *MSNBC*, *NPR's Fresh Air* and *A&E*. He is an ad hoc guest on *WBUR's Here & Now*.



**Larry Lindner** is a collaborating author whose books have ended up on best-seller lists in *The New York Times*, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble. Among his titles: *Fighting Weight*, with Muhammad Ali's daughter, Khaliah Ali; *Messenger*, with Mattie Stepanek's mother, Jeni Stepanek; *Good Old Dog* and *Puppy's First Steps*, both with the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University; and *Strong Women and Men Beat Arthritis*, with

exercise physiologist Miriam Nelson. He also wrote a long-running, nationally syndicated column for *The Washington Post* as well as a regular column for *The Boston Globe*. Lindner's work has appeared in publications ranging from the *Los Angeles Times* to *Reader's Digest*, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, and the *International Herald Tribune*. He has appeared on numerous television and radio programs, including CBS's *The Early Show* and CNN.

## WINDS OF LOVE

For those racehorses that are taken to auctions or those that are sold directly to kill buyers or those that limp into the barns of rescuers, both formal rescues and private individuals, no one mourns their untimely deaths, the Jockey Club Equine Injury Database does not count them, and no industry member is required to explain what happened. Such was the case with Winds of Love:

*On November 6, 2007, Winds of Love labored to a last place finish, beaten soundly by eight lengths. The nine year old gelding had run twelve times that year, but had managed just a pair of third place finishes for earnings of only \$2,493. Entered as frequently as every seven days, it was very clear that his racing days were over. He was running at a small low-level track in Michigan, far from the Florida racetracks where he had been a winner, ridden by high-profile jockeys such as Pat Day and Cornelio Velasquez. But while the local betting public saw only an aging gelding running for the smallest purses, the stakes were actually much higher...Winds of Love was running for his life.*

*He had become an unfortunate member of a stable belonging to an owner/trainer duo known for running injured and ill-kept horses. Walking through their shed row, one would find the horses waiting until noon for their first meal of the day. Horses with big ankles and dull coats stood in urine-soaked stalls for hours on end. There were those that had only ever been cheap claimers, and there were former stakes horses, bred by the most well-known and respected farms in Kentucky, Florida, and California. But royal pedigrees and impressive earnings were forgotten here. All of the horses were expected to "get a check", and running with accumulated damage to joints and limbs was commonplace. Failure to run successfully and produce purse money would be tolerated only so long, and for Winds of Love, the clock was ticking.*

*On that cold late autumn evening, Winds of Love ran in his 102nd start. His lifetime earnings were \$194,475 from 14 wins, 9 seconds, and 19 thirds. He had been racing for at least four years with three screws in*

*his right front ankle, and he was tired and sore. During the race, his jockey heard the dark bay whinny, a sign of distress if done while running a race. He was eased across the finish line and brought back lame to the barn. On a heart-wrenching journey down to the lowest of the claiming ranks, he had run out of time.*

*Now the big gelding with the heart of a lion and the temperament of a lamb was headed for the auction, and most certainly, the slaughterhouse. His years of faithful service- fattening the pocketbooks of his owners and trainers- meant nothing to those responsible for him. The quickest and cheapest way to rid themselves of the broken-down Winds of Love was their one and only concern.*

*On November 7, 2007, less than 12 hours after his last race, Winds of Love loaded willingly onto a trailer. He shook from head to tail, but stood patiently while waiting for two other broken Thoroughbred racehorses to join him. But this trailer was not headed to the auction. The Thoroughbred racehorse rescue organization CANTER had purchased Winds of Love for \$250 from his owner, and the three occupants of that trailer were headed to the safety of the CANTER farm.*

*Winds of Love lived for another week. Evaluated by two of CANTER's board members, Michigan State University's equine orthopedic surgeon and Chief of Staff John Stick, DVM, and CANTER farm veterinarian, Evan Moore, DVM, the gallant gelding was diagnosed with severe end-stage arthritis that would make it impossible for him to live without pain. His ankles had been destroyed by the multiple steroid injections administered to them over the years. He was humanely euthanized. Winds of Love was cherished and carefully attended to by his CANTER caretaker those cherished last days of his life.*

*Winds of Love did not die before millions during a world famous race. There was no media coverage and no public outcry. The fact that he died due to multiple injuries sustained from racing was not acknowledged or recorded anywhere by the racing industry. Only the rescue cared, only the rescue recorded. Unlike Barbaro or Eight Belles, the only tears shed for Winds of Love were by the CANTER volunteers. Though his suffering and death were not their fault, they told him, "We're so sorry", as they whispered kind words and gave him his last loving strokes.*

