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## Spring is Sprung!

Spring has sprung and United Syndications are certainly gearing up for a big Spring/Summer. Two chances that we have in participating in this year's Spring Carnival include **Royal Charades** and **Colbert**. Royal Charades, coming off a very good 6th in the \$100,000 Blue Sapphire Classic back in May behind some very good gallopers will resume most likely at either Caulfield or Echuca on September 22. The now three-year-old appears to have come back very well and we are looking ahead with some anticipation down the track as to what black type races may suit her a little later over the carnival. Colbert, our Royal Academy two-year-old is due to enter Mick's stables very soon and has shown enough in pre-training to at least be prepared for the early two-year-old races. As everyone knows it is difficult to get to the early races as shin soreness and x-ray issues come into play, however we will keep our fingers crossed that Colbert can tick all the boxes along the way.

Our forgotten Bel Esprit filly in **Belara** has been with John Stocker at Romsey for nine weeks now and all has gone to plan. After injuring her elbow in a paddock incident Belara was given seven months in the paddock before resuming pre-training with John. All has gone to plan with her to date and

her action and soundness has been great. It is hoped that she will continue on in the same manner and shortly come down to Caulfield.

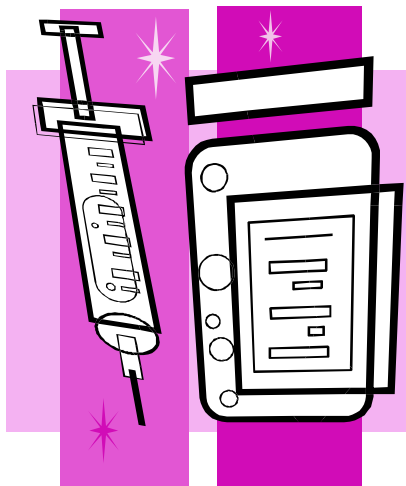
Our likely New Zealand Pentire colt has only recently completed a nice little prep and is currently ticking all the boxes. He will now spell until mid November after which we will need to make a decision as to when he comes over to Australia. However, Dean Hawthorne who has looked after him since we purchased him in New Zealand earlier in the year can't be any more pleased with the progress that he has made and appears very forward for a staying horse.

Further action will occur early October as we anticipate to have **Bella's Bro**, **Super Choi**, **Princess Carolina** and **Damselfly** all ready to resume with their respective pre-trainers, and be ready to grace the racetracks early in the New Year. Damselfly may be the only exception being a two-year-old, however she has thrived this time out and has grown significantly which will allow us to do a lot more with her when she next goes to Sean Mott at Bendigo.



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## Equine Influenza!



Like it or not it Equine Influenza or EI as it is commonly known is here and most likely here to stay in some form or another. Currently, Victoria has not been affected and racing is back to normal meaning all of our horses programs currently continue on as normal however our mares are in lock down in New South Wales and to be quite honest I think that they will remain that way for the bulk of the breeding season.

New South Wales breeders will obviously be the hardest hit. The Hunter Valley is home to 29 of the 32 stallions Australia wide that stand for a fee of \$30,000 or more with only Elvstroem, Reset and God's Own standing elsewhere in Victoria. The harsh reality to face now is that those shuttle stallions locked up in quarantine at Eastern Creek are simply not going to arrive in time to do any good, barring a miracle. So of the top 29 gun stallions in the Hunter, only 18 are going to be available. Only one problem — all mares are in lock down and can't get to

the available stallions. So what do we do? There are breeders out there right now giving very serious thought to taking no part in this breeding season in order to stay clear and preserve the health of their mare and newborn foals. EI has infiltrated Segenhoe, Darley and more recently Emirates Park, indicating that the policy of containment isn't working and that the virus is being carried in the air. As a consequence this will go through the whole of the Hunter Valley in time effectively rendering the 2007 breeding season useless. These three studs had rigorous quarantine procedures in place so it would be fair to say that this disease has no friends, and does not discriminate on who it affects. I will update more in the next newsletter however it is fair to say that I am not too optimistic on this breeding season. A win would be for Middlebrook Valley Lodge (where La Bella Dame and Ready Made Family currently reside) to miss EI completely however common sense would suggest that this would be one very BIG win!

## New Zealand Staying Syndication!

We have received an excellent response to our recent flyer that was e-mailed out to everyone, so much so that we have filled just on half of the staying syndicate to date. It is a terrific opportunity to become involved in a potential future stayer — as is the opportunity to attend the tour itself to New Zealand commencing January 26, 2008. For details on how members can become involved in this syndicate please contact myself and for airfares David McDougall at Galaxy Travel where he can be contacted on 03 9571 3445 for anyone thinking of joining me on the tour.

