

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Horse Owners Group Forms in Support Of Equestrian Show Jumper – Jody Fraser**

OTTAWA, ON – April 10, 2014 – It is no secret that top level sport participation in Canada relies on athlete funding. In Equestrian Show Jumping, where men and women compete as equals, they share the sport with their equine partners. Both veteran and emerging equestrian athletes are constantly seeking world class horse power. It is understood that in every country, financial need is a pressing challenge in all high profile sports. This is recognized as one of the toughest obstacles to overcome on the road to national and international success, especially in the sport of Show Jumping.

Jody Fraser (32), is an Eastern Ontario equestrian athlete living in the City of Ottawa, and like all developing athletes, focuses on becoming one of the top players in this highly competitive international sport. Fraser has earned the reputation as a dedicated, hard-working and skilled equestrian. Just recently, Fraser's talent was recognized by a group of enthusiast Ottawa area show jumping fans. They approached Fraser with a proposition, whereby they form an owners group, for the sole purpose of acquiring horses suitable to meet the realistic goals of success in the show jumping arena.

The Equos Amicis Horse Owners Group is excited to announce their first purchase for Fraser, Twiggy Gem, a 2007 Selle Français mare (Jarnac/Voltaire), is an exciting young mare who has earned a stellar record in France throughout her four, five and six year old performances. The EA Group has high hopes for their local athletes as they prepare for the upcoming competition season.

The EA Horse Owners Group believe people, can make a difference for Canadian Show Jumping, by banding together to support the success for future Canadian Team results. Owner groups are quite common within the race horse industry, where a group of people share in the purchase and expense of a race horse and in return they enjoy new friendships, share in the joy of winning and participate with limited risk in owning a horse. A new group such as the Ottawa area EA Horse Owners makes the difference right here at home and local Show Jumping sport receives a generous contribution in assisting local athlete development.

"I appreciate the confidence the EA Group has extended towards me as an Equestrian Athlete," commented Jody Fraser. "These guys are so fun to be with, so willing to share their knowledge,

and most of them have known me since I first started to ride. This horse is very exciting and we have a great team behind us.”

Sharing in the excitement for the 2014 season is Fraser's longtime supporter, Topline Trailer & Equipment Sales, Winchester, ON; new sponsor SHOCKBOX EQ / Impakt Protective, Kanata, ON, and her dedicated team of suppliers Dundas Veterinary Services, Winchester, ON; Ritchie Feed and Seed, Ottawa, ON and Farrier, Chris Boland, Ottawa, ON.

**Jody Fraser – Equestrian Athlete** began her riding career at a very young age, winning accolades as a precocious nine year old; qualifying for provincial championships by ten, and training in Europe at twelve years of age. Jody was recruited, based on her riding attributes, to the NCAA Intercollegiate Equestrian Team at St. Andrews Presbyterian College. She studied International Business while attending the liberal arts university located in North Carolina, USA. Competing for Canada at the AIEC/ International University Equestrian Competitions, and the World University Equestrian Championships, sanctioned by the Canadian Interuniversity Sports Organization, FISU and the FEI/ Fédération Equestre Internationale, Fraser won top podium results individually and as a member of the Gold Medal Canadian team. Developing and training show jumping horses has provided Jody with hands-on experience, along with building relationships with equine sport leaders worldwide. As head trainer and manager of Byden Farm Training and Sales Division, Jody enjoys mentoring dedicated youth and emerging riders. Jody is married, and lives in Metcalfe Ontario with her husband and two young sons.

**Equestrian Show Jumping Sport** is the only Olympic sport where women and men compete against each other as equals. Show jumping or stadium jumping is a timed equestrian sport, in which competitors navigate a course of jumps in an arena or a stadium. In a show jumping event, the speed, scope and ability of the horse are tested, along with the skill and accuracy of the rider, and the relationship between horse and rider determines ultimate success.

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