## EXCERPT FROM 6-19-08 CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE EXHIBITS

### 2007-2006 CANTER MI HORSES NEEDING EUTHANASIA OR SURGERY OR REHABILITATION

INTAKE	NAME	AGE	CONDITION	RESULT
4/16/2007	Abby Coole	10	severely underweight, lice-ridden, UTI, back injury	Euthanized
11/20/2007	Angel	3	dangerous behavior, questionable unsoundness	Euthanized
10/4/2007	Backside Sunrise	4	knee fractures. Unsalvageable	Euthanized
7/20/2007	Barbara's Jewel	7	<b>Non-repairable ankle fracture, chronic and end-stage arthritis, ran only 4 days before intake to CANTER</b>	Euthanized
9/19/2007	Belle d' Elite	4	<b>Fund-raised for the \$500 to retire this injured filly, non-repairable knee fracture. Euthanized</b>	Euthanized
10/13/2007	Buck's Secret	3	severe ankle arthritis at only 3 years old <b>Knee with large fracture, loss of joint cartilage, end-stage arthritis...CANTER notified Racing Commissioner of the gelding's upcoming race with hopes he would be vetted and scratched...not scratched. Fund-raised to pay trainer to retire the</b>	Euthanized
10/27/2007	Cabriolass	6	<b>gelding...nonsalvageable knee fracture and euthanized</b>	Euthanized
1/5/2007	Call Me Tuiti	6	contracted tendons, owner left horse with the condition	Euthanized
10/27/2007	Can't Catch G.I.	3	severe arthritis, bilateral ankles...at only 3 years old	Euthanized
7/20/2007	Cat Stick	4	<b>Old knee chip injury which track vet told owner didn't need surgery, just some time off..6 months. Later x-ray by track vet said OK to race but horse still lame. After CANTER received horse, MSU evaluated. Unsalvageable and Euthanized</b>	Euthanized
11/8/2007	Claims My Name	14	Broodmare found at farm with hoof sloughing from leg, determined to be a chronic and ongoing injury. Mare immediately Euthanized. Mare had foal at side.	Euthanized
9/30/2007	Court Ace	4	non-repairable injuries, left front ankle and right hock	Euthanized
6/20/2007	Dream Deliverer	5	severe arthritis right front, unsound at a walk	Euthanized
11/3/2007	Goinritpast	4	Gelding with known knee fracture. Not salvageable when finally donated, Euthanized	Euthanized
9/14/2007	Havana Anna	6	Previously foundered then injured rear leg in gate accident and again laminitis after injury, Euthanized	Euthanized
9/19/2007	Hesasonofagun	2	2 year old with wobblers, only thing that could be done for him was euthanasia	Euthanized
11/20/2007	Indigo Rock	4	back injury, non-healing and non-repairable	Euthanized
11/15/2007	J Aled Rudolph	9	old sesamoid fracture front, also lame in rear	Euthanized
10/20/2007	Kiss On The Run	3	right shoulder injury, continuing lameness	Euthanized
11/8/2007	Kiss The Flame	5	severe arthritis bilateral ankles	Euthanized
11/8/2007	Los The Loot	5	degenerative myopathy	Euthanized
5/29/2007	Meadow Gift	4	navicular	Euthanized
10/21/2007	Ms Traitor	5	end-stage arthritis, bilateral ankles	Euthanized
10/4/2007	Oh No Uno	3	Surgery for knee fracture; colicked after requiring euthanasia	Euthanized
2007	Peppermint Promise	13	aged and arthritic broodmare	Euthanized
9/3/2007	Restrike	5	severely neurological	Euthanized
11/15/2007	Runaway Easter	4	Removed from racing farm: neurological, emaciated, no shelter in crowded/muddy conditions	Euthanized
2007	Salty Lover	4	severe OCD's stifles, surgery performed but not sound after	Euthanized
6/26/2007	Search for a Star	5	right knee fracture, unsalvageable	Euthanized
11/8/2007	Seeya Trouble		Neurological	Euthanized
8/5/2007	Siphoned	5	fracture of right knee. Unsalvageable <b>Stood for almost 2 weeks with severe fracture of knee, donated to CANTER and had the horse euthanized at the track to avoid pain of transport to MSU</b>	Euthanized
8/25/2007	Storming	5		Euthanized

10/27/2007	Sunder Bay	6	<b>Raced with bowed tendon, 90% of tendon torn away when CANTER received him. Euthanized</b>	Euthanized
10/13/2007	Sunny Charmer	4	slab fracture, unsalvageable	Euthanized
11/13/2007	That's My Chance	4	bench-kneed, unsound at walk	Euthanized
8/1/2007	Top Faith	4	lumber spine injury, right front joint injury. Euthanized	Euthanized
9/9/2007	Tricky Tyler	10	severe, end-stage arthritis, very lame	Euthanized
11/3/2007	Unreal Dancer	10	severe arthritis and old chips	Euthanized
6/20/2007	Valentine	5	Swollen hock, non-healing and longstanding infection of the hock from repeated injections	Euthanized
5/30/2007	Whitmark	6	Old, chronic and repeated injury to knee, unable to flex or even lie down	Euthanized
11/7/2007	Winds of Love	9	Raced with hardware in ankle, end-stage arthritis, bone degeneration from repeated injections. Euthanized	Euthanized
11/23/2007	Aggravating Annie	6	broodmare sound only	
11/7/2007	Baltic Hydra	6	Surgery for RH apical fracture of sesamoid	
10/20/2007	Beulah Special	4	crooked legged, unsound	
9/14/2007	Call Me Danny	5	Surgery for ankle fractures-remove bone chips	
7/28/2007	Can't We Smooch	4	Surgery for condylar fracture	
11/8/2007	Claudines Kitten	8	Broodmare sound only	
9/14/2007	Count the Facts	3	Surgery to remove bone chip of carpal bone	
11/7/2007	Devilville Slew	6	ankle chip, non-surgical, attempt rest/re-evaluate	
7/23/2007	Edens Lite	8	Emaciated broodmare	
9/3/2007	Fluent Edge	6	Surgery ankle fractures, chips removed	
11/3/2007	Holy Words	3	Surgery medial sesamoid fracture of RH fetlock and sesamoiditis	
11/3/2007	Independent Gliter	3	Examined and sound but totally body sore.	
8/26/2007	Inmylifetime	3	Surgery for fractures of middle carpal joint and torn ligament back of knee	
11/21/2007	Juan's Bouncer	7	Removed from same farm as other horse. Horse very thin and in poor condition, fund-raised to purchase him to remove him from racing farm	
10/20/2007	Lil Dots Binkissed	4	Bowed tendon.	
11/10/2007	Lil Eva	7	Broodmare sound only	
11/15/2007	Love and Hope	6	Removed from same racing farm as euthanized Runaway Easter but mare had just arrived at the farm and was in better condition. Needs rehab.	
9/8/2007	Mister P	2	sesamoid fracture right front, only 2 years old.	
8/26/2007	Naturally Swift	4	Surgery - knee fracture and repair of bowed tendon	
10/13/2007	Ask	7	Surgery for removal of bone chips	
8/1/2007	Palacious Summer	3	Surgery 8-9-07 to damaged stifles due to repeated injections. Still lame and most likely will need euthanasia	
7/6/2007	Promising Queen	2	Surgery	
11/7/2007	Rainbow Rose	7	sore backed	
7/14/2007	Sarah's Goldengirl	9	gate accident, lacerations and abrasions	
9/3/2007	Sassy Susie Q	2	Surgery for sesamoid fracture	
5/23/2007	Saucon Creek	7	Surgery for tendon injury	
11/7/2007	Savvy Soiree	4	Surgery to remove bilateral knee bone fragments of the radiocarpal bone fragments	
11/3/2007	Secret Stripes	3	<b>*Trainer refused to not race injured horse unless CANTER bought the horse for \$1500. Immediate examination after purchase revealed knee fractures. Non-surgical. Broodmare only</b>	
10/20/2007	Silkie's Diz	7	Surgery for removal of bilateral OCD's in hocks	
2007	Single Again	6	Surgery	
2007	Supermarket Queen	5	Surgery for knee fracture, removal of bone fragments with degenerative joint disease	
11/12/2007	Tissues	13	broodmare sound only	
11/3/2007	Town Man	3	Surgery LF fetlock fracture - removed bone chip	
5/6/2007	Untamed Irish	14	Found at racing farm 200-300 pounds underweight, pregnant, lice ridden, broodmare sound only	

**Excerpt: 2006 CANTER MI HORSES NEEDING EUTHANASIA OR SURGERY OR REHABILITATION**

6/28/2006	Astor Street	6	ankles destroyed, multiple injections, severe arthritis	Euthanized
2006	Bold Joi'ski	4	Rearing under saddle and kicking. Suspected spinal problem	Euthanized
8/22/2006	Buckflanker	4	bilateral knees, slab fracture and chips	Euthanized
8/26/2006	Celtic Trick	2	severe knee slab fracture. Only 2 years old	Euthanized
10/6/2006	Del's Choice	20+	Aged broodmare no longer able to get in foal..	Euthanized
2006	DeSoto	9	dangerous to handle and questionable soundness	Euthanized
2006	Etbaur's Gift	5	Surgery for knee fractures. Colicked post surgery	Euthanized
2006	Flash of Cash	3	severe founder, coffin bone through sole, probable etiology is "bad" injection. 3 years old	Euthanized
10/1/2006	Hawaiin Lord	11	severe arthritis all joints, severe hock degeneration due to untreated infection	Euthanized
2006	Heller	9	Dangerous to handle/questionable soundness	Euthanized
1/27/2006	Hurricane Bill	5	bilateral enlarged ankles bowed tendon/severe pelvic injury	Euthanized
2006	Inprint	3	"knee is collapsed" per MSU	Euthanized
2006	Inside Pitch	6	knee had 2 large chips and slab fracture	Euthanized
2/9/2006	Janna's Flier	6	Sore/walking on heel bulbs/ found old pelvis fracture	Euthanized
2006	Jetta's Golden Boy	7	laminitis/founder with coffin bone through sole	Euthanized
10/1/2006	Jette For Money	6	Fractured knee. Unsalvageable	Euthanized
2/1/2006	Kathy's In	14	severe arthritis, aged broodmare, blind	Euthanized
9/1/2006	Lady Texas	4	Year old fracture. Unsalvageable	Euthanized
2006	Lake John	4	Loss of bone due to longstanding untreated infection, "one of the worse vet has seen"	Euthanized
2006	LilkiIngirl	5	Knee slab fracture	Euthanized
10/1/2006	Lou's Expectation	7	Surgery to repair bilateral fractured sesamoids, left him only pasture sound. Was retired but eventually colicked.	Euthanized
2006	Magic Conqueror	5	lame, arthroscopy left knee, severe arthritis	Euthanized
10/6/2006	Mustafa	7	Bilateral ankles with advanced arthritis	Euthanized
10/1/2006	Popularize	6	right hind ankle sesamoid fracture	Euthanized
10/1/2006	Rip n Roar	6	Surgery for knee fracture.Post surgery fractured leg while cast	Euthanized
2006	Teralote	6	severe bilateral ankle arthritis, chronic injury/previous multiple injections	Euthanized
2006	The Play's The Thing	3	bilateral knee fractures/chips at only 3 years old. Unsalvageable	Euthanized
10/1/2006	The Suave Commoner	5	large chip in fetlock and arthritis "very, very advanced" per MSU	Euthanized
2006	Tower Six	5	Old injury and unsound, chronic and unsalvageable	Euthanized
6/28/2006	Vague Hint	7	non-healing bowed tendon, continuing lameness	Euthanized
2006	Villa's Man	6	chronic injury, navicular bone fracture	Euthanized
10/6/2006	Sir Marlin	5	Chronic lameness, arthritis, sore back	Euthanized
2006	Sorbie	3	Severe arthritis from old injuries	Euthanized
10/6/2006	Hilary's Crisis	6	severe untreated slab fracture, stood for 2 months after injury untreated. Unsalvageable	Euthanized
10/1/2006	Brett n Butter	6	Severe arthritis. Nonriding rest failed to show any improvement. Lamé.	Euthanized
10/6/2006	Cut The Ribbon	6	Surgery for knee fractures. Colicked post surgery	Euthanized
2006	Mercedes Boy		Dangerous to handle	Euthanized
2006	Codex Dancer	5	Old bowed tendon. Shock wave therapy	
10/1/2006	Crafty Comet	5	Broodmare/pasture sound only	
10/6/2006	Feline Fun	4		
2006	Katies Cuddles	4		
10/6/2006	Loot Tooten Boy	3	sound but rescue had to purchase the horse	
9/1/2006	Lord Johnny	3	lame, sound after time off	
10/1/2006	Lucky Sixes	5	sound but thin/nervous, on 30-day tranquilizers	
10/1/2006	Marcis Class	3	only broodmare sound	
2/1/2006	Merrimack Zack	5	Suspensory injury	

2006	Moll It Over	3	Surgery for knee fractures
2006	Saltaire Slew	8	
2006	Super Goodtimes	3	<b>Surgery for knee fractures after horse stood in stall for 10 days before rescue was called</b>