

May 2018



Australian Stock Horse



The Breed for Every Need

48 Guernsey Street, PO Box 288

SCONE NSW 2337 - AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 02 6545 1122

Facsimile: 02 6545 2165

Email: info@ashs.com.au

ABN 35 001 440 437

To: ASHS Branches & Members

We write to advise that the Board reviewed the responses from Members in regards to the Proposed Stud Book changes at the recent Board meeting.

As a result of members' feedback, the Board have noted members' comments and agreed to the following changes to the concept:

- The registration of progeny will be determined by the registration status of the sire and dam at time of registration of the progeny.
- The Board is considering the registration fees for horses in the Breeding Appendix, would be on or around \$1,500 for stallions and \$500 for mares, plus GST.
- Fees will include: Genetic Disorder Testing and DNA Parentage Testing for mares and stallions, and Sire Registration for stallions.
- Stallions registered in the Breeding Appendix will not be eligible to be advertised in the Australian Stock Horse Journal.

The Board have also acknowledged that members may not completely understand the concept of the proposal and as a result, the Board have provided further information for members' perusal. Please take the time to view the following information, detailing the Board's concept behind the proposed changes to the Constitution.

The Constitution is a document endorsed by the Members and defines the Society's corporate or company governance. The role of the Stud Book under the Constitution is to outline the main purpose of the Stud Book and provides an opportunity for members to entrench limited key principles for the organisation. The general procedural policies, common framework and detailed compliance standards will be in the Rules and Regulations.

Rules and Regulations provide operational transparency to the Members and are the responsibility of the Board to define. They provide information for the keeping of the Stud Book, procedures for registration of horses, fees and the like. As a result, detailed information is not, and should not be, contained in the Constitution, or Special Resolution. If members adopt the Special Resolution, it will be the role of the Board to develop regulations, and implement changes, in accordance with the changed Constitution.

The Board intend to provide further information in the weeks leading up to the AGM. Such information will be released on the Society's website – www.ashs.com.au

Members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (in person, or by proxy) to vote on the Special Resolution.

Kind regards

THE AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE SOCIETY LIMITED

Craig Young
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

2018 ASHS Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 28th July 2018

Oaks on Collins, 480 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC

Registrations 9:30am, Meeting 10am.

Notice of Meeting containing Resolutions and Proxy Forms will be available to members 21 days prior to the meeting.

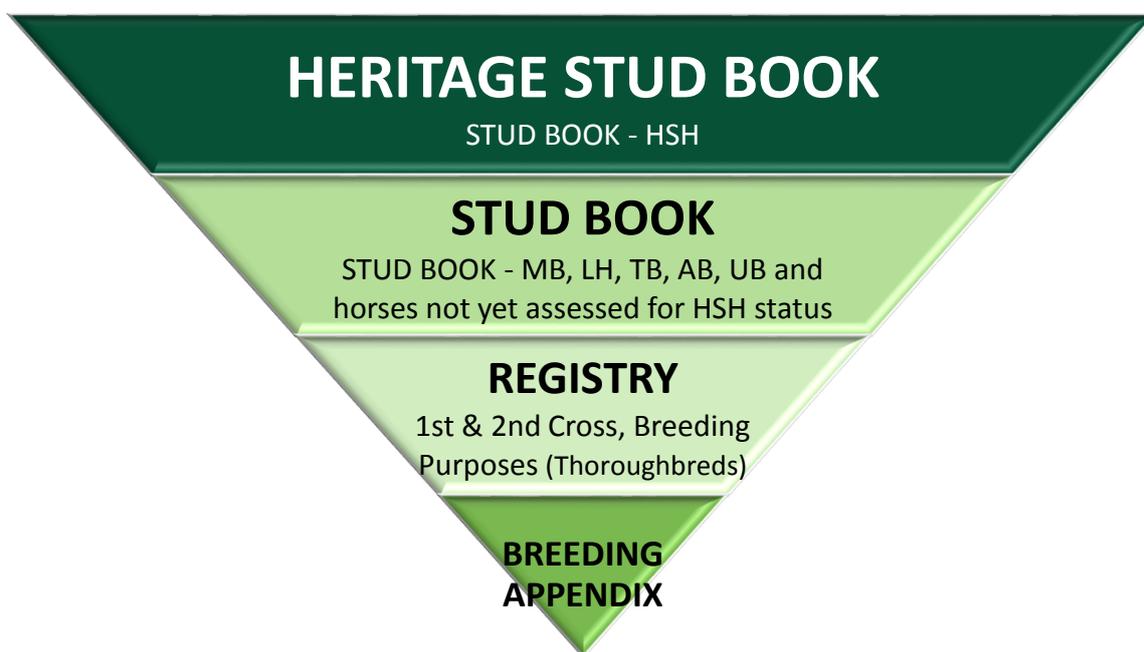
Proxy Forms and Questions on Notice Forms will be available on our website.

