

Recognizing Historically Excluded Quarter Horse Bloodlines:

A Proposal for an Appendix Registration Pathway

Proposed Rule Amendments

Guiding Principle

The purpose of these amendments is to recognize documented American Quarter Horse ancestry that has remained outside the AQHA Stud Book because of former color- and white-marking-based registration restrictions.

Eligibility under this proposal shall be determined by documented pedigree, verified parentage and objective ancestry calculations—not by coat color, white markings or registration with another association alone.

These amendments do not create automatic AQHA eligibility for APHA-registered horses, nor do they reopen the AQHA Stud Book or provide for the retroactive registration of existing APHA horses. Instead, they establish a limited, evidence-based pathway through the AQHA Appendix Registry for future offspring resulting from the breeding of an AQHA Numbered Registry horse and an eligible APHA-registered horse possessing documented historical Quarter Horse ancestry.

To qualify under this proposal, either (1) the APHA parent must possess a minimum of thirty percent (30%) documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree, or (2) the horse for which registration is sought must possess a minimum of sixty percent (60%) documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree, calculated according to the methodology established in these rules.

The Tobiano and Overo color mutations are ancient equine color mutations that predate the American Quarter Horse by thousands of years and are not unique to the American Paint Horse. The modern separation of Tobiano and Overo horses into the APHA registry is primarily a consequence of twentieth-century registry development rather than evidence that the color mutations originated outside Quarter Horse bloodlines.

Proposed Amendment No. 1

REG100 — Stud Book

Current Rule

REG100. STUD BOOK. The official Stud Book of the American Quarter Horse Association consists of horses issued registration certificates based upon their parentage. These certificates shall be either in the Numbered registry or in that of the Appendix, depending upon the registration status of the sires and dams.

Strike

These certificates shall be either in the Numbered registry or in that of the Appendix, depending upon the registration status of the sires and dams.

New Wording

REG100. STUD BOOK. The official Stud Book of the American Quarter Horse Association consists of horses issued registration certificates based upon their parentage. These certificates shall be either in the Numbered Registry or in that of the Appendix, depending upon the registration status of the sires and dams **or qualification under another registration pathway expressly authorized by these rules.**

Reason

The present rule describes AQHA registration status as being determined only by the registration status of a horse's sire and dam.

However, AQHA already recognizes special pathways for certain horses registered through international Quarter Horse associations under REG104.4 and REG105.5. The proposed Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway likewise establishes a narrowly defined Appendix pathway expressly authorized within the registration rules.

Unlike the international pathway, however, the proposed pathway **does not admit existing APHA horses directly into the AQHA Appendix Registry. Instead, eligibility is limited to future offspring produced from an AQHA Numbered Registry horse and an eligible APHA horse meeting the objective ancestry standards established under REG105.6.**

This amendment ensures that the general Stud Book rule accurately accommodates all registration pathways expressly authorized within the AQHA Rules and Regulations.

Proposed Amendment No. 2

REG105 — Obtaining an Appendix Certificate

Current Rule

REG105. OBTAINING AN APPENDIX CERTIFICATE. Except as otherwise limited on proper compliance with the rules and regulations of AQHA, a stallion, mare, gelding or spayed mare that has one parent with an AQHA number and the other parent registered in the Appendix, The Jockey Club of North America or any Thoroughbred registry recognized by The Jockey Club of North America may be listed in the Appendix.

REG105.5 currently creates a separate pathway for certain horses registered through recognized international Quarter Horse associations when the horse traces to at least 93.75% AQHA or approved Thoroughbred lineage.

Strike

No existing language must be struck from the introductory paragraph.

New Wording

Add the following new subsection:

REG105.6 HISTORICAL QUARTER HORSE BLOODLINE PATHWAY.

An offspring shall be eligible to receive an AQHA Appendix certificate if all of the following requirements are satisfied:

REG105.6.1 One parent shall hold a valid AQHA Numbered Registry certificate.

REG105.6.2 The other parent shall be registered with the American Paint Horse Association.

REG105.6.3 The APHA parent must possess a minimum of thirty percent (30%) documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree. OR the Horse in question must possess a minimum of 60% documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree

REG105.6.4 For purposes of determining the percentage required under REG105.6.3, only ancestors issued an AQHA Numbered Registry certificate shall be counted as qualifying AQHA ancestry.

REG105.6.5 The first four generations shall be calculated according to the genetic contribution represented by each pedigree position:

- (a) each parent shall represent 50%;
- (b) each grandparent shall represent 25%;
- (c) each great-grandparent shall represent 12.5%; and
- (d) each fourth-generation ancestor shall represent 6.25%.

REG105.6.6 When the same qualifying AQHA ancestor appears more than once within the first four generations, each pedigree position occupied by that ancestor shall be counted according to the percentage represented by that position.

REG105.6.7 Once a qualifying AQHA ancestor is identified within a pedigree branch, that ancestor shall represent the full percentage assigned to that pedigree position, and qualifying AQHA ancestors appearing farther back within the same branch shall not be counted separately.

REG105.6.8 Registration with the American Paint Horse Association shall not, by itself, establish eligibility under this subsection. Each application shall be reviewed individually based upon the documented pedigree of the APHA parent, the identity of both parents, verified parentage, and compliance with all eligibility requirements established herein.

REG105.6.9 The applicant shall provide:

- (a) a properly completed and signed AQHA registration application for the eligible offspring;
- (b) a copy of the APHA registration certificate and complete APHA registration record of the APHA parent;
- (c) documentation establishing that the other parent holds a valid AQHA Numbered Registry certificate;
- (d) a complete four-generation pedigree of the APHA parent issued or verified by APHA or another source acceptable to AQHA (QData Pedigrees);
- (e) identification photographs of the APHA parent if requested by AQHA;
- (f) DNA profiles processed by AQHA's approved laboratory for both parents and the offspring;
- (g) parentage verification establishing the offspring to both the AQHA and APHA parent;
- (h) genetic-health-panel testing required by AQHA;
- (i) disclosure of all known registry numbers and prior registered names; and

(j) all applicable registration, genetic-testing, pedigree-review and administrative fees.

REG105.6.10 AQHA may require additional DNA testing, pedigree documentation, photographs, inspection, registry verification or other evidence necessary to determine the identity, parentage or eligibility of the APHA parent or the resulting offspring.

REG105.6.11 The burden of establishing eligibility under this subsection shall remain upon the applicant pursuant to REG101.

REG105.6.12 An offspring shall not qualify under this subsection solely because of its coat color, white markings, APHA registration, performance record, breeding record or the registration status of any single ancestor. Eligibility shall be determined only by compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

REG105.6.13 An otherwise qualifying offspring shall not be denied AQHA Appendix eligibility because of white markings beyond the lines described in REG109.4, provided all DNA, parentage verification and registration requirements have been satisfied.

REG105.6.14 A certificate issued under this subsection shall identify the horse as having entered the AQHA Appendix Registry through the Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway and shall permanently cross-reference the horse's APHA parent and corresponding APHA registration information within AQHA's permanent registration records.

REG105.6.15 Except where otherwise expressly provided, a horse issued an Appendix certificate under this subsection shall be subject to all AQHA rules applicable to horses listed in the Appendix Registry.

Reason

The current Appendix rules do not provide a pathway for the offspring of an AQHA Numbered Registry horse and an APHA-registered horse possessing substantial documented Quarter Horse ancestry when that ancestry passes through bloodlines historically maintained outside AQHA because of former color and white-marking registration restrictions.

AQHA has already recognized the general principle that documented pedigree may establish eligibility through specialized registration pathways. REG105.5 presently allows certain internationally registered horses to receive Appendix certificates based upon documented ancestry.

The proposed REG105.6 applies that same objective pedigree-based principle to historically excluded American Quarter Horse bloodlines preserved within APHA while maintaining AQHA's existing registration structure.

Unlike direct admission of existing APHA horses, this proposal limits eligibility to **offspring** resulting from the breeding of:

- one AQHA Numbered Registry parent; and
- one APHA parent possessing a minimum of **30% documented weighted AQHA ancestry OR the Horse in question must possess a minimum of 60% documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree.**

The proposal further preserves the integrity of the AQHA Stud Book through multiple objective safeguards, including:

- one required AQHA Numbered Registry parent;
- a minimum 30% documented weighted AQHA ancestry requirement for the APHA parent OR the Horse in question must possess a minimum of 60% documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree;
- a standardized four-generation ancestry calculation;
- individual pedigree review;
- APHA record verification;
- DNA profiling;
- parentage verification;
- genetic-health testing;
- permanent cross-registry identification;
- applicant responsibility for all proof and associated costs.

The proposed pathway does **not** reopen the AQHA Stud Book, does **not** provide retroactive registration of existing APHA horses, and does **not** grant automatic eligibility based upon APHA registration alone.

Instead, it creates a carefully controlled Appendix pathway through which historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines may be gradually reintegrated into AQHA over future generations while maintaining continuous AQHA influence, objective pedigree standards and modern genetic verification.

Proposed Amendment No. 3

REG106 — Horses Not Eligible for Registration

Current Rule

REG106. HORSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION INCLUDE:

REG106.1 offspring resulting from an Appendix registered sire or dam bred to another Appendix registered horse;

REG106.2 offspring resulting from an Appendix registered sire or dam bred to a Thoroughbred sire or dam.

The rule currently makes every Appendix-to-Appendix offspring ineligible without distinguishing between horses admitted through the proposed Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway and ordinary Appendix horses.

Strike

REG106.1 offspring resulting from an Appendix registered sire or dam bred to another Appendix registered horse~~;~~

New Wording

REG106.1 offspring resulting from an Appendix registered sire or dam bred to another Appendix registered horse, **except as expressly permitted under REG106.1.1.**

REG106.1.1 An offspring resulting from the breeding of an AQHA Appendix horse admitted under REG105.6 and an APHA horse meeting the eligibility requirements of REG105.6 shall be eligible for an AQHA Appendix certificate if:

- (a) the Appendix parent holds a valid AQHA Appendix certificate issued under REG105.6;
- (b) the APHA parent satisfies the minimum **30% documented weighted AQHA ancestry OR the Horse in question must possess a minimum of 60% documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree** requirement established under REG105.6;
- (c) the APHA parent is properly registered with APHA;
- (d) the resulting foal is DNA parentage verified to both sire and dam;
- (e) complete pedigree and registration records acceptable to AQHA accompany the application; and
- (f) all other AQHA registration requirements are satisfied.

REG106.1.2 An offspring eligible under REG106.1.1 shall enter the AQHA Appendix Registry and shall not receive a Numbered Registry certificate solely because one parent entered the Appendix through REG105.6.

Reason

Without this exception, the proposed Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway would end after a single generation.

Once a qualifying offspring enters the AQHA Appendix, future generations would again become ineligible unless bred back exclusively through existing Appendix pathways.

This amendment permits continued integration of historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines while maintaining strict safeguards.

The exception remains narrowly limited:

- the AQHA parent must already possess an Appendix certificate issued under REG105.6;
- the APHA parent must independently satisfy the 30% documented weighted AQHA ancestry requirement;
- every foal must be DNA parentage verified;
- every foal enters only the Appendix Registry;
- all existing AQHA registration, genetic-health and administrative requirements remain applicable.

This amendment does **not** repeal AQHA's general Appendix-to-Appendix prohibition. It creates a narrowly tailored exception solely for the Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway.

Proposed Amendment No. 4

REG104.2 — Advancement from the Appendix to the Numbered Registry

Current Rule

REG104.2 previously has been listed in the Appendix, and the following conditions are met:

(1) the horse has qualified for Register of Merit...

...(existing rule)...

Horses having parrot mouth, cryptorchidism, HYPP or excessive white markings are not eligible for advancement.

Strike

Horses having parrot mouth, cryptorchidism, HYPP or **excessive white markings** are not eligible for advancement.

New Wording

REG104.2 previously has been listed in the Appendix, and the following conditions are met:

- (1) the horse has qualified for Register of Merit in AQHA-approved events not restricted in any way (youth and/or amateur Register of Merit do not qualify a horse for advancement);
- (2) AQHA has received a signed statement from a licensed veterinarian certifying the horse does not have a parrot mouth per REG109.1;
- (3) AQHA has received photographs clearly showing all white markings;
- (4) if the horse is a stallion, AQHA has received a signed statement certifying it is not cryptorchid.

Horses having parrot mouth, cryptorchidism or HYPP are not eligible for advancement. White markings beyond the limitations described in REG109.4 shall not independently prevent advancement when the horse is parentage verified and otherwise satisfies all AQHA performance, veterinary, genetic and administrative requirements.

When a horse is advanced, it is necessary to surrender the registration certificate before a Numbered Registry certificate can be issued.

Add

REG104.2.1 A horse entering the AQHA Appendix Registry under REG105.6 shall become eligible for advancement to the Numbered Registry upon satisfying the same performance, veterinary, genetic and administrative requirements applicable to every other Appendix horse.

REG104.2.2 Such horse shall not be denied advancement solely because of coat color, white markings or possession of a white-pattern gene.

REG104.2.3 AQHA shall permanently retain the cross-reference to the APHA parent and APHA registration information within its registration records.

Reason

The purpose of the Appendix Registry is to allow eligible horses to demonstrate merit and advance into the Numbered Registry through performance.

Continuing to prohibit advancement solely because of excessive white markings would preserve the very color-based restriction this proposal seeks to correct.

This amendment does **not** eliminate:

- DNA parentage verification;
- white-marking photographs;
- veterinary certification;
- genetic-health requirements;
- performance requirements;
- AQHA's existing advancement standards.

It simply removes white markings as an automatic and permanent disqualification once every other AQHA requirement has been satisfied.

Proposed Amendment No. 5

REG109.4 — White Markings

Current Rule

(Current AQHA Rule)

Strike

None.

New Wording

Add the following paragraph to the end of REG109.4:

White markings exceeding the limitations described in this rule shall not, by themselves, render a horse ineligible for advancement from the AQHA Appendix Registry to the Numbered Registry when the horse has been parentage verified and otherwise satisfies REG104.2.

An offspring admitted under REG105.6 shall remain subject to all DNA verification, photographic identification and certificate-notation requirements of this rule, but shall not be denied registration or advancement solely because of the extent, location or pattern of its white markings.

Reason

This amendment ensures consistency between REG109.4 and the revised advancement provisions contained in REG104.2.

The proposal distinguishes between:

- recording white markings for identification and historical purposes; and
- using those markings as a permanent barrier to registration or advancement.

AQHA may continue requiring:

- DNA verification;
- photographs;
- certificate notations;
- complete identification.

However, white markings should no longer prevent an otherwise qualified horse from advancing after meeting every established AQHA performance and registration requirement.

Proposed Amendment No. 6

REG108 — Genetic Testing

Current Rule

REG108 gives AQHA authority over genetic testing and provides, in part:

REG108.1 AQHA is the sole owner of any and all DNA material and results processed by AQHA's official laboratory pursuant to AQHA's registration rules and/or AQHA request.

REG108.2 If there is justifiable cause to question parentage of a foal, the Executive Committee may require the foal, sire and dam to be genetically tested. The results, together with other available information, may be considered in determining parentage.

REG108.3 The owner or lessee of a stallion exposed to mares must file a DNA type with AQHA.

REG108.4 A DNA type for the stallion and mare must be on file with AQHA prior to registration of any foal.

REG108.5 Stallions must have genetic-health-panel results on file before registration of qualifying foals.

Strike

None.

New Wording

Add:

REG108.6 Every offspring applying for registration under REG105.6 shall be DNA parentage verified to both the AQHA Numbered Registry parent and the qualifying APHA parent before an AQHA Appendix certificate is issued.

REG108.6.1 The APHA parent shall have a DNA profile processed by an AQHA-approved laboratory or another laboratory accepted by AQHA.

REG108.6.2 AQHA may require additional pedigree documentation, DNA testing, registry verification, photographs or other evidence necessary to establish the APHA parent's eligibility under REG105.6.

REG108.6.3 AQHA may require testing for coat-color genes, white-pattern genes, genetic disorders or other inherited traits when necessary for identification, certificate notation, parentage review or administration of REG105.6.

Reason

Modern DNA technology provides the primary safeguard supporting the proposed Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway.

Proposed Amendment No. 7

REG101 — Burden of Proving Registration Eligibility

Current Rule

REG101 places the burden of resolving doubts concerning a horse's true parentage, identification and qualification for registration upon the applicant, owner, lessee or other involved member.

Strike

None.

New Wording

Add:

REG101._ An applicant seeking registration under REG105.6 shall bear the burden of proving the identity and eligibility of the APHA parent, the documented weighted AQHA ancestry calculation, parentage of the resulting offspring and compliance with all requirements of REG105.6._

The applicant shall also bear the cost of any pedigree research, registry verification, DNA testing, inspection or other investigation reasonably required by AQHA.

Reason

The Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway should not transfer the burden of proving eligibility to AQHA.

The applicant must submit a complete and verifiable application supported by sufficient pedigree and DNA evidence.

This protects the integrity of the AQHA Stud Book while discouraging speculative or unsupported applications.

Proposed Amendment No. 8

REG103 — Naming a Horse

Current Rule

REG103.1 NAMING A HORSE. Each horse for which registration is applied must be given a name acceptable to AQHA.

Strike

None.

New Wording

Add:

REG103.4 CROSS-REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION. When an offspring registered under REG105.6 has an APHA parent whose registered name is relevant to the pedigree record, AQHA shall permanently cross-reference the APHA parent's registered name and registration number within AQHA's registration database.

REG103.4.1 If a naming conflict exists, the applicant shall select an available AQHA name in accordance with existing AQHA naming rules.

REG103.4.2 Cross-referencing shall preserve pedigree continuity and shall not alter the APHA parent's identity or registration history.

Reason

Permanent cross-referencing preserves accurate pedigree identification while avoiding confusion when APHA names differ from AQHA naming requirements.

