

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0039
	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0041
DEBORAH BONNER, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0042
KENNY COMPTON, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0043
RICK COMPTON, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0044
JAMIE HANKINS, an individual;	)	HPA Docket No. 17-0045
STEVE HANKINS, an individual; and	)	
BRUCE VAUGHN, an individual;	)	
	)	CONSENT DECISION AND
Respondents.	)	ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT
	)	STEVE HANKINS

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 December 23, 2016, alleging that the respondents violated the Act.

Respondent Steve Hankins admits the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint as to him, 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 Hankins, and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by him occurring up to and including September 13, 2018. 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 Steve Hankins 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 29, 2016, Mr. Hankins entered a horse (El Zorro Star) for showing in class 117 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Conclusion of Law

Respondent Steve Hankins 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

Respondent Steve Hankins is disqualified for one year, beginning September 4, 2016, and ending September 3, 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<sup>1</sup> in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device.

The provisions of this order shall become final and effective on September 15, 2018. This order may be executed in counterparts. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

[REDACTED]  
Steve Hankins  
Respondent

[REDACTED]  
Colleen A. Carroll  
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.,  
this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018

[REDACTED]  
Channing D. Strother  
Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge

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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.