



International Heritage Walking Horse Association, Inc.

The International Heritage Walking Horse Association is an association that will accept the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association and the Canadian Registry of Tennessee Walking Horse certificates and DNA testing of any registered Walking Horse. IHWHA will provide registration certificates for Walking Horses, as well as access to DNA testing and the registration of foals. It will record ownership transfers on these horses.

The IHWHA is a non-profit association dedicated to the promotion of the Heritage Walking Horse on an international level. This association is for Heritage Walking Horses and their owners who show them in a sound and humane manner, use them for trail riding, field trials, endurance riding, and many other equine sports, as well as breed them to produce correct running walk gaited examples of the breed that do not have to be manipulated into a false exaggerated gait.

The IHWHA is a BREED ASSOCIATION and as such has the following unique and exclusive requirements for registration. Performance show horses that have dominated the ring since the mid-seventies are now responsible for the genetics of most of today's registered walking horses, which has resulted in Walking horses exhibiting lateral gaits, high headed and hot temperaments. The goal of the International Heritage Walking Horse Association is promoting and preserving the old bloodlines of the true *natural* gaited Walking Horse.

In order to obtain a certified Heritage Walking Horse registration certificate, either 100% or in one of the other categories, your horse needs to comply with the criteria below AND show the signature gaits and disposition in a video. Video guidelines can be found [here](#). (link to pdf video guidelines)

1. **100% Heritage Walking Horse**

- To register a horse in this category it must have *older* bloodlines; a minimum of five stallions or mares with pre-1950 registration numbers still showing on their papers;
- No modern show horses in the pedigree that were shown padded after 1976;
- Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All color lines trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors and patterns registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks;

2. **Heritage Endorsed Category A**

- This category is for horses that have no performance show walkers exhibited after 1976
- Do not have the five old registration numbers prior to 1950 to fall into the full Heritage category but are otherwise foundation bred.
- Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All color lines trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors and patterns registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks.
- These horses that are stallions and mares can breed up to the Heritage Accredited level, and when their offspring reach 97% Heritage, those offspring will be considered full Heritage.

3. **Heritage Endorsed Category B**

- This category is for those horses that have a majority of old bloodlines but have ONE performance horse exhibited after 1976 on their papers.
- Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All color lines trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors and patterns registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks.
- These horses can breed up to the Heritage Accredited level but will never be considered full Heritage.

4. **Heritage Accredited**

- These horses have 97% recognized Heritage bloodlines and will come from Heritage Endorsed Category A and B, unless horses who already meet these criteria are submitted for registration.
- Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All color lines trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors and patterns registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks.

All persons conducting business with IHWHA must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age.

Any person or persons who willfully register or record false pedigrees will be forever barred from making any further transactions with IHWHA and the false transactions will be cancelled.

The owner of any IHWHA registered horse which is exhibited in an unsound manner that results in an upheld VMO, DQP, HIO or USDA ticket for soring, scar rule, foreign substances, pressure shoeing, or repeated violations, will have all rights to do business with IHWHA, suspended indefinitely. This suspension includes registration of foals, transfers, and/or conducting any business with IHWHA. IHWHA will not be held liable for any delays or losses due to irregularities of the Postal System.

Registration of adult horses who are already registered: Provide IHWHA with a completed pedigree form and a completed DNA results form along with a payment of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) and a request for IHWHA registration form. Horses which are already Heritage Certified can be converted to IHWHA registration by sending in a request and \$10 to cover postage and supplies.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES & RULES

1. GENERAL RULES OF REGISTRATION

A. Applications can be completed via hard copy (use ink) or type, and mailed or Emailed to the IHWHA.

B. Application must be completed in full; missing information may cause the application process to be delayed and may cause the application to be rejected.

C. Clear color photographs of the horse's front, back and both sides are required, along with any distinguishing markings, such as a brand. **This applies to all horses, no matter what color.**

D. If already registered with another association, a copy of the current registration papers must be sent with the application. Stallions and mares must be DNA Typed before they begin their breeding career in order for their progeny to be eligible for registration. If horse has already been DNA Typed or Parentage Verified, a copy of those results should be included with the application for registration.

E. Name changes are accepted after they have been reviewed and approved. (See #4 for clarification).

F. Color changes are permitted if a horse changes color over time. Photographs of color changes will be required.

G. Foal Registration:

To be registered, foals of IHWHA registered horses must parentage verify through DNA testing. The cost to DNA test will be \$40. Foals can be registered at any time; IHWHA is not designating a time limit on foal registration so owners can accurately draw in markings and coloring.

2. CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES TO REGISTRATION

A. Changes and/or corrections are permitted in the following cases listed below at no charge:

- 1.) IHWHA caused an error in spelling the horse's name.
- 2.) IHWHA caused an error in the horse's pedigree.
- 3.) IHWHA caused an error in the DNA confirmation, color test results, and/or any other information directly on the registration papers

B. Changes and/or corrections other than listed above are permitted at the discretion of the IHWHA and require a small fee.

C. The owner of the horse must fill out a corrected Registration Form and submit the required fee if applicable before the changes can be made.

D. Only fill out the portions of the form where the correction and/or change is needed.

E. If requesting to change or update the horse's photographs or color, pictures of the horse from the front, back and both sides are required.

3. QUALIFYING NAMES

A. Names can be a maximum of 25 characters, to include letters, numbers and/or spaces. Excessive symbols are not allowed.

B. Names of previous Walking Horses that are deceased are not allowed.

C. Names that are currently trademarked and/or service marked are not allowed unless proof has been submitted showing permission to use such marks.

D. Names that are discriminatory against any race, sex, lifestyle, religion, and/or working class are not permitted.

E. Curse words are not permitted.

F. Name changes are permitted by review, see Rule 4 for clarification and eligibility.

4. NAME CHANGES

A. Name changes are granted after they have passed the review process and have been properly filed with IHWHA, provided the horse has no progeny.

B. The official registration certificate and appropriate fee must accompany the name change request form.

C. If IHWHA has caused error in the spelling of the horse's name, the owner may request a correction to the certificate, as long as it is submitted on the required form and the official registration certificate accompanies it. IHWHA errors will be corrected free of charge.

5. COLORS AND MARKINGS

A. The colors, color modifiers and markings accepted are based on Dr. Phillip Sponenberg's text book Equine Color Genetics 2009 edition.

B. With a color modifier, the base color of a horse must be indicated on the application form.

C. IHWHA reserves the right to correct the color and/or markings indicated on the application to match what is genetically possible. Owners will be contacted via email before registration certificate is issued.

D. Color test results are welcome and encouraged to be included with the application.

E. Clear photographs of the horse's front, back, and both sides are required, along with any distinguishing markings, such as brands.

F. The current list of accepted colors is printed on the registration application.

6. REJECTED APPLICATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

A. In the event a horse is rejected for registration, the application and supporting documents shall become the property of the IHWHA. Half of the registration fee accompanying a copy of the application will be returned to the applicant, providing all fees have been paid.

B. When an application for registration is rejected, an appeal may be made to the Board of Directors.

C. In the event that an owner requests that a registration be canceled, the application and supporting documents become the property of the IHWHA, and the fees will not be refunded.