

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2017 SEP 13 PM 4:15

## BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

RECEIVED

In re:	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0176
	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0177
JOE COOPER, an individual; SCOTT	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0178
COOPER, an individual; GARY	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0179
EDWARDS, an individual; LARRY	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0180
EDWARDS, an individual; NANCY	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0181
HODGES, an individual; DAVID	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0182
LATHAM, an individual; DANIEL	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0183
MCSWAIN, an individual; ROBERT	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0184
KEITH MCSWAIN, an individual; KEN	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0185
MOORE, etc., an individual; CHUCK	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0186
TOLHURST, an individual; and SHARON	)	
TOLHURST, an individual,	)	
	)	CONSENT DECISION AND
Respondents.	)	ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT
	)	SHARON TOLHURST

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 January 17, 2017, alleging that the respondents violated the Act.

Respondent Sharon Tolhurst admits the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint, specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admits nor denies the remaining allegations, 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 Sharon Tolhurst, 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 Sharon Tolhurst 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 25, 2016, respondent Sharon Tolhurst allowed the entry of a horse she owned (I'm Into Cash), for the purpose of showing the horse, in class 32 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

#### Conclusion of Law

Respondent Sharon Tolhurst 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 Sharon Tolhurst 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<sup>1</sup> in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device.


2. Respondent Sharon Tolhurst is assessed a civil penalty of \$550, which shall be paid by October 1, 2017, by check made payable to USDA/APHIS, indicating that the payment is in reference to HPA Docket No. 17-0186, and sent to:


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


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<sup>1</sup>"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.


The provisions of this order shall become 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.

  
Sharon Tolhurst  
Respondent

  
Thomas B. Kakassy  
Attorney for Respondent

  
Colleen A. Carroll  
Attorney for Complainant


Done at Washington, D.C.,  
this 13 day of Sept 2017

  
Jill S. Clifton  
Administrative Law Judge

The provisions of this order shall become 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Tolhurst  
Respondent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen A. Carroll  
Attorney for Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas B. Kakassy  
Attorney for Respondent

Done at Washington, D.C.,  
this 13 day of Sept 2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill S. Clifton  
Administrative Law Judge



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Sharon Tolhurs, Respondents

Docket: 17-0186

Having personal knowledge of the foregoing, I declare under penalty of perjury that the information herein is true and correct and this is to certify that a copy of the CONSENT DECISION AND SIGNED ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT SHARON TOLHURST has been furnished and was served upon the following parties on September 13, 2017 by the following:

USDA (OGC) - Electronic Mail

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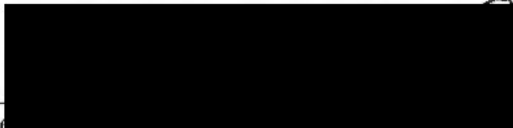
Administrative Assistant

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Sharon Tolhurst

(b) (6)

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Renee Leach Carles, Hearing Clerk  
USDA/Office of Administrative Law Judges  
Hearing Clerk's Office  
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