

Turner, Whitney I - APHIS

From: Tim Beckmon <tbeckmon@skiesrblue.com>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Cezar, Rachel - APHIS
Subject: Horse Protection Act

Dr. Cezar,

I am writing to add my voice to that of Janet Metz, author of what is written below. I too encourage the USDA to enforce the Horse Protection Act to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,
Tim Beckmon
SkiesRBlue Stables
Santa Fe, New Mexico

- > The TWHBEA president's response to the USDA listening session
- > exemplifies exactly why the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is in
- > major decline. Their unwavering support for the chained padded show
- > horse and exclusion of the pleasure non-showing owners puts the responsibility for
- > their demise squarely on their own shoulders. When times were good they
- > purposely raised fees to weed out the troublesome "sound horse" owners.
- > In the last few years when they lost support/money, they started
- > courting the "trail riders" not because they were interested but
- > because they needed money. It is always about money, never about the
- > welfare of the horses. I have received regular communication from them
- > promoting membership with everything from free books to entry in
- > contests. They had my membership for many years but they failed to be
- > true advocates for the horses, failed to promote sound horses and
- > ethical horsemanship, and showed support for the show horse that most
- > people outside of middle Tennessee find cruel and disgusting. Their
- > self inflicted injuries are not due to the economy or USDA. And now
- > they blame animal rights advocates who they claim have no vested
- > interest in the breed. Maybe not in the breed industry but there are
- > many people caring for broken down horses who were thrown away by the
- > industry, paying the veterinarian bills, crying over their suffering
- > and rescuing them from the meat trucks. I would say that TWHBEA has
- > no vested interest in the individual horses. I would like to see the
- > numbers on how many of these fine show foals ended up dead or thrown
- > away. How many were crippled? How many were killed? How many had
- > caustic chemicals applied to their legs? How many were hit in head
- > with baseball bats? How many were burned with cigarettes? How many had screws driven into their feet? How many
- > lived their lives in miserable stalls?
- > How many mares had foals year after year until they were no longer
- > useful and then sold at auction? How many foals were born sickle
- > hocked because of bad breeding practices?
- > Now they are desperately throwing out the poor farmer sob story.

> Go to Waterfall Farm and see how destitute they look. They need to
> pull their heads out of where ever they are and visit real training
> facilities where horses are trained at the appropriate age, over
> years, with true horsemanship not short cuts and chemicals. They need
> to worry more about educating breeders in conformation and the care of
> broodmares instead of worrying about the size of packages.
> The non-show pleasure horse is thriving at this time. There are
> more TWHs ridden on the trails in my area than ever before.
> Unfortunately, for TWHBEA about 90% of them never have their
> registration transferred because of their failure as a breed registry.
> They have made it difficult for pleasure/trail riders to show in all
> breed shows because of the reputation of the breed.
> I own eight Walking Horses. I will not bred them ever again
> because of the cruelty in our breed. I will never do business with TWHBEA again.
> I would rather use the Canadian Registry, which by the way, will still
> be around when TWHBEA goes under. I would be happy to see TWHBEA go
> out of business. It is better that there be no official breed than to
> see the cruel practices continued.
> I traveled with a NHSC DQP for many years and saw the
> ineffectiveness of industry self-regulation. It's a farce. How can
> an industry self-regulate when they don't believe the law applies to them.
> To save the breed, the torture and abuse of horses must stop.
> It's just that simple. People are not fooled these days. It is widely
> known what goes on. Take off the chains and pads. Stop soring these
> kind and gentle horses. Learn to love them for what they do naturally
> or leave them alone. Cooperate with USDA. Stand up and be a leader
> not a patsy for the sociopaths who still insist that horse torture is
> acceptable and the Big Lick horse is a thrill. This philosophy has
> ruined our great American breed.
> As a Tennessee Walking Horse owner, someone who loves these
> horses and someone who has a real vested interest in them I plead with
> USDA to enforce the Horse Protection Act to the fullest extent possible.
> Janet Metz
> Grant-Valkaria, FL