



Vote For Jamaica For 2008 USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year

Vote now for combined driving horse Jamaica to be named the 2008 USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year. Help Jamaica earn his place in history as he travels his amazing “rags-to-riches” journey from an unwanted horse headed to slaughter to his transformation as a national and world class driving horse who was instrumental in helping owner Chester Weber win a silver medal at the World Championships in the Four-in-Hand Combined Driving. Vote now for Jamaica, a Horse of Honor for 2008, to be named Horse of the Year. Visit www.usef.org now and vote for Jamaica.

It's Up To You To Vote-

Rescue Horse Named 2008 Horse of Honor --Could Become USEF Horse of the Year

Ocala, FL –Jamaica, the 17-year-old combined driving horse that helped his owner Chester Weber win a silver medal at the FEI World Championships in The Netherlands, has made a place for himself in history as a rescue horse who has gone on to do great things. Fans of the horse with the “rags-to-riches” tale will be pleased to know that Jamaica has received another honor that will make rescue organizations everywhere proud – Jamaica has been chosen as one of five Horses of Honor for 2008 by the United States Equestrian Federation.

Being named a Horse of Honor for 2008 isn't a recognition often earned by horses that were once headed to the slaughterhouse, and is an honor Jamaica will wear proudly. Now, the quirky but talented horse has the chance for an even grander title – he could be named the 2008 USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year.

Each year, USEF members are called upon to vote for one of the five horses awarded the Horse of Honor title and the horse with the most votes becomes the USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year. Last year that title went to another remarkable equine, the small but mighty Theodore “Teddy” O'Connor.

Rescue organizations and fans of Jamaica are banning together to vote for the bay gelding with the white star and snip, a horse who has become the unofficial “poster child” for all unwanted animals. Winning the title of USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year would be a boost for horse fans everywhere – proving that no matter what kind of start a horse or pony has in life, they can achieve a “rags-to-riches” story.

Jamaica's story started years ago in Europe where as an unwanted animal he was headed for slaughter. Fortunately for Jamaica, he was rescued and trained as a tourist carriage horse. His humble beginnings as a carriage horse were cut short, however, because he wouldn't stand still. Jamaica's antsy attitude didn't bode well for carting tourists from one location to the next – but that attitude would serve him well after Weber purchased him. Re-trained as a Four-in-Hand driving horse, Jamaica has become a valuable horse on Weber's world-class team and not only helped Weber capture a Silver Medal at the FEI World Championships but also helped the team win the Four-in-Hand National Championship title – six years in a row. Pretty impressive for a horse originally headed to slaughter.

Being named Horse of Honor for 2008 by the USEF does give Jamaica's story an even better fairy-tale ending, and fans of the horse will also be glad to know that he has a forever home with Weber. When Jamaica's competition days are over he will retire to Weber's Live Oak farm in Ocala to live out his days romping through the fields, with no thoughts of the slaughterhouse that was once his dismal future.

Now it is time for Jamaica fans everywhere to step up and vote for this amazing horse. Voting takes place at the www.usef.org website. If you aren't a USEF member you can still vote by joining the USEF as a Club Equestrian member for just \$15 at <http://www.usef.org/documents/membership/2009MembershipApp.pdf> – join and then vote and help Jamaica earn his rightful place in history as the 2008 USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year.

Photo: World-class Combined Driving horse Jamaica, who was once headed to slaughter, has been named Horse of Honor for 2008 by the USEF. He is now eligible to win the USEF Farnam Platform Horse of the Year title. (Photo courtesy of Live Oak)