

# IMPRESSIVE

## The Devil Himself or Convenient Scapegoat?

Editorial Comment from the March/  
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Since our inception in May of 1995 the main criticism voiced about NFQHA is that we do not discriminate against horses that carry Impressive blood. I would like to address this issue here.

- 1) Only AQHA can register Quarter Horses and Impressive is already a registered Quarter Horse and that fact cannot be changed.
- 2) NFQHA researches Foundation Blood and issues Foundation Certificates to qualifying horses based on a percentage of Quarter Horse Blood.
- 3) NFQHA has a computerized, scientific, black and white method of researching foundation blood that does not allow for discrimination against any horse or person, and that cannot rely on any individual's personal opinion.
- 4) Impressive is 76% Thoroughbred which precludes most of his descendents from Foundation Certification. Those who qualify have been crossed on a lot of Quarter Horses in order to raise the percentage to the 80% level required by NFQHA.
- 5) Impressive and his offspring were famous for halter. Since NFQHA does not offer halter classes there is nothing to draw the typical Impressive Halter horse—which is the horse that people want to exclude (and which would not qualify in any case).
- 6) Many people fear the HYPP gene, but NFQHA will not accept a horse related to Impressive unless it has a lab result showing it to be HYPP Negative/Negative. In other words, the horse does not carry the HYPP gene. If a horse does not carry the gene, it cannot pass it on to its' offspring.
- 7) When a horse related to Impressive receives an NFQHA Certificate it

means that the horse carries 80% Quarter Horse blood; that it does not carry the HYPP gene; and that the owner feels the horse is a performance horse.

8) Summing it up—that horse is just like any other horse that meets the stringent NFQHA Certification requirements. Additionally, this horse does not effect any NFQHA member other than his owner.

NFQHA was formed out of love and respect for the gallant Versatile little bulldog that had so long gone unnoticed by the majority of Quarter Horse owners. Many people had forgotten, or never knew, that this tough and speedy little horse was solely responsible for Robert Denhardt forming a breed association to preserve the unique and Versatile characteristics of the "Bulldog". That association was, of course, AQHA.

NFQHA Foundation Certification criteria was meticulously planned to promote the Original Bulldog Quarter Horse and his unique breed characteristics, and was purposely constructed to prevent discrimination against any horse.

However, after all our careful planning NFQHA is apparently referred to by some as "the Impressive Association", which is laughable when you consider our Certification criteria is the toughest in the industry, plus the fact that we do not hold halter classes. (That's what we call an "impressive association")! Anyone who believes that NFQHA advocates Impressive or what he stands for, has not read our goals and standards, and knows little about NFQHA.

Because of NFQHA's high Foundation standards, the only way an Impressive bred horse can qualify is to have very little Impressive and a lot of pure Quarter Horse blood, and isn't this what we say we are all about - "Breeding the Quarter Horse Back Into the Quar-

ter Horse" ?

Further, the Impressive phenomenon could not have happened in NFQHA because NFQHA rewards VERSATILITY. In order to be versatile a horse must not only be an athlete, but must also have a good mind, which many specialty horses do not possess, whether they are halter or a specialty performer. A gorgeous horse that can't perform, will never achieve any recognition in NFQHA.

Impressive was only a horse. His impact, whether thought positive or negative, is strictly the result of people. Those who bred him, those who promoted him, those who placed him and his offspring at shows, and those who continue to try to perpetuate his traits.

NFQHA will not engage in discrimination against any bloodline, nor will we burn crosses in anyone's yard. If a horse meets our tough certification requirements, it will be accepted - period.

We are proud to have been formed for positive reasons, and to have the world's greatest product - the incomparable Versatile Bulldog Foundation Quarter Horse. With a product like this NFQHA sees no need to single out and bash individual horses, whether or not they represent our preferences. We will continue to be focused on the positive - the loveable Bulldog.

My advice to those who don't like Impressives?

***"Don't buy any and don't breed to any".***

Gail Zscheile  
NFQHA President