



RACKING HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
67 Horse Center Road, Suite B • Decatur, AL 35603

HEADQUARTERS
DECATUR, ALABAMA
(256) 353-7225

FAX (256) 353-7266

E-mail: info@rackinghorse.com

Website: www.rackinghorse.com

1. Do you think the RHBA should consider eliminating the use of the "chain" as an action device?

144 - Yes

139 - No

3 Year Step down

That was the start of downfall

I think it is a little late for "considering" part.

If you take the chains away you will have fewer people taking part

2. If your answer to number 1 was "Yes", should the Board of Directors leave the elimination of the chain to be effective before the Spring Show of 2015 as it first moved? Or, should the use of the chain be eliminated by April 2016, using a step down process?

121 - Eliminate by mid-April of 2015

23 - Eliminate by mid-April of 2016

Step down in 3 years

Or choice # 3 immediately

Although I said "No" to #1, if RHBA were to consider eliminating the chain as an action device, I believe it would be to do it over time. I think a 3 to 5 year plan is more appropriate. 2015-2016 is not long enough for people to make this adjustment without creating hardship on owners, trainers and exhibitors.

The timing is the issue with the bills before congress, looking like we are jumping ship or throwing the walking horses under the bus is my main problem with this decision we have always been supported by the walking industry in many ways, giving any credence to the argument that the chain sores a horse is the other reason timing was bad.

3. If your answer to number 1 was "Yes", is it because you think it will help the RHBAA to regain its identity, distinguishing it as a standalone breed and organization, or because you think it will help with public perception thus with government intervention, or because of both?

24 - To help regain the Racking Horse identity and becoming a standalone breed and organization

5 - To help with public perception

118 - Both

Most of all the well-being of the horse

Neither

Again, I answered "No" to #1, but I think is all has to do with both public perception and government intervention.

To prevent abuse of horses

To stop something that is wrong and stupid

We have tried to close the books to become a stand-alone breed before and the membership wanted them reopened. That is the only way to be a true breed. Now saying that we are stand-alone show organization is totally different from a true breed of horses.

Before Racking allowed Big walking to dictate to Racking – Racking Fast becoming no one we screwed up!!!!

N/A It won't make a difference without the chains people will just do other things to the horses to make them perform that are worse than the chains!

4. The Racking Horse gait is currently too loosely defined and needs to be better defined. Do you agree with this statement?

165 - Agree

109 - Disagree

Needs more respect make everyone treated same?

It needs to be natural (ONLY!!!)

People will always have preferences; some like horses "more racky" other prefer "more walky" this has been debated since Joe Bright.

I am 100% for the use of the chain!

Just tie the best horse that night!!!

Not the "gait" but the way it is judged the gait is defined clearly in the rule book.

I do not feel racking horse is too loosely defined... it boils down to the "lick" judges are going to tie becoming the "standard". Defining starts with the judges.

Go back to the original Rule Book

The gait is already defined. Crooked judges are the problem. They don't judge the horse, they judge the rider.

The judging doesn't always match the rule book

Seems that the lie detection test thinned out the list of people who would judge or at least that is the way it appears to me interesting.

For years the judges have set the identity for the racking horse by what is tied in the ring! What happened to the rule book no one can go by it and be tied by our judges today?

This is not the 1970's horses change over the years

Before the chain was legalized we had as many bare legged horses as we have in both categories now.

This has been the 64.00 question for as long as there been a rule book, trying to define in words and applying the words to judging is the and always has been, the daunting task. Again opinions differ from one person to another even when both read the same material, as to what it means or the application.

5. The image of the RHBAA and or the Racking Horse identity is greatly controlled from center ring, by the judges (the type of horse or the gait that gets tied best will usually dictate what the members and or trainers put in the ring, and thus that determines the image and identity). Do you agree with this statement?

231 - Agree

38 - Disagree

The perception is set by the judges not by the rule book.

STRONGLY AGREE!!!!!!!!!!

The judges at center ring are required to judge the horses that come home the gate, difference of opinion to type horse or gait between judges is human. The image of the racking horse is controlled by the membership and participants/supporters

But we know right from wrong

It is easier to judge if you tie the horse doing the most within the guidelines

Yes to a degree but not fully

Somewhat

I do agree that the image and identity of the Racking Horse is controlled mostly by the judges. There is extreme bias and corruption among the judges. It is the buddy system. If you are not in the click it doesn't matter if you have the best horse or not. At lot of judges (Not all judges) do not judge the horse-they judge everything but the horse.

I'm not changing my horses to suit every judge.

Yes, but judges tie based on who rides the horse. It has nothing to do with the type or gait.

Too bad but true

Think judges should be informed and trained what to look for not choosing winners above the saddle (Riders)

We allowed Big Walking & Money to pick and dictate the judges.

