



## Remits from NZGCA AGM 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **Remit 1: Cessation of the Breed Up Program: APPROVED**

The breed up program was introduced by the NZGCA when the Association was first established. At that time there was a limited gene pool with very few purebred Gypsy Cobs in New Zealand. The program was seen as a potential method for increasing the number of purebred gypsy cobs in New Zealand.

Fast forward 11 years to present day. The number of purebred Gypsy Cobs in New Zealand has grown substantially, with over 300 registered purebreds in the studbook. The increased importation of horses in the intervening years coupled with major improvements in equine reproductive technology has seen an increase in both purebred numbers and access to outcross genetics. We now no longer have a restricted gene pool and breeders can access excellent genetics locally and internationally using chilled fresh and frozen semen as well as embryo transfers.

The original purpose of the breed up program to bolster numbers through crossbreeding up to purebred status is no longer relevant nor desirable. When the breed up program was established, no guidance or rules were put in place around which horses or breeds could be used as foundation stock. This has the potential to introduce genetic issues present in other breeds e.g., quarter horses, that are not currently present in NZ purebred gypsy cobs.

Continuation of the program is detrimental to the ongoing development of the breed. It discourages people from seeking new genetics and simply leads to a recycling of genetics already in New Zealand. While we acknowledge the efforts of breeders who initially started the breed up program, we feel at this point the program no longer contributes to the betterment of the breed in NZ and should therefore be discontinued.

*It is proposed that the breeding up program is discontinued from the 1 August 2025 and that no Gypsy cobs coming through the breed up program may be registered as purebreds from that date. Section 6.3.2b:iii to viii and 6.3.2c are to be deleted from the constitution.*

### **Remit 2: Stallion Breeding Health Certificates: APPROVED**

NZGCA has for many years encouraged stallion owners to provide a stallion health certificate completed by a veterinarian. Currently the stallion health certificate is voluntary, and many owners of currently standing stallions have provided a certificate. To date, all stallions assessed have provided clear certificates. It is proposed that health certificates (stallion breeding health certificates) for stallions be made compulsory. A stallion's contribution to the gene pool can be

significant. To ensure that we are breeding from sound, healthy stock, a stallion breeding health certificate will provide protection for breeders and the breed for the future.

The stallion breeding registration certificate is NOT a grading or licensing certificate. It takes the form of a basic health check by a veterinarian to ensure basic heritable faults are not present. The health check includes assessment for:

- Congenital Cataracts
- Overshot jaw
- Parrot mouth
- Malformation of Genitals (external examination only)
- Cryptorchid or monorchid
- Locking stifle
- Nasal Disease
- Stringhalt
- Other Determinable Genetic Faults

There are two components to a stallion breeding health certificate

1. Health certificate. The stallion will undertake an examination by an equine veterinarian which comprises the basic health check as above. Should the vet find any of the conditions identified in the health check, the stallion will not be registered as a breeding stallion and progeny will not be registered.
2. Genetic testing (currently for PSSM and FIS). This will be required, and results will be made publicly available via the online stud book. The emphasis of genetic testing is not on whether the genetic markers are present or absent as markers do not constitute disease. There is no prejudice against stallions that do or do not carry a particular marker, rather it is that the test results be available to breeders to make informed breeding decisions.

The proposal requires any breeding stallion to provide a stallion breeding certificate by the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023. Stallions with certificates obtained prior to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 will automatically transfer to the approved stallion registry if all components of the certificate have been completed. Progeny from any stallion without a completed certificate showing the stallion is clear from heritable faults that have not submitted a certificate by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 will not be registered. Progeny registrations completed before 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 are not affected by this change.

## **6.0 REGISTRY AND STUD BOOK – (Add to constitution)-**

6.4 : All Pure and Part Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse stallions must have completed and passed the NZGCA Stallion Breeding Registration Certificate requirements prior to their foals being registered. This clause takes effect from 1 August 2023. After this time, progeny of stallions without a stallion registration certificate will not be eligible for registration.

### **Remit 5. APPROVED**

That as part of the NZGCA registration process, all new registrations as from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 must include genetic testing for FIS and PSSM . Results will be publicly available on the NZGCA online studbook.

### **Remit 6. APPROVED**

Changes to the Incorporated Societies Act require NZGCA to have a dispute resolution section in the constitution. In order to comply with the change which states “you will be required to have dispute resolution in your constitution if you don’t already have it”, the following has been amended from the template put out by the Societies Office and replaces relevant clauses in the constitution:

## **Section 4: Membership.**

### **4.6 Conduct of Members**

No member shall conduct him/herself or be guilty of any such conduct as to bring the New Zealand Gypsy Cob Association Incorporated into discredit, or act in any way against the objectives of the Association. Bullying, abusive, discriminatory, intimidating, offensive behaviour or harassment of other members, officials or volunteers representing the New Zealand Gypsy Cob Association Incorporated, either verbal, via email, text or other social media.

Unacceptable behaviour will be decided by the current committee if it caused distress to the person the behaviour was aimed at. Misleading statements regarding other members, committee members and officials will also be regarded as unacceptable behaviour and will not be tolerated. Sanctions including but not limited to revocation or non- renewal of membership or removal from social. Media pages may be imposed if deemed necessary. **ADD- Appeals are as detailed under expulsion of members. The committee decision is final**

### **4.7 Resignation of Members**

Any member may resign from their membership by giving to the Secretary notice in writing to that effect and every such notice shall unless otherwise expressed take effect as from the date of such notice. A person who ceases to become a member remains liable to pay to the Association the amount of any subscription or other accounts due and payable by the person to the Association but unpaid at the date of that cessation. The Association will make no refund to the resigned member for any subscription already paid.

### **4.8 Expulsion of Members** (Change to the current so will now read as follows as is generally set out by the Incorporated Societies Office)

If, for any reason whatsoever, the Committee is of the view that a Member is breaching the Rules or acting in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Society, the Committee may give written notice of this to the Member (“the Committee’s Notice”). The Committee’s Notice must:

- 4.8.1 Explain how the Member is breaching the Rules or acting in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Society;
- 4.8.2 State what the Member must do in order to remedy the situation; or state that the Member must write to the Committee giving reasons why the Committee should not terminate the Member’s Membership.
- 4.8.3 State that if, within 21 days of the Member being sent the Committee’s Notice to the last known email or postal address, the Committee is not satisfied, the Committee may in its absolute discretion immediately terminate the Member’s Membership.

- 4.8.4 State that if the Committee terminates the Member's Membership, the Member may appeal to the Society.
- 4.8.5 Twenty one days after the Member being sent the Committee's Notice, the Committee may in its absolute discretion by majority vote terminate the Member's Membership by giving the Member written notice ("Termination Notice"), which takes immediate effect. The Termination Notice must state that the Member may appeal to the Society at the next Meeting by giving written notice to the Secretary ("Member's Notice") within twenty one days of the Member's being sent the Termination Notice.
- 4.8.6 If the Member gives the Member's Notice to the Secretary, the Member will have the right to be fairly heard at a Society Meeting held within the following 28 days. If the Member chooses, the Member may provide the Secretary with a written explanation of the events as the Member sees them ("the Member's Explanation"), and the Member may require the Secretary to give the Member's explanation to every other Member within seven days of the Secretary receiving the Member's explanation. If the Member is not satisfied that the other Society Members have had sufficient time to consider the Member's explanation, the Member may defer his or her right to be heard until the following Society Meeting.
- 4.8.7 When the Member is heard at a Society Meeting, the Society may question the Member and the Committee Members.
- 4.8.8 The Society shall then by majority vote decide whether to let the termination stand, or whether to reinstate the Member.
- 4.8.9 The Member has the right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an external official from a recognised equestrian association (RAS or ESNZ), who may make recommendations to the committee. Any review is at the Member's expense.
- 4.8.10 The Society's decision will be final.