



# Membership

## VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

### **VTA provides the following membership benefits.**

#### **Promotion**

The VTA promotes the Virginia-bred Thoroughbred in the industry at large both through marketing efforts and the administration of a financial model that rewards the owners and breeders of Virginia-bred horses.

The VTA not only administrates but actively promotes the Virginia Breeders Fund, which provides bonuses to breeders of a Virginia-bred winner anywhere in the country. This is the only bonus program in the Mid-Atlantic that does not restrict bonus payments to races in its state of origin. There is a 100 percent owner's bonus for Virginia-bred winners at any parimutuel meet in Virginia, designed to help create a market for Virginia-bred horses. Numerous Virginia-bred stakes races and restricted state-bred races are carded to give Virginia-breds the best opportunity to be financially successful for their owners and breeders.

Other promotional efforts include publicity events such as an annual Virginia-bred Championship awards ceremony and a monthly presence in the industry publications Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred and In And Around Horse Country. The VTA also engages in strategic advertising campaigns that promote that Virginia Thoroughbred in relevant national publications including the Thoroughbred Daily News and the Saratoga Special.

#### **Membership Fees for registering Virginia-breds**

Members of the VTA are eligible for discounted registration fees for all their state-bred horses, including Virginia-bred horses, Virginia-sired horses and Virginia stallions.

#### **VTA Insider News**

The VTA runs an up-to-the-minute blog that keeps you current on the Virginia thoroughbred industry in Virginia as well as nationally. Featuring Virginia owners and breeders, the newsletter promotes local connections and ensures you never miss an important moment in Virginia racing and breeding.

#### **Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Subscription**

Membership includes a subscription to the monthly Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred, the only industry magazine dedicated to the racing and breeding industry in the mid-Atlantic region.

#### **Legislative Representation**

The VTA acts as an advocate for the interests of the Thoroughbred industry in Virginia. The VTA maintains an active presence during the General Assembly session and liaises with Virginia's congressional representatives and all relevant state agencies (such as the Virginia Racing Commission and the Department of Agriculture). The VTA monitors all new legislation and regulatory proposals that affect the Thoroughbred industry, provides information and education to its members and supports policies and candidates that promote the best interests of the industry.

#### **Seminars**

The VTA hosts a number of educational seminars during the year to provide members with opportunities to stay abreast of the latest trends in the breeding industry at large.

Dues payments to the VTA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, the portion of dues not attributable to VTA legislative affairs may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses. The VTA estimates that 25% of your dues are attributable to expenses to influence legislation and are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.