

Please write to Don Treadway, Tom Persechino Executive Director of AQHA to encourage the committee to drop the limit on Dressage points a horse and rider are able to earn. Make sure that you also request that the wavier the Judges membership fees until 2014, giving it 3 years without membership fees to help the discipline to grow

*Mail by regular mail to
Don Treadway Executive Director of AQHA
And a second one to
Tom Persechino Executive Director of Competition*

PO Box 200 Amarillo, Tx, 79168

*Please write AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!! So they know your opinion BEFORE the meeting the beginning of April so they can propose what we want. Please write right away as they just now have become aware that the horse owners may not like this rule and the faster the response the more impact it will have
Please email Don and the committee and mail an actual letter to Don Treadway at the AQHA office*

*Thank you
Marie Hoffman*

To Don Treadway, Executive Director of AQHA

Dear Sir

I have been following the progress of AQHA approving Quarter Horses to earn AQHA points in dressage for several years. I was thrilled that they were finally approved for 2010. The March QH Journal printed an article about my adventures in Dressage in 2010. But it has come to my attention that the executive committee is meeting the beginning of April to decide important rules that will affect those of us that are working hard to promote QH in the Dressage world.

I am requesting that the point limit be lifted from riders and horses that are earning points in Dressage, and that the judges be except from purchasing AQHA memberships till 2014 when it will be looked at again

There are only a few of us that have ventured out done what it takes to show the world what great Dressage horses AQHA horses can be. We paid for judge's memberships, did the paperwork and paid the fees to get the shows approved and then went out and showed our horses.

The point limit will greatly dampen this effort, AQHA has had articles in both their magazines and done a good job encouraging owners of AQHA horses to go out and give Dressage a try. But by limiting it the points it is telling those that do spend the money to get the memberships needed, get the shows approved and train their horses for another discipline that AQHA wants to limit the amount of success they can have in Dressage.

I have spoke to and emailed many AQHA members and ALL feel the point limit is "Shooting AQHA dressage in the foot"

Trying to force rider to move up the levels with point limits will not have the effect that I think you are looking for

The main point is that moving up the levels is not just training; Second level is HARD for most riders in Dressage especially those new to it and MANY horses will NOT be able to be successful at second Level and up. Most horses can do training level and first level to varying success. It is a HUGE jump in talent for both horse and rider to move up to second level. At the 21 shows I attended last year the majority of entries are at first level and below to green as grass, because of this difficulty and there were many other breeds there.

Riders want to be successful or they will stop spending the money to show. The economy is tough and anything that discourages showing will have a direct effect on the market of the AQHA horses that are being marketed to the Dressage discipline.

Of the 5 foals I had born in 2010, 3 have sold 3 early winter to the sport horse market , buyers excited about the success of my stallion in dressage and excited about showing for the AQHA programs and incentive fund. They will be quite disappointed if Dressage points are now limited.

This is a GOOD market and one that is still active in this slow economy. With the point limits this will effectively kill this market!

- Horses pointed out will have no value,
- There will be no “show point leaders”
- Many horses and riders will not have the skill or talent to move up to second level. Once a horse has pointed out there is NO incentive to keep showing dressage. Horses showing in HUS or any other open AQHA show class do not have to move up to keep showing.
- Buyers that want to go into showing dressage will pick another breed that has a better program of awards; with no limits and horse/rider earn the awards year after year.
- IF you look at the number of points the horses earned last year it is VERY LOW per horse compared to the amounts earned in the other classes.

I had hoped that AQHA would encourage in all ways the AQHA dressage horse. I LOVE the AQHA English type horse

Other breeders as myself are excited to be able to show and market their horses in the Dressage market. But feel as I do that AQHA is limiting the amount of success they can have by limiting the points and making the USEF judges have to be AQHA members.

I have sent in a letter before listing these reasons which I feel are valid

For the 10 reasons listed below.

1. Each level in Dressage is like a separate class at a normal horse show with each level becoming more difficult requiring more movements that are harder for the horse to do.
2. I am sure from the input from the many people I have contacted on this subject that Point limits will discourage participation, if Quarter Horses are not at the shows no one will know about them and what a great Dressage Horse they can be for many riders.
3. Dressage is a GREAT opportunity for another market for the very versatile Quarter Horse. In these tough market times all markets should be explored and promoted. When my stallion Indian Artbeat's yearling sold at the 2010 Congress Sale his price stalled at \$4000 but once my stallions accomplishments in Dressage were announced by the auctioneer it went up to \$7000 at which point he was sold. For me this is proof there is a marketing plus for Quarter horses Showing Dressage.
4. The AQHA market will miss the opportunity to expand the huge marketing advantage to encourage Dressage riders to purchase Quarter Horses as their next show horse especially if they see that Quarter Horses can be very successful, limiting the points will greatly dampen this market plan.
5. Fewer shows will be approved if points are limited because myself and others will not be making sure they are approved if we can't show our horses because they pointed out.
6. Point limits make it so there is NO possibility of being exceptional at each level. It is the records of those successful horses that encourage new riders in Dressage with Quarter Horses to give it a try, especially in these first years.

7. It takes a lot of training to train a horse to be successful in dressage. With the point limit it discourages the riders from wanting to venture out and retrain their horse with
8. A rider has to pay a lot of extra fees in order to show and earn points in dressage, an owner/rider has to pay fees for their horse and be yearly members to USEF and USDF in addition to AQHA fees. Yes the horse fees are once in a lifetime but the memberships to all must be kept up yearly. It costs quite a bit to get started

Another point

9. Should Dressage be allowed at the AQHA world show I could never qualify at training or first level as I would not be able to ever earn more points enabling me to qualify in either training level or first level. I agree many do not ever make it to the world show, but many do try. Like me the limit on points will limit many riders from being able to go.
USDF has a rule at the Regional Championship Show (like qualifying for the World Show) that if you qualify and show in one level you cannot show in that level again and MUST move up the next year. This type of rule would help encourage riders to move up the levels. IF that is your goal. You can qualify in the same level year after year but once you show you can't qualify at that level again and must move up.

In Conclusion

I have worked hard in 2010 to excite many about the possibilities out there and went out and did what it took to show others they can do it. Once I let them know there are limits if they become successful I am sure it will dampen their willingness to go out and give it a try. I know it sure does mine!

I would like to propose lifting the limit on points earned and that the judges be except from purchasing AQHA memberships till 2014 for 3 years to let the program get a good start. I have first hand seen the excitement over the Quarter Horse expanding into this new discipline. Then in 3 years look at it again to see if it needs revisions. I feel the limit of points in each level is too restricting and will not encourage quarter horses owners to explore this new avenue to promote their horses and overall the Quarter Horse breed as a Dressage horse.

I am grateful to those who made it possible to earn any points at recognized Dressage shows and would like to see their hard work reach its full potential.

Sincerely

Marie Hoffman Life member 1582570