



Animal Care Tech Note

The Horse Protection Act: Records and Reporting Requirements for Horse Show, Exhibition, Sale, and Auction Managers

Congress enacted the Horse Protection Act (HPA) to end the cruel and inhumane practice of soring horses. The HPA requires horse event management—any person or entity who organizes, controls, administers or is otherwise responsible for organizing, directing, or administering any horse show, horse exhibition, horse sale, or horse auction—to establish and maintain records; submit records, reports, and other information; and permit access to and copying of records. This tech note summarizes what you, the horse event manager, must know to comply with these recordkeeping and reporting requirements.



Scan to learn more about what horse show, exhibition, sale, and auction managers must do under the HPA and its regulations.

Access to Records

As a horse event manager, you must provide representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Horse Protection Inspectors (HPI) unlimited access to any records required to be kept or otherwise maintained by regulation. This includes:

- Allowing APHIS representatives and HPIS to examine and make copies of such records pertaining to any horse during business hours or other mutually agreed upon time
- Providing a room, table, or other facilities necessary to properly examine and copy such records

Reporting

As a horse event manager, you must report certain information at specific intervals before and after each event.

(Unless otherwise noted, address means street address or post office box number and zip code.)

At Least 30 Days Before the Event

Under §11.14 of the HPA regulations, you must submit to the APHIS Administrator the following information:

- Event date(s), name, street address, and zip code
- Event manager's name, address, phone number, and email address (if one is available)
- A copy of the official program, if one has been prepared

- Anticipated or known number of entries
- Whether you have requested an APHIS representative, chosen and appointed an HPI, or will not use an inspector to conduct inspections
- Whether you will allow any horse to be shown, exhibited, or sold with wedges, pads, substances, or toe extensions restricted under §11.6 of the HPA regulations for therapeutic treatment (View the list of prohibited devices and substances at www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-09469#sectno-reference-11.6)

At Least 15 Days Before the Event

You must notify the APHIS Administrator of any changes to the information previously provided.

Within 5 Days After the Event

Event information submitted 30 or 15 days before the event does not need to be sent again.

For Events with Tennessee Walking Horses and Racking Horses: You must submit all information required under §11.14 of the HPA regulations to the APHIS Administrator, including:

- Event date(s) and location

- Names and addresses of the sponsoring organization, event manager, and each judge
- Copy of each class or sale sheet containing:
 - Horse names and registration numbers, if applicable
 - Exhibition number or sale number assigned to each horse
 - Class number or sale lot number
 - Owner name(s) and address(es)
 - Name and address of the person who paid the entry fee and entered the horse
- Copy of the official event program, if one was prepared
- Copy of the official judge's scoring card(s) for each horse show class, including the place each horse finished in the class
- Information about each horse
 - Name and any applicable registration name and number
 - Names and addresses of the owner, trainer, custodian, exhibitor, and the street address and zip code of the home barn or other facility where horse is stabled
- Additional information for each horse disqualified or prohibited by management from being shown, exhibited, sold, or auctioned
 - Name and any applicable registration name and number
 - Exhibition number and class number, or assigned sale number
 - Reason for the action
- Name and address of the person designated by management to maintain the records required under §11.14 of the HPA regulations
- Name and address of each HPI appointed, if applicable

For Events with Tennessee Walking Horses and Racking Horses that Allowed Any Horse To Be Shown, Exhibited, or Sold with Prohibited Devices or Substances (§11.6) for Therapeutic Treatment: You must submit to the APHIS Administrator information pertaining to each horse receiving treatment. This includes:

- Horse name and any applicable registration name and number
- Exhibition number and class number or assigned sale number
- Name, street address, zip code, and phone number of the licensed veterinarian providing the therapeutic treatment

- The State and license number of the licensed veterinarian providing the therapeutic treatment
- Name, street address, zip code, and phone number of the licensed veterinarian's business
- A description of the disease, injury, or disorder for which the treatment is given, to include at a minimum:
 - Treatment start date
 - Prescription or specific design and prescription (for example, the height, weight, and material of the therapeutic pad) of the treatment plan
 - Expected length of treatment and estimate of when treatment will be discontinued

For Events without Tennessee Walking Horses or Racking Horses: You must submit information to the APHIS Administrator concerning each horse prohibited by management from being shown, exhibited, sold, or auctioned because it was found to be sore or otherwise in violation of the HPA or its regulations. This includes:

- Name and any applicable registration name and number
- Exhibition number and class number or assigned sale number
- Reason for the action

Retaining Records

As a horse event manager, you must retain records for a minimum of 90 days following the conclusion of an event that includes Tennessee Walking Horses or racking horses or allows any horse to be shown, exhibited, or sold with wedges, pads, substances, or toe extensions restricted under §11.6 of the HPA regulations for therapeutic treatment. In specific cases, the APHIS Administrator may require that you maintain records for longer than 90 days. APHIS will notify you if this is the case.

Submitting Notifications and Records

You must submit notifications and records to the APHIS Administrator using one of the following methods:

- Email (preferred): horseprotection@usda.gov
- Mail: USDA-APHIS-AC, 2150 Centre Ave., Building B, Mail Stop #3W11, Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

Learn More

For more information on the HPA and its regulations, scan the QR code.

