

HIO Teleconference Summary

April 11, 2006

Present: Don Bell (NWA), Donna Benefield (HPC), Keith Dane (FOSH), Craig Evans (TWHBEA), Lonnie Messick (NHSC), Mack Motes (SSHBEA), and Kenny Smith (KWHA)

Not Present: Glenn DeGraffenried (HOA), Niels Holch (WI), and Bob Nagel (MFTHBA)

USDA: Dr. Todd Behre, Mike Tuck; Facilitator Robin Lohnes

Review of March 14, 2006, Meeting Summary:

The March 14, 2006, meeting summary was reviewed and approved as amended.

USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

March 2006 Show Report: Dr. Behre reported that he has created a new spreadsheet for the 2006 show season. Dr. Behre reviewed the stats for the USDA attended NHSC-affiliated Louisiana Jubilee in Monroe, LA, on March 3, 2006 [*81 entries, 5 tickets, involving 7 violations (5 scar rule violations and 2 unilaterally sore) and 0 conflict resolutions*] as well as the NHSC-affiliated Hamas Shriners' Jubilee in Starkville, MS, on March 4, 2006 [*44 entries, 2 scar rule violations and 0 conflict resolutions*]. In addition, USDA attended the Walking Horse Trainers' Show in Shelbyville, TN, on March 25, 2006, [*95 entries, 1 unilateral sore, 1 scar rule, 1 shoeing violation, 1 bilateral, 1 open lesion, 2 fractious horses, and 0 conflict resolutions*]. Dr. Behre said that he will add an additional column on the spreadsheet for "refer backs."

Regarding foreign substance violations, Dr. Behre reported that of the samples taken at the Louisiana Jubilee on March 3rd, 13 samples were negative and/or inconclusive (one was work grease provided by an exhibitor) and 1 tested positive for camphor, benzocaine and lidocaine. Of the 12 samples taken at the Trainers' Show, 2 tested positive for benzocaine, 1 tested positive for a silicone based substance, 1 tested positive for elemental sulphur, and 1 tested positive for a silicone based compound and benzocaine. Those with samples testing positive from the Trainers' show will be issued 7060s.

Update on Technology: Dr. Behre stated that a representative from the NVSL will be accompanying the VMO at the next horse show USDA attends. In addition, Dr. Behre will be reviewing the beta screens that have been developed for the Animal Care/HP Database during the last week in April.

Follow the Horse Report (Keith Dane/Niels Holch)

Keith Dane reported that he had received the additional information from KYWA and that initially scar rule violations that were included in combined suspensions had been omitted. He is awaiting similar information from NHSC which Lonnie Messick confirmed that NHSC was working on. A final report was tabled until the May teleconference.

DOP Evaluation

Donna Benefield and Lonnie Messick asked that this item be tabled until the May 8, 2006, HIO teleconference.

Decertification – Follow-up Discussion

Craig Evans stated that he had begun to draft language that would begin to set forth criterion for decertification, but is reluctant to putting it in the OP for fear that it would be interpreted as the only criterion to be used. Keith Dane suggested that the OP include some basic examples (similar to the examples listed in the owner liability section) as a starting point, making it non-inclusive. Craig pointed out that the last OP draft had a number of examples included under the owner liability section, many of which the Department struck in its final OP. Keith asked if it would be possible to get some feedback from the Department regarding this section. Dr. Behre responded that Dr. Gipson was not inclined to include language regarding criterion for decertification in the OP. Don Bell inquired as to the current

specific criteria for decertification, and Dr. Behre responded that yes, provisions do exist per the HP regulations but acknowledged that the regulations were very general.

Suspension Lists – USDA Website

Dr. Behre reported that linking the HIO websites to the Department's HP website, as suggested at the March 2006 HIO meeting, is currently under discussion. Don Bell asked if there was any chance that language requiring HIOs to publish their suspension lists be put in the OP. Mack Motes added that this was an important topic which needs to be discussed so that owners are able to find out if trainers are on suspension; however, any such publication should be only after due process. Craig Evans suggested that he, Keith, Don, and Donna develop language to that effect and email a draft to each HIO in advance of the June HIO meeting..

Conflict of Interest

There was general discussion on adopting criteria for conflict of interest language, perhaps mirroring the regulations regarding the length of time a DQP is suspended for (2 years). Mack Motes indicated that he would need to go back to his Board to obtain some suggested language. It was suggested that all of the HIO representatives do the same, as well as for the other items under discussion (publications of suspension lists, the FOSH proposed amendments, and the HPC proposed amendments). Kenny Smith reviewed KYWA's in-house rule that if someone had a violation they automatically came off for a period of time (he will double check on the length of time). Lonnie Messick indicated that NHSC's rule was 60 days, similar to the 2-year time frame for the DQPs contained in the HP regulations. Donna concurred that two years seemed a reasonable time, and Keith added that it made sense not to bar a board member for less than the time a DQP would be barred pursuant to the regulations. This issue will be placed on the June HIO meeting agenda for further discussion.

Opening HIO Quarterly Meetings to the Public

Donna Benefield, on behalf of HPC, NWA and FOSH, requested the general public be permitted to attend all quarterly HIO meetings. Mack Motes inquired as to the logistics of allowing the general public to participate in such meetings. Keith Dane agreed that it might be better and more productive to allow the public to attend as observers as opposed to participants. Don Bell said that by opening up the meetings it sheds light on the process and adds credibility. Mack also inquired as to whether the potential presence of news media would be counterproductive, especially if the news media were to highlight the differences rather than the similarities among the HIOs. He also added that these meetings were planning sessions only and no policy decisions were being made. Donna added that perhaps it would be better to have the meetings recorded and a transcript produced for each meeting. The question came up as to who would be responsible for incurring the costs of the transcript and the travel expenses for the stenographer. Keith commented that he believed FOSH would commit to paying for a transcript. Dr. Behre added the Department pays for travel, food, hotel, and stenography services at an hourly rate for the stenographer that USDA uses for the listening sessions. For example, the listening session in Shelbyville, TN, ran about \$300. Lonnie Messick added that it runs the NHSC approximately \$200 per hearing plus the cost of the transcript. Robin Lohnes will check with the stenographer the Department will be using for the Pomona, CA, listening session to check on her availability and interest in providing her services. In conclusion, Mack asked how making the HIO quarterly meetings available via transcript would make the HIO representatives do their jobs better. Don and Donna both responded that it will add credibility to the process. This topic will be added to the May teleconference agenda.

Determine May 9, 2006, Teleconference Agenda

- Tentative Agenda:
 - Review of April 11, 2006, teleconference summary
 - USDA Show Report
 - FTH Report
 - DQP Evaluation
 - Need for Stenographer at June HIO Meeting
 - Determine Agenda for June HIO Meeting

