

SHOW

Tennessee Walking Horse

Sound Horses

Honest Judging

Objective Inspections

Winning Fairly

RULE BOOK – HPA COMPLIANCE SECTION

Revised February 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

SHOW was organized in April 2009. The specific powers granted to SHOW are the formulation and issuing of a Rule Book, the operation of the certified Designated Qualified Person (DQP) program, the licensing of show judges, and the affiliation/sanctioning of horse shows.

SHOW's DQP program is certified by the USDA to qualify and license DQPs who can be appointed by management of events to inspect horses. If a DQP is of the opinion a horse is not in compliance with the HPA or Department regulations, this will be reported to management. Management then has the right and the duty to disqualify the horse from entry. The DQP will report all required information to the USDA.

In order to effectively carry out its duties, SHOW has prepared and published this Rule Book. It is virtually impossible to cover all eventualities in the formation of rules and regulations to govern any working organization, therefore, SHOW has the ultimate responsibility of interpreting the meaning and intent of these Rules and its decision on any matter shall be final.

These Rules may be changed and amended from time to time by SHOW. Any such changes shall be published in the breed publications. It is the responsibility of each owner, trainer, breeder, and exhibitor to know the Rules of SHOW. Therefore, each should check with the SHOW office on a periodic basis to ascertain whether or not there have been any Rule changes which may affect them. The SHOW office will be happy to assist you at any time. We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Please read all cross references carefully.

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II. SHOW POLICY STATEMENT

SHOW actively protects and promotes the welfare of the Tennessee Walking Horse. To this end, SHOW is committed to the following:

- Ensuring that the overall and on-going welfare of the Tennessee Walking Horse is the primary concern of all owners, trainers, breeders, and exhibitors.
- Ensuring that all owners, trainers, breeders, and exhibitors treat their horses humanely and with dignity and respect, and use proper care in training, handling and showing them.
- Continuing to work with government and industry officials to ensure that the highest standards of welfare, safety and health are maintained at all Tennessee Walking Horse events.
- Developing and enforcing stringent rules that govern the exhibiting, judging, showing, and selling of Tennessee Walking Horses, in order that the natural abilities of the animals are best reflected.
- Increasing awareness of the rules among all owners, trainers, breeders, and exhibitors, emphasizing that they are responsible for the welfare and humane treatment of the horses entrusted to their care.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Affiliated/Sanctioned Sales. All sales which have been affiliated with SHOW or any other of the recognized organizations that license DQPs.

B. Affiliated/Sanctioned Shows. All shows which have been affiliated with SHOW or any other of the recognized organizations that license DQPs.

C. Designated Qualified Person (DQP). A person licensed by SHOW to detect or diagnose horses which are in violation and to otherwise inspect horses for the purposes of enforcing the Horse Protection Act and SHOW Rules.

D. Exhibitor. Any rider, driver, handler, or contestant who shows or exhibits any horse in a horse show, horse exhibition, horse sale, or horse auction, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his custody or under his direction, control, or supervision to be exhibited, sold or auctioned.

E. Exhibiting. For horse show purposes, exhibiting means showing in competition at a horse show, exhibiting a horse at a sale, presenting the National Colors at a horse show or other event, or any other public exhibition of a horse.

F. Horse Protection Act (HPA). The federal Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended by the Horse Protection Act Amendments of 1976, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1821 *et seq.*

G. Non-Affiliated Show. A show that is not affiliated with an organization that licenses DQPs and judges, and publishes a current rule book.

H. Owner. For horse show purposes, the term "owner" means the person shown as the owner by the records of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association (TWHBEA) and/or a person who has a bona fide lease as approved and on file with TWHBEA on said horse, or who has legal title.

I. Show Employees. For horse show, sale or exhibition purposes, the term "show employees" shall include and refer to the following: Managers, Announcers, Ringmasters, Secretaries, Gate Attendants, Ring Clerks, Farriers, and other persons engaged directly by the show.

J. Show/Sale/Exhibition Management. For horse show, sale or exhibition purposes, the term "show management" shall refer to the personnel representing the sponsoring organization.

K. Show Officials. For horse, sale or exhibition show purposes, the term "show officials" shall include and refer to the following: Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Judges, DQPs, Veterinarians, and Timekeepers.

L. Sore. When used to describe a horse, sore means: (1) an irritating or blistering agent has been applied, internally or externally by a person to any limb of a horse; (2) any burn, cut, or laceration has been inflicted by a person on any limb of a horse; (3) any tack, nail, screw, or chemical agent has been injected by a person into or used by a person on any limb of a horse; or (4) any other substance or device has been used by a person on any limb of a horse or a person has engaged in a practice involving a horse, and, as a result of such application, infliction, injection, use, or practice, such horse suffers, or can reasonably be expected to suffer, physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise moving, except that such term does not include such an application, infliction, injection, use, or practice in connection with the therapeutic treatment of a horse by or under the supervision of a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State in which such treatment was given.

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION RULES

A. PROCEDURES FOR AFFILIATING A SHOW OR SALE

1. Any show desiring to affiliate with SHOW may apply, upon its agreeing to use only SHOW licensed judges and approved Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs) in all saddle, breeding, model, halter and equitation classes and to abide by all the Rules, regulations and procedures of SHOW. When the request for affiliation is received, an application form and all necessary information will be promptly forwarded to Show Management. The appropriate fee, if any, must be included with any application submitted.

2. Any sale desiring to affiliate with SHOW may apply, upon its agreeing to use only approved DQPs and to abide by all the Rules, regulations and procedures of SHOW, and the request for affiliation is received, an application form and all necessary information will be promptly forwarded to Sale Management. The appropriate fee, if any, must be included with any application submitted.

