

AQHA Announces 'Name And Shame' Policy To Improve Equine Welfare

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The American Quarter Horse Association, in an effort to educate its members on the humane treatment of horses, publishes news releases on its website to “name and shame” members who break AQHA rules regarding inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct, reports Horse Talk.

The move coincides with the AQHA's stance on animal welfare for the protection of the horse and for the future of the breed in accordance with its mission statement, which states that the Quarter Horse be treated humanely, with dignity, respect and compassion at all times.

Other items approved by the association's Executive Committee in their April 2016 meeting in Amarillo, Texas, included banning the use of bellybands (effective June 1) and the prohibition of the use of dye to cover marks of abuse. A dye rule was already in effect that prohibited the use of dye or other substances to alter or hide natural markings. Bellybands are used to protect the horse's sides from spur rubs.



The AQHA is also developing a resource document that outlines the steps members can take when they call AQHA to report horse abuse. The Association is working with several other organizations, including the United States Equestrian Federation, the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Horse Council to develop isolation and biosecurity protocol (which will include vaccination guidelines) for AQHA-sanctioned horse shows.

Read more at [Horse Talk](#).

Read the AQHA's Statement of Position on Animal Welfare [here](#).

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