

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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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
	)	DEBORAH BONNER

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 Deborah Bonner admits the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint as to her, 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 Bonner, and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by her 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 Deborah Bonner 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 25, 2016, Ms. Bonner entered a horse (Usher) for showing in class 30 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and on or about September 3, 2016, Ms. Bonner entered a horse (Jim Tom) for showing in class 187 in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

#### Conclusion of Law

Respondent Deborah Bonner 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 Deborah Bonner is disqualified for eight months, beginning September 2, 2018, and ending May 1, 2019, 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 Deborah Bonner is assessed a civil penalty of \$1,100, which shall be paid by May 1, 2019, and may be paid in installments, by check or checks made payable to USDA/APHIS, indicating that the payment is in reference to HPA Docket No. 17-0039, and sent to:

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

The provisions of this order shall become final and effective on September 15, 2018. This

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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.

order may be executed in counterparts. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.



Deborah Bonner  
Respondent



Colleen A. Carroll  
Attorney for Complainant

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



Channing D. Strother  
Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge