

Inhumane Treatment

SC-075. Inhumane Treatment

- A. INHUMANE MANNER OF TREATMENT. No person on show grounds, including but not limited to, barns, stalls, parking area and show arena may treat any animal in an inhumane manner, which includes but is not limited to:
1. Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
 2. Tying a horse in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress in a stall, trailer or when longeing or riding;
 3. Letting blood from a horse;
 4. Use of inhumane training techniques or methods; poling or striking horse's legs with objects (i.e. tack poles, jump poles, etc.). Anywhere on the grounds, logs must be elevated on a standard block or cup.
 5. Any item or appliance that restricts the movement or circulation of the tail;
 6. Intentional inhumane treatment that causes a horse to bleed;
 7. Failure to maintain an appropriate environment for horses' well-being.
 8. Use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited to: saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops (running martingales may be used with legal curb bits as long as the reins have rein stops);
 9. Excessive spurring or whipping;
 10. Excessive jerking of reins;
 11. Excessive fencing;
 12. Excessive spinning (defined as no more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction);
 13. Schooling over ramped oxers in reverse order (i.e., from highest to lowest instead of lowest to highest);
 14. Schooling using rails higher than four (4) feet;
 15. Exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired;
 16. If fresh blood is found on any mouth and/or body areas of a horse, (i.e. including but not limited to: barrel, flanks, belly, sides, shoulders) at any time the horse must be excused from the competition;

17. Applying excessive pressure on or excessively jerking of a halter lead shank or an allowed lip chain;
 18. Any other treatment or conduct deemed by a show official to be inhumane or abusive.
 19. Any signs of recent physical abuse to a horse's mouth, nose, jaw, or any other area shows signs of broken skin, rawness, or bleeding
- B. IMMEDIATE REPORT BY MANAGEMENT. Upon discovery by any show official of inhumane treatment, show management reserves the right to immediately disqualify the horse and exhibitor for the remainder of the show and/or remove them from the grounds and shall immediately report the matter to the APHA for further disciplinary action.
- C. ACCEPTED STANDARD OF CONDUCT MEASUREMENT. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted animal husbandry standards, equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive and inhumane. See Rules GR-067, GR-066.A.1., GR-070.A., GR-070.D., SC-075 and SC-160.P.
- D. Owner, Trainer, Exhibitor Responsibility. The owner/trainer/exhibitor are each responsible for a horse's condition and treatment while on the show grounds including but not limited to, barns, stalls, parking area and show arena. The owner/trainer/exhibitor is responsible for the actions of any and all employees while under their employment with regard to inhumane treatment. This prohibition against inhumane treatment applies to APHA members and non-members. APHA members may be held responsible for the actions of their trainers, agents, representatives and/or employees. For violation of this rule, an individual may be disciplined, suspended, fined, denied APHA privileges, disqualified, expelled from show grounds and/or expelled from APHA.
- E. APHA will accept suspension rulings pertaining to cruel or inhumane treatment of horses from other recognized equine-related associations and state racing commissions; the effect of which is to automatically suspend the individual from APHA membership privileges for a length of time at least equal to the initial suspension period by the other association.