

Office of the VQHA Queen

Eligibility

The candidate must be between the ages of 18 and 25 and be a member of VQHA. The applicant must have reached her 18th birthday by January 1, of the Queen's term year.

Personal Etiquette

Of utmost importance, is a leadership role stressing and exhibiting exemplary sportsmanship at all times.

Queen candidates cannot be married, divorced or have a child out of wedlock.

As the Queen is expected to be a role model to all youth, during activities where she acts in an official capacity as the VQHA Queen, she shall not smoke, drink alcohol nor partake in illegal drug use.

VQHA Queen Competition:

To be considered as a Queen candidate it is necessary to submit a formal request/application to the President of the VQHA via the VQHA Secretary and a copy to the Queen Mother by August 1, of the year preceding the calendar year for which she is intending to be considered. If the applicant is a current member of VQHA, membership will be verified by the Secretary and the Queen candidate's request form will be forwarded to the VQHA President. If the candidate is not a current member, a VQHA membership application must accompany the formal request/application for Queen sent to the VQHA Secretary. The VQHA Secretary will forward the membership application as appropriate for membership processing; and then forward the Queen candidate's request to the VQHA President.

If more than one application for Queen is received, a Horsemanship test will be conducted at the Futurity Show in September or a show as advised by VQHA in the same calendar year applications are received. In addition, a written test, speech, and interview will be held at the Annual Award Banquet the following year. More details below of the candidates competition for VQHA Queen:

The Queen candidates will be asked to compete in the following categories:

1. A VQHA horsemanship test held during the VQHA Futurity in September or at a show as advised by VQHA.
2. A written test of the AQHA rules to be given during the weekend of the annual awards banquet. Test to be supplied by a Virginia AQHA judge and scored by the Queen Contest panel.
3. This panel will conduct an interview of all contestants during the annual awards weekend.
4. An initial formal introduction of the Queen by the Queen Mother and/or the

former Queen will be at the Board of Directors' Meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Awards Banquet. The Queen candidate should prepare a speech of self-introduction with annual personal goals that address and support the mission of VQHA; and a plan to address the VQHA Queen's continuing Going Green Campaign. An additional similar speech may be requested to be given as part of the General Membership Meeting to further the knowledge of the VQHA Queen and the Queen's Program with the VQHA members.

Approximate weighting of the above four categories is as follows:

Horsemanship test:	20%
Written test:	40%
Combined Interview and Speech:	40%

In the event of a tie, the combined interview and speech will be the tiebreaker. The winning candidate will be announced at the annual VQHA banquet.

Attendance at Events:

At all events, the Queen shall be accompanied by a chaperone.

At each VQHA event listed, attendance by the Queen is by request of VQHA. VQHA will contact the Queen no later than two weeks before the event so she is able to make plans accordingly.

At Non-VQHA events, attendance by the Queen is by request of the organization. Reimbursement of expenses is expected by the requesting organization.

All Novice Show

The Queen will participate in the clinic by demonstrating or by assisting participants in requested classes. The Queen will participate in the show by handing out ribbons and any other duties as requested by the show manager, such as gate person, office assistance, etc.

The All Novice show will pay appropriate hotel, food (on a per diem basis) and mileage as necessary. Any out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed by VQHA within 30 days of submission of expense documents. These expenses are not part of the VQHA funding nor other funds received for the Queen by sponsors, etc.

4-H Shows

The Queen shall attend 4-H Shows promoting the Quarter Horse and participate as requested in the shows, acting as a ring steward or gates person, etc. Her attendance will not be paid for by the 4-H event unless specifically requested to attend. Then, she should ask upfront for reimbursement of expenses. Consideration of such request for expenses should be discussed with the Queen Mother.

Trail Ride

The Queen shall attend VQHA sponsored trail rides if requested by the trail manager. If these rides take place in conjunction with a VQHA Show where the Queen has been requested to work, the trail manager should coordinate with show management to avoid conflict.

Other VQHA Sponsored Shows:

The Queen will attend VQHA sponsored shows as requested by show management. She will assist in the office; hand out awards, and any other assignments as requested by show management. The Show will pay appropriate hotel, food (on a per diem basis) and mileage as necessary. She may be asked to attend only a portion of the total days of the show to minimize expenses of the show. Any out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed by VQHA within 30 days of submission of expense documents

Other Privately Held AQHA Shows and associated functions (auctions, etc.)

Upon request, the Queen will attend these shows and perform duties as requested by show management. She must state upfront that the show must pay her hotel, food, and travel expenses. These shows can also pay the Queen a daily fee in addition to her expenses. All reimbursements will be made directly to VQHA. VQHA will reimburse within 30 days of receipt the out of pocket expenses reimbursed to the queen. The daily fee will be deposited into the VQHA Queens' Fund for upcoming expenses.

