



Horse Protection Training Material – 2004

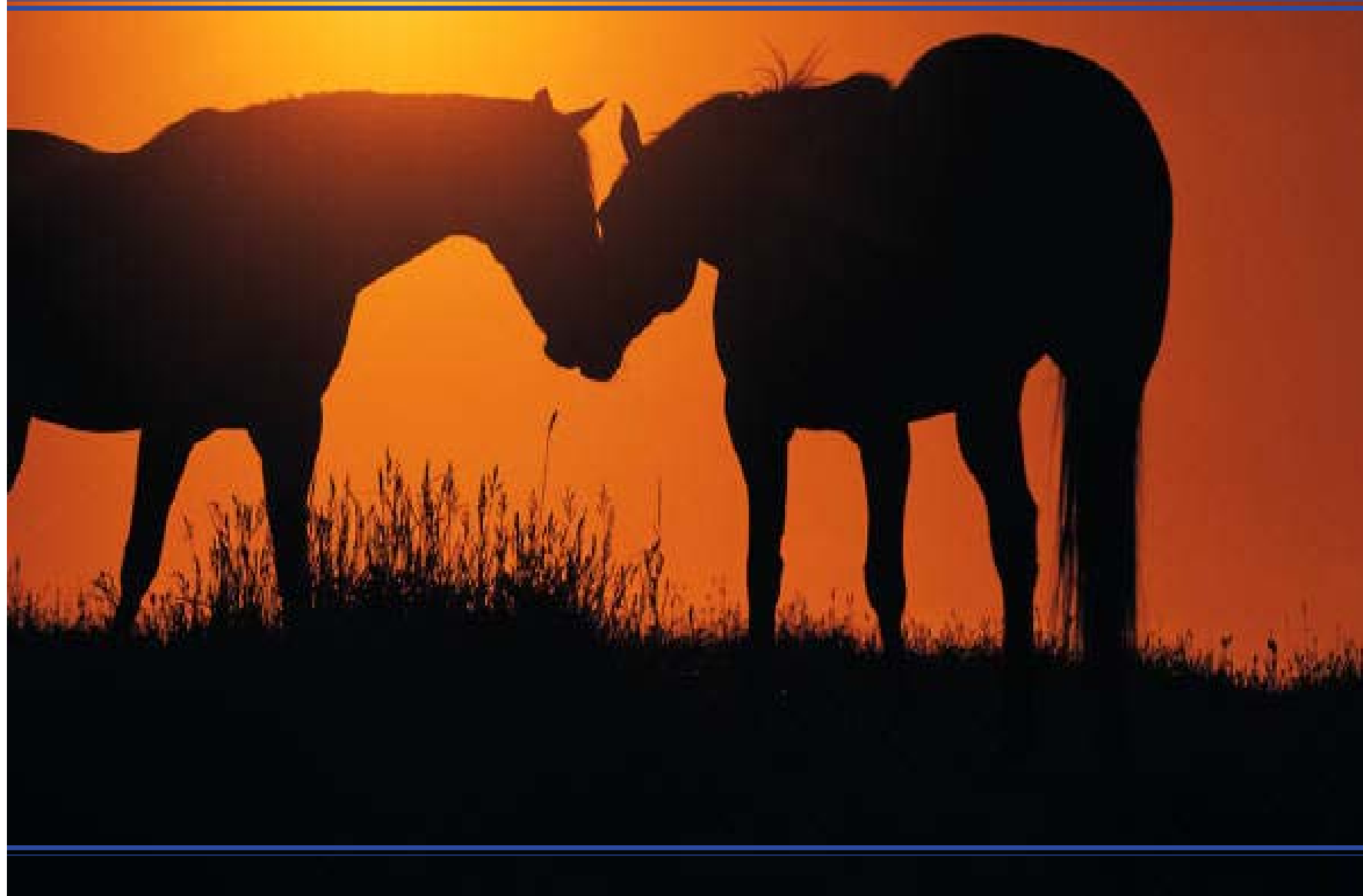




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Introduction

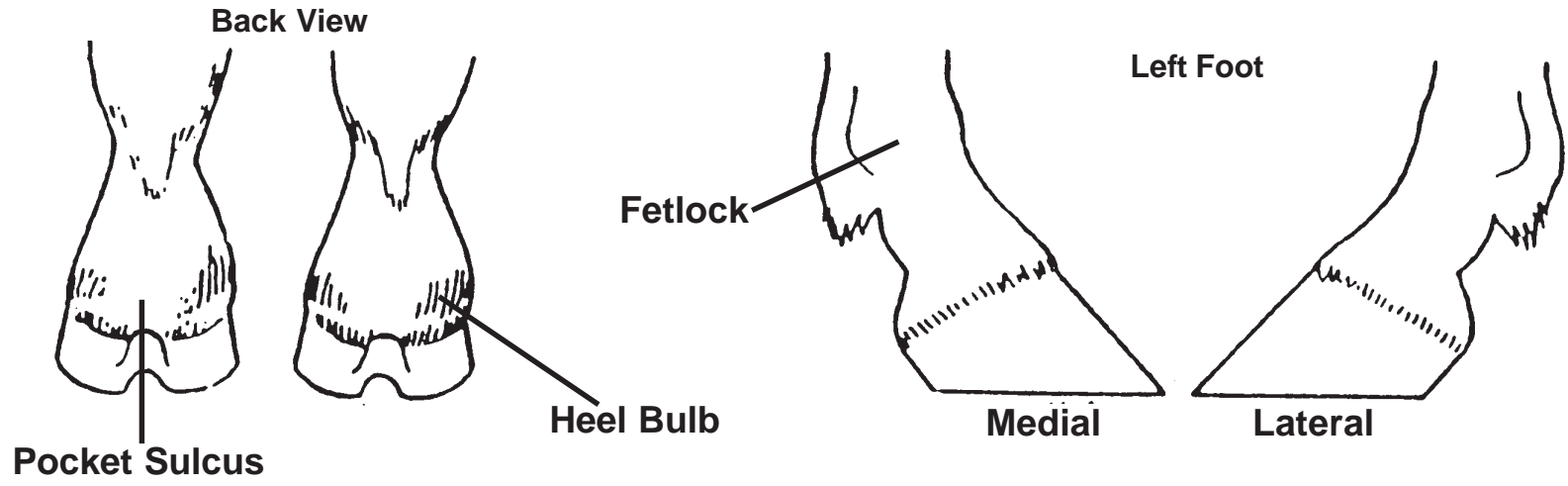
Horses are inspected for compliance with the federal Horse Protection Act (HPA or Act) at horse shows, exhibitions, auctions and sales by APHIS Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) and Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs) licensed by Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) that are certified by the USDA. This manual is intended for use as part of the training material provided to VMOs and DQPs during their training on the HPA, Horse Protection Regulations, and inspection procedures. It may also be used as a reference source during the course of the horse show season. Both VMOs and DQPs should bring it with them as part of their equipment when they are assigned to work at a horse show or sale.

The material in this manual is derived from both the Act and the Regulations. Nothing in this manual is intended to replace or supersede any provisions contained in those documents. If a conflict arises between anything contained in this manual and any requirements or provisions found in the Act or Regulations, the terms contained in the latter are to be relied upon as the more authoritative documents.

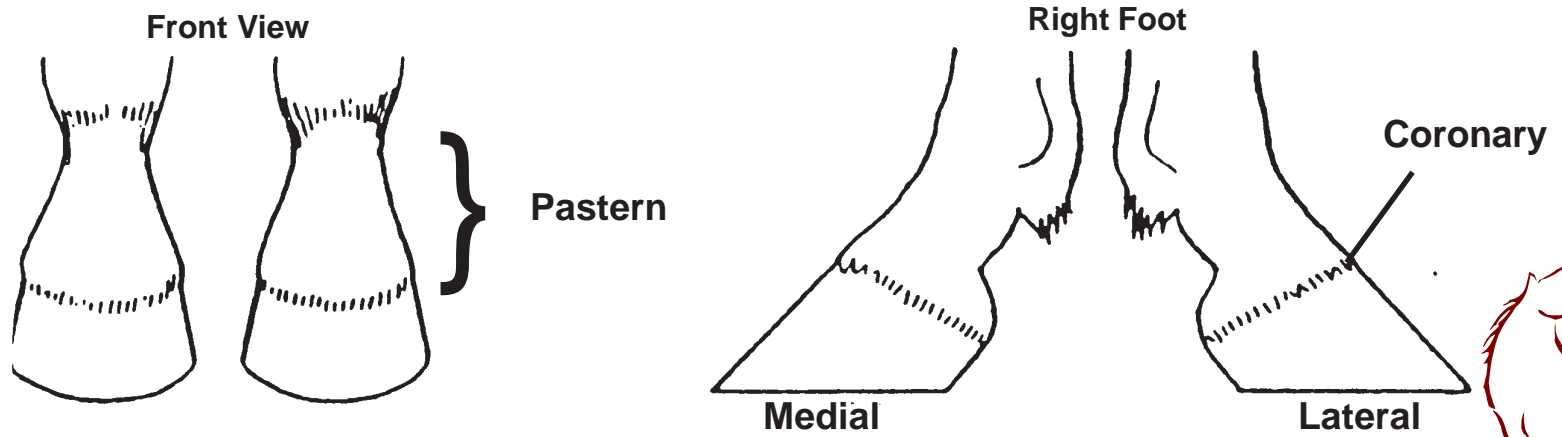


Anatomy and Directional Terms

(Posterior)



(Anterior)



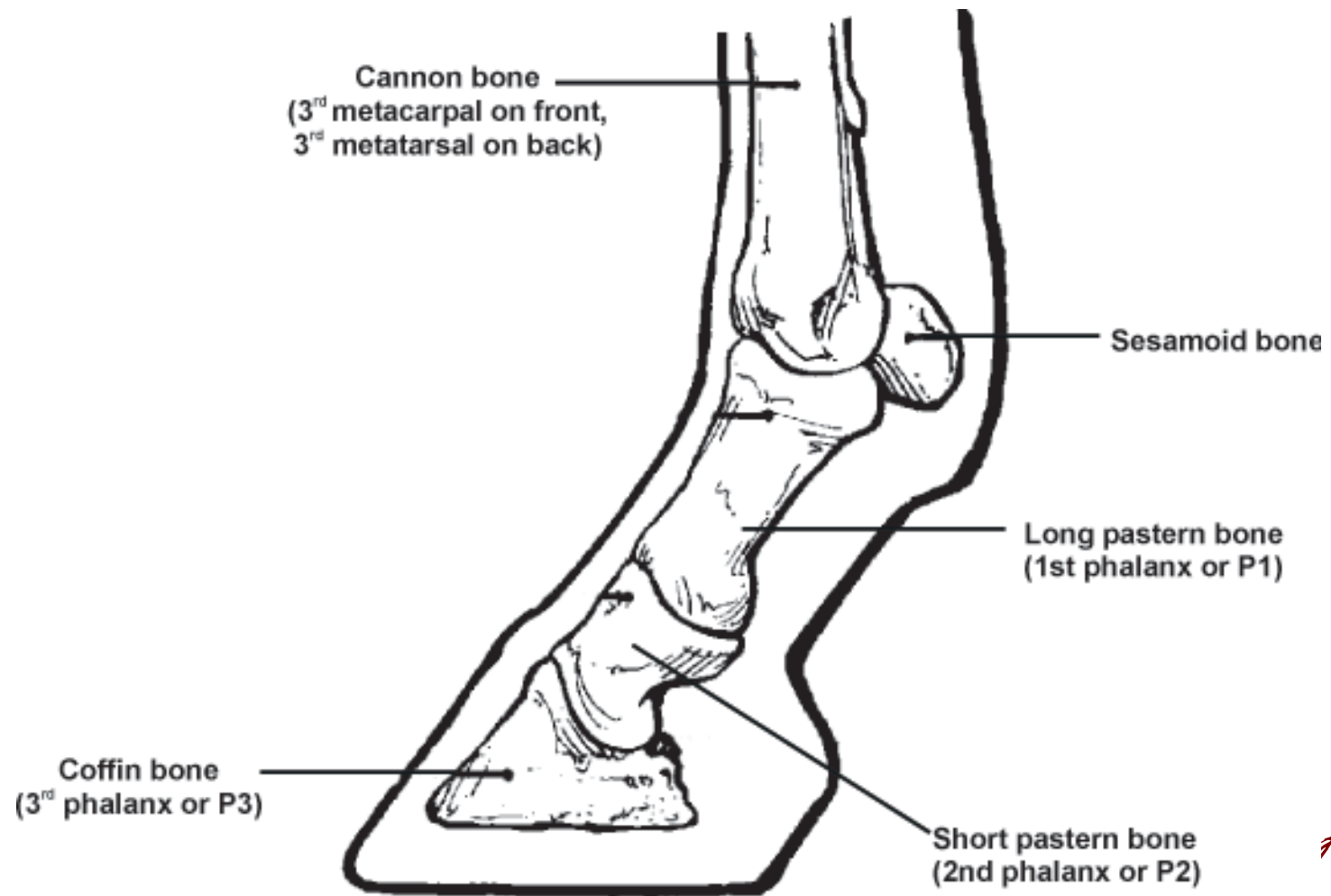
Anatomy and Directional Terms



The bones of the front limb as seen from the medial aspect.



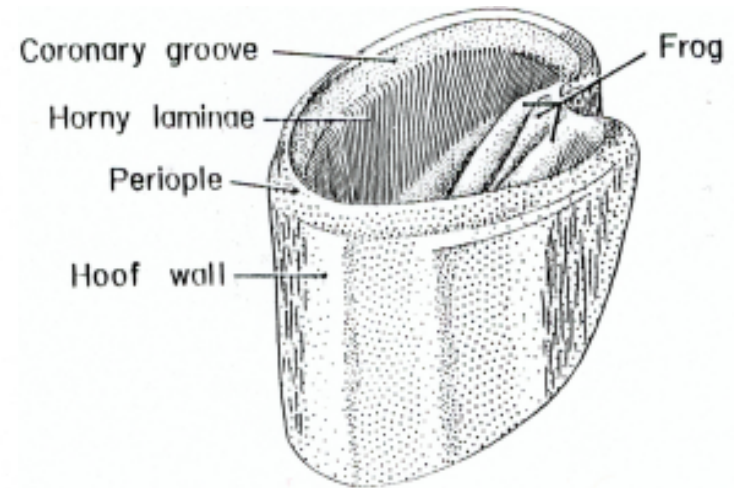
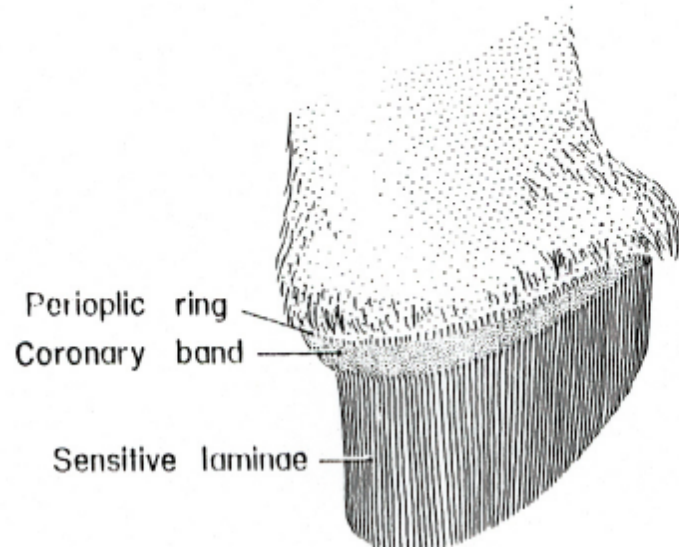
Anatomy and Directional Terms



Anatomy and Directional Terms

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Sensitive structures



Hoof structures

The position and relationship of the sensitive structures to the hoof structures.



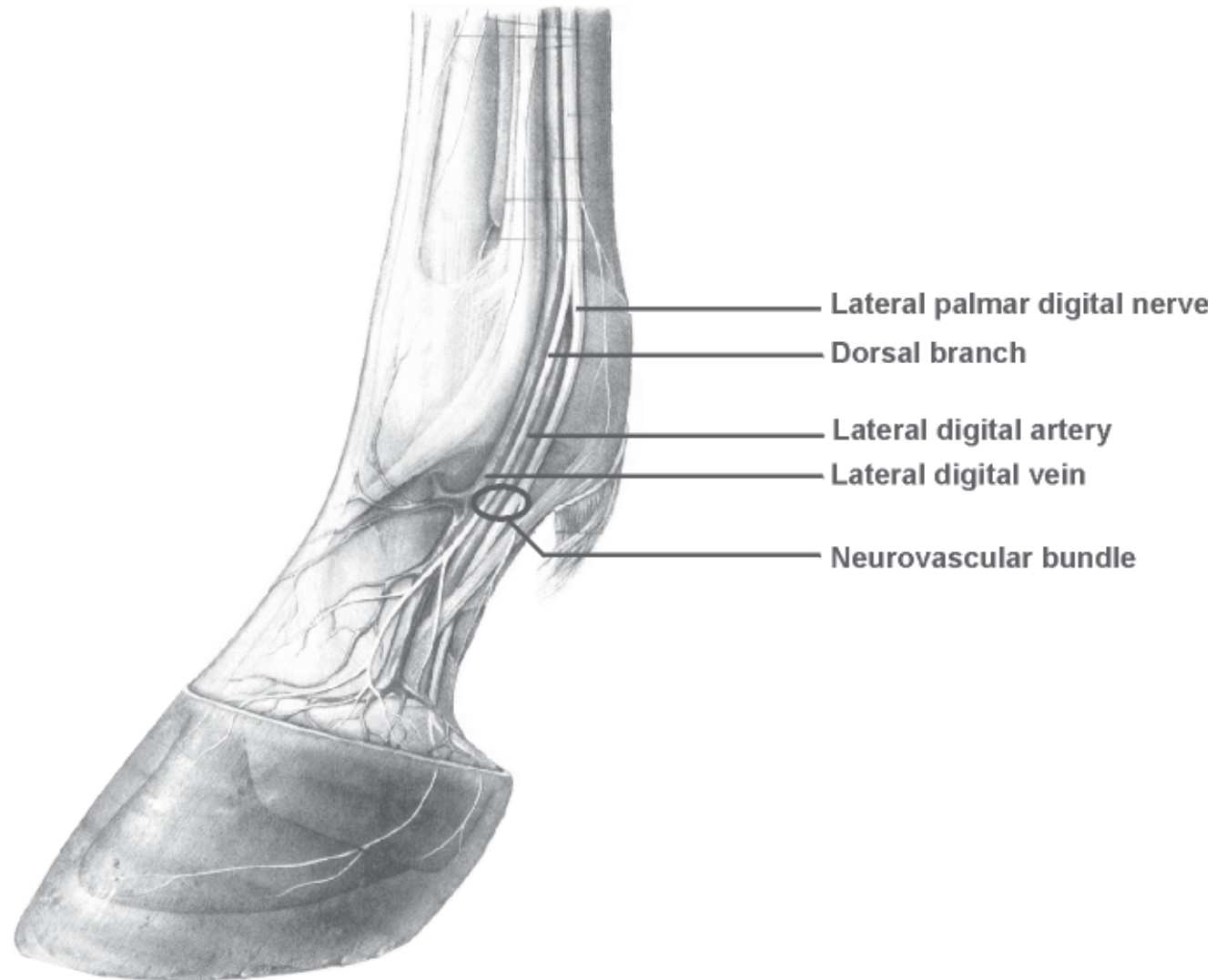
Anatomy and Directional Terms



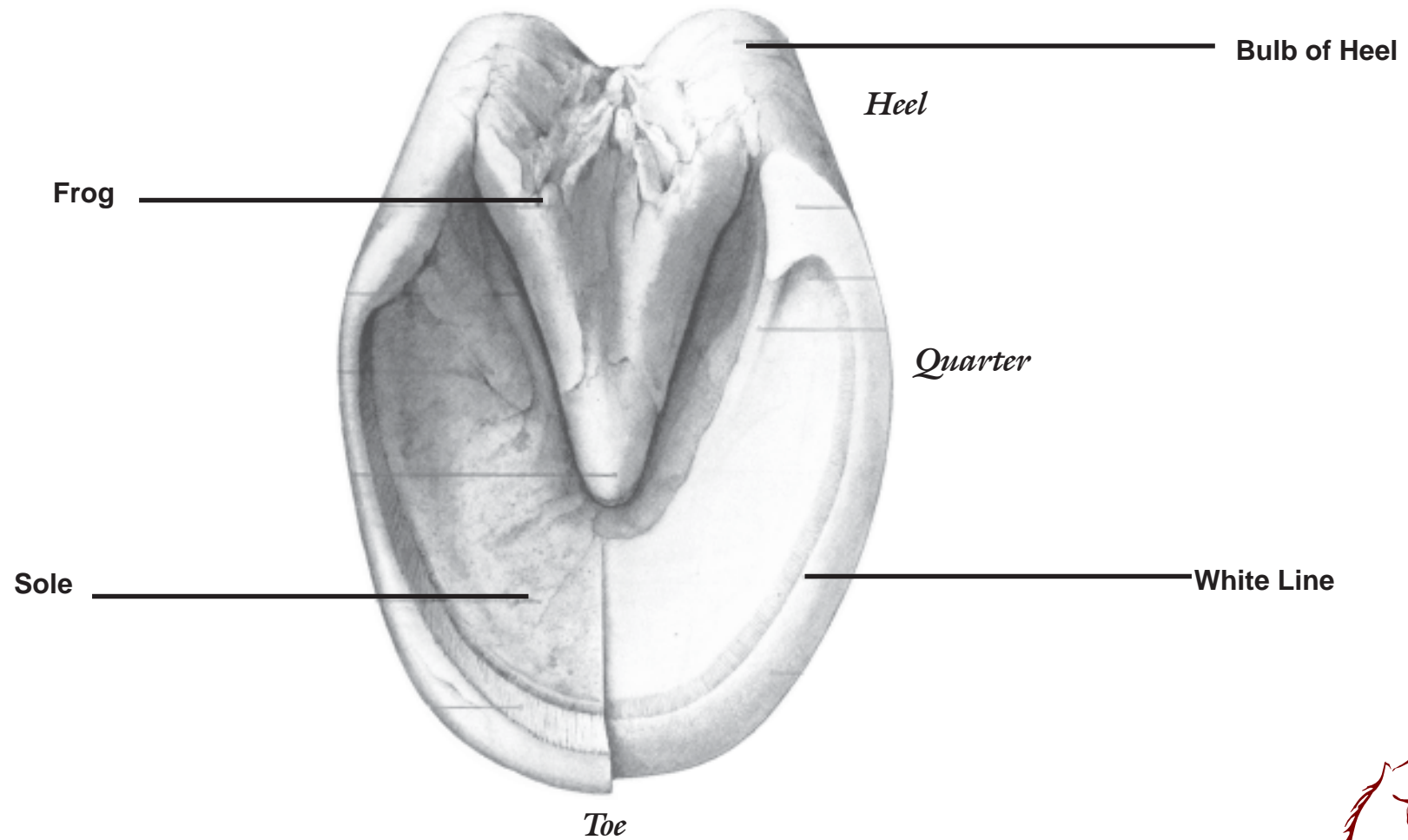
Neurovascular groove



Anatomy and Directional Terms



Anatomy and Directional Terms



Physiological Terms

Inflammation

Tissue becomes inflamed as a result of injury from chemical and/or mechanical means. Inflammation consists of 5 main signs:

- pain
- heat
- swelling
- redness
- loss of function.

These 5 signs cannot always be seen with the naked eye because many occur at the cellular level.

Digital Pulse

A normal digital pulse of a horse is either undetectable or only faintly detectable. As part of the body's response to inflammation in the foot, the digital pulse may increase in strength and can then be easily palpated. The digital pulse can normally be found along the neurovascular groove at the base of the fetlock.



Definition of a Sore Horse

Definition of Sore Under the HPA:*

A horse is described as being “sore” when one or more of the following conditions have been met:

1. An irritating or blistering agent has been applied, internally or externally, to any limb of the horse,
2. Any burn, cut, or laceration has been inflicted by a person on any limb of a horse,
3. Any tack, nail, screw, or chemical agent has been injected or used on any limb of a horse,
4. Any other substance or device has been used on any limb of a horse, or a person has engaged in a practice involving a horse, that can cause or can reasonably be expected to cause that horse suffering, physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise moving. The term does not include any therapeutic treatment or practice performed under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

**Paraphrased from Section 2 of the Horse Protection Act*



Definition of a Sore Horse

Definition of Sore in the HP Regulations:

- The HP Regulations contain the definition of sore in Section 11.1 (9CFR 11.1).
- A horse in violation of the Scar Rule is also considered to be sore (9CFR 11.3).

Definition of Sore as Interpreted by the Agency

The Agency's interpretation of the definition of sore is as follows:

- There is a reasonable expectation that a horse will experience physical pain or distress, inflammation or lameness in one or more of its limbs due to some artificial means.



Definition of a Sore Horse

Indications of Pain

The signs of pain may include:

- Consistent and repeatable withdrawal responses to palpation.
- Reluctance to lead.
- Gait abnormalities or problems with locomotion.
- Abnormal reactions of the eyes, ears, and head.
- Tucking of flanks.
- Flexing of abdominal muscles.
- Shifting of weight to the rear legs.
 - Stepping forward with the rear limbs while the front limbs remain lightly planted.
- Changes in the depth and rate of respiration.
- Excessive perspiration on the skin and hair coat.



Scar Rule

Scar Rule

- The scar rule applies to all horses born after October 1, 1975.
- Scars must be present on the pasterns of both forelimbs to be in violation.
- Scars appearing on the front (anterior) and sides (medial and lateral) of the feet are in violation.
- Any other changes, or evidence of inflammation, occurring on the backs (posterior) of the feet, other than uniform skin thickening, are in violation. This area must be free of:
 - Abnormal tissue such as:
 - ◆ Wart-like growths
 - ◆ Corrugated, ridged or clusters of abnormal tissue
 - ◆ Button lesions
 - ◆ Sweat cracks
 - Localized swelling (edema)
 - Fluid oozing through the skin (serum, exudate)
 - Pain, heat, redness, swelling, loss of function (signs of inflammation)



Scar Rule

Compliance with the Scar Rule Will be Determined as Follows:

- Visual examination
- Physical examination, including palpation and assessment of the skin. (Hair may still grow from or cover the affected area).



