



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **American Graded Stakes Committee Announces Ban of Race-Day Medications in Two-Year-Old Graded Stakes Races for 2012**

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The American Graded Stakes Committee announced today that it has voted to implement a ban of race-day medications for two-year-old graded stakes races for 2012 with an assessment at the end of 2012 to determine whether to continue or expand the policy.

“There have been questions in many quarters about the integrity of the breed when so many of our horses race on medication,” said Dr. J. David Richardson, chairman of the committee. “We view this as a positive step for the elite level horses that will race in graded stakes, the ones most likely to perpetuate the breed. We are reaching out to the regulators and tracks in each of the six states that currently conduct two-year-old graded stakes races and look forward to working with them to implement this policy.”

In 2011 there were 49 two-year-old stakes races assigned graded status.

TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization leading Thoroughbred horse breeders and owners. TOBA’s mission is to “*improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders.*” Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, Sales Integrity Program, The Racing Game, and Claiming Crown. Thoroughbred Charities of America is the charitable arm of TOBA. TOBA is the owner of The Blood-Horse, Inc., and is represented on the Board of Directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association as a founding member. More information on TOBA appears on [www.toba.org](http://www.toba.org).

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