

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LIPIZZAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA FORMATION COMMITTEE, with comments

From the Registration Subcommittee (consisting of Tom Hull, Jeff Kelly, Rennie Squier, and Melinda Suydam)

Date: March 13, 2007

The Registration Subcommittee, which was appointed at the 2006 Wilsonville, Oregon, LFA meeting, recommends the formation of a LFA Registration Committee, the adoption of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust as the repository for Lipizzan pedigree-related knowledge, and the formation of a LFA Breeders' Committee, with the structure, responsibilities and processes described below.

I. LFA and the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust

It is proposed that The Lipizzan Pedigree Trust function as a repository for collective pedigree and DNA knowledge and as a tool to be used by the LFA Registration Committee in screening LFA registry applicants.

Comments:

Jeff: It will be up to the LFA Formation Committee or LFA Board of Directors to negotiate a working relationship with the Trust and for LANA to transfer its interest and relationship with the Trust to LFA.

Tom: I agree, The Lipizzan Pedigree Trust should be the repository for Lipizzan records and information in North America.

Jeff: The LFA Board and the Trust will need to solve the question of accessibility. Tom states that the current Trust program, Alpha 5, is a modern database program that can export the database in all kinds of different formats. The Trust states that one of its objectives is to be a research source, but in order to truly serve a research function, the records need to be available in a format that can be accessed and used by a variety of LFA members and committees. The LFA Board and the Trust will need to work out how, and in what format, the database should be made available. Should the Trust compile a version on a regular basis (such as quarterly) that can be downloaded by the export methods Tom described and disseminated to specific locations? What should be in this database? Who should have access to this information? How widely should it be available? It is presuming that only the Trust's version of the information would be the official LFA version.

Melinda: The brand/type of database is not so important other than it be usable and upgradable by the office/registrar that needs it.

Melinda: I also have a problem with the database being solely controlled by any individual or small group. As it is now with the USLR the registrar (it's been me for

too long) has the main database, but every time I update it a copy of that update on a disk is given to the office to keep, along with the paper records. If something happened to me or if the USLR board decided I'd gone off the deep end they wouldn't have to send the sheriff to retrieve the records. And if a natural disaster or fire destroyed one copy the other would be available.

II. REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

A standing LFA Registration Committee will be formed to provide oversight, respond and report to the LFA Board of Directors, resolve conflicts and adapt the registration process to changing times and conditions. The Registration Committee shall be composed of the following three people:

- LFA Registrar (or Pedigree Coordinator)
- Chair of the Breeders' Committee
- At Large Member appointed by the LFA Board

As a minimum, at least one member of the Registration Committee should be a Trustee of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust.

Comments:

Jeff: I had initially proposed a separate DNA Coordinator as one of the three Registration Committee members.

Melinda: Registration being a group decision is not efficient, except in cases of questionable or imported horses that don't have parents already in the database. True, you don't want a person who treats the process as personal property to be doing it alone (the USLR has been there, done that), but a "group" implies that it will take more time than owners want. It really is an easy process; only time consuming when the new horse does not have many ancestors already in the database, like an import from Romania. When the foal has registered parents it simply takes entering the code numbers for the parents, the birth place/date/breeder/owner/dna information, and the database program spits out the registration. The only time input from more people is needed is when there is a "problem". We have had imported horses with incomplete pedigrees where we've needed help from the LIF, for instance.

Jeff: I am reading Melinda's comments to mean that we probably do not need a separate DNA coordinator. We could simply have the Office handle the DNA processing and report the results to the LFA Registrar. If the DNA results raise a question, then the application would be referred to a three person Registration Committee which would resolve the problem and possibly make recommendations to the LFA Board about changes in requirements and procedures.

Rennie: I think that the Office could do the DNA stuff just fine. Perhaps the

Registration Committee could contain one member at large appointed by the Board of Directors.

A. Registration Overview

For the purpose of ensuring that a LFA registration application receives timely screening and LFA members have accessible communication regarding status, the functions of paperwork, pedigree analysis and DNA testing will be separated.

