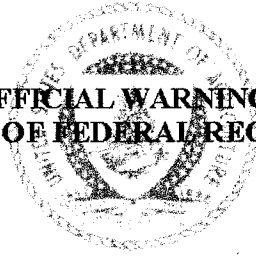


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE



**OFFICIAL WARNING
VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

CASE NO.
MO130016-AC

VIOLATOR
Brian Nichols

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip Code)

**5174 N. Pheasant
Ozark, MO 65721**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following violation(s) of Federal law:

Date of Violation: June 15, 2012

15 U.S.C. § 1824(2) – Unlawful acts

“The (A) showing or exhibiting, in any horse show or horse exhibition, of any horse which is sore, (B) entering for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in any horse show or horse exhibition, any horse which is sore, (C) selling, auctioning, or offering for sale, in any horse sale or auction, any horse which is sore, and (D) allowing any activity described in clause (A), (B), or (C) respecting a horse which is sore by the owner of such horse.”

Brian Nichols entered for the purpose of showing a horse, “Ritz’s Heart of Ice,” in the Heart of America Walking Horse Association Spring Classic in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, which was found sore.

Titles 7 & 9 Code of Federal Regulations were promulgated to help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases and assure the humane treatment of animals. Since the violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impact detrimental to the public interest, you are warned of this violation. Any further violation of these regulations may result in the assessment of a civil penalty or criminal prosecution. If you have any questions concerning this warning or violation, please contact the listed APHIS official.

APHIS OFFICIAL (Name, Title)

Dr. Chester A. Gipson
Deputy Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

OFFICE ADDRESS:

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

SIGNATURE OF APHIS OFFICIAL
[Redacted Signature]
DATE ISSUED
9/2012

TELEPHONE NO.
(301) 851-3751

FOR PERSONAL SERVICE - RECEIVED BY: (name and signature)

DATE RECEIVED:

FOR CERTIFIED MAIL - RECEIPT NO: