

**Stolen Horse International, Inc.**

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NetPosse Reports USEF Mare Stolen from Pasture while Owner on Vacation!**

May 4, 2007 – Chehalis, Washington – When Mollie Bogardus returned from vacation in mid-April, the last thing she expected to *not* find was one of her horses in the pasture. Under the circumstances, this was not a random theft as it was obvious that the thief or thieves selected the most valuable animal in the herd, and the 16.3 hand, 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood Thoroughbred cross chestnut mare was the only one missing.

While registered with the United States Equestrian Federation and the American Warmblood Registry, Patty does not sport any brands or a microchip. However, being a show jumper in top form, BB Peppermint Patty should easily stand out in a crowd. The mare does have a thin blaze, left front half stocking, right front white on pastern, and half stockings on both hind legs.

Ms. Bogardus began working diligently to send information out on Patty across the Internet. When she learned about Stolen Horse International, aka NetPosse, she immediately filed a report. Ironically, the same month Patty was stolen, USEF *Equestrian* magazine published an article on horse theft. Debi Metcalfe, president and founder of Stolen Horse International (SHI), was interviewed for this story and it contains a lot of vital information to help prevent horse owners from becoming theft victims. While the article may not have been in time to keep Patty from being stolen, perhaps the successful recovery stories can encourage Mollie and others in her situation.

Stolen horses have been recovered days and years later. One thing Debi advises is to not give up no matter how discouraged. Debi firmly believes that victims should “Never Underestimate the Power of One.” It only takes one email in the write box or one flyer in the right place to bring a missing horse home.

SHI was formed because of Debi’s personal experience after her family’s horse, Idaho, was stolen in 1997 and recovered fifty-one weeks later, through their personal efforts. Once Idaho was home, though, Debi discovered her life would never return to normal, and it became her mission to help other victims.

Because of her experience, Debi recognized the power of the Internet, and through SHI’s Internet group, NetPosse, she has harnessed that power. As soon as a report is filed, SHI and its NetPosse volunteers begin working hard. A personal webpage on [www.netposse.com](http://www.netposse.com) is created for the stolen horse along with a custom flyer. Once that is done, an Idaho Alert, the horse community’s equivalent of the Amber Alert, is issued. With a few keystrokes, the information and pictures of the horse are distributed to thousands of NetPosse members and hundreds of list groups – world wide.

BB Peppermint Patty’s case is listed on NetPosse and has been distributed to the Internet so the wheels are in motion. Now SHI is looking to NetPosse volunteers and the public to recover Patty and encourage Mollie. Please help us locate Patty by forwarding this press release, sending an email or distributing her flyer. To get updates, print a flyer or learn more about BB Peppermint Patty, visit her webpage:

<http://www.netposse.com/stolenmissing/PattyWAstolenApr07.htm>

Also, remember that Patty is not the only stolen or missing horse listed on NetPosse.com. There are so many others that also need help coming home. Be sure to visit [www.netposse.com](http://www.netposse.com) for other stories.

Angela Kirby – Stolen Horse International Public Relations

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