1. The LFA Office will be responsible for receiving registration applications and DNA test material, and communicating and/or forwarding this material to the LFA Registrar and appropriate Registration Committee member(s) and/or DNA testing facility. The Office will be available to and respond to LFA members regarding all registry matters.

Comments:

Jeff: I propose that the USLR “Office” become the LFA “Office”. This is consistent with the vote at the Wilsonville LFA meeting where ~90% of those in attendance voted in favor of having an Office to handle the day-to-day operations of LFA. The Office would serve to see that registration procedures occur in a timely manner, to help separate registration process from registration decision and to maintain email records of correspondence and the registration process.

Jeff: First, whatever we recommend will be considered by the LFA Formation Committee and I presume they will either accept our recommendations or revise them.

One of their big decisions will be about the Office. I have included an Office in the registration process I have proposed because an Office makes the process much more efficient and timely. The LFA Formation Committee will have to decide whether an Office can be afforded or not.

Tom: I have never been in favor of paying for something which volunteers are willing to do, but I understand that I will be out voted on this issue. My problem is not that an office wouldn't be great, it is that we are a small organization and I question if we can financially afford this luxury. This problem can be offset by raising the fees. Since there will only be one organization, I would think this a possibility.

Melinda: If the USLR, a small organization, could have footed the bill for an office for the last 10 years despite dire predictions of financial ruin, I would assume a larger organization could afford it even more. And volunteers get burned out, drop to ball, forget, have better things to do, go on vacations, only answer the phone when they're home which may not be often..... you get the picture.

A professional office is open 5 days a week during business hours. When one person retires, is sick, is on vacation another employee takes over. The membership is much happier because things get done and there is a real person to talk to. The people at the office deal with organizations of all types (and know how to talk with difficult people that I would hang up on). And..... NONE OF THEM OWNS A LIPIZZAN and therefore are much less likely to have political chains to pull and breeders they are beholden to (another thing that happened in the USLR in the years before an office).

2. The LFA Registrar will be responsible for managing and updating the pedigree database (in coordination with the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust), for evaluating registry application pedigrees against the LFA criteria, and for providing registration decisions to the Office.

The following is a deleted section.

The DNA Coordinator will be responsible for managing and updating the DNA database (in coordination with the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust) and for evaluating registry application pedigrees against the LFA criteria and providing a decision to the Office. The DNA Coordinator will also act as a liaison with the DNA testing facility on any non-routine matters (routine testing communications will be handled by the Office).

Comment Jeff: Should we revise or eliminate the DNA Coordinator? Should the Office forward DNA results to the LFA Registrar for an official decision, or should the Office communicate directly with the applicant when the results confirm parentage and only send the results to the Registration Committee members when there is a question of parentage?

3. Registration Process

- 1) An LFA member submits the required application, fees and DNA test material to the Office. (See details in the accompanying proposed LFA Registration Regulations and Procedures document.)
- 2) The Office processes the application as follows:
 - a. Reviews all material for completeness and responds to LFA member making application (preferably via email) regarding receipt of all materials (or conversely of further materials needed to start registration process). This communication should have standard language regarding what to expect during the registration process and contact information for any questions. ***The next steps will not be taken by the Office until the registration material is deemed complete.***
 - b. The Office will submit the pedigree portion of the application to the LFA Registrar for review.

- c. The Office will submit the DNA testing material to the DNA testing facility and notify the LFA Registrar of the submittal. The DNA test facility will submit results to the Office. The Office will send confirmation of approval to the LFA Registrar or notify the Registration Committee when parentage is not confirmed. The Office will forward a copy of the DNA results for inclusion in the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust records.

Comment: In this way copies of the DNA records will be maintained both by the Office and the Trust.

- d. Upon receipt of the LFA Registrar's approval, the Office is authorized to register the applicant. This will include notifying, via email, all three members of the Registration Committee and, separately, the LFA member making application of the approval.
- e. The Office will order an official pedigree from the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust and upon receipt the Trust will send the official pedigree to the applicant.

Comment: It makes sense to have the Trust simply send the official pedigree directly to the applicant if the Trust is willing to undertake this part of the process.

- 3) The LFA Registrar, upon receipt of applicant pedigree records, will use the resources of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust to examine the pedigree, compare the pedigree to registration criteria approved by the LFA Board, issue a decision on the acceptability of an applicant pedigree to the Office and, upon receiving notification from the Office that the horse has passed the DNA parentage test, issue to the applicant an official LFA pedigree chart and certificate of registration.

The following is a deleted section.

[4) The DNA Coordinator upon receipt of an applicant pedigree, will use the resources of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust to examine the DNA test of an applicant horse to LFA, compare the DNA results to registration criteria approved by the LFA Board, and issue a decision on the acceptability of an applicant horse for registration by LFA to the Office.

[The Subcommittee recommends the LFA Board request a complete set of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust's DNA records be supplied to the DNA Coordinator. The DNA Coordinator maintains and is to be responsible for the completeness of these records and is to be responsible for updating the DNA records in the Trust on a regular basis. When the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust has moved the Trust's database to a modern database format, then the DNA records should be maintained by the Trust and updated by the DNA Coordinator.]

Comments:

Melinda: The DNA is an important part of the registration process. If the DNA does not prove parentage, then the offspring can't be registered. On more than one occasion the DNA has disproved parentage. In one case, it turned out a yearling colt was the actual sire of a foal, not the owner's breeding stallion. In my opinion, the DNA and registration clerical work should be part of the professional office chores. The USLR DNA kit ordering and coordination with the lab is currently handled by the Office. This is efficient.

No one person should choose the testing facility, any more than one person or group of friends should be in sole charge of the data. This will represent (hopefully) all the Lipizzan owners in the US (and Canada, unless they form their own group). The lab and the Office should be chosen by the board of the LFA.

But whatever lab is chosen (and Davis works very well), I won't be doing it. As soon as is possible, **I'm retiring as registrar**. I'm 62 years old, I've volunteered for 10 years, and it's time to move on. My biggest concern right now is that whoever/whatever takes over operating the registry does so in a manner that reflects democratic/member owned principles. The USLR had a problem many years ago with registrars making their own rules and volunteer offices that got around to doing things when, and if, they felt like it. We need younger blood here, my friends, because otherwise they will still be sending registration forms to us in the nursing home ;-)

Rennie: I think that the Office could do the DNA stuff just fine.

4) In the case of **denial of approval** the LFA Registration Committee will review the application together and make a joint decision to either:

- Deny the application, in which case a letter to the LFA Member and Board (to be sent via the Office) will be composed stating the reasons for denial.
- Make a recommendation to the LFA Board to allow registration even though the horse does not meet registration criteria. This may require modification of registration criteria through the appropriate process prior to allowing registration of the horse.

4. Appeal Process

If a horse is denied registration with the LFA, an LFA member may make an appeal in writing to the LFA Board. The LFA Board will decide whether or not to review the denied registration by the next regularly scheduled meeting. Any review conducted will screen the applicant against LFA Registration Criteria in effect at the time.

5. LFA Registration Criteria Modification

Any LFA member (including members of the LFA Registration Committee) may propose modification to the LFA Registration Criteria, by submitting a written proposal to the LFA Board. Proposed modifications will be handled as followed:

- The LFA Board may solicit recommendations from knowledgeable sources, if appropriate.
- The proposed modifications (and any solicited recommendations) will be reviewed by the LFA Registration Committee which will issue a formal recommendation to the LFA Board.
- The LFA Board may approve or deny all or part of the proposed modification.

III. LFA BREEDERS' COMMITTEE

The LFA Breeders' Committee shall be made up of 5 members in good standing of the LFA appointed by the LFA Board of Directors. At least three of the members of the LFA Breeders' Committee should be active breeders (breeding and registering three or more purebred Lipizzan foals each year).

The LFA Breeders' Committee would have goals of preserving the breed, minimizing the effects of genetic disorders and disease, and maintaining breed diversity.

