

Prize Sponsorships Take Virginia Horse Trials Schooling Shows to the Next Level *Blue Ridge Equine Clinic Welcomed As Presenting Sponsor*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lexington, VA — Virginia Horse Trials (VHT) in Lexington, Va. will host three Starter Horse Trials and Cross-Country Schooling Days in 2017. The dates of the 2017 VHT Horse Trials Starter Horse Trials, Combined Test and Dressage Schooling show are April 2, a date to be decided in August, and October 1.

These events feature a unique educational format and award excellent prizes from sponsors. On Saturday, the cross-country course will be open for schooling, and the Starter Horse Trials will take place the next day. This year we are also excited to offer the opportunity to work with clinician Mark Combs during the cross-country schooling on Saturday.

Horse trials levels range from Green (2'3") to Preliminary (3'7"). Competitors may choose to compete in all three phases or do a combined test with dressage and their choice of show jumping or cross country. There is also an option for beginner riders to do an Intro dressage test and jump an 18" stadium course. Riders may also enter to ride standalone USEA, USDF or FEI Eventing dressage tests.



“We want to provide the opportunity for competitors of all levels to get in good practice in all phases of eventing, and we appreciate our sponsors for giving great prizes to the competitors that are here to learn and have a great time,” VHT Organizer Andy Bowles said.

Presenting sponsor Blue Ridge Equine Clinic is giving embroidered quilted saddle pads to the winners of each horse trials division and providing a hospitality tent with beverages and snacks. McCauley’s Equine Formula, Easy Pellett Products, Merial and Buchanan Livestock, LLC have also donated prizes for the April 2, 2017 Starter Trials. Ribbons will be awarded through sixth place.

Blue Ridge Equine Clinic has been a longtime supporter of the Virginia Horse Trials, and we are grateful for their support of both the USEA Horse Trials and unrecognized Starter Trials.

“Blue Ridge Equine Clinic is proud of its long history of collaboration with the Virginia Horse Center and the Virginia Horse Trials. We are always excited to participate in the horse trials each

year,” said Dr. Donovan Dagner, BREC President. “This year we are looking forward to an increasing role in the expansion of the Virginia Starter Trials and their new ties to the War Horse Event Series at the Carolina Horse Park. The War Horse Event Series is a great community event in support of noble and worthy causes.”

All three 2017 VHT Starter Trials will be considered qualifiers for the \$20,000 [War Horse Event Series Championship](#) taking place at the Carolina Horse Park November 11-12, 2017. To be eligible for the Championship, a horse and rider must either A) place 1st or 2nd once or complete all three schooling shows at the Virginia Horse Trials or B) place 1st through 6th once or complete all five schooling shows at the Carolina Horse Park.

Visit www.vahorsetrials.com and click the “Unrecognized Events” tab for more information.

Photo:

Olivia Hayes and Beaujeste splash through the water at Virginia Horse Trials. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.

Media Contact:

Leslie Threlkeld

678-378-0244

leslie.a.threlkeld@gmail.com