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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| Charles Stivers, |) | |
| |) | Docket No. 15-0115 |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

Consent Decision and Order

This proceeding was instituted under the Horse Protection Act ("Act"), as amended (15 U.S.C. §§ 1821-1831), by a complaint filed by the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the respondent violated the Act. 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).

Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaint and specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admits nor denies the remaining allegations, waives oral hearing and further procedure, and consents and agrees, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this decision.

The complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent Charles Stivers is an individual who resides in [REDACTED] (b)
2. On or about August 28, 2012, respondent Charles Stivers entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "Jazz And The Blues," entry number 743, class number 123A, at the 74th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, TN.

Conclusions

Respondent having admitted the jurisdictional facts and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

Order

Respondent Charles Stivers is disqualified for one year from October 10, 2016 to October 9, 2017 from showing, exhibiting, or entering any horse, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device, and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction. "Participating" means engaging in any activity beyond that of a spectator, 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.

This order shall have the same effect as if entered after a full hearing and shall become effective upon issuance. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.



Charles Stivers
Respondent


Brian Hill
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.
this 22nd day of Sept, 2016


Administrative Law Judge *V. CAW*