Note:
This document which was first published in March 2011 was reviewed by the CBHS Council in July 2011 resulting in some changes to the proposed rules. The changed rules are now in italics and the new rules appear in bold type immediately following the original section.

CLEVELAND BAY HORSE SOCIETY

GRADING REGISTER INTRODUCTION

Aims of the Grading Register
- Sustain Breed Standard, Type and Breed Health
- Increase Genetic Variability
- Reduce In-Breeding
- Improve the Breed’s overall conformation and performance ability
- Increase the Number and Quality of Pure Bred Horses
- Widen Interest in and Involvement with the Cleveland Bay Breed
- Support the development and use of Part Bred Stallions

Introduction
The Cleveland Bay Horse Society (CBHS) carries the responsibility for the future of the Cleveland Bay Breed. The Breed is facing big challenges. Perhaps the greatest challenges to the Breed’s future are its failure to increase in popularity and its lack of genetic viability. As the generations progress, increasing amounts of genetic variation are lost as an inevitable but normal consequence of breeding. It is essential to the long-term health of the Breed that losses are regularly replaced but it is also desirable that the total genetic content is expanded. Health risks associated with in-breeding become more likely. Genetic loss and inbreeding problems are more prone to arise when breeding numbers are continually low as they have been in this breed for many years. When numbers being bred drop even lower there is a danger of the Breed approaching critical levels. In addition, for the breeders, choices become more limited with fewer selection options to enable the breeding of better quality horses.

The Grading Register has historically been a feature of the Breed and has, in part, been responsible for the breeding of many recognised influential stallions and mares. Few mares in recent years have progressed through to the full stud book and it is the belief of the Council that this has been to the detriment of the future of the Breed.

This new (2011) Grading Register (GR) programme is designed to allow for the introduction of genetics that will not only increase the essential variation but will help to reinforce the natural qualities of the Cleveland Bay. It will afford an opportunity for the genetics of talented and successful horses of quality to be introduced to help rebuild the breed and ensure that through these improvements it will lead to more desirable horses with wider appeal to the horse public.

Maintenance of the Cleveland Bay distinctive type, identity, nature and physical attributes will be priorities and the rules of the Register will be carefully managed to ensure compliance with Breed Standards. Introductions of non-Cleveland Bay blood will build on the CB structure and aim to bring conformation, movement and athletic improvements. The Society will make every endeavour to guard against undesirable traits.
The Breed's survival depends upon increasing its popularity. In the present day that rests upon consensus of approval as well as recognisable success within the horse world. Carefully monitored introductions of proven performance ability will gradually lead to breed improvement. If the appeal of the breed is widened with more breeders coming into Cleveland Bays, resulting increases in horse numbers will expand the genetic content then the future of the breed will be positively assured.

Combining the various elements of the GR will be a key to the Breed’s future survival and the Society sees these elements as listed in the above aims as being of equal importance in the Breed’s evolution.

The CBHS hopes that breeders will carefully consider using the GR alongside the continued breeding of Pure Bred horses. We hope that breeders will support these initiatives as the grading register will for a while become almost as important as pure bred breeding. The introduction of outside blood is seen to be essential. Working through the GR levels to Pure bred registration will be a long commitment if breeders are to follow it through to a Pure Bred Stud Book entry. The CBHS will be able to give support at all stages. The success of the GR programme though will be in the hands of individual breeders. If you need help in interpreting and applying the GR Rules please approach the CBHS: info@clevelandbays.co.uk

**Improver Classification**

An exciting, additional aspect of the Grading Register is the ‘Improver’ designation. Concerns by Horse Inspectors about the time taken for breeding results from the GR working through to the full stud book raised the Improvers proposal. Thinking about improver horses for the breed was first suggested by Sir Alfred Pease in 1886 and this he reported many years later in Volume XV111 of the Stud Book where he says that at that time he “strongly advocated a few of these superlative sires” – but was defeated. The current CBHS Council feel that it is now time to invoke this long overdue recommendation by this great authority with the aim of allowing a limited number of the progeny of recognised exceptional horses, both male and female, to enter directly into the GR at Grade C or exceptionally at Grade B. These will have a minimum 50% CB blood. Exceptional mares will be considered for the creation of essential, new breeding lines.

