

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BULLDOG?

The first answer lies in the fact that AQHA did not close its' stud book to Thoroughbreds, even though they had originally planned to do so – please read “The First 27,000” editorial.

Secondly, horse racing was a national pastime, with a lot of money involved, and the race men kept crossing more and more TB onto the Bulldog Quarter Horse. These were great crosses and produced more speed, as well as a horse that was taller, and more elegant than the little Bulldog. Due to the TB influence, the new crosses had longer legs, smaller feet, and a longer-thinner neck. These horses became the rage with the halter horse set, who were sweating off even more neck to satisfy the new fads, and breeding for a taller horse while maintaining the heavy muscling.

In the 60's QH names that contained words like *Bar, Moon, Jaguar, Go, Dash, Jet, Rocket, Te, Three, Triple, Dial, Straw*, and *Eternal* among many others became the norm. These horses all contained a high percentage of TB, and they dominated the show and race world. The typical Bulldog could no longer compete in the halter horse world because of the new preferred type, nor could he race with the TB crosses – nor could he earn an AQHA Championship that also required halter.

Three Bars (TB) and his half TB sons were highly sought after for breeding. With the advent of *Impressive* (line-bred Three Bars and only 24% QH) and his sons in the 70's, and 80's the Bulldog's fate was sealed. With the exception of cattle classes, they were looked down on as too coarse, and too short, for the modern show world. It fell to ranchers, recreational riders, cattle events, and a few Foundation Breeders to save the breed type and buck the trend. The show world (that set the standards for the breed) had no place for them. Presently the age of the 'specialty' horse is in full swing, with the halter horse, western pleasure horse, english pleasure horse and cow horse all having different conformation and different movement. There is no longer a breed 'type'.

By 1995, when NFQHA was formed, True Bulldog Type horses were very rare. Many Quarter Horse owners had no idea how much TB was in their Quarter Horse, or that their Modern Quarter Horse bore very little resemblance to the original American Quarter Horse. Not only did the Modern Quarter Horse look different, but much of the wonderful temperament had been lost with the addition of the hot TB blood, and navicular and other foot problems became more prevalent as the foot got smaller while the heavy muscling remained.

Although it took several decades ~ the demise of the Bulldog was predicted 84 years ago: From *They Rode Good Horses* Page 9 – Spring 1941 meeting “there was an attempt to develop a classification system of “A, B, and C” types, which would cover everything from bulldog to racehorse conformations.” Jack Hutchins, AQHA President remarked on the class system “We have seen the beginning of the end of the bulldogs.”

Bob Denhardt from Foundation Sires of the Quarter Horse: Page 29 “It is rather easy to look back now and see what caused the trouble, although I do not think anyone foresaw it at the time. Basically, the issue had been present from the first. It came to the surface briefly at the meeting where we compromised with ABC registration. The compromise only put the lid on the kettle, but it was boiling just out of sight. It all came to this: was the more leggy, Thoroughbred-type eligible for complete registration, or should we be strict and permanently register only the old Steel Dust Quarter Horses. Although we did not realize it at the time, those of us who wanted to go down the straight and narrow path were “gone goslings.”

Today: Although the True Bulldog is still rare when compared with more than a million living Modern Quarter Horses, NFAQHA is very proud of the fact that it is now considered a plus to say your horse is a Foundation Quarter Horse, and that it adds to the horse's value.

The historic Bulldog Type Foundation Quarter Horse is a “**Made-In-America National Treasure**”. NFAQHA applauds all the current Foundation Quarter Horse breeders and owners that are preserving the extraordinary Bulldog Foundation Quarter Horse, with all of his unique breed type attributes!

To Know the True Bulldog Foundation Quarter Horse is to Love Him

~ Breed the Quarter Horse back into the Quarter Horse ~