Scar Rule

Scar Rule *(cont.)*

Determining the Boundaries of the Posterior Surface of the Pastern:

- There are two screening methods to determine the boundaries of the posterior surface:
 - 1) Flattened hand
 - 2) Neurovascular groove (NVG)
 - Place the tip of your index finger against the back of the pastern bone with your finger nail facing forward. The pad of your finger is now covering the NVG. Since the NVG is considered to be totally located within the medial and lateral surfaces, any scar covered by the pad of your finger, or any scar forward of your finger, is in violation.
- If the posterior boundaries can not be determined by either of these two screening methods, or if there is a disagreement over the location then the following will be used as a final determination:
 - Using a soft, flexible tape measure, measure the circumference of the pastern. This measurement should be made at the point where the scarring comes the furthest forward. The Scar Rule measurement should be made perpendicular to the axis of the pastern.
 - Then, starting from the midline of the back of the pastern (see photograph page 17), measure the distance to the forward edge of the scar perpendicular to the axis of the pastern. Apply these measurements to the Scar Rule Chart, found in the Operating Plan. If the scar measurement exceeds the 17.5 percent distance for that circumference, the horse is in violation.



Scar Rule



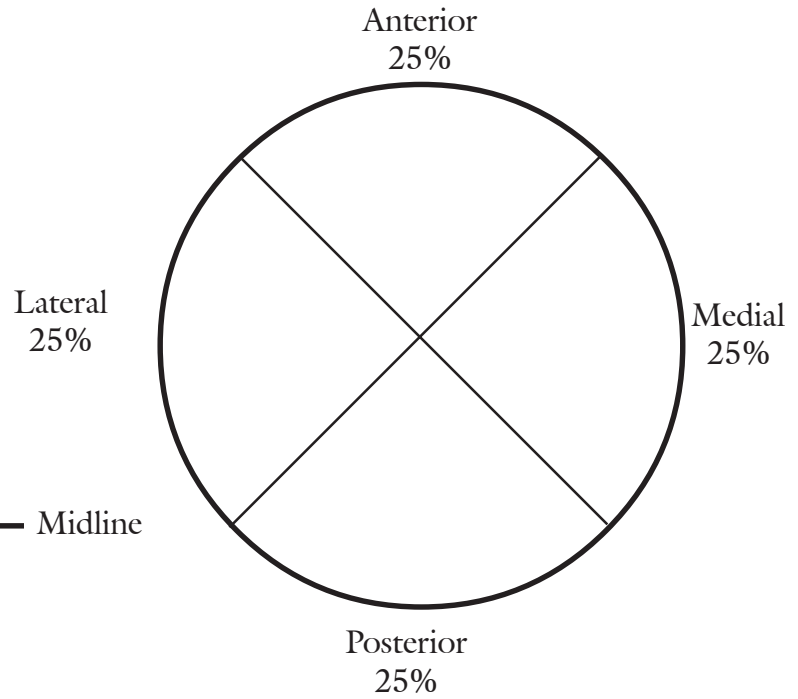
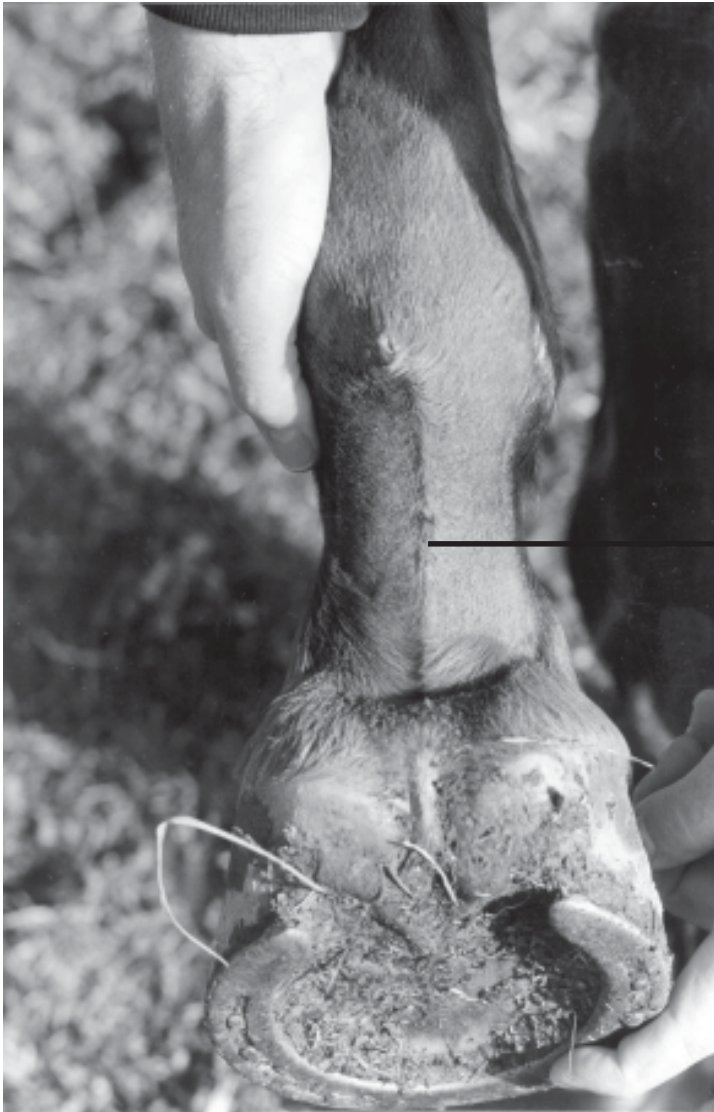
Flattened hand method



Neurovascular groove method



Scar Rule



Scar Rule



Measuring from midline



Scar Rule Chart
Measurements for Determining Violation of Scar Rule

Circumference of Foot	17.5 Percent
7 in	1 1/4 in
7 1/8 in	1 1/4 in
7 1/4 in	1 1/4 in
7 3/8 in	1 1/4 in
7 1/2 in	1 3/8 in
7 5/8 in	1 3/8 in
7 3/4 in	1 3/8 in
7 7/8 in	1 3/8 in
8 in	1 3/8 in
8 1/8 in	1 3/8 in
8 1/4 in	1 1/2 in
8 3/8 in	1 1/2 in
8 1/2 in	1 1/2 in
8 5/8 in	1 1/2 in
8 3/4 in	1 1/2 in
8 7/8 in	1 1/2 in
9 in	1 5/8 in
9 1/8 in	1 5/8 in
9 1/4 in	1 5/8 in
9 3/8 in	1 5/8 in
9 1/2 in	1 5/8 in
9 5/8 in	1 5/8 in
9 3/4 in	1 3/4 in
9 7/8 in	1 3/4 in
10 in	1 3/4 in
10 1/8 in	1 3/4 in
10 1/4 in	1 3/4 in
10 3/8 in	1 7/8 in

Circumference of Foot	17.5 Percent
10 5/8 in	1 7/8 in
10 3/4 in	1 7/8 in
10 7/8 in	1 7/8 in
11 in	1 7/8 in
11 1/8 in	2 in
11 1/4 in	2 in
11 3/8 in	2 in
11 1/2 in	2 in
11 5/8 in	2 in
11 3/4 in	2 in
11 7/8 in	2 1/8 in
12 in	2 1/8 in
12 1/8 in	2 1/8 in
12 1/4 in	2 1/8 in
12 3/8 in	2 1/8 in
12 1/2 in	2 1/4 in
12 5/8 in	2 1/4 in
12 3/4 in	2 1/4 in
12 7/8 in	2 1/4 in
13 in	2 1/4 in
13 1/8 in	2 1/4 in
13 1/4 in	2 3/8 in
13 3/8 in	2 3/8 in
13 1/2 in	2 3/8 in
13 5/8 in	2 3/8 in
13 3/4 in	2 3/8 in
13 7/8 in	2 3/8 in
14 in	2 1/2 in



Scar Rule



Normal pastern.



Scarring on the inside and outside of the pasterns.



Scar Rule



Non-uniform thickening.
Ridges, cords, corrugations & hair loss.



Non-uniform. Large cords and nodules.



Scar Rule



Non-uniform. Cords, ridges and fissures.



Non-uniform thickening. Ridges, cords, corrugations and hair loss.



Scar Rule



Corrugations across the back of the pastern.



Scarring along the back and outside of the pastern.



Prohibitions Concerning Exhibitors

General Prohibition:

- No device, method, practice, or substance may be used that causes or can reasonably be expected to cause a horse to be sore.

Specific Prohibitions:

- All beads, bangles, rollers, etc., except rollers of uniform size made of hardwood, aluminum, or stainless steel and weighing more than 6 ounces.
- Chains weighing more than 6 ounces.
- Chains with twisted or double links, or with links not of uniform size and weight.
- Chains with drop links.
- More than one action device on any limb.
- Action devices that are not smooth and free of protrusions, sharp or rough edges, and rust.
- Boots or collars weighing more than 6 ounces, except for soft rubber or leather bell boots used for protective purposes.
- Pads or other devices on yearlings that elevate or change the angle of the heel more than one inch.
- Boots or collars with protrusions or swellings, or rigid, rough, or sharp edges or seams.



