

- Members present:
 - Robyn Armer, Christy DeMauro, Ben Hibbs, Erica Jobe, Anna Marie Knipp, Carrie Linton, Beth Riggert, Mike Roberts, Janet Thompson, Margie Torkelson, Gina Vehige, Sue Webster, Ken Wheelen and Stacy Wright.
 - Members absent, excused:
 - Sarah Booker, Tracy Feller, Hattie Francis, Jane Gaines, Cortland Hendricks, Lisa Holderle, Sarah Thomas, Betsy Woodruff and Mary Zion.
 - Members absent, unexcused:
 - Pam Bishop and Jean Mutrux.
 - Others absent:
 - McKenzie Booker, youth liaison; Kennedy Payne, youth liaison; and Kerri Payne, youth liaison.
-

I. Call to Order and Introductions – Janet Thompson

- Janet called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Beth called roll, and a quorum was established.

II. Minutes – Beth Riggert

- Because Beth was unable to send the minutes sooner, Janet moved that approval be deferred and that members be given 10 days to submit changes via e-mail.
- NOTE: No changes were received, and so the May minutes are deemed approved.

III. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer – Margie Torkelson

- The latest report Margie has received is dated June 30, 2013 (attached). It shows \$28,221.75 in checking, \$12,534.57 in savings and \$7,839.15 in the CD for a total of \$48,595.47.
- There were no questions about the report, except Margie asked who wants them. She's been sending them to members of the financial committee and exec committee. In the future, she'll send them to Beth, who will scan them and send them to everyone.

- Anna Marie moved that the treasurer's report be approved; Mike seconded the motion. The report was approved by a voice vote with no dissents.

B. Membership – Sue Webster (report attached)

- There are a total of 235 members, including 62 new members.
- Sue noted she got a call from a woman who has relocated to Rolla, opened a dressage/eventing barn there and was inquiring about how to get involved with MHSA.
- Sue suggested a few potential changes to revise the membership form moving forward:
 - She noted that, by not having applicants indicate on the form if they are academy riders, she has received nominations from academy riders she was not aware were members.
 - She also noted an ongoing problem on the application for horse nominations. She noted the \$5 fee is for additional *divisions*, NOT for additional *horses*. Because MHSA only made \$85 from the additional divisions, Mike moved that the board remove the additional division fee from the form; Gina seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was approved by a voice vote.

C. Show Membership – Sue Webster (report attached)

- There are a total of 145 nominated horse shows.
- Sue noted trends reveal that MHSA has more shows in every division except hunter/jumper, which only lost a few shows.

D. Point Secretaries

1. Dressage – Lisa Holderle

- Lisa was not available and did not submit a report.

2. Eventing – Christy DeMauro

- Christy has received all results except for those from last weekend's show.
- Christy raised an issue about how to award points. Pursuant to the rules, there are two types of MHSA-rated shows: regular schooling shows and recognized shows. She noted that, pursuant to the rules, rated regular shows award more points, and additional points are available if there are a lot of entries in the class. Because there are not a lot of MHSA-rated recognized shows available, however, Christy has been getting questions from riders who want to be awarded the additional points when they go to neighboring states to ride in large shows that are not recognized by MHSA.
- After some discussion, the board consensus was for Christy to give the riders the extra points even if the show is not recognized by MHSA.

3. Hunter/Jumper – Stacy Wright

- Stacy reported that she purchased and has switched to a new computerized point system, which she likes a lot and is very similar to the USEF system. She noted it provides multiple ways to perform dynamic searches to review points and compare results.
- Stacy said she is testing the new system for possible expansion to all point secretaries. She has encountered one glitch so far pertaining to equitation riders but is working to resolve it. She believes the system would permit MHSA to manage members and member shows, mailing lists, calendars, etc.
- Stacy further reported she had not gotten points from shows held in the past two weeks, although she found points online for a few of those missing shows.

4. Show Horses/Ponies – Sue Webster

- Sue reported the points online are current through July. She hopes to continue to update these monthly. She was missing two shows. For one, she had to pull the results from a trade publication; for the other – a walking horse show – Gina offered to follow up with the show secretary on Sue's behalf.

E. Medallion Secretary – Sarah Thomas

- Sarah was not available to present.
- Sue raised an issue, noting that some medallion competitors are not MHSA members and are not nominated equitation riders, further noting that, one year, the MHSA medallion scholarship was awarded to a non-member.
 - Sue said she has tried to offer equitation cards in the past, but the shows would not use them. Now there is a trend of riders entering medallion classes only for the experience, with no intention of showing in the finals, and then winning over MHSA members.
 - Anna Marie suggested that, instead of awarding the winners the medallion at the show, the winning riders instead receive certificates advising that, if a rider is nominated, the rider can redeem the certificate for the medallion and that, if the rider is not nominated, the rider will be disqualified.
 - Mike suggested letting the winner take a photograph with a replica medallion but the winner would have to send in paperwork to get the actual medallion.
 - After discussion, the suggestion was to notify show secretaries that only a nominated MHSA member is eligible to receive a medallion and to require a higher payment from others to win.

F. Financial Steering Committee – Jane Gaines

- Jane was unavailable and did not submit a report.

G. Website – Tracy Feller and Stacy Wright

- Janet reported that the website has cost MHSAsome money but there is a move toward making it a boon for the organization rather than a burden. She also noted there have been some glitches in producing the website.
- Janet reported that the website almost is at the end of its phase I development, which will get the online point system in place. Phase II will provide the stable directory, and Phase III will provide the marketplace. Once these latter phases are complete, members will be able to promote their businesses through the MHSAsite.
- There was discussion in closed session about issues with website developer Ellis Benus. Once the board moved back into open session following that discussion, Lynn moved that Benus be fired; Mike seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote with no dissents.

IV. Old Business

A. Banquet update and discussion – Ken Wheelen

- Ken developed a proposed questionnaire to solicit member feedback to guide the banquet moving forward.
- There was discussion about the questions and suggestions for revisions, including the addition of a question asking what one thing MHSAs could do to ensure people will come to the 2014 banquet.
- Ken will send Beth a revised copy so she can develop it using the online tool Survey Monkey and then send it out. Sue said she would provide e-mail lists for distribution.
- There was also discussion about moving the location of the presentations during the banquet so that the dressage/eventing and hunter/jumper members can see the presentations.

B. Silent Auction – Janet Thompson

- There were questions raised about whether MHSAs should continue offering the silent auction or take a break for a year or two.
- There also was a question about whether to conduct a live auction with a professional auctioneer in between events at the banquet. There was discussion about advertising baskets (with a minimum value, photos, description) and a suggestion that bidding could start online via the MHSAs Facebook page.
- Lynn said she will talk with local auctioneers about doing a quick live auction with a limited number of special baskets.

- Gina suggested doing a 50-50 split by selling tickets, holding a drawing of those tickets and giving the winner half of the proceeds of the ticket sales. She noted this has been successful as an organizational fundraiser.

C. School Horse of the Year –Stacy Wright

- Stacy noted that, while it was good to have a Facebook competition, it revealed a need to have all horses entered, with stories by a date specific and to post all entries online at the same time.
- After discussion, the board encouraged Stacy to set the rules for the competition, including a photo and story submitted about the nominated horse, and a deadline so she can get all entries online at once so voting can open at same time.

D. Horse Person of the Year – Gina Vehige

- Gina reported she has received one good nominee so far but will continue to accept nominations.

E. Decorations – Janet Thompson

- Janet noted MHSA still has the leftover decorations from last year, which were tied to the theme of the banquet.
- Because the distinguished service award will go to the former director of the therapeutic riding program in St. Louis, this year’s banquet will be called the “Celebration of Champions,” allowing MHSA to define what is a “champion.”
- It was suggested that decorations could include photographs of riders in therapeutic riding programs around the state. It also was suggested that donations be solicited to help pay for therapeutic riders to attend the celebration and then giving recognition to those who donate money to help sponsor therapeutic riders.

F. Shikles Distinguished Service Award – Sarah Booker

- In Sarah’s absence, Janet reported there is nothing new to report. This award will be given to Sandy Rafferty of the therapeutic riding program in St. Louis. There was discussion of inviting some of the therapeutic riders to the award presentation. (Also see notes for section IV E, above.)

G. Sportswear Committee (Banquet Apparel Store) – Robyn Armer

- Robyn reported she has 48 shirts still available of various sizes and colors. There was a discussion of packaging them into a basket to be given to the therapeutic riders.
- The board authorized Robin to talk with DSport and ShirtWorks to do something new, including possible hoodies (per a recommendation from the youth). It was suggested that Robyn send potential designs via e-mail for the board’s consideration.

H. Awards – Stacy Wright

- This year, there will be two year-end awards, one for saddlebreds and one for hunters/jumpers.
- Margie suggested doing themes for each year's awards, such as garment bags, saddle pads, etc.
- Gina moved to increase the budget for the awards; Lynn seconded the motion. During discussion, board members agreed to look for ideas for awards (considering bulk and weight) and submit their ideas to Stacy by Oct. 1 with a link to relevant details about the proposed award idea (website, photos, details about cost, etc.). Stacy then will compile the ideas and present them to the board for voting. Gina's motion was approved by a voice vote with no dissents.
- Carrie said that, if we can decide what we want, Three Winds tack shop can include in its bulk orders to help us reduce the cost.
- There was discussion about not sending awards to those who don't come and don't arrange for their award to be picked up.

I. Dressage/Eventing Council – Lisa Holderle/Robyn Armer

- There is nothing new to report.

J. Hunter/Jumper Council – Stacy Wright/Pam Bishop

- There is nothing new to report.

K. Show Horses/Ponies Council – Lynn Frazee/Gina Vehige

- Lynn has been getting a lot of phone calls about the Missouri State Fair Horse Show. It had a questionnaire this year about whether the show could continue and, if so, whether it should continue outside the dates of the fair itself.
- Gina will call the show manager Lenard Davenport about whether to expand the walking horse division to make it a regional or national show. The fox trotter division is gone already.
- During the last board meeting, there was some discussion about offering versatility classes (like poles, barrels, obstacles, etc.). Lynn was concerned about expanding the classes until more horses come. Janet noted they added MHS English pleasure, Arabian/part-bred English pleasure (saddle seat or hunt seat) to see what interest was created, then later created rules for the new classes. Margie suggested creating amateur pleasure divisions to give amateurs classes in which trainers are not competing.

L. 2013 and 2014 MHS Kick-Off Horse Show – Jean Mutrux

- Jean was unavailable to make a report, but Janet noted that the Bridlespur Hunt Club was thrilled to host this year and plans to do it again next year.

M. Youth Council – Kerri Payne/Kennedy Payne/McKenzie Booker

- No one was available to make a report.
- Janet noted that the Kentucky State Fair had great success creating events for youth, including a scavenger hunt involving board members of the saddle horse council or horses; a golf-cart decorating contest; junior judging; etc. She asked whether the MHSA board members might be interested in doing similar things at a show like the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show or the American Royal.
- Beth read some of the ideas submitted at the youth forum from last winter's annual meeting.
- The board concluded the scavenger hunt is a good idea, so Gina and Janet will work on that. Stacy also is willing to do a photography seminar for youth.

N. Marketing Committee – Anna Marie Knipp and Stacy Wright

- Stacy reported that there have been many discussions – in the committee and within the board – about giving value to the membership. She noted that each board member knows someone who is in business, even non-horse-related businesses that horse folks frequent (drycleaners, etc.). Each board member needs to find one local business willing to do anything ... percentage off a service, etc. We then could list these businesses in the MHSA marketplace and possibly link to their websites in exchange for participating. We should send ideas to Stacy by Oct. 1.
- Stacy will do a vendor letter that explains the concept in greater detail.
- The new point program Stacy is using will print membership cards so people will have something to present to get the discount.

O. Rulebook Committee – Sue Webster

- There is nothing new to report.

P. Historical Society/Permanent Trophies – Erica Jobe

- Sue took photos of MHSA-donated items on display at the Boone County Historical Society in Columbia.

V. New Business

A. Appointment of nominating committee

- Stacy will chair the committee
- We will have five new spots, will need to determine eligibility of those whose terms are expiring and willingness to continue serving
- A member only can renew the board position twice and then must step down (unless the member is part of the executive committee).