3. To allow Affiliation approval, application should be made not less than 30 days prior to the show date, unless good cause can be shown or as approved by the CEO of SHOW.

4. Show Management must ensure that all participants agree to be subject to the SHOW Rule Book.

5. Show or Sale Management shall furnish SHOW within 15 days after the show the following:

(a) Payment of inspection fees, if any.

(b) Copy of a properly executed class sheet, showing all entries and class winners, including complete names and addresses of both owners and trainers on all horses inspected. Class sheet must also include the Horse Card number or if no Horse card provided, the registered name and number of the horse, the trainer's license number, and the exhibitor/rider name. (Not required of Sale Management.)

(c) Show or Sale Manager's Report on the form furnished by SHOW.

(d) Copy of Premium List and/or Program or Sale Catalogue.

(e) Judges' Cards if the show utilized more than one judge.

(f) Show Management agrees to pay all DQP fees and expenses and further agrees to accept whichever DQP's are assigned by SHOW.

B. INSPECTION FEES

Any show or sale agreeing to affiliate hereby agrees to collect for SHOW all appropriate inspection fees, if any. A schedule of SHOW inspection fees will be provided in the Show Manager's informational materials sent by SHOW.

C. PRIVILEGES OF AN AFFILIATED SHOW OR SALE

Privileges of an Affiliated Show or Sale include the following:

- Listing in SHOW's advertised schedule of show and sale dates.
- Cooperation of the SHOW staff, including assistance in obtaining the services of judges and providing DQPs.

- Services of the SHOW Board and Hearing Committee.
- Protection of Show Management and/or Sale Management through the use of licensed DQPs, as set forth in the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and the Regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

V. DESIGNATED QUALIFIED PERSONS (DQPs)

The SHOW DQP Program has been formally certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), pursuant to the federal Horse Protection Act. The initials DQP in these Rules applies throughout to DQPs who are certified as such under the SHOW HIO program.

A. LICENSING PROCESS

1. Enrollment of DQPs. Application must be made on the official form furnished by SHOW and accompanied by the required fee which is not refundable. SHOW shall act upon every application for enrollment and annual renewal of DQPs.

2. Annual DQP Refresher Course. All recognized DQPs must attend a refresher course each year conducted by SHOW. After due notice of date, time and place from SHOW, it is the DQP's responsibility to attend these classes at their own expense. Failure to attend an annual refresher course will result in the automatic revocation of a DQP's license.

3. Cancellation of DQP License as required by the Code of Federal Regulations. SHOW shall issue a written warning to any DQP whom it has licensed who: **(1)** violates the Rules, regulations, bylaws or standards of conduct promulgated by SHOW, **(2)** who fails to follow the SHOW uniform inspection procedures set forth herein, or **(3)** who fails to carry out his or her duties and responsibilities in a less than satisfactory manner; and shall cancel the license of any DQP after a second violation. Upon cancellation of his DQP license, the DQP may, within 30 days thereafter, request a Hearing before the SHOW Hearing Committee. If the review committee sustains the cancellation of the license, the DQP may appeal the decision of such committee to the U.S. Department of Agriculture within 30 days from the date of such decision, and, pursuant to HPA Regulations, the USDA shall make a final determination in the matter.

4. Selection of DQPs. All persons 21 years of age or older desiring to be licensed by SHOW as a DQP shall secure and complete an application furnished by SHOW. No application shall be considered if incomplete and until six questionnaires are returned.

If approved, the applicant must attend fourteen (14) hours of training for DQPs, pass a written examination with a score of 85% or better, and apprentice two or more shows.

No DQP shall be licensed if they or any member of their immediate family trains, exhibits, shoes, breeds, or sells other than the rare and infrequent sale of Tennessee Walking Horses, unless waived by the SHOW or its Board of Directors. The decision as to whether or not a DQP's license should be granted to an applicant or whether or not a DQP's license shall be renewed shall be the decision of SHOW

No individual may retain their license as a SHOW DQP, if that individual acts in the capacity of a DQP, or in the capacity of a principal, officer, director, committee member, or substantially similar position, for any other HIO, unless approved by SHOW. Upon verifiable information to the sole satisfaction of SHOW, a DQP so acting shall be immediately terminated, and there shall be no appeal. The individual may reapply for licensing two (2) years after last acting as a DQP, or as a principal, officer, director, committee member, or substantially similar position, for any other HIO.

B. DUTIES OF A DQP

1. To protect the interests of exhibitors and Show Management.

2. To report to Show Management any misrepresentation or substitution of entry without waiting for a Protest.

3. To report to Show Management, any offense or violation of the Rules.

4. To transmit to SHOW the following information:

- Class sheets on every class inspected.
- A total number of the different breeds inspected at each show.
- A written report of any alleged violation of the HPA on every show or sale inspected.
- A written report if there were no violations found on every show or sale inspected.
- A copy of the premium list and/or program on each show.
- A program or catalogue on every sale.
- A total number of the horses inspected at each sale.

Note: All reports must be turned in to SHOW within three days after completion of every show or sale on forms furnished by SHOW. Failure of a DQP to submit his or her report to SHOW office on time could result in discipline up to and including loss of DQP license.

C. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING DQPS

1. A DQP working a particular show, sale or exhibition is ineligible to serve at that show as President, Chairman, Secretary, other show, sale or exhibition officer, manager, or other show, sale or exhibition employee or exhibitor.

2. A DQP shall not exhibit any horse at any horse show, horse exhibition or horse sale, except with the written approval of SHOW. A DQP shall not sell, auction, or purchase any horse sold at a horse sale or horse auction, at which he or she has been appointed to inspect horses.

3. A DQP shall not inspect horses at any horse show, horse exhibition or horse sale in which a horse or horses owned by a member of the DQP's immediate family or the DQP's employer are competing or are being exhibited or in which either has a horse or horses being offered for sale.

4. A DQP shall follow the SHOW uniform inspection guidelines when inspecting horses.

5. A DQP shall immediately inform show, sale or exhibition management of each case regarding any horse which, in his or her opinion, is in violation of SHOW Rules and/or the Horse Protection Act and Regulations.

6. A DQP must report any attempt to improperly influence his or her actions during the inspection process or in the fulfillment of his or her duties.

7. A DQP (if there are two DQP's) shall not inspect horses trained, owned, or shod by any persons with whom he or she has conducted any type of business transaction (financial or otherwise) during the past sixty (60) days.

8. A DQP shall conduct himself or herself in a professional manner at all times. He or she shall use discretion in handling matters in public, and exhibit a positive and friendly attitude.

9. A DQP shall avoid situations that will reflect poorly on him or herself or the DQP program, or cause misconceptions as to conflicts of interest.

10. A DQP will refuse any exhibitors' requests to inspect horses at a show, sale or exhibition where he or she is not assigned as a DQP.

11. A DQP shall not accept gifts, favors or any form of monetary reward from anyone who owns, trains or exhibits horses that he or she inspects.

12. A DQP shall not place himself or herself in a position which may compromise the integrity of the DQP program.

13. Failure of a DQP without due cause to attend the show, sale or exhibition or perform his or her duties in accordance with the SHOW Rules and regulations shall constitute cause for disciplinary action.

14. A DQP must be assigned by SHOW before he or she can serve as DQP at an affiliated or non-affiliated show or sale.

15. A DQP shall not provide advisory opinions as an expert.

D. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DQP

1. A DQP shall keep himself or herself informed of all SHOW and USDA Rules and Regulations and shall have an updated copy of both at the shows or sales in which he or she works.

2. A DQP should clearly understand that he or she has no authority in connection with the management or the judging of a show. He or she is the representative of SHOW and should point out in a diplomatic manner any instance where SHOW Rules are not enforced. He or she should not dictate to the Judges or management but should immediately report to the appropriate officials any alleged violations of the Rules, which provide that only compliant horses are shown. He or she should keep himself or herself available to Judges, exhibitors and management at all times to investigate any situation where these Rules are not upheld.

3. The decision of a DQP regarding an action device's weight (including strap) at a show or sale shall be final.

4. All horses become subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the DQP when they are brought upon the show, sale or exhibition grounds.

5. In conducting both pre- and post-show inspections, the DQP shall rely on the SHOW uniform examination guidelines contained herein.

6. A DQP shall have a set of scales and some type of measuring device at the shows, sales or exhibitions in which he or she works. Before working a show, a DQP should calibrate the scales.

7. Judge's evaluation forms are to be sent in DQP packets. Forms that are returned to DQP must be mailed with show report.

E. DQP INSPECTION GUIDELINES

1. General.

These guidelines are designed to aid DQPs who are responsible for examining all horses at SHOW events for compliance with the Horse Protection Act, USDA Regulations, and SHOW Rules.

Each DQP examination shall include:

- A visual examination of the horse's gait and general appearance.
- A visual and physical examination of the horse's limbs, in particular the front pasterns.
- An examination of the horse's equipment for compliance with the Regulations and HIO rules, e.g. type, weight and location of action devices, pad height, location of pad bands, and lubricants.
- Hoof testing for all flat shod horses.

It shall be a requirement that the overall horse be evaluated and that there shall not be reliance on any one factor to the exclusion of all others. The examination should concentrate on detection of heat, pain, swelling, redness and loss of motion. The examination must provide the opportunity to evaluate the horse's freedom of movement in locomotion.

The majority of findings in the examination should agree. Borderline judgment calls on palpation must be confirmed by evidence of abnormal gait on movement or by an unacceptable departure from normal appearance.

The Horse Protection Act provides that a horse shall be considered "sore" if, as the result of a substance, device or practice, such horse suffers or can reasonably be expected to suffer, physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise moving; except such term does not include such an application, infliction, injection, use, or practice in connection with the therapeutic treatment of a horse by or under the supervision of a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State in which such treatment was given.

During the inspection, the DQP shall instruct the custodian of the horse to control it by holding the reins approximately 18 inches from the bit shank. The DQP shall not be required to examine a horse if it is presented in a manner that might cause the horse not to react to an inspector's examination, or if whips, cigarette smoke, or other actions or paraphernalia are used to distract a horse during examination. All such incidents shall be reported to the show management and SHOW and are subject to a penalty as described hereinafter.

The DQP shall inspect horses no more than three (3) classes ahead of the time the inspected horses are to be shown, except that, in shows with fewer than 150 horses, the DQP shall inspect horses no more than two (2) classes ahead of the time the inspected horses are to be shown.

Inspected horses shall be held in a designated area that is under observation by the DQP. Horses shall not be permitted to leave the designated area before showing. Only the horse, the rider, the groom, the trainer, , the DQP(s) and APHIS representatives shall be allowed in the designated area.

The DQP may carry out additional repetitive inspection procedures as deemed necessary to determine whether or not a horse is in compliance with the Horse Protection Act and Regulations. Any such repetitive inspection shall be done as expeditiously as possible, in consideration of the patience of the individual horse as well as the flow of traffic through the inspection station.

2. Technical Requirements.

All action devices, pads, and other equipment shall be observed and examined to assure that they are in compliance with USDA Regulations and SHOW Rules. All such equipment on horses examined post-show, and on horses examined pre-show that is not clearly in compliance shall be weighed and/or measured.

