

# INTERNATIONAL PASO HORSE FEDERATION, INC.

## MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

The members of IPHF would like to thank the North American Icelandic Horse Breeders Association for their assistance in the development of this code of ethics.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose and mission of the International Paso Horse Federation is to promote the Paso show horse through shows, events and activities while maintaining the integrity, culture, history, and tradition of the Paso show horse.

### GENERAL STATEMENT OF ETHICS

IPHF members are encouraged to conduct themselves with integrity, honesty, and sportsmanship at all. The welfare of the horse is paramount and the horse shall at all times be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion.

#### Treatment and Training of Horses

All horses owned by, or in the care of, IPHF members shall be given a healthy environment, proper nutrition, and appropriate care at all times.

No member's horse may be treated in an inhumane manner; subjected to cruel or unusual treatment, abusive training methods, or used in a manner that jeopardizes the health or well being of the horse.

Members shall handle their horses responsibly in public places and shall do everything possible to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or animal.

Members shall condition and train horses naturally and to a level appropriate for the horse's age and maturity and shall avoid using any training methods which could be harmful to the horse physically or medically.

#### Breeding

Anyone breeding a mare or standing a stallion bears great responsibility to the future of the breed; therefore, breeders shall plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving and protecting the Paso show horse.

Breeders shall carefully select the stallion and mare with an eye to temperament, health, conformation, and the gait for which each of the Paso modalities is recognized.

#### Advertisement and Sales

Members' advertisement of Paso show horses, verbal or written, shall be factual and as forthrightly honest as possible in both substance and implication. Members are encouraged to conduct all business affairs with integrity, sincerity, and accuracy in an open forthright manner.

Members shall fully disclose to potential buyers all information about the horses offered for sale. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, behavior, health, 'gait' or lack of gait, vaccinations, soundness to purpose, registerability, and insurability.

Members shall be discriminating in the sale of all horses and concerned with the type of home in which they are placed. No member shall knowingly sell a horse to a buyer who is unable to provide the horse with a healthy environment, proper nutrition, and appropriate care.

For the protection of both buyer and seller, members should commit all sales agreements to writing and provide copies of such agreements, bearing original signatures, to both buyer and seller.

Members shall encourage buyers to have any horse being purchased examined by a veterinarian at the buyer's expense prior to taking possession of the horse. If, due to distance or other logistics, it is necessary for the Seller to arrange and supervise a pre-purchase veterinary exam, the Seller shall ensure that the exam is unbiased and that results are reported to the buyer fully and accurately.

#### Trainers and Professional Horsemen

Trainers and other professional horsemen associated with the Paso show horse are encouraged to act with integrity in financial dealings with clients, other professionals and the public.

Trainers and professional horsemen should fully disclose to customers the actual sales price and commissions involved in the sale or purchase of a horse and should never charge or receive a monetary commission, or other remuneration constituting a commission from *both* the buyer and seller of a horse. By engaging in honest and ethical business practices, the trainers and professional horsemen will instill confidence among clients and the public in the Paso show horse industry and will avoid any action conducive to discrediting membership in the International Paso Horse Federation.

#### General

Members are encouraged to supply this Code of Ethics to buyers, potential buyers, or mare owners or to otherwise make them aware of its existence.

Members shall at all times, whether at home, at shows or at other equine events, display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner that imparts credit to IPHF and the breed.

Members, to the best of their ability, shall support and assist the owner of any Paso show horse, regardless of where the horse was purchased, and inform the owner of other sources where they might also receive help.

Repeated failure of members to abide by this Code of Ethics shall result in a loss of membership in IPHF and withdrawal of any and all privileges such membership might enjoy along with forfeiture of any dues or fees paid as well as any other such action as might be deemed appropriate by the membership.