

The 700 Level

Bravo to everyone who helped Barbaro

Dear Michael Matz, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, Edgar Prado and Dr. Dean Richardson:

Thank you all for your noble efforts with Barbaro. Even though his chances of survival are still 50/50, as of this moment, you have all done an incredible job trying to save his life. Your commitment and dedication to giving Barbaro the best care possible is inspiring to watch. With any luck, Barbaro will continue to heal and be retired for stud, as hoped.

For four years, I was the proud owner of an ex-racehorse, Regal Destroyer (we called him "Puppy"), who also suffered a terrible track injury (a false bell caused him to run into and through a starting gate, damaging his neck and back). While the odds were stacked against him as well, Puppy went on to show over four-foot fences and second-level dressage for many years. He overcame the obstacles all those years and lived out the last part of his life loved and happy, as I hope and believe Barbaro will.

Also, a quick note to Edgar Prado: I can't believe the ignorance of the people at Pimlico and Belmont, who gave you such a cold reception after the Preakness. I'm sure none of them has ever ridden a racehorse and therefore cannot know how difficult it is to stop such an athlete. Were it not for your remarkable experience and quick reaction, Barbaro's injuries could have been even worse. It is my opinion that the only way that horse was able to be trailered off the track in the first place was because of you. I commend you on your excellent horsemanship.

Diana Tuorto
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