

AQHA

AMERICAN QUARTER
HORSE ASSOCIATION

2025 DIRECTOR APPLICATION

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Must be received in the AQHA office on/before February 1, 2025.
- Type or print in blue or black ink, or complete electronically using Microsoft Word; may not be altered or amended; and must be four (4) pages only.
- Utilize the space(s) provided; additional attachments will not be provided to the Nominations & Credentials Committee.
- Submit a photo with your application; photo will not be returned.
- Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to AQHA from the providing affiliate, individual, etc. and received prior to February 1, to be provided to the Nominations & Credentials Committee.
- Unless otherwise indicated by applicant, application is submitted for Elected Director position created by a vacancy or new opening per Director allocation.

AQHA I.D. # (evidencing three consecutive and uninterrupted calendar years of AQHA membership immediately previous to the nomination date at the next Annual Convention):

AQHA I.D. # 1102981
 Name: Heather Ann Sutton, DVM
 Address: 28837 166th Street
 City, State, Zip: Gettysburg, SD 57442
 Date of Birth: 09-24-1990 Cell Phone #: 605-769-0925
 Daytime Phone #: SPR cell phone # Home Phone #: NA
 Email Address: suttonvet@hotmail.com Fax #: NA
 Occupation: Rancher + veterinarian Current Employer: Raymond Sutton + Son

Number of American Quarter Horses in your or your business's name: _____
 Number of American Quarter Horses in which you or your business is named as the breeder: _____
 Your primary area(s) of interest: Racing Showing Youth Recreational Riding
 Ranching Breeding Education Public Policy

List the AQHA or AQHYA state/provincial/international Affiliate(s) you are or have been a member or officer of:

Affiliates:	<u>SDQHA youth</u>	Years(s):	<u>1980 - 1989</u>
Affiliates:	<u>SDQHA</u>	Years(s):	<u>1990 - present</u>

Indicate any AQHA or AQHYA programs and the years during which you participated:

	<u>Years</u>	<u>Years</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> AQHYA Officer or Director:		<input type="checkbox"/> AQHYA Leadership Conference:
<input type="checkbox"/> AQHYA Racing Experience:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Experience: <u>4</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. of Professional Horsemen:		<input type="checkbox"/> Breeder Referral Member:
<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Management Workshop:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AQHA Convention: <u>15+</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Rides: <u>1</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> AQHA Judge:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Officer/Director: <u>6+</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding Program: <u>2</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Policy/Government affairs: <u>1st year 2025</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> AQHA Committee Service:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Marketing Membership 6</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Research 3</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Amateur Committee 4</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Young Horse Development Donor 12 yr</u>

EQUINE/AGRICULTURE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Specify any equine/agriculture related clubs or activities in which you have participated:

American Association of Equine Practitioners	1997-present
American Veterinary Medical Association	1997-present
National Cutting Horse Association	2010-present

List any leadership roles you have held through your equine-related activities:

South Dakota Cutting Horse Assn. → Vice President 2017+2020,
President 2018+2019, National Director 2018+2019

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Highest level of education completed:

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

College/University you attended:

Iowa State Univ.

Years Attended:

1993-1997

Major:

DVM

List any leadership roles you have held through your non-equine related activities:

With my employment at PetIQ, I was the supervisor for 25+ direct reporting veterinarians to ensure wellness provided to all canine & feline pets at high std. of care

What hobbies/civic involvement do you have other than those associated with horses?

Assist with local 4-H horse program activities such as rodeo queen contest horsemanship instruction and county horse show grooming and wellness presentations; canine program thru wellness education & basic handling;

Are you active in legislative/public policy issues in your state/province/country? If so, please describe.

no

Have you or your business been the subject of any AQHA or other equine organization(s)' investigations and/or disciplinary action(s) (including, but not limited to, fines, suspension, reprimand, disqualification, etc.) associated with rule violation(s)? If so, please explain the circumstances and outcome of such matter(s).

no

REFERENCES:

- Letters of reference are recommended and would be helpful to the Nominations & Credential Committee, particularly a letter of support or endorsement from an equine related organization.

Any questions regarding the eligibility or requirements for becoming an AQHA Director should be directed to Shelly Spears at (806) 378-4712 or SSpears@aqha.org.