B. Other

- Format of meetings:
 - Janet noted that meeting by teleconference only work IF board members engage, which they have not.
 - Janet noted that, during the May 2012 meeting, the board agreed to pay \$7 per telephone conference call. As such, board members need to pay Margie for the May 2013 conference call.
- Amendments to the Horse Protection Act (memorandum attached)
 - Janet noted that the amendments are designed only to go after those in the walking horse and racking horse industries who are mistreating their horses – Congress specifically has said other breeds will not be targeted. It was noted, however, that if we don't regulate our own industry, others will regulate it for us, and this is precisely what happened to the two breeds covered by the act.
 - Gina further explained the amendments do not target saddlebreds and specifically exclude the use of bell boots and rubber boots. She said the amended act also will require DQP inspectors to be trained and certified by the U.S Department of Agriculture to avoid inspections being provided by industry insiders. Gina said the walking horse industry agrees to support the amendments.
 - Christy moved that MHSA support the amendment; Carrie seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote with no dissents. Janet asked that a statement be placed on the MHSA website's "news" section that MHSA unanimously endorsed the amendments regarding sorning.
- Upcoming MHSA board meetings are scheduled for October 21, 2013, and January 24, 2014
- The MHSA 2014 annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2014, at the Peachtree Center in Columbia, Mo.

VI. Adjourn

- Christy moved that the meeting be adjourned; Gina seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ BETH S. RIGGERT
Beth S. Riggert
Executive Secretary

MISSOURI HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET - CASH BASIS
JNUE 30, 2013

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

CHECKING - FIRST NATIONAL BANK

28,221.75

SAVING - FIRST NATIONAL BANK

12,534.57

CD - FIRST NATIONAL BANK

7,839.15

TOTAL ASSETS

48,595.47

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2013

46,561.46

CURRENT EARNINGS

2,034.01

FUND BALANCE JNUE 30, 2013

48,595.47

MISSOURI HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
 FOR THE MONTH AND YEAR TO DATE ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	<u>JUNE</u> <u>PERIOD</u>	<u>YEAR TO</u> <u>DATE</u>
REVENUES		
MEMBERSHIP	480.00	15,690.00
BANQUET	0.00	5,775.50
SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS	0.00	1,553.00
KICK-OFF SHOWS	0.00	0.00
HUNTER/JUMPER	0.00	0.00
NEWSLETTER	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATION	0.82	397.53
RULE BOOK	0.00	0.00
POINT SECRETARIES	0.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>480.82</u>	<u>23,416.03</u>
EXPENSES		
MEMBERSHIP	17.59	569.19
BANQUET	0.00	7,352.45
SCHOLARSHIP PAYOUT	0.00	0.00
KICK-OFF SHOWS	0.00	0.00
HUNTER/JUMPER	0.00	0.00
NEWSLETTER	0.00	665.66
ADMINISTRATION	1,923.96	12,553.65
RULE BOOK	0.00	0.00
POINT SECRETARIES	132.39	241.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>2,073.94</u>	<u>21,382.02</u>
TOTAL GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>(1,593.12)</u>	<u>2,034.01</u>

MISSOURI HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
 FOR THE MONTH AND YEAR TO DATE ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	<u>JUNE PERIOD</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
MEMBERSHIP		
REVENUES		
FAMILY	0.00	1,210.00
INDIVIDUAL	120.00	3,160.00
JUNIOR	90.00	1,440.00
AHSA AFFILIATE	0.00	0.00
EQUITATION	40.00	1,410.00
MEDALLION	10.00	80.00
HORSE NOMINATIONS	145.00	4,200.00
DRESSAGE A/A	20.00	180.00
DRESSAGE JR/YG RID	0.00	40.00
HORSE SHOWS	25.00	3,790.00
LIFE MEMBER	0.00	0.00
MISC INCOME	30.00	180.00
TOTAL	<u>480.00</u>	<u>15,690.00</u>
EXPENSES		
POSTAGE	17.59	276.09
COPYING	0.00	69.66
AHSA AFILIATE	0.00	0.00
PHONES	0.00	0.00
SUPPLIES	0.00	223.44
MEDALLION	0.00	0.00
MISC	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	<u>17.59</u>	<u>569.19</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>462.41</u>	<u>15,120.81</u>
BANQUET		
REVENUES		
REVENUES - SILENT AUCTION	0.00	4,187.00
	0.00	1,588.50
EXPENSES		
BANQUET CATERING	0.00	6,377.98
BANQUET AWARDS	0.00	134.63
MISC. EXPENSE	0.00	839.84
TOTAL	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,352.45</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,576.95)</u>

MISSOURI HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
 FOR THE MONTH AND YEAR TO DATE ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	<u>JUNE PERIOD</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS		
DONATIONS	0.00	1,553.00
PAYOUTS	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,553.00</u>
KICK-OFF SHOW		
REVENUES:		
MEMBER	0.00	0.00
NON-MEMBER		0.00
EXPENSES		
SADDLEBRED/OTHER	0.00	0.00
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
HUNTER/JUMPER		
REVENUES	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES	0.00	0.00
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
NEWSLETTER		
REVENUES	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES		
POSTAGE/FAX	0.00	0.00
COPYING	0.00	665.66
MISC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>0.00</u>	<u>665.66</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(665.66)</u>

MISSOURI HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
 FOR THE MONTH AND YEAR TO DATE ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

	<u>JUNE PERIOD</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
ADMINISTRATION		
REVENUES		
INTEREST	0.82	397.53
TOTAL	<u>0.82</u>	<u>397.53</u>
EXPENSES		
POSTAGE/FAX	10.56	136.46
PHONE	73.17	73.17
SUPPLIES	65.00	379.43
COPYING	23.60	41.10
SALARIES	1,595.00	7,045.00
MEETING	0.00	811.86
BROCHURE	0.00	295.43
WEB SITE	128.00	3,396.97
LEGAL	0.00	324.40
TAXES	0.00	0.00
MISC EXPENSE	28.63	49.83
TOTAL	<u>1,923.96</u>	<u>12,553.65</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>(1,923.14)</u>	<u>(12,156.12)</u>
 RULE BOOK		
EXPENSES		
POSTAGE	0.00	0.00
SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00
COPIES	0.00	0.00
MISC.	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
 POINT SECRETARIES		
EXPENSES		
POSTAGE	1.52	1.52
PHONE	0.00	0.00
COPYING	0.00	0.00
SUPPLIES	130.87	239.55
MISC	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	<u>132.39</u>	<u>241.07</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>(132.39)</u>	<u>(241.07)</u>

MHSA Membership Report

August 26, 2013

Memberships:

New Members:	62
Renewals:	161
Life:	<u>12</u>
Total:	235

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Renewals</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Life</u>
Dressage	30	22	7	1
Eventing	29	18	9	2
Hunter/Jumper	106	66	35	5
Show Horse & Pony	117	87	24	6

Horse & Rider Nominations

Dressage:

Horses	43
Riders	15

Eventing:

Horses	27
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Hunter/Jumper:

Horses	135
Riders	68

Show Horse & Pony

Horse	112
Riders	31

Financial Report

Income Year To Date:	\$17,453.00
Expenditures To Date:	469.00

MHSA Horse Show Membership Report
August 26, 2013

Nominated Shows

Dressage	21
Eventing	11
Hunter/Jumper	76
Show Horse & Pony	37

Financial Report

Horse Show Membership Income to Date:	\$6830.00
Horse Show Membership Expenditures to Date:	378.18

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MHSA Show Horse & Pony Point Secretary Report, August 26, 2013

Results up to date and posted through end of July. One show has not sent results yet: UPWHA show held June 1. Great River results are not official, as they were taken from a publication, having gotten no response from show management.

Points will hopefully be updated on the website monthly in the first week of the month.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Animal Welfare/Horse Show Committees

From: American Horse Council

Re: Bill to Eliminate Soring Introduced

Date: April 11, 2013

On April 11, 2013, Congressmen Ed Whitfield (R-KY) introduced the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2013. The bill is intended to strengthen the Horse Protection Act (HPA or Act) to better deal with soring. The HPA was enacted in 1970 to prohibit the showing, exhibiting, transporting or sale at auction of a horse that has been sored.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which enforces the HPA, deems soring to involve the use of action devices, chemicals, cuts, burns, pads, wedges or practices like trimming a horse's hoof to expose sensitive tissue, so that it causes pain in the horse's forelegs and produces an accentuated show gait for competition. According to the USDA, soring has been primarily used on Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses and continues despite the existence of a federal ban for over forty years.

Technically, the horse show industry has been regulated by the HPA for over 40 years. However, the trigger for USDA enforcement of the Act is the showing, exhibition, auction or transport of a sore horse. For this reason USDA has focused its efforts on those areas of the show community that involve breeds and activities that are most frequently involved in soring. If a breed, discipline, or activity is not soring its horses to exaggerate their gaits, then as a practical matter the Act has likely not adversely affected them and the bill to amend the Act, if passed, will not affect them any more than the current law.

