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it easier."

I'm not saying that these two tragic events are equivalent. Wake At Noon's demise was clearly the result of poor judgement at best, callous greed and negligence at worst. Zooka's may just have been bad racing luck.

What feels the same about them is the lack of respect given to a couple of racing champions who had more than paid their dues. And I think it speaks of an industry which, despite much rhetoric to the contrary, still has a way to go in taking responsibility for the long-term welfare of the horses who give so much.

Zooka was a fan favorite on the WEG circuit for many years, and I for one will mourn his passing for some time to come.

Editor's Note: The views contained in this column are that of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions or views of the United States Trotting Association.

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- [Free-legged Zooka bouncing back](#) (Thursday, March 18, 2010)
He is the world's fastest free-legged pacer, but since he left the shedrow of trainer Ben Wallace in January 2009, world record holder Zooka has struggled to regain his previous form.

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