

<u>For Immediate Release</u> July 30, 2003 For information, contact Lisa Marie Wood (512) 458-6133 lisaw@texasthoroughbred.com

Texas Thoroughbred Association takes official stance against horse slaughter

AUSTIN — By a unanimous vote, the Board of Directors of the Texas Thoroughbred Association (TTA) took a formal position against horse slaughter during a July 29 meeting in Austin.

Although the meeting was originally scheduled primarily to consider legislative issues in anticipation of a special session of the Texas Legislature regarding school financing, the swift decision by the TTA Board of Directors was made in response to a recently published racing industry report that revealed 1986 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Ferdinand was likely killed in a slaughterhouse in Japan last year after falling out of favor with Thoroughbred breeders in that country. The 1987 North American Horse of the Year and earner of \$3.7 million was sold to Japanese interests as a breeding stallion in 1994.

The TTA Board of Directors determined that the action was in the best interests of representing the organization's 2,200 members and upholding the mission of the Texas Thoroughbred Association, which was founded in 1955 to improve the quality of Thoroughbred racing and breeding in Texas.

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