



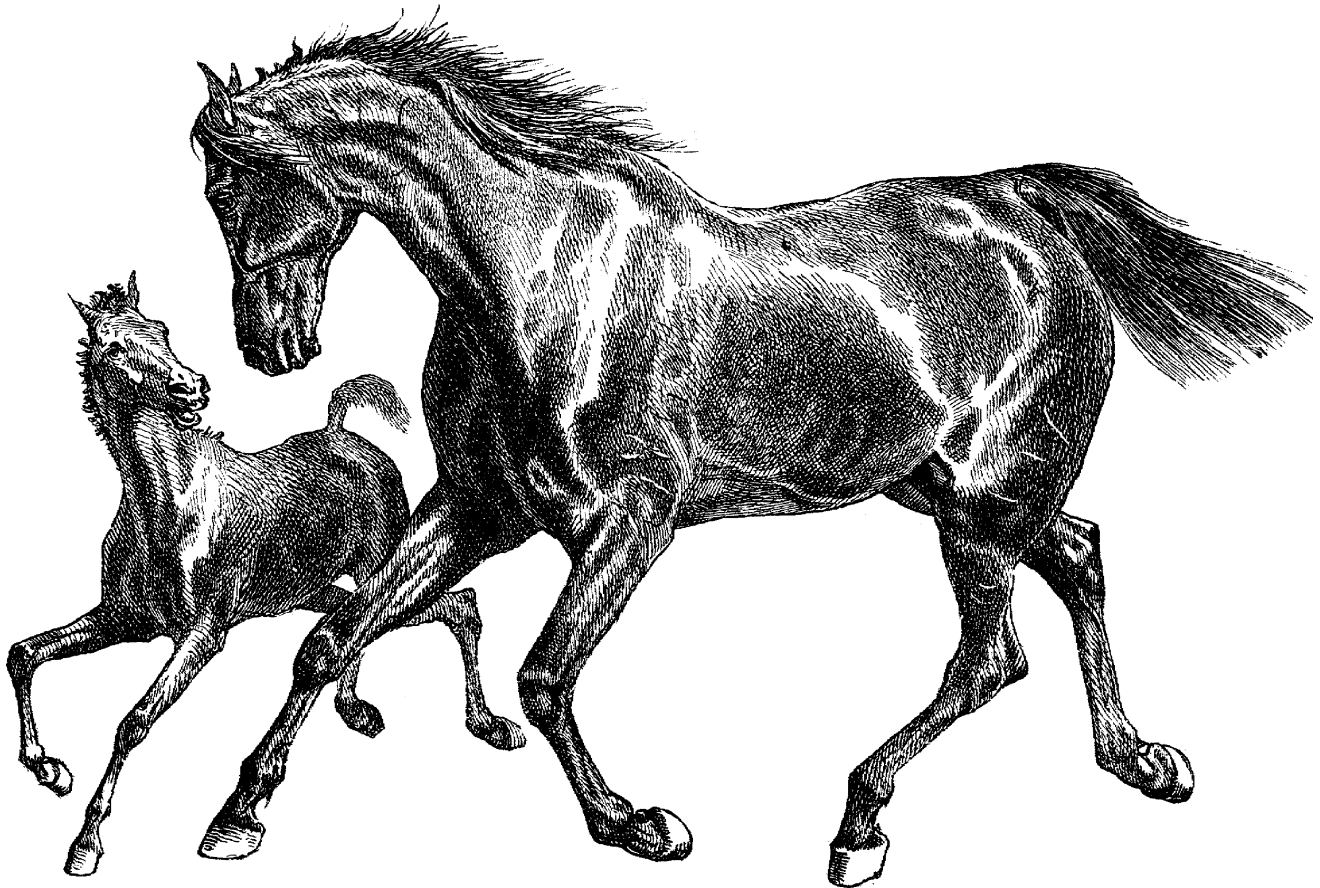
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

APHIS 41-35-072

Horse Protection Enforcement

Calendar Year 2000



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Issued November 2001

Changes in the 2000 Horse Protection Enforcement Report

The 2000 report includes data on Horse Industry Organization (HIO) performance, shows and sales attended, number of horse inspections, and enforcement actions taken during the year. Violation rates are now reported as the number of violations per 1,000 horses examined rather than a percentage. Violation rates from previous years have been converted to this format for more accurate comparisons in this report.

The 2000 report also includes data showing the violation rates of flat-shod and padded horses. Flat-shod horses wear steel shoes, either the heavy plantation-type shoe or the more common keg-type shoe. There is no pad between the flat shoe and hoof, and flat-shod horses are not exhibited with action devices. The padded horse wears pads on the front feet to accentuate its gait. The pads, made of pliant materials such as leather or plastic, vary in dimension and construction depending on the needs of the horse and trainer. Padded horses may or may not be exhibited with action devices. These are the two major types of shoeing practices used on horses exhibited and sold at events covered under the Horse Protection Act (HPA).

