

# EQUUS SURVIVAL TRUST ACTION ALERT



## KEEPING THEM SAFE and PURE

### Endangered Mountain Pleasure Horse Gets a New Name & Registry

#### - Appalachian Purebred Gaited Horse

All has not been well in the Mountain Pleasure Horse world. In 2009 the Board of the existing registry, the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association (MPHA), approved opening its studbooks to outside gaited blood for a grading up program to increase registrations.



Old Breed gets a New Name – Photo courtesy of Robin Little/ Rockin R Rhythm Riders

Opening the MPHA studbooks to outside blood did not have the effect the Board predicted. Many breeders protested by not registering stock. The registry was also disqualified from receiving thousands of dollars in funds from the Non-

Race Breeders Incentive Program - KY based funds that the breed had enjoyed for some years. The Incentive Program, administered by the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority, does not allow an open studbook. The result: the breed community found themselves without funds and prize money for shows in 2009, and 2010.

The MPHA was originally formed to promote, protect and conserve the Mountain Pleasure Horse, a 200 year-old gaited breed indigenous to Eastern KY and the rootstock for several other gaited breeds including the Rocky Mountain Horse. The MPA is an outstanding trail mount and is known as a family horse with a superb Cadillac gait.

The MPH is a critically endangered breed, but according to Victoria Tollman, Executive Director of the Equus Survival Trust. *"We work closely with geneticists such as Dr. Gus Cothran of Texas A&M University. Data suggests there are more than ample bloodlines available to the MPH community. A grading up program is not only unnecessary, it is not in the best interest of conserving the purebred Mountain Pleasure Horse."*



Appalachian Purebred stallion courtesy Goldenarrow Mnt Horses, Rogers, KY



Photo courtesy of Linda Cheevers PHOTO Jeramiah Milmore

Many long-time breeders were concerned, not so much with the loss of the Incentive money and their shows, as with the threat of non-Mountain Pleasure blood. Who would save pure blood of the original horses of the Appalachian Mountains from extinction?

The answer came in the summer of 2010. Sanctioned by the Equus Survival Trust, a new registry was formed by the Old-Time breeders, concerned owners, and long time supporters. Odd as it may seem, the name "Mountain Pleasure Horse"

is copyrighted in its home state of Kentucky. Therefore any new registry was barred from using the breed name in its title. Forced to choose a new name for its 200 year-old breed, it seemed appropriate to rename their beloved horses for the mountains that shaped them, hence an old breed has a new name: the Appalachian Purebred Gaited Horse.

The new registry, the Appalachian Purebred Gaited Horse Association (APGHA), is now in the process of bringing the breed studbooks up to date, excluding any non-pure horses and progeny put into the old studbooks. Upon completion, the studbooks and will be made available to breeders, and the Incentive funds for showing will once again be there to support this endangered breed. The APGHA motto: *Keeping Them Safe and Pure!*

***Appalachian Purebred Gaited Horse earns his new name on the mountain trails.  
Photo courtesy of Robin Little***

***The Appalachian Purebred Gaited Horse Association is a new associate member organization of the Equus Survival Trust. Meetings for APGHA are held once a month in Campton, KY at the Campton County Courthouse.***

***For more information write:  
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***Or contact the Equus Survival Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to the conservation of endangered historical breeds of equines  
[www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org](http://www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org)***

