The American Quarter Horse Association involves showing, racing, and recreation of Quarter Horses and is the world’s largest equine breed registry.

The President of the American Quarter Horse Association is Steve Stevens, a graduate of Texas A&M University. The headquarters of the AQHA are in Amarillo, Texas. The AQHA also represents rodeos, 4-H, FFA, NHSRA, USPC, and Best of America’s Horse Program.

**AQHA’s Mission**

- To record and preserve the pedigrees of the American Quarter Horse while maintaining the integrity of the breed.
- To provide beneficial services for its members that enhance and encourage American Quarter Horse ownership and participation.
- To develop diverse educational programs, material and curriculum that will position AQHA as the leading resource organization in the equine industry.
- To generate growth of AQHA membership via the marketing, promotion, advertising and publicity of the American Quarter Horse.

**AQHA’s History**

Establishment of the AQHA was in 1940 at the Southwest Exposition and Fat Stockshow by seventy-five men and women. After its founding, the first show was held in July of 1940 in Stamford, Texas. Another event the AQHA founded was the All-American Futurity, the world’s richest Quarter Horse race, run in 1959 at Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico. From its seventy-five person establishment, now in 2003 the AQHA has grown to over 338,000 members worldwide and has registered more than 4 million American Quarter Horses.

**AQHA Branches Out**

Furthermore, the association has a separate youth program, publishes The AQH Journal, AQH Racing Journal, and broadcasts America’s Horse on television. They hold an annual World Championship Show, conferences, and have now branched out to performing equine research. AQHA also sells books, jewelry, accessories, apparel, art, and videos – all related to horses. Lastly, a few of the association’s partners include Nutrena, Wrangler, Professional’s Choice, Ford Truck Company, and American Airlines.