



**Unit 18 Brewery Business Park  
Dundalk Co Louth Ireland.  
Tel: 353 1 5310365  
[www.irishharnessracing.com](http://www.irishharnessracing.com)**

## **“Irish Pacer Stud Book” Breeding Program**

### **Section 1 Breeding Program**

- (a) Aims
- (b) Breed Name
- (c) Characteristics / Breed Standard
- (d) Geographical Territory
- (e) Details of Identification (Naming, Registering a prefix, Identification number/UELN)
- (f) System for recording Pedigree
- (g) Selection and Breeding Objectives
- (h) Performance Testing
- (i) Stud Book Sections
- (j) Outsourcing Technical Activities
- (k) Article 31 (1) Derogation

A Standardbred Pacer is a horse which is recorded in a Pacer Stud Book for Standardbred as approved by the Department of Agriculture at the time of its official recording.

## **1. Breeding Program**

### **(a) Aims:**

The aims of the Irish Harness Racing Association (IHRA) is to promote the preservation and improvement of the breeding of full bred pacing horses in the 32 counties of Ireland.

To assist encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding in Ireland of pacing horses and to foster links and to encourage and support Irish bred pacing horses abroad.

To produce a performance horse that is sound, athletic with good paces, good temperament and capable of performing at the highest international level.

### **(b) Breed Name**

The breed shall be known as “Irish Standardbred Pacer”.

### **(c) Characteristics/Breed Standard**

The Standardbred Pacer Horse should be a functionally correct model of balanced proportions that is conducive to successful performance at international level in harness racing disciplines.

The distinguishing characteristic of a Standardbred Pacer is the two beat “lateral gait” where the foreleg moves in unison with the hind leg on the same side. This ability is linked to single point mutation in gene DMRT3.

The horse should move correctly, be light-footed, balanced and supple with good self-carriage and impulsion from the hindquarters. The horse should have a good temperament, be driveable/ride able, intelligent and willing to perform.

Height: Ideally a Standardbred Pacer horse should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

Bone: Good, strong, clean bone

Colour: Generally solid colours in the main, bay, brown, chestnut, black and grey.

### **(d) Geographical Territory**

The Irish Standardbred Pacer Stud Book records the births of Pacer progeny in the southern and northern counties of Ireland subject to the overall conditions of entry.

### **(e) Details of Identification**

To be eligible to be registered in the Main Section of the Pacer Stud Book a horse must:

- Be descended from parents entered in the main section of a stud-book of that same breed and have a pedigree established in accordance with the rules of that stud-book.
- Be identified as a foal at foot in accordance with the rules of that stud-book.
- NOTE: Animals registered in the main section of another approved Pacer stud-book outside of Ireland can be entered in the main section of the Irish Trotter Studbook to take part in a crossbreeding program.

### **Naming**

Pacer horses can be named from birth, in order to name a horse the owner must select a choice of two names at the initial point of registration. Names registered shall have not more than 18 characters (including blank spaces) and shall not be those of horses that have become famous on the international racing scene. There is no duplication of names allowed in the Irish Harness Racing Association's pedigree database. If the owner's choices of names for the horse have already been taken the IHRA may contact the owner to agree upon a different name that has not yet been used.

### **Registering a Prefix**

- Breeders can register a prefix with the Irish Harness Racing Association for a once-off fee. Registration of a prefix ensures there are no duplicate names in the studbooks maintained by the Irish Harness Racing Association.
- The benefits of owning a prefix include:
- A prefix entitles a breeder to name their foals on registration.
- A breeder's prefix cannot be used by another breeder/owner unless written consent is given by the prefix owner.

### **Identification Numbers used in the Trotter Stud Book.**

- All animals registered in the Irish Pacer Stud Book are identified by a Unique Equine Life Number (UELN). This UELN identifies the country and Studbook where the horse was first registered and the registration number within the studbook. All UELN 's contain 15 digits, the first three digits of animals registered in the Pacer Studbook are 372 which is the code for Ireland, the next three digits are 414 which is the code for the Irish Horse Register and the remaining nine digits form the registration number used to identify the animal in the Pacer Studbook.

- An animal registered in another studbook retains its original number issued by the approved studbook keeping authority when classified in the Pacer Studbook.

**(f) System for recording Pedigree**

All data recording is done using a database provided by Grassroots Systems Ltd

**(g) Selection and Breeding objectives**

- The breeding object is to produce a performance horse that is sound, athletic with good paces, good temperament and capable of performing at the highest international level.
- To produce a horse that is capable of qualifying for racing as a 2 year old or a 3 year old in the standard qualifying times in force by the IHRA or other such International racing organization at the specific time of qualifying.
- To produce potential future broodmares that are capable of entering the breeding program following their racing career.
- To produce potential future Stallions that are capable of entering the breeding program following their racing career.

**(h) Performance testing:**

Performance testing will be evaluated by recording race times for each individual performance over the three specific race distances 1,600 meters, 2,000 meters and 2,400 meters (1 mile. 1.24 miles & 1.5 miles) with split timing over each quarter distance

Additional to their racing performances, all animals who record a personal life time best performance will be subject to a mandatory integrity test to ensure that the performance was made without the use of any prohibited substances.

Out of competition testing will also take place to protect the breeding programme of any future broodmares and stallions.

**Stallion Grading**

Grade A: Stallions will have an official record of 1:55.0 or faster (North America/Southern Hemisphere) or 2:00.0 or faster (Ireland/UK) AND progeny who have won

Grade B: Stallions will have an official record of 1:55.0 or faster (North America/Southern Hemisphere) or 2:00.0 or faster (Ireland/UK) OR progeny who have won

Grade C: Stallions have neither a record of 1:55.0 or faster (North America/Southern Hemisphere) or 2:00.0 or faster (Ireland/UK) NOR any winning progeny

Mares will also be classified similar to International Standardbred Pacer Studbooks.

**(i) Studbook Sections:**

The Standardbred Pacer Stud Book incorporates a main section and a supplementary section as follows:

**Main Section:**

To be eligible to be registered in the Main Section of the Pacer Stud Book a horse must:

- (a) Be descended from parents entered in the main section of a stud-book of that same breed and have a pedigree established in accordance with the rules of that stud-book.
- (b) Be identified as a foal a foot in accordance with the rules of that stud-book.

NOTE: Animals registered in the main section of another approved pacer stud-book outside of Ireland can be entered in the main section of the Standardbred Pacer Studbook to take part in a crossbreeding program.

**Supplementary Section:**

Where an animal, which does not meet the criteria laid down for entry in the main section of the stud-book it may be entered into the supplementary section provided it meets the following criteria:

- (a) Is identified in accordance with the stud-book rules.
- (b) Is judged to conform to the breed standard.
- (c) Has a minimum performance as laid down in the stud-book rules

The minimum performance required for entry into the supplementary section is a horse deemed to be part Standardbred Pacer with a pedigree containing a strain or strains of at least 50% pure bred Standardbred Pacer blood which can be supported by documentary evidence satisfactory to the Breeding Committee of the IHRA.

**Upgrade of Progeny from the Supplementary section:**

In addition, an animal may be upgraded from the supplementary section to the main section of the Stud-Book when the following conditions are satisfied:

- Provided that the sire is registered in the main section and the dam is registered in the supplementary section of a Standardbred Pacer Stud-Book.

Or

- Provided that the dam is registered in the main section and the sire is registered in the supplementary section of a Standardbred Pacer Stud-Book

And

- Displays the distinguishing characteristics of a Standardbred Pacer the two beat “lateral gait” where the foreleg moves in unison with the hind leg on the same side.

**and/or**

- Can show such performance in qualification race trials open to Pacers under Irish Harness Racing Association rules in force at the time of application as to warrant its assimilation with Pacer Standardbred.

The Proprietors reserve the right to remove horses from the Stud-Book in the event of misinformation having been provided in the first instance to warrant such entry.

**(j) Outsourcing Technical Activities**

The printing of identification documents is currently outsourced to Horse Sport Ireland.

DNA parental verification is outsourced to Weatherbys Scientific

**(k) Article 31 (1) Derogation**

The Irish Standardbred Trotter Stud Book intends to use the Derogation granted by competent authority in line with Article 31(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 to authorize the listed Semen Collection or Storage Centers and Embryo Collection or Production Teams to issue Zootechnical Certificates for germinal products.

Approved Equine Semen Collection Centers:

- Kedrah House Stud
- Hartwell Stud
- Kylemore Stud
- Ballymureen Stud
- The Stallion Company
- Sean Barker
- Euro Stallions (Ireland) Ltd

Approved Equine Semen Storage Centres:

- Euro Stallions Ireland Ltd
- Ballymureen Stud
- Rockmount AI Centre
- The Stallion Company

**Section 2: Stud Book Process**

- (a) Registration
- (b) Endorsing Passports
- (c) Incomplete returns
- (d) Service to produce an eligible foal
- (e) A.I rules & regulations
- (f) Embryo transfer
- (g) Reported Coat Colours and Gestation Periods
- (h) Disqualification
- (i) Identity documents
- (j) Transfer of ownership
- (k) Integrity procedures
- (l) Duplicate Passports
- (m) Covering Certificates
- (n) Blood typing & DNA typing

**(a) Registration Procedure:**

The following rules pertain to registering an animal in the Irish Trotter Stud-Book.

- (1) Fully completed applications for registration should be submitted within 6 months of the date of birth as required by Regulation 16(7) of Statutory Instrument No. 62 of 2016. This is to ensure the studbook as sufficient time to register the animal within 12 months of their date of birth. Registrations processed outside of this timescale will be issued with a duplicate passport (Regulation 11(1) of S.I. No. 62 of 2016 and the passport will be stamped as not fit for human consumption.
- (2) Have a completed marking chart completed by a registered Veterinary Surgeon
- (3) Have a microchip implanted by a registered Veterinary Surgeon and have the microchip bar code attached to the marking chart.
- (4) The microchip used must be issued by an approved Stud-Book issuing authority.
- (5) A DNA hair sample must be taken at the time of marking by a registered Veterinary Surgeon and placed in a sealed bag provided with the marking chart.

- (6) Where the Dam of the foal has not been previously DNA typed, a hair sample must also be taken by the Veterinary Surgeon and placed in a sealed bag provided with the marking chart.
- (7) Have a Covering Certificate issued by a recognized Passport Issuing Organisation, signed by the Stallion Owner or their representative, whoever was present at the covering.
- (8) Or an electronic equivalent authorized by the Proprietors, and issued by an approved Stud Book Authority which also registers foals on electronic covering certificates, confirming the first and last dates of service of the Mare in the previous year, the Stallion Owner's or their representative's satisfaction as to the correct identity of the mare (where applicable), and that the offspring must be the result of a Stallion's mating with the said Mare.
- (9) An official Foal Registration Form, signed by the Breeder, or an electronic equivalent authorized by the Proprietors, giving the required details of the produce, namely the colour, sex, date of birth and country of foaling. Twins must be indicated.
- (10) Payment of the required registration fee.
- (11) Application for registrations will only be accepted from fully paid up IHRA members.
- (12) All applications must provide an Equine Premises Registration Number corresponding to the location where the equine is kept.

**(b) Endorsing Passports:**

Before any Stallion or Mare can be registered in the Irish Trotter Stud-Book as breeding stock, the animal's identity must be established. This is achieved:

- By the submission of the horses passport to be endorsed for breeding purposes.
- By provision of the animal's DNA or blood type with any necessary sample taken by a registered Veterinary Surgeon who should not be the breeder, owner or trainer of the horse which the markings certificate relates to such sample or DNA analysis/blood type to be used in parentage verification cases and identity checks. In addition, Irish Harness Racing Association reserve the right to retain a portion of each sample for future reference in parentage verification and identity checks, provided that the owner, at any time after the initial sample has been analysed, may require Irish Harness Racing Association to destroy, or return to the owner, the sample (or relevant portion thereof), by giving not less than 30 days prior written notice to Irish Harness Racing Association to that effect.
- Imported animals must have their passports endorsed for breeding purposes.
- No animal may be registered as breeding stock retrospectively, after it has died, except at the discretion of the Proprietors of the Irish Trotter Stud Book and only if the animal's DNA or blood type has been officially established.

**(c) Incomplete Returns**

Returns which are incorrect or incomplete, or which lack any of the required supporting documentation, cannot be accepted and will be returned to the Breeder for completion.

The rate of fee payable for registering produce will be the rate applicable on the date when the completed return is received. Produce for which a completed return has been made in all respects except the provision of required DNA samples will be accepted at the fee applicable on the date the return is received, provided that the necessary DNA samples are received within two months from that date. If the required DNA samples are not provided within two months, the return will not be accepted and will be returned to the Breeder, and will only be accepted subsequently at the rate of fee applicable at the time of its re-submission.

**(d) Service to produce an eligible foal**

A Foal is not eligible to be registered in the Trotter Stud Book unless:

- It is the result of a Stallion's mating with a Mare which is the physical mounting of a Mare by a Stallion with intromission of the penis and ejaculation of semen into the reproductive tract. As an aid to this natural service a portion of the ejaculate produced by the Stallion during such mating may immediately have been placed in the reproductive tract of the Mare being bred.
- It is the result Artificial Insemination conducted by a registered Veterinarian/AI Technician.
- It is the result of Embryo Transfer conducted by a registered Veterinary Surgeon.

Any Foal resulting from or produced by the process of Cloning or any other form of genetic manipulation not herein specified, shall not be eligible for registration in the Trotter Stud Book.

**(e) A.I. Rules and Regulations**

The IHRC rules and regulations for artificial insemination used for breeding are as follows:

- (1) All domestic semen used for the purpose of AI must be from stallions that are fully registered and entered in the IHRA Studbook.
- (2) All domestic stallion owners intending to use their stallions as donors for AI purpose must notify IHRA in advance of collection of semen.
- (3) All domestic semen used for the purpose of AI must be from stallions that have been geno-typed by DNA analysis from hair sample using the micro-satellite technique.

- (4) All domestic stallions donating semen should have been tested negative for Contagious Equine Merits (CEM), Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) and Equine Viral Arthritis (EVA) prior to collection of semen as specified by the current HBLB Code of Practice. Confirmation of negative results should be submitted to IHRC prior to distribution of semen. In the case of a seropositive EVA result following vaccination, evidence of negative result prior to vaccination is required.
- (5) All importers of chilled or frozen semen must notify IHRA of the intended importation, stating the stallion's name and location.
- (6) All imported semen used for the purpose of AI must be from stallions that are fully registered and entered in their countries recognized breed authority studbook.
- (7) All imported semen used for the purpose of AI must be from stallions that have been geno-typed by DNA analysis using micro-satellite technique. The DNA profile and certified unique number must be made available to IHRA for subsequent progeny verification purposes.
- (8) All semen imported into the Ireland from within the EU must be accompanied by a completed intra-community trade certificate (INTRA) specifying the name of the stallion whose semen the certificate relates to and by an original, valid health certificate issued in the country of origin.
- (9) All semen imported into the Ireland from outside the EU must be accompanied by a completed Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVEDA) specifying the name of the stallion whose semen the certificate relates to and by an original, valid health certificate issued in the country of origin.
- (10) All importers of frozen semen must supply IHRA with copies of all accompanying health certificates.
- (11) All transported semen must be clearly labelled with the name of stallion and the date on which semen was collected.
- (12) On completion of each AI procedure the authorized veterinarian or AI technician must complete the IHRA declaration and return to stallion owner/agent.
- (13) All brood mares that produce a foal following AI procedures must be geno-type by DNA analysis from hair sample using the micro-satellite technique as per IHRA regulations for any broodmare.
- (14) All foals born as a result of AI must be geno-typed by DNA analysis from a hair sample using the micro-satellite technique as per IHRC regulations for any foal registration.
- (15) The number of covering certificates delivered annually for a stallion must not exceed 150 for the registration in one Stud Book whatever the method of insemination may be.

- (16) Frozen semen from a deceased stallion may be used but no longer than the end of the year following his death providing a DNA profile of the stallion is available.
- (17) If a stallion has frozen semen stored, is sold or leased, the vendor and purchaser must have a written agreement over the ownership or sale of any existing frozen semen and who is responsible for issuance of any subsequent mating certificate. A copy of the written signed agreement should be forwarded to IHRA.

