

New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc



The President
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NZMHA and RAS Affiliation

At the RAS Conference in 2005 the RAS passed a motion to allow Multiple Breed Affiliations – this means that they will now accept affiliation requests from breed societies representing breeds (eg. Miniature Horses) for which they already have an affiliate (eg. NZMHA). As part of the process of considering any multiple breed affiliation request the RAS put in place a procedure to form a liaison committee comprised of two representatives from each of the RAS, the affiliated breed association and the breed association applying for affiliation.

In early March 2006 National Miniature Horse Society New Zealand Inc. applied to the RAS for affiliation. As part of the process of approving this application for affiliation the RAS contacted NZMHA to nominate its two representatives on the liaison committee. At the same time the RAS advised NZMHA that the *“affiliation of both groups depends on how they approach and participate in this process ...”*. This could be taken as a threat that the RAS might revoke NZMHA’s affiliation if the RAS is not happy with how NZMHA responds. In late May the liaison committee met to resolve any issues relating to show schedules, show rules and judges. National Miniature Horse Society agreed to the use of the NZMHA recommended schedule, the NZMHA and RAS Show Rules and the NZMHA and RAS Judges lists. The RAS then sought written acceptance from NZMHA of this “agreement” to utilise in support of National Miniature Horse Society’s affiliation application. NZMHA Council did not feel it was in the interests of the NZMHA membership to allow another Miniature Horse breed society to affiliate and therefore advised the RAS that it would seek direction from the NZMHA membership before advising the RAS as to NZMHA’s decision – hence this letter. It should be noted that the RAS Executive have the authority to approve this affiliation application regardless of NZMHA’s decision.

NZMHA Council would like to allow members the opportunity to provide feedback on this issue. If you are a member of any other organisation (eg. National Miniature Horse) we ask you to put this membership aside and as a NZMHA member carefully consider the impact this decision by the RAS will have on NZMHA and its membership before indicating your preferences below. Please note that neither NZMHA Council or the President is trying to influence you in relation to this issue – the points below are made simply to encourage your thought processes.

History – NZMHA was formed in 1996 by the merger of the New Zealand Miniature Horse Breeders Association and the Miniature Horse Association of New Zealand. At this time National Miniature Horse Society also took part in the discussions but chose not to merge i.e. National Miniature Horse were not excluded, they chose not to merge and affiliate. At the time of NZMHA’s affiliation to the RAS (1998) the RAS gave undertakings to NZMHA that they would be the only Miniature Horse Breed Society recognised by the RAS;

Affiliation Fees - NZMHA has paid the RAS affiliation fees for the entire time it has been affiliated. At the RAS Conference in June 2006 these were raised from \$1.50 per member to \$2.50. Over the last eight years NZMHA has paid the RAS around \$5,500 in affiliation fees. At this new rate NZMHA will pay the RAS around \$1,600 each year in affiliation fees. What do you as an NZMHA member get for this investment of your money?

Eligibility to Show – The majority of RAS shows do not restrict entry to NZMHA registered horses only. A motion at the 2006 RAS Conference to restrict entries to animals registered only with affiliated breed societies was lost i.e. Miniature Horses will not have to be registered with either NZMHA or National Miniature Horse to show at an A&P show;



NZMHA Show Rules, NZMHA Schedules and NZMHA Judges Lists – The NZMHA membership funds the NZMHA Council meetings where schedules and show rules are decided as well as the voting process and the judge training process. Is it fair for another organisation to benefit from this expenditure? While National Miniature Horse Society has agreed to utilise NZMHA's rules etc. at some time in the future it is probable that this will not be the case – how are any conflicts going to be resolved and who is going to be expected to pay the costs of the meetings that will be required?