Proposed Amendment No. 9

REG105 — Certificate Identification

Current Rule

REG105.1 requires genetic defects or undesirable traits identified under REG109 to be recorded on an Appendix registration certificate.

Strike

None.

New Wording

Add:

REG105.6.16 Every certificate issued under REG105.6 shall permanently record:

- (a) the horse's AQHA Appendix registration number;
- (b) the horse's AQHA registered name;
- (c) identification of the qualifying APHA parent;
- (d) the APHA parent's registration number;
- (e) the notation "**Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway**";
- (f) the APHA parent's calculated weighted AQHA ancestry percentage;
- (g) any white-marking notation required by REG109.4;

- (h) any genetic-health notations required by AQHA; and
- (i) any additional information necessary to preserve an accurate pedigree and registration record.

Reason

Permanent certificate notation promotes transparency while preserving accurate pedigree records for future generations.

Proposed Amendment No. 10

Registration and Review Fees

Current Rule

The Rulebook requires applications and registration-related services to be accompanied by applicable fees.

Strike

None.

New Wording

Add to the applicable fee schedule:

Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway Application:

- (a) pedigree-review fee;
- (b) AQHA registration fee;
- (c) DNA parentage verification fees;
- (d) genetic-health-panel fees;
- (e) APHA registry verification fee, if required;
- (f) additional research or inspection fees, if required; and
- (g) certificate issuance or replacement fees.

Payment of application and review fees shall not guarantee approval.

Fees incurred for pedigree review, DNA testing or administrative investigation shall not be refundable solely because an application is denied.

Reason

Applications submitted under REG105.6 will require additional pedigree verification beyond an ordinary registration application.

A separate fee structure:

- compensates AQHA for additional staff review;
- funds pedigree verification;
- discourages speculative applications;
- prevents an unfunded administrative burden; and
- creates additional revenue supporting AQHA registration services.

Eligibility Standards and Safeguards

1. Eligible Parents

To qualify under REG105.6:

- One parent must hold a valid AQHA Numbered Registry certificate.
- One parent must be registered with the American Paint Horse Association.

The AQHA parent preserves continuous AQHA influence while the APHA parent provides the historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodline.

APHA registration alone does not establish eligibility.

2. Minimum Ancestry Requirement

The APHA parent must possess **at least thirty percent (30%) documented weighted AQHA ancestry** within the first four generations of its pedigree. OR the Horse in question must possess a minimum of 60% documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree. The percentage will be calculated using the same weighted pedigree table outlined in #3 below.

Only AQHA Numbered Registry ancestors shall count toward the ancestry calculation.

An ancestor believed to be a Quarter Horse, resembling a Quarter Horse or appearing in an APHA pedigree without documented AQHA registration shall not be counted.

This creates an objective, verifiable eligibility standard while preserving the integrity of the AQHA Stud Book.

3. Four-Generation Weighted Calculation

The ancestry percentage shall be calculated by documented genetic contribution rather than by simply counting qualifying ancestors.

Formula

Weighted AQHA Ancestry = Sum of the weighted contribution assigned to each AQHA Numbered Registry ancestor appearing within the first four generations of the APHA parent's pedigree.

Generation	Contribution
Parent	50.00%
Grandparent	25.00%
Great-grandparent	12.50%
Great-great-grandparent	6.25%

The APHA parent must achieve a minimum documented weighted AQHA ancestry of **30%** OR the Horse in question must possess a minimum of 60% documented weighted AQHA ancestry within the first four generations of its pedigree to satisfy REG105.6.

Eligibility Standards and Safeguards (Continued)

4. Pedigree Positions, Not Unique Horses

Each pedigree position represents a portion of the APHA parent's documented genetic ancestry.

Accordingly, when the same AQHA Numbered Registry horse appears more than once within the first four generations, each occurrence shall be counted according to the percentage assigned to the pedigree position it occupies.

For example, if the same AQHA ancestor appears in two separate fourth-generation positions:

$$2 \times 6.25\% = 12.5\%$$

This methodology reflects genetic contribution through multiple independent lines of descent and provides a consistent, objective calculation for every applicant.

5. No Percentage Beyond the Fourth Generation

Only the first four generations of the APHA parent's pedigree shall be used in calculating documented weighted AQHA ancestry.

This limitation provides:

- a standardized calculation for every applicant;
- a manageable review process;
- reduced reliance upon remote or incomplete records;
- a meaningful measure of recent documented AQHA ancestry; and
- an objective standard easily verified by AQHA staff.

Earlier generations may be reviewed for pedigree verification or historical context but shall not increase the qualifying ancestry percentage.

6. Individual Review

No bloodline, family, stallion, mare or APHA designation shall automatically qualify.

Every application shall be evaluated individually.

Approval of one horse shall not automatically approve:

- its siblings;
- its parents;
- its offspring;
- other descendants of the same sire line;
- horses possessing similar color patterns; or
- horses tracing to the same historical bloodline.

Each application must independently satisfy every requirement of REG105.6.

7. DNA Requirements

Every offspring registered under REG105.6 shall be DNA parentage verified to both the AQHA Numbered Registry parent and the qualifying APHA parent.

The APHA parent shall possess a DNA profile acceptable to AQHA.

AQHA may require additional pedigree documentation, registry verification, photographs or DNA testing whenever necessary to establish eligibility.

These safeguards provide objective verification while eliminating the need for reconstruction of historical pedigrees or DNA testing of deceased ancestors.

8. Genetic Health Safeguards

Applicant horses and all descendants registered under REG105.6 shall remain subject to every existing AQHA genetic-health requirement.

Stallions shall continue to satisfy AQHA genetic testing requirements before registration of qualifying offspring.

Nothing contained within this proposal creates an exception to any AQHA rule governing prohibited genetic conditions.

9. White Markings

White markings shall not independently prevent:

- registration in the AQHA Appendix Registry under REG105.6;
- advancement from the Appendix Registry to the Numbered Registry after satisfying AQHA performance requirements; or
- future eligibility under the Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway.

Horses possessing white markings beyond REG109.4 shall remain subject to:

- DNA parentage verification;
- photographic identification;
- certificate notation; and
- all existing AQHA identification requirements.

