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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0096
	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0097
BRAD BEARD, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0099
HEATHER BEARD, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0100
LAURA MAUNEY, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0101
ROGER MAUNEY, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0102
BETH REED, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0103
RONNIE REED, an individual; and)	
JIM WELCH, an individual,)	
	)	CONSENT DECISION AND
Respondents.	)	ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT
	)	JIM WELCH

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 10, 2017, alleging that the respondents violated the Act.

Respondents Jim Welch 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 Welch, and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by him 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 Jim Welch 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 26, 2016, respondent Jim Welch allowed the entry of a horse he owned (Ritzie General) for the purpose of showing the horse, in class 55 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Conclusion of Law

Respondent Jim Welch 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 Jim Welch 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 participating¹ in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device.

2. Respondent Jim Welch 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. 17-0103, and sent to:

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


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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.

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.


Jim Welch
Respondent


Thomas B. Kakassy
Attorney for Respondent


Colleen A. Carroll
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.,
this 15 day of Sept 2017



~~Bobbie J. McCartney~~
Chief Administrative Law Judge

Jill S. Clifton

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Jim Welch, Respondents

Docket: 17-0103

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 (SIGNED) CONSENT DECISION AND ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT JIM WELCH has been furnished and was served upon the following parties on September 19, 2017 by the following:

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Respectfully Submitted,



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