

## **GYPSY VANNER HORSE SOCIETY GENERAL RULES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES**

### **BREEDERS DIRECTORY**

The GVHS may maintain a list of Breeders. A Breeder may be listed on the Breeder Directory if qualified.

1. The breeder must agree to, complete and send in the GVHS Breeder Directory form and pay the annual fee of \$50. The listing is Jan 1-Dec 31 and not prorated.
2. The breeder must have a current or lifetime GVHS membership.
3. The breeder must own a GVHS registered mare(s) or stallion(s) and register foals produced with the GVHS within one year of birth.
4. The breeder will include in their breeding contract a recommendation that the mare owner register the resulting foal with the GVHS.
5. The breeder will submit all forms required by the GVHS to breed horses, (stallion reports, leases etc.) and transfer sold horses within 60 days of the sale.
6. The breeder will also recommend GVHS membership to new owners.
7. The GVHS will not be liable for any business dealings made as a result of being listed on this Directory or the result of someone using the Directory to do business with a breeder.

The breeder will get a discount of \$50 off an ad in The Vanner magazine published the same year. The GVHS will publish the Breeder Directory in The Vanner magazine including all breeders on the list at the time of deadline for publication.

### **TRAINER DIRECTORY**

The GVHS may create a list of horse trainers interested in working with Gypsy Vanner horses and their owners. The Directory will be posted on the GVHS website

1. The GVHS will reserve the right to decline to list a trainer or remove a trainer from the list for cause.
2. The GVHS will not be responsible or liable for claims made or actions of the trainer or owner and does not attest to the skills or abilities of a trainer.
3. The GVHS will not be liable for any business dealings made as a result of being listed on this Directory or the result of someone using the directory to do business with a trainer. It is the responsibility of the horse owner to do their due diligence when hiring a trainer.
4. The Trainer applicant will fill out a Trainer Directory application and pay a fee of \$50, due January 1 annually. The fee will not be prorated.
5. The trainer will maintain a GVHS membership.
6. The trainer will be professional at all times, including on social media, at events and day to day activities.
7. The trainer will refer clients who are Gypsy owners to the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society for registrations and programs

## GVHS GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The grievance process is designed to resolve problems or perceived problems. Because of the nature of the internet, the Board of Directors of the GVHS has a very firm stance on taking any precipitous actions based on unsubstantiated allegations, defamation or general mudslinging, particularly when it is apparent that it is being generated or incited by one individual. The GVHS Grievance Committee is established to privately and fairly evaluate the validity of any grievances and to recommend appropriate action to the Board of Directors. The Committee acts autonomously in fulfilling their duties. The Committee will only take official action when a formal grievance has been received.

### Types

**Informal Complaint.** If a member feels there is an error on a registration, a transfer, show points or any other day to day business type issues, the procedure is to first contact the GVHS office at [gvhs@vanners.org](mailto:gvhs@vanners.org), or by telephone at 888-520-9777 ext. 1, or send a letter to GVHS, PO Box 2008, Cridersville, OH 45806. Most of these types of complaints may be simple errors or misunderstandings and can be easily resolved. If this type of issue is not able to be resolved by the GVHS Administrative office, then **it can become a Formal Grievance.**

**Formal Grievance.** A formal grievance may be a registry business issue that has not been able to be resolved with the GVHS office representative, or it may be an ethics grievance, or other serious grievance requiring the attention of the Board of Directors.

1. The person making the grievance will complete and submit a GVHS grievance form along with the grievance investigation fee (\$100) and any current or additional documentation.
2. The GVHS Administration office will contact the Rules, Bylaws and Grievance Committee and provide them with any documentation and information already accrued regarding the grievance.
3. The committee will review and send a copy of the grievance to the person(s) about whom it was written, giving them the opportunity to respond and resolve it informally with the sender, if possible.
4. If the person about whom the report was written resolves the matter with the sender, he/she may submit that information to the GVHS office to be provided to the Grievance Committee. The GVHS office will appropriately file the information but will take no further action. The report and any informal resolution of the matter will remain on file.
5. If at any time the sender of the grievance feels the matter is fully resolved, they may request that the grievance be withdrawn. In this case the Committee will remove all copies of the initial information regarding the grievance from the files of the GVHS.
6. Based on the content of the responses and the response from the accused, the Committee shall determine whether additional investigation or action is necessary. If the complainant(s) fail to provide adequate substantiation, the Committee will submit a report to the Board of Directors but will take no further investigatory action. If the accused provides adequate substantiation to refute the allegations, the Committee will submit a report to the Board of Directors but will take no further investigatory action.
7. If the issue is not resolved then upon completion of the review and based on the facts of the case, the Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors that:
  1. No further action be taken due to insufficient evidence, OR
  2. No further action be taken due to the nature of the grievance, OR

3. The formal grievance be filed for review by the Board of Directors.
4. The Board of Directors will then decide the course of action by a 2/3 vote.
8. If the issue is voted on the side of the complainant(s) the grievance fee will be refunded.
9. The investigation process will be completed within 90 days and the complainant will receive a written (or email) notice from the Board of Directors as to the action taken.
10. Grievance committee investigative reports are confidential. Reports may be Reviewed in person but not distributed outside the committee or board of directors.

## **OWNERSHIP OF REGISTERED HORSES**

1. The ownership of a Gypsy Vanner can be established through breeding records, or a signed transfer form, or an official bill of sale.
2. Ownership can be transferred by submitting a completed transfer form or bill of sale along with the required fee. See GVHS Registration Rules document.
3. Up to 3 people can be listed as owners on a registered Gypsy Vanner horse.
4. A horse can be registered to a business entity. A copy of the formal legal document establishing the business entity must be provided to the GVHS. This document must state the names of the principal owners of the business.

## **COMMITTEES**

Committee members must read, sign and abide by the GVHS Committee Code of Ethics.

## **ELECTIONS**

Director and Officer Nominee qualifications include:

- Read, understand and agree to comply with the GVHS Code of Ethics document. The Code of Ethics applies to Director and Officer candidates the same as elected Directors and Officer.
- Support of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society as your exclusive Registry of choice through farm promotion (website, advertising etc.) and also through business and personal communications on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) This means nominees must not be members of other Gypsy Horse Associations set up to Register horses (GHA, GHRA, GCDHA, TGCA etc.) Show organization membership is acceptable. It is also accepted that nominee's horses may hold prior Registrations with other organizations but it is required that all horses owned by the nominee that qualify hold GVHS Registrations.
- Demonstrate understanding of the Gypsy Vanner Horse as a Breed through consistent use of the Gypsy Vanner/Vanner name in farm promotion (website, advertising etc.) and also through business and personal communications on social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.).
- Director, President & Vice President nominees must serve on a GVHS committee(s) at least 2 years prior to becoming a nominee.
- Director nominees are expected to have been a general or lifetime member in good standing for at least two years and had active involvement in GVHS programs and events for a minimum of two years. They must also own a registered Gypsy Vanner.
- An Officer nominee is expected to have a general or lifetime membership. To be considered for President or Vice President the nominee must have demonstrated active involvement in GVHS programs and events for a minimum of two years.

Directors elected are expected to:

- 1) Contribute to current and long-term strategic planning activities
- 2) Attend meetings (1-2 per year in person, average 1X/ month conference call)
- 3) Attend events – seminars, evaluations, attendance at the GVHS Annual General Membership Meeting, other events in your area or as needed etc)

See the GVHS Bylaws for other information regarding Directors and Officers.

#### **VOTING**

- To vote in a Director election, the person must be a GVHS general or lifetime member in good standing and own a registered Gypsy Vanner Horse at least 90 days prior to the voting date.
- To vote on something other than a Director election, the person must be a GVHS general or lifetime member in good standing and own a registered Gypsy Vanner Horse.
- See GVHS bylaws for additional information on voting.