

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

2017 SEP 18 PM 3:31

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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
	)	NANCY HODGES

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 Nancy Hodges 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 Nancy Hodges, and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by her occurring up to and including August 30, 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

I. Respondent Nancy Hodges 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 August 25, 2016, respondent Hodges allowed the entry of a horse she owned (The World Cup), for the purpose of showing the horse, in class 25 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

#### Conclusion of Law

Respondent Hodges 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 Hodges is disqualified for four months, beginning September 4, 2017, and ending January 3, 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 Hodges 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. 17-0180, 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 on August 30, 2017. This order may be executed in counterparts. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Hodges  
Respondent

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

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

Done at Washington, D.C.,  
this 18 day of Sept 2017

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

The provisions of this order shall become final and effective on August 30, 2017. This order may be executed in counterparts. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Hodges  
Respondent



Colleen A. Carroll  
Attorney for Complainant

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

Done at Washington, D.C.,  
this 18 day of Sept 2017



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

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Nancy Hodges, Respondents

Docket: 17-0180,

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 NANCY HODGES has been furnished and was served upon the following parties on September 18, 2017 by the following:

USDA (OGC) - Electronic Mail

Colleen A. Carroll, OGC

[Colleen.Carroll@ogc.usda.gov](mailto:Colleen.Carroll@ogc.usda.gov)

Ada Quick, OGC

[Ada.Quick@ogc.usda.gov](mailto:Ada.Quick@ogc.usda.gov)

USDA (APHIS) - Electronic Mail

IES, APHIS

[IESLegals@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:IESLegals@aphis.usda.gov)

[ac.rss.mailbox@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:ac.rss.mailbox@aphis.usda.gov)

Respondent(s) – Electronic Mail

Thomas B. Kakassy

P.O. Box 2436

Gastonia, NC 28053

[Tom@kakassylaw.com](mailto:Tom@kakassylaw.com)

Amy L. Choate

Administrative Assistant



[Amy@kakassylaw.com](mailto:Amy@kakassylaw.com)

Respondent(s) –

Nancy Hodges

(b) (6)

Respectfully Submitted,

  
  
Renee Leach-Carlos, Hearing Clerk  
USDA/Office of Administrative Law Judges  
Hearing Clerk's Office  
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 1031-S  
Washington, DC 20250-9203