Racking Rolls/ Walking Reach

6. Would you like to see the RHBAA Racking Horse with a little more reach than has been the previous 3 or 4 years, with a little less reach than has been the previous 3 or 4 years, or to leave it as it has been?

36 - A bit more reach

123 - A bit less reach

115 - Same

If you mean more forward than up then a bit more the original defined true 4 beat balanced rack is what you need to promote

MUCH LESS

No consistency to the way it has been with in the past 4 years.

Racking was becoming the best horses in show rings- we screwed up!!!!

I would like it to move naturally whatever reach that is probably less than is shown

Should be real not artificial, some horses have more natural **each** than others.

The True gait

Image/ Reaching: In my opinions as a previous judge, the overall picture is under consideration. Having a lot of reach doesn't always mean" bad image/too much reach... it all depends on the natural/ artificial look, does the "timing of the horses gait have a fluid movement not to square or pacey, can the horse do 2/3 without losing form, etc, it is hard to dissect that trait from the overall lick, that being said, not that many have lots of reach and all the fluid natural lick, "artificial" is easy to spot

If you are referring to the front- end reach/level/ breaking point, I do not believe there has been any consistency with the amount reach a horse has in the front- end. The biggest issue in my opinion is how deep or how much reach the horse has in the rear and that is where the walking horse image is overtaking the true racking horse.

Too much reach like a walking horse

If you are referring to reach in the rear end then I believe less. Reach / Height in the front I do not believe there has been and consistency.

7. Would you be in support of a revamping of the judges program and in that instilling an ability to better scrutinize the decisions made by the judges, based upon the defined gait and or the rule book, and then an ability to hold accountable those that greatly differ and or that repeatedly differ from the expectation set by the membership.

222 - In support of number 7

43 - Not in support of number 7

No, this was tried and failed in the 80's it causes a lot of dissension!

Too subjective, Should know the standards set in rule book the human element is involved and not everyone can agree on best horse.

Then everyone would be looking at the same uniformed gate.

Always the best horses that is the first thing to start doing all the time!

Judges/ judging system: It has been a long time since I had my judge's license, but it appears to me that the current guidelines (if enforced) seem adequate. I "sense" a need for stranger leadership over that committee and a proactive approach towards educating the judges we have. Despite the fact that there are many knowledgably. judges, there are others that may live in areas where they don't have the exposure that our area has, and they want/ need to be kept in the loop.

It is my opinion... however, the head of the committee has the responsibilities to act on a proactive manner and not operate on assumptions. It is a big job responsibility which require a certain dedication.

Judges need to get back to racking or get out or put out!

The mountain horse industry tried this venue and that industry is so fractured they are in worse shape than we are. What not just have a handful of judges and have them judge the way the RHBAA wants? That is what this will come to.

As long as judges are human, opinions will differ we have already tried, in this bred. To have a steward program and the complaint was that one or a few people were trying to tie all the classes instead of judges leading to unfair prejudicial treatment were the claim.

8. Would you agree that the outcome for the RHBAA is better when it is privately and or individually ran, ran by the members represented by 3 to 5 directors, or ran by the members represented by 12 or more directors?

32 - Better when privately and or individually ran

67 - Better with 3 to 5 directors

160 - Better with 12 or more directors

The TWHBEA stopped listening to the then "back yard" folks, even though we made up over 80% of the member and registrations of colts + horses and look where they are today.

But I think 7 would be better

As long as RHBAA is membership owned. If I an individual or a group were to buy RHBAA they should be able to run it as they see fit.

Doesn't matter whether it is run by 1 or 100 if integrity is compromised furthermore as long as politics and or favoritism play a factor if this is not taken seriously what it matters.

Can't Agree with this without knowing who

Each zone should be represented

Joe bright was 100% better than what you have now!

Membership owned should be members represented

It does not matter the quality of people is what matters not the number!

No opinion as do not know

If rules are not in forced kicked out

Not really sure about this one. It should not be "privately" run but do only 3-5 directors really represent the whole membership or does 12 "cooks" make too many in the kitchen.

Been under all three types of organization of the RHBAA, clearly if the breed is to survive it has to member owned and governed.

According to who it is

Didn't think we had a problem that way it is

I think the ideal number would be 7 to 9 directors

This question is hard to answer because I do not know the complete history of the organization, but I do believe the members need a voice and the only way I know to accomplish that is by having directors. The directors need to represent the people they serve and do what the people want not what they want for themselves. I know there are tough decisions to be made, but the directors have to educate the people and have valid information to support the cause.

No Trainers

No Trainers

Can't answer "Yes" or "No" to this question the way it is worded. Would depend on who the private owner was and what determined no. Members according to memberships on states or other etc

9. If your answer to number 1 was "no", would you change your answer to "yes" if you thought it would relieve any negative public perceptions?

142 - I would Not change my answer

23 - I would change my answer to "Yes"

Public perceptions not the problem, it is strictly a difference in views of some in the humane society that have made it their goal in life to remove the chain and pads. Removing the chain from the racking horse will not save the pads, so if that is the motivation it is unfounded.

Public perception is based on media bias and slant on the news.

It is the best class we have

If they kept the Horse sound and didn't use the other way to make them go.

My answer was yes bringing it back. A natural horse will.

There will never be a totally positive perception because people make no effort to find out the facts.

10. If your answer to number 1 was “no”, would you change your answer to “yes” if you thought it would allow opportunity to be removed from being specifically named in the Horse Protection Act

122 - I would Not change my answer

36 - I would change my answer to “Yes”

The horse protection is good for the horse go back to natural all will come back

We will not be removed from the HPA by removing the chain, to suggest or promote that is misleading and fundamentally wrong. We were in the HPA long before the chain was used. Anyone who says or promotes that removing the chain will either save the Racking padded show horse or remove us from the HPA is either very naive or totally misinformed.

H.P. doesn't know anything it needs to be licensed vet or assistant.

Unless you change the name that will happen

The horse is still a Tennessee Walking Horse Are you going to change to just Racking mules?

I believe the membership only should vote on the judges for the spring and fall celebration. The top vote getters should be the judges. I believe this would increase membership and alleviate the chance of cheating.

Let the government make the final call on action devices, don't make it for them. TWHEA is not cutting chains “Action Devices” out of their program.

- 1.) Only way to get removed from HPA is to change organization name
- 2.) Just from 7 mile stables alone you will lose \$25,000 a year. I know! I write the checks!!!

It is the horse protection act, not the TWH, Racking, or spotted Horse Act, HSUS will not stop till all horses are useless!

Not going to happen

That's not going to happen

That's never going to happen

Being removed from the HPA is not going to happen.

They ain't going away

I would consider it

Not going to happen

There are very few guarantees when it comes to the government. I wouldn't be the farm on any breed of horse being removed.

It won't matter. Government will find a way to cause a new problem. The chain isn't the problem It's abusive trainers!

It is possible that I may change my answers to "yes" if I thought it would allow an opportunity for the Racking Horse to be removed from being name specifically in the Horse Protection Act; however, there would have to be clear and concise information on how this would be accomplished. In other words, it just cannot be something we are being told is a possibility – it needs to have strong support from the powers that be and I would not be inclined to believe any acknowledgement of this if it were solely coming from the USDA.

Signature (signature required) Date

There may be other important comments or questions that you may have about these listed issues and or about others. Please indicate those below.

- 1.) The "chain" was voted in by membership should be removed by vote of membership. RHBAA is owned by the members
- 2.) We have a Rule Book that for most part as for rules for judging and rules for judges when. Rules are broken. Rules enforcement and judges committees should handle cases that come before them and make decisions with evidence presented and gathered by them. 2013-2014 judges committee proved to board of Directors this can work!! Don't need to go to extreme of revamping just yet, as mentioned in the rule. If something works, don't mess with it!!

I do not believe a child in lead line should have to have a show card.

In my opinion if we lose the chain we are done

The chain is not what has hurt the RHBAA. It is the judging. The average Joe can't participate anymore and get a fair tie. You have to have a trainer. The trainers dictate what goes on with the judging and money or course. Take the chain and you will see more scaring we don't need that.

IMO I think that the horse would be sounder with a chain. No chain = more soring and pressure shoeing. One more problem I got asked to leave my class because we had to much head shake. That's OK because we had to much head shake. But, I seen many many more with the same that got to show. Be the same for everybody. I also have a problem with the DQP. If you get a scar ticket then stick with it. Don't give "Some" a lesser so they won't get a suspension. Be the same for everyone.

The member should vote on the chain or action device and the vote by the member should be final. The chain or action device was voted on by the membership so the member should be allowed to vote whether or not to take it out.

We have a rule book, with by laws for the RHBAA to go by. This should not be changed by a dictatorship the members should vote on the chain or action device and the vote by membership be final. This board was elected by the membership and they should not forget that.

I don't think taking chain out will help board needs to be no trainer. Judges tie horses not trainers.

Directors should only serve (2) terms. The president should only serve (1) term.

I don't feel that a chain is any different than a person wearing a watch or jewelry.

I am truly divided within myself on this, I see some of the reason to remove them and become a stand-alone breed again, but removing the device will still cause trainers / owners to add the weight elsewhere and some trainer/owners to sore these animals' worse. I will support the RHBAA no matter the outcome, let's go show.

Needs to be one person in charge of RHBAA, too many people trying to run the association

If the chains are taken away it will be worse on the horse, people will go to different extremes like pressure shoeing to get the excitement that we have all come to know.

I believe 12 directors would be better for the RHBAA. DO not take away action devices, more horses are in these classes than your other chains.

1. U will not get us removed from HPA
2. GOV is blowing smoke up Chris's butt and laughing at him
3. Me and my family this is our livelihood not urs
4. It's not broke it don't need fixing
5. Put the pencil to ure idea sees how much money ure gonna loose it isn't rocket science its simple math.

I just joined the Racking Association last year and the 2 horses we own are both ridden with chains. I do feel if you take away the chain that member will not show as much and it would be a dramatic blow to RHBAA

The RHBAA Board of Directors is going to have to work hard to restore member's faith in the board's ability to govern. If I was a board member who voted for no chains, I would not show a chain horse until this is resolved! Not everybody can change horses always shown with a chain not can we afford to buy another horse and sell ours for a discount to move it.

There is a lot of competition among the judges. There needs to be a way to better control it. A true racking horse can be ridden with a chain but should not be judged/compared to a walking horse. Chain or no chain is not going to deter the USDA / Horse Protection Act.

Judge Classes according to Rule Book

The chain has brought the RHBAA back to life. It is just that simple and anyone that thinks there will be enough bare legged horses to support the breed is kidding themselves. The chain is the only reason me and my family became interested again in showing.

Too many great horses would no longer have a place within our breed if the chain were to be eliminated.

Too many comments to list!!!

All racking trainers use chains at "home" so why not show with them. Years ago, chains weren't allowed on show grounds hence the lot next door was used so horses could wear chains. Racking horses can't ignore use of chain.

In my opinion the Gov. Wants pads along with chains removing chains gives the Gov. More ammo against everyone. Last year all our horses looked great so there's no sense changing.

I don't think that the govt. will guarantee to stay away. Just by us giving in the chains. You just gave them more ammo to take more. It has been the problem all along.

I respect Chris and all of the Board of Directors. But since the membership voted the chains in -- I think they should be the ones to vote them out. I also don't feel removing the chains would keep us any with the USDA. My opinion only!

Too much looking about the saddle judges need to be held accountable.

I think that the chain on the Horse is much better for the trainer and the horse, than "not" having the chain on the horse in the horses performing. But the government may not allow it because they think it is harming the horse, but I think it is much easier on the horse.

I think that the chain or action device should stay on the horse. I think that the judges should tie racking horse and not walking horse. I can see were these horses have been "walking" horses before they became Racking horses. I think they should remain Racking horses and Racking horses "Gait"

From what I understand, these are "loaded" questions and a "maybe" would be counted as a negative for chains. I am 100% for chains. The chains changed the image of the racking horse from a crumpled up pressure shod horse to a bigger free going animal that is exciting to watch and show as is evidence by your chain classes being the largest classes. There was room for both chain and non-chain horses in Decatur. Yet the chain horses were discarded like old trash. Economically class sizes, participation, growing interest have all increased since adding chains. I told many people how much fun it was in Decatur and what a good job the Board was doing. Everything was going smoothly and most all of us were getting along then out of the blue -- chains gone. It just does not make any good sense to me. Somehow I think question #10 is quiet telling on what might have been said by USDA. Make no mistake- the HPA is a Law. It would be almost impossible to change that law because when they open up the HPA for changes, it is all on the table and the industry for USDA want that. So that won't happen even if it did. Racking Horses won't be removed. We have poorly educated the public on chains. Instead of taking them away. If we'd had to show in mandatory 6-10oz. chain every horse would be shown sound. And anyone who does not understand that needs not be making decision for the rest of us.

I think the chain had helped broaden over breed. Yes it is true that many of our chain horses are simply walking horses that didn't make the cut. I do believe though that the image of our horse is controlled from center ring. If they tie walking horses, that's what we have. With that said there are still true racking horses out there. Even chain horses. I'm afraid that eliminating the chain will in turn cause many to leave permanently. However it would lighten our load from the government pressure. I think it's a worthy consideration. Currently I'm not sure we have much of a public image. I fear many don't even know what our breed of horse is any longer. That in my opinion should be the #1 focus of the organization. Redefine our true image and focus on it. In the past I feel like the RHBAA has been so focused on the two shows we have per year. Why? Without a true breed what's the point? Let someone else run the show focus on the root of the problem.

I think the chain classes bring in more horses in which more money is spent with the RHBAA. Chain classes have doubled the horses in them, than the non-chain classes do. DQP's seem to be their job well, why do away with chains?