In the space provided, please tell the Nominations and Credentials Committee why you would like to become an AQHA director. Please list issues for which you have an opinion and explain how you can make a positive impact on or changes to the American Quarter Horse industry.

I have been a part of the AQHA for the great majority of my life. It was also a significant driver in choosing my career path as a veterinarian with a focus on equine. My 1st convention was in Anaheim back in the 80's, and I have enjoyed attending and being a part of the decision making process by serving on various committees over the past 10+ years.

As a director, I would continue to be a leader in my state affiliate and relay national decisions to the membership. Also, I would be a voice for the South Dakota members when those deliberations take place.

Finally, I believe in the AQHA brand of the equine and western lifestyle. I look forward to promoting their qualities and helping to protect the farm, ranch, and overall agriculture based lifestyle. Thus, I am happy to be on the Public Policy committee as a general member for 2025.

VERIFICATION BY APPLICANT:

By signing below, I verify and warrant that I (1) am currently a member in good standing and (2) will have been a member in good standing for three consecutive and uninterrupted calendar years immediately prior to the nomination date for Directors at the next Annual Convention. Furthermore, I verify, warrant and agree that, if elected as a Director, I will:

- Meet and abide by all requirements for Directors set forth in Article III of AQHA's Bylaws.
- Remain an AQHA Member in good standing throughout my tenure, be subject to AQHA rules and regulations pertaining to membership conduct, and, in addition, my conduct shall favorably reflect on the Board of Directors and AQHA.
- In carrying out my role of providing service to AQHA and the Board, recognize the need to do so in a professional manner, and will deal with the membership, public and my colleagues with the highest degree of integrity.
- Adhere to the professional standards of AQHA and will work to further its goals and objectives.
- Recognize that even the appearance of misconduct or impropriety can be very damaging to the reputation of AQHA and the Board and will act accordingly.
- Ensure that the welfare of the American Quarter Horse is paramount and that every American Quarter Horse shall at all times be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion.
- Instill confidence among the public in the American Quarter Horse industry, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it or membership in the AQHA.
- Refrain from conduct that is detrimental to the interest of AQHA, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members.
- Represent members of AQHA in a professional manner in matters pertaining to the business, property and activities of the AQHA.
- Assist in providing beneficial services for AQHA members and serve as a positive communication link between AQHA and its members.
- Be active in the American Quarter Horse industry through attendance and/or participation at events or in my areas of interest.
- Be active and represent AQHA in a professional manner in my state/province or country's American Quarter Horse Affiliate and be visible and available to that organization's members.
- Promote AQHA programs, membership and the registration of eligible horses on a constant basis through contact with individuals and groups.
- Initiate communication with AQHA staff regarding constituents' issues.
- Actively participate on the standing committee to which I am appointed.
- Subscribe to *The American Quarter Horse Journal*.
- Attend AQHA's Annual Conventions, which includes a New Directors Briefing, at my own expense.
- Timely complete and return annual Director's report form.
- Timely complete and return Annual IRS Form 990 Reporting Questionnaire.
- Be actively involved with legislative affairs.
- Agree that my name and contact information will be published by AQHA.
- Within two years of appointment to the AQHA Board, at my own expense, attend a New Director's Orientation to visit AQHA's headquarters and the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.

I understand that serving as a Director is a privilege, not a right. If elected as a Director, I further agree that I will remain an AQHA Member in good standing throughout my tenure, be subject to AQHA rules and regulations pertaining to membership conduct, and, in addition, my conduct shall favorably reflect on the Board of Directors and AQHA. I understand an AQHA elected Director is subject to continual review by the Board, and may be removed by the Board of Directors with or without notice and formal hearing. Finally, I understand and agree that in order to promote candor, the deliberations, discussions and material reviewed by the Nominations and Credentials Committee are confidential, and I am not entitled to such information.

I hereby certify the statements recorded in this application are true and accurate. I understand if any statement presented in this application is untrue, I may be disqualified from being considered to serve on or, if later discovered, may be disqualified from serving on the Board.

My signature of acceptance:


Signature of Applicant

Date:

12/5/2024

COMPLETE AND RETURN APPLICATION VIA MAIL OR EMAIL FOR AQHA'S RECEIPT BY
FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Mail: AQHA•Shelly Spears•1600 Quarter Horse Drive•Amarillo•Texas•79104•Email: SSpears@aqha.org
Application must be submitted with signature