



WBFSH General Assembly 2024

Motion:

Proposal for Adoption of DNA Screening of All Foals in World Breeding Federation of Sports Horses (WBFSH) affiliated studbooks

1. Introduction:

The British Hanoverian Horse Society's (BHHS) proposal outlines the importance of implementing DNA screening for all foals within the WBFSH member studbooks as a mandatory practice. DNA screening is a crucial step in ensuring the security, integrity, and credibility of bloodlines within the equine community. By adopting this practice, the WBFSH and its members can deter fraudulent activities, protect its reputation, and promote responsible breeding practices.

2. Purpose:

The primary purpose of this proposal is to advocate for the mandatory DNA screening of all foals. The benefits of this initiative include:

- **Security of Bloodlines:** Ensures that the lineage of every horse is accurately documented.
- **Fraud Deterrence:** Reduces the risk of fraudulent claims regarding a horse's pedigree.
- **Enhanced Credibility:** Strengthens the reputation of the organization as a leader in maintaining ethical breeding practices.
- **Informed Breeding Decisions:** Provides breeders with accurate information, leading to more informed breeding decisions.

3. Background:

Equine DNA screening has become an increasingly common practice in the industry. Advances in genetic technology allow for precise identification of parentage and verifying lineage claims. Many leading warmblood studbooks have already adopted DNA screening to uphold the integrity of their registries.

4. Proposed Implementation:

- **Mandatory Screening:** All foals born within the jurisdiction of WBFSH member studbooks must undergo DNA screening before registration.
- **Certified Labs:** Designate or partner with certified laboratories to conduct DNA tests, ensuring standardization and accuracy.
- **Registration Process:** DNA results must be submitted as part of the foal registration process. No registration will be complete without verified DNA results.
- **Database Integration:** Results will be stored in a centralized database, accessible to relevant parties for verification purposes.
- **Enforcement:** Implement strict penalties for non-compliance, including refusal of registration or fines.

5. Benefits:

- **Security of Bloodlines:** With DNA screening, the organization can ensure that each registered foal has a verifiable and accurate lineage, protecting the value of pedigrees.
- **Fraud Deterrence:** DNA screening serves as a powerful deterrent against fraudulent practices, such as misrepresenting a horse's lineage or substituting foals.
- **Market Confidence:** Buyers and breeders will have increased confidence in the accuracy of pedigrees, boosting the market value of horses registered with the organization.
- **Reputation:** The organization will be seen as a leader in promoting transparency and integrity in horse breeding.

6. Conclusion:

The adoption of mandatory DNA screening for all foals is a proactive measure that aligns with the long-term goals of WBFSH to uphold the highest standards in horse breeding. This initiative will safeguard the security of bloodlines, deter fraudulent activities, and enhance the overall reputation of the WBFSH. We strongly recommend the immediate adoption of this proposal to ensure a secure and credible future for our equine community.