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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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In re:)	
)	
RHONDA BAUCOM)	Docket Nos. 14-0088 (HPA)
)	16-0106 (HPA)
)	
Respondent.)	Consent Decision and Order

This proceeding was instituted under the Horse Protection Act ("Act"), as amended (15 U.S.C. § 1821 *et seq.*), by complaints filed by the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, on April 1, 2014 and May 6, 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 this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

The Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaints 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, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this decision.

The Complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent Rhonda Baucom is an individual. The Respondent's mailing address will not be provided to protect her privacy.
2. On July 27, 2012, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "The Games We Play" as Entry No. 162, in Class No. 16, at the Marshall County Horseman's Association Horse Show in Lewisburg, Tennessee.

3. On July 27, 2012, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "I'm Wall Street" as Entry No. 160, in Class No. 28, at the Marshall County Horseman's Association Horse Show in Lewisburg, Tennessee.
4. On August 23, 2012, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "Fear or No Fear" as Entry No. 450, in Class No. 27, at the 74th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration at Shelbyville, Tennessee.
5. On August 24, 2012, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "Beretta Mama" as Entry No. 441, in Class No. 55, at the 74th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration at Shelbyville, Tennessee.
6. On August 25, 2012, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "Generator's Santana Push" as Entry No. 435, in Class No. 80, at the 74th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration at Shelbyville, Tennessee.
7. On August 26, 2012, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "I'm Moonlighting" as Entry No. 436, in Class No. 91B, at the 74th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration at Shelbyville, Tennessee.
8. On or about July 5, 2014, the Respondent showed or exhibited the horse known as "The Royal Titleist" as entry number 603 in class number 23, at the 76th Woodbury Lions Club Championship Horse Show in Woodbury, Tennessee.
9. On or about August 22, 2014, the Respondent entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse known as "The Perfect Gen" as entry number 1007, in class number 50-A, at the 76th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Conclusions

The Respondent having admitted the jurisdictional facts and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

Order

1. Respondent Rhonda Baucom is disqualified for a period of six (6) uninterrupted years 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. The period of disqualification shall begin on July 6, 2016 and end on July 6, 2022. "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 a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction. The disqualification period shall be in settlement of (i) respondent's violations of the Act and its accompanying regulations that were alleged in the administrative complaints that initiated this proceeding, and (ii) any and all other violations of the Act and its accompanying regulations that the Administrator, APHIS, has alleged or might allege that respondent has committed, up to and including the effective date of this consent decision and order

2. Respondent Rhonda Baucom shall sign this consent decision and order and send the signed original to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel, Attn: Darlene Bolinger, Room 2343 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1400.

This decision and order shall become final and effective on the date on which it is signed and issued by an Administrative Law Judge and this order shall have the same effect as if entered after a full hearing.

Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

[REDACTED]

RHONDA BAUCOM
Respondent

[REDACTED]

DARLENE M. BOLINGER
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.

this 6th day of July, 2016

[REDACTED]

BOBBIE J. MCCARTNEY
Chief Administrative Law Judge