



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

\$360,000 Filly Showcases California-breds

The strength of the California-bred program in the commercial market has never been more evident than at the recent Barretts 2-year-olds in training sale held last month. As depicted on the cover of this edition of *California Thoroughbred*, a Lucky Pulpit Cal-bred was the top-selling filly at the premier venue, fetching \$360,000.

The chestnut filly, named Californiaby-anose, had been previously offered for sale as a yearling at both the CTBA Northern California sale (RNA \$14,000) and at the Barretts October sale, where she was purchased for \$42,000 to be pinhooked by John Brocklebank. After working the fastest eighth-mile at the March preview, she was ultimately purchased by agent Dennis O'Neill.

With a multitude of lucrative restricted and open racing opportunities, plus the many Cal-bred incentives, it has become increasingly easier to justify high-end sales prices for quality California-breds. The implementation of the Golden State Series of stakes races and the maiden bonus program, over the past half-decade, has indeed assisted with the strong demand.

As the prices for in-training Cal-breds continue to escalate, the yearling prices have trailed behind, as end users are fo-



CECILIA GUSTAVSSON/BARRETT'S

The lucrative benefits of the Cal-bred program justifies high-end sales for Cal-breds, such as for the Lucky Pulpit filly shown here

cus more on the proven horse. The recent pinhooking successes, however, should ultimately benefit the California yearling market, as the demand would fuel more competition among buyers and thus generate higher average and median prices.

Whether someone breeds to sell or to race, our goal at the CTBA is to continue to protect and grow the opportunities and financial rewards available for California-breds in order to enhance the conditions of those involved in the production of horses in the Golden State. With the Barretts May 2-year-old sale this month, and the yearling sales scheduled this summer and fall, the marketing focus of CTBA will be to continue to showcase the benefits of the Cal-bred program. At \$30 million annually, it is arguably one of the best state-bred programs in the country.

Recently, the CTBA dispersed 887 breeder award checks totaling nearly \$4.6 million for 2016. Factoring in the total breeder qualifying earnings for the year, the final breeder award dividend percentage was 10.8%. Therefore, as breeders, individuals had nearly an 11% investment in horses they bred that finished first, second, or third in any race in California in 2016.

Also, 97 stallion award checks were dispersed totaling more than \$1.5 million for the year. The stallion award dividend percentage was 8.8%. These award amounts are based on handle, which was relatively level with the prior year. All breeder and stallion award earners are listed, beginning on page 42. **CTB**