

Tis the season of anticipation. Big dreams and sincere hope of being blessed with that once in a lifetime foal abound. Thoughts of which stallion, or which mare, could bless us with that special foal... next year. For others, economic factors dominate the decision making process. Still others concern themselves with perceived moral aspects of breeding. Regardless of your decision, all should examine the motivation behind that decision. Predicting the future is never as easy as defining the past. Even defining the past seems a struggle for some.

That said, lets see...

WHATSA GO'N ON WITH QPA?

QPA continues the struggle to define its' role and direction for members; and its' support for Quarter Ponies, as a breed. Ideas are shared freely among Quarter Pony enthusiasts. Yet bringing definitive guidelines, action, and enforcement appear to be more labored than necessary. Is QPA about Quarter Ponies and owner support, or just another association to market ponies that don't fit elsewhere? Shocked? Maybe you should be. QPA must define its' long term role and direction. Only members will help to shape that direction. Don't take your responsibility, as a member, lightly if you wish QPA to positively evolve.

WHATSA GO'N ON WITH THE REGISTRIES?

The International Quarter Pony Association (IQPA - Tennessee) continues to provide registration papers for qualified ponies. IQPA accepts all colors from solid to pattern. IQPA registered ponies are eligible to earn points and awards, through QPA with proper membership status, whether shown or ridden by adult or child.

WHATSA GO'N ON IN THE REGIONS & QPA OVERALL?

No reports have been submitted, in time for submission, for this edition of the QPA Newsletter. Seems some previous reports have been questioned and QPA is working diligently to resolve potential reporting errors, in the future. QPA extends its' sincere apologies for any possible error(s) previously printed.

TO BREED OR NOT?

Space does not permit any sort of in depth discussion on the many aspects of breeding. However, here are some common sense, basic thoughts to keep in mind during your journey to find the "perfect mate" for your QP:

1. Be forthcoming with the equine owner of the potential mate you have selected. Define the goal(s) you are trying to achieve from the potential coupling. Ask questions that are pertinent to those goal(s). In example, "I want to produce a pony that wins." Well, wins in what arena? What discipline? Wins at what level? Under whose guidance and abilities?
2. Do your best to safeguard your potential offspring from known hereditary conditions present within the equine industry. In example, if you are breeding to a registered Quarter Horse or Paint ask if the potential mate has been tested for OLWS, HyPP or HERDA. If not, does the potential mate carry any bloodlines that are known to perpetuate the condition? If you have opted to breed to an equine of unknown origin, ask if the owner has or is willing to test for the condition(s) that concern you. Quarter Horses and Paints are not the only breeds that perpetuate hereditary conditions. Ask about and research conditions within the breed(s) of any potential mate.
3. Ask about the character of any potential mate. In example, a pony may be well suited, even bred for, the cutting discipline. The pony's talents may be evident. However, the pony's disposition may require an experienced person to communicate with the pony and thus get the job accomplished. The pony may be too easy going, or too high strung, to be truly successful under the guidance of a less experienced individual.

4. Ask about the methods of breeding available for the potential mate. Some insist on live cover. Others insist on artificial insemination. All methods have pros and cons. Choose the method that best suits your needs and beliefs.
5. If you're in QP's strictly for the money, QP's are not for you.
6. Take responsibility for your own breeding decisions.

OTHER IMPORTANT QPA INFO

Membership Reminder(s):

The Quarter Pony Association (QPA) official website can be located at www.UQPA.com or www.QuarterPonyAssociation.com (both will get you where you need to be).

The International Quarter Pony Association official website is located at www.IQPA.com (at present, this is the only QPA approved registry).

All submissions for consideration in the QPA Newsletter including, but not limited to, emails, articles/stories, commentaries, informational submissions and pictures/images, become property of the Quarter Pony Association and no compensation, for use, shall apply. Pictures and comments may be sent to QPA_Newsletter@mac.com.

By Rhonda Lange,
QPA Writer/Publicist