The functions of the LFA Breeders' Committee will be:

- (1) Maintain a Stud Book containing information on evaluated breeding stock and their progeny.
- (2) Establish breeding criteria and recommendations of use to breeders of Lipizzan horses.
- (3) Recommend methods of evaluation and establish evaluation criteria which support the breeding of Lipizzans which meet the breed standard established by the LFA and the LIF.
- (4) Coordinate LFA breeders' activities including breeding stock evaluations and breeders and judges trainings.

Additional items discussed by the Registration Subcommittee.

1. Selection of DNA testing facility

The consensus of the Subcommittee is that the selection of the DNA testing facility be up to the LFA Board of Directors. There are good arguments for going with either of the two currently utilized facilities at U of Kentucky and U of California at Davis. Both laboratories are competent in what they do.

Comments:

Jeff: Do we leave the selection of the DNA testing facility up to the LFA Board, or do we make a recommendation?

Melinda: The DNA lab and the Office should be chosen by the Board of the LFA.

2. DNA testing criteria and testing protocol

It does not appear that specific LFA DNA testing criteria are needed. The standard procedures employed by either lab, provides proof of parentage and proof of breed.

Comments:

Tom: LANA's Criteria: DNA technology using microsatellites will be used to identify equine parentage and provide information for future genetic traits and disease diagnosis. All LANA registered breeding stock within the continental United States must be DNA typed by January 1, 1996. **No horse will be registered unless the DNA results are filed with the LANA registration office.** This includes all horses that have been imported as well as all foals and previously unregistered Lipizzans. Application must be made to the main office to receive kits and DNA forms.

Melinda: The UC Davis lab has criteria for parentage verification. The last time this lay person was in a genetics lab was over 30 years ago, so when the DNA report says that the stated sire and dam qualify (or don't) as parents I accept it. Do we need to have our own criteria?

3. MOVING from LANA and USLR registration to LFA registration:

A grandfather clause is included in the accompanying proposed Regulations and Procedures document.

Comments:

Rennie: We are proposing the acceptance of all horses previously registered by LANA or USLR for registration. I wonder if we should modify this by saying all those horses previously registered by USLR or LANA unless the pedigree is in question by the LIF.

Jeff: After spending a lot of time thinking about this, my current thought is that we accept all registered USLR and LANA horses into LFA and set up criteria for new horses to be registered in LFA and move forward.

This sidesteps a lot of bones of contention. I know that there are horses registered in LANA that are highly inbred like those in Mexico. There are horses that may have been registered as a favor to their owners by former or current Registrars of LANA or USLR that are part breeds. This is one of the reasons for moving to an LFA Registration Committee with three members, so that a single person can not subvert the LFA Registration criteria. I realize that there are rumors about certain horses and certain owners. By accepting all previous registered horses we do not solve these problems, but the time involved to review every single horse seems

prohibitive. It may be that the LFA Breeding Committee may have to address specific rumors and make recommendations about breeding or not breeding to the suspect horses.

Melinda: This registrar has never registered any horse, pure Lipizzan or part, as a favor to anyone. However, I do think a small committee for reviewing imported horses or any horse with parents not already in one of the registries is important. At this point, the USLR discourages inbreeding, but there are no rules forbidding it. That would need board discussion and a rule change, but I would not be opposed.

When the USLR started and the LIF wasn't around yet some horses were registered that had what turned out to be only partial pedigrees. This was largely because nobody knew what the standard should be and there were very few Lipizzans in the country. Some of these early horses turned out to have a hole in the pedigree that was due to a non-Lipizzan ancestor. When the LIF requirement was adopted it was felt that it wouldn't be fair for these horses to be booted out of the registry when they had been registered in good faith, but they still needed to be separated somehow from known purebred registrations. The USLR created for them the Appendix registry. A few will remain there and are considered only part Lipizzan by the LIF. Other holes have been filled in the years since the Iron Curtain came down and those horses are now proven to be purebred Lipizzans.

There are some people with other opinions about the Trombina Empress horses. My personal opinion is that they are purebred (even those that doubt the name of the sire acknowledge that) and I would be agreeable to Jeff's suggestion.