History of the HPA

This law (P.L. 91-540), passed by Congress in 1970, prohibits the showing, sale, auction, exhibition, or transport of sored horses. Congress found and declared that the soring of horses is cruel and inhumane and that sored horses, when shown or exhibited, compete unfairly with horses that have not been sored. Congress amended the HPA in 1976 (P.L. 94-360) to expand the inspection program by establishing the Designated Qualified Person (DQP) program. The DQP program is further discussed in the next section.

"Soring" is defined as the application of any chemical or mechanical agent to any limb of a horse, or any practice inflicted upon any limb of a horse, that can cause or be expected to cause the horse to suffer physical pain or distress when moving. The practice of soring horses is aimed at producing an exaggerated gait when horses are shown in competition. Soring is used primarily in the training of Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds.

Although a similar gait can be obtained in these horses by conventional training methods, soring achieves the desired gait faster and more easily. People who exhibit sored horses sustain an unfair performance advantage over those who exhibit horses that have not been sored.

The HPA prohibits anyone, including trainers, riders, owners, or representative agents, from entering a horse that has been sored into a show, sale, or auction. The Act gives the management of a horse show or sale the statutory responsibility to identify and prevent sored horses from entering into competition or being offered for sale at these events.

Administration of the HPA

The HPA is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The 1976 amendment to the Act expanded the horse inspection process and led to the establishment of the DQP program. A DQP is a person who, under the provisions of Section 4 of the HPA, may be appointed and delegated authority by the management of a horse show or sale to detect horses that are sore and to otherwise inspect horses for the purpose of enforcing the Act. A DQP must meet the requirements set forth in Title 9, Section 11.7, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and must be licensed by an HIO certified by USDA.

Individuals who have been licensed as DQPs under Section 11.7 are usually farriers, trainers, or people with a basic knowledge of horses and the equine industry. DQP candidates must successfully complete a formal training program before becoming licensed. Additionally, this regulatory section allows a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine who is accredited in any State by USDA to become licensed as a DQP without having to participate in formal training. Such a veterinarian must also be either a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, a large-animal practitioner with substantial equine experience, or one who is knowledgeable in the area of equine lameness as related to soring and soring practices.

The DQP program provides one of the primary mechanisms for detecting sored horses. HIOs with certified DQP programs participate with APHIS in yearly DQP training seminars, refresher clinics, and educational forums. APHIS veterinary medical officers (VMOs) provide instruction and guidance at these sessions, which incorporate classroom training as well as hands-on instruction with horses. Regulatory policy, procedures, and methods of inspection are reviewed throughout the year with representatives of the horse industry.

Compliance inspections for the 2000 show season were conducted in accordance with provisions of the HPA, relevant sections of the CFR, inspection guidelines established by APHIS, and the operating plans for the 2000 horse show season. HIOs regulate their internal activities in accordance with the horse protection regulations in 9 CFR and through standards established in their industry rulebooks.

Licensed DQPs receive inspection assignments to various shows and sales through their certified organization. While affiliation with a certified HIO and the use of licensed DQPs is not mandatory, most horse show and sale managers choose to utilize DQPs to limit their liability under the Act if a horse is shown or sold while sore. When the management of a show, sale, auction, or exhibition does not affiliate with a certified HIO to secure inspections by a licensed DQP, management and the offending individuals are held accountable for any violations of the HPA that occur at the event. APHIS strives to ensure that the certified HIOs effectively identify sored horses, impose proper penalties, and assist the agency in its goal of eliminating the practice of soring. APHIS officials also monitor as many unaffiliated horse shows (those that do not hire a licensed DQP) as time and resources allow.

During 2000, 9 HIOs maintained DQP programs certified by USDA, providing the industry with 168 licensed DQPs. Certified programs and the number of DQPs licensed were

Heart of America Walking Horse Association (27),
Horse Protection Commission (21),
Humane Instruction Technocracy, Inc. (6),
Kentucky Walking Horse Association (26),
Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association (20),
National Horse Show Commission (37),
National Walking Horse Association (8),
Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association (13), and
Western International Walking Horse Association (10).

HIOs participating in an operating plan in 2000 (explained in the next section) agreed to impose the penalties contained in the plan for violations of the HPA identified by their DQPs. These penalties are intended to act as deterrents to entering a sore horse in shows or sales. To ensure consistency and fairness, the HIOs agreed to honor each other's suspensions, share information on violations, and cooperate on compliance issues. To promote uniformity of methods and procedures, APHIS provides the HIOs with changes in agency policy that occur during the show season. APHIS monitors HIO