

Description of Responsibilities and Activities

During my time at Little Dreams Racing the stable was located in Lexington at Keeneland and then in June we moved to Henderson, KY to Ellis Park. Being a barn foreman requires a lot of hard work, early hours and long workdays. A typical day would start at 4:30am where I would have to take every horses' vitals, see how well they ate the night before and check their legs. From there the training would begin, as a foreman my job is to make sure grooms have their horses ready to train on time and everything is equipped properly. If horses needed any medication throughout the morning my job would be to correctly dose the meds and properly give them. After training every horse gets a bath and cooled out, my job is to check if any horses are tying up, coughing, how they are breathing, and check to see if they have any injuries from training. After every horse is trained and cooled out I then have to go around checking horses legs again to see if they need any special care. Grooms are not allowed medicated creams and other creams, a foreman has to apply these. Every week racehorses train under a timed trial, called a breeze. The day after they breeze we give the horses a day of rest, called a walk day. After they all walk we check every horse individually on the road and my job is to handle them and get them to jog for the assistant trainer to check for lameness. Around 3pm every other day I had to go feed the barn. Many other small things such as riding the pony on track, clipping horses, and checking tack were also included in my duties.



Clipping a New York bred 2 year old filly named "Elliptic."

Professional Growth Goals

- Goal:
Almost be prepared to become a trainer myself
- I feel like I have learned a lot this summer by dedicating myself to this internship and taking the responsibility that came with it.
- Goal:
Be prepared to alleviate anyone's job
- I feel like with the work I have put into my career, today I could take the reins of the barn and oversee things for my bosses.
- Goal:
Learn how to put on ace bandages and vet wrap so I can race horses by myself.
- I have learned this and will go on my own to New Kent Virginia to race a horse by myself.
- Goal:
Improve knowledge on soundness
- This summer I really focused on checking legs in the morning before training. The repetition and help from my boss helped me a lot.

Abstract



Little Dreams Racing is a Thoroughbred Racing stable. I have worked here before and know how things work but this summer I wanted to improve myself even more. Being a foreman comes with a lot of responsibility, stress, and pressure. But I have been a foreman before for Chad Brown, a much bigger operation so for me this job was a bit better for learning purposes. Having around 25 horses at LDR, I was able to dial in more and learn about the smaller things to do with each horse, check every horse daily and see how they would change.

Project Development/Issue Analysis



Sweet Dani Girl and I heading into the saddling tunnel.

-One of horse racing's biggest issues is the sport's ignorance to improve their marketing. Unless it is one of the biggest races in the country, horse racing does not see much limelight. One of the oldest and most exciting sports in the country, deserves more recognition in this day-in-age. The effects of this is less handle at racetracks, less money bet on the races and less fresh involvement such as ownership, jockeys and trainers.

-The lack of new owners can hinder a stable like the one I work at. New owners are becoming extinct to the sport. Which is not good for the sport, the top 10% of the trainers continue getting horses from their major owners, and the other 90% have to stick with the horses they have and the horses their smaller owners may continue to acquire.

-I decided to speak on this issue because it is a major issue in the sport. It could be the reason why this sport may not exist in 50 years. The world has changed, it has gone to the tech era, horse racing has not adapted fully to this era.

Evaluation of EQM Courses



Injunction winning at Churchill Downs

When it comes to courses that I have recollected on in the work place, many come to mind. First would have to be Equine Anatomy, ASC 310. Everyday I use this class. Especially when checking every horses' legs in the morning before they train. It is easy to find inflammation and heat. But to know where the issue is coming from directly is what is needed to be successful in my industry. When it comes to the nitty and gritty I feel like EQM 105 has helped me because I have never done anything like we did in that course. In 105 we had to long line and lunge horses which is done to racehorses but at an early age. Then in common core classes I have taken many things away from them. For example Chemistry has helped me understand how things are made.

Professional Growth Outcomes

Over the summer I feel like I have made a few steps to becoming a trainer. From becoming a better horseman to learning how business works. Overtime with traveling through the racing circuits and having to live in cities where other tracks are, it makes one appreciate their hometown a bit. I do miss Lexington and Keeneland but I know that being here at Ellis park and learning more on what I want to do as a professional is only the snowball effect of my career.

Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank my Dad, Carlo for becoming a trainer not only for personal and monetary gain but mainly to help me chase my dreams of becoming a trainer as well.
- I would like to thank Reynaldo Abreu, my dad's assistant trainer for all he does not only for me but for the horses. He works very hard and is under a lot pressure. He is a great horseman and is teaching me how to become one as well.
- Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues at LDR for trying their best at whatever job they do and treating our horses with respect.