Discussion within the CBHS Council following the misgivings of some members of this section of the proposal, the following title and paragraph will replace the above section:

**Contingency arrangements**

Concerns have been expressed by the Council of the Society that the length of time taken for breeders to work through the stages of the GR may be in excess of 20 years. As the benefits to the genetic variation within the breed of new blood entering will not be seen for many years the Council feel that there ought to be a contingency programme available. Such a programme would enable suitable and carefully selected horses that already meet pedigree criteria and comply with Breed Standards, to ‘fast track’ into an appropriate place in the GR. Progeny of such horses, if shown to be suitable through inspection and veterinary examination, may then be entered into
the full stud book, or deferred for a further generation.

GRADING REGISTER RULES AND GUIDELINES

GRADING REGISTER RULES and Guide Note: These Grading Register rules, passed by the CBHS Council .......(date).............replace all previous versions, and apply to the CBHS, CBHSNA and CBHSA effective .................date...........

1. Who May Apply?
Owners of horses with 75% or more of Cleveland Bay blood may apply to the GR. Applicant must be either the owner of the horse. (If application by a keeper or lessee, the owner’s written permission is required). The applicant must be a member of the CBHS, the CBHSNA or the CBHSA. Horses prior to these rule changes in the GR will under these rules continue from their existing Grade position. Horses prior to the introduction of these GR rules in Grade A with a CB percentage greater than or equal to 93.5% will be eligible for entry into the full Stud Book subject to inspection and satisfactory veterinary examination. Under these recommendations colts and fillies will be treated the same in the respect of their GR band and will be entered into the appropriate GR position. Please also refer to the section below: ‘Male Grading Rules for Stallions and Geldings’. Existing part bred horses containing 75% or more blood out of Grading Register mares will be eligible for consideration for the GR. Colts similarly qualifying will be eligible for GR stallion license application. Existing CB Part Bred register mares will be eligible to apply for the GR subject to appropriate percentage of CB pedigree content and colour requirements.

2. Applications
Entry to the Grading Register for all horses will be based on completed GR application and on a satisfactory veterinary examination. There will be no Breed Horse Inspection at the point of entry to the Grading Register but the CBHS reserves the right to call for an inspection. Entry to the Grading Register for all horses will be based on completed GR application, a satisfactory veterinary examination, and a satisfactory Horse Inspection by CBHS appointed Horse Inspectors.

Horse suitability for the GR will be assessed by the CBHS based on the information supplied in the application. Detailed breeding and performance information will be essential to a successful application. The application procedure has been designed to encourage entries. Help and advice for horse owners considering the GR and seeking clarification or selection of horses is available from the CBHS. Application forms and full details will be available as a download from the CBHS website or by mail from the CBHS office. The applicant will be asked to provide:
Name of proposed horse, stud book or registration number;
Height and bone (measured by a vet – see below)
Two-generation pedigree - parents and grandparents;

Breeding record of mare - if relevant;
Use or discipline of proposed GR horse including show and competition record;
Colour photos, (or internet links to photos) of the proposed GR horse showing whole horse
from side for general conformation, head from both the front and side, front showing chest and
front legs, rear, and each side showing the legs;
Video clearly showing movement from the front, rear and side;
Progeny details and their performance records (if relevant);
Supporting evidence to verify the pedigree of any non-CB parents or grandparents, and
evidence of the breed of each; including the names of the horses, breed, relevant registration
information, and dates of birth;
Evidence of the colour of both sire and dam of the proposed GR horse – which are required to
be whole bay;
Other documentation of the non-CB ancestors which could include performance, show or race
results, photographs, or video footage, internet links.
The relevant fees must accompany the application and the declaration must be signed.
DNA is not being required at this stage unless the applicant wishes to confirm the horse's CB
identity. DNA when required must be collected by a veterinarian and forwarded to the CBHS
with full details. (See section 9 below)
The application form for the GR is available as a download on the CBHS website, or by post from
the CBHS office, and must be completed in full.
The CBHS will be responsible for the final decision on accepting an application.

**Following a provisional acceptance to the GR there will be a requirement for a
veterinary examination. Please refer to the Section 8 below: Veterinary Examinations.**

If your application is refused, the applicant may appeal to the CBHS.

**Following a provisional acceptance to the GR there will be a requirement for a
veterinary examination. Please refer to the Section 8 below: Veterinary Examination**
On receipt of a satisfactory veterinary report an inspection by CBHS appointed Horse
Inspectors will be made. If your application is refused the applicant may appeal to the
CBHS.