The USDA Regulations and SHOW Rules also prohibit exhibitors from shoeing or trimming a horse's hoof in a way that would be reasonably likely to cause the horse to suffer pain or distress, inflammation or lameness when it moves. If a DQP suspects such a shoeing technique, or suspects that there is a tack, screw, nail or other device or substance (other than acceptable hoof packing) under the horse's shoes or pads, the DQP is authorized to direct the horse's custodian to remove the shoes or pads, or both, to allow further examination of the hoof.

3. Examination of Locomotion.

During the inspection, the DQP shall direct the custodian of the horse to lead, walk, and turn the horse in a manner that allows the DQP to determine whether the horse exhibits signs of soreness or pain while walking, trotting, or otherwise moving. The DQP shall determine whether the horse moves in a free and easy manner, whether he is reluctant to start or begins moving freely, whether he turns freely, whether he parks in a normal four cornered stance or with a disproportionate amount of weight bearing on the hind legs, and is free of any signs of soreness.

4. Examination of General Appearance.

At all times during the inspection, the DQP shall observe the horse's general appearance for indications of soreness. Such indications may include: changes in the depth and rate of respiration, excessive perspiration on the skin and hair coat, abnormal reactions of the eyes and ears, abnormal stance, tucking of flanks and flexing of abdominal muscles, stepping forward with the rear limbs while the front limbs remain lightly planted, tossing of the head to maintain balance, and/or the overall demeanor and temperament of the horse. The DQP shall continue to observe the horse's general appearance during the palpation examination.

5. Visual and Physical Examination of the Legs.

The DQP shall palpate the front limbs of the horse from knee to hoof, with particular emphasis on the pasterns and fetlocks. Prior to picking up the horse's foot, the horse must be standing in a normal balanced stance and the DQP must approach the horse in a calm and professionally acceptable manner. The DQP shall examine the posterior surface of the pastern by picking up the foot and inspecting the posterior (flexor) surface. The DQP shall apply digital pressure to the pocket (sulcus), including the bulbs of the heel, and continue the palpation to the medial and lateral surfaces of the pastern, being careful to observe for responses to pain in the horse. The palpation shall be accomplished by applying the pressure necessary to flatten the ball of the thumb (the distal thumb joint should not be cocked during palpation) keeping in mind that the palpation must be done within the comfort level of the animal, not extending or flexing the animal's limb beyond normal limits and holding the foot in a manner that will not compromise the horse's balance.

The DQP should recognize that horses have different tolerances for pain, that normal reactions will vary in individual horses, and that a reaction may be in response to a reflex or learned behavior, as well as pain. In the event that there is a reaction to digital palpation of any area, the DQP should allow the horse to calm itself and become accustomed to general palpation before returning to the specific area, which may allow the discrimination between pain and non-pain responses. While continuing to hold onto the pastern, the DQP shall extend the foot and leg of the horse to examine the front (extensor) surfaces, including the coronary band in the same manner as the posterior (flexor) surface.

If more than one DQP examines the same horse, then each examination shall include a full examination of the horse's movement, appearance and physical examination, as set forth in this Rule Book.

6. Scar Rule Compliance.

During their examinations, the DQP shall also look for and note any evidence of a violation of the "Scar Rule" (9 C.F.R. §11.3).

- (a) Scar Rule Criteria.

The criteria for the Scar Rule are as follows:

(1) The anterior, anterior-lateral and anterior-medial surfaces of the fore pasterns (extensor surface) must be free of:

- (i) bilateral granulomas,
- (ii) other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation, and
- (iii) other bilateral evidence of abuse indicative of soring including, but not limited to, excessive loss of hair.

(2) The posterior surfaces of the pasterns (flexor surface), including the sulcus or “pocket” may show bilateral areas of uniformly thickened epithelial tissue if such areas are free of:

- (i) proliferating granuloma tissue,
- (ii) irritation,
- (iii) moisture,
- (iv) edema, or
- (v) other evidence of inflammation.

(b) Scar Rule Definitions

The following generally-accepted equine veterinary principles are used to define the terms used in the Scar Rule:

(1) Anatomical Line of Demarcation.

The digit of the horse, that portion of the leg extending from the fetlock joint to the foot, is a three-dimensional anatomic structure. It is divided into four (4) equal quarters: the front (anterior), the two sides (medial or inside and lateral or outside), and the back (posterior).

The anterior surface is bounded by two (2) parallel lines that extend downward from the bony prominences on either side of the end of the cannon bone at the fetlock joint to the foot, as divided equally into quarters.

The posterior surface is bounded by two (2) parallel lines that extend downward along the palpable borders in front of the flexor tendon bundle (just behind the depression or groove occupied by the neurovascular bundle on either side) to intersect with the angles of the hoof wall and including the bulbs of the hoof. (See attached diagrams)

The anatomical lines of demarcation between the anterior, anterior-lateral, anterior-medial and the posterior surfaces of the digit are those parallel lines extending downward in front of the flexor tendon bundle along the depression or groove occupied by the neurovascular bundle which intersects with the angles of the hoof wall and includes the bulbs of the hoof. Since palpation of the neurovascular groove or bundle is difficult in practice, the area's proper anatomical limits shall be defined, for purposes of determining compliance with the Scar Rule, by the palpable posterior of the two pastern bones (long and short) and the adjacent palpable border of the flexor tendon bundle.

(2) Pathology for Anterior, Lateral and Medial Surfaces

(i) Bilateral granulomas: Tumor-like masses of granulation tissue that occur on both legs, usually as a result of chronic inflammation. (Granuloma is defined as any one of a rather large group of fairly distinctive focal lesions that are formed as a result of inflammatory reactions caused by biological, chemical, or physical agents.)

(ii) Other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation: Pain, heat, redness, swelling, serum or pus or loss of function (e.g., reduced range of flexion without pain) in both front pasterns are indications of inflammation.