This proposal preserves transparency while ensuring that phenotype is not used as a substitute for documented pedigree.

10. Continuity of the Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway

The general prohibition against Appendix-to-Appendix registration shall remain unchanged except as specifically provided under REG106.1.1.

An AQHA Appendix horse admitted under REG105.6 may continue the Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway only when bred to an APHA horse independently meeting every eligibility requirement established under REG105.6.

Each resulting foal must:

- be DNA parentage verified;
- possess complete pedigree documentation;
- satisfy all AQHA registration requirements; and
- enter the AQHA Appendix Registry only.

This provision preserves the controlled nature of the pathway while allowing historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines to continue moving toward full AQHA integration over successive generations.

11. Future Generations

Once an eligible offspring has entered the AQHA Appendix Registry through REG105.6:

- AQHA registration records are established;
- DNA parentage is permanently documented;
- pedigree continuity is preserved through AQHA and APHA records; and
- future generations become progressively easier to document and verify.

The greatest administrative review occurs during the initial application involving an eligible APHA parent. Future generations increasingly rely upon ordinary AQHA registration procedures.

12. No Automatic Qualification Based Upon Performance

Performance success may demonstrate the value of preserving a bloodline but shall not establish eligibility.

A World Champion, major money earner or leading sire shall not qualify unless every pedigree, ancestry, DNA and registration requirement has been satisfied.

Likewise, a horse possessing no performance record may qualify if it independently satisfies every requirement established under REG105.6.

Eligibility shall be based upon documented ancestry rather than competitive achievement.

13. No Automatic Qualification Based Upon Color

The Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway is not limited to Tobiano, Overo or Tovero horses.

Likewise, possession of any white-pattern gene shall not independently establish eligibility.

Conversely, the absence of white markings shall not create eligibility.

Historical color-based registration practices explain the existence of these bloodlines outside AQHA.

Eligibility shall instead be determined solely through documented pedigree, ancestry calculation and compliance with these rules.

14. Application Denial

AQHA shall retain authority to deny any application when:

- the APHA parent possesses less than thirty percent (30%) documented weighted AQHA ancestry; exempt if the horse themselves has 60% documented weighted ancestry;
- the AQHA ancestry calculation cannot be verified;
- required AQHA registration of the other parent cannot be verified;
- DNA parentage cannot be established;
- pedigree documentation is incomplete or inconsistent;
- APHA registration records are incomplete;
- fraudulent or altered records are submitted;
- requested documentation is not provided; or
- the application otherwise fails to satisfy AQHA Rules and Regulations.

15. Permanent Record Transparency

Every horse approved under REG105.6 should permanently identify:

- AQHA Appendix registration number;
- AQHA registered name;
- AQHA Numbered Registry parent;
- APHA parent and APHA registration number;
- Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway notation;
- documented weighted AQHA ancestry percentage of the APHA parent;
- required genetic notations; and

- required white-marking notation.

This preserves complete transparency for breeders, owners and AQHA while maintaining the integrity of future pedigree records.

Concise Statement of Safeguards

The proposed Historical Quarter Horse Bloodline Pathway is protected by seven principal safeguards:

1. One required AQHA Numbered Registry parent.
2. One APHA parent possessing at least thirty percent (30%) documented weighted AQHA ancestry.
3. A standardized four-generation weighted ancestry calculation.
4. Individual review of every application.
5. DNA profiling and parentage verification.
6. Permanent AQHA/PHA pedigree cross-referencing.
7. Continued application of every existing AQHA genetic-health, performance and advancement requirement except the historical color-based advancement restriction.

These amendments are designed to preserve the integrity of the AQHA Stud Book while providing a carefully controlled pathway for historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines to re-enter AQHA through future generations.

Background

At the time AQHA was founded, registration policies excluded horses displaying extensive white patterning, including Tobiano and many Overo patterns. Because Tobiano is a dominant color gene, horses carrying the color pattern almost always expressed it visibly, making them ineligible for AQHA registration despite their Quarter Horse ancestry. As a result, a population of horses descending from Quarter Horse breeding programs developed outside the AQHA registry, primarily within the American Paint Horse Association.

Over the decades, these horses continued to be selectively bred using many of the same Quarter Horse bloodlines that have shaped the American Quarter Horse breed. Today, numerous APHA-registered Tobiano and Overo horses possess DNA-verified parentage, complete multigenerational pedigrees, and extensive documented AQHA ancestry spanning several generations.

Since AQHA's founding, significant advances have been made in genetic testing, DNA parentage verification, and record keeping. Horses with white markings that would once have been rejected under historical registration policies are now eligible for AQHA registration when they otherwise meet registration requirements. However, there remains no mechanism for descendants of the historically excluded Tobiano and Overo bloodlines to enter the AQHA registry or at least the

AQHA Appendix Registry because their foundation ancestors were never eligible for AQHA registration.

The original registration policies reflected the knowledge, technology, and priorities of their time. Today, AQHA has changed its position on white markings to allow them, possesses tools that were unavailable to its founders, including DNA parentage verification, genetic testing, and decades of documented pedigree records. These advances make it possible to objectively identify horses descending from horses that under the new white rules, should have originally been included in the AQHA while maintaining the integrity of the registry.

The AQHA Appendix Registry has historically provided a pathway for horses outside the numbered registry to demonstrate their value while protecting the integrity of the breed. Establishing an Appendix pathway for qualified APHA-registered horses descending from historically AQHA excluded Tobiano and Overo Quarter Horses would continue that tradition by recognizing documented pedigree without altering the standards of the numbered registry.

What This Proposal Does Not Do

- This proposal does **not** create automatic AQHA registration for APHA horses.
- It does **not** change the American Quarter Horse breed standard.
- It does **not** eliminate existing DNA or pedigree requirements.
- It does **not** admit horses based solely on color.
- It does **not** diminish the value or integrity of the AQHA numbered registry.
- It **does** create a narrowly defined, pedigree-based Appendix pathway (or potentially direct to number registry for deserving individuals) for historically excluded bloodlines.

Evolution of AQHA Registration Policy

From AQHA's inception until 2004, horses displaying "excessive white" markings beyond the limits established in the registration rules were ineligible for AQHA registration. At the time these rules were adopted, DNA parentage verification and modern genetic testing were not available, and extensive white patterning was widely viewed as an indicator of ancestry outside the American Quarter Horse breed.

As scientific understanding advanced, AQHA recognized that coat color and white patterning alone were not reliable indicators of pedigree. In 2004, the Association rescinded its excessive white registration rule, allowing horses with excessive white markings to be registered provided they otherwise satisfied AQHA's registration requirements. Horses with excessive white continue to receive a notation on their registration certificate, but color alone is no longer an automatic barrier to registration.

This policy change reflected AQHA's willingness to adapt its registration practices as scientific knowledge improved. However, while the revised rule addressed future registrations, it did not provide a pathway for the descendants of horses that had been excluded under the original excessive white rule. Consequently, generations of horses possessing documented pedigrees, DNA-verified parentage, and extensive American Quarter Horse ancestry remain outside the

AQHA registry solely because their foundation ancestors were excluded under historical registration policies that did not understand that the horses with white markings were pure bred Quarter Horses simply with a color modification gene.

This proposal seeks to address that remaining historical gap through the creation of a carefully defined Appendix registration pathway, allowing AQHA to evaluate these bloodlines using modern standards while preserving the integrity of the numbered registry.

Time Period	AQHA Position	Why It Matters
1940–2004	Excessive white = not eligible for registration	This excluded Tobiano and many Overo horses due to dominant color traits.
2004–Present	Excessive white may be registered if parentage is verified; papers are marked with an "undesirable trait" notation.	AQHA acknowledged that excessive white alone should no longer prevent registration.
2026	Create an Appendix pathway for descendants of horses permanently excluded before 2004.	This addresses the historical consequence of the former rule.

Original Rule 96(A)

"No animal having white markings with underlying light skin beyond the following described lines shall be eligible for registration in any section of the Association's official Stud Book."

The rule then defined the allowable limits:

1. White above a line around each leg at the center of the knees and point of the hocks.
2. White behind a line running from the center of each ear to the corner of each side of the mouth.
3. White on the lower lip above a line running from one corner of the mouth to the other corner.

The original rule was adopted because AQHA **didn't have DNA parentage verification or knowledge of how color genes work**. At the time, extensive white was treated as circumstantial evidence that a horse might not be a pure Quarter Horse.

The Remaining Historical Gap

While AQHA's revised registration policies acknowledge that coat color alone should not determine eligibility, one consequence of the original rules remains unresolved. Horses and bloodlines that were excluded under the historical color restrictions were never provided a pathway back into the AQHA registry because their foundation ancestors were ineligible for registration under the rules of the time. Consequently, generations of horses possessing documented pedigrees, DNA-verified parentage, and extensive American Quarter Horse ancestry continue to remain outside the AQHA registry—not because they fail to meet the principles

underlying today's registration standards, but because they descend from bloodlines affected by historical registration policies.

The creation of a carefully defined Appendix pathway would not reverse history or diminish the integrity of the American Quarter Horse. Rather, it would allow AQHA to apply its modern registration philosophy to a population of horses that has never had the opportunity to be evaluated under those standards. Such a pathway would preserve the integrity of the numbered registry while allowing historically excluded bloodlines to demonstrate their merit through the established Appendix advancement process.

Why Should AQHA Consider This Proposal?

This proposal is intended to strengthen the American Quarter Horse Association while preserving the integrity of its registry. It does not seek to alter the breed standard or grant automatic registration based on color. Instead, it proposes a carefully defined Appendix pathway for horses with documented Quarter Horse ancestry that have remained outside the AQHA registry solely because of historical color-based registration policies. Perhaps, on a case by case basis certain horses will be allowed to bypass the Appendix registry due to merit from their individual show record or sire/producing record. AQHA has already modernized its view of color; this proposal simply asks the Association to modernize its pathway for the descendants of horses excluded under the previous rules.

- **Preserve Valuable Quarter Horse Bloodlines**

For more than 80 years, APHA breeders have continued to develop horses using many of the same bloodlines that have shaped the American Quarter Horse. As a result, numerous APHA-registered horses possess extensive, documented AQHA ancestry and represent genetics that have continued to evolve alongside the Quarter Horse breed. An Appendix pathway would provide AQHA with an opportunity to recognize and preserve these historically excluded bloodlines without compromising the integrity of the numbered registry. In fact, the addition of these horses would greatly help the AQHA's growing issue of a genetic bottle neck that many AQHA breeders are facing due to popular bloodlines being overused leading to not enough genetic diversity within the AQHA breed.

- **Utilize Modern Genetic Science**

When AQHA was established, DNA parentage verification and genetic testing did not exist. Today, parentage can be verified with a high degree of accuracy, and complete pedigree records are readily available. These advancements allow AQHA to evaluate eligibility using objective scientific evidence rather than relying solely on historical registration limitations.

- **Strengthen the Future of the Breed**

The American Quarter Horse has always evolved through thoughtful stewardship. Providing a carefully defined Appendix pathway for qualified horses would expand the pool of documented Quarter Horse genetics available to future generations while maintaining AQHA's established standards for advancement into the numbered registry.

- **Increase AQHA Membership and Participation**

An Appendix pathway would encourage participation from breeders and owners who have long maintained Quarter Horse bloodlines through APHA registration. This represents an opportunity for additional AQHA memberships, registrations, transfers, performance participation, and long-term engagement with the Association.

- **Build on AQHA's History of Responsible Progress**

Throughout its history, AQHA has adapted its registration policies as scientific knowledge and breeding practices have evolved. This proposal continues that tradition by using modern DNA verification and documented pedigrees to address a historical registration circumstance while preserving the integrity, reputation, and future of the American Quarter Horse.

Addressing the Historical Registration Gap

AQHA has already demonstrated its willingness to modernize registration policies by revising historical color restrictions. Horses displaying white markings that would once have resulted in automatic rejection are now eligible for registration when they otherwise satisfy AQHA's pedigree, parentage, and registration requirements. This evolution reflects the Association's recognition that color alone should not determine eligibility.

