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2005-02-17 11:30

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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In re:)	IIPA Docket No. 05-0002
)	
Steve Woody and)	
Sharon Lessard,)	
)	
Respondents)	

Consent Decision and Order as to Sharon Lessard

This proceeding was instituted under the Horse Protection Act ("Act"), as amended (15 U.S.C. § 1821 et seq.), by a complaint filed by the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the respondents 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).

Respondent Sharon Lessard admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaint 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

A. Respondent Sharon A. Lessard is an individual whose mailing address is 695 Buck Lane, Great Falls, Virginia 22066.

B. At all times material herein, respondent Sharon Lessard was the owner of the horse known as "Exclusive Gold" which was entered as Entry No. 68, Class No. 16, on June 15, 2001, at the 2001 East Tennessee Walking Horse Classic in White Pine, Tennessee.

Conclusions

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

Order

The respondent is assessed a civil penalty of \$1,100.00 and is disqualified for an uninterrupted period of one year 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. "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 equine events. However, the civil penalty and 11 months of this term are to be held in abeyance, if the Respondent properly serves the first 30 days of her suspension without incident, beginning on August 14, 2006. Jurisdiction is retained for the limited purpose of enforcement of this paragraph.

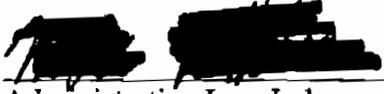
This order shall have the same effect as if entered after a full hearing and shall become effective on August 14, 2006.

Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.


Sharon A. Lessard
Respondent


Brian T. Hill
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.
this 9th day of August, 2006


Administrative Law Judge