

USDA Mandatory Penalties

Hello, my name is Kerry DeArmond I am here today to tell you my story because I love the TWH. I own 15 TWH at this time. I breed, trail ride and show TWH. I have four horses in training with two different trainers and I train one horse at home myself. I have shown in both the padded and light shot classes but I prefer the padded horses. I am a license Judge and DQP.

I got started in the TWH industry about 10 year ago and it has become a true love and hobby for me as well as my wife Billie. I started to show TWH's 9 years ago. I have showed at a lot of one and two day shows and at the larger shows to name a few the Trainers Show, Fun Show, Celebration, The NC, SC, and Georgia State Championship shows. I have showed 13 different TWH's over the past 9 years.

I feel that the HIO's are now doing a much better job checking horses and enforcing the HPA. I have seen drastic changes in the TWH industry in the past 5 years but in the past 3 years, the industry has really changed and is showing sound horses. Just look at the percentages of horses being showed today at horse shows around the country and how many are being turned down you have to agree with me horses are better than ever. I feel the penalties should be left up to the HIO's. Pride, Kentucky and SHOW is enforcing the HPA, and all HIO's have their own penalty structure that is enforced by the HIO that issued a violation so why should the USDA put mandatory penalties in effect? and if the USDA did impose Mandatory Penalties, should there not be an appeals process that would allow an Owner, Trainer ect. their day in court? .

As I stated before I have been showing TWH for 9 years I have showed over 350 times at various horse shows on 13 different TWH's and only "!" time have I received a ticket for a Scar Rule violation. Like every one else I do not think my horse was out of compliance I had showed him 2 weeks before I received a ticket and 3 weeks afterwards and he passed going into the ring and coming out and was checked by a USDA VMO. Scars do not go away in 3 weeks. It is the opium of a DQP or VMO as to whether a horse is in, or out of compliance and as humans we all make mistakes I for one do not want to pay for some ones mistakes.

So if I were to receive three violations over the next 3 years and was banned from showing Horses for life do you think this is fair? I don't that would be less than ¼ of one percent that my horses were found out of compliance and please don't forget it was a human that made the three decisions that my horses were out of compliance. Therefore, I am asking the USDA to leave the enforcement of the penalties up to the HIO's that are enforcing the HPA at horse shows and horse events all across the country today.

Thanks for your time:

Kerry DeArmond
kerry@bandkservices.com

This is the class list for the Saddle Seat division for both trotting and non-trotting.

This is a five day show yet all of the non-trotting classes have to happen on one day largely because of the enormous cost of inspections.

Class Description

- *78. Saddle Type Halter (Mares and Geldings) 1,2,15
- *79. Non-Trotting Mares in Hand 1, 2, 11 - INSPECTED
- *80. Non-Trotting Geldings in Hand 1, 2, 11 - INSPECTED
- 81. Saddle Seat Showmanship in Hand-Open 1,2,15
- 82. Non-Trotting Showmanship (All Seats) - (Jr.) 2,11 - INSPECTED
- 83. Non-Trotting Showmanship (All Seats) - (Sr.) 2,11 - INSPECTED
- 84. Country English Pleasure 1,2,3,15
- 85. English Non-Trotting (2 Gaits) - (Junior) 2,11,12 - INSPECTED
- *86. Academy Walk/Trot Pleasure 1,2,15
- 87. English Non-Trotting (2 Gaits) - (Senior) 2,11,12 - INSPECTED
- 88. Saddle Seat English Pleasure 1,2,15
- 89. Go-As-You-Please Non-Trotting (2 Gaits) -INSPECTED
- Other Non-Trotting Horses 1,2,11, 12,13
- *** 15 Minute Break ***
- 90. Saddle Seat Equitation-Open 1,2,15
- 91. Non-Trotting Equitation (Junior) - 2 Gait 2,12 - INSPECTED
- *92. Academy Walk/Trot Equitation 1,2,15
- 93. Non-Trotting Equitation (Senior) - 2 Gait 2,12 - INSPECTED
- 94. Hunter Pleasure - English-Type 1,2,15
- 95. Walking Horse Pleasure (3 Gaits) 1,2 - INSPECTED
- 96. Racking Horse Pleasure (3 Gaits) 1,2 - INSPECTED
- 97. Other Non-Trotting Horse Pleasure (3 Gaits) 1,2,13 - INSPECTED
- *** 15 Minute Break ***
- 98. Western Pleasure-English-Type 1,2,15
- 99. Western Non-Trotting (2 Gaits) - (Junior) 2,11,12 - INSPECTED
- 100. Western Non-Trotting (2 Gaits) - (Senior) 2,11,12 - INSPECTED

A Senior age youth with a TWH mare as her project horse could enter classes: 79,83,87,93,95,96,100 (NC 4H rules do not prohibit cross entering the Walking Pleasure and Racking Pleasure classes). It is even possible that a Jr and Sr might share a horse. One can see the time constraints for inspections under the current structure.