

Theodore O'Connor Tragedy

Eventing super pony, Theodore O'Connor, was humanely euthanized after an accidental injury today at Karen and David O'Connor's barn in The Plains, Va.

May 28, 2008

Karen and Teddy during their victory gallop at the 2007 Pan American Games. The United States Equestrian Federation is devastated to report that Theodore O'Connor was humanely euthanized May 28 as a result of an injury sustained in an accident at Karen and David O'Connor's barn in The Plains, VA. From a statement released by the O'Connors, "'Teddy' got frightened and bolted. He slipped running back to the barn and suffered a severe laceration to his hind leg, severing the tendons and ligaments. Dr. A Kent Allen was on the scene immediately and it was determined after examination that the injuries were catastrophic. Everyone who knew Teddy is devastated."

The 13-year-old eventing super pony defied odds and gravity throughout his career. Standing only 14.1 hands, the Shetland/ Arabian/ Thoroughbred cross gelding was the reigning Team and Individual Gold Medalist from the 2007 Pan American Games and had top six finishes at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in 2007 and 2008. He was the 2007 USEF/Farnam Horse of the Year and recently had been named to the USEF Short List for Eventing for the 2008 Olympic Games. Ridden by three-time Olympic veteran Karen O'Connor, 'Teddy' made friends and picked up fans everywhere he went. Seeing was believing with Teddy as it seemed impossible to imagine that a pony of his size could do his job with such tremendous ease. Thoughts and prayers are with Karen and David, Teddy's groom Max Corcoran, all of his owners in the Theodore O'Connor Syndicate and everyone associated with this remarkable pony.

Share your memories and condolences at the [Teddy O'Connor Memorial Page](#) >> Comment with others in the forums >>
To send thoughts to Teddy's connections e-mail: Teddy@usef.org.