



The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society has announced a new rule effective January 1, 2024. Starting on that date only a GVHS registered prefix will be included on a horse's name. The following may answer some of your questions. If you have additional questions, contact [gvhs@vanners.org](mailto:gvhs@vanners.org)

1. **WHAT IS A PREFIX?** A prefix is 2 or more letters, or a few words used at the very beginning of a horse's name that you have bred. It most often identifies your farm or name in some way. A prefix is important to horse breeders to stamp their identity on the animals they have produced.
2. **DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A REGISTERED PREFIX TO REGISTER HORSES?** You are NOT required to have a prefix to register with GVHS. Starting 1/1/2024 if you do choose to use a prefix it must be a registered prefix approved for your use.
3. **DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A GVHS MEMBERSHIP TO REGISTER A PREFIX?** You do NOT have to have a GVHS membership to register a prefix.
4. **HOW MUCH IS A PREFIX?** It is a one time, \$100 USD fee, and you then have the prefix for your exclusive use from the date of purchase. It does not expire.
5. **HOW DO YOU GET A PREFIX?** Fill out and send in the GVHS prefix request form. The request will be reviewed, and you will be notified if your prefix is available. At that time, you can then pay the fee and secure your prefix.
6. **CAN YOU PUT A PREFIX ON A HORSE PURCHASED?** You cannot add your prefix to a horse purchased, if the breeder of that horse has a GVHS registered prefix it must be used on the name of the horse. When transferring a horse without a prefix, if the breeder has subsequently purchased a prefix, it can be added to the horse's name. You may add it to the end of a purchased horse's name as a suffix.
7. **CAN YOU ADD YOUR NEW REGISTERED PREFIX TO HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED?** A registered prefix can be added to a registered horse by submitting a name change form and fee. If a name change form is submitted on a horse and the breeder has subsequently purchased a prefix, that prefix will be added to the new name. If not added as a name change the current registered horse's name will remain the same.
8. **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE REGISTERING A HORSE WITH GVHS, THAT HAS A REGISTRATION, AND PREFIX WITH ANOTHER REGISTRY?** Unless it is also a GVHS registered prefix, the prefix will not be included on the GVHS registration. The breeder that uses another registry is welcome to apply for and purchase a GVHS prefix to ensure their prefix is used on horses they produced.
9. **WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE LIST OF GVHS PREFIXES?** The list is on the website at [vanners.org](http://vanners.org) under the Registration tab. This list is updated regularly. Your prefix request will be reviewed and you will be notified if it is available.
10. **WHAT IF YOU HAVE A REGISTERED PREFIX AND CHANGE YOUR MIND, OR YOUR LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE?** You can abandon the use of a registered prefix if you choose. You

may purchase a new available prefix. You may only have one active prefix. You may do this only twice. An abandoned prefix may become available for someone else to choose.

11. WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE THE PREFIX I HAVE BEEN USING AS AN UNREGISTERED PREFIX? If you have been consistently using an unregistered prefix and someone asks to purchase it, you will be contacted and given 3 days to purchase it as a registered prefix. After 3 days it may be available for purchase by someone else.
12. WILL IMPORTED HORSES BE ABLE TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE NAME ON THEIR PASSPORT? If the name contains a prefix that is not registered with the GVHS it will not be included on the GVHS registered name. All breeders, no matter where located, are welcome to apply to register their prefix.

**BE SURE TO READ THE ENTIRE REGISTRATION RULES DOCUMENT REGARDING A BREEDER PREFIX.**