I don't not believe that professional trainers should be allowed on the board due to the conflict of interest

The reason "chains" were introduced to RHBAA was because the industry was going down the tubes. Basic economics said we needed to get more entries. If the chains had not been introduced we already could not exist financially. If the horses were capable of performing without chains they would already be doing so. There is less competition in the barelegged classes. Just go to pleasure flat shod classes and be done with it. Without chains the industry will revert back to "old training" methods.

I feel the Walking Horse has come in their presentation or image toward the Racking horse and over defined image. If we are to do away with the chain the owners should have time to move toward this step-down instead of overnight. Unless we are assured by uniting that by do so the government would leave us alone!

Shouldn't be trainers on the board

As the statement in the last Voice Mag the story was so true- Please Read the article these check: Animal Controlled Idols" need to be eliminated you can get a sound horse in not all horses walk the same.

I am Enclosing a Letter

A racking horse should float its back end

Too many Judges dislike certain trainers and won't tie their horses. This affects a lot of customers and is unfair. It happened at Miss. St. Show It needs to stop, look at every horse and judge the horse, not the rider.

I fought against action devices for Racking Horses for many years. I feared that we would lose the identity of the breed. Time has proven me to be correct. When the same horse shows at The Walking Horse Celebration and The Racking Horse Celebration, you do have an identity problem between the two breeds. I understand it is easier to train and to enhance the natural actions of a horse with action devices, but the public perception is too great to overcome. I believe it is a matter of time before we lose both the pads and the action devices. On the matter of whether or not to eliminate pads and action devices by 2015 or 2016, it would make no difference to me personally, but I do feel that the general membership should be informed and an education process follow, because many member do not understand the events that will happen within the next one or two years.

I was chair of the Twin Cities Horse Show for 20 years a good natural horse will rise to the top. Walk was on the way out, a natural walking is fine a horse (a fixed horse will not get a good horse we all know that)Thanks to all who wants to go back to Natural Racking. Call me I will help sort this out. 706-392-6161

I began showing many years ago and really miss our racking horse please get the walking horse out of our show ring!!

I do strongly feel that the chain action device should not be removed from the racking horse industry. There are many true racking horses that have to compete against walking horses in the show ring. Many times the judge will select the walking horse over the racking horse due to the deep hind reach the walking horse exhibits along with the excessive head shake. This is unfair to the true racking horse and is a constant frustration to those exhibitors who find themselves competing against walking horses. RHBAA needs define the image of a chain action device racking horse, set standards, and hold the judges accountable. As I stated previously, the RHBAA judges have a strong reputation of judging form saddle up and this has deterred exhibitors from showing at RHBAA sanction shows. I support RHBAA as a registry for our breed and I do not want to see the breed become extinct. There is a place within the RHBAA for the chain action device horse and RHBAA should continue to support the division, but the judges have to be held accountable for doing the right thing which may be far more challenging than dealing with the USDA. Owner's trainers and exhibitors have to be accountable. Greed got us where we are today and eliminating it will be nearly impossible. We all know the chain action device racking horse does not truly have the same motion/reach as a walking horse, but this has been overlooked for too long by the judges. At the end of the day, the judges need to be comparing apples to apples and not apples to oranges. I personally do not think the USDA will be satisfied with just elimination the chain action device – They want the pads and weighted shoes removed too. So with that in mind I believe RHBAA will start down a path of no return if they so choose to eliminate the action device. I need to see some strong evidence and documentation on how the racking horse can be removed from the Horse Protection Act before I am willing to change my mind on the chain action device. I would not place my trust in the USDA or elected government officials that they will do the honorable thing.

I know the RHBAA has come under criticism for the stance they took on removing the chain action device, but I would like to know more about what information they received from the USDA that encouraged them to do so. There has been information disseminated stating there was indeed a meeting between RHBAA and the USDA, but what are the facts? I was told by my director that RHBAA only had two weeks to respond back to the SUDA and there was not enough time to poll members for their thoughts on removing the action device. I would like a

better explanation of what the USDA discussed with the RHBAA and why was there a two week deadline? This is the kind of information that needs to be published so the member can have a better understanding of the facts. Receiving a lengthy letter that really does not state any facts just opinions, but at the same time asks me to put my trust in the elected directors to do the right thing for the breed does not sit well with me. I want to know about the conversation between RHBAA and the USDA and I want to know the facts so I can be better educated on what is best for the breed. I consider myself to be an open minded person and willing to accept change if needed, but I cannot put my trust in RHBAA or the USDA without receiving adequate information to make an educated decision. SO until that time I will continue to support the chain action device.

The humane society will not let the USDA let the Racking Horse be.

The chain issue, if it weren't for the chain there would be no RHBAA. It about went under until chains were added.

Politics with judging both local and world level

I'm a researcher at a university. Some of these questions aren't valid measure based on how they are written. I'd be happy to help RHBAA write valid survey's in the future if you need
Volunteers

The only person that should address the judges is the one that's over the judges committee. In my opinion that's the only one that should address the judges. That's the problem with our association we have a couple of people who want to control the entire thing.

USDA is not going to eliminate us from the ACT. I'm afraid it has already caused division in the industry; the chain thing what some have worked hard to build has or may have been in vain
Horses are cleaner than us. Let's keep what we have improved on it.

This issue has divided an industry that had just made it back to where we could move already. We will not be removed from the HPA. Please consider to communicate with the member's. Finally I don't see how you can eliminate the most exciting and longest performance classes we have at the celebration. I could not eliminate my longest customers and stay in business.

Fix internal problems with the organization. The dismissal of judges during the fall 2013 show was the talk of the whole show. Not the horses or the show. Every horse judged prior to the dismissed was judged unfairly. These judges should have been dismissed sooner and replaced with other judges. Also with all the penalties given out this winter from actions at the fall show People will not continue to support the RHBAA if these internal problems are not resolved.
(With or without chains)

Should not be trainers on the board

I would not have trainers on the Board.

Shouldn't be trainers on the Board.

I just don't think there should be trainers on the board!!

Honest judging will help more than anything you can do for the Racking Horse.

Would the board consider removing the chain if the PAST act was not about to pass? I personally believe we should never have put a chain on our great horses! If the RHBAA survives the books should close and we should be a separate breed I do not think separation from TWH can happen without it ... Never have.

I would like to see a step down program

To change a GI-low it must be voted on by the membership according to our rule book. If that matters

Would think that 3-5 directors would be easier to get a consensus

Judges should not be trainers

Judges should be assigned to shows by the RHBAA

The RHBAA was built from the ground up- but destroyed from the top down- we need to learn from our mistakes! I am an ex-judge and left because of bad decisions and bad people it is time to start over and rebuild!

I would like to see all competition horses show a 4 beat gait. If they show any signs of pace they should be disqualified. The racking gait is supposed to be smooth with no 6 ounce.

I would like to see the judges the shows performance and not from the saddle up.
The Racking should have the front end come higher and not reach like the walking horse.

I think we should show Racking Horses and NOT Walking Horses.

I am a trail rider lucky to own for 12 years a great racking horse mare. I do not show nor wish to show the extreme gait presented in the show ring.

NATURAL IS BEST

The rule book in itself is ok. The enforcement of it is the problem. Enforce the rule book and work to get more judges that will judge accordingly.

Trainers leaving breeder shows, bring sore horses to club shows Horses being illegally shod with shoes weighing over 3 lbs. Standing flat shod horses on blocks to cause the over height in the front end and crawl in the back.

Again I was not for using the chain on the racking show horse originally. My problem with the decision to stop the use is a timing one. We should never abandon our closest ally and friend. The Walking show horse, to do so is cowardly at best. Any idea or suggestion that this would somehow get us removed from the HPA or get the HSUS off the pads and our horses Is

ridiculous, and very misleading. By splintering our organization from the walking horse will play right into our true adversary, the HSUS, hand and they will use it to persuade votes in D.C. and ultimately will cause all of our performance horses supporters and participants to lose the battle. Try to support this breed without a performance horse will be a monumental if not impossible task. I hope you and the board carefully consider any move as precarious as this with fore thought and wisdom to the future of the RHBAA

I believe by giving a step down program that would give trainers / individuals the opportunity to work existing horses to see if they will work into the program. Then they will decide if the horse should be kept or moved on.

When I bought my horse last year I thought it was neat she was a racking horse. Then I saw the RHBAA does the same crap the TWH does. Embarrassment!!!!!! I do not plan to renew my membership because of that!

I do not use chains on my horses if you use a chain your horse will walk and shake there head and if you don't put anything on their feet and burn them up the USDA should be there. You know I was going to a horse show 6/21/2014 just because the government was going to be there so it was No show. And about the Judges would judge the horses rather than a trainer of his friend's horses that is wrong. That needs to stop that's what runs the horse shows.

When Joe Bright and I originally formed and chartered the RHBAAA the intent was to breed and exhibit horses that perform a NATURAL GATE. This must be the direction to which the RHBAA returns. If this is not mandated by the member the Racking Horse will have on going scrutiny by the Federal Government and ultimately by the USDA which may well cause the death of our breed.

My racking horse can break level barefoot and are a joy to ride. They used to win. We stopped showing and registering RHBAA in 1999. My friend's standard bred's were being commission registered but could not perform the true rack. They were winning the speed classes but were not true; we lost faith in RHBAA- they were following the TWHBEA with a more and more artificial gait. Hopefully this crisis will bring the breed back to its roots. Keep people out of the decision making process who doesn't know a rack from a pace from a run walk etc. The saddle bred "rack" is not true either. My horse, summerset silken mist, is the first and only horse to achieve 4,000 hours in Rack across America. Since Margie Smith has been removed from the program I have heard nothing about our award for this achievement. Thank you our "Jenna's Dimples" passed on 5/28/2013 I believe she was the oldest competing horse 33 years old in the program.

The judges consistently tie the horse doing the most thus encouraging more reach and bigger front ends. Even in pleasure classes the World Champion Country Pleasure horses do not resemble the description in the rule book. Show pleasure horses won by being over level. The judges have never been held to judging the rule book. At least last year they excused or didn't place horses that were reaching too much. There is a group in Kentucky. That will remove a judge from the ring in the middle of a show if they are not following the rules. Maybe we should try that a couple of times.

There are many good naturally gaited Racking Horses that never make it inside a show ring because there is a big majority being ridden as pleasure on trail horses. They need to be given more credit and acknowledged.

From the limited amount I've seen of the performance padded racking horses they are starting to look more and more like walking horses. I think the gaits need to be more defined and rewarded in the ring. Any way to keep the playing field as level as possible is also a good thing. I hate anyone to win or lose before actually showing.

The present day racking celebration might as well be no different than the walking celebration or a walking show (Pads; chains; man made; etc.) you've got to bring back the natural ability and set limits (ex. No more than a 3/8x1 shoe) a rack isn't defined by how high a horse lifts his front legs. A rack isn't defined by how high a horse lifts his front legs/ it's the style and smoothness of a natural born athlete.

Follow current rules for Racking Horses instead of what judges like. Stop showing walking horse rejects and breed one upgrade true Racking horses.

Think about well-being of the horse and not peoples political views, greed of money/winning etc. When the breed was first bred we didn't wreck the horse by doing inhumane things to it. Natural is best!

I believe that RHBAA should produce a video of what the expected gaits should look like from trail type to heavy shod. I believe it would also be beneficial to produce a training video showing how to reach the best you horse could perform in these gaits. Some of your members do not have access to qualified trainers as must break and train these great horses ourselves but could use some help in doing so.

Horse should be judged by the Rule book. Judges should tie horses not people.

I am not personally opposed to chains having shown saddle bred for years and realizing you can use "Action devices" without soring or damaging the horse, however regular people do not know these things and miserable trainers have abused there device to the point that public perception has damaged our great breed and put us in the hole with TWH's whom I own and love too and etc. We need to start with our public persona and make everything above board.

I ride for pleasure. My racking hoses allow me to cover ground at show or fast gait, comfortably. That in my reason for even riding a racking horse, all of my horses are flat shod.

I do not show I RIDE, I love the natural gait racking hoses have.

I am in favor of training the natural horse, which is so beautiful. No stacks pads or chains. Our horse is bare foot and constantly admired for her natural gait and beauty.

I would challenge the association and breeders to breed and show a more natural racking horse even if it was less animated. Presently there is no difference in going to a racking horse show than a walking hose show both are bred to be a pacing type of hose naturally so it can be squared u by devices and weight. I would like to see a limit on shoe size of 3/8" x 1" and let the animation

be in the skill of the breeder. I've seen natural racking horses with plenty of front end without there back end looking cripple.

From photos shown in the Review Horses are showing as 2nd class walking not racking. If I wanted to see walking horses I would go to shows in TN.

Since the mid 90's the racking horse has been just like the Tennessee walking horse except "No" head not personally I think the racking horse should be a four/beat gait.

Judges are not consistent when judging the score sheets are all over the board. If they are looking for the same gait the sheets would be closer. The reason the score sheet are so far apart is some of the judges are scoring who is riding instead of the horse.

The Racking Horse was intended to be a breed of natural gaited horses not counterfeits. A good trainer can develop a show gait, with training and doesn't need gadgets.

For two years I have asked for a hearing about how we register the "Speed horses". Most of these horses are crossed with standard bred horse. Our policy now is not to give any pedigree unless both sire and dam are registered racking. I would love to show you how we can gain so many more members with this one change in the speed division. 256-303-0603 – I am only asking for this consideration in the speed division.

If the chain does stay in I think there should be less classes for chains and more non-chain classes at state shows and at spring and fall celebration but I do support my board in whatever their decision is it's time for the board, the members and trainers to come together thank you and the board for your service. The judges and chains are not all of the problems. Some owners and trainers can share some of the blame, Wake up!

