

# **BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN MURRAY GREY ASSOCIATION**

## **SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The American Murray Grey Association (herein referred to as Association) has the following objectives:

- (1) To act as the agency for archival and perpetual registration and recording of pedigrees and ownership of registered Murray Grey beef cattle within the United States of America.
- (2) To provide all segments of the Murray Grey beef cattle industry in the USA with an incorporated, non-profit organization through which they can collectively work and act in order to promote Murray Grey cattle.
- (3) To provide breed performance information to the beef industry and the general public illustrating the value of Murray Grey cattle

## **SECTION 2 PRONOUNS**

Throughout this document the pronouns he, his, etc., are used, but are not intended to be gender-specific. In all cases the use of these pronouns refers to both men and women, with both genders having equal opportunity to engage in all matters described in the By-Laws.

## **SECTION 3 RULES GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) Application for membership must be made in writing on an official application form to the Executive Director of the Association.
- (2) The Board of Directors shall have the power to accept or reject any application for membership. The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend or expel any member who conducts himself in a manner detrimental to the Breed and the Association, or fails to comply with the rules and regulations.
- (3) A member whose membership has been revoked must make a written application for reinstatement and can be reinstated only after having received two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.
- (4) Legal partnerships or incorporated companies shall specify in writing the person authorized to vote or act in the parties' behalf at any meeting of the Association in person or by valid mailed ballot.
- (5) Membership may be transferred from one name to another, maintaining the same number and date, provided that application is made in writing and a transfer fee is paid, and provided that the transferee is a legal entity in which the transferee of the membership is a part owner, or the transferee is an heir or successor of the transferor.

## **SECTION 4**

### **CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS**

- (1) “Lifetime Members” shall be owners or breeders of cattle who have paid the lifetime membership fee and will have all the privileges of an Active Member. Lifetime membership will apply to the estate of a deceased member for one (1) year after death. Lifetime memberships are no longer available.
- (2) “Active Members” shall be owners or breeders of Murray Grey cattle who pay the current annual membership fee or are a Lifetime Member. **Only** active members are voting members. Each active member is allowed one vote.
- (3) “Associate Members” are non-voting members who want to help the advancement of the Association. Associate members are not eligible to hold elective office, register cattle, or transfer ownership of cattle.
- (4) “Junior Members” are individuals under twenty-one years of age. Junior members are non-voting members and may not hold office. Junior members may register and transfer cattle.

## **SECTION 5**

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- (1) **Duties of Directors:** The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors. The Board will set salaries for employees, fees for registration and transfers of ownership of cattle, membership dues, and any other fees related to the management and stated objectives of the Association.
  - (a) Election of Directors: The Board of Directors will consist of six nationally elected directors and one regionally elected director from each regional Murray Grey Association chartered by the Association. Only paid-up members in good standing may serve as national or regional elected directors. No member shall hold office at the national level until said member has held valid active membership in the Association for the preceding two calendar years. Each year two nationally elected directors’ term will expire, and two nationally elected directors will be elected for a three-year term. These directors will be elected nationally by written ballot tendered in person or valid mail-in ballot received and delivered by the Executive Director at the Annual Meeting of the National Association. One director from each regional association will be selected regionally for one-year term.
  - (b) Term of office will be from January 1 through December 31. The new Board of Directors will meet after the annual election, but prior to January 1 to elect officers. The directors shall elect, from their own number, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer whose terms of office shall be for one year. This meeting may be held by teleconference or computer communication if necessary. If a vacancy of a nationally elected director occurs during his/her term, this vacancy will be filled by written ballot tendered in person or valid mailed ballot at the next Annual Membership Meeting of the National Association.

- (c) If a regional association does not elect a director to the national board by January 1 of each year, that position will remain unfilled for that year.
  - (d) Regional representatives on the national board of directors are not eligible for the office of President or Vice-President.
  - (e) The Board of Directors may appoint additional officers from their own numbers as they see fit in order to carry out efficiently the affairs of the Association. However, only paid-up members in good standing may be Directors.
  - (f) A majority of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any Directors' meeting.
  - (g) The number of Directors may be increased by resolution at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- (2) **Duties of Officers:**
- (a) **President:** Shall be chief executive officer of the Association. He shall preside at its meeting and shall be Chairman of the Board of Directors. He shall issue the call for all Board meetings. He shall carry on the business of the Association under the Constitution, the By-Laws, and the instructions of the Board of Directors.
  - (b) **Vice-President:** In the absence of the President or at his request, he will perform the duties of said officer.
  - (c) **Secretary:** The Secretary of the board shall keep minutes of all board meetings.
  - (d) **Treasurer:** Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall oversee the financial affairs of the Association and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to him by the President or Board of Directors.
- (3) **Executive Director:** Shall not be elected but shall be employed by the Board of Directors.
- (a) He/She shall not own, register, or have financial interest in Murray Grey beef cattle.
  - (b) He/She shall manage and administer the business affairs of the Association as administrative officer in accordance with the By-Laws and policy directives from the Board of Directors, as communicated to him by the President.
  - (c) He/She shall be the official custodian of the seal and the records of the Association. The Executive Director shall act as the authorized representative of the Board of Directors in conducting the business of the Association.
  - (d) He/She shall be responsible for all securities and monies of the Association and will direct the keeping of proper books of account.
  - (e) He/She shall perform all such duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors.
  - (f) In the event of a vacancy in the position of Executive Director, the President shall immediately appoint a temporary person to assume the duties. Within 15 days after notification of a vacancy in the position of Executive Director, the President shall appoint a search committee. The committee will recruit and interview candidates, and will make recommendations for the position to the Board of Directors within ninety (90) days after the appointment of the Search Committee.

## **SECTION 6** **COMMITTEES**

The Association shall have the following standing committees, appointed by the President; and in addition, such other committees as the President may appoint from time to time. Only active members in good standing may be committee members. Each committee, through the Chairman, shall report either verbally or in writing to each meeting of the Board of Directors, and annually to the Annual General Membership Meeting.

- (1) **Executive Committee:** This committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and two other Directors to be appointed by the Board of Directors, with the President as Chairman. It shall be their duty to conduct the affairs of the Association between Directors' meetings and carry out the instructions of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director is considered an ex-officio member of this committee.
- (2) **Rules Committee:** It shall be the duty of this committee to interpret all Rules and Regulations, and to recommend such changes, as they deem necessary, to the Board of Directors for their approval.
- (3) **Import-Export Committee:** It shall be the duty of this committee to explore and pursue all possibilities for the free movement of genetically superior Murray Grey seed stock.
- (4) **Performance Committee:** It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage, promote, and evaluate breed performance testing.
- (5) **Exhibitions and Standards Committee:** This committee shall make recommendations pertaining to Breed and Show Standard, including guidelines for fitting cattle for show and attire of exhibitors while showing.
- (6) **Nominations Committee:** The Nominations Committee shall be appointed annually, at least ninety (90) days prior to the General Membership Meeting, to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. As soon thereafter as possible, this committee shall report the names of the candidates to the Executive Director, who shall in turn notify the general membership of the nominations at least thirty (30) days in advance of the General Membership Meeting.
- (7) **Finance Committee:** The Treasurer shall be the Chairman and the Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of this committee. Their purpose shall be to prepare a budget and submit it to the Board of Directors for their approval. They shall also make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the investment of available funds.
- (8) **Promotion Committee:** This committee shall research, design, and implement an effective campaign designed to assist the Association in meeting its promotional objectives.

## **SECTION 7** **MEETINGS**

- (1) **Membership Meetings**
  - (a) An annual membership meeting shall be held once in every calendar year with a maximum of fifteen (15) months between meetings. The Board of Directors shall designate the time and place. All members will be notified by letter or email at least

thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. Special business shall be mentioned in the notice of the meeting.

- (b) A quorum for the annual membership meeting shall consist of the Active members in good standing present. A quorum for issues allowing mailed ballots the annual membership meeting shall of active members present plus the valid mailed ballots. Proxy votes are not valid.
- (c) The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order will be followed at all meetings of the Association and at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (d) Special Membership meetings may be held at the discretion of the Board of Directors. All members will be notified by letter or email, postmarked thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date. The special business shall be mentioned in the notice of meeting.
- (e) Only Active members who are in good standing and whose membership is paid up are entitled to vote at any Association meeting.
- (f) Mailed-in ballots will be sent to all Active members.
  - 1. Postmarked at least thirty (30) days prior to general meeting.
  - 2. Return of mail-in ballot must be postmarked at least ten (10) days before annual meeting where votes will be counted.
  - 3. Only official AMGA mail-in ballots will be accepted with verification of authenticity of signature.
  - 4. Active members may vote by mail-in ballot for:
    - a. Directors at large (nationally elected)
    - b. By-Law amendments and/or additions.
    - c. Assessments imposed on all national members.

## **(2) Board of Directors Meetings**

- (a) A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held each year in conjunction with and at the same place as the annual General Membership meeting. Notice of the membership meeting shall contain a notice of the Board of Directors meeting.
- (b) In addition to the meeting provided for in paragraph (a) above the Directors shall meet at least once or as many times as needed throughout the year at a time and place to be selected by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held on call of the President by giving written notice or email, postmarked fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting, of the time, place and purpose.
- (d) Any director who is absent from two consecutive board meetings without just reason, may be relieved of his/her duties as director and that vacancy shall remain until next annual meeting.

## **SECTION 8**

### **BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS**

- (1) The By-Laws of the Association may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present plus the valid mailed ballots at any general meeting. Notice, however, of all proposed amendments must be made in writing to all members thirty (30) days prior to any general meeting and must be included in the notice calling the meeting, including interim amendments by the Board of Directors.

- (2) Any proposed By-Law changes must be submitted to the AMGA office at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. This is to allow adequate time for mailing to the general AMGA membership.

## **SECTION 9**

### **MURRAY GREY REGISTER**

#### **General**

The Association shall maintain a complete set of records which shall be placed into permanent files and properly indexed; which shall contain copies of Registration Certificates, and Transfer of Ownership of Murray Grey beef cattle, and any other records or documents pertaining to the registration of Murray grey cattle.

#### **Register**

The Executive Director shall cause to be kept and preserved in the office of the Association a full and complete record known as the American Murray Grey Association Herd Book, hereinafter referred to as Murray Grey Register, obtaining a record of:

- (1) Private Herd Prefix, unique tattoo, sex, date of birth, owner, sire and dam of every Murray Grey accepted for entry in the said Register, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations governing entries therein; and
- (2) All subsequent transfers of ownership of animals so registered.

## **SECTION 10**

### **STANDARDS FOR REGISTRATION AND RECORDING**

#### **(1) Eligibility for Cattle Accepted into the Association Register**

- (a) "Purebred" Registration shall extend to and be available to all females having not less than 7/8 Murray Grey blood, and to bulls having not less than 15/16 Murray Grey blood, provided that:
  1. The sire and dam are registered, with the exception that female calves from registered bulls and from dams of not less than 7/8 Murray grey blood are eligible for registration.
  2. The American Murray grey Association will accept into our registry as purebred, whether imported in purebred dam or as purebred embryos, or domestically reared, 7/8 females or 15/16 bulls.
- (b) "Percentage" Registration shall extend to and be available to all females having less than 7/8 but no less than 3/8 Murray Grey blood, and for bulls 15/16 but no less than 1/2 Murray Grey blood.
  1. To be eligible for recording, an animal must be the progeny of a registered or recorded Murray Grey sire or dam.
- (c) "Purbred" or "Percentage" Registration will be accomplished under the same requirements whether the individual to be registered or recorded is the result of artificial or natural breeding.
  1. All sires used for artificial insemination that are collected after January 1,1999 must have a DNA record on file in the office of the Association. Any bull that

was collected prior to January 1, 1999 must have a DNA record on file in the Association office. All sires used for artificial insemination, which were collected after January 1, 1999, and drawn for sale must have a negative alpha-mannosidosis test result on file in the Association office.

