

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:)	HPA Docket No. 17-0029
)	
SONNY MCCARTER, an individual,)	
)	CONSENT DECISION
Respondent.)	AND ORDER

This proceeding was instituted under the Horse Protection Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. § 1821 et seq.)(HPA or Act), by a complaint filed by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS), on December 28, 2016, alleging that the respondent violated the Act. This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provisions of the Rules of Practice applicable to these proceedings (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

Respondent Sonny McCarter admits the jurisdictional allegations in 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 to the entry of this decision, for the purpose of settling this proceeding. The complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

Sonny McCarter is an individual whose mailing address is [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. At all times mentioned herein, Mr. McCarter was a “person” and an “exhibitor,” as those terms are defined in the regulations issued pursuant to the Act (9 C.F.R. § 11.1 et seq.).

Conclusions of Law

Respondent Sonny McCarter has admitted the facts set forth above and the parties have

agreed to the entry of this decision. Therefore, such decision will be entered.

Order

Respondent Sonny McCarter is disqualified for one year, beginning February 6, 2017, and ending February 5, 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 in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device.¹

The provisions of this order shall become effective immediately. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

[Redacted Signature]

Sonny McCarter
Respondent

[Redacted Signature]

R. Craig Evans
McCaul, Martin, Evans & Cook, PC
Attorney for Respondent

[Redacted Signature]

Colleen A. Carroll
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.
this 31st day of March 2017

[Redacted Signature]

Administrative Law Judge

¹“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.