

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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| In re: |) | HPA Docket No. 17-0189 |
| |) | HPA Docket No. 17-0190 |
| TONY LOWE, an individual; BRANDYE |) | HPA Docket No. 17-0191 |
| CRAIG MILLS, an individual; BETH |) | HPA Docket No. 17-0192 |
| PIPPIN, an individual; GAIL PUTMAN, an |) | HPA Docket No. 17-0193 |
| individual; WAYNE PUTMAN, an |) | HPA Docket No. 17-0194 |
| individual; and TIMOTHY LEE SMITH, |) | |
| an individual, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondents. |) | CONSENT DECISION AND |
| |) | ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT |
| |) | BETH PIPPIN |

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 February 1, 2017, alleging that the respondents violated the Act.

Respondent Beth Pippin 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 Beth Pippin, and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by her occurring up to and including September 1, 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

1. Respondent Beth Pippin 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, respondent Beth Pippin entered a horse (Ritz's Warrior), for the purpose of showing the horse, in class 26A in a horse show in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Conclusion of Law

Respondent Beth Pippin 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 Beth Pippin is disqualified for four months, beginning January 1, 2018, and ending April 30, 2018, from showing, exhibiting, or entering any horse, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device, and from judging, managing or otherwise participating¹ in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device.

2. Respondent Beth Pippin 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. 17-0191, and sent to:

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

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¹“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 as of September 2, 2017.

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

[Redacted signature]

Beth Pippin
Respondent

[Redacted signature]

Thomas B. Kakassy
Attorney for Respondent

Colleen A. Carroll
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.
this 28th day of Sept 2017

[Redacted signature]

Bobbie J. McCartney
Chief Administrative Law Judge

The provisions of this order shall become final and effective as of September 2, 2017.

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

Beth Pippin
Respondent



Colleen A. Carroll
Attorney for Complainant

Thomas B. Kakassy
Attorney for Respondent

Done at Washington, D.C.,
this 28th day of Sept 2017



Bobbie J. McCartney
Chief Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Beth Pippin, Respondent
Docket: 17-0191


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 (SIGNED) CONSENT DECISION AND ORDER AS TO RESPONDENT BETH PIPPIN has been furnished and was served upon the following parties on September 29, 2017 by the following:

USDA (OGC) - Electronic Mail
Colleen Carroll, Esq. OGC
Ada Quick, OGC

USDA (HPA) - Electronic Mail
IESLegals@aphis.usda.gov
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Respondent's Representative: Electronic Mail
Thomas B. Kakassy, Esq.
tom@kakassylaw.com

Respectfully Submitted,



Aiesha Bynum-Wimbley, Legal Assistant
USDA/Office of Administrative Law Judges
Hearing Clerk's Office, Rm. 1031-S
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-9203