

# Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky



SPRING 2017

## A Message from Michael Blowen

While we depend on our retirees histories to inspire us, looking back often impedes going forward. We always seem to be turning for home and pleading for more good fortune. Sometimes it doesn't happen the way we'd like it to. The untimely death of Charismatic is a tragic case in point.

But, in May, in Kentucky, especially in horse racing, hope springs eternal. As it does, especially here at Old Friends.

We're working hard every day to provide dignified retirements to more of these deserving retirees, whether they be old claimers or classic winners.

Through the generosity of donors and the support of fans, we've been able to build a new hay barn with an ASPCA grant and pay our feed bills thanks to all the tireless efforts of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA).

Our new stars include Albert the Great, Sun King, Awesome Gem, Jimbo Fallon and Private Zone. And, as always, there are many more deserving horses on the waiting list.

It's always such a thrill to see trainers such as Bob Baffert visiting his old equine friends, and jockeys such as Chris McCarron, J. J. Steiner, Victor Espinoza, Jean Cruguet and Mike Smith revisiting their partners.

We take great pride in the health care provided by Dr. Bryan Walldridge and his team at Park Equine Clinic, and all of the Kentucky Equine Management Internship (KEMI) volunteers that assist farm manager Tim Wilson and his team, especially when the Kentucky Shoeing School is here to do all the trims.

Check out our website for farm activities, including our May 7 Annual Homecoming, Saratoga fundraisers and the new Breeders' Cup & Maker's Mark Champions for Charity Cigar bottle, where

Gregson Foundation.

Have you always wanted to vacation at Old Friends? Ask us about staying in our beautiful rental house.

From all of us at Old Friends, we can't thank you enough for your emotional, spiritual and economic support as we work to ensure these horses' financial future.



*Alphabet Soup keeps an eye on his pond, waiting for the return of his geese friends.*

*Photo Laura Battles*

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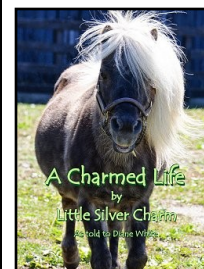
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2017 Magazine**  
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## Alphabet Soup Responding Well to Treatment by Bryan M. Waldrige, DVM, MS, DABVP, DACVIM Park Equine Hospital at Woodford

Alphabet Soup is continuing to respond very well to his treatment for melanoma. He was treated with a vaccine produced by Morphogenesis, which was made from cells from his own tumors. Alphabet Soup received a series of eight injections over five months and is also treated with cimetidine, which is an anti-ulcer drug with some effects to help the immune system fight melanoma.

I could not be more pleased with Alphabet Soup's response. I estimate that his melanomas have reduced about 80% in size and continue to shrink. He looks like he could still race! Melanomas are a common problem in gray horses over 15 years of age. Unlike human melanoma, these masses are caused by changes in the melanocytes (pigment cells) of gray horses as they age and turn from gray to white.

Usually, equine melanomas are slow growing and most likely to cause problems only locally where they grow. In Alphabet Soup, the cancer was around his tail head where it could eventually interfere with passage of manure. We elected to start more aggressive treatment before the masses were large enough to cause significant problems.

I am very hopeful that this treatment will be further developed and, one day, help more horses and be applicable for humans. I greatly appreciate the advice and support from everyone at Morphogenesis who were always interested in his progress.

*From Old Friends: On January 9, 2017, Blood-Horse reported on Alphabet Soup's cutting-edge cancer treatment. Our deepest gratitude goes to Alphabet Soup's former stud residence, Adena Springs, for providing funding for Soup's ongoing treatment.*

## Old Friends Cottage on the Farm



A welcoming and cozy retreat set in the heart of horse country, our cottage is a unique horse-lovers dream. Nestled on five rustic acres, the cottage is adjacent to our Georgetown, Kentucky farm, which is home to more than 100 retired Thoroughbreds.



The house is currently available for weekly rentals or longer. Call us for information, special seasonal rates and to make reservations.

Phone:  
(502) 863-1775

Email:  
[Barbara@oldfriendsequine.org](mailto:Barbara@oldfriendsequine.org)



## The World according to *Little Silver Charm*

I am sorry to have to inform you that I have had to let my longtime personal stylist go. Yes that's right, Mr. John of John Bradley Designs in Horsehair International Inc., Ltd., will no longer be responsible for my grooming and styling needs.

Mr. John has taken a full-time job at Claiborne Farm tending to a lot of fancy-pants mares and no longer has the time and, I suspect, the energy to keep me looking as handsome as my many fans have every right to expect.

I hope to forestall any rumors that I am bitter about this turn of events. I am not. I wish Mr. John the very best in his new career at one of the finest Thoroughbred breeding farms in the world. Of course he might not have been hired at Claiborne if not for my glowing recommendation, but I am sure he knows this and is extremely grateful, even though he hasn't thanked me.

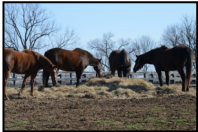
I will soon be interviewing applicants for the position of my personal stylist. Interested parties must pass the usual security tests and complete a detailed 35-page questionnaire. Promising candidates will be asked to perform a "hands-on" demonstration of their skills on Yours Truly.



It's Himself! He's in there somewhere!

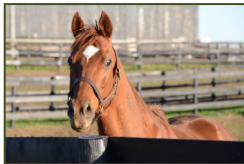
Photo Laura Battles

### How You Can Help Our Horses



\$25 = Hay for A Day  
for the Entire Paddock!

\$50 = 3 bags of Senior Horse Feed



\$100 = Sponsor Your Favorite  
Old Friends Horse

\$250 = Durable Horse Blanket



\$2,000—Run-in shed for  
shelter



Behold our new John Deere tractor! A huge thank you to Lee and Shirley, who made Christmas happen in April, just in time for Spring chores!

### Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ General Donation
- ☐ Membership (\$150.00 annually)
- ☐ Sponsor a Horse (\$100.00) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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For more ways to contribute visit:  
[www.oldfriendsequine.org](http://www.oldfriendsequine.org)

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
Your contribution is fully tax-deductible.

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)

1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324  
(502) 863-1775

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Georgetown, KY 40324  
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Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers have come to an end.



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