

Turner, Whitney I - APHIS

From: Emmilly Lammer <emmillyw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 3:23 PM
To: Cezar, Rachel - APHIS
Subject: Public feedback

- 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? **I do not believe that the goal has been reached and that it has been discouraged strong enough.**
- 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? **I do not believe that the industry is able to effectively carry out self-regulation. Self regulation is a failure. The abuse is too great and wide spread to allow the industry to continue to try to regulate its self a higher body without personal interest and conflict needs to do this.**
- What responsibilities should USDA-certified Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) have within the industry? **Im not qualified to respond to this question.**
- How can the industry reconcile its inherent competition aspect with ensuring compliance with the Horse Protection Act? **The organizations that promote shows and competition need to educate their Judges who reward exhibitors. The education needs to be mandatory and continuing so they can continue to Judge. The education must include examples of what is correct and desirable within the organization. By showing them what to look for and giving them the power to eliminate competitors who are abusing horses you take away the reward and thus the desire to continue the bad practices.**
- What can USDA do now (and in the future) to ensure compliance? **Test more aggressively and penalize more aggressively.**
- What responsibilities should USDA have within the industry with respect to enforcement and what hinders oversight of the HIOs and/or industry?
- Should there be a prohibition of all action devices? **Action devices should be prohibited. The movement should not be falsley enhanced it is detrimental to the animals.**
- Should there be a prohibition of pads? **Yes pads should be prohibited if they are ment to enhance action. Pads contrubute to the horses discomfort and lameness.**
- 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.**

Thank you for reading my responses and including them in your decision making process.

Emmilly Lammer USDF member