



2022

Groom Elite Annual Report



C. Reid McLellan
The Elite Program, Inc.
12/31/2022

2022 Programs Summary (Narrative below)

With continuing support from The Jockey Club (\$5000), Thoroughbred Charities of America (\$7500) and The National HBPA (\$1500) Groom Elite continued to provide opportunities for grooms as well as owners and trainers of racehorses to improve their knowledge and enhance their skills. In addition, inmates at seven adult correctional facilities and one juvenile facility were provided opportunities to find employment in the equine industry while providing care for retired racehorses. Two Veterans/Human rehabilitation programs took instructor training increasing to three the number of such equine assisted therapy programs using Groom Elite curriculum. Potential for expansion was evident in meetings with NYTHA, considering offering Groom Elite at Belmont Park in 2023 as well as individuals interested in providing individual, specialized training to international trainees using Groom Elite's H3 curriculum.

St. Croix, USVI.

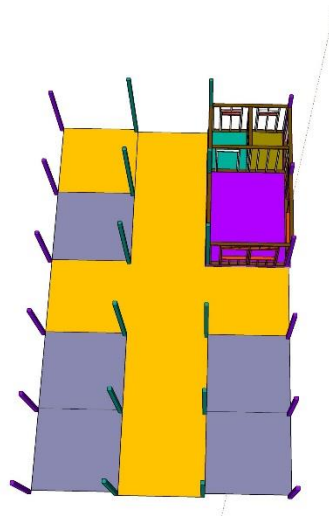
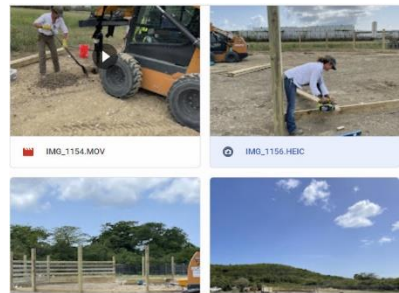
USVI Bureau of Corrections hired Chantal



Corminboeuf as instructor and equine program supervisor. Chantal worked tirelessly, communicating with

Dr. Mac on construction of a round pen (completed) and plans for a 6 stall barn. "Island time" moves

slowly and horses had not arrived as of 12/31/22. Chantal was able to participate in some local demonstrations teaching islanders a better way to take care of their horses. We spent a lot of time on planning that barn and hope to see it fully functional in 2023.



Groom Elite Classes

Groom Elite Continuing Education. Churchill Downs

The Elite Program Inc.
Groom Elite Certification Programs

Groom Elite 101
Leg Anatomy Short Course &
Bandaging Certification
LOCATION
DATE

Sponsors:
Sponsors go Here

A unique opportunity for **licensed grooms and assistant trainers** to learn about their horses' legs with an optional opportunity to receive Groom Elite 101 **Bandaging certification**. Meets requirements for HISA CE credits.

Noon - 3:00 PM
(\$39 for class plus \$10 for certification practical)

Day 1 — Leg Anatomy, Leg Exam, Leg injuries
(Bones of legs, daily exam to identify potential injuries & therapy techniques.)

Day 2 — Therapy methods and Bandaging

Day 3—Certification Practical (optional—starting 12:30 pm)
(Grooms will be evaluated on applying polo, standing and self-adhesive elastic (VetRapi) bandages. Those meeting minimum standards will be receive GE101 bandaging certification.)

For more information and to register:
Contact Information goes Here.

For more information about Groom Elite and Groom Elite Certification Programs visit:
www.groomelite.com

Dan Fick and the Kentucky Racetrack Chaplaincy in cooperation with the Kentucky HBPA and the Backside Learning Center at Churchill Downs, sponsored a Legs/Bandaging three-day continuing education and bandaging certification class at Churchill Downs in June.

Fifteen participated in the educational program with six testing for bandaging certification.



Groom Elite 099 and 101 at Colonial Downs



Virginia HBPA sponsored Basic Grooming 099 in Early July and followed that with Groom Elite 101 certification class through the middle of August. Fifteen participated in Basic Grooming and most were back for Groom Elite 101 joining experienced grooms and hot walkers. Nine of those newly certified grooms are pictured at left proudly wearing their Groom Elite jackets.

Second Chances Groom Elite

SCGE continued to be active in 2022. Instructors continued to have difficulty with Covid 19 regulations interrupting their programs.

Blackburn Correctional,

Lexington, Kentucky continued to provide inmates with SCGE opportunities. Dr. Mac continued to provide lectures via Google meet and made two trips (May and September) to Lexington for on-site assessment and certification of eight grooms bringing to 40 the total number of certified grooms graduated from this program. Certified instructor Tim Moore retired September 30 and a new instructor Joel Helmburg started in November and began working on his SCGE instructor's license. Blackburn helped Joel set up media capability in their barn classroom so that we can continue Google Meet (or Zoom) lectures more conveniently in 2023



DR. MAC'S ASSESSING BLACKBURN GROOM VIA ZOOM

Marion Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Instructor Velvet Saulsberry continued her work with juvenile offenders and certificates of completion were conveyed to four additional students, bringing their total to 11 graduation certificates.

Vandalia Correctional in Vandalia, IL, certified instructor and licensed TB trainer, Kelly Lehn, added 12 certified grooms to the 7 from 2021 making a total of 19 certified during Kelly's tenure at Vandalia. Sadly, Illinois decided to discontinue this program. The TRF horses were moved to other TRF facilities.

Walkkill Correctional, continued there program and certified instructor Kelsey Kober had 11 participants successfully certify as entry level grooms. Kelsey was also instrumental in helping instructor Courtnay Howe get the Wyoming ((Attica, New York) facility started..

Pleasant Valley Correctional in Coalinga, CA completed their third under guidance of certified instructor Heidi Ranch

Sykesville Correctional in Sykesville, MD hired Chelsey Truesdale in December 2021 and Dr. Mac visited Sykesville as part of Chelsey's instructor certification training in June of 2022. Chelsey's first class will take assessment exams in spring of 2023.

Wyoming Correctional, Attica, NY – In December 2021 TRF hired Courtney Howe as instructor for the SCGE to vocational program at Wyoming Correctional in Attica. Dr. Mac visited the developing facility in May and provided the initial instructor training workshop for Courtney. Some major renovations (of an old dairy barn) and a large amount of fencing took place. The initial class started without horses in Fall of 2022. Horses will arrive in Spring of 2023 and Dr Mac will return for their first assessment.

Owner-Trainer Prep Classes

Owner-Trainer Elite 310 was conducted in Dallas in April and Lexington, Kentucky in September. Dr. Mac is waiting to see how the HISA rules are finally implemented so that the material in the rules portion of this class will be up to date.

Trainer Continuing Education

Trainer Elite 401. Two Trainer Continuing Education classes were held at Colonial Downs as part of a joint promotion by the Virginia Racing Commission, Colonial Downs and major sponsor Virginia HBPA in 2021. .

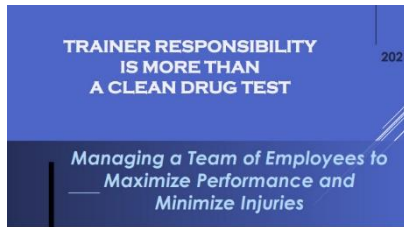


These two programs are available as on-site presentations currently. Consideration will be given to offering them as online classes once the HISA requirements are established.

TE401-1.. With a theme of “Trainer Responsibility – More than a Clean Drug Test”, this two-hour continuing session

“Maximize Performance & Minimize Injuries: Bones & Bandages” discussed risk factors for training and racing injuries.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8jocqcdnmy56wj/Colonial%20Downs%20Bones%20and%20Bandages%20Class%20081521.mp4?dl=0>



TE 401-2 “Managing a Team of Employees” discusses how trainer responsibility extends to the responsibility of providing a quality work environment for both people and horses. A link to that presentation is here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/aaxh8l498y29wdj/Colonial%20Downs%20Employee%20Class%20082921.mp4?dl=0>



Veteran and Human Rehabilitation Programs.

Horsesensing in Bagdad, Ky graduated 3 resident participants (2 male, 1 female) and all three are working in the equine industry near Shelbyville, Ky.



In May, Dr. Mac conducted a three-day intensive Instructor Certification Workshop for a group of 9 (including instructors, staff and volunteers) at Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga in Saratoga, NY. A second equine therapeutic program for Veterans and humans in recovery, Endeavor Therapeutic Horses or Bedford Corners, New York, had six participate in instructor training in October as they initiated their Second Chances for Veterans and Humans equine assisted and vocational training programs. More to come from each of these programs as they develop in 2023.

Projections for 2023. Florida Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association contracted with The Elite Program, Inc. to conduct Groom Elite 101 at the Gulfstream Park championship meeting in January and February. The New York thoroughbred Horsemen's Association initiated conversations in 2022 about the possibility of Groom Elite classes and instructor training at their Belmont Park summer meeting. Colonial Downs, bought by CDI, inc. shortly after the 2022 class concluded, will offer Groom Elite training, Groom Elite 101 and 201 with a possibility of Basic Grooming as well. Charles Town HBPA inquired about classes in 2022 and hopefully we will be able to arrive at a schedule that works for both of us. Iowa HBPA indicated that they want to offer at least one Groom Elite course this summer.

Continued development of the programs at the prisons and the Veterans programs will be a major portion of TEP efforts this year.

An interesting H3 Visa program was initiated in late 2022 and will be developed in 2023. This will enable international trainees to participate in a Groom Elite

certification program as part of their learning at a farm, training center or other equine venue.

AND FINALLY!!

Groom Elite may have a “resident program” where individuals can learn from experienced horsemen as they pursue the entire Groom Elite curriculum. Meetings scheduled for early spring will determine this possibility.

Remember: While a lot of things grandpa did in the “good ole days” were good and part of the fabric that holds together our equine industry, no one today is traveling from St. Louis to California by wagon train. As more research is done with horses, we are learning that the “way we’ve always done it” is NOT ALWAYS in the best interest of our horses. Take time to learn something new and facilitate that opportunity for your grooms. Our horses will appreciate it!

C. Reid McLellan

C. Reid McLellan, Executive Director