

Australian Haflinger Breeding and Sports Association

Genetic Health Policy: Minimising Genetic Disease

Goal: To reduce the prevalence of PSSM1 and SCC within the Australian Haflinger population while actively safeguarding the breed's overall genetic diversity.

Key Objectives:

1. **Enhance Member Education:** To provide comprehensive education to all owners and breeders on the genetics, risks, and management of PSSM1 and SCC.
2. **Implement Management Strategies:** To create and enforce proactive control measures that manage the risk of passing on these genetic conditions.
3. **Establish a Disease Baseline:** To accurately assess the current prevalence of PSSM1 and SCC in the Australian Haflinger population through systematic genetic testing.

Proposed Actions:

1. **Information & Awareness:** Publish the policy and a public-facing summary on the Association's website. Distribute educational materials through newsletters, social media, and at member events to raise awareness.
2. **Testing Access & Promotion:** Negotiate discounted genetic testing services for members. Actively promote and encourage voluntary testing for PSSM1 and SCC, especially for stallions and mares intended for breeding.
3. **Breeding Standards:** Implement clear breeding recommendations that encourage the use of genetically clear (N/N) or heterozygous (N/P) horses in breeding programs.
4. **Data Collection & Registry:** Create a secure and confidential database to track testing results. Encourage all breeding stock registered with the Association to have documented genetic test results to inform breeding decisions and monitor progress.

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