

GYPSY VANNER HORSE SOCIETY GENERAL RULES

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be applied for on official forms supplied by the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society and sent to the designated address on the form, or the online forms on the website can be used. The application must include payment for dues. Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year and dues will not be prorated. Any new member that pays their first time dues during the final quarter of the calendar year will be considered paid up through Dec 31 of the next year. If during the year an Associate Member chooses to upgrade membership to a General Membership, only the difference in dues will have to be paid.

Members in good standing are defined as a member who has paid all dues, has no fees in arrears and is not under any investigation for violation of any Rules and Regulations, or the By-Laws of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society. All members in good standing have equal rights and responsibilities with respect to the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society and its properties, shall be bound by its Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and by the actions of its Board of Directors. Every member in good standing shall have the right to attend all general membership meetings, have floor privileges and the right to hold committee assignments except where limited in the Bylaws.

Rights and privileges to members, depending on membership type, can include:

- (a) Listing in the published membership list
- (b) Listing on the website of the Society
- (c) Society newsletter
- (d) Ability to list Gypsy Vanners for sale on website.
- (e) Ability to list Stallions at stud on the website.
- (f) Participation in general meetings and general elections
- (g) Reduced fees, advertising discounts and event discounts.

2. CODE OF ETHICS

Any member elected to an Executive Officer Position, or Director position, or in other leadership positions as determined by the Board of Directors, must sign and abide by the GVHS Code of Ethics.

3. FEES

All dues and fees are payable in US dollars and payable using credit card, cash, check or paypal.

4. LITIGATION

No Director or Officer of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society will bring action or suit against the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society while in office. Any

GVHS member, or a non-member who purchases Gypsy Vanner Horse Society registered horses, attends Society events, participates in Gypsy Vanner Horse Society sanctioned shows, or files any Society forms or applications will be responsible for their own attorney fees if they file action or suit against the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society. In addition, if they are unsuccessful in their attempts, they will reimburse the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society for all attorney fees, court costs and other expenditures used in defense of such suit or action.

5. REGISTRATIONS GENERAL INFORMATION

- (a) Application for registration/certification will be submitted to the Registrar on the official registration application form provided by the society (or via the online form on the website), along with fees and other requirements of registration as stated on the application for registration form.
- (b) The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society will only register horses that qualify. The Society may deny registration or cancel registration of a horse if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the horse does not meet the standards or requirements for registration, or that any information on the registration form is false or incorrect. See detailed registration rules.
- (c) DNA testing is required for all horses registered except geldings. The DNA test samples are due to be submitted within 30 days after approval of registration application. If DNA results show pedigree or other discrepancies, the application and registration can be changed, denied or revoked.
- (d) The name of a horse submitted for registration cannot be the same as any other Gypsy Vanner Horse already registered with the society. Names cannot exceed more than 35 letters including any prefix and spaces. No names will be accepted that are deemed to be offensive.
- (e) If the application is for an imported horse the name submitted can be different from the name on the passport or other import documents. If there is a passport available for the imported horse a copy of it must be submitted with the registration application. If no passport was required for import, a copy of other importation paperwork can be submitted.
- (f) Upon the death of a registered Gypsy Vanner Horse the original certificate must be returned to the registrar within 90 days. The certificate will be recorded with the date of death and returned to the final owner of the deceased animal. The date will also be recorded in the permanent records of the registry.
- (g) See the Registration Rules document for detailed rules regarding registrations.

5. HEARINGS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- (a) The Board of Directors will investigate possible violation of rules, regulations, or bylaws. After any investigation the Board will

determine if the violation exists and how it can be resolved. This will be presented to all parties involved in writing. Results of the investigation can be determined as “no action needed” to suspension and expulsion from the organization, or something in between.

- (b) If any one would like to request a hearing regarding any board decision, any decision regarding a registration, records or prefix, or any disciplinary decision, they can request the hearing by submitting it to the board in writing. The board will determine the time and place of the hearing. The decision and actions of the board after the hearing will be final.
- (c) The Board of Directors will also oversee and hear any appeal regarding registration denial of a horse submitted for registration.