AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE

An American Quarter Horse possesses acceptable pedigree, color and markings, and has been issued a registration certificate by the American Quarter Horse Association. This horse has been bred and developed to have a kind and willing disposition, well-balanced conformation and agile speed. The American Quarter Horse is the world's most versatile breed and is suited for a variety of purposes - from working cattle on ranches to international reining competition. There is an American Quarter Horse for every purpose.

AQHA MISSION STATEMENT

- To record and preserve the pedigrees of the American Quarter Horse, while maintaining the integrity of the breed and welfare of its horses.
- To provide beneficial services for its members that enhance and encourage American Quarter Horse ownership and participation.
- To develop diverse educational programs, material and curriculum that will position AQHA as the leading resource organization in the equine industry.
- To generate growth of AQHA membership via the marketing, promotion, advertising and publicity of the American Quarter Horse.
- To ensure the American Quarter Horse is treated humanely, with dignity, respect and compassion, at all times.

FOREWORD

The American Quarter Horse Association was organized in I940 to collect, record and preserve the pedigrees of American Quarter Horses. AQHA also serves as an information center for its members and the general public on matters pertaining to shows, races and projects designed to improve the breed and aid the industry, including seeking beneficial legislation for its breeders and all horse owners. AQHA also works to promote horse ownership and to grow markets for American Quarter Horses.

Shows, races and performance events give breeders and exhibitors opportunities to compete for awards and prize money, providing opportunities for breeders to continually strive to improve the breed.

AQHA also publishes *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, the *Q-Racing Journal* and *America's Horse*, which highlight information about horses, horsemen, shows, sales, racing and histories of all-time great horses, and the men and women who bred them, along with ways for breeders, trainers, exhibitors and trail riders to improve their business operations, horsemanship and enjoyment of the horse.

American Quarter Horses continue to be the world's most versatile breed of horse because of their abilities to excel in so many different arenas and because of the continued commitment of American Quarter Horse breeders, directors and staff to providing outstanding programs and services – at the lowest possible fees – of any equine breed registry or membership organization.

THIS RULEBOOK SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

THE RULES PUBLISHED HEREIN ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY I, 2014 UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED AT THE TIME OF THEIR ENACTMENT. THESE RULES REMAIN IN EFFECT EXCEPT AS SUPERSEDED BY RULE CHANGES ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS PUBLISHED ON AQHA'S WEB SITE AT WWW.AQHA.COM. REFER TO AQHA'S WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE RULES. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RULES PUBLISHED ON AQHA'S WEBSITE AND THIS HANDBOOK SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE OFFICIAL RULES PUBLISHED ON AQHA'S WEBSITE.

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