**(f) Embryo Transfer Regulations & Registration Requirements**

Rules of Eligibility – Embryo or Ovum Transfer

1. The Irish Harness Racing Association shall enact regulations prescribing a procedure of embryo or ovum transfer.  
Foals resulting from embryo or ovum transfer shall only be eligible for registration under the following internationally agreed conditions:
  - (a) Only one foal resulting from an embryo/ovum transfer from a given donor mare, is eligible for registration in each year (except in the case of twins). If a foal is issued from embryo transfer method, only the first born foal worldwide can be registered in one stud-book.
  - (b) If more than one foal results from a mare in a given year, only one foal shall be registered.
  - (c) The donor mare is at least two (2) years of age or older at the time of embryo or ovum transfer.
  - (d) All registration applications should be applied within 6 months of the date of birth. (See Registration Procedure for further details on timeframe).
  - (e) The fact that a horse is a result of an embryo transfer shall be recorded in the registration records and the registration certificate / passport respecting to the horse.
2. You must complete an application of Embryo Transfer return to IHRA, who will then issue a Certificate of Embryo Transfer to be completed by the Veterinarian / Reproductive Technician or E.T Clinic
  - (a) Application forms to undertake embryo or ovum transfer are available from the IHRA.
  - (b) An administration fee relating to each sire to be used must accompany this application.
3. A foal which results from an embryo transfer may be registered provided that:

- (a) Subsequent to the transfer of an embryo or ovum, a Certificate of Embryo or Ovum Transfer is completed by the attending veterinarian or technician and that the original be submitted to the Irish Harness Racing Association and a copy to the owner and veterinarian or technician. The original is to be mailed to IHRC within twenty eight (28) working days of the procedure complete with the appropriate fee and the certificate of Embryo or Ovum Transfer.
- (b) The stallion and donor mare are DNA typed or sampled prior to embryo/ovum transfer;
- (c) IHRA shall be notified within twenty eight (28) days of the birth of an Embryo Transfer foal.
- (d) If the owner/s or any subsequent owner/s of a donor mare sells the donor mare while there is an embryo gestating, the seller must notify the purchaser, at time of sale, of said embryo/ovum material having been harvested.

**(g) Reported Coat Colours and Gestation Periods**

Notwithstanding that a complete return may be made for a Foal, and that the Foal may qualify by blood or DNA typing as being the progeny of its stated parents, the application to register the Foal may be refused either if its reported coat colour is inconsistent with the registered coat colours of its stated parents, or if the reported gestation period of its dam is significantly at variance with generally accepted limits.

**(h) Disqualification**

Modification of the heritable genome of a prospective or registered Trotter, during its conception, gestation or at any stage thereafter in its existence, will result in that horse forfeiting its status as a Trotter.

**(i) Identity Documents**

A Passport is issued in respect of each horse, foaled and registered as produce in the Trotter Stud Book. This document shows the descriptive particulars registered in respect of the animal, and are issued as an aid to the identification of the animal to which it refers and for its vaccination record to be maintained. They are not a certificate of ownership. While the information contained is believed to be correct, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed, in particular where this is dependent on information supplied. Passports are the property of the Trotter Stud-Book and must be returned

on demand. The passport should accompany the horse at all times unless required for administrative purposes.

It is the responsibility of every Mare Owner to ensure that they are in possession of this Document of Identity so that it can be presented to the Stallion Owner or their representative prior to the covering or foaling of the Mare and that the mare is checked against her passport markings.

**(j) Transfer of Ownership:**

Whenever a horse changes hands the Passport must be returned to the Stud Book Department at Irish Harness Racing Association for endorsement into the new owner's name. No return for a horse will be accepted from the new owner until this endorsement has been effected.

On foot of a Statutory Instrument 201 of 2016 Equidae (Transfer Of Ownership) Regulations 2014 signed into law by the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, it is a legal requirement to report changes of horse ownership to the Passport Issuing Authority who issued the original passport for a horse. This applies for any horses whose ownership changes after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

A transfer of ownership form should be completed and returned to Irish Harness Racing Association along with the passport and the appropriate fee.

**(k) Integrity Procedures**

Passports issued by Irish harness Racing Association remain the property of Irish Harness Racing Association and constitute the identity and veterinary record for a horse. The integrity of the content of the passport is paramount for racing, breeding, sales, domestic and international travel, veterinary treatment and slaughter purposes. In the interest of clarity, no entry in a passport may therefore be amended unless in the following manner. A line should be drawn through the error and a signature and date recorded against the error by the responsible person. Ambiguous or confusing entries in the passport are to be avoided. Passports received will be checked for any unofficial amendments, evidence of modification, tampering or fraud. Where necessary the passport page affected or, at Irish Harness Racing Association's discretion, the entire passport will be replaced for which a fee may be charged. Unofficial amendments to markings or microchip numbers may instigate an identity query case over the horse - the costs of which to be borne by the applicant. In compliance with the Horse Passport Regulations, the duplicate passport subsequently issued must indicate that the horse is signed out of the human food chain. This will be noted on Irish Harness Racing Association database. In cases of fraud/deliberate tampering, the case will be referred to the enforcement authorities.