A&P Show Support – The Miniature Horse sections of many A&P shows are organised by NZMHA members and/or NZMHA Affiliated Clubs. In some instances NZMHA Affiliated Clubs incur costs (eg. pay judges fees) to ensure the A&P holds a Miniature Horse section. Often the jumps, obstacles and personnel (eg. stewards and show workers) are provided by NZMHA Affiliated Clubs. Additionally NZMHA and Affiliated Clubs are often expected to provide and organise sponsorship for the A&P. Given that National Miniature Horse Society does not have a New Zealand wide presence as NZMHA does with its Affiliated Clubs it would appear that if the current situation continues NZMHA and its Affiliated Clubs will continue in many cases to do all the work, provide all the equipment and pay some of the bills while National Miniature Horse Society reaps the same benefits for no work or cost. This is the exact situation that A&P shows which are open to non-NZMHA registered horses have been allowing to happen;

Window to the Public – There is a perception that A&P shows provide a shop window to the public. In some cases this is true in others the Miniature Horse show is located well away from the public eye and therefore probably has minimal promotional benefit. Some feel that the Miniature Horse and NZMHA would be better served by NZMHA taking a trade stand;

Commonality – It is in the interests of all parties to ensure that there is not a high degree of commonality between NZMHA and National Miniature Horse Society members and horses thereby allowing a disproportionate representation and an unnecessary additional affiliation. With common membership the RAS will receive affiliation fees for the same members from both National and NZMHA (i.e. the majority of National Miniature Horse Society members are NZMHA members therefore they will be paying twice for affiliation to the RAS). NZMHA has offered, if furnished a copy of the National Miniature Horse membership list and studbook, to cross match records to determine the degree of commonality. Alternatively, NZMHA has offered to provide the RAS with a copy of NZMHA's records for an independent party to carry out this crosscheck. A&P's do not restrict entry to NZMHA members and the majority do not restrict entry to NZMHA registered horses only.

This issue is very important and therefore NZMHA Council would like to receive feedback from as large a cross section of the membership as possible. Please take the time to seriously consider the impact that this situation will have on your association and send in your response.

On the bottom of the questionnaire you are asked if you would like your response kept confidential. If you answer yes to this question the NZMHA Returning Officer will include your responses in the overall counts but destroy your questionnaire (ie. no one within NZMHA will get to see it).

With Regards
For NZMHA Council



David Crow
President

NZMHA and RAS Affiliation

If there is more than one regular member in your household please feel free to duplicate this questionnaire for each regular member.

I, (please print)
being a **regular member** of the New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Incorporated wish to record my preferences as follows:

Please circle

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|---|-----|----|
| Should the National Miniature Horse Society be allowed to affiliate to the RAS? | Yes | No |
| Should NZMHA support the affiliation request from National Miniature Horse Society? | Yes | No |
| Should NZMHA consider legal action to protect its affiliation if the RAS chooses to either affiliate National Miniature Horse or revoke NZMHA's affiliation? | Yes | No |
| Should NZMHA be prepared to incur costs (eg. travel and accommodation for the two NZMHA members of the RAS liaison committee) in order to resolve any conflicts caused by the RAS allowing multiple breed affiliations? | Yes | No |
| Is it appropriate for NZMHA Affiliated Clubs to assist A&P's to hold Miniature Horse sections at their shows where non-NZMHA horses are allowed to compete? | Yes | No |
| Are you happy for your NZMHA Affiliated Club to spend money and utilise club resources to assist A&P's to hold Miniature Horse sections at their shows when National Miniature Horse Society will not be contributing anything to the A&P show? | Yes | No |
| Should NZMHA request that the RAS carry out a crosscheck of membership to ensure that you are not paying twice for RAS affiliation? | Yes | No |
| Should NZMHA request that the RAS carry out a crosscheck of miniature horse registrations to determine whether there is really a need to affiliate National? | Yes | No |
| If the RAS affiliates National Miniature Horse Society should NZMHA remain affiliated to the RAS? | Yes | No |
| Should NZMHA remain affiliated to the RAS? | Yes | No |

Comments

Thank you for taking the time to make your thoughts known

*Please return by 5.00pm on Friday, July 14, 2006 to the
NZMHA Returning Officer, Mr Bob Maxwell, 4 Glamis Ave, Bell Block, New Plymouth*

Signature: _____

Date: / /

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| Would you like your questionnaire response kept confidential? | Yes | No |
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