

SELLERS - BE AWARE

When you sell a purebred horse, it is YOUR responsibility to transfer the papers into the new owner's name. This is the law in Canada under the Animal Pedigree Act. If you just hand over the signed papers to the new owner, you have *not* fulfilled your responsibility, and you have broken the law. Theoretically at least, you could be charged with that offense.

For those who say, "Well, the new owner didn't want the papers", there is a solution. On your bill of sale (which everyone should issue when selling a horse - & keep a duplicate) clearly identify the horse with its name and number, colour and markings. Have the buyer sign a statement to the effect that he or she **does not want** the registration papers, print his/her name underneath, and date it. Then you can send the papers in to Canadian Livestock Records to be cancelled. There is a box to that effect that you can check off on the back of the certificate. The papers will be kept by CLRC, the horse's registration will be cancelled, and you will not be charged a fee. The horse is now effectively "un-registered".

You as the seller have done the right thing, the buyer has his preference, and the horse is removed from the records. There will never be anyone buying that horse several owners later and being frustrated because he or she can't catch up the papers and register it. It must be forever after resold as a grade.

If this seems severe, think about what a registered horse is. You know its breed and you can see all its ancestors. Registration papers also include the age of the horse, as well as a clear description of the color and markings. It is a proof of sorts that the horse is as described on the papers. It is evidence that the owner had enough pride in his stock to ensure that the animal was recognized as a purebred and has the right to be called a Tennessee Walking Horse. Unlike a grade horse, it carries a known heritage.

Through DNA you have definite proof that it IS the animal on the registration certificate. That fact may be even more important when horse identification becomes mandatory.

This has cost the breeder not only all the regular expenses to raise the horse but also over \$100 to register and DNA parentage verify it. Surely after all that, \$20 - \$40 is not too much to pay to transfer it into the new owner's name?

That completes the sale, and you as seller have fulfilled your obligations as a Canadian under Canadian law and have shown your pride in the horse.

BUYERS - BE AWARE

Buyers, you are entitled under Canadian law to have the papers of a horse being sold as registered or even one being represented as purebred, transferred into your name by the seller and at the seller's expense. Ask him to show you the papers for the horse you are interested in. Check that he is the person listed as owner on the papers. If the seller is acting as agent for an owner, double check with that owner to be sure that he or she will indeed transfer the papers to you if you buy the horse.

Be wary of any horse being sold with papers that show signatures of several owners but no documentation from the Registry that the transfers have been recorded. It can be a very long, frustrating and expensive journey to get the horse into your name, if it's possible at all. There are lots of good, properly recorded horses out there, and responsible sellers who will be happy to transfer the papers.

We all know that you "don't ride the papers" but there is a special pride in owning and riding a purebred horse that's registered in your name.

Under Buyers Beware - we may wish to list some questions to ask - this may be a different article

Has the horse been DNA Profiled?

Has the horse been parent verified?

Can I breed this horse?

Does this horses have any registered foals?

If there is a long list of owners and no transfers recorded, a question that comes to mind is

"Why has this horse been owned by so many people? Is there something wrong with this horse?"

Is the horse as represented to be by the seller?" Does the horse match the description on the papers?

Has the horse been Blood Typed?

(If you as a buyer ever wish to breed a horse that has not been transferred into your name, you may not be able to register the foal in your name. Before a foal can be registered, the mare must be registered in the name of the owner.)