As the breed registry for Thoroughbreds in North America, The Jockey Club’s main responsibility is maintaining *The American Stud Book* in a manner that ensures integrity of the breed in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The employees of The Jockey Club registry are devoted to this endeavor.

At the helm of the registry is Rick Bailey, registrar. Rick has been registrar since 2004, and he has guided the registry as it has embraced new technologies. During Rick’s time as registrar, The Jockey Club has created multiple apps to help with naming, identifying, and registering Thoroughbreds. It has also started microchipping Thoroughbreds and moved to electronic certificates of foal registration, among other ways of streamlining the registration process.

Please click here to listen to the On the Lead podcast interview with Rick. The podcast is hosted by Carolyn Conley, who has hosted and produced horse-related television shows, features, and documentaries throughout the United States, South America, and Dubai. She has also been an exercise rider and jockey agent.

Rick Bailey joined The Jockey Club’s registry in May 1988 and was appointed registrar on January 1, 2004.

In his role, Bailey ensures the integrity of *The American Stud Book* — the foundation upon which Thoroughbred breeding and racing in North America depends — and reviews all horse names.

Bailey was born and raised in Lexington, Ky., where he still lives with his wife, Tonya. When not at the office, he spends a good bit of time coaching youth baseball in the South Lexington Cal Ripken League and enjoying his four grandchildren, Alexis and Carter Griffin and Olivia and Daisy Bailey.
The Jockey Club supports many initiatives in pursuit of its mission of being dedicated to the improvement of Thoroughbred breeding and racing. However, one of its longest-standing initiatives is dedicated to the people who keep our horses and our sport running: The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation.

Established in 1943 with donations from the five distinct racetracks in New York at the time — Aqueduct, Belmont, Empire City, Jamaica, and Saratoga — The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation assists needy individuals in the Thoroughbred industry and their families. It is guided by a three-member board of trustees, all of whom are members of The Jockey Club.

“We must always protect our horses, but we must also remember to protect the people who care for them,” said Shannon Kelly, executive director of the foundation. “The Safety Net Foundation is most commonly needed for one-time emergencies, such as surgeries, but we also help with long-term needs such as wheelchairs and handicap-accessible vans.”

In addition to providing financial relief, the foundation works with racetrack chaplains and other partners to support health clinics, food pantries, holiday meals, daycare services, and even soccer leagues.

“The backstretch needs to be a place where people want to work, where they feel comfortable and safe,” Shannon said.

Shannon spoke at the 2022 Round Table Conference about the sport’s workforce and the work of the Safety Net Foundation. Click here to watch her presentation.

On the Lead with The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation

Shannon Kelly, Executive Director


Shannon has strong family ties to the horse racing industry. Her grandfather, Thomas J. Kelly, was a Thoroughbred horse trainer who was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in 1993. Her father, Timothy D. Kelly, was a horse trainer, served as the New York Racing Association’s clerk of scales, and now serves as its safety steward. Shannon grew up visiting the racetrack with her grandfather and father and experienced how the business works first hand.

Favorite quote: “There’s only us. There’s only this. Forget regret — or life is yours to miss. No other road, No other way. No day but today.” — Rent
Round Table Conference

The Jockey Club Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing was first held on July 1, 1953. Topics ranged from foal registration procedures, backstretch security, and the use of hormones and vitamins to race-entry timetables and rules for claiming horses.

This year’s conference was held Sunday, August 14, and featured Lisa Lazarus, CEO of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, as the keynote speaker. Click here to watch the replay.

What’s Coming Up

The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation Fashionable Fillies Goes West - September 30
2022 T.I.P. Championships at Stable View & East Coast Dressage Championships - October 6-9
Western Championships at 2022 Thoroughbred Makeover & Central Dressage Championships - October 12-15

Registration Services

Below are links to resources to help you microchip and register your foals and manage digital certificates.

Registration Overview (FAQ)

How to Microchip Your Foal (video)

How to Manage Digital Certificates (video)