



USDA APHIS Horse Protection Blood Sampling Report

The United States Department Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Horse Protection Program collected blood samples on horses competing at horse shows, sales, auctions or any exhibition regulated under the Horse Protection Act (HPA) from 2012 through 2014. The HPA prohibits horses subjected to a cruel and abusive practice called “soring”, a method of horse training which is used to accentuate a horse’s gait. The HPA also prohibits the application or administration of foreign substances that can cause soring, mask the evidence of “soring” and/or enables stewarding of the horse so that it does not exhibit signs of being sore during the inspection process. Some of these foreign substances may be detected in blood samples. The purpose of blood sampling was to survey the horse population to determine the incidence of foreign substances administered as a method of soring or masking “soring” which can be detected in blood. Blood samples were taken randomly from horses after they showed regardless of their placing as well as some horses found in violation that did not show were sampled. The use of all substances found can reasonably be used to mask or numb soring when administered to a horse and may be considered foreign substances under the HPA regulations.

Currently the USDA is reviewing these results to make a determination if blood samples will be utilized for further HPA enforcement.

As part of this effort, APHIS conducted random sampling of 103 horses at the 2014 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. Results are below.

Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration– August 21 - 30, 2014 (10 days – 103 horses sampled, 5 positive)

- Diclofenac
- Diclofenac
- Prednisolone
- Flunixin, Ketoprofen, Phenylbutazone
- Diclofenac