



AHR Announces Registration and Transfer Amnesty Program

Submitted by Chuck Hendershot

Brian Mitteer, AHR President, in a statement announcing the Amnesty program said that the Board recognized that the economic conditions of the last few years had forced people to make very difficult decisions as to how to spend their limited funds. Horse owners have not been excluded from these tough decisions. In some cases, the decision may have been whether to register or complete the transfer documents on a Haflinger or to purchase hay to feed their beloved new friend. Understanding these circumstances, the Board has instituted the Amnesty program to allow these horses to be included in the Registry. The Amnesty program reduces the cost of completing the registration and transfers, but maintains the strict requirements for pedigree and parentage documentation that is the hallmark of the Haflinger breed in America.

The Amnesty Program approved by the Board of Directors will be in place from April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013. During this period, AHR members will be able to process delinquent registrations and transfers at lower fees. Normal registrations and transfers will continue to be published at the current prices published on the AHR website.

What are the benefits of registration? The first benefit of registering your horse is the maintenance of the bloodlines and the purebred standards that are the Haflinger horse. By maintaining a Registry with detail breed standards we insure that breeding Haflingers continue to produce offspring with the athletic ability, temperament, healthiness and overall appearance of the Haflinger. We understand that registration and pedigree documents do not make a horse perform better in the show ring; however, without the proper registration documents you will not be able to participate in the growing Haflinger Breed shows or the Haflinger Championship Challenge. In the future, if you decide to sell your horse you limit your market to individuals that do not want a registered Haflinger and probably negatively impact the price you receive for your horse.

What are the costs of registration? The normal costs for a foal registered in its weanling year would be a registration fee of \$30 and \$35 for the DNA test for a total of \$65. These fees will not change under the Amnesty program. Under normal circumstances if the foal is not registered during the weanling year, there is a \$50 late fee for the first year and \$25 for every additional year that the registration is not completed. Therefore, a 3 year old that had not been previously registered would cost the owner \$165 to complete the registration process. Additionally, the costs would increase \$25 each year that the registration is not completed. Under the amnesty program the late fees would be reduced to \$35 and capped at a single fee. This would allow the same 3 year old to be registered for \$100, a savings of \$65.

What are the requirements for Registration? The requirements for registering a Haflinger do not change under the Amnesty program. The documents that are required for registration are designed to maintain the integrity of the registry and to insure the parentage of the registered Haflinger. The documents required are summarized in the chart below.

Registration Documents Required

- 1. A completed application for registration;**
- 2. A breeding certificate signed by the owner of the sire and dam at the time of breeding;**
- 3. Verification that the stallion license was current at the time of breeding;**
- 4. Submission of hair sample for DNA testing (sire & dam must already be on file or in process).**

Why should we complete transfer documents? The answer is very simple. Under the current AHR regulations for the Haflinger breed, if a Haflinger is sold and the transfer paperwork is not properly completed the horse considered a “grade” Haflinger and is no longer a registered animal. We know that many new Haflingers buyers have been caught off guard when they buy a Haflinger that they believed was registered only to find out that the transfers had not been completed and they do not have a registered Haflinger after all. The Board recognizes this problem and will look at other changes in the regulations that will maintain the integrity of the Registry while insuring that transfers are completed timely. In the interim, the Amnesty program will provide a bridge for owners to get their previously registered Haflingers back in good standing with the Registry.

What are the costs of transfer? The normal costs for a timely transfer are \$20 for a member and \$50 for a non-member for each transfer. A timely transfer is completed within 90 days of the sale or transfer of the horse. Transfers completed after the 90 day period are charged a late fee of \$25 for each transfer to be recorded. Under the Amnesty program the transfers and late fees will be capped at \$90, equal to two member late transfer fees. Non member transfers are capped at \$150, equal to two non-member late transfer fees. For a mere \$5 more, this non member could become a member and complete this transaction at the member rate (\$65+\$45+\$45= \$155).

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What are the requirements for completing transfers? The required documents for completing a transfer are summarized in the chart below. If you cannot find documentation on all of the transfers you should submit your paperwork to the office with an explanation of the missing documents. It is possible that the office can help complete the chain of ownership or will record the transfer with the interim ownership listed as “chain of ownership broken” so any future owners would know that neither the Registry nor the current owner knows who owned the horse at that time.

Transfer Documents Required

- 1. Original pedigree document**
- 2. Transfer paperwork**
 - a. Signed transfer**
 - b. Bil of Sale**
 - c. Other documents tracing the chain of ownership**
- 3. Photographs of the current horse showing all markings to be compared with original registration.**

Additional benefits of the Amnesty Program. All member processed registrations and transfers will be processed at the member amnesty rates. Under the current regulations, if an AHR member purchased a Haflinger that was not registered from a non-AHR member then the registration would be assessed at the higher non-member rate. While the Amnesty program is in place the registration would be completed at member amnesty rates.

Why is the Program only for AHR Members? The Board discussed opening the Amnesty to Non-members. However, the Board believes that the AHR members have demonstrated a commitment to the Haflinger and support of the Registry by paying their annual membership fees and should receive the biggest benefit of the lower fees. The Registry is maintained through the fees and membership dues paid by current members and without their support we could not operate the registry. Additionally, we recognize that our members and breeders are the people hurt when high quality Haflingers that are able to be registered are not included in the Registry. Therefore, under the amnesty program a non-member may join the AHR by paying the current year dues and complete the registration and transfer process at member prices.

The Board had two objectives in establishing the Amnesty Program for one year. The first objective was to recapture horses in the Registry that were eligible for inclusion but, had been left out because of the current economic conditions. Including

these horses is important to our breeders and owner members in protecting the value of their Haflingers. The second objective was to attract additional members to AHR. The last few years have negatively impacted our membership and we hope that this program is one of many new initiatives to increase our membership over the next few years. AHR is a member owned and operated organizations and without members we cannot put on the programs we all enjoy or maintain the Registry. We all need to work together to support our Golden Horses.

We hope this article explains the Amnesty Program, the reason it was approved and answers your questions on how you can take advantage of the lower fees for the next year. However, if you still have questions please contact the AHR Office, Dean Baker, Gary Leisure or Chuck Hendershot and they will be willing to try and answer your questions.