Please note that all compensation will be made to the VQHA Queens' Fund and reimbursement will be made as requested. Discussions of anticipated reimbursements should take place between the Queen Mother and the Queen. The Queen mother will maintain an up-to-date ledger on the Queen's budget. This will allow for better future financial projections of cash in and cash out of the Queens' Fund. This is necessary for the VQHA Queens' Program to remain proactive. By having funding available, the program will remain attractive for future candidates. The budget should remain current with the VQHA Treasurer. The Queen Mother and the Queen should discuss projected fund raisers and projected expenses to allow for smart use of the funds. The Queen should be actively engaged in fund raising to help support this program and her reign at all times. The Queen should anticipate suggestions and recommendations from the Queen Mother on utilization of funds and other relevant matters during her term.

Competing at AQHA and Other Shows during Her Reign:

The VQHA Queen can compete at any AQHA or other show during her reign. Of course, she would not wear her tiara or sash in such competition. Other personal displays of representation of the VQHA Queen outside of the show ring and not affiliated with requested show duties is certainly anticipated from an enthusiastic candidate.

Any expenses incurred at these shows will be at the Queen's personal expense. The All American Quarter Horse Congress is an exception to this rule.

Should the VQHA Queen desire to compete at a VQHA sponsored or approved show and VQHA requests her presence at these shows, her duties at those shows will be limited to those for which she does not come in contact with the judges. VQHA will pay her travel, hotel, and food expenses but not her show expenses. If VQHA does not request her presence at these shows, all expenses incurred by the Queen will be at the Queen's personal expense. If the duties required from the Queen at these shows will afford adequate time for Horsemanship Competition, the Queen shall be allowed to compete. VQHA encourages the Queen to compete often in Horsemanship classes as prudent preparation for the Queen's competition in the Queens' Horsemanship Class at the All American Quarter Horse Congress. The Queen should take initiative to discuss her desire to compete in Horsemanship with Show Management. This will allow adequate time and preparation for accommodating Horsemanship participation.

Rule Book

The Queen is expected to be very familiar with the AQHA rule book which will require extensive and independent study times on her part. .

Maintaining a Log:

The Queen is expected to maintain a log of the events she participated in, including knowledge gained from the event and any suggestions that she feels worthy for such future events and relevant coordination for future Queen Candidates. This log will be passed on to the next year's incoming Queen. The Queen will be expected to bring the results of her Congress Scores back the VQHA Board and the Queen Mother and to be included in this log.

VQHA Funding for the Queen:

The Queen will receive \$2,000 for appropriate clothing, Queen's buckle, etc. from VQHA's general funds associated with the duties of the Queen at local shows and at the Congress competition. This \$2,000 is not associated with expenses the Queen incurs (i.e., meals, hotel, mileage) when attending VQHA functions but does include some of the expenses associated with the Congress competition.

In addition, the Queen can receive funding from daily fees received from private shows and donations from various VQHA regions, Sponsors, and Fund Raisers. The Queen should work diligently to raise funds as the money contributed to the VQHA Queen's Fund by VQHA will not cover all of the expenses incurred during the annual reign as VQHA Queen. As with the past history of this position, expenses should be expected to be incurred by the Queen/and or her family.

Reimbursement of her out of pocket expenses (i.e., meals, hotel, mileage, etc.) while at these functions will be made by VQHA within 45 days of receipt of invoices received.

Should the same individual become the VQHA Queen for a second term, she will receive \$1,000 from VQHA's General Fund to support the VQHA Queen's Fund.

Expenses are to be submitted within 90 days and will be reimbursed within 45 days. A statement of account will be provided by VQHA Treasurer to the Queen as necessary. The Queen's Fund balance will be made available to the VQHA Board as necessary. This statement will include all funds received, reimbursements, and remaining balance. The Queen Mother is responsible for maintaining a current balance of the Queen's Fund for proper planning of events, fund raisers, necessities and amenities to accommodate the VQHA Queen. The Queen Mother should advise and make recommendations on appropriate spending as these monies are those of the VQHA Queens' Fund and should not be considered personal funds of the Queen.

VQHA will provide the Queen with an appropriate tiara to be worn on her western hat at all functions where she is attending as the VQHA Queen. At the end of her reign, the tiara will be returned to VQHA to be used by the incoming Queen. The tiara must be returned in good condition.

The Queen must account for all monies spent and include this information in her log to be helpful to future queens. If the Queen should neglect her duties and exhibit lack of responsibility toward the Queen's Program and the goals of VQHA, the Queen will be expected to reimburse the VQHA Queens' Fund for all monies received.

Cause for Removal from Office

Should the Queen not abide by the rules as stated herein which included as previously mentioned, neglect of her duties, and exhibiting lack of responsibility toward the Queen's Program and the goals of VQHA, she will be removed from the VQHA Queen's position. The Queen will then be expected to reimburse the VQHA Queens' Fund for all monies provided her during her term. The tiara will be returned to VQHA at such time.