

UPDATE: Scott Gilbertson was charged with misdemeanor trespass.

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(Credit: Direct Action Everywhere)

DIRECT ACTION *DAE* EVERYWHERE

Primary contact: Cassie King, cassie@directactioneverywhere.com, 510.507.8075

Pimlico on-site contact: Matt Johnson, matt@directactioneverywhere.com, 319.464.5985

BREAKING: Animal Rights Activist Disrupts Preakness Stakes Trophy Presentation

*Group currently being sued by billionaire track owners calls for end to horse
racing, citing animal cruelty*



*DxE activist Scott Gilbertson interrupting the Woodlawn Vase trophy presentation. (Credit: Rob Carr;
[Getty Images](#))*

MAY 15, BALTIMORE, MD - An activist group seeking to highlight the [persistent abuse and killing of horses](#) in horse racing -- including one horse [killed on the track](#) at Pimlico Race Course Thursday -- took center stage after Saturday's running of the Preakness Stakes. DxE activist, Scott Gilbertson, interrupted the Woodlawn Vase presentation, yelling "NO MORE DEATH RACES" over the national TV broadcast.

Gilbertson, an activist with the grassroots activist network [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#), was quickly grabbed by security and taken into police custody. Charges are yet unknown, and this live press release at [DxE.io/Preakness](#) will be updated as more information is received.

"It's simply unacceptable that these majestic creatures are exploited, abused, and ultimately killed, all in the name of profit," said Gilbertson. "The public is turning against this barbaric industry; it's time we stand up and say enough is enough."

It's the latest escalation in a legal battle between DxE and the Stronach family horse racing empire. DxE is currently being sued ([complaint here](#)) by the Stronach Group, which owns Pimlico Race Course, as well as California's Golden Gate Fields (GGF), the second most deadly horse track in the country, where at least 11 horses have died this year alone. On March 4, DxE activists stalled scheduled racing after [locking themselves together](#) on the GGF track. The Stronach Group is now seeking over \$25,000 from DxE, claiming lost revenue.

California Governor Gavin Newsom called the rampant deaths in horse racing a "[disgrace](#)."

DxE says the Medina Spirit horse doping scandal has renewed scrutiny of an industry which has been [declining in popularity for decades](#), as information about horse mistreatment and deaths has become [more widely available](#). DxE previously led the California efforts to ban fur in Berkeley, San Francisco, then [statewide](#), and hopes to trigger a similar domino effect against horse racing with a victorious campaign against GGF. The group's "[Shut Down Golden Gate Fields](#)" [petition](#) currently has over 38,000 signatures.

"Commoditization of horses by high stakes horse racing results in tremendous suffering, catastrophic injury, and even death to these horses innocently caught up in the 'sport,'" said Sherstin Rosenberg, DVM, recipient of the 2017 [Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association \(HSVMA\)](#) "Humane Veterinary Award."

Investigators with [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) enter farms, slaughterhouses, and other agricultural facilities to document abuses and rescue sick and injured animals. DxE's investigatory work has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [ABC Nightline](#), and a [mass pig killing exposé](#). DxE activists led the 2019 grassroots effort to [ban fur products in California](#). Activists have been subjected to [an FBI probe](#) and [felony prosecutions](#) for these investigations and rescues. Visit DxE on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and at [directactioneverywhere.com](#).

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