

ANIMAL KINGDOM PREPARING FOR HEADLINE POSITION AT ROYAL ASCOT TRACK BILLS HIM AS ‘ARGUABLY THE HIGHEST PROFILE HORSE IN WORLD’ CHOICE BETWEEN QUEEN ANNE AT A MILE OR PRINCE OF WALES’S AT 10F

A royal stage and a starring role await Animal Kingdom for his potential racing farewell, as the Kentucky Derby and Dubai World Cup hero has been nominated for the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes on June 18 and Group 1 Prince of Wales’s Stakes on June 19 at Royal Ascot.



Photo by Amy Lanigan of Animal Kingdom with assistant trainer Alice Clapham in Lambourn, England.

The grand 5-day meet is the highlight of the racing calendar in England and a focal point around the world, drawing nominations from 12 countries for 7 Group 1 races.

"We are delighted with the number of entries, the range of countries that they represent and the overall quality," Nick Smith, Head of Communications and International Racing at Ascot, said in a press release on April 24. "The interest from the USA is particularly strong this year, headlined by arguably the highest profile horse in the world in Animal Kingdom. If he were to add a Royal Ascot Group One to victories in the Kentucky Derby and Dubai World Cup he would cement and enhance his position as an all-time great on the world stage."

Animal Kingdom is already in England, having traveled to Lambourn a week after his dynamic victory in the \$10-million Dubai World Cup on

March 30 at Meydan. Trainer Graham Motion visited the training center there last week and will return in early May as Animal Kingdom steps up his preparations. Motion stated a preference for the one-mile Queen Anne as opposed to the 10-furlong Prince of Wales’s, but he and the owners will make a final decision after Animal Kingdom works on the course at Ascot.

Team Valor owns Animal Kingdom in partnership with John Messara’s Arrowfield Stud and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum’s Darley. The 5-year-old son of Leroidesanimaux will stand at Arrowfield beginning in September for the Southern Hemisphere breeding season, and he will shuttle to Darley’s Jonabell Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, for Northern Hemisphere stud duty starting next February.