

ABHA Membership Ethics

Mission:

To continually produce quality offspring through well researched, planned breeding programs. To protect the historical vision, foundation, and standards of the American Blazer Horse founders, while striving to strengthen the genetics, conformation, and stable disposition of the overall breed.

To ensure the welfare of the American Blazer Horse is paramount and that every American Blazer Horse shall at all times be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion.

To abide by the rules established by the ABHA that American Blazer Horse board members, breeders, owners, trainers, exhibitors, officials, and professional horsemen are continuously responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any American Blazer Horse.

To create supportive culture that builds and maintains a collaborative relationship with all ABHA owners, members, breeders, and public.

To instill confidence in members and the public in the American Blazer Horse industry.

To avoid conflicts of interest, both real and perceived. Recognize that even the appearance of misconduct or impropriety can be damaging to the reputation of the ABHA, and act accordingly.

Responsibility:

Place the interest of the American Blazer Horse and the American Blazer Horse Association first over the desire for self-acknowledgement, personal agendas, and/or monetary gain.

Protect the breed standards, heritage, genetic health, strengths, and purity by breeding to fully genetically tested animals when applicable. (See resources) and properly documented breeding pairs. Remain proactive towards non introduction of known genetic diseases.

Disclose and properly report any/ all genetic faults or undesired traits contrary to written breed standards. This includes, but not limited to, stock intended to be used for breeding, all offspring produced, any stock intending to apply for ABHA registration. Use proper ABHA Vet Inspection forms to advance stock into breed books.

Insist that any placed or sold offspring or stock that is to be used for breeding be both conformationally correct and have a safe and stable disposition. If age appropriate under ABHA rules/guidelines guarantee advancement into appropriate breed books.

Make every immediate and continued effort to ensure proper ownership transfers, current membership to the ABHA and the importance of maintaining current records.

Sanctions/Suspensions/Fines:

Should an individual and/or breeder be found in default of the above stated mission, responsibilities, and/ or written ABHA rules/regulations, the situation will be brought to the current ABHA board members for discussion and decision of action. Reports on a single individual and/or breeder could result in sanction, suspension, and/or fine.

Goals:

Strive to ensure that all stock/offspring be maintained, if presented in public, and if advertised be age appropriate in training, handling experience, and exposure. That stock/offspring meet all body mass index recommendations, be well groomed, proper hoof maintenance, current documented vaccination/worming records, and have safe and stable disposition.

Make all reasonable efforts to keep in touch on a regular basis with new owners of any placed or sold offspring.

To continually network with other reputable breeders for insight, information, and planned breeding strategies.

To assist in the efforts of new breeders to make informed, educated breeding plan.

Take every opportunity to educate “novices” with well researched and accurate information and try not to impress personal biases and opinions. To express the importance of continued documentation to the ABHA to ensure the understanding of maintaining the breed.

Resources:

Genetic Disease Education:

Recent advances in genetic testing have paved the way for more effective identification and screening of genetic disease in the horse. With these developments come new ethical consideration with respect to breeding practices, testing and disclosure.

Below are a few examples of genetic disease testing that breeders should educate themselves on to aid in the selection of suitable breeding pairs.

GBED- Glycogen Branching Enzyme Deficiency (Quarter Horses and related breeds)

HERDA- Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia (Quarter Horses and related breeds)

HYPP- Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (Quarter Horses and related breeds)

MH- Malignant Hyperthermia (Quarter Horses and related breeds)

PSSM- Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (Numerous breeds including Quarter Horses, some draft breeds, Warmbloods, Morgans and others)

MYHM- Myosin Heavy Chain Myopathy

LWO- Lethal White Overo (Paints, Quarter Horses, Miniature horses and Thoroughbreds with “frame-overo” color pattern)

CA- Cerebellar Abiotrophy (Arabians and related breeds)

CSNB- Congenital Stationary Night Blindness (Appaloosas)

Grey Horse Melanoma (Multiple Breeds)

Coat Color Testing: Coat color testing panels can also be done to minimize exposure to undesired white factors.