(iii) Bilateral evidence of abuse indicative of soring: Evidence of intentional or malicious injury inflicted to both front and/or rear pasterns.

(iv) Excessive loss of hair.

(3) Skin Pathology for Posterior Surfaces

(i) Bilateral areas of uniformly thickened epithelial tissue: A thickening of skin that retains its smoothness, such as in a wrinkle, callous or corn. This uniform thickening of skin constitutes further hyperkeratoses or thickenings that do not meet the criteria of exuberant or proliferative granuloma (proud flesh) and are free of heat, pain, redness, moisture, or edema. Such hyperkeratoses or thickenings may be interpreted as variable reactions resulting from action devices or other allowable training regimens and thus are not in violation of the Scar Rule.

(ii) Proliferating granuloma tissue: Excessive growth of masses of tissue (proud flesh) that is usually the result of the body's unsuccessful attempts to repair tissues that are injured and/or infected. The proliferating granuloma proud flesh can create wart-like growths and/or abnormal thickening where the skin is corrugated, ridged or thrown into clusters of exuberant growth. (proud flesh).

(iii) Irritation: The early stage of inflammation resulting from a reaction of the skin to abnormal chemical or physical applications.

(iv) Moisture: This includes serum, pus or blood, and can be a direct flow and/or oozing of these fluids out through the skin.

(v) Edema: Collection of fluids within tissue. Localized edema is considered a violation. Localized edema is the collection of fluids within tissue causing swelling, pain and/or loss of function in or near the areas where chemical or physical trauma has occurred. In contrast, generalized edema is not considered a violation. Generalized edema involves a greater portion of the extremity caused by such items as tight bandages or injuries above the pastern resulting in fluids gravitating to the pastern area.

(vi) Other evidence of inflammation: These may include without limitation pain, heat, redness, swelling, and/or ulceration.

(c) Inspection Procedures for Scar Rule Compliance

DQPs may examine for scar rule compliance during the physical examination phase of the inspection process or separately. The DQP should observe the horse's foot while on the ground, noting the general appearance of the pastern area, if it is properly conditioned, well-groomed, etc. While holding up the horse's foot, the DQP shall first examine the anterior, lateral and medial surfaces of the pastern. The area's proper anatomical limits shall be defined, laterally and medially, by the palpable posterior of the two pastern bones (long and short). These surfaces must comply with the definitions above. Excessive loss of hair on the posterior pasterns is not an indication of a scar.

The DQP shall then examine the posterior (flexor) surface of the pastern, that surface not previously defined as anterior, anterior-lateral or anterior-medial. The flexor surface must also comply with the definitions above. The DQP should spread the skin on the pastern to determine if it can be flattened or smoothed out and determine if what appears to be a scar is uniformly thickened epithelium, a wrinkle, callous, corn or other allowable change in the tissue as a result of the friction of the action device or some other reason that does not violate the HPA.

In evaluating all of the pastern surfaces for the purposes of scar rule compliance, the DQP shall take into consideration the horse's age, in awareness of the fact that the amount and degree of allowable suspect or questionable tissue which is not obviously and flagrantly in violation may be expected to increase linearly with the horse's age.

VI. RULES AND VIOLATIONS

A. AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS, FIRMS, CORPORATIONS OR PARTNERSHIPS

The provisions of these Rules shall apply to all owners, exhibitors, agents, trainers, managers, show or sale officials, show or sale employees, members of the families or employees of the above, participating either individually, or as a member of an entity, or any person who acts in a manner in violation of the Rules of SHOW, or is deemed prejudicial to its best interest.

1. Any person, firm, corporation or partnership or any other entity granted any right, privilege, authorization, or license, or accepting any benefit from SHOW shall be deemed to have contractually agreed to fully cooperate with all duly appointed committees, agents and employees in enforcement of all Rules, regulations, suspensions and orders of SHOW.

2. By applying for and utilizing the entry form, affiliation document or any other indication of participation in SHOW or any of its inspections, sales or exhibitions, the owner, trainer, exhibitor and their agents, employees, officers, representatives and successors in interest are deemed by said participation to agree to be bound by the rules, policies and procedures of SHOW, as the same may be changed from time to time, **and to agree to hold SHOW, its officers, directors and employees harmless in all respects.**

B. VIOLATIONS

A violation is any act committed at a SHOW affiliated event prejudicial to the best interest of SHOW, including but not limited to:

1. Violation of the Rules of SHOW
2. Disqualification by a Show manager or official
3. The following specific acts:
 - (a) Providing false information of any nature or kind to any show management or sale official, DQP, or SHOW official.
 - (b) Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the Rules of SHOW, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of SHOW.
 - (c) Committing any act or making any remark considered offensive and/or having been made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the inspections or judging of a SHOW affiliated event.

(d) Failing, as a Judge or DQP, to perform duties at a show or sale, or affiliated event in accordance with the Rules.

(e) Failing, as an exhibitor or his representative, to sign the entry blank of a show in which he competes.

(f) Physically assaulting and/or treating a horse cruelly, which is intended to inflict pain on the horse.

(g) Influencing or attempting to influence by any means or manner any DQP in determining the eligibility of any horse at any affiliated show or event.

(h) Influencing or attempting to influence by any means or manner any Judge of any affiliated show.

(i) Verbal or physical abuse directed to anyone representing SHOW, Show or Sale Management, Judges, DQP, Director of DQP Service Coordinators, USDA, Employees or Directors, while functioning in any official capacity at, or pertaining to, any horse show, sale, or exhibition.

(j) Inserting any object or material between the pad and the hoof other than acceptable hoof packing, which includes pine tar, oakum, live rubber, sponge rubber, silicone, commercial hoof packing or other substances used to maintain adequate frog pressure or sole consistency so long as such acceptable hoof packing has not been altered or changed in any manner so as to cause soring as defined in the HPA.

