

ANSWERS

of them were produced by the daughter of Bob Morgan. The importance of Senata, a full-blooded King, is seen in her five offspring from different stallions. The five other mares, Senata, begin to illustrate the importance of careful selection of sire and dam when producing his offspring. When you do a little research, and see that both Senata, and Senata, foaled in 1928, go by the name Daisy, the power of the genes becomes most evident! The poster is in four-colors, with each color-coded to make it easier to identify the same color scheme as the American Certificates, the poster is on a white background, with the horse's name and connected to each other by lines. The name of each horse's sire is included, creating an easily read graph of the sire lines. Finally, the poster is on a white background, similar to a road map, with an index of names and their positions, to make it easy for you to find the name of each horse quickly. The poster is a pleasing color and design, the poster is suitable for framing, but at a price of only \$12.50 you won't regret about writing your own reference! The poster is also the ideal addition to your AMHA Archive Cards. The Heritage Poster is available in the AMHA catalog. The price is \$12.50 for members or non-members, plus the shipping and handling as shown on the order form.

Recent members!

Conneautville, PA

Sebastopol, CA

Purcellville, VA
Washington, PA
Central Square, NY

Milford, MI
Cleveland, OH
Gentry, AR

WHY CHANGE IN-HAND SPECIFICATIONS

A few individuals have questioned the intent of the proposed In-Hand Judging Standards changes printed in the September issue of the *Network* for membership comments.

The proposals are a result of member input indicating a desire to make In-Hand classes available which are restricted to Morgans entered in specific classes or disciplines.

In reviewing these desires, it becomes apparent that our traditional In-Hand classes have deteriorated to the point that only a handful of breeders and, indeed, only a small percentage of exhibitors, ever participate in the In-Hand section.

Years ago, 70 to 80-percent of all horses at an all-Morgan show entered In-Hand classes. This was truly the "breeders division" where a breeder could compare the results of his/her own breeding program to that of the other breeders.

In considering ways to make these classes available, it is absolutely imperative that we guard against the possibility of encouraging diversity among breeders and exhibitors of Morgans. It is vital that all Morgan breeders remain on the same team. Our breed has been built on the premise that we have a great and multitalented horse. Given proper training, our Morgans can excel at almost any job we hand them.

Throughout the years, we have sought the help and advice of experts from other breeds who have extensive experience in a particular discipline. We have learned and developed as a breed because of this invaluable help. However, we have always found it necessary to guard against the temptation to listen when these experts suggest we should breed Morgans to look and move like the breed they have worked with and admired in their specific discipline.

We do not want a breed where our Morgan western horses look and move like Quarter Horses; nor do we want Morgan park horses showing the characteristics of Saddlebreds. Likewise, we want to see our dressage horses and hunters looking and moving like Morgans, not Thoroughbreds or Warmbloods. To desert this basic premise upon which the breed has been built would be a 180-degree turn from the principles set forth by those who have developed the Morgan since the days of Justin Morgan.

To assure unity of purpose within the breed, the proposed Judging Standards changes would allow In-Hand classes restricted to horses entered and/or shown in a particular performance class or section, but would require that those horses be judged against the same specifications for Morgan type and conformation which have been carefully developed throughout many years in the Morgan

Horse Judging Standards. A few individuals are concerned because this would require that the judges in these specialty In-Hand classes would, by necessity, have to study Morgan judging specifications for type and conformation and, in most cases, be required to be licensed as a Morgan judge.

This change seems a small price to pay if we can retain unity within the breed and a united effort to breed for the same Morgan horse.

If all In-Hand classes are judged primarily on Morgan type and conformation, breeders should be able to adjust their breeding programs based upon the results. And a superior individual should be qualified to win in Morgan In-Hand classes, regardless of the type of training he has received or the performance section in which he competes.

Let's all work together to promote the Morgan in all his glory and let's all try to breed the best Morgan individuals we can. If we do this properly, and if we then try to select the career for which each individual colt or filly is best suited, and if we all support every endeavor undertaken with a Morgan horse, we can continue to be proud of the horse America made. One horse—the best horse, capable of many varied careers if properly trained and promoted.

Robert Brooks, Chairman
AMHA Judging Standards Committee

The proposed verbiage is:

1) There is only one standard for type and conformation of the Morgan Horse. If In-hand, Suitable-To-Become or Halter classes are offered for horses entered in specific disciplines or specific classes (i.e. Suitable To Become Sport Horse; Sport Horse Suitability; Classic Pleasure In-Hand; Western Halter, etc.) horses MUST be judged against the criteria stated in the Judging Standards manual for the in-hand section.

If such classes are offered, show management must print the above in the prize list to assure there is no misunderstanding and that no horse will be judged against any standard for another breed, discipline or division.

The views of interested members will be considered before the final recommendations are made to the Board of Directors. Member responses will be taken from September 1-November 1. At that time, the Judging Standards Committee will make its final recommendation for revisions to the official Judging Standards.