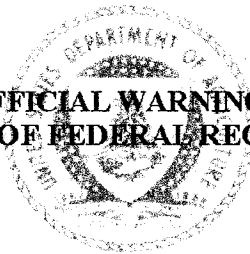


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

OFFICIAL WARNING

VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS



CASE NO.
FL09570-AC

VIOLATOR
Ashley Higdon

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip Code)

2283 Colesbend Road
Smiths Grove, KY 42171

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: April 23, 2009

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."

Ashley Higdon entered for the purpose of showing, the horse, "Chiseled in Fire Stone," in the 2009 Gulf Coast Charity Horse Show in Panama City, Florida, which was found sore.

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) Prohibition concerning exhibitors – Substances

"(c) Substances. 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..."

Ashley Higdon entered for the purpose of showing, the horse, "Chiseled in Fire Stone," in the 2009 Gulf Coast Charity Horse Show in Panama City, Florida, which tested positive for Benzocaine, Camphor, tetradecamethyl Cycloheptasiloxane (B10), plus various other siloxanes.

*** See Continuation Page ***

Date of Violation: September 2, 2009

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.”

9 C.F.R. § 11.3 – Scar rule

“The scar rule applies to all horses born on or after October 1, 1975. Horses subject to this rule that do not meet the...scar rule criteria shall be considered to be “sore” and are subject to all prohibitions of...the Act.”

Ashley Higdon entered for the purpose of showing, the horse, “Chiseled in Fire Stone,” in the 71st Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, TN, which was found sore.

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.”

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Ashley Higdon entered for the purpose of showing, the horse, “Chiseled in Fire Stone,” in the 71st Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, TN, which tested positive for Decamethylcycllopentasiloxane and Lidocaine.

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 Health

OFFICE ADDRESS:

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

SIGNATURE

DATE ISSUED

10/13/2012

TELEPHONE NO.

(301) 851-3751

FOR (Name, Title, and signature)

DATE RECEIVED:

FOR CERTIFIED MAIL - RECEIPT NO: