



For Immediate Release:

Q-Ribbon September-October 2012

Deadlines to remember

Prior to September 1, AQHA should have received your January show application(s) and any corrections to your December show(s). Prior to October 1, AQHA should receive your February show application(s) and any corrections to your January show(s).

New rules that become effective January 2013 include:

New Show Approval Guidelines and Mileage as passed by the AQHA Executive Committee

- No show, including special events, will be approved if there already exists another show or special event on the same day, within each Region's specific mileage calculated by Mapquest's shortest driving distance:
 - Region 1 – 450 miles
 - Region 2 – 400 miles
 - Region 3 – 350 miles
 - Region 4 – 200 miles
 - Region 5 – 200 miles
 - Region 6 – 200 miles
 - Region 7 – 500 miles
 - Region 8 – 500 miles
 - Region 9 – 350 miles
 - Region 10 – 500 miles
 - Region 11 (International) – retain current approval guidelines
- All shows held on a Federal Holiday shall keep their priority date for that particular holiday
 - New Year's Day; Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
 - When a show moves due to the normal calendar roll onto a holiday and is in conflict with an existing holiday show, the show moving due to the calendar roll will need to look at options to move dates. AQHA is open to unique solutions and will work with these shows to ensure both shows are accommodated in a manner that benefits each.

- AQHA will bill memberships and hold the exhibitor accountable for their current membership and, if not paid, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the classes exhibited while membership was delinquent.
- Show management with chronic issues regarding timely submission of approvals, results, incomplete information, etc., should be held accountable for these issues and addressed by staff with AQHA Show Council on a case by case basis.
- AQHA staff has been instructed to enforce the electronic submission of results and withhold future show approval(s) if results are not received in an acceptable electronic format, such as an excel spreadsheet with specified data (specifications provided by AQHA) or comma separated file (specifications provided by AQHA). We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.
- All day fees can cross over divisions.

Show Applications

We are finalizing the 2013 show application and are looking to have that available and out to you shortly. We realize these are behind schedule. January shows will not be assessed late fees.

- 2013 show approval fees will be based upon the total number of entries from the previous year's event, taking into consideration each individual show number that makes up that event. The term used at AQHA is an "event code," which groups multiple shows together. For example – The March to the Arch Show is six separate show numbers, which are grouped together by an event code in the AQHA database.
 - Events with 5,000 or more entries \$1,500
 - Events with 2,500-4,999 entries \$1,000
 - Events with 1,000-2,499 entries \$750
 - Events with 500-999 entries \$500
 - Events with 250-499 entries \$250
 - Events with 249 and fewer entries \$150
 - Introductory Shows/All-Novice Shows/Rookie Shows/EWD \$150
 - If the event was not held the previous year, the approval fee is \$150
- To find your event total, click on the [Manager Resources page](#) and select "Event Totals"

Paired with the new show approval fees structure are four new customizable awards packages for eligible events. Once show managers have paid their show approval fees, events paying more than \$500 in approval fees will

receive credit with AQHA's new trophy company, Awards Recognition Concepts. Four awards packages – valued at \$250, \$375, \$500 and \$750 – are available to show managers. Keep in mind, however, that a show manager must spend more than \$500 on their event's show approval to be eligible

For instance, if an event is assessed \$1,000 in show approval fees, the show manager will have a \$500 credit with ARC to use for awards at that event. If an event is assessed \$1,500 in approval fees, the manager will receive a \$750 credit with ARC. Credits with ARC that are accrued through show approval fees must be applied only to the event by which the credits are earned. A show manager may not apply credits from more than one event code; the event code through which the credits are earned must be the event code where the awards are presented. For International shows, this credit may be applied to shipping costs.

Equipment Rule Changes

The goal of putting the American Quarter Horse first has led the AQHA Executive Committee to make changes in [AQHA rules as far as equipment use](#) at all AQHA shows and approve a structure of fines and penalties that will be assessed to violators of these rules.

All of these changes are based on recommendations from the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission, which was appointed earlier this year by the Executive Committee to ensure the welfare of the American Quarter Horse.

We'd like to thank Jim Heird, chairman of the Animal Welfare Commission, and the 13 members of the commission for their hard work, long hours and dedication to outlining the issues and developing recommendations to protect our horse and our industry.

The Executive Committee also approved the Animal Welfare Commission's definition of abuse: Any excessive and/or repetitive action to cause obvious distress or discomfort to a horse. That means training practices that cross the line, misuse of equipment, regardless of how humane one wants to claim it might be, and things like this have to become a thing of our past.

This is about protecting the horse. Regardless of the number of people who are using equipment improperly or harshly, the use of all equipment needs to be addressed, and horsemen and -women need to understand that it only takes one person to create a negative perception of our industry.

We are living in a very different time where social media, technology and people's unfamiliarity with the horse industry constantly put us in a defensive

mode. It's our goal to bring about change and protect our horse and our industry before someone else decides what is right and what isn't.

And the [fines and penalties](#) have been established to deter people who might even think about abusing a horse or using illicit drugs.

The AQHA Animal Welfare Commission also recommended – and the Executive Committee approved – the formation of an AQHA Grievance Committee that will consider fines and/or penalties to include suspension from competition or even suspension from AQHA as meaningful deterrents. The grievance committee will also investigate other forms of penalties and educate and hold owners to a higher level of accountability.

Competition Department Featured Employee

Taylor Waddell, Competition Awards Clerk
Taylor joined AQHA on January 13, 2011, in the Customer Service Department where he helped with registrations, memberships and took many phone calls to assist our members. In November of 2011, Taylor moved to the Competition Department to take over the awards position. Since then, he has learned a lot about AQHA and helped develop the relationship between AQHA and Awards Recognition Concepts to maintain a smooth and efficient awards process. Taylor feels it's a privilege to have gotten to know the competition staff and many of our members, and stated it is truly a blessing to work for such an incredible association. "I love my job as well as my co-workers here at AQHA, and look forward to what the future brings us as an Association."



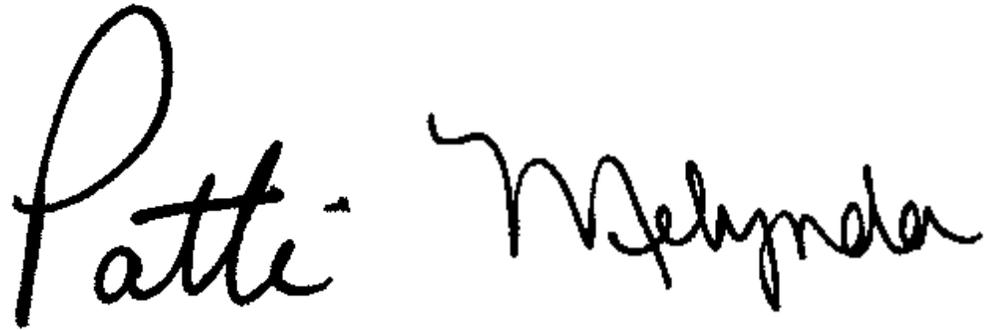
I am 26 years old, born and raised here in Amarillo, Texas. I married my wife, Courtney, on New Year's Eve in Las Vegas. She works at a local bank and is very close to graduating with her Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am very proud of her. We have been working hard remodeling our house to get it exactly how we want it. It has been quite a project, but we are happy to say it's nearly done. For fun, I spend the majority of my time riding and competing in the mountains on my downhill mountain bike. I am currently training about six days a week for my final race of the season, and to qualify for 2013 races and competition.

Q-Ribbon Newsletter

Miss an issue of the Q-Ribbon Newsletter? Check them out here – [Q-Ribbon](#)

Newsletter Archives.

As always – please let us know if you have not heard from AQHA regarding your show approval application within 15 days from the date you sent it to us. We are happy to check the status of processing and get you information necessary to proceed with your plans for the show.

Handwritten signatures of Patti and Melynda in black ink. Patti's signature is on the left, and Melynda's is on the right.

Patti Carter-Pratt
Executive Director of Shows

Melynda Ackley
Director of Competition Administration

*"There's no next time. It's now or never."
~Author Unknown*