---

3. Grading Register designations
Grading Register C (GRC) – Female and Male
Grading Register B (GRB) – Female and Male
Grading Register A (GRA) – Female and Male
Improver Grade Females and Males - See separate rules below

4. Grades and Allocation to Grade
The normal point of entry for the Grading Register at Grade C (GRC) will be for horses
possessing at least 75% Cleveland Bay blood.
Horses with less than 75% Cleveland Bay blood are eligible for the Part Bred registry
Horses seeking to enter the Grading Register at Grade B (GRB) must have at least 87.5%
Cleveland Bay blood.
Horses seeking to enter the Grading Register at Grade A (GRA) must have at least 93.75%
Cleveland Bay blood.
Foals born throughout the GR programme will be allocated to the appropriate GR level and will
be eligible, on achieving the age of 28 months, to apply for a Part Bred or Grading Register
Stallion License.
Mismarked foals otherwise eligible for the Grading Register will be entered with the same mismarking notations as for those in the full Stud Book, (e.g. white snip, white on heel, oversize white star, roaning, etc...)
Future horses registered in the CBHS Part Bred register will be screened for their potential qualification for the GR and be invited to apply if eligible.

5. Outside Blood
The registered Thoroughbred is the CBHS preferred option for the non-Cleveland Bay pedigree content of horses entering the GR. Sport Horse breeds listed by the World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses (WBFSH), with the exception of coloured breeds, will be considered on their merits, as will other breeds that may bring additional quality and specific performance attributes to the grading process.
Horses will be assessed on their potential to bring improvements to the Breed
Heavy cart horse breeds, pony breeds and coloured horses are not acceptable as parents or grandparents for horses seeking entry in the Grading Register.

6. Requirements for Entry to the Grading Register at Grade C
The horse must be entered in the Part Bred register of the CBHS.
Only horses over 28 months (minimum age) will be considered for the Grading Registry.
All horses must be bay with black points, no white markings allowed other than a small white star. Roaning is not acceptable. If you have any concerns about the presence of white the CBHS will be able to provide advice before you submit a full application.
Mares must be at least 15 hh with 81/4 inches of bone, measured with a tight tape below the knee at the narrowest part of the cannon bone.
Male horses must be 15.2hh with 81/2 inches of bone.
Height requirements for both mares and males to be 15.2hh and the bone requirement for both mares and males to be 81/2 inches
Measurements may be made by the Veterinary Surgeon or by CBHS appointed Horse Inspectors.
Measurements to be made by Veterinary Surgeon at the time of examination.
All horses put forward must have a minimum of 75% pure Cleveland Bay blood.
All horses should have a traceable pedigree. Reference the Grades and Allocation section below.
The non CB portions of the pedigree of all GR horses must meet the requirements as set out in the section on ‘Outside Blood’.
The Sire or Dam of the nominated horse must meet the requirements in the section ‘Outside Blood’.

7. Requirements for Grade A Horses to be Inspected for Entry into the Pure Bred Stud Book
The horse must be entered in the CBHS GR at Grade A.
The horse should have 93.75% CB blood.
The horse should at least be 28 months old.
The horse should meet the requirements for bone and height as set out in Grade C entry (section 6)
For additional criteria for males, please see Section 11 below: ‘Additional Rules for Males in the Grading Register – Licensed Grading Register Stallions’ below.
A minimum Breed Inspection score of 100 points (maximum 130) will be required for entry into the Pure Bred stud book. See appendix 1 for copy of Inspection Marks Sheet
The Grade A designation will be removed for successful horses.
8. Veterinary Examinations
A Veterinary Inspection for soundness and freedom from hereditary disease is required for all horses entering the Grading Register.
Examinations will be arranged by the CBHS, and, by an overseas owner’s agreement, with CBHSNA or CBHSA. Otherwise, this will be arranged by the CBHS.
The owner may nominate his or her own Veterinary Surgeon to carry out the vetting providing that the veterinarian is an equine specialist.
Applications should include email addresses for the veterinarian to be consulted.
The veterinary practice will be contacted by the relevant society to clarify they have no objection to evaluating a client’s horse and confirming their equine specialism.
The veterinarian will also be required to confirm the identity of the horse prior to inspection, by comparing the horse to its official identification document.
They will be asked to measure the height and cannon bone size of the horse.
The requirements for the CBHS inspections will be based on Veterinary Examination 5 Stage Vetting Protocol set out by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons British Veterinary Association. Please see ‘Additional Information’ Section 15 below.
Once a horse has fulfilled its initial application and veterinary inspection requirements, and has been accepted by the CBHS Breed Committee, it will be placed in the appropriate GR level depending on its percentage of Cleveland Bay blood.
Veterinary examinations will be made at entry points to the GR and then prior to grading up from Grade A to full Stud Book.
The cost of all veterinary examinations will be paid for by the applicant.