BREEDING APPENDIX – the proposal, the concept

Key Benefits

- The way of improving integrity for First Cross registration
- To establish and verify the identity of unregistered or non-ASH horses used
- The ability to collect DNA profiles and test for genetic disorders
- An opportunity to assess for ASH type, conformation & temperament standards
- Breeding Appendix will NOT be eligible for ASH events and prizes, or advertising in ASH Journal

In reviewing the feedback from members in regards to the Breeding Appendix, the Board believe that the Breeding Appendix proposal is a way of improving the integrity of the Society's registration system. Additionally, the formalisation of the Heritage Stud Book is the way the Society can better identify and preserve the origins of the breed. Primarily, horse registrations will be recognised into one of four key categories as follows:



Horses in the Breeding Appendix will NOT be eligible for ASH events and prizes; nor eligible for sales restricted to Registered Australian Stock Horses. At the recent Board meeting, the Board reviewed members' feedback and later agreed that advertising and/or promotion of horses in the Australian Stock Horse Journal would not be permitted for Breeding Appendix Horses.

The purpose of the Breeding Appendix is to record sufficient information on unregistered or non-ASH being used in breeding programmes by members to produce First Cross horses. It is believed the identity of unregistered or non-ASH parents, being used in breeding programmes to produce First Cross horses, is paramount for the integrity of Society records; including verification of parentage, establishing ownership and the like.

Currently First Cross horses are accepted on face value in regards to the unregistered or non-ASH parent (including the pedigree of the unregistered or non-ASH parent) with limited verification. Under current processes, the Society has no record of ownership of these horses and is unable to verify the signatures appearing on documentation is that of the respective owner and has limited data to verify the accuracy of pedigrees submitted on applications.

Under the proposed Breeding Appendix, the only horses being affected will be the registration of First Cross progeny. The unregistered or non-ASH parent MUST BE registered in the Breeding Appendix for progeny (mares & gelding) to be eligible as First Cross. Effectively, all horses being registered in the Heritage Stud Book, Stud Book or Registry will ultimately have two parents registered with the ASH. Currently, both First Cross and Special Merit registration allow horses to be registered from an unregistered or non-ASH parent.

Currently, First Cross horses are accepted with an unregistered parent with no known breeding or records. The Breeding Appendix will require the owner of such unregistered horses to initially register them in the Appendix. The appendix will require the identity of the unregistered horse to be established with a name, age, ownership records and identification.

Furthermore, registration under the Breeding Appendix will require applicants to submit proof of breeding to enable further generations of pedigree to be included on a First Cross registration. The requirement for verified breeding will provide an improved integrity of extended bloodlines.

First Cross registration as it presently stands has limited integrity and the purpose of the Breeding Appendix is to enhance the standard of registration in this category. It is noted that members are hesitant to adopt change, in particular, more investment and extra work. The Breeding Appendix is aimed at increasing the integrity of First Cross registrations.

Inspection

The Breeding Appendix will also provide the opportunity for the Society to collect a DNA profile and test for genetic disorders. Breeding Appendix horses will be assessed by a Society Inspector for ASH type, conformation, movement, colour, height, temperament and overall appearance, as well as verification of markings and brands.

In regards to height, it is recommended (not limited to) between 14 and 16 hands. After considering the attributes of the horse presented for inspection and the Society's Standard of Excellence and undesirable characteristics, the Society Inspector may accept or reject a horse accordingly. An inspection pass does not constitute acceptance by the Society of any such registration, it will be considered in accordance with the Regulations and the registration criteria being adequately satisfied.



