



VIA: USPS Certified Mail
Shipping Event: 1st

July 25, 2012

Ronnie Spears
PO Box 712
Tullahoma, TN 37388-0712

OFFICIAL WARNING

Re: Reference number TN10101-AC

Dear Sir or Madam:

We believe that you violated the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. § 1821 et seq.) (HPA), as described in the attached Official Warning. Our agency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for enforcing the HPA, and other agriculture laws that help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases, and ensure the welfare of animals.

After providing you with an opportunity for a hearing, we may impose civil penalties of up to \$2,200, or other sanctions, for each violation described in this Official Warning. Although we generally pursue penalties for this type of violation(s), we have decided not to pursue penalties in this instance so long as you comply, in the future, with laws that APHIS enforces.

What happens if I do not comply in the future?

If you violate laws that APHIS enforces in the future, we may pursue criminal penalties, or we may pursue civil penalties for the violations described in this Official Warning, in addition to any penalties we may pursue for any future violations.

What should I do if I have questions?

If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning, contact Edmund Grant at (301) 851-2752 or call our main office number at (301) 851-2948.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Huttenlocker
Director
Investigative and Enforcement Services

Batch #: 88,414
Article #: 71791000164265391954
Date/Time: 7/26/2012 10:15:27AM

File #::
Internal File #:
Internal Code:

OFFICIAL WARNING

VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS



CASE NUMBER:

TN10101-AC

VIOLATOR:

Ronnie Spears

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code):

PO Box 712
Tullahoma, TN 37388-0712

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 Regulations:

Date of Violation: July 17, 2009

15 U.S.C. § 1824(7) Unlawful Acts. The showing or exhibiting at a horse show or horse exhibition; the selling or auctioning at a horse sale or auction; the allowing to be shown, exhibited, or sold at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction; the entering for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in any horse show or horse exhibition; or offering for sale at a horse sale or auction, any horse which is wearing or bearing any equipment, device, paraphernalia, or substance which the Secretary by regulation under Section 1828 of this title prohibits to prevent the soring of horses.

9 C.F.R. § 11.2(c) All substances are prohibited on the extremities above the hoof of any Tennessee Walking Horse or racking horse while being shown, exhibited, or offered for sale at any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, except lubricants such as glycerine, petrolatum, and mineral oil, or mixtures thereof: Provided . . .

You entered, for the purpose of showing or exhibiting, the horse "Radical Jazz," at the PC Splash Classic which tested positive for Octadecenoic acid (B10).

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) created federal regulations to ensure the welfare of animals and help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts that are detrimental to the public interest, APHIS is providing you with an Official Warning for the violation(s) described above. Any further violation of these federal regulations may result in the assessment of a civil penalty, criminal prosecution, or other sanctions. If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning or violation(s), please contact the APHIS official listed in this notice.

APHIS OFFICIAL (Name):

Robert J. Huttenlocker

OFFICE ADDRESS:

4700 River Road, Unit 85
Riverdale, MD 20737

APHIS OFFICIAL (Title):

Director, Investigative and Enforcement Services

DATE

ISSUED:

7/25/2012

TELEPHONE

NUMBER:

(301) 851-2948