



The Celebration[®]

March 24, 2008

Dr. Rachel Cezar
Horse Protection Coordinator
USDA-APHIS Animal Care
4700 River Road, Suite 6D03
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dear Dr. Cezar:

Please accept this response as the Official communication of SHOW HIO (Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration[®]) relating to the USDA Foreign Substance Protocol using Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry. I want to assure you that personally as a horseman and professionally as CEO of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration[®] that we are totally against soring or any other abuse or inhumane treatment of horses...PERIOD.

As a new Player in the HIO group, I appreciate all the things that have been done recently. It appears to me that the soring problem and subsequent actions taken by each HIO in partnership with USDA have contributed to a cleaner, more sound horse. Can it be better? Absolutely, and that is our intent. Actually, I enjoyed the dialogue at my first HIO meeting - different thoughts and backgrounds. I think we all want the same thing. I am amazed at the compromises that have been made AND as a result 12 HIO's, have signed the Operating Plan. This is significant to those directly involved in showing or selling horses, USDA and Humane Societies. I think we are all advocates of the Horse Protection Act, and I take my hat off to all parties that have contributed to the success of the HIO Operating Plan partnership.

Relating directly to the question, it appears to me all HIO's that signed the Operating Plan signed a good faith plan for 2007-2009. Included in this plan there exists a violation and penalty protocol for foreign substance. It would appear to me, as a novice to this group, that Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry would follow on the heels of the existing document violation relative to foreign substances and the penalty phase.

As I listened to all parties I was surprised that you (USDA) introduced the Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry as a 1-2-3. Previously, the HIO's were involved and allowed to negotiate literally every phase of the Operating Plan. However, in this instance no involvement or negotiation by HIO's was allowed relative to the penalty phase. Regardless of the HIO's position, I, thank you, for recognizing this and allowing for these responses. Additionally, I thank you for extending the date of response as our Chairman of the Board and other Board members were unavailable at the original target date.

Although this or any protocol that alters the original document (Operating Plan) should have HIO input and support. I think the HIO's that oppose the protocol, as you submitted it to them, would favor making an amendment to the Operating Plan, if self-regulation was a larger part of the presented protocol. There is a tremendous amount of difference between the current HIO's third (3)

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offense penalty for a foreign substance and the third (3) offense penalty under your new plan. The HIO penalty for a foreign substance violation (post show) is two (2) weeks for each occurrence. The new plan calls for the initiation of a federal case after the third violation. These two (2) penalties are miles apart. Maybe I am just new and naive, but the more we can clean up our horses within the ranks with less government intervention, the greater chance we stand for a long term compliance with HPA. I would think the trainers, etc., would work harder to please and be in favor with their peers than USDA.

I have spent the last 30 years in an academic setting as a scientist. Through the process of obtaining data, evaluating and making conclusions based on scientific evidence, and proper experimental procedure, we have the opportunity to make learned judgments. With this in mind, could you provide the HIO's with information relative to "control" information and subsequent Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry list of foreign substances? Although no list is ever "complete" it would be beneficial for horse owners/trainers to know specifically which ones are foreign. For example, diesel fuel is a foreign substance. Yet this morning I sprayed "Horseman 2000" fly spray on my horse. It specifically says the product has pyrethrins, permethrins and petroleum distillate. Most of the more expensive fly sprays contain a petroleum distillate that might relate to diesel. Last month I judged a huge Quarter Horse Show in Houston, Texas, and I assure you there were no sore horses at the show. However some of the horses may NOT have passed the Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry evaluation based on grooming and health items used on the horse. I am just asking...is this possible? Those who violate the foreign substance rule should be ZAPPED, but I am concerned for those that might have unintentionally used a substance that you determined was foreign.

There has been too much progress through negotiation and compromise to make any decision that would diminish the positive contribution afforded by the Operating Plan. For the good of the horse, we have got to continue these compromises and negotiations. I take offense to those that talk about Walking Horse owners and Horse Protection Act advocates as two different people. There are many people like me that love Walking Horses yet are STRONGE HORSE PROTECTION ADVOCATES. If you continue to work in this position, you will become aware that our HIO will take certain positions and those positions will be independent of all other HIO's.

Please feel free to call me as the need arises.

Sincerely,



Dr. Doyle G. Meadows
Chief Executive Officer

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