(k) Showing or attempting to exhibit a horse while on USDA disqualification.

(l) Misrepresentation of a horse's identity, name, height, age, eligibility for the class, registered or recorded name, registration number, owner of record, or other information on any entry blank, or substitution in the show ring of any entry other than the one named for the class in question.

(m) Voluntarily removing a horse from the ring without the permission of a judge, for which the exhibitor and all animals under his care and training may be disqualified from all future classes at that show by Show Management.

4. Foreign Substance. Foreign substance found on the pastern of a horse.

5. Distraction Violations. Using whips, cigarette smoke and/or actions and paraphernalia in an attempt to distract a horse during examination is prohibited, including presenting a horse in any manner, or the custodian doing anything, that might cause the horse to not react to the DQPs inspection

6. Full Blinders. Full Blinders of any type on a horse on the show grounds.

7. Skin cracked open (open lesions) one fore-foot. A horse that has skin cracked open or open lesions in the pastern area of one fore-foot is in violation of SHOW rules. A horse found with this violation cannot show for the remainder of the day.

8. Unacceptable horse (one limb). An unacceptable horse, one limb, is a horse that presents only an inconsistent non-repetitive response in one limb, but nevertheless the response gives the DQP concern as to the soundness of that limb. A horse found to be unacceptable in one limb, pre or post-show shall not be allowed to show for the remainder of the day.

9. Unilateral Sore. The inspection procedure of a unilateral sore horse will not be different from the inspection procedure for the determination of a bilateral sore horse except that the findings are limited to one foot.

10. Scar Rule. For the complete Scar Rule definition, please refer to the HPA.

11. Other

- (a) Failure to have the horse inspected before entering the show or sale ring.
- (b) Failure to have horse inspected before being placed on exhibition.
- (c) Failure to report back to DQP immediately after a class if required or requested.
- (d) Heavy/Improper action device or devices, post-show. Any action device not meeting the requirements set forth in the Rules herein.
- (e) Working a flat-shod horse on the show or sale grounds with any action devices.
- (f) Removing the action devices on a horse being re-inspected before instructed by the DQP to do so.
- (g) Working a horse on the show or sale grounds with more than one pair of action devices on the horse, or action devices in excess of the permitted weight or configuration.
- (h) Illegal Shoeing – Pre or Post Show Shoeing not meeting the requirements set forth by SHOW.
- (i) On the show grounds of a SHOW affiliated event, possession and/or application of any irritating or blistering agent or any substance, the application, infliction or injection of which can reasonably be expected to cause physical pain, distress, inflammation or lameness to the horse. Such substances include, but are not limited to the use of plastic wrap on the forelimbs of any horse.

12. Pressure Shoeing. Horse shod or trimmed, or any material added to sole, hoof, or hoof wall in such a manner that will cause such horse to suffer or can reasonably be expected to suffer pain, distress, inflammation or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise moving.

14. Fractious-Unruly Horse. Any horse that cannot be thoroughly inspected by the DQP in a manner to sufficiently determine compliance with the Horse Protection Act and Regs and SHOW rules shall be prohibited from showing or exhibiting, but shall not otherwise be penalized.

15. Any person found in violation, by SHOW of rules regarding remuneration of an amateur for exhibiting a horse.

16. Any person found in violation, by SHOW of rule governing Amateur Owned and Trained classes.

17. Any person found violating rules governing artificial marking or appliances shall be subject to penalties found in the Additional Penalties Section of this rule book as determined by SHOW.

18. Bad Image: Horse which does not lead freely to and from inspection, and about the show, sale, or exhibition ground. A horse which displays, by leading or stance, an excessive or exaggerated deviation from the normal Walking Horse stance or gait.

19. Bilateral sore. Any horse that presents a consistent reproducible (non-random) response to pain from any flexion or palpation in both front limbs.

20. Failure to pass the hoof test

21. Anyone who engages in any other act or behavior that assaults, resists, opposes, impedes, intimidates, or interferes with any person while engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties while conducting an inspection or reviewing any activity on the show grounds shall be subject to a suspension and penalty at the discretion of SHOW up to and including a lifetime suspension.

C. EFFECT OF VIOLATIONS

1. All violations of SHOW's rule, the HPA or the applicable HPA regulation shall be reported to show management and the USDA. Any person violating SHOW's rules may be disqualified by show management from entering a horse in the event at which the violation occurred.
2. All violations of SHOW rules VI B 3a – 3i (Non HPA violations) shall be reported to SHOW Executive Committee via the SHOW business office. The Executive Committee may set any penalty deemed in the best interest of SHOW for these violations.

D. GENERAL

1. A person disqualified by the USDA should be automatically suspended by show management for the period of the USDA disqualification.
2. A person disqualified as a result of an HPA violation imposed by the Secretary may only be a spectator at horse shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions. Persons who are on suspension shall not (1) enter a horse for the purposes of showing, exhibiting or selling at auction (For purposes of this paragraph "Enter a horse," shall mean to perform any of the activities that are required to be completed before a horse can actually be shown or exhibited.) (2) show or exhibit a horse at a horse show, public auction, or exhibition such as a college football game or parade; (3) judge a horse show; (4) enter the show ring during the course of a horse show; (5) enter the inspection area or warm-up area where previously inspected horses are allowed to await ring or sale entry, during the course of a horse show or sale; (6) coach by any manner of communication, any trainer, owner, or exhibitor anytime during the show or exhibit (7) transport horses to shows, exhibitions or public auctions; (8) prepare a horse on the sale, show, auction or exhibition grounds; or (9) serve as a horse show official.
3. An Owner who has been disqualified as a result of an HPA violation as determined by the Secretary may only be a spectator at horse shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions. Owners who are on disqualification shall not (1) judge a horse show; (2) show a horse at a horse show; (3) exhibit a horse at a public exhibition such as a college football game; (4) ride a horse through a public auction sale; or (5) enter the show ring during the course of a horse show.
4. SHOW shall notify the management of every Affiliated Show or Sale of all persons under disqualification by the Secretary.

