

POLICY STATEMENT “THE WELFARE OF THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE”

AQHA is the world’s largest breed registry and equine recreational organization, with more than 6 million American Quarter Horses registered worldwide and AQHA membership in excess of 226,000. AQHA international headquarters in Amarillo, Texas, issues and maintains the pedigrees and registration records of all American Quarter Horses, and oversees various programs and incentives - including races, shows, recreational activities and supporting sponsorships - that promote America’s oldest distinct breed of horse. AQHA provides beneficial services for its members that enhance and encourage American Quarter Horse ownership and participation and strives to generate growth of AQHA membership via the marketing, promotion, advertising, and publicity of the American Quarter Horse. Furthermore, AQHA actively protects the welfare and integrity of American Quarter Horses, as evidenced by the following Statement of Position:

AQHA STATEMENT OF POSITION

The American Quarter Horse Association’s mission is to record and preserve pedigrees of American Quarter Horses, while maintaining the integrity of the breed. Further, AQHA encourages American Quarter Horse ownership and participation. AQHA actively protects the American Quarter Horse by establishing and strictly enforcing rules that govern every AQHA-approved event to reflect the natural ability of the horse. To that end, AQHA is committed to the following beliefs:

- Every American Quarter Horse, all other horses, and all animals, shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion.
- Stringent rules established and enforced by AQHA demand that American Quarter Horse breeders, owners, trainers, and exhibitors are continually responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any American Quarter Horse entrusted to their care. Such rules include, but are not limited to, prohibited training practices, prohibited surgical procedures, prohibited chemical administration, or prohibited devices that could affect a horse’s performance or alter the horse’s natural conformation. Such rules further include required compliance with all AQHA medication rules and policies.
- Above all, the American Quarter Horse’s welfare is paramount to other considerations, and the continual development of procedures that ensure humane treatment of the breed and of all other horses and all animals involved with AQHA events, and fair competition supersede all other concerns.