However, one significant consequence of the original color restrictions remains unresolved. Horses and bloodlines that were excluded under the historical registration rules were never provided a pathway back into the AQHA registry, despite decades of documented breeding, complete pedigree records, and modern DNA parentage verification. As a result, the descendants of those historically excluded bloodlines continue to be ineligible—not because they fail to meet today's standards, but because their foundation ancestors were excluded under rules that no longer reflect AQHA's current registration philosophy.

Establishing a carefully defined Appendix pathway would not rewrite history or alter the integrity of the American Quarter Horse. Rather, it would provide AQHA with a modern mechanism to evaluate these historically excluded bloodlines using the scientific tools and pedigree documentation now available. In doing so, AQHA would extend the principles behind its modern registration policies to address a historical registration gap while preserving the integrity of the numbered registry.

Registry Does Not Define Ancestry

One of the central questions raised by this proposal is whether APHA-registered horses should be considered for AQHA Appendix eligibility. The answer begins by recognizing the important distinction between a horse's registry and its ancestry.

The American Paint Horse Association is a breed registry that was established to provide registration for horses displaying paint color patterns, many of which descended from Quarter Horse breeding programs. Consequently, an APHA registration certificate identifies the organization that maintains the horse's records—it does not, by itself, define the horse's genetic ancestry.

This proposal is not based on registry affiliation. Rather, it is based on documented pedigree, DNA-verified parentage, and the continuity of historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines that have been maintained within APHA because their foundation ancestors were ineligible for AQHA registration under historical color-based rules.

This proposal does not suggest that every APHA-registered horse should become eligible for AQHA registration. Many APHA horses would not satisfy the pedigree requirements contemplated by this proposal. Instead, eligibility would be determined through objective documentation of ancestry, DNA verification, and criteria established by AQHA for historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines.

Relationship with APHA

This proposal does not seek to diminish the American Paint Horse Association or encourage owners to abandon APHA registration. Eligible horses would remain fully APHA registered while gaining an opportunity to participate in the AQHA Appendix Registry, similar to how many horses today are recorded in more than one registry. This proposal is intended to complement—not compete with—the American Paint Horse Association. For more than 80 years, APHA breeders have preserved and developed historically excluded Quarter Horse bloodlines, producing a few of the industry's most influential performance horses. This proposal recognizes that stewardship while suggesting that AQHA create a mechanism through which certain documented bloodlines may also be evaluated for Appendix eligibility. Nothing in this proposal would alter APHA registration, ownership, or participation.

Examples of Quarter Horse descended APHA horses

Here are several excellent representations of documented, performance-proven horses through their own performance record, offspring or a combination of the two whose pedigree demonstrates the long-standing genetic relationship between the AQHA and APHA registries. Their inability to enter AQHA was not the result of unknown ancestry, but rather the historical separation of registries following color-based registration policies established decades earlier. Having a path forward for horses similar to these listed below would dramatically increase the AQHA's genetic pool, generate substantial income for the AQHA and maintain the high standards that AQHA is known for by adding these stellar horses and so many more not listed here.

Big Time Movie Star (Shady Lil Starlight x A Masters Hobby)

Like A Diamond (Grays Starlight x Diamond Jewel Wood)

Color Me Smart (Smart Little Lena x Doxs Painted Lady)

Darlins Not Painted (Smoking Chic Olena x Mi Hollywood Darlin)

A Master Plan (Master Remedy x My Flashy Lady)

Risky Business (Cheyenne Moon Bar x Happiness Is)

The Sweet Spot (Mark This Spot x Sugar Pop Gun)

Will Kane (WR This Cats Smart x Dueling Chic Olena)

Valentines Hickory (Hickory Holly Time x SmartLittleValentine)

Cinderella Cat (Thomas E Hughes x Miss Instant Choice)

Spooks Delta Dude (Spooks Gotta Gun x Deltas Spicy Diamonds)

Ima Dirty White Boy (Peptoboonsmal x LC Trinity Miss)

Metallic Chrome (Metallic Cat x Bella Coy Moon)

Dual Delta Rey (Dual Rey x Delta Won)

Vincent Rey Van Gogh (Dual Smart Rey x The Last Playday)

Bosalito (A Vintage Smoke x One Smokin Chic)

Cataboom NCHA \$5000+ (Catatomic x Dirty Hoochie Mama)

Hollywood Reminic (Reminic N Dunit x Slidin ToThe Stars)

High Caliber Diamond (SHR QTs DiamondCutter x Ultra Fine Shine)

SHR Shirleys A Cutter (SHR QTs DiamondCutter x Gunna Get Trashed)

SHR Sotally Tober (SHR QTs DiamondCutter x Wearing Lace)

Peptos Smart Cookie (Cookie Merada x Uvaldes Cow Smart)

Special Invitation (Invitation Only x Ribbon In My Hair)

Appendix A – Sample Horse Calculations

Weighted AQHA ancestry percentages were calculated using only ancestors verified through official AQHA registration records. Third-party pedigree databases were used only as research aids and were not relied upon to establish eligibility.