VII. PROTESTS, COMPLAINTS, VIOLATIONS AND HEARINGS

Whenever any person, firm or corporation, hereinafter called and referred to as the complainant, believes that another person, firm or corporation, hereinafter referred to as the respondent or accused, has violated the rules and regulations of SHOW, the following procedures shall be followed:

A. DEFINITIONS

Terms shall have, in descending rank of preference, such meaning as defined herein, such meaning as defined elsewhere in the SHOW Rule Book, as amended from time to time, such meaning as the context or usual and customary usage would dictate, or such meaning as established by the most recent edition of Webster's Dictionary.

Except as may be clearly indicated to the contrary, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

1. "**Complainant**" shall mean the individual or entity that initiates or causes to be initiated a proceeding.
2. "**Complaint**" shall mean the document, ticket, or writing the filing of which results in the initiation of a proceeding.

3. **“Ex-Parte”** shall mean anything written, said or done by or for one side or party in the absence of the other side or party.

4. **“File or Filing”**, unless the context clearly indicates to the contrary, shall mean the depositing of any document, writing, ticket, paper, letter or request, required or authorized by these rules of proceeding, in the main office of the SHOW as the same may be established from time to time.

5. **“Hearing”** shall mean that portion of the proceeding wherein evidence is taken before the SHOW Hearing Committee.

6. **“SHOW Hearing Committee”** shall mean those individuals qualified and selected to decide the issues in a hearing.

7. **“SHOW Rule Book”** shall mean this Rule Book, as adopted by SHOW, and as amended from time to time.

8. **“Probable Cause”** shall mean a common sense determination of a more than likely probability of an occurrence and is a much lesser standard than that necessary to find that a Complaint is founded.

9 **“Respondent”** shall mean the individual against whom a proceeding is initiated.

10. **“Rules”** shall mean these Rules of Selection, Procedure, and Evidence.

11. **“Staff”** shall mean any employee of, agent of, or counsel for SHOW, and any law enforcement officer or individual consulted by SHOW or the Hearing Committee.

12. **“Ticket”** shall mean that document delineating a violation as determined by a DQP (Designated Qualified Person).

B. HEARINGS, INVESTIGATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

1. Initiation of Third Party Complainant Disciplinary Proceedings – non DQP ticket.

(a) Whenever any interested individual, or entity, (the “Complainant”) shall believe that a rule and/or regulation contained in the SHOW Rule Book has been violated and desires to initiate a disciplinary proceeding, such individual, or entity, shall file in the office of SHOW a written statement (the “Complaint”) specifically setting forth the allegation(s) of violation(s), and for each alleged violation, the Rule or portion thereof alleged to have been violated and the manner in which it was violated, including, if available, dates, times, and places.

(b) The Complaint shall set forth the name of the alleged violator (the “Respondent”) and the address, if known, and the name and address of the Complainant. It shall be sworn to and executed before an individual authorized in the Complainant’s jurisdiction to administer oaths. The Complaint shall be accompanied by a non-refundable administrative fee established by SHOW.

(c) SHOW shall investigate complaints, and/or violations regarding the alleged violation. SHOW shall investigate complaints and/or violations, brought to or by SHOW relating to judges, including, but not limited to, their conflicts, conduct, methods, ability, and/or integrity. In each instance SHOW shall comply with the following procedures;

(1) If after concluding the review or investigation, SHOW finds sufficient reason to believe the complaint, or violation to be substantiated, SHOW shall issue a written finding and penalty, if any, in accordance with the SHOW Rule Book, or as determined by SHOW.

(2) The written finding and/or penalty of SHOW shall become final, unless the individual aggrieved by the decision appeals and follows the appeal process described above.

2. Ex-Parte Communication.

(a) No individual shall have any ex-parte communication with any member of the Hearing Committee, or members of the SHOW Board, in regard to a pending Complaint, ticket or violation except as may be necessary by staff in order to comply with these Rules.

(b) Any non-staff or non-member individual found to be knowingly and willingly in violation of the foregoing, upon the filing of a Complaint and by the procedure as set forth in these Rules, shall be suspended from participating in any SHOW affiliated horse show, exhibition, or sale for a period of not less than two (2) years and not more than ten (10) years.

(c) Any individual member of the Hearing Committee found to have knowingly and willingly participated in any ex-parte communication, upon the filing of a Complaint and by procedure as set forth in these Rules, shall be precluded from participating on the Hearing Committee at any time in the future.

VIII. SHOW MANAGEMENT, OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the sponsoring organization of a show, sale or exhibition or the governing body in charge, shall be responsible for the operation of the show, sale or exhibition. They will be responsible for the appointment of a show manager who will be responsible for the running of the show, sale or exhibition who must also be available at all times during the show, sale or exhibition to act in executive capacity.

B. DUTIES OF SHOW, SALE OR EXHIBITION MANAGEMENT

It shall be the duty of the show, sale or exhibition management to enforce all the Rules of SHOW from the time entries are admitted to the show grounds until their departure. In particular, it shall be their duty:

1. To use a DQP assigned by SHOW.
2. To provide during all scheduled performances an ambulance or a station wagon equipped with a stretcher, plus a registered nurse or qualified first aid personnel. It is recommended that a physician be present at all shows.
3. To see that horses required to be measured shall be correctly measured according to the Rules.
4. To order the measurement of any horse whose height or length of foot is protested by an exhibitor. Such measurement shall take place immediately, to the end that there is no change by re-shoeing. The decision of Show Management shall not be reviewable by SHOW. If the DQP feels that an injustice is done at a show, he or she shall report the same to SHOW.
5. To eliminate, without waiting for a protest to be made, any entry that is known to be ineligible.

