

Turner, Whitney I - APHIS

From: bob roach <rproach@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:22 AM
To: Cezar, Rachel - APHIS
Subject: Tennessee Walking Horse

Dr. Cezar, I am a long time owner and fan of the Tennessee Walking Horse. After spending countless hours thinking about the current situation with my passion and hobby, I was motivated to write these words. I would love a response, but will respect your decision to respond or not to respond to me personally. I worked for the Federal Government as a D.O.D teacher for 35 years and I realize how thorough yet sometimes anal government work can be.

These words are my beliefs based on what I believe to be true. If I am mistaken please feel free to let me know about my mis-information.

My thoughts on the "State of the Tennessee Walking horse"

Why is everybody always picking on me? Because they can. Many people do not understand why the Federal Government is so hard on the Tennessee Walking Horse. The biggest question most of us ask is why does the Federal Government have so much control over OUR horse. Many will point to the days of old in the 60's and 70's and talk about the condition of our horse. Many of us have been around long enough to have seen the evolution of our show horse up to the present date.

Those who are close to the training and exhibiting of our horses know that the condition is not just improving but is absolutely in great condition. It is a shame that we are not given the credit that we deserve. There are many who could not make this statement because they have no first hand information. I have personally spent countless hours at training barns and I have seen the condition of the horses that are being exhibited. Bravo to the trainers, and owners that train and support this horse. They are not only compliant, they look great.

So, back to the question, why are they picking on the Tennessee Walking Horse? I firmly believe it is because the group that we are really fighting against is so much bigger than us. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) an American animal rights organization based in Norfolk, Virginia, and led by Ingrid Newkirk, its international president. A non-profit corporation with 300 employees and two million members and supporters, claims to be the largest animal rights group in the world. Its slogan is "animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment." Three hundred employees and two million members are making the accusation that our Federal Government is not enforcing the Horse Protection Act. This is PETA. We also have HSUS with 1.2 million. The question is, are these people fanatics or is there a real problem concerning the welfare of the Tennessee Walking Horse?

Many in our industry do not understand why they pick on us yet leave the quarter horses and thoroughbred horses alone for the most part. Once again, it is a numbers game. We pale in the size of those two organizations. The American Quarter Horse Association, located in Amarillo, Texas, is the world's largest equine breed registry and membership organization according to the American Quarter Horse Journal. The organization was founded in 1940 in Fort Worth, Texas and now has nearly 350,000 members.

Are these people fanatics? You decide, but remember they believe that "ANIMALS ARE NOT OURS TO EAT, WEAR, EXPERIMENT ON, OR USE FOR ENTERTAINMENT."

On the positive note, David did slay Goliath.