

## **The Friesian Horse Association of North America**

### **Policy on Denial of Membership or Renewal Applications**

The FHANA By-Laws govern membership in FHANA, with membership restricted to those that support the mission, goals, and rules of FHANA. Paragraph 5.1 of the By-Laws directs that eligibility is determined at the time of the initial application *and* at the time of any renewal:

Any person who subscribes to the purposes, objectives and policies of the Association and meets the requirements set forth in these Bylaws may become a member of the Association. Eligibility for membership shall be determined at the time of the initial application and subsequently when the membership is renewed. All members agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association and these Bylaws or by rules and regulations and Bylaws as may hereafter be determined by amendment or by resolution of the Board.

This policy is meant to clarify the conduct that may result in denial of an initial membership application or a renewal application. Any such denial will be decided by the FHANA Board of Directors. Any individual that has previously received a written warning from the FHANA Board of Directors or has been put on probation or received official notification from another equine organization that is made known to the FHANA leadership regarding violations of any of the items listed below is subject to this rule.

The following are considered grounds for denial of an initial application or renewal of membership:

- Animal welfare violations, including convictions or pending investigations for animal cruelty, neglect, or abuse.
- Fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or failure to meet financial obligations with regard to FHANA and its members or other equine organizations or their members.
- False representations of professional licenses, certifications, reports, and official documentation or efforts to transfer owner registration without owner authorization.
- Violations of FHANA's Code of Conduct, Rules and Regulations, or By-Laws.
- Failure to comply with legally-binding decisions, court orders, contracts, and other legal obligations.
- Failure by the applicant to report actions against licenses or memberships by other equine organizations when disciplinary action was the cause for their dismissal from that organization.
- Violation of equine competition rules.
- Representations on social media platforms denigrating FHANA or its Board of Directors.