Big Time Movie Star - 2018 Mare

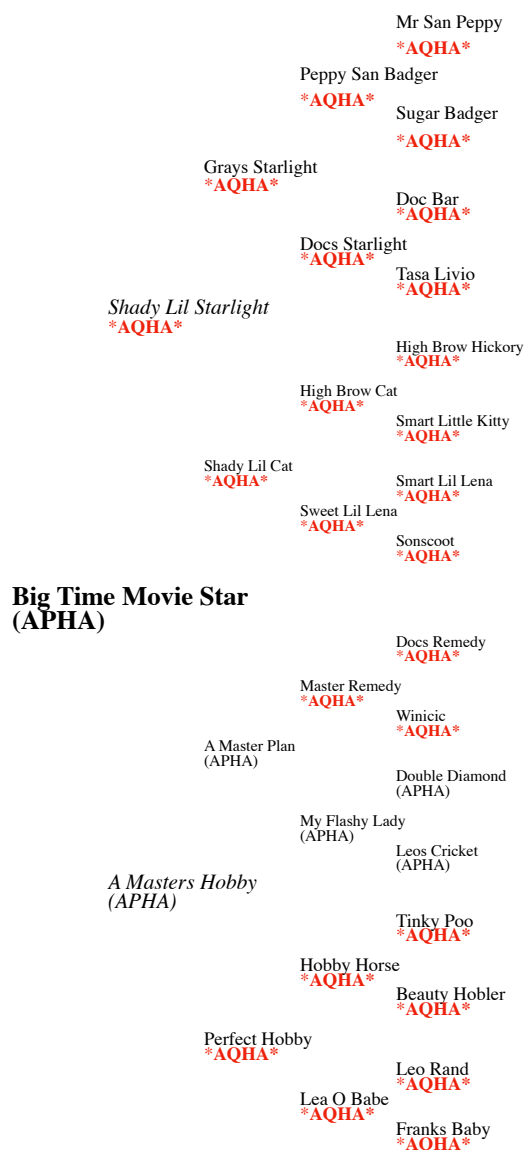
25 AQHA Horses in the first 4 generations - 87.5% weighted pedigree calculation.

Reference: <https://www.soloselecthorses.com/mares/big-time-movie-star>

<https://teamropingjournal.com/the-horses/paint-big-time-movie-star-is-now-all-time-top-earning-rope-horse-mare/>

EARNINGS:

\$110,231 and 43 APHA points. In 2022: APHA World Champion Open Heeling Horse; APHA Reserve World Champion Open Heading Horse; APHA World Open Heading & Heeling Jackpots' Champion; APHA World High Placing Junior Horse Award earned in Open Heading & Open Heeling; Badlands Bit & Spur 4-Year-Old Open Heading Futurity Champion (Round 1 winner: Reserve in Round 2); 4th Badlands Bit & Spur 4-Year-Old Open Heeling Futurity; 4th ARHFA World Open Heeling Futurity (Round 3 winner); 3rd ARHFA World 3/4-Year-Old Open Heeling Futurity; ARHFA World Futurity Royal Crown Heeling Sidepot Reserve Champion; Royal Crown Rock Springs 4-Under Open Heading Reserve Champion (Round 1 winner; Reserve in Round 3); Royal Crown Rock Springs 4-Under Open Heeling Round 2 winner; 3rd Royal Crown Waco 4-Under Open Heeling (Reserve in Round 3); Oilcan Classic ARHFA 3/4-Year-Old Open Heeling Pre-Futurity Reserve Champion and 3rd, Open Heading: in 2023: Arizona Sun Circuit ARHFA Int. Open and Limited Open Heeling Futurities' Champion; 3rd Arizona Sun Circuit ARHFA Heeling Futurity: in APHA events: ROM in Open Heading & Open Heeling, earning 30 heeling and 13 heading points in open competition.



Big Time Movie Star Weighted Pedigree Table			
Generation	Qualifying AQHA Ancestor	Weight	Running Total
Parent	Shady Lil Starlight	50.00%	50.00%
Grandparent	Perfect Hobby	25.00%	75.00%
Great-Grandparent	Master Remedy	12.50%	87.50%
Fourth Generation	None (additional AQHA ancestry already represented through qualifying ancestors)	0.00%	87.50%
Final Weighted AQHA Ancestry			87.50%

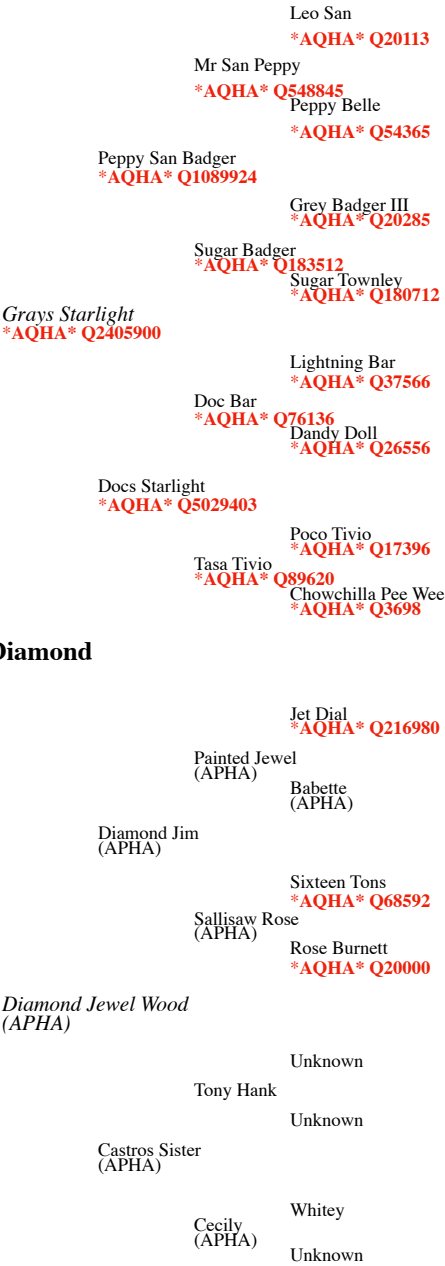
Like A Diamond - 1992 Stallion

18 AQHA Horses in the first 4 generations - 68.75% weighted pedigree calculation. NOTE: Like A Diamond qualifies on his own merit being over 60% AQHA weighted ancestry as his dam does not qualify with 30% herself.

Reference: <https://oswoodstallionstation.com/like-a-diamond/>

- EARNINGS:
* World Champion Cutting
* NCHA LTE \$9579
OFFSPRING EARNINGS:
* \$1.8 Million+
- *NCHA Open Super Stakes Champion

* NRHA Futurity Champion



Like A Diamond Weighted Pedigree Table			
Generation	Qualifying AQHA Ancestor	Weight	Running Total
Parent	Grays Starlight	50.00%	50.00%
Grandparent	None	0.00%	0.00%
Great-Grandparent	None	0.00%	0.00%
Fourth Generation	Jet Dial 6.25%, Sixteen Tons 6.25%, Rose Burnett 6.25%	18.75%	68.75%
Final Weighted AQHA Ancestry			68.75%