With unregistered or non-ASH parents having to be inspected by a Society Inspector and pass inspection, and First Cross progeny (mares and geldings) also having to pass inspection, the ASH type and conformation of First Cross horses should ultimately improve with two generations being passed for

inspection. Inspectors are often recommended to the Board by Branches. The Board considers the individual's wealth of equine knowledge and ASH experience when approving inspectors.

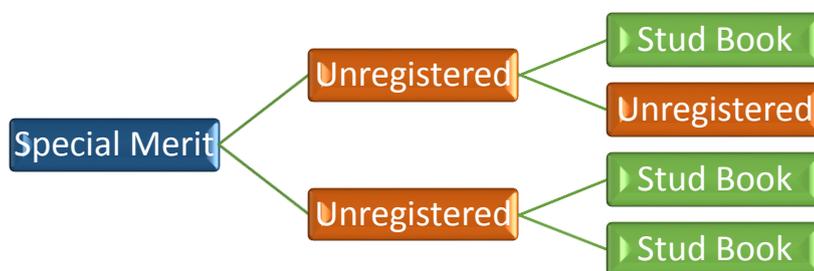
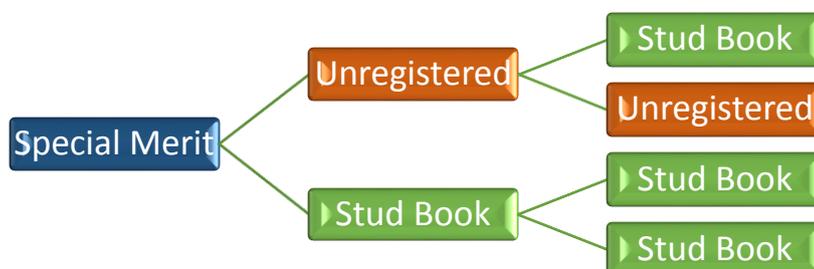
What is Special Merit Registration?

Horses eligible for Special Merit registration must have Registered Australian Stock Horses with Stud Book status on both sides of the horse's pedigree within two generations. The Australian Stock Horse breeding must appear at least twice on one side of the pedigree and once on the other side.

Special Merit horses can only be accepted as Second Cross status and the registration number will be identified as "C2". Under Special Merit registration, performance is not considered.

If Special Merit was phased out, the majority of horses currently being accepted as Special Merit are eligible for First Cross registration as a mare and gelding. Only stallions and horses with two unregistered or non-ASH parents would not be eligible for registration.

Examples of Special Merit pedigrees:



Under the proposed changes, the Board will phase out Special Merit registration and any horse being accepted as Stud Book, First or Second Cross must have two ASH registered parents.

Why Special Merit should be phased out:

- No accountability or verification for unregistered breeding being recorded in pedigrees.
- Horse eligibility may vary from Special Merit to First Cross depending on extended pedigree.
- Enables registration of horses from other breeds where ancestors were ASH registered under the classification system, prior to closure of the Stud Book in 1988.

Stallions

Members will be asked at the 2018 AGM to vote on registration of First Cross stallions being reintroduced. If First Cross registration of stallions is rejected by the members at the AGM, entire progeny with one Stud Book and one Breeding Appendix parent will be eligible to be registered in the Breeding Appendix.

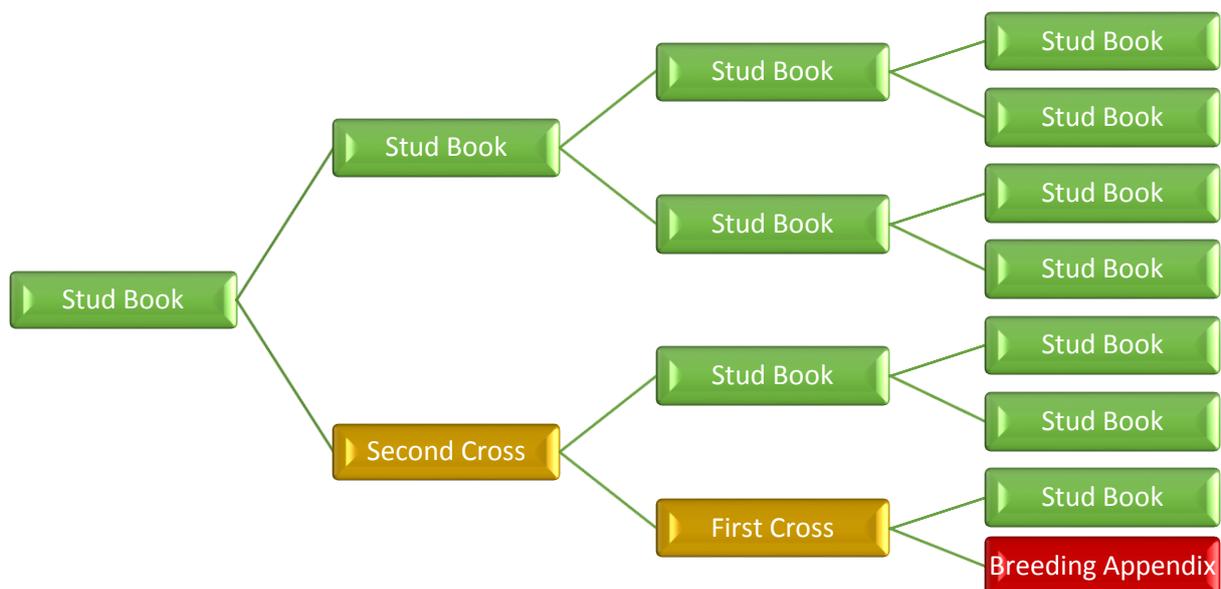
Currently, a stallion with one Stud Book parent and one unregistered or non-ASH parent is not eligible for ASH registration. However, if the same unregistered stallion with one Stud Book parent is mated to a Stud Book mare with one Stud Book parent (or unregistered mare with two Stud Book parents), the resulting progeny is currently eligible under the Special Merit regulations and attains Second Cross status.

With the registration of stallions under the Breeding Appendix (one ASH parent, unregistered and non-ASH stallions), members who choose to breed to these stallions will have more visibility to accuracy of pedigrees, genetic disorders and the like. Through registration, the Society can monitor these breeding trends. The Breeding Appendix is not aimed at increasing other breeds in the Stud Book, or reducing the value of Stud Book horses, it is an improved system to increase accuracy.

If members opt to breed or purchase horses with an unregistered or non-ASH parent, it will be the responsibility of the breeder or purchaser to ensure that the necessary requirements for registration can be completed (including membership, inspection and payment of fees). Otherwise the resulting progeny will only be eligible in the Breeding Appendix.

Breeding Appendix - How Many Generations to Stud Book?

This will not change, you will need to breed your Breeding Appendix horse to a Stud Book ASH for three generations to obtain a Stud Book descendent. If a Breeding Appendix horse is mated to another Breeding Appendix horse, a First or Second Cross, the progeny will only be eligible for the Breeding Appendix – no ASH competition or sale rights.



In the event a First Cross is mated to a First or Second Cross, registration of the progeny will remain First Cross. A Second Cross mated to a Second Cross, registration of the progeny will remain Second Cross.

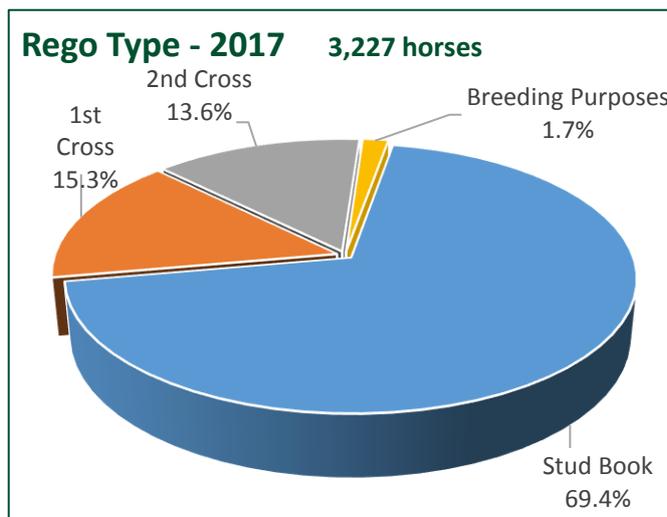
The aim of the Breeding Appendix is not to increase or decline First Cross registration, it is to increase the integrity of records at First Cross level. If members have a good horse that is unregistered or a non-ASH, they may apply for Breeding Appendix registration so future progeny may be eligible as First Cross. The Breeding Appendix will retain an avenue for members who are looking for diversity of bloodlines or enhanced performance for progeny.

The Board have also agreed, providing the unregistered or non-ASH parent is registered in the Breeding Appendix prior to registration of the progeny, the progeny could be accepted for registration under the relevant category.

Registration Statistics

Registration statistics for new registrations submitted during 2017, indicate that 493 horses were registered as First Cross and 440 horses were registered as Second Cross (includes Special Merit horses). See graph:

When reviewing the Special Merit and First Cross data for new registrations submitted during 2017, the following is identified in regards to unregistered or non-ASH parentage:



- 94 individual sires (219 progeny - 46 Special Merit and 173 First Cross)
- 351 individual mares (387 progeny - 97 Special Merit and 290 First Cross)

Registration in the Breeding Appendix will be a lifetime registration and the owner will need to remain a financial member of the Society.

Annual predictions for registration in the Breeding Appendix is 10 stallions and 100 mares. Taking into consideration, horses registered in the Breeding Appendix will require a DNA profile for parentage testing, six panel genetic disorder testing and registration, fees can be expected to be around \$1,500 for a stallion and \$500 for a mare (plus GST).

Integrity of Stud Book registration and DNA parent testing

Currently, DNA testing for parentage is only compulsory for artificial insemination and embryo transfer progeny. With regards to natural service, DNA testing for parentage is not compulsory. When registering a horse, any member may request DNA testing for parentage (fees apply). Extremely limited members have opted to DNA test for parentage in regards to natural service progeny, unless concerned with a double mating or swapped foal scenario, where DNA testing is required.

In 2016, the online Member Survey indicated that 98.5% of members who completed the survey believed the information on an ASH registration should be accurate, whilst only 40.3% believed the Society should introduce compulsory DNA testing for natural service and only 22% believed the average member could afford additional fees if compulsory DNA was introduced.

Whilst the Board agree, that DNA parentage testing is the most accurate method of parentage verification, the Board have opted not to introduce compulsory testing for natural matings in response to member's feedback and concerns with increasing costs.

Exceptional Circumstances

An extremely limited number of horses have been considered, let alone accepted by the Board. The criteria for Exceptional Horse category as set out in the Constitution and Exceptional Circumstances as

defined in the Rules and Regulations is quite extensive and ultimately limits eligibility of horses under the category. A higher number of horses have been declined under these rules.

The Board do not support that horses should be accepted or upgraded on the basis of exceptional performance alone. Horses being considered under exceptional circumstances are assessed on performance, breeding, ASH type, conformation and temperament. The chance of acceptance is significantly reduced if the horse does not adequately pass these requirements.

Cloned Horses

Under the current regulations, the Society accepts progeny resulting from Natural Service, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfers as defined in the Rules and Regulations. Members considering other breeding techniques need to apply to the Board for acceptance of the technique or otherwise, together with conditions and requirements for same.

No member has applied to the Board for consideration of other breeding techniques and to the Society's knowledge, no cloned horses have been Australian Stock Horse registered and under the current regulations, a cloned horse is not eligible for Australian Stock Horse registration.

However, an unregistered or non-ASH parent being used in a breeding programme may have resulted from this technology. If the Breeding Appendix is introduced, the Society would have an avenue to decline registration of the unregistered or non-ASH horse in the Breeding Appendix and as a result, progeny would not be eligible for First Cross registration. This is a subject under discussion by the Board. The path moving forward could be defined by the members' acceptance or rejection of the Special Resolution to remove and replace the Stud Book clauses in the Constitution.



Should the Special Resolution be adopted by Members, the Board will work towards the implementation of these changes as outlined above.

Notes:

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