

**RULES AND REGULATIONS****Section 4 - Inspection of Horses - 1st September 2024****1 INSPECTION**

- 1.1 A horse eligible for First Cross, Breeding Purposes or Base Registry registration may be inspected at any age after the horse has been clearly branded and/or microchipped.
- 1.2 From 1st September 2024, members have the OPTION of clearly visible brands or a readable microchip, providing the sex, colour and markings are accurately recorded on the registration – refer Society Rules & Regulations, Section 5 – Identification of Horses.
- 1.3 Physical Inspection is not always possible and may be limited due to distance, availability or interests. Inspection by Video Footage is an alternate option for inspection.
- 1.4 **General Inspection Regulations**
- 1.4.1 Whether the horse is inspected by Physical Inspection or Video, the following criteria will apply:
- 1.4.1.1 The Inspector of the horse must be approved by the Board of Directors. The Inspector shall not participate in the inspection of any horse which the Inspector owns or in which the Inspector has a Conflict or Pecuniary Interest.
- 1.4.1.2 The Inspector must consider the horse's conformation, type, colour, ability, height, etc when recommending it for acceptance or otherwise. When an inspector is considering a horse, the standard for a stallion should be higher than a mare or gelding.
- 1.4.1.3 The preferred height for an Australian Stock Horse is between 14 and 16 hands. The following characteristics are considered undesirable:
- 1.4.1.3.1 Feathered legs, together with a heavy build
- 1.4.1.3.2 Leopard or blanket markings
- 1.4.1.3.3 Excessive irregular white coat (more than 70%)
- 1.4.1.3.4 Pale coloured eyes or eyes showing excessive white
- 1.4.1.3.5 Severe conformation faults or abnormalities
- 1.4.1.3.6 Extremely nervous or nasty temperament
- 1.4.1.3.7 Overall appearance being unbalanced
- 1.4.1.4 A horse presenting with limited or marginal undesirable characteristics may pass inspection if the horse is deemed to be of a reasonably good standard in other aspects. In the case of a horse presenting with severe undesirable characteristics (very bad, acute, serious, or extreme), the horse should be rejected.
- 1.4.1.5 When inspecting a stallion or colt, the overall impression of the horse should be of a high standard.
- 1.4.2 A Society Inspector is NOT able to participate in the inspection of any horse as indicated below:
- 1.4.2.1 The Inspector must be a financial Full, Participant or Subscriber Member of the Society when inspecting horses.
- 1.4.2.2 The Inspector has a conflict of interest – any situation whereby the Inspector's decision may be influenced.
- 1.4.2.3 The Inspector has a pecuniary interest – expectation of financial gain or loss.
- 1.4.2.4 The Inspector's immediate family, including partner, owns the horse.
- 1.4.2.5 The Inspector is a business partner, employer or employee of the member.
- 1.4.2.6 A horse currently owned or previously owned (less than one year) by the Inspector.
- 1.4.2.7 The horse was sired by a stallion currently owned or owned within a twelve month period of inspection date by the Inspector.
- 1.5 **Conflict of Interest/Pecuniary Interest**
- 1.5.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST – is defined as a situation in which a Society Official (Director, Inspector, Judge and the like) has a duty to make decisions on behalf of the Society and has an interest in the subject sufficient to appear to influence the decision to pass judgement (accept, reject, score, place and the like).
- 1.5.2 A PECUNIARY INTEREST – is defined as an interest that a Society Official (Director, Inspector, Judge and the like) may have in relation to a person or horse because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person.
- 1.5.3 Having a CONFLICT OF INTEREST or PECUNIARY INTEREST is not evidence of wrongdoing, but it may appear to compromise a decision. When making a choice to act as a Society Official, the person must consider the responsibilities of acting in the capacity of the position. The Society expects any person accepting a role as a Society Official to make decisions that are objective and independent from such interests that can result in impartial decisions.
- 1.5.4 When a situation is recognised that could be considered a CONFLICT OF INTEREST or PECUNIARY INTEREST, the response is straightforward: make the interest known and decline the duty. An interest may be that of the person; the person's spouse or de facto partner, a business partner, employer or employee and the like.
- 1.5.5 A Society Official does not have a CONFLICT OF INTEREST if the concern is so insignificant, or a PECUNIARY INTEREST if the expectation of gain or loss is so remote or insignificant; that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the decision. A person is not taken to have a Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest in a matter, if the person is unaware of the interest.
- 1.6 **Physical Inspection**



- 1.6.1 The Inspector travels to the area where the horse is stabled or paddocked and the horse is presented to the Inspector unsaddled as follows:
 - 1.6.1.1 On a lead.
 - 1.6.1.2 Positioned to enable viewing in a stationary position from the front, rear, near and off sides.
 - 1.6.1.3 The Inspector must verify all identifying marks, including white markings, indentations, scars, brands (if any, providing the owner has indicated the horse is microchipped), hair whorls, etc. These identifying marks should be clearly indicated on the registration application and labelled accordingly. Presented in action - at a walk and trot in a straight line directly towards and away from the Inspector ensuring the Inspector's view is not obstructed. The horse is then required to walk and trot in a full circle, which is between twenty and thirty metres in diameter.
- 1.6.2 It is not the Society's policy for a horse to be ridden, however, should the owner feel it is in their best interest they may do so, in addition to the above requirements.
 - 1.6.2.1 Under saddle the horse should demonstrate the following paces; ie walk, trot and canter.
 - 1.6.2.2 The horse may also be shown in action to demonstrate its ability and temperament; ie gallop, stop, haunch turn, etc.
- 1.6.3 The Inspector must refrain from riding horses presented for inspection.

1.7 Inspection by Video

- 1.7.1 Good quality video footage may be submitted on a USB drive. The footage should be filmed in landscape, not portrait. The footage should run between four and eight minutes in length. The video should contain the footage as specified in the regulations. The footage must be able to be viewed at normal speed and of sufficient quality for the horse, movement, markings and brands (if any) to be clearly viewed.
- 1.7.2 The Society accepts no responsibility for other files saved on a USB drive. The device containing the footage will not be retained by the Society or returned to the member. The owner should ensure that the device is not effected by a virus or malicious software. Footage saved on a USB drive should be able to be viewed with Windows Media Player.
- 1.7.3 The owner is required to submit device to Head Office with the application for registration. The owner must pay the inspection fee to the Society, prior to inspection. If accepted, the registration fee will be payable to the Society.
- 1.7.4 The horse must be filmed unsaddled as follows:
 - 1.7.4.1 Presented on a lead.
 - 1.7.4.2 Viewed in a stationary position from the front, rear, near and off sides.
 - 1.7.4.3 Front and rear views of the legs must be zoomed in for close inspection.
 - 1.7.4.4 All identifying marks must be zoomed in with commentary describing each marking and the position of same, ie white markings, indentations, scars, brands (if any), hair whorls, etc. These markings are to be verified by the Inspector against the application for registration.
 - 1.7.4.5 Presented at a walk and trot in a straight line directly towards and away from the camera - the handler should ensure that he/she does not obstruct the Inspector's view.
 - 1.7.4.6 Presented at a walk and trot in a full circle, which is between twenty and thirty metres in diameter.
- 1.7.5 It is not the Society's policy for a horse to be ridden, however, should the owner feel it is in their best interest they may do so, in addition to the above requirements.
 - 1.7.5.1 Under saddle the horse should demonstrate all paces; ie walk, trot and canter.
 - 1.7.5.2 The horse may also be shown in action to demonstrate its ability and temperament; ie gallop, stop, haunch turn, etc.
- 1.7.6 After the footage has been filmed, it should be viewed by the owner to ensure the horse is presented in the best possible manner, then forwarded to Head Office. When mailing the device, use an appropriate postpak.
- 1.7.7 The owner will be advised by Head Office of any footage considered to be unsatisfactory. The application for registration of the horse will be held, pending receipt of more suitable footage.

1.8 Inspection Complete

- 1.8.1 The inspector will complete and sign the inspection report (accept or reject) on the application of registration.
 - 1.8.1.1 If the horse passes inspection, the application will be considered by the Society. An inspection pass does not constitute acceptance by the Society of any such application, it will be considered in accordance with the Regulations.
 - 1.8.1.2 If the horse is rejected from video footage, the USB drive and Application for Registration will be held by the Society for a twelve month period.

1.9 Rejection

- 1.9.1 In the event of a horse being rejected, the following criteria will apply:
 - 1.9.1.1 The owner may have the horse re-inspected after a period of six months has lapsed from the original inspection. When re-inspected, the owner may choose a Video or Physical inspection. The owner of a horse rejected on the second inspection must lodge an appeal to the Board if they wish the horse to be inspected on a third occasion.
 - 1.9.1.2 Any owner not satisfied with the result of the original inspection, whether a Video or Physical Inspection, and who wishes the horse to be re-inspected within the six-month period, must lodge an appeal to the Board.
- 1.9.2 When submitting an appeal to the Board, the applicant must include the details of the horse, together with video footage of the horse on USB for inspection purposes (Refer– Inspection by Video) along with the prescribed appeal fee (non-refundable) in advance. The applicant must include a written request to the Board, outlining the reasons for the appeal. The Board may, should it seem fit, make enquiries with the Society Inspector whom rejected the horse. The Board may direct another Physical Inspection of the horse before exercising its discretion. The applicant will also be responsible for payment of any additional expenses incurred by the Society in reviewing the case. The determination of an appeal shall be a matter for the Board in its absolute discretion.