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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:	)	HPA Docket 17-0196
	)	HPA Docket 17-0197
ALIAS FAMILY INVESTMENTS, LLC,	)	HPA Docket 17-0199
a Mississippi limited liability company;	)	HPA Docket 17-0201
MARGARET ANNE ALIAS, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0202
TAMMY BARCLAY, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0203
NOEL BOTSCH, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0205
LYNSEY DENNEY, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0206
MIKKI ELDRIDGE, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0208
JEFFREY GREEN, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0209
WILLIAM TY IRBY, an individual;	)	HPA Docket 17-0210
JOYCE MEADOWS, an individual;	)	
JOYCE H. MYERS, an individual; and	)	
LIBBY STEPHENS, an individual,	)	
	)	CONSENT DECISION AND
Respondents.	)	ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT
	)	MIKKI ELDRIDGE

This proceeding was instituted under the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. § 1821 *et seq.*)(HPA or Act), by a complaint filed by the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS), on February 3, 2017, alleging that the respondents violated the Act.

Respondent Mikki Eldridge admits the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint that pertain to her, specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, specifically denies the remaining allegations in the complaint, and waives oral hearing and further procedure. The parties consent and agree to the entry of this decision for the purpose of settling this proceeding as to respondent Eldridge, and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by her occurring up to and including September 4, 2017. This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provisions of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent Mikki Eldridge is an individual residing in [redacted] and at all times mentioned herein, was a "person" and an "exhibitor," as those terms are defined in the regulations promulgated under the Act (9 C.F.R. Parts 11 and 12).

2. On or about August 27, 2016, respondent Mikki Eldridge allowed the entry of a horse she owned (Chris Crossed), for the purpose of showing the horse, in class 73 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Conclusion of Law

Respondent Eldridge having admitted the findings of fact set forth above, and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

Order

1. Respondent Mikki Eldridge is disqualified for four months, beginning January 1, 2018, and ending April 30, 2018, from showing, exhibiting, or entering any horse, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device; and from judging, managing or otherwise participating[1] in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device.

2. Respondent Mikki Eldridge is assessed a civil penalty of $2,200, which shall be paid by November 1, 2017, by check made payable to USDA/APHIS, indicating that the payment is in reference to HPA Docket No. 17-0203, and sent to:

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[1]"Participating" means engaging in any activity beyond that of a spectator in connection with a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, and includes, without limitation, transporting or arranging for the transportation of horses to or from equine events, personally giving instructions to exhibitors, being present in the warm-up or inspection areas, or in any area where spectators are not allowed, and financing the participation of others in equine events.

USDA, APHIS, MISCELLANEOUS
P.O. Box 979043
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

The provisions of this order shall be final and effective as of September 4, 2017. This order may be executed in counterparts. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

[redacted]

Mikki Eldridge
Respondent

[redacted]

Robin L. Webb RBA 81360
Attorney for Respondent

[redacted]

Colleen A. Carroll
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.,
this 30th day of October 2017

[redacted]

Channing D. Strother
Administrative Law Judge