

Horse Protection Program 2009



2008 for Horse Protection

- ✔ Media attention: Lexington-Herald, Equus Magazine, American Farrier's Journal
- ✔ United States Animal Health Association submit proposal to USDA to eliminate soring
- ✔ National Institute of Agriculture submit proposal to USDA to eliminate soring



2008 Horse Protection Program

- ✓ American Association of Equine Practitioners White Paper “Putting the Horse First” recommends eliminate the DQP program
- ✓ USDA Office of Inspector General audit of the USDA DQP inspection program
- ✓ **IN THE END: LOTS OF SCRUTINY**



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✔ Enforce the Horse Protection Program as it is written in the Horse Protection Act and Regulations
- ✔ Areas observed by Department and public complaints given in previous years that need to be looked at closer from USDA Veterinarians and DQPs



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✓ No tack (saddle or tail brace) on horse when coming through inspection
 - May be lead by halter or bridle
 - Horse may walk to inspection with saddle on but will be removed before inspection begins
 - Horses may be subject to looking in mouth and under tail for any objects for distractions



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✔ If custodian does not remove tack prior to inspection, this will be interference of inspection which is a HPA violation
- ✔ If USDA observes DQP inspecting horse with tack on, DQP will receive recommendation for LOW and HIO will receive reprimanding letter.



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✓ DQPs and VMOs have authority to have shoes pulled for further diagnosis when a farrier is available
- ✓ Hoof testers may be used on flatshod and padded horses



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✔ No acrylic or any other hard substance used as hoof-packing





Emphasis to Inspection

- ✔ Frog pared out



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✔ Bruising or any abnormal changes



Emphasis to Inspection

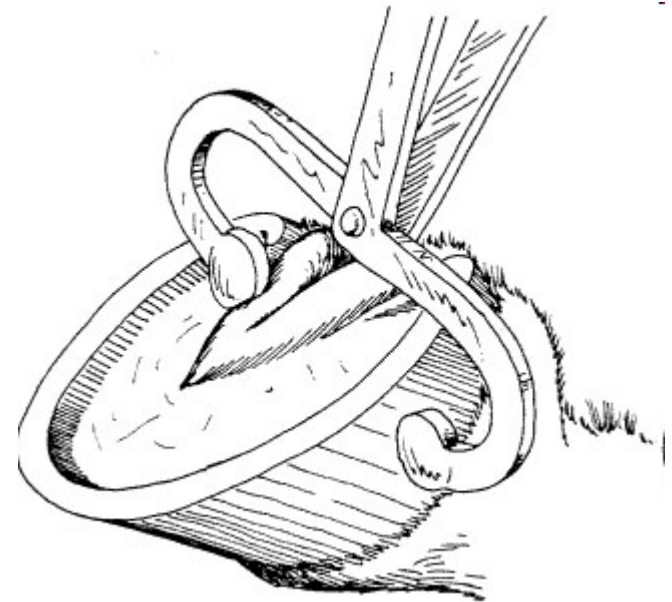
- Artificial Extension of the toe length not more than 50% of the natural hoof length





Evaluation of the Hoof

- ✔ Use of Thermography
- ✔ Use of Hoof testers
- ✔ Use of Hoof Pick
- ✔ Use of Percussion Hammer
- ✔ Use of Digital Radiography





Scar Rule, AS DEFINED

HPR Sec. 11.3 The scar rule applies to all horses born on or after October 1, 1975. The scar rule criteria are as follows:

- (a) The anterior and anterior-lateral surfaces of the fore pasterns (extensor surface) must be free of bilateral granulomas, other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation, and, other bilateral evidence of abuse indicative of soring including, but not limited to, excessive loss of hair.
- (b) The posterior surfaces of the pasterns (flexor surface), including the sulcus or “pocket” may show bilateral areas of uniformly thickened epithelial tissue if such areas are free of proliferating granuloma tissue, irritation, moisture, edema, or other evidence of inflammation.





Emphasis to Inspection

- ✓ Inspections of warm up area, barns, horse trailers , etc.
- ✓ Warm Up Area
 - Chains suspected to be more than 6oz being used in warmup arena may be weighed onsite
 - Pads are not to be hollowed out and other substances or weights added to it
 - Metal bands are not to be tightened after going through inspection.



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✓ TACK, 6 OZ CHAIN OR ALLOWED LUBRICANT SUPPLIED BY SHOW MANAGEMENT SHALL BE ONLY ALLOWED AFTER INSPECTION
- ✓ Any further alterations, will be subject to additional inspections, pre-show and post-show.



Emphasis to Inspection

- ✓ Foreign Substance Sampling by USDA may be done pre-show and/or post-show
- ✓ Only the exhibitor, trainer, custodian involved with the horse are allowed in the inspection area.



DQPs and Conflict Of Interest

DQP shall not inspect horses at any horse show, horse exhibition, horse sale or horse auction in which a horse or horses owned by a member of the DQP's immediate family or the DQP's employer are competing or are being offered for sale.



Examples of Letter Of Warnings to DQPs

- ✓ Four have been recommended this past year from USDA
 - Poor palpation techniques
 - Changing the call after horse and custodian has left
 - Poor attitude towards VMOs; inciting the custodians
 - Allowing the custodian to tell the DQP what violation to give them when referred back by VMO



**USDA Veterinarians and HIO
DQP inspectors should ALWAYS
carry out their duties without
limitations**