### Findings

The bill would add additional findings to the HPA. Findings are Congressional statements outlining why changes to an existing law are needed. These new findings include:

- The Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture has determined that the program through which the Secretary inspects horses is inadequate for preventing soring;

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- Historically, Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses have been subjected to soring; and
- Despite regulations in effect related to inspection for purposes of ensuring that horses are not sore, violations of the Act continue to be prevalent in the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse breeds.

#### Proposed Changes to Current Law

The bill would make several major changes to the HPA. It would:

- Prohibit a *Tennessee Walking Horse*, a *Racking Horse*, or a *Spotted Saddle Horse* to be shown, exhibited, or sold at auction with (1) an “action device,” or (2) “a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band or other device or material” if it is constructed to artificially alter the gait of such a horse and is not strictly protective or therapeutic. These new prohibitions would not apply to other breeds and would not prohibit the use of therapeutic pads, or bell boots or quarter boots that are used as protective devices.
- Increase fees and penalties for violations for soring, including the potential for a lifetime ban for repeat offenders.
- Eliminate the industry’s ability to self-police with industry-selected DQPs by creating a new licensing process for inspectors requiring USDA to train, license and appoint independent inspectors for shows, auctions and other HPA-regulated venues that seek to hire an inspector. The current program has received criticism because DQPs are often not independent of the industry they are inspecting.

The bill defines an “action device” as “any boot, collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower leg of a horse in such a manner that it can rotate around or slide up and down the leg, so as to cause friction, or strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint, or pastern of the horse.” Action device is not defined in the law now, although the HPA regulations presently in force include a definition that is almost identical to this proposed statutory definition. The new definition excludes “soft rubber or soft leather bell boots or quarter boots that are used as protective devices.”

While the HPA technically applies to other breeds and other horse shows, sales, and auctions, this bill, if enacted, would have little additional impact on shows or sales that do not involve Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses because other breeds do not sore their horses, and have no history of soring horses, to attain an exaggerated gait in the show ring. Other breeds may continue to use action devices or pads while showing, subject to the current overriding requirement that any devices not actually sore the horse.

## **Expansion of Application**

Soring Itself. Currently, the HPA only prohibits showing, transporting or sale of sore horses at auction, not the actual soring itself. The bill would add soring itself and the "direction" of someone to sore a horse to prohibited activities. It would also make it a violation, subject to the maximum penalties, to knowingly disobey an order of disqualification.

Penalties. The bill would increase the maximum fine for violations from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and the maximum prison sentence from one year to three years. Individuals with three or more violations could receive a lifetime ban or "disqualification" from participating in horse shows, exhibitions, or auctions.

For individuals subject to a disqualification, the bill would expand the type of prohibited activities beyond showing, exhibiting, judging or managing horse shows. Additional prohibited activities would include transporting or arranging transport of a horse to or from a horse show, exhibition or auction and being present in a warm up area, inspection area or any area of a horse show, exhibition or auction not open to the general public.

Additionally, any horse found to be sore could be suspended from competing for 180 days for the first offense, one year for the second, and three years for the third.

New DQP Licensing Program. The bill would create a new licensing process for horse show inspectors, eliminating the current program that uses industry-affiliated designated qualified persons (DQPs). This program has received criticism because these DQPs are often not independent of the industry they are inspecting. USDA would be required to train, license and appoint the new independent inspectors for shows and other HPA-regulated activities that wish to hire an inspector. Licensed or accredited veterinarians would be given preference for these positions. The decision to hire an inspector, however, would still be up to the show, sale or auction. It would not be made mandatory. Shows or sales that employ DQPs now would begin using USDA-selected inspectors. Shows or sales that choose not to use DQPs now would not be required to use them should the bill pass.

## **Congressional Action**

The Bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## **AHC Position**

The AHC supports this legislation, as does the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Paint Horse Association, the American Morgan Horse Association, the Pinto Horse Association of America, the American Veterinary Medical Association and other groups. Various efforts have been made since enactment of the

HPA forty years ago to stop the soring of horses and they have not worked. This bill is focused on the problem it is intended to solve and does not adversely affect other segments of the show industry that are not soring horses and have no history of soring horses. The bill will not expand USDA authority with respect to other breeds and disciplines.

The AHC will be involved in the Congressional process and will immediately oppose any efforts, amendments, or attempts to broaden the Act or its enforcement that would adversely or unnecessarily affect any breeds, disciplines, or horses that have no history of soring.