6. To receive and act upon Protests in accordance with the Rules, and to report whatever action is taken to SHOW. In the event that a person participating at a show shall commit an offense or violation described in the Rules, Show Management shall disqualify that person from further participation in their show only. Any such offense shall be reported to SHOW for whatever further action is deemed necessary.

7. To pay premiums and other indebtedness of the show.

8. To obtain, if necessary, the Guest cards for Judges.

9. To provide a telephone at shows where horses are stabled overnight.

10. To employ a Judge currently licensed by SHOW and send notification of this to SHOW. It is recommended that the contract supplied by SHOW is used and a copy be sent to SHOW upon its execution.

11. To provide all necessary physical facilities to accommodate the show, sale or exhibition including an area set aside for the inspection of horses by DQPs and a pre show warm up area. Also to provide the necessary personnel for the DQP to carry out his or her duties.

12. To accept responsibility to insure that all Rules, regulations and procedures stated in this Rule Book are followed.

13. To provide a veterinarian on the grounds or on a stand-by status at the show.

14. To abide by all decisions made by a Judge or DQP, and in no way attempt to influence a Judge's decision or his or her procedure.

15. To furnish and maintain control over all lubricants for use at the show or exhibition.

- All substances are prohibited on the pastern area (above the hoof, but below the fetlock) of any horse being shown or exhibited at any horse show or exhibition except glycerin, petrolatum, and mineral oil or mixture thereof.
- Any such lubricant is permitted to be applied only after the horse is inspected by the DQP and may be applied only under the supervision of the DQP or his or her representative.
- Show Management is required to make the show's lubricants available to USDA personnel so that they may obtain samples for laboratory analysis.

16. To cooperate in whatever way requested with SHOW or USDA.

17. To fulfill the obligations of affiliation of shows and sales as set forth in this Rule Book.

18. To take reasonable steps to insure that all entries in classes where measurements are required are in compliance with the rules. It is mandatory that show officials resolve any protest regarding measurements.

19. To take steps to insure the personal safety of all officials representing SHOW or the USDA.

20. To keep exhibitors and trainers informed of all changes in the printed program.

21. To insure that no manager or DQP serves as a Judge or DQP at his or her own show.

22. To insure that no Show Manager, Show Secretary, DQP, Judge, Announcer or Ringmaster (and his or her immediate family) competes in a show at which they are participating in an official capacity (as identified hereinabove), nor shall any horse owned by any of the above be shown at such show

23. To disqualify any exhibitor, owner or trainer and his or her entries if there is just cause, and, if necessary, to have the exhibitor, owner or trainer and their respective horses removed from the grounds. All such actions must be reported to SHOW.

24. To cause to be posted in a conspicuous place during the show, the Judges' cards, or copies thereof, at multi-day shows.

C. DUTIES OF SHOW SECRETARY

1. The Show Secretary shall apply annually to SHOW for affiliation. SHOW may withhold affiliation of a show if said show has indebtedness to SHOW.

2. The Show Secretary must furnish a copy of the prize list to SHOW immediately upon publication. (It is suggested that extra copies be forwarded to SHOW due to the many inquiries received for copies of prize lists.)

3. The Show Secretary should furnish the DQP with the following:

- Class sheets on each class that is to be inspected.
- Copy of prize list and/or Program.

4. The Show Secretary of each affiliated show shall have a copy of the current SHOW Rule Book available for reference at all times during the show.

5. The Show Secretary shall report in writing to SHOW any act on the part of any person deemed prejudicial to the best interests of SHOW. Matters to be so reported include removal by an exhibitor of his horses from the show grounds, or withdrawal from the show after it has commenced, without permission.

6. The Show Secretary shall furnish the Judge in each class a card corresponding exactly with the specifications as shown in the Prize List, or amended if in conflict with the Rule Book.

7. The Show Secretary shall provide a number card for each entry, which shall be worn on the exhibitor's back, clearly visible to the judge at all times when in competition.

8. The Show Secretary shall be responsible for all matters in connection with entries.

9. The Show Secretary shall, at the earliest possible moment, notify interested exhibitors if a class does not fill and is cancelled.

10. The Show Secretary must forward to SHOW class entry sheets and any other required forms postmarked within fifteen (15) days after the show, indicating the winners, post or other added entries, scratches and corrections in all classes. Class entry sheets must be signed by exhibitor, trainer or agent and must include complete names and addresses of both owners and trainers on all entries. The Trainer's License number must be included on the entry form. Horse registration number must be included on the entry form unless the horse is a country pleasure entry. The Show Secretary must send in a list of Judges, DQPs and Show Officials officiating at the show.

IX. RULEBOOK AMENDMENTS

The Executive Committee of SHOW shall meet, as needed to consider changes in the SHOW Rule Book Except as provided below, if the majority decision of the Board is to add, delete, or modify a Rule, the Committee's decision shall become effective at the discretion of the Board.

The official rules and regulations of SHOW shall be embodied in a booklet entitled “SHOW Official Rule Book”. The Rule Book shall be added to, amended by, or deleted from, by the acts of the Board of Directors as set forth herein. However, notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, the Board of Directors, if it perceives an immediate need, may add, amend, or delete any rule, effective upon the adoption of the addition, amendment, or deletion, by the affirmative vote of more than eighty percent (80%) of the entire Board.