It should be noted that the above requirements may be in addition and complementary to the requirements laid down by The Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**(l) Duplicate Passports:**

Duplicate Passports will be issued in accordance with Article 29 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EC No.2016/262).

Where a passport is lost stolen or destroyed the owner can apply to IHRA for a duplicate passport.

The following is required to issue a duplicate passport:

- A signed declaration from the owner recorded on the database confirming that the initial passport was lost or stolen or destroyed. If the current owner is not the recorded owner in the database, then a statement is required from the owner as recorded on the database that they agree to have the passport issued to the applicant for the replacement passport.
- Duplicate passport fee.
- If the animal is micro chipped, then a signed declaration from a veterinary surgeon confirming the microchip number in the animal is required;
- If the animal is not micro chipped a new set of markings must be taken by a veterinary surgeon and the animal must be micro chipped;
- If the markings do not match the original markings on file in the IHRA then DNA confirmation is required.

Where an animal is issued a duplicate passport they will be permanently excluded from the food chain and the duplicate passport stamped to reflect this.

**(m). Covering Certificates:**

Covering Certificates are issued for each Stallion when it is registered for breeding each season. Stallion Owners or their representatives are required:

- (1) To enter on the Certificates and counterfoils the details of every Mare covered by their Stallion in the season or an electronic equivalent authorized by the Proprietors and issued by an approved Stud Book Authority which also registers foals on electronic covering certificates. In particular, if a Mare is covered by more than one Stallion, a separate entry must be made for each Stallion.

- (2) To issue a Covering Certificate to the Owner of each Mare covered by their Stallion.
- (3) To return the completed counterfoils to the Stud Book Department of the IHRA at the end of the covering season.
- (4) It is a condition of the issue of Covering Certificates that the counterfoils will be returned not later than 1st November in the year of covering. No Covering Certificates can be issued for a Stallion for whom counterfoils are outstanding from the previous year. Prompt return of the counterfoils is essential to the Trotter Stud Book recording system, and for the early and complete analysis of the seasons covering activities.
- (5) The Stallion Owner or their representative, whoever was present at the covering, to sign a statement that the mating was natural and did not involve the processes of Cloning or any other form of genetic manipulation not here in specified (see "Service to produce an eligible foal" and "Disqualification").

**(n) Blood Typing & DNA Typing**

The laboratory officially designated to carry out blood typing and DNA typing for the IHRA Stud Books is:

Weatherbys Scientific Naas Co. Kildare

Samples submitted should be taken by a Veterinary Surgeon who should not be the breeder, owner or trainer of the horse which the markings certificate relates to. For the purpose of these Conditions of Entry an animal's blood or DNA type will not be considered to be officially established unless either it has been established by one of the above laboratories, based on a sample submitted to that laboratory, and notified to the Proprietors of the Irish Trotter Stud Book, or, in certain circumstances, it has been established by the officially designated laboratory of an Approved Stud Book Authority overseas. The circumstances under which blood or DNA types established by overseas laboratories as above will be accepted are:

- (1) In exceptional cases, and only if the animal concerned has died before a valid blood or DNA sample could reasonably have been taken from it, to establish the blood or DNA type of an imported Broodmare or Stallion (see Identity, above),
- (2) In the case of Stallions only, for the purpose of parentage testing a Foal conceived abroad and imported in utero (see Registration of Foals, above), provided that the blood type or DNA type so established and notified to the Proprietors of the Irish Trotter Stud Book is considered sufficiently comprehensive for the purpose.

Such sample or DNA analysis/blood type to be used in parentage verification cases and identity checks. In addition, Irish Harness Racing Association reserve the right to retain a portion of each sample for future reference in parentage verification and identity checks, provided that the owner, at any time after the initial sample has been analysed, may require Irish Harness Racing Association to destroy, or return to the owner, the sample (or relevant portion thereof), by giving not less than 30 days prior written notice to Irish Harness Racing Association to that effect.