

# FAX

- To: **usda horse soring session/Hannah**

- From: **ELLEN BAER**

- Fax: **(619) 886-5718**

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- Phone: **909-418-4870**

- Date: **Thu 03/22/2012**

- Re: **HORSE SORING SESSION**

- cc:

- **Status: For Review**

Comments:

PLEASE GIVE TO USDA PERSONNEL RIGHT AWAY. THANK YOU. YOU CAN CONFIRM RECEIPT AT 562-506-4891...THANKS!  
ELLEN BAER

**March 22, 2012**

To: **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).**  
From: Ellen Baer, 701 Maple St. #8 La Habra, CA 90631/PO Box 2043 La Habra CA 90632  
Re: **USDA HORSE SORING LISTENING SESSIONS. Ontario, California** - March 22 - 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.; Doubletree Ontario Airport, 222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, CA 91764

Hello!

I have to work today and cannot attend the session in person, but want to express my views. I appreciate your having this session. It would be nice to have sessions on a weekend or evening time during the week.

In any case, I am against horse soring as I think it is unneeded and cruel. We should be able to appreciate horses for their nature and not alter that natural behavior with cruel and unneeded methods. In addition please consider the following:

1. **Increase funding for soring inspections by USDA agents or independent third-party inspectors at all horse shows.** Currently, 90-95% of horse shows are inspected by horse industry agents, who often have a vested interest in allowing soring to continue for the sake of competition prizes, corrupting the integrity of inspections.
2. **Create and enforce more strict and prompt penalties to deter violators.** Since walking competitions award prizes to the most exaggerated "big licks," which can only be elicited by soring, there must be strong deterrence or incentive to give up the practice.
3. **Ban all action devices and pads in the exhibition of walking horses. Even the lightest action devices, usually chains around the ankles, cause great pain for sored horses.** Pads force horses to stand at an uncomfortable, unnatural angle, and foreign objects are often inserted that add to the suffering.
4. **Continue to pursue violators of the Horse Protection Act through criminal prosecution,** as the USDA and the U.S. Department of Justice have successfully done over the past few months, and begin regularly reporting all instances of soring to state officials to pursue state criminal charges in states where soring is illegal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

