

July '06 Issue

Quarter Pony Breeding

In any breed, the breeders are the heart and soul of the organizations set up to promote and support the animals. The same is true of the Quarter Pony. In this article, I am going to try to set forth some of the things a Quarter Pony breeder keeps in mind for a program.

The unique ideal attributes of a Quarter Pony are set forth in the Quarter Pony Association Standards, which can be found online at http://www.quarterponyassociation.com/physical_characteristics.html. Although each breeder has his/her own personal preferences and ideals, these standards are kept in mind by all.

Conformation

As stated in the closing remarks of this page, "It should always be remembered that the primary purpose of the Quarter Pony is as a using pony and conformation must be indicative of good movement and soundness in whatever discipline the rider/driver chooses." Although there are differences in ponies based on what purpose they might be most geared to perform, a true Quarter Pony breeder is still breeding for the quarter type as set forth in the guidelines and as indicated not only by performance, but also by appearance. Of course, there are certain parts of the guidelines that affect registerability and those get the most notice and emphasis. For example, the pony that goes over the 14.2 height will be registerable only as a breeding stock and cannot be shown for points. Therefore, height gets a great deal of emphasis in a breeding program. But it is definitely not the only characteristic a good breeder keeps in mind! Ponies that look and move like a Miniature Quarter Horse will be more successful in the organization and are more desirable to breeders and non-breeding owners alike.

Color

Since IQPA is currently the only QPA affiliate, color does not affect the registerability of a pony, but it can still be a preference of an individual breeder. Whether breeding for spots (either pinto or appaloosa) or for one of the popular colors such as dun, gray, roan, champagne, palomino or buckskin, individual breeders strive for different color effects in their herd and breeding stock. But almost any breeder conforms to the standard "the quality goes in before the color goes on."

Disposition

Quarter Ponies are, of course, ponies. Whether large enough to also be enjoyed by adults or so small that only small children can comfortably ride them, disposition is universally a major factor considered by all Quarter Pony breeders. Because they are smaller than many other equines, they will often be handled by slight persons or by children. Our breeders keep this in mind when choosing breeding stock. A good pony is a kind pony.

Bloodlines

To some breeders, bloodlines are of major importance, while other breeders are concentrating on their own homebred ponies that may not have any known performance

or halter records or background. The organizations keep track of bloodlines and maybe someday even these current “unknowns” will be highly desirable to the bloodline gurus!

Market

Although a quality breeder doesn't swing their goals to meet the fads and popularity the market sometimes dictates, it is a fact of life that marketability comes into success in any kind of program. So a good breeder keeps an eye on not only what the market is like in his/her own area, but throughout the Quarter Pony world. And a good breeder becomes involved in an organization that is working hard to promote the very ponies they are breeding!

From the small time backyard breeder who only has one or a few mares and only breeds occasionally to the breeder who seeks to make a living with a program, QPA encourages quality in the resulting foals by giving awards and recognition to those who produce it.

We Are Showing Our Ponies Already!

By the time this issue goes to press, show season will be in full swing and these results will already be far outdated. So keep in mind that you need to send in your show results and check online at www.quarterponyassociation.com to see the most current results! These results are current as of May 13, 2006. If your category has no pony listed, it's still open for you to be listed here next time!

Leading the Nation

Gymkhana

Halter

Sport Pony: Skip Lena, Stacy Huston, 3.5

English

Western

Trail: Smokin Doubledutch, Tami Platt, 5.5

Driving: Smokin Doubledutch, Tami Platt, 6.5

Cow Pony

Equitation & Showmanship

Nursery

Again, we are showing pictures of our newest Quarter Ponies to enter the world.

Congratulations to all the happy owners!

Submitted by Lana Sibley