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# Breeding Back To The Future Whilst You Still Can

Dear Horse-lover

What is happening to your favorite breed?

I feel strongly enough about this to send an email message to you. Please read this link:

<http://bridlepath.wordpress.com/2006/08/16/breeding-back-to-the-future-while-you-still-can/>

What is happening to *your* breed? Is it changing from what it used to be, into some sort of clone of some other breed?

Judges, just what are you really looking for? Please read up on the breed you are judging if you haven't judged it before. Stick to the rules and allow the *true* type to shine through. Don't be dazzled by razzamatazz and fancy showmanship or influenced by the name on the end of the lead.

Breeders, feel free to join Responsible Horse Breeders Network on Facebook if you are as concerned as I am.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/responsiblehorsebreeders/>

The Australian Stock Horse Society has recently introduced a tagging system whereby a horse that goes back to the old and early breeding (waler, station and stock lines, which included certain TB blood of the remount trade, i.e. the war horse) is labelled in the stud book with HSH - Heritage Stock Horse. Great news! Now we can identify those horses and breed like to like. Are you concerned that the Australian Stock Horse is becoming overwhelmed by QH blood and will begin to look like a cutting horse, or a halter horse? Are you concerned that all the effort to preserve Australia's Breed, with its inherent soundness and freedom from genetic disease, will be diluted with QH blood to the point where it will become unrecognizable from the QH and we lose the burgeoning international markets?

Are you concerned that the QH has changed away from the type of the founding fathers with its racing and ranch background, to the modern halter QH horse (which has been described as 'the ones with extreme muscle, ultra straight legs, upright pasterns, tiny hooves and diaper butts'). Are you concerned about mass production of unsound horses, to win a 2yr old halter futurity classes? See this article written quite some time ago, quite prophetic:

<http://horsesonly.com/crossroads/supreme/origin.htm> or  
<http://horsesonly.com/crossroads/supreme/default.htm>

Are you concerned about abuse from the "big lick" gaited TWH industry filtering through to Australia? Well if USA is anything to go on, and for some reason, we seem to mirror their trends, this is what will happen if we are not vigilant.

<http://www.fosh.info/whatisoring.html>

or

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/tennessee-walking-horses-abused/story?id=16360835#.UEvUBq7p-wZ>

(Please understand, I am not against specialty for the breeds that are *purpose bred for it*, and here is an example:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwdaCZFc2\\_g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwdaCZFc2_g) )

Do we want our breeds to become pets that never get ridden and never have a purpose other than to be led out on a string? Do we want our horses to become more like the dog world, where there

is so much specialization the breed loses all function and their genetics is corrupted with disease, deformity and unsoundness, possibly beyond reclamation? Do we want horses, who by the ages of 10, are receiving hock injections or are being de-nerved for navicular, just to keep them sound?

If you are concerned about your breed, please buy a registered horse, and transfer the papers. That way you have more opportunity to find a new home, if your situation changes and you need to sell, and more opportunity to track it later, should you wish. It gives you greater marketing power and does not cost all that much more over the lifetime of your horse, to give it every chance. Find a good home rather than sell to the first person who comes along. If you have let your membership lapse, please rejoin and have a voice, read the newsletter or join the committee.

Owners, please contact the breeder of your horse from time to time and give feedback! How else will they know if they got it right?

Australia is at a cross roads at the moment. We have had EI and drought, and now everyone is back breeding, and the warning signs are already there - WE ARE BREEDING TOO MANY HORSES and TOO MANY HORSES OF THE WRONG TYPE, the FUGLY TYPE or not giving them the start they need TO GET GOOD HOMES.

For every unsound, or purposeless, ill-trained, untrained or poorly bred horse, there is only one place for it. Rescues see this all the time at the auction clearance sales going for pet food or the export human meat market. If you are concerned, please don't put your mare in foal this year. There is so much overproduction, you can make a difference by buying what you are looking for - you will get the sex, colour and type and probably height you want, by going directly to a reputable breeder, for much less than it will cost you to produce. Do not support those breeders who are dumping horses on the market, who sell everything to "make way for this seasons foals", who breed without a genuine purpose in mind, without proper training and care, or have a responsible long term plan! Do not put a mare in foal, simply because you want to sell it - buyers in the main do *not* want to buy your mare in foal! It does not increase its market, or add to its price because it has become a 2-in-1 package.

Please, read up, and be aware of what is happening within your own breed and speak up, before it is too late. Every horse-person needs to take some sort of responsibility for this - starting with the breeders, trainers, judges, veterinarians, Breed Associations, Horse Organizations and all caring horse-people.

Please feel free to forward this on.

Kind regards  
Jeanette Gower



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