2. It is recommended that a sire used in artificial insemination should have the following data: Date of birth, birth weight, 205 adjusted weight, weight-per-day-of-age (WPDA) at weaning, 365 adjusted weight, color and pigment, breeding and soundness evaluation (scrotal size and spermatozoa scoring system), pelvic measurement at 12-14 months, and progeny data if available.
  3. All applications for registration of progeny resulting from embryo transplants flushed after January 1, 1999 must be accompanied by DNA test results from the calf, sire and dam with parentage verified. Applications for registration of progeny from flushes prior to January 1, 1999 must be accompanied by DNA identifiers from the calf, sire and dam with parentage verified.
- (d) To be eligible for purebred registry, animals shall:
1. Have dark skin pigmentation and hooves.
  2. Be some shade of grey ranging from light silver to black. White is only allowed on the underline.
  3. Be naturally polled – no scurs.

## **(2) Mechanics of Registration**

- (a) Application for registration must be completely and legibly filled out by typing or in ink on authorized forms obtained from the Association or a reasonable facsimile and must give:
1. The name of the animal.
  2. The sex of the animal.
  3. Date of Birth.
  4. Birth weight is recommended but not required.
  5. Weaning weight and date of weighing is recommended but not required.
  6. The private herd prefix and unique tattoo.
  7. Tattoo numbers of animal – no more than eight characters.
  8. The Association registration number of the sire. In the case of foreign sires, must include sire name and foreign registration number.
  9. The Association registration number of the dam. In the case of foreign dam, must include dam name and foreign registration number.
  10. The signature of the owner.
  11. The signature of the owner at the time the dam was served.
  12. The percentage of Murray Grey blood contained therein. (For recording)
  13. The percentage and name of other breeding contained in the animal. (For recording)
- (b) No Murray grey cattle to be registered over the age of two (2) years unless the breeder obtains permission of the Board of Directors of the Association to do so. This rule does not apply to animals over the age of two (2) when they are imported. (Effective date July 18, 1974)
- (c) Application forms for registration of all animals will be available from the Association office. Applications for registration of foreign animals must include a copy of the animal's current registration.

- (d) Who is the owner of the animal? The owner of the animal at the time the animal is registered or transferred to a new owner.
- (e) Who is the breeder of the animal? The owner or lessee of the dam at the time the dam was served.
- (f) Sale of Calf at side of Cow: A member of the Association that sells a calf eligible for registration or recording, at the side of its dam, must identify such calf before it is sold and delivered. The seller must furnish the purchaser, at the time of sale, an application for registration or recording of the calf so sold, duly filled out and signed, in order that the purchaser can complete registration or recording of the animal. The calf's identity will carry the seller's herd prefix and unique tattoo & animal identification tattoo.
- (g) Multiple Births: When applying for registration or recording of twins, or one member of twins, the word "twin" must be written following the animal's name on the application and the sex of the other twin must be given. Unless this is done, an application for Registration of the other twin will not be accepted. In birth of twins or multiple births. A separate application must be submitted for each animal. The word "twin" or whatever multiple birth, should appear on each pedigree. In the case of twins of the opposite sex, the female cannot be registered or recorded until proven as a breeder, at which time the fee for age will be waived.
- (h) Names of Animals;
  - 1. The names of animals being recorded or registered shall not be more than twenty-four (24) letters. The numbers included in the name must be include in the limit. This also includes prefixes.
  - 2. Names of imported animals shall be the same as shown on the certificate of registry from the country of origin.
  - 3. The name of an animal may be changed upon application to the Executive Director, provided that the Registration Certificate is returned, the name desired is not in use, no progeny has been recorded from said animal, and provided the prefix of the animal's name is not changed.
  - 4. Herd Prefix: Each active or junior member shall be required to register with the Association a herd prefix and unique tattoo for his exclusive use and apply it to the names of all animals bred by him. No herd prefix to contain more than two words. The use of a prefix registered in the name of another member is not permitted.
- (i) Breeders Records: Each active member shall keep a private book in which all entries concerning his herd shall be kept current, covering all Murray Grey animals, registered in this Association.
- (j) Correction of Certificates: When new certificates are received from the Association, they should be checked immediately to determine if correct. If an error is found, or correction found to be necessary; it should be returned to the association for correction. Any writing on the certificate not made in the Association office will invalidate the certificate and necessitate the issuance of a duplicate to the holder at the regular fee. No alterations of any kind should be made on a certificate except in the AMGA office because it will then not conform to the copy kept on file by the Association. Errors made by the office will be corrected free of charge, but if by the breeder or owner, the regular correction charge will be made.



- (k) Duplicate Certificate: A duplicate certificate of registration can be obtained only by submitting a signed affidavit from the recognized owner that such certificate has been lost or destroyed and that if and when such papers are found, they will become the property of the Association and be immediately returned to the Association office.
- (l) Pedigrees: Members may file all data of breeding of their animals in the Association office. No responsibility shall rest on the Association by reason of misrepresentation by the breeder.
- (m) Determination of Parentage: Where parentage is questioned by the Association, DNA will be required and the Association will stand the cost. In other cases, the breeder will pay the DNA report fee.
- (n) Transfer of Animals:
  - 1. The original registration paper shall be signed by the seller and submitted to the Association for processing.
  - 2. The transfer must give the name and address of the new owner and date of sale.

## **SECTION 11**

### **ERRONEOUS ENTRY**

- (1) Should any animal be admitted to entry through error, misrepresentation or fraud, the Executive Committee on discovery of same shall ask the Board of Directors, either at a special or regular meeting, to declare the entry or transfer void, together with any entries that may have been made of descendants of such animal. When an animal shall have been transferred or entered through misrepresentation or fraud, the Executive Committee may direct the Executive Director to refuse for record any subsequent entry or transfer dependent upon the signature of any person implicated in such fraudulent entry or transfer.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything herein contained, the Association assumes no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any loss or damage that may be sustained by any individual, partnership, firm, or corporation, by reason of the suspension, cancellation or correction of any registration, transfer, or other documents or by reason of the suspension or expulsion of any member of the Association or by reason of the rejection of any application for membership in the Association.

## **SECTION 12**

### **RULES GOVERNING CHARTER**

- (1) Application for a charter for a state or regional Murray Grey Association shall be made in writing to the Executive Director of the Association, and shall include the constitution and by-laws, date of organization, and a list of members of the applying association.
- (2) The Board of Directors shall have the power to accept or reject all application for charter. The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend or revoke the charter of any association, which conducts itself in a manner detrimental to the breed or the AMGA, or fails to comply with the rules and regulations of the AMGA.

- (3) An Association whose charter has been revoked must make written application for reinstatement, and can be reinstated only after having received two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.
- (4) Associations holding charters shall be permitted to use this fact in their advertising and shall receive free listing in the Association Herd Book. They shall also clear all sale dates, field dates, etc. with the Executive Director to avoid conflicts with other charter holders and the Association's functions. They shall enjoy any other rights and privileges the Board of Directors may grant to them.

**SECTION 13**  
**RULES CONCERNING SANCTION OF**  
**MURRAY GREY SHOWS & SALES**

- (1) The American Murray Grey Association shall have the power and duty to either grant or withhold sanction for all Murray Grey cattle shows and sales sponsored by chartered state or regional Murray Grey Associations. Consideration for such sanction shall include the following criteria:
  - (a) Date: does not conflict with the Association's National Show or Sale or other state or regional Murray Grey Show or Sales.
  - (b) Registration and transfers: All animals offered for show or sale shall have valid registration certificates available at the time of show or sale, and provision shall be made to execute transfers at the conclusion of the sale.