9. DNA
DNA must be submitted for all GR horses to enable parentage testing.
DNA will be required of any parent containing CB blood if it is not already on record with CBHS.
DNA samples should be forwarded to the CBHS together with the required payments.
A veterinary surgeon must collect DNA samples and complete the appropriate form.
All DNA costs will be paid by the applicant.

10. Breed Inspections
Breed Inspections, unless otherwise required, will take place for horses only at the point of entry to the Pure Bred Stud Book.
The CBHS reserves the right to require that a horse be inspected if deemed necessary.
A minimum of two CBHS-approved inspectors will conduct all Breed Inspections.
Inspectors from CBHS, CBHSNA and CBHSA will work together to ensure consistent standards of inspection.
The inspection of horses at Grade A for entry to the Pure Bred stud book will be at the minimum age of 28 months.
The inspection of a GR A horse may be deferred by the owner to any age.
The decision on a Grade A horse inspected at 28 months may be deferred by the inspectors for a further 12 months if it fails to meet the required standards or is judged to be immature.
A blank copy of the Inspectors’ Mark Sheet is available as a download on the CBHS website www.clevelandbay.com or by writing to the CBHS.
A copy of the completed Inspectors’ Mark Sheet will be made available to the owner following final CBHS consideration of the application.
GR level A horses must achieve a minimum Breed Inspection score of 100 points (maximum) to enter the Pure Bred stud book. See Appendix 1 for example of Inspectors Marking Sheet.

11. Additional Rules for Males in the Grading Register – Licensed Grading Register Stallions
Male progeny bred within the GR programme will be registered in the appropriate Band
dependent on their percentage of Cleveland Bay blood. They will be eligible at 28 months to be considered for a Grading Register Stallion License. A Grading Register Stallion License is being created specifically to enable Grading Register Stallions to breed to produce GR offspring, but may also be otherwise used as stallions. These stallions must satisfy Breed Inspection requirements as well as other criteria established by CBHS.

Stallions with a Basic Part Bred License may not be used to sire foals for the Grading Register unless they are also specifically approved as Licensed Grading Register Stallions.

Stallions in the Grading Register who do not achieve a license as a Grading Register stallion may still be able to hold basic licenses to sire Part Bred Cleveland Bays.

Grading Register Licensed Stallions are eligible to cover Pure Bred, Part Bred and Grading Register mares to produce offspring that will be placed at appropriate GR levels depending on the foals' percentage of Cleveland Bay blood.

An owner of a stallion refused a GR Stallion License may appeal to the CBHS.

12. GR Application Procedure

Download application forms, guidance notes and rules - available from CBHS website or by post from CBHS.

Assemble all relevant supporting information.
Submit any clarification questions to CBHS.
Return to the CBHS fully completed application form enclosing all supporting information and payments, including the veterinarian’s. Email address.

Once CBHS conducts an initial favourable review of the application, a veterinary examination will be requested by the CBHS to your nominated veterinarian. It is the responsibility of the owner and the veterinarian to agree a date and location for the examination once the veterinarian has received the appropriate Inspection forms from the CBHS. The veterinary report will be submitted directly to CBHS by the examining veterinarian.

Once CBHS has reviewed the veterinary examination and DNA results and finds them satisfactory, the owners will be notified of the horse's acceptance to the Grading Register. If a horse is unsuccessful in gaining acceptance to the Grading Register the CBHS will give reasons.

Note: In the event that a horse is bred prior to acceptance to the Grading Register, and subsequently approved and accepted, the foals may be retroactively registered into the GR if all conditions are met.

13. Reviews and Anomalies

These Grading Register rules will be reviewed periodically and may be changed. If anyone feels that changes affect the status of their horses adversely, please contact the CBHS.

Members are also asked to review the above rules for anomalies or internal conflict, and to refer any questions to the CBHS Breed Committee.