Prohibitions Concerning Exhibitors

Specific Prohibitions (cont’):

- Any weight other than a keg shoe weighing more than 16 ounces on a yearling.
- Artificial extensions of toe length that exceed 50 percent of natural hoof length.
- Toe length that does not exceed the height of the heel by 1 inch or more.
- Pads not made of leather, plastic, or other pliant material.
- Any object or material inserted between the pad and the hoof other than acceptable hoof packing.
- Single or double rocker bars on the bottom surface of horseshoes extending more than 1 1/2 inches back from the point of the toe.
- Metal hoof bands placed less than 1/2 inch from the coronary band.
- Metal hoof bands that can be easily loosened or tightened.
- Shoeing or hoof trimming that can cause or reasonably be expected to cause a horse to suffer pain or distress.
- Weights attached to the outside of the hoof wall, horseshoe, or any portion of the pad except the bottom surface within the horseshoe.



Prohibitions Concerning Exhibitors

Prohibited Substances:

- Prohibited substances are not allowed on the horse's legs at anytime, anywhere on the show or sale grounds.
- Substances on the extremities above the hoof, except glycerin, petrolatum, or mineral oil, or any mixture thereof are prohibited. This includes odors indicative of foreign substances which are transferred to your hands as well as visible signs of foreign substances. Post show examinations should include an examination for foreign substances.

Approved Lubricants:

- Horse show management must furnish all lubricants and maintain control over them.
- Approved lubricants can be applied only after the horse has been inspected, and only in an area under the supervision of the DQP.

Competition Restrictions:

- Two year olds may not perform for more than 10 minutes during any one period, with at least 5 minutes of rest between the first and second period, with no more than two such 10 minute periods in any one class or performance.



Responsibilities of Management

MANAGEMENT: Any person or persons who organize, exercise control over, or administer or are responsible for organizing, directing, or administering any horse show, horse exhibition, horse sale, or horse auction, and specifically includes, but is not limited to, the sponsoring organization and show manager. (9CFR 11.1)

A. Identification and disqualification of horses in violation of the Act.

1. Management must identify all horses that are sore or in violation of the Act.
2. Horses must be identified as being sore or in violation prior to being shown or offered for sale.
3. All horses identified as being sore or in violation of the Act must be disqualified from participating in the show or sale.
4. Horses found to be sore or in violation while participating in the show or sale must be removed prior to being tied in the class or sold.
5. All horses tied first after being shown must be inspected.
6. Management must turn down any horse found to be wearing an illegal action device or having a foreign substance above the hoof.

B. Supplying of all lubricants at the show, exhibition, sale, or auction.

1. Only glycerine, petrolatum, or mineral oil, or mixtures of these substances, may be used as lubricants.
2. Lubricants can be applied only after the horse has been inspected by management or the DQP.
3. Management must maintain control over and supervise the application of all lubricants.
4. Lubricants must be made available to APHIS inspectors for inspection and sampling.



Responsibilities of Management

C. Access to show or sale premises and records for USDA representatives.

1. Unlimited access to grandstands, sale rings, barns, stables, grounds, offices, and all other areas of a show or sale must be provided to APHIS officials.
2. Access to all records required to be kept by regulation or otherwise maintained must be provided.
3. An adequate, safe, and accessible area for the observation of horses while competing, performing, or being offered for sale must be provided.
4. No fee, charge, assessment or compensation can be made to the APHIS representatives.

D. Appointment of a DQP to inspect horses at the show or sale.

1. The DQP must hold a valid, current license issued by a certified DQP organization.
2. The DQP cannot have had his or her license revoked.
3. Management must provide the DQP the same access to grounds, facilities, and records, as is provided to the APHIS inspectors.
4. Management must appoint at least two DQP's at those shows and sales where more than 150 horses have been entered.
5. Management must take no action to interfere with or influence the DQP in carrying out his duties.
6. Management must disqualify all horses identified by the DQP as being sore or in violation of the Act.
7. Management assumes responsibility for all horses not disqualified that have been identified by the DQP as being sore or in violation of the Act.
8. A DQP may not be dismissed by management during his tour of duty at a show or sale.



Responsibilities of Management

D. Appointment (cont²)

9. Management must notify APHIS and the DQP's certified organization, in writing, if not satisfied with the DQP's performance.
10. At those shows or sales where management has not hired a DQP, management assumes full responsibility for and all liabilities arising from the showing or sale of any horse that is sore or in violation of the Act.

E. Providing of sufficient space and facilities to allow the APHIS officials to carry out their duties at the show or sale.

1. Sufficient space for inspection that is in a convenient location and acceptable to the APHIS VMO's must be provided.
2. The inspection area must provide protection from the elements.
3. Lighting in the inspection area must be adequate.
4. A means of controlling crowds and onlookers must be provided.
5. Convenient access to electric power must be provided, if needed.
6. There must be an appropriate area adjacent to the inspection area for horses waiting to be inspected.
7. A designated area for horses that have been inspected (warm-up ring), that is under observation by the DQP and APHIS officials, must be provided.
8. An area to be used for the detention of designated horses must be provided.



Responsibilities of Management

F. Maintenance of all required records pertaining to horse shows or sales.

1. Records from a show or sale must contain the following information:
 - a. dates and place of horse show or sale,
 - b. name and address of the sponsoring organization,
 - c. name and address of the show or sale management,
 - d. name and address of all DQP's appointed to work the show or sale, and the name of the DQP's certifying organization,
 - e. name and address of each show judge,
 - f. a copy of each class or sale sheet containing the names of horses, names and address of horse owners, exhibitor and class numbers, show class or sale lot numbers, and the name and address of the person paying the entry fee and entering the horse in the show or sale,
 - g. a copy of the official show or sale program, if prepared,
 - h. the identification of each horse, including the name of the horse, name and address of the owner, trainer, and rider or other exhibitor, and the location of the home barn or facility where the horse is stabled.
2. Records must be maintained for at least 90 days, or longer if requested by APHIS.
3. Management must designate a person to maintain records. The name and address of that person must be made available to APHIS.
4. Management must permit APHIS representatives to examine and copy all records required or otherwise maintained on any horse.
5. A room with a table must be provided for the examination of records.
6. Management must report to the APHIS Animal Care Regional Office within 5 days of the conclusion of a show or sale the required information on any horse disqualified or excused by management or its representatives at that show or sale, and the reasons for the horse being excused. All horse excused or disqualified for being sore must also be reported. If no horses were excused or disqualified, that must also be reported.



Conflict Resolution Under the Operating Plan

Disagreements may arise between a VMO and a DQP at a show or sale over their examination findings on a horse. DQPs and VMOs must do their best to communicate their concerns to each other at the time the disagreement occurs. If the show or sale is affiliated with an HIO that has not signed the Horse Protection Operating Plan, the horse will be excused from showing or from being entered in the sale. The VMO will document the alleged violation and submit this documentation for possible federal prosecution.

If, however, a disagreement occurs at an event affiliated with an HIO that has signed the Operating Plan, and the disagreement cannot be resolved at the event, then the horse will also be excused from showing. At the end of the event, the VMOs shall provide the DQPs with a written list of all cases where a disagreement could not be resolved. The list shall include the horse's entry and class number or sale number, and a brief description of the nature of the disagreement. Both the VMO and the DQP shall submit written documentation on each of these cases to their respective coordinators within seven (7) days after the end of the show. The Horse Protection Coordinator and the DQP Coordinator will then work together to resolve the conflict and if necessary, require the appropriate HIO sanction or HPA penalty. If they are unable to resolve the conflict, then they will refer the matter to their appropriate HIO Chairman or President and the APHIS Deputy Administrator for Animal Care, who will resolve the matter. The final decision will be provided to the HIO by APHIS within sixty (60) days of the date of the initial dispute.

If during the Conflict Resolution process, it becomes apparent that the findings of the VMO and DQP are the same or similar and result in the same HPA violation, the Conflict Resolution process will cease. The HIO will then be given the opportunity to impose the appropriate penalty. If the HIO fails to do so, APHIS will then pursue a federal case against the alleged violators.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

Inspection Procedures

Although an inspector is free to use any reasonable and acceptable examination method while inspecting a horse, there are several elements that should be included in all horse inspections. All inspections should include the following:

- an evaluation of the horse's appearance during the entire inspection process
- a visual evaluation of the horse while in movement
- a physical exam of the horse
- an inspection of the horse's equipment for compliance with regulations

Once an inspector has gained a certain amount of experience and feels comfortable with the inspection process, he or she should strive to perform all inspection in an uniform and consistent manner as possible by repeating the same sequence of procedures on all examinations. Maintaining a good routine minimizes the possibility of missing something important on an exam and lends credibility to testimony given at hearings of Horse Protection cases.

Visual Evaluation of Appearance

At all times during the inspection process, including during the physical examination, the DQP or VMO shall observe and evaluate the horse's appearance for indications of soreness or pain.

Visual Evaluation of Movement

The inspection begins when the horse approaches the inspection area. The custodian must halt the horse and await the instructions of the DQP or VMO.

If a rider is on the horse, he or she should be asked to dismount. A horse should never be examined with a rider on its back since the rider could be thrown if the horse rears or falls during the examination. Horse in driving classes must be presented unhitched.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

Examination of the horse is made as it is standing and moving. The horse should be observed as it starts walking, as it walks in a straight line, and as it makes turns, with attention given to the horse's willingness to lead. Turns should preferably be made in both directions and around an object such as a traffic cone. The horse should also be observed as it comes to a stop, paying close attention to placement of the feet and the horse's overall stance.

Any abnormalities, such as an abnormal posture while standing, shifting of weight to the rear legs, reluctance to lead, difficulty in making a turn, stumbling, signs of lameness, or gait deficiencies seen during this phase of the examination should be noted.

Physical Examination

The horse should be parked in a comfortable stance before beginning the physical exam. All four feet should be planted squarely and the horse should not be off balance or shifting its weight to any one side. A horse that will not stand squarely is one that may be in pain.

Both front limbs of the horse should be examined from the shoulder to the hoof. Examination of the rear limbs is optional and should be done if one suspects an abnormality in one or both appendages.

The horse should be approached calmly and confidently from the left side. This is an important part of establishing and maintaining a routine and consistent examination procedure.

The inspector should always establish contact with the horse in a non-threatening way by gently touching the horse on the neck, chest or shoulder. The hand should then be run down the limb, starting at the shoulder and proceeding down to the fetlock, while feeling for any abnormalities such as excessive heat, lumps, or swellings.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

The inspector can then lift the leg by gently squeezing the tendons along the posterior of the cannon bone just above the fetlock. Care should be taken not to allow the horse to lose its balance. As the leg is lifted, it should be supported by cradling it in one hand placed on or just above the fetlock joint. This allows the pastern and hoof to dangle freely while a visual exam is being made of the posterior aspect of the pastern and the bottom of the hoof. This is a good time to examine the hoof, pads, and shoes for prohibited devices and foreign substances. The posterior pastern can also be examined at this time for inflammation, proliferating granulation tissue, bleeding, scars, and other abnormalities. A visual exam for Scar Rule compliance can be started at this time.

The inspector should palpate the pastern in a systematic manner, starting at one location and proceeding in a pattern across the entire area so that all of the posterior pastern is palpated. Particular attention should be given to the bulbs of the heel and the sulcus, or pocket. Thumb pressure used during palpation should be just enough to flatten the flesh of the thumb or just blanch the thumbnail. The ball of the thumb should be used for palpation. The thumbnail should never be used to gouge the pastern. The inspector should establish and maintain a routine palpation pattern and technique with which he or she feels comfortable.

If a painful area is found during palpation, the horse may respond by attempting to withdraw the leg. Jerking the foot or attempting to withdraw it from inspector's grasp is a primary indication of pain. The inspector should palpate again all areas of the pastern that elicit a response in order to ascertain that the response is consistent and repeatable. Repeated and consistent withdrawal responses in the same locations and the absence of responses in other areas indicate that the horse is responding to pain and that is not reacting because it is nervous or excited. The inspector should be certain of the location of all painful areas before completing the exam. These should be remembered and noted since they will have to be detailed in the inspector's report if the horse is subsequently found to be sore.

The inspection should continue, during the physical exam, looking for other signs of pain that the horse might show during palpation.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

When finished with the back of the pastern, the inspector should bring the horse's leg forward, being careful not to overextend the leg. The leg can be rested on the inspector's thigh, leaving the horse's lower foot to dangle over the inspector's leg. The anterior, medial, and lateral aspects of the pastern can then be palpated. Again, a systematic pattern of palpation, covering the entire area, should be established with attention being given to the coronary band. This is also a good time to visually and physically examine for scars or other epidermal abnormalities on the front of the pastern.

When finished with the first leg, the inspector should carefully place the foot on the ground and then move to the other side of the horse and perform the same procedure on the opposite leg. The rear legs may then be examined in a similar fashion if the inspector finds it necessary to do so. The rear legs should not be examined routinely since doing so on a large number of horses increases the likelihood of the inspector eventually being kicked and possibly injured.

Another procedure that can be useful to the inspector is palpation of the posterior digital pulses in the horse's feet. These can be located on the rear of the inside and outside of the pastern just below the fetlock. These pulses are faint to unnoticeable in a normal horse. Strong or bounding pulses, however, are an indication of some abnormality in the foot. In the absence of other palpable abnormalities, they may be an indication of pressure shoeing. If pressure shoeing is suspected, the VMO or DQP has the authority to direct the custodian of the horse to have the shoes or pads removed so that these and the foot may be examined further.

Pulling Shoes for an Inspection

The Horse Protection Regulations give inspectors (VMOs and DQPs) the authority to inspect horses at horse shows and sales for compliance with the Horse Protection Act. Inspectors may use any reasonable inspection procedures they deem necessary to determine if a horse is sore. While conducting inspections of horses at horse shows and sales, there may be times when an examination of a horse for compliance with the Act cannot be conducted without removing the shoes and/or pads from the horse's feet. Listed below is a set of guidelines for DQPs and VMOs to assist them in deciding when to have a horse's shoes and/or pads removed so that a thorough inspection can be conducted.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

The following are examples of situations when inspectors should consider having the shoes and pads removed to determine if the horse is in compliance with the Act and the HP Regulations:

1. The horse appears to be in pain when standing or moving, or walks with an abnormal gait, yet does not exhibit painful responses to palpation.
2. The horse has a bounding digital pulse in one or both front feet that cannot be explained by any visible pathology.
3. The horse exhibits painful responses to the use of hoof testers and/or percussion of the hoof wall.
4. The horse appears to be in pain and one or more of its hoof walls feels hot to the touch.
5. A foreign object other than allowable hoof packing can be seen or detected between the pad and the sole of the foot.
6. The horse has been shod with an unusual shoe or pad assembly that might be or contain a pressure shoeing device.
7. The horse appears to be in pain and the hoof wall has been trimmed shorter than normal (less than 3 1/2 inches in length at the toes).
8. Blood, pus or serum can be seen oozing from between the bottom of the foot and the shoe or pad.

The above list is not an all-inclusive. There may be other situations where an inspector finds it necessary to have shoes or pads removed. The removal of shoes or pads should not be done routinely, but only when there is sufficient reason for doing so.

If an inspector finds it necessary to have a horse's shoes or pads removed, it is the responsibility of the custodian of the horse to do this, or to inform the person responsible for the horse (the owner or trainer) to have it done. When informed by the inspector that the shoes or pads are to be removed, the custodian must immediately make the necessary arrangements. A VMO shall require the horse to be detained until the shoes or pads are removed and the examination completed. VMOs are not to remove shoes or pads themselves.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

If, after removal of the shoes or pads, the inspector finds evidence that the horse is sore, the findings should be appropriately documented. If a pressure shoeing device is found, a VMO should confiscate the device, label it appropriately, and hold as evidence of the violation. The device should be photographed along with the horse and the foot of the horse from which it was removed. Any physical evidence of soring seen on the foot of the horse, such as bleeding or bruising of the sole, or any other damage to the foot, should also be carefully noted and photographed. DQPs should submit all evidence of a violation to their supervisor or DQP Coordinator if there are no APHIS personnel present at the show. VMOs should submit this evidence to the APHIS Investigator, if one is present at the show, or to the Horse Protection Coordinator.

Refusal to remove the shoes or pads by the person responsible for the horse constitutes a refusal to allow an inspection, and is a violation of the Horse Protection Act and section 11.4(a) of the HP Regulations. A refusal should be documented by the inspector and submitted as an alleged violation to the inspector's supervisor, DQPs to their supervisor or DQP Coordinator and VMOs to the Horse Protection Coordinator.

Inspection for Specific Prohibitions

The final part of a horse inspection is looking for specific prohibitions regarding action devices, shoeing practices, and foreign substances. Some of the may be observed during either pre or post show inspections only, though most may be checked at any time.

During the preshow exam, measurements of pad height and heel/toe ratio should be made. This may be done either before or after the physical exam of the legs. Any horse having padded feet and showing a coronary band angle that is level with the ground or tilted forward should have the pads measured for compliance. Hoof band position should also be checked at this time. During a preshow exam, the legs should be clean and free of all foreign substances, even those that are permitted. Most other specific prohibitions can also be checked for at this time.



Guidelines for the Inspection of Horses

During a post show exam, any action devices (typically chains) used **on the horse's leg(s)** during the performance should be examined. These devices should not be removed until the inspector has determined that they do not strike the coronary bands. To check for device placement compliance, rotate the device so that the fastener is at the posterior of the pastern, then gently pull the most anterior portion of the device forward and downward towards the coronary band. The device should not touch the coronary band. If the device barely strikes the coronary band, have a second person raise the opposite limb off the ground and repeat the test as described above. If the device still strikes the coronary band, the device is out of compliance. All chains (with fastener) should then be weighed to ensure that they do not exceed the six ounce limit.

The only substances found on the legs should be those permitted and supplied by the show management.



Responsibilities of the VMO

A. Preparation for and arrival at the show or sale.

1. Before arriving at the show, review the Horse Protection regulations. The USDA Show Veterinarian should meet with all USDA personnel attending the show, if possible, and discuss a plan of action for that show.
2. Have all needed equipment and supplies with you when you arrive. Some things to bring are:
 - a. current copy of the HPA regulations, HP Operating Plan,
 - b. Show Management Tech Note
 - c. all required forms,
 - d. notebook, clipboard, and pen,
 - e. scales for weighing animal devices,
 - f. test weights for scale,
 - g. ruler or tape measure, and soft measuring tape
 - h. flashlight,
 - i. digital camera,
 - j. coveralls and towels,
 - k. folding chair (nice to have if you are driving to the show),
 - l. suspension list,
 - m. cellular phone
 - n. 3 x 5 cards (light blue)
 - o. extension cord
3. Arrive early to the show grounds. Arrival should be between one and two hours prior to the start of the show.
4. Upon arrival, meet with show management and introduce yourself to the DQPs.
5. Check the inspection facilities with the DQP. If they are inadequate, contact management and ask them to make any needed changes.
6. Obtain a copy of the show program or sale sheets. Review the horse show schedule for exempt classes [see HPA 11.1, definition of horse show]. Horses in exempt classes do not have to be inspected.



Responsibilities of the VMO

B. Evaluation of the DQP.

1. This is a primary function and responsibility of the VMO at a show or sale.
2. Observe the DQP from a convenient location as he/she inspects horses. Do not stand over the DQP's shoulder as he/she is examining a horse. Watch to see if the DQP is doing everything required of him/her.
3. If a problem is noted in the way the DQP is examining horses, or performing other duties, the VMO should discuss with him/her at the time the problem is noticed and seek appropriate changes.
4. The DQP is evaluated in the narrative report on the show. All VMO's at the show should sign the narrative, if possible.
5. In order for a LOW to be requested, the requirements listed in the Letter of Warning Section (pg 43) must be met.

C. Examination of horses.

1. Follow uniform inspection procedures for inspecting horses as listed in the HP Regulations (Sec 11.21) and as outlined in annual HP training courses.
2. One VMO can be inspecting horses while the other is evaluating the DQP and observing the other horses.
3. The DQP should inspect all preshow horses before the VMO.
4. The DQP must examine all first place horses postshow. The VMO's may decide to inspect any other postshow horses at their discretion, though it is customary to inspect second and/or third place horses. Management must be notified of all horses that the VMO's wish to return to the inspection area after showing, so that the appropriate announcements can be made.



Responsibilities of the VMO

5. All horses found to be in violation of the Act, including those found to have technical violations, by the VMO's should be referred to the DQP for reinspection with an explanation of the problem(s) observed.
6. If a horse shows signs of pain either during locomotion or while standing and/or exhibits a consistent and repeatable response to palpation during physical examination, the VMO should consider the horse to be bilaterally sore. Horses showing signs of pain by giving consistent and repeatable responses to palpation will usually, but not in all cases, exhibit secondary signs of pain (e.g., clenching of abdominal muscles or tucking of the abdomen, head turning, shifting of weight, ears laid back, etc.) There are now two possible scenarios that should be followed:
 - The HIO that has affiliated with the show has signed the APHIS Horse Protection Operating Plan:
After the VMO(s) find a horse to be in violation of the HPA, the horse should be referred to the DQP for inspection or reinspection with an explanation of the problem(s) observed. The VMO(s) should allow ample time for the DQP to make a decision on the horse. Every effort should be made by the VMO(s) and the DQP to reach an agreement on the findings. If the DQP and VMO(s) agree on their findings and the DQP issues an appropriate ticket, no further action is necessary. If the VMO(s) and DQP cannot reach an agreement on their findings, and the DQP does not issue an appropriate ticket, the VMO(s) should then notify the custodian of the horse and the DQP of their findings. The VMO(s) should then begin completing the APHIS Form 7077, Summary of Alleged Violations and their affidavit(s) or signed statement(s). Affidavits or signed statements should be completed as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after the violation(s). All cases where an agreement between the VMO(s) and the DQP could not be reached should be submitted along with the show report for Conflict Resolution. All Conflict Resolution cases should be listed on the 'Cases for Conflict Resolution' form at the show. One copy of this form should be given to the DQP at the end of the show, and another copy should be submitted with the show report.
 - The HIO has not signed onto the APHIS Horse Protection Operating Plan:
After the first VMO finds the horse to be sore, the horse should be referred to the second VMO, if available. If the horse is found to be sore by both VMOs, they should inform the custodian of the horse of their findings, and tell that person that a federal case on the violation will be prepared. The VMOs should then notify the DQP of their findings and begin documenting the case. If there is an IES Investigator present, he or she should be informed of the citation. All documents should be given to the Investigator as part of the investigation file. Information on all violation cases should be included in the show report, preferably in the show narrative.



Responsibilities of the VMO

7. Any horse found to be in violation of the HPA or Regulations should be excused from the show or sale by the DQP, even if the DQP does not agree with the VMO's findings. If the DQP refuses to excuse the horse, the VMO should immediately notify show management that a horse found in violation is being allowed to show. If management refuses to disqualify the horse, this should be documented and added to the case.
8. VMO's have the authority to inspect any horse on the grounds of a show or sale, or any horse being transported onto or off of the grounds to determine if that horse is in compliance with the Act.

D. Evaluation of management.

Management is evaluated in the narrative report. There is no form for evaluating management.

E. Reports.

1. At the end of the show the Show Report Form and the GPRA Report are to be completed. Information required on these forms should be obtained before the end of the show and before people begin to leave. Some information, such as the total number of show entries, may not be available from management until a day or two after the end of the show.
2. APHIS Form 7077, Summary of Alleged Violations, should be completed at the time a horse is found in violation, not later. The IES Investigator, if present, will assist in completing this form. Any documentation supporting the violation should also be obtained.
3. A narrative report, describing the show or sale, should be written by the Show Vet after the end of the show or sale. The narrative should be written following the required format (see Horse Show Narrative Checklist).
4. A show program, or at least that part of the program listing the classes, should be submitted with the other documentation.
5. Reports and forms should be submitted to the HP Coordinator within 5 days of the end of the show.



Responsibilities of the DQP

Designated Qualified Person (DQP) is a person meeting the requirements of paragraph 11.7 of the Horse Protection Regulations who has been licensed by a horse industry organization or association having a DQP program certified by the Department and who may be appointed and delegated authority by the management of any horse show, horse exhibition, horse sale, or horse auction under Section 4 of the Act to detect or diagnose horses which are sore or to otherwise inspect horses and any records pertaining to such horses for the purpose of enforcing the Act.

A. Adherence to rules and regulations of licensing organization.

1. The DQP must abide by the rules, regulations, by-laws, and standards of conduct of his/her licensing organization.
2. The DQP must carry out his/her duties in a satisfactory manner.

B. Following of uniform inspection procedures.

1. The DQP must perform the following inspection procedures as outlined in section 11.21 of the Horse Protection regulations:
 - a. must direct custodian to walk and turn the horse so that signs of soreness may be determined (Horses in driving classes must be presented pre- and post-show for inspection while unhitched),
 - b. must digitally palpate the front limbs of the horse, with emphasis on the fetlock and pastern, and examine the entire pastern for signs of pain and scar rule compliance,
 - c. may examine the rear limbs of horses if deemed necessary, but must examine them if the horse exhibits lesions on or unusual movement of the rear legs,
 - d. must observe and/or examine all action devices, pads, and other equipment to assure that they are in compliance,
 - e. must instruct the custodian of the horse during the inspection to hold the reins approximately 18 inches from the bit shank,
 - f. shall inspect horses no more than 3 classes ahead of the time the horse is to be shown, or no more than 2 classes ahead of time in those shows with 150 or fewer horses,
 - g. shall not permit inspected horses to leave the designated warm-up area before showing,
 - h. shall allow only the horse, rider, trainer, and groom in the warm-up area,
 - i. shall only allow the horse and custodian in the DQP inspection area,
 - j. may carry out additional inspections as deemed necessary to determine if a horse is sore.



Responsibilities of the DQP

2. The DQP must also follow the uniform inspection procedures of his/her licensing organization.
3. The DQP must physically inspect the following horses:
 - a. all Tennessee Walking Horses (TWH's) and Racking Horses entered for sale or auction,
 - b. all TWH's and Racking Horses entered in any animated gait class,
 - c. all TWH's and Racking Horses entered for exhibition before they are admitted to be shown or offered for sale,
 - d. all TWH's and Racking Horses tied first in their class or event.
4. The DQP must observe horses in the warm-up ring and during performances whenever possible.
5. The DQP may examine any horse on the show or sale grounds that he/she determines needs to be examined.

C. Notification to violators and management.

1. The DQP must notify management immediately of any horse which in his/her opinion is sore or in violation of the Act.
2. The DQP must inform the custodian of a horse if that horse has been found by the DQP to be sore or in violation of the Act or regulations.

D. Recordkeeping.

1. The DQP must keep the following records on any horse he/she recommends be disqualified or excused from being shown or sold:
 - a. name and address of the show and show manager,
 - b. name and address of the horse owner,
 - c. name and address of the horse trainer,
 - d. name and address of the horse exhibitor,
 - e. exhibitor's number and class or sale number of the horse,
 - f. date and time of the inspection,
 - g. detailed description of all the DQP's findings and the nature of the alleged violation,
 - h. name, age, sex, color, and markings of the horse,
 - i. name of the show manager or management representative notified by the DQP that the horse should be excused or disqualified.



Responsibilities of the DQP

2. The DQP must submit all the above records to the DQP's licensing organization within 72 hours of the end of the show or sale.
3. Show management may have the DQP keep records other than those listed above, such as records of entries in the various show events.

E. Restrictions on the DQP.

1. A DQP cannot exhibit or sell any horse at a show at which he/she has been appointed to inspect horses.
2. A DQP cannot inspect horses at any show or sale where horses owned by a member of the DQP's immediate family or by the DQP's employer are being shown or sold.
3. A person cannot hold a valid DQP license if he/she has been convicted of a violation, or paid a fine or civil penalty in a settlement of an alleged violation of the Act or regulations.
4. A person who has been so convicted or fined can be licensed only after at least 2 years following the first violation, or after at least 5 years following the second or any subsequent violation.



Letter of Warning Criteria

In order for a LOW to be requested, the following requirements must be met:

- The DQP has not met the minimum performance standards listed in number seven below.
- The VMO must have pointed out and described any deficiencies in a DQP's performance to that DQP during the course of the show or sale, preferably at the time the particular deficiency is noticed.
- The DQP has demonstrated a consistent inability or unwillingness to enforce the HP regulations. A single instance where a DQP has not met the standards will not be grounds for requesting a LOW unless the deficiency involved an inability or unwillingness by the DQP to recognize a HPA violation, such as an obviously sore horse.
- Reasonable disagreements between the DQP and VMO over "gray" areas, such as borderline or questionable violations, will not be considered grounds for requesting a LOW.
- The VMO must list in the show narrative the specific deficiencies of the DQP for whom the LOW is being requested. The narrative must include entry numbers, class, detailed description of violations and efforts taken by the VMO's to correct or improve the DQP's performance during the show.
- If there are two or more VMOs at a show or sale, they should agree on a request for a LOW.
- The VMO must personally inform the DQP of the alleged performance failure and the VMO's intent to recommend that a LOW be issued.
- Within ten (10) days of the event, the VMO shall forward a written recommendation with specific detailed evidence and any supporting documentation to the HP Coordinator.

The DQP must be able to do the following to meet minimum performance standards:

- Follow the inspection procedures and guidelines for inspecting horses as listed in the HP Regulations (Sec 11.21) and as outlined in annual HP training courses.
- Determine if a horse is sore on examination at a show or sale. A horse is sore when it meets the definition of sore as listed in the HPA.
- Recognize a Scar Rule violation.
- Recognize technical violations and prohibitions as listed in the HP Regulations.
- Take appropriate action for all violations found at shows or sales.



Outline of HP Regulations

11.1 Definitions

11.2 Prohibitions Concerning Exhibitors

- (a) General Prohibitions
 - No device, practice, or substance may be used which causes or can reasonably be expected to cause the horse to be sore
- (b) Specific Prohibition
 - Addresses weight restrictions, shoes, pads, action devices, etc.
- (c) Substances
 - Addresses lubricants
- (d) Competition Restrictions for 2 Year Olds
- (e) Information Requirements - Horse Related
 - Forbids the withholding of information from or giving of false information to USDA with regards to any horse at an inspected event

11.3 Scar Rule

11.4 Inspection and Detention of Horses

- (a) Must allow horses to be inspected
- (b) Must not remove horse from the grounds after being told it needs to be inspected and before inspection takes place.
- (c) USDA may detain horses for up to 24 hours
- (d-g) Details relating to detaining horses
- (h) Custodian may request re-examination of horse within 24 hours, provided that:
 - (1) Request made to APHIS show vet after inspection but before horse is removed from inspection area
 - (2) APHIS show vet determines that re-exam is warranted
 - (3) Horse is maintained under USDA detention (as described above) until time of re-exam



Outline of HP Regulations

11.5 Access to Premises and Records

- (a) Management
 - (1) Must provide free & unlimited access to all areas of show grounds and to records
 - (2) Must provide an adequate, safe, & accessible area from which to view the performances
- (b) Exhibitors
 - (1) Must permit USDA and/or DQP to inspect any horse
 - (2) Must present horse for inspection when requested

11.6 Inspection Space and Facility Requirements

- (a) States what facilities and space management must make available to USDA. Not specific on designated holding area that comes in 11.21(b)

11.7 Certification and Licensing of DQP's

- (a) Basic Qualifications of DQP Applicants
- (b) Certification Requirements for DQP Programs
 - Lists all the documentation HIO's must submit in order to receive certification of their DQP program. This includes details on such things as the required number of hours of training, etc.
- (c) Licensing of DQP's
 - Lists specifics regarding the actual issuing of DQP licenses by HIOs, e.g., license must have a picture on it, must submit list of current DQPs to USDA each year, etc. Points of specific interest:
 - No person may be licensed as a DQP if they have been convicted of, or paid any fine or civil penalty in settlement of, any violation of the HPA or regulations, for a period of 2 years or more after the first such violation, and 5 years or more after the second such violation
- (d) Requirements to be Met by DQPs and Licensing Organizations
 - (1-5) Cover records that DQP needs to make, where to send what, etc. Also addresses their responsibility to notify people of violations
 - (6) Addresses continuing education for DQP's
 - (7) Each DQP organization shall promulgate standards of conduct for its DQPs, and enforce them.



Outline of HP Regulations

Minimum standards must include:

- (i) DQP must not exhibit horses at event where he/she is working as a DQP
 - (ii) DQP must not inspect horses at any event where a horse owned by any member of their immediate family or their employer is competing.
 - (iii) DQP must follow the inspection procedures of his/her licensing organization
 - (iv) DQP must immediately inform management when a horse is found to be in violation of the HPA or regulations
- (e) Prohibition of Appointment of Certain Persons to Perform Duties Under the Act
- Must not appoint as DQP anyone without a valid license
- (f) Cancellation of DQP License
- (g) Revocation of DQP Program Certification

11.20 Responsibilities and Liabilities of Management

- (a) For management which does not utilize a DQP: Management is responsible for keeping all horses which are sore or otherwise in violation of the regs out of the ring if they do not utilize a DQP. All Walking Horses and Racking Horses which tie first or second must be inspected post-show.
- (b) For management which does utilize DQP:
- (1) Various points listed:
- Must give DQP same access and right to inspect as previously listed for USDA
 - *** *“Management shall not take any action which would interfere with or influence said DQP in carrying out his duties or making decision concerning whether or not any horse is sore or otherwise in violation of Act or regulations.”*
 - What management can do if they are dissatisfied with their DQP
 - Management is legally liable if they do not abide by the decisions of the DQP
- (2) DQP must inspect:
- All TWHs & RHs entered
 - All TWHs & RHs tied first or second, post-show
 - Inspections must be in accordance with 11.21
 - Should observe horses in warm up and performance whenever possible
- (3) DQP must immediately. Report any violations to management
- (c) Management which utilizes DQP must appoint at least 2 DQP's when more than 150 horses are entered



Outline of HP Regulations

11.21 Inspection Procedures for DQP's

- (a) Various points listed:
 - (1) Walk & turn horses during preshow inspection
 - (2) Description of palpation procedures
 - (3) Examination of pads, action devices, etc.
 - (4) No stewarding
- (b) Shall inspect horses no more than 3 classes ahead of time (or two classes at shows with fewer than 150 horses). Inspected horses shall be held in a designated area under the observation of the DQP or USDA. May not leave this area prior to showing. Only the horse, groom, trainer, rider, DQP, and USDA personnel allowed in this area.
- (c) DQP may carry out additional inspection procedures if desired
- (d) DQP organization shall assess penalties for violations found, and report them to USDA

11.22 Records Required and Disposition Thereof

- Lists records which management is required to keep

11.23 Inspection of Records

- Management and also DQP organizations must make records available to USDA for inspection

11.24 Reporting by Management

- What management is supposed to report to Regional offices following a show or sale

11.40 Prohibitions and Requirements Concerning Persons Involved in Transportation of Certain Horses

11.41 Reporting Required of Horse Industry Organizations

- Annual and quarterly reports to be submitted

