

**Plan for the September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 CTHS Canadian-Bred Yearling Sale**  
**To be held at Woodbine Racetrack**

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1. **Purpose:**

To provide a document to address how the CTHS (Ontario Division) can begin planning for the successful launch of the 2020 Canadian-Bred Yearling Sale to be held in Ontario at Woodbine Racetrack on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Taking into account all possible aspects and factors for its success.

The document includes strategies for best practices and protocols during this difficult period to best serve all stakeholders including sellers, agents, buyers and the racetrack.

## **2. Overview**

A Yearling Sale Subcommittee was struck consisting of CTHS (Ontario Division) Directors, Sales Agents and CTHS (Ontario Division) management. The subcommittee reviewed ideas presented for the hosting of a sale under the current conditions in the Province as well as what may be the conditions in the Province come September. The insight provided by the subcommittee is outlined in this detailed plan.

## **3. Executive Summary**

In developing this detailed plan the following priorities were identified:

- The importance of hosting a yearling sale for the Breeders and future Racing prospects in Ontario
- Ensure the safety, health and welfare of all participants and the horses
- Commitment to work with and follow the racetrack, government and public health direction

## **4. Economic Impact**

Many Breeders in this Province depend upon the ability to sell their product in order to avail themselves the necessary funds to reinvest in and sustain their breeding programs. The CTHS (Ontario Division) annual yearling sale provides this venue for Breeders. The sale also gives way to providing owners a venue to purchase their new racing prospects for the next racing season.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created critical circumstances for the health and welfare of our equine athletes, as well as the people who work in the horse breeding and racing industry across the country. The closure of racetracks until just recently has put significant stress on an already struggling industry. While purse payments from the Long-Term funding were made available to Owners during the closure there were no such payments made to breeders. The lack of Breeders Awards revenue during the track closure re-instills the absolute necessity for the revenue to be generated by hosting the yearling sale.

## **5. Plan A – Live Auction**

### **a. Live Auction Assuming Province has Reopened**

If the Province has formally reopened then there will no changes to the Canadian Premier Yearling Sale and the format will mirror last year's. We will be investigating Online Bidding for the sale in conjunction with live and phone bidding. We remain optimistic that we will have attendees at the Sale to participate in a live auction.

### **b. Date of Sale and Location**

The sale had originally been scheduled for Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> but will be moved to Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> to coincide with the change in the live racing schedule. It was agreed that the sale should not compete with racing to afford owners and trainers the

ability to attend and purchase at the sale without racing conflicts. The Sale will be held at Woodbine Racetrack's Sales Pavilion.

**c. Working with the Racetrack**

If the Province has formally reopened it is the hopes that the Racetrack will also be allowing fans and therefore the sale will, as stated above, mirror last year's format with viewing by potential buyers to commence on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> thru to the Sale on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**6. Plan B – Live Auction under Provincial Guidelines**

**a. Live Auction using Provincial Framework**

Ontario is gradually reopening businesses, services and public spaces on a regional basis as progress is made in the fight against COVID-19. The Province's reopening is being guided by a framework that outlines the principles they are using to reopen businesses, services and public spaces to responsibly lead Ontario's economy back to a strong position. The Provincial Framework that will be in place at the time of the sale will be followed by the CTHS (Ontario Division)

**b. Date of Sale and Location**

In the event that the Province has not reopened and we are unable to have individuals attend the sale we propose that a change of date be necessary. In order to achieve the highest sale values possible for our breeders it is imperative that as many potential buyers as possible be afforded the ability to physically inspect the horses prior to the sale. We propose that the sale date be changed to the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October in the hopes that the sale can be held at Woodbine Racetrack with attendees.

**c. Available Bidding & Viewing Formats under restrictions**

- Live Bidding – adhering to the maximum group numbers & provincial guidelines. In order to achieve the maximum group numbers only individuals that have established credit or are known annual buyers will be permitted on the sales site.
- Phone Bidding – increased number of lines available for buyers unable to attend to bid
- Researching Online Bidding – Our sale is webcasted and will work with our team to attempt to provide online bidding as has been done by other sales companies in North America.
- Viewing – Those buyers bidding by phone or online can view the sale via our webcast and we are researching the possibility of posting videos for viewing the yearlings being offered.

**d. Precautions to Provide a Safe Environment**

Follow the current Provincial Framework and Guidelines including but not limited to:

- Numbers allowed for Social Gatherings
- Physical Distancing
- Face Coverings
- Hand Wash & Sanitizer Stations

**e. Working with the Racetrack**

Woodbine Racetrack will also be following Provincial Guidelines and have a framework developed specific to their track. The CTHS (Ontario Division) realizes that we must adhere to the racetrack's framework in order to host the sale on their property.

**7. Plan C – Online Auction**

**a. Online Auction**

In the event that the Province has not re-opened to allow for Plan's A or B above then in order to assist our Breeders with selling their product an Online Auction will be offered. The format of which will be decided upon at such time as Plan C becomes a reality.

**b. Date of Sale**

If it is determined that an Online Auction is the format of the 2020 Sale then the date of the auction shall be determined based on when the decision to go with Plan C was arrived at.

**8. Safety Protocols**

The following COVID-19 protocols will be in place for the 2020 Canadian Premier Yearling Sale:

- Screening measures, including temperature checks and health screening questions, will be in place to gain admittance to the sales grounds for all staff, participants and attendees;
- Cloth face coverings are required in accordance with Municipality recommendations;
- Participants will not be allowed to congregate. At least six feet of distance must be maintained between people;
- Seating capacity in the sales pavilion will be reduced by 50% of capacity;
- No food service will be available in the sales pavilion;
- Valet parking will not be available;
- Increased cleaning and disinfection procedures will be implemented with regular sanitation of high touch surfaces;
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is recommended for all attendees;

The health and safety of sale participants is of paramount importance. These guidelines are intended as a supplement to assist with safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and are subject to change.

**9. Conclusion**

It is the hope of Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society (Ontario Division) that the plan satisfies the overall goals and objectives of a successful 2020 Canadian-Bred Yearling Sale.

The success of the plan will be reflected by the anticipated positive results of the sale. The CTHS (Ontario Division) will continue to focus on preparedness as we approach our sale date and planning for

every possible scenario. We are optimistic that we will have attendees and will be working diligently to ensure a safe environment for everyone.

We look forward to showcasing our future racing prospects.

Regards,

CTHS (Ontario Division)

Yearling Sale Subcommittee