

FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 16, 2010

## **EQUINE PROTECTION OF NORTH AMERICA (E.P.O.N.A) CLOSES ITS DOORS**

**Epping, NH** – March 16, 2010 – [E.P.O.N.A. \(Equine Protection of North America\)](#), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) rescue for homeless, neglected and abused horses, permanently closed its doors today. The New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NHSPCA) was asked to partner with E.P.O.N.A in finding appropriate homes for the horses in their care. Four horses have been surrendered to the NHSPCA while three others remain on the property. The three remaining are considered “special needs” horses and to insure the best possible transition for them, it was determined that they would remain on the E.P.O.N.A property for now. They are in need of homes on or before March 31, 2010.

“EPONA has enjoyed a decade of support from the community,” said Catherine Blake, President for EPONA’s Board of Directors. “Unfortunately, in this economy, we are just not able to make ends meet. It’s heartbreaking.” Blake went on to comment that the entire Board of Directors has been working closely to develop an exit strategy. After taking over the organization in October 2009, they recognized that the organization’s model was not sustainable in the current economic climate.

“We need your immediate help,” said Blake. “We have three more horses to place by March 31<sup>st</sup>, only days away; Ice Man, a blind Thoroughbred, Prize, his guide horse, and Chance, a Warmblood still need homes. Ice Man was well known as a competitive hunter jumper before he lost his sight. Prize, a retired race track horse, has stepped up as his guide horse and they look like brothers. Chance is deserving of his name since he broke his leg years ago. His leg was set incorrectly causing lameness for life. He gets around just fine, but cannot be ridden.

“We are truly grateful to the NHSPCA,” said Ms. Blake. “It is a relief to know that those four horses will receive a second chance. We would like to encourage anyone wishing to help with the care of the E.P.O.N.A horses make a tax deductible donation to the NHSPCA, SOS Fund, PO Box 196, Stratham, NH 03885.”

If you can provide a Forever Home or a Foster Home for Ice Man, Prize and/or Chance, please let us know by sending e-mail to: [info@eponarescue.org](mailto:info@eponarescue.org) or calling Catherine Blake, Board President directly at 603-828-7312. For more information on E.P.O.N.A., or how to make a donation to cover the cost of transitioning these horses, visit [www.eponarescue.org](http://www.eponarescue.org).

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