



## IFAR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS 2025

**Boyd Martin**  
**Olympian**  
**Keynote Speaker**

Australian Boyd Martin made his debut at the CCI5\*-L with a win at the 2003 Australian International Three-Day Event riding the Thoroughbred True Blue Toozac. In 2007, Martin moved to the United States, serving as the assistant trainer to Olympian Phillip Dutton. Two years later he started his own business and began riding for the U.S. He is a four-time Olympian, having represented the U.S. in London 2012, Rio de Janeiro 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024. Martin's mount in Rio was Blackfoot Mystery, a Thoroughbred, and he has also partnered with other such Thoroughbreds as Neville Bardos and Ying Yang Yo.



**Dr. Eliot Forbes**  
**IFAR Chair**  
**Opening Address**

Dr. Eliot Forbes is the Chief Executive of the Racing Integrity Board of New Zealand and brings over 30 years of experience in racing administration, wagering, and veterinary science across Australasia, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East. As a founding member and current Chair of IFAR, he champions the advancement of racehorse aftercare initiatives globally. He holds an Honours degree in Veterinary Science, an MBA, is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.





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### **Jen Roytz** **Moderator**

Jen Roytz is a communications professional and lifelong equestrian with roots in both racing and equestrian sports. She and her husband own Brownstead Farm, a Thoroughbred breeding, sales, racing, and sport horse training operation in Versailles, Kentucky. She is also a partner in Topline Communications, a boutique marketing agency catering to small businesses and nonprofits, and she writes for several publications. Jen also serves on numerous committees related to aftercare and is the president of the board of the Kentucky Horse Council.



### **John Nicholson** **Old Friends** **Session: Sustainable Business Practices in Aftercare**

On February 1, 2024, John Nicholson became the president and CEO of Old Friends, which provides a dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing and breeding careers have come to an end. Previously, John was the executive director of the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP), a position he held from 1997-2014. He led the largest expansion in the history of the KHP, and in 2010 he served as President of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG), while hosting the event at the KHP. John then spent five years as the CEO of the Virginia Horse Center, in Lexington, Virginia.





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**Erin Halliwell**  
**Thoroughbred Charities of America**  
**Session: Sustainable Business Practices in Aftercare**

Erin Halliwell is the executive director of Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA), a non-profit organization that provides grants to approved charitable organizations working to fund and facilitate the support of Thoroughbreds and the people who care for them. Erin entered the Thoroughbred industry in 2006 as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA). In late 2008, TCA became the charitable arm of TOBA, and Erin moved into her role with TCA. She is responsible for the oversight of the organization including all fundraising and grant-making activities.



**Natasha Rose**  
**Hong Kong Jockey Club**  
**Session: Engaging Equestrian Communities**

Natasha Rose's career and interest in the Thoroughbred aftercare industry was sparked off by a weekend stable job at the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre during her undergraduate university years. She has been working for the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) for over seven years, and her current role is Executive Manager, Equestrian Affairs Projects. Prior to that, she was a graduate trainee at the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) and went on to be the Head of Operations for the Horserace Betting Levy Board in the UK. She holds a Thoroughbred Horseracing Industries MBA with Liverpool University.





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**Lindsay Greenway**  
**United States Polo Association**  
**Session: Engaging Equestrian Communities**

Lindsay Greenway is a lifelong equestrian who grew up competing in the sport and attended Colorado State University's Equine Science Program. She gained experience in the Thoroughbred industry through an internship at a breeding farm in Lexington, Kentucky. Her move to Lexington eventually led to a role with the United States Polo Association (USPA), where she has worked for 14 years. She is currently the Membership and Handicap Director. For over a decade, the USPA has served as a discipline sponsor for the Polo Division of the Thoroughbred Makeover, and Lindsay has had the honor of serving as Polo Steward for the past seven years.



**Dr. Kenji Korosue**  
**Japan Racing Association**  
**Session: Engaging Equestrian Communities**

Dr. Kenji Korosue joined the Japan Racing Association (JRA) as a veterinarian in 1995. He spent 10 years as a clinician at the JRA's training facilities. From there he moved to the Breeding Affairs Department and worked at a JRA-owned breeding farm and yearling farm, where he was involved in the breeding and pre-training of racehorses. In 2025, he was appointed Chief Manager of the Equestrian Affairs Division of the Equine Department. He has also been a member of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Horse Welfare Committee since 2023.





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### **Tom Persechino**

**ASPCA**

**Session: On-Track to Second Career**

Tom Persechino is the Senior Director of Equine Welfare for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Tom implements programs and collaborates with diverse stakeholders to help at-risk horses safely transition to new homes and increase safety-net support to horses and their owners by improving access to resources. Tom leads efforts at ASPCA's Equine Transition and Adoption Center (ETAC), an Oklahoma-based program aimed at developing solutions to the barriers that get in the way of transitioning horses finding those new homes. The program has helped nearly 1,000 horses since launching.



### **Dr. Bryan Waldrige**

**Mississippi State University/Old Friends**

**Session: On-Track to Second Career**

Dr. Bryan Waldrige is an Associate Clinical Professor and Equine Internal Medicine Service Chief at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. A graduate of Auburn University, he is board certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He has years of experience in private and academic equine referral medicine as well as working in equine nutrition industry and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. He has a strong interest in Thoroughbred racing and takes MSU students twice a year to Old Friends and Keeneland.





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**Kenki Sato**  
**Olympian/Buddhist monk**  
**Session: On-Track to Second Career**

Kenki Sato is a Japanese equestrian and Buddhist monk. He comes from Myoshoji Temple in Nagano Prefecture, where his family has combined their Buddhist traditions with a deep connection to equestrian sports. Kenki is especially dedicated to retraining retired racehorses, helping them find new opportunities by tailoring training methods to each horse's personality and potential. He has represented Japan at the highest levels as an eventer, including the 2010 World Equestrian Games and 2012 London Olympics. He won the All-Japan Show Jumping Championships and Retired Racehorse Cup Final in 2024.



**Ashley Watts**  
**Liftoff Equestrian/Canter Kentucky**  
**Session: On-Track to Second Career**

Ashley Watts owns and operates Liftoff Equestrian, a hunter/jumper equine facility based in Versailles, Kentucky. She trains horses and clients to compete at the local and AA rated shows and has a large lesson program. Ashley houses and trains horses for Canter Kentucky, where she actively participates in the retraining and placement of off-the-track Thoroughbreds into their new careers and homes. The horse she named her business "Liftoff" after was an OTTB turned show jumper. She has also served as the President of the Kentucky Hunter Jumper Association for the past five years.





## IFAR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS 2025

**Dr. Jeff Berk**  
**Veterinarian**

**Session: Post-Racing Veterinary Evaluations**

Dr. Jeff Berk began his veterinary career as a racetrack practitioner and subsequently started a practice in Ocala, Florida specializing in young horses in training and Thoroughbred sales work. A past President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), he has also served as AAEP Treasurer, board member, and chair of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Council. Dr. Berk is a board member of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and Light Up Racing. He is currently residing and practicing in Lexington, Kentucky. His primary practice focus is international Thoroughbred sales work as well as work with New Vocations.



**Dr. Valerie Hyde**  
**Veterinarian**

**Session: Post-Racing Veterinary Evaluations**

Dr. Valerie Hyde grew up on an Irish stud farm where her love of Thoroughbreds and sport horses led her to study Veterinary Medicine at UCD Dublin. Her current roles include Raceday Vet at two of Ireland's premier racetracks, member of the Pre-Sale Veterinary Panel at Goffs Bloodstock Sales, racing and stud work, and specialist in anesthesia for a surgery practice on the Curragh. She also runs a small Thoroughbred stud farm, is a regular racegoer and attendee at equestrian events, is on the organizing committee for the Treo Eile Christmas Show, and enjoys competing her homebred, unraced 8-year-old Thoroughbred.





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**Anna Ford**  
**New Vocations**  
**Session: Post-Racing Veterinary Evaluations**

Anna Ford is the Thoroughbred Program Director for New Vocations Racehorse Adoption, an organization founded in 1992 to provide retiring racehorses with a safe haven, rehabilitation, and training for second careers. Since its inception, New Vocations has placed over 9,000 retired Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds into experienced, caring homes across the country, sourcing horses from 40 different racetracks. Anna rode Thoroughbreds throughout her youth, competing in multiple disciplines, and later worked as an exercise rider during college. She also served as Racing Manager for Robsham Stables for five years and was a founding member of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA).



**Dr. David Catlow**  
**Retraining of Racehorses**  
**Session: Post-Racing Veterinary Evaluations**

Dr. David Catlow was appointed as Managing Director of Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) in 2022. Previous experience includes six years as Clinical Director at Blue Cross and 29 years as an equine veterinary surgeon, treating a wide variety of horses from showjumpers to racehorses, leisure horses to World Horse Welfare rehabilitation. He is a former President of the British Veterinary Association, Council Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and Chair of RCVS Standards Committee. He bred showjumpers, achieving the first successful UK embryo transplant outside research.







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### **Kirsten Green**

#### **Retired Racehorse Project**

#### **Session: Raising Awareness Through Events**

Kirsten Green joined the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) staff in 2014 after volunteering at the first two Thoroughbred Makeovers at Pimlico Race Course. She has fulfilled all manner of operational needs for the organization, including the development and refinement of the current Thoroughbred Makeover format. Kirsten became the executive director in 2022 and has a unique perspective on the successes and opportunities for improvement within the aftercare industry as well as how it interfaces with the communities it serves. She hails from central Maryland and grew up riding and competing Thoroughbred lesson horses in dressage and eventing.



### **Caoimhe Doherty**

#### **Treo Eile**

#### **Session: Raising Awareness Through Events**

Caoimhe (pronounced Kweeva) Doherty is a co-founder and director of Ireland's aftercare program Treo Eile (Throw Ella). A Flying Start graduate with a degree from University College Dublin, Caoimhe then worked with Godolphin and has since moved to Forenaghts Stud as its manager. She is entrenched within the bloodstock industry, as a professional and on a personal level as a prominent breeder and consignor. Caoimhe sits on the Irish Thoroughbred Welfare Council, the council of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association, and is a member of IFAR's Conference Committee. She's also a keen amateur event rider and producer of Connemara ponies.





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### **Kim Duffy**

#### **Racing Queensland**

#### **Session: Raising Awareness Through Events**

As Racing Queensland's Senior Animal Care Manager, Kim Duffy is responsible for the delivery of the organization's operational and strategic objectives to ensure racing animal welfare. As part of her role, Kim manages Racing Queensland's equine aftercare program, Queensland Off-The-Track, where she has led the development and implementation of a suite of initiatives to improve aftercare outcomes for retired racehorses. Kim holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Veterinary Technology) from the University of Queensland. After graduating in 2008, Kim worked as a veterinary technician in clinical practice in both Australia and the UK.



### **Stacie Clark Rogers**

#### **Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance**

#### **Session: Connections Through Thoroughbreds**

Stacie Clark Rogers, raised in Ontario, Canada, is the daughter of Thoroughbred trainer Joan Clark and owner Peter Clark. Growing up around Thoroughbred racing, her parents' passion for the industry soon became her own. In 2012, Stacie joined the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) as a board member and then in 2014 joined the TAA full time as the organization's operations consultant. She has made numerous presentations on Thoroughbred aftercare throughout North American as well as in the United Kingdom, Japan, and most recently Jamaica.





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**Ellie Toothaker**  
**Central Kentucky Riding for Hope**  
**Session: Connections Through Thoroughbreds**

Ellie Toothaker is the Equine Manager for Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH), a Premier PATH Intl. Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Her love for horses has been lifelong both competing and owning off-the-track Thoroughbreds during her eventing career. After studying Animal Sciences at Kanas State University, Ellie continued her work in the equine industry, interning at several Thoroughbred farms and sport horse facilities before joining the CKRH staff in 2023 full time.



**Frank Taylor**  
**Taylor Made Farm/Stable Recovery**  
**Session: Connections Through Thoroughbreds**

Frank Taylor was raised working on Gainesway Farm alongside his father, Joe Taylor. With the guidance of their father, Frank and his brothers founded Taylor Made Farm in 1976. Over the years, their dedication transformed the business into the world's leading consigner of Thoroughbreds. In recent years, Frank has expanded his passion for horses into a mission of service through the Taylor Made School of Horsemanship and Stable Recovery. The programs aim to provide second chances to individuals struggling with substance abuse. Upon graduation, Stable Recovery assists participants in securing employment with one of its esteemed partners.





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**Niki Purdom**  
**Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation**  
**Session: Connections Through Thoroughbreds**

Niki Purdom's introduction into the Thoroughbred industry was, shall we say, through the back door. Her early life was plagued with poor choices and addiction, a path that led her to be incarcerated at Lowell Correctional Institution. While incarcerated, she was given the opportunity to participate in the Thoroughbred Retirement Farm's "second chances program." The program uses retired racehorses to teach basic care, handling, and management of horses. For the past 11 years, Niki has had her hand in every aspect of the Thoroughbred industry.



**Dan "Boone" McCanna**  
**Down the Stretch Ranch**  
**Session: Connections Through Thoroughbreds**

Boone McCanna has always had a deep-rooted love for horses and is from a third-generation Thoroughbred racing family. At an early age, he accompanied his dad to the track, working as a groom and pony boy at Spokane's Playfair race track. In 2014, Boone moved back to eastern Washington and co-founded Down the Stretch Ranch with Hall of Fame trainer Jerry Hollendorfer and his wife Janet. The ranch was accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) in 2018 and is the current home for 32 retired runners. Over the last 10 years, the ranch has provided services for hundreds of veterans, their families, and struggling children.

