



## Show Management – DQP or no DQP

Recently several Show Managers have raised the question as to whether they could use an Independent veterinarian to inspect their shows or if they are required to hire a DQP. Ultimately it is their decision. However the only way to eliminate any personal liability by show management if a horse is found sore at their show or otherwise in violation of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) or Regulations is to hire a DQP through an HIO. The USDA is very clear on this point and has specifically stated;

“Management may protect itself from legal liability by hiring a designated qualified person (DQP) licensed to inspect horses for compliance with the HPA.

**Management assumes legal responsibility for any horse that is sore or in violation of the Act if it does not hire a licensed DQP.”**

Under the Regulations, Section 11.20 Responsibilities and liabilities of management, it specifically states;

- (a) The management of any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction **which does not appoint and retain a DQP** shall be responsible for identifying all horses that are sore or otherwise in violation of the Act or regulations, and shall disqualify or disallow any horses which are sore or otherwise in violation of the Act or regulations from participating or competing in any horse show, horse exhibition, horse sale, or horse auction.

Since it is a violation of Section 5 of the HPA and Regulations not to disqualify a sore horse or one that is otherwise in violation of the HPA or Regulations, show management would be liable, **personally**, if such a horse were found at its show, exhibit or sale.

Therefore according to the USDA, the HPA and Regulations, the Show Manager can **only avoid HPA liability if** and only if **they use a DQP** from an HIO.

Management and other entities are defined in the HPA as follows:

**Management:** anyone who directs, organizes, administers or exercises control over any horse show or sale. This specifically includes the sponsoring organization and show manager.

**Sponsoring Organization:** the legal entity responsible for conducting a horse show or sale.

**Show Manager:** the person who has the primary authority for managing a horse show or sale