

## **THE POWER OF A QUARTER PONY!**

Winter is in full swing with just over a month before Mother Nature heralds the entrance of spring. With spring comes new beginnings and new growth. Let this season shower happy, memorable moments on QPA and its' members. That said, let's see...

### **WHATSA GO'N ON WITH QPA (human membership)**

Busy calculating 2008 year-end results - we should be reading about those soon! Congrats to everyone who participated in 2008! QPA looks forward to a great 2009!

### **WHATSA GO'N ON WITH IQPA (pony registry)**

Dominique Nave has submitted the 2008 IQPA pony registration standing, as of November 2008. While 2008 new pony registrations are down in numbers, there has been an increase in registration transfers, from the old IQPA in California, to IQPA in Tennessee. Dominique further advised the old California IQPA website is gone. This is good news, for QPA members and IQPA (in Tennessee), as the confusion caused by the two sites should dissipate substantially. However, caution is still warranted as some old email addresses, connected to the old California based IQPA, still pop up from time to time. IQPA will continue its efforts to resolve any remaining confusion between these unrelated organizations.

November 2008 reflect pony registration standings, in percentage form and based on color patterns, as follows:

1. Solid colored ponies represent approximately 69% of pony registrations.
2. Paint/Pinto pattern represent approximately 23% of pony registrations.
3. Appaloosa pattern represent approximately 8% of pony registrations.
4. Other color patterns represent less than ½ a percentage point of overall IQPA registrations.

Quarter Ponies seem to be most popular, at present, in the state of Washington which holds a clear lead with 15% of IQPA pony registrations overall. California holds 11%, Tennessee at 10% and Texas at 8%. Countries other than the United States hold roughly 4% of IQPA total registrations with Canada in the lead at 46% of foreign pony registrations. Germany ties with Sweden with each country holding 25% of foreign registrations. The remaining U.S. states and other countries make up the balance.

### **THE ART OF POINT CHASING**

On occasion, one may run across those who like to call fellow competitors "Point Chasers". The phrase, typically meant to be a disparaging remark, takes on new meaning at QPA. Those opposed to point chasing often accuse the Point Chaser of having little concern for their mounts, pushing their mounts too fast, too hard and claiming, all too often, neither mount or exhibitor are prepared. Further, according to the opposition, Point Chasers merely show anywhere (point qualifying) and under any circumstance... just for the sake of the almighty point(s) and the notoriety. Let's be clear - reputable judges will always discuss a suspected issue, with the exhibitor and, if need be, excuse a pony that is noticeably off, even if the exhibitor has not recognized a potential problem. Other times, like people, a pony and or the exhibitor is merely having an off day. As such, the appropriate placing will result... if any placing, at all.

Honest, fair competition is encouraged by QPA. Good sportsmanship is key, always. Let's face it, not every exhibitor or every pony is equal in talent. More importantly, QPA recognizes, not all are equal in financial wherewithal. Show is venues which you can afford - period. Don't allow those of greater financial means to discourage you. Just because some show at extravagant venues does not mean they have better mounts or they are better exhibitors... and doing so does not make them all knowing. Conversely, do not disparage those of greater financial means for participating in venues - which you may not be able to afford. Competing merely affords both pony and competitor an opportunity to achieve personal accomplishment or the opportunity to refocus in another direction. Points are merely recognition for those participants in any given QPA approved activity for effort made and accomplishment achieved... regardless of the level or venue. So, have fun chasing points, if that's your

bag. It's nice to win, place OR just show regardless of the outcome; so long as you and your pony enjoy the journey.

**REMINDERS:**

Quarter Pony Association (QPA) official website is [www.UQPA.com](http://www.UQPA.com)  
or [www.QuarterPonyAssociation.com](http://www.QuarterPonyAssociation.com).

International Quarter Pony Association official website is [www.IQPA.com](http://www.IQPA.com) .

All submissions, for consideration in QPA Newsletters, 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. Submissions may be sent to [QPA\\_Newsletter@mac.com](mailto:QPA_Newsletter@mac.com) .

By Rhonda Lange,  
QPA Writer/Publicist