

## TRAINER BEST PRACTICES

The horse racing industry strives to have professionalism and integrity characterize the sport and its participants in a level playing field.

The basis of the relationship between a trainer and owner must be based on trust, integrity, disclosure, the health and welfare of the horses, and acting in the best interest of the owner and the horse racing industry.

In operating your business activities it is important that you:

- Endeavour to protect and promote the interest of your owners to the best of your abilities. This relationship of trust means that the trainer should never put his interest above those of his owner. Competence, diligence, full disclosure, loyalty, confidentiality and complete accounting are part of your duties.
- You have the responsibility of ensuring that an owner is immediately notified of any problems affecting an owner's racehorse in your care that would affect its racing potential or ability to be trained on a continuous basis.
- Ensure that good communications are well established with your owners and that you provide sufficient and accurate data on a regular and timely basis.
- You must declare to your owner, **in writing**, the services for which the owner is to be directly financially responsible and your rate schedule, including day rate and commissions on purses earned by the horses. You and each of your owners must agree on the financial arrangements between yourselves, including terms of payment (owner/trainer contract)
- It is your obligation to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all the horses in your care and the health and safety of your employees;
- You must always be ethical, truthful and honest with your owners.
- Make sure you have read and understand the Rules of Racing published by the racing authority in your jurisdiction.
- Keep accurate books of accounts with your owners which may be viewed by the racing authority at any time.
- Make sure that all of your employees are covered under a provincial workman's compensation plan or that they are licensed by Standardbred Canada as grooms so that they are covered by the SC insurance.

### **Health, Safety and Welfare**

- Ensure there is absolutely no smoking in barns
- Make sure staff are well trained with evacuation procedures in case of fire
- Ensure that horses in your care are wearing halters when unattended
- Wear appropriate footwear at all times.
- Ensure that appropriate safety equipment is well maintained and use only approved vests and helmets.
- Ensure all horses in your care are equipped with safety reins while exercising, working and training (if required by your Commission/Regulating Authority)
- Ensure safety vests are worn while jogging, training or exercising a horse (if required by your Commission/Regulating Authority)

### **Health, Safety and Welfare (continued)**

- Only use veterinarians properly licensed by the Ontario Racing Commission and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association to treat the horses in your care. In Ontario, all veterinarians must also be licensed by the Ontario Veterinary College.
- Provide first aid equipment for both humans and horses
- Regularly maintain the condition of all harness equipment
- Ensure your staff feed and exercise horses in a manner deemed proper and appropriate to maintain the health, well-being and fitness of all horses in your care.
- Regularly maintain the feet and teeth of all horses and keep records related to horse care, treatments and injuries
- Ensure that no horse is subjected to any mistreatment
- Ensure all employees and grooms are properly licensed by Provincial Regulators
- Ensure all employees and grooms are properly trained to work with horses.

## **A TRAINER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Code of Conduct is intended to provide guidance about the general business and ethical standards to be observed by Trainers and to set out reasonable expectations of Trainers and procedures to identify and address situations which may arise in the course of carrying out the duties of a trainer.

The Code of Conduct is complementary to and supports the guidelines of Standardbred Canada for Trainers.

### **Accountability**

- Recognize the public interest and conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times. You must not engage in activities at work or outside of work that would bring the industry into disrepute.
- Never put your interest above the interest of your owner.
- Your relationship with your owner is based on integrity, disclosure, maintaining the health and welfare of the horse and acting in the best interest of racing.
- The terms of your agreement with your owner must be set out in writing. You must advise your owner, **in writing**, as to the services you are providing and for which the owner is to be financially responsible, your fee schedule including your daily rate, commissions on purses earned by the horses and terms of payment.
- You must advise an owner as soon as possible of any problems affecting his horse that could affect the horse's racing potential or ability to be trained on a continuous basis.
- If you are presented with an offer to purchase or lease a horse in your care, you must request that the offer be made **in writing** and you will immediately notify the owner of the written offer you have received.
- You must maintain records of all particulars regarding the administration of any medications to horses in your care.
- If an owner wishes to cease using your services provide him with an account for your services up to that date
- Ensure all employees and owners have valid licences.

### **Quality and Consistency**

- Be the best that you can be at all times and ensure that you are leading your staff by example.
- Invoice your owners on a regular basis and remain consistent in your accounting of services.
- Accord your owners and staff with privacy surrounding their transactions
- Ensure that all paperwork is properly completed i.e. owner/trainer contract, claiming authorization, authorized agent forms, Coggins' test...

### **Collegiality**

- Conduct yourself and have your employees conduct themselves in a manner that reinforces the highest integrity and competence free of workplace harassment
- Treat all participants fairly, reasonably and equitably