If we go without chains we must monitor pressure shoeing. It is not a good idea to have trainers or people that are showing a lot of horses be on the board because conflict of interest also on DQP board.

Step down period of 3 years

This breed was not formed to be shown with chains. You are just the step child to the TWH with chain. Go back to your roots. Focus on what this was meant to be.

Let the horse be Natural

For a representative to represent each state must be elected by the members of the state. If a member is a customer of another representative from another state. They should be removed. That gives the representative from the other state 2 votes instead of one. In other words, going into a meeting with two or more votes before the meeting starts.

I believe that the elected director needs to be held more accountable by the members of his region as well. I do not feel for Texas. That our representative has done enough to truly keep us updated on issues, or give input on our feelings. We need representatives that truly want to make a difference not only for the entire breed but work on building the breed in an area that is not

aware of the versatility the racking horse has to offer. No one has really represented us here in Texas that has really wanted to promote the racking horse in our state. It would only be beneficial to the breed as a whole if this was promoted. RHBAA needs to stop being run like a local club and run as the name suggests "Of America"

Judges must be held accountable for their decisions and score cards need to be monitored for favoritism toward 1 barn or 1 competitor. When rumors and facts of impropriety in the RHBAA show ring by judges appear in social media forums and in news media it makes every member associated look bad. Judges are the folks in our industry that should be held to the highest standards and should be fair and impartial across the board. As for chains, I do not have any horse that this decision will affect. It will impact many of my friends with wonderful specialty horses, but I am not sure that the removal of chains from the show ring will change public opinion or relieve any pressure from the federal government. The damage is done, and we will all have to adapt to change for the misconduct of some in the industry.

The board is doing great job. I support the board even though I don't always agree with them.

I don't think you can define the gait to a black and white area. There will always be a grey area left for individual (Interpretation on rules but I do feel we need a continuing ed. Program and a strict enforcement of rules for judges. I feel 1 individual (needs to have final say but under the direction of a BOD as is now.)

This used to be a great association which was family oriented and all members were equally judged on performance of their entry. Families could also afford to show and be competitive. Where did it all change? I know I have lost pretty much all interest in the association but I sincerely wish the best to the breed and the association.

Racking Horses are looking more like walking horses. I would like to see more of 4 beat gaits which is racking. Chains do not belong on racking horses or on any horse.

In regards to #3, if we found the right person and were dedicated to the breed one person would be fine and could make decisions for the better of the breed.

I didn't answer 9 and 10 because my answer was already yes. Did not compute! Number 8 was confusing to me because I'm not that schooled in that area. I did my best on these questions. Number 6 doesn't have to take out the reach Racking Horses don't reach. They lift their front leg straight up from the shoulder. Take out this or all the walking horse actions. They make me sick to look at. I know what has to be done for this to happen, as I said before I went to Rocky Mountain Horses. I know in every breed there are bad trainer's habits. But I choose to be or do the right thing. I love my horses and I want them to love me in return. I want them to be happy and hurt free. The Racking I had and still do but he's 35 now did have pads/ But we did our action switch training while riding. My horse shoes said it's like women wearing high heels. Lol

Thank you for soliciting my input.

I support the natural gait and do not even consider showing presently because the "show" gait needed to "win" looks grossly deformed as well as terribly uncomfortable. My "public" (non-horse riding friends) upon watching the show videos ask me why in the world anyone would ever

want their horse to look like a German Shepard with hip dysplasia. They are surprised that my natural horse is even the same breed or type. It would be wonderful for the public to be able to recognize what our natural racking horses are when they see them on the trail. Most people have no idea what I am talking about when I answer their question about what type of breed horse I am riding. They don't know racking horse- so I just say he is gaited with speed.

Racking horses with action devices are more like a walking horse not a true racking horse

SLOW LEARNERS!!!!!! Guess the change led to be tried before some people were going to be satisfied. It's a shame the integrity of the Racking Horse had to be diminished before we realized what a true treasure the Racking Horse is! Thank you, Chris and the board for the reconsideration.

A step down period is needed to remove chains. To let owners and trainers change to regular methods and allow them to go without it.

The elimination of the chains, ----- shoes and the blacks will put the Racking Horse back where it is supposed to be ... Along with the chains should come a age limit so horses that have been damaged will still have a chance to go in the show ring with a proof of age to take in consideration for scars already cause by people that put a dollar ahead of a horses wellbeing. At the beginning of this new rule for the horse should come a new rule for checking feet. That will be a start but shoeing blocking and pressure shoeing is just as if not worse than a chain... Teach the people that want to kill one breed what to really look for not just some little something thy want to get a head line on. This is my opinion and it will mean nothing to no one but me.. I have seen this for 40 years and it still is the same...

Thank you,
Chris P Walker and the RHBAA Board of Directors