

## Turner, Whitney I - APHIS

---

**From:** Trageen Baumgart <trageen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:51 PM  
**To:** Cezar, Rachel - APHIS  
**Subject:** USDA listening sessions: Questions answered

Dear Dr. Cezar,

I have owned and shown pleasure Tennessee Walking horses since 1974. I am sick of defending the Tennessee Walking horse to others because a small percentage of trainers and owners torture their horses for profit. I thought by now the stigma would be gone, forgotten as a dark history. Not only does the stigma of crippled walking horses continue, but because of soring, the breed is losing the natural gait that made it unique in the first place.

- Congress passed the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to eliminate the cruel and inhumane practice of soring horses. How close are we to achieving the goal? **Still soring today.**
- Can the industry achieve a consensus on how to carry out a self-regulatory program to enforce the Horse Protection Act in a consistent way? **No**
- What responsibilities should USDA-certified Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) have within the industry? **USDA should conduct trainings for all DQPs, not the HIOs, HIOs are not protecting the horses. DQPs need to report to USDA, not HIO.**
- How can the industry reconcile its inherent competition aspect with ensuring compliance with the Horse Protection Act? **Industry can not self regulate, they have had 40 years and have proven they can not self regulate.**
- What can USDA do now (and in the future) to ensure compliance? **Prosecute offenders, trainers and owners. Conduct random swabs and drug testing.**
- What responsibilities should USDA have within the industry with respect to enforcement and what hinders oversight of the HIOs and/or industry? **Inspect barns, shows and sales. Require all padded horse trainers to be registered with the USDA, open for inspection at any time. Including other breeds that use pads.**
- Should there be a prohibition of all action devices? **YES**
- Should there be a prohibition of pads? **No, but limit the size and weight.**
- Currently the Horse Protection regulations have a shoe weight limit on yearlings. Should there now be a shoe weight limit for all aged horses? **Yes, shoes and pads need to be pulled and weighed at random and for top finishers.**

Thank you,

Trageen Baumgart  
PO Box 384  
Pescadero, CA 94060  
[650-483-3397](tel:650-483-3397)  
[trageen@gmail.com](mailto:trageen@gmail.com)