

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Contact: Deb Balliet, CEO
Equestrian Land Conservation Resource
(859) 455-8383 dballiet@elcr.org

EPIC and Virginia Thoroughbred Association Partner with Equestrian Land Conservation Resource

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) is pleased to welcome two new members into its Equestrian Partner program, Equestrian Partners in Conservation (EPIC) of Maryland, and the Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA).

EPIC is a Montgomery County, Maryland, based effort to engage local horse owners and businesses, along with other like-minded individuals, in a strategic effort to conserve land for equestrian purposes and to increase equestrian access to public and private lands. The group recognizes that open space for farms, pastures, trails, and training facilities is a requirement for the continued existence of their horse community and the benefits it provides to the local economy and environment. For more information, visit www.epicmontgomery.org.

The Virginia Thoroughbred Association was organized in 1941 to cultivate the development of the Commonwealth's heritage as a producer of quality Thoroughbred horses. Today, more than 60 years later, the VTA presently boasts a membership base of more than 400 members. The Association prides itself as a service industry whose main goals are to assist the membership and to promote Virginia's Thoroughbred industry. The VTA can be reached at www.vabred.org.

The Equestrian Partners Program is a growing coalition of organizations from across the country that are committed to helping ELCR fulfill its mission of conserving land and access for all equines. Despite their diverse interests and activities, our Partner members recognize that with land in the U.S. being developed at the rate of 250 acres per hour, the future of our lives with horses as we know it know is in dire jeopardy. If your organization would like to join our national efforts to save land for horses, visit www.elcr.org, or call (859) 455-8383 for more information.

###

About Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR):

ELCR, the only national not-for-profit organization assisting in the conservation of land for horses and horse-related activity, serves as a clearinghouse and educational resource for land and horse owners on issues related to good land stewardship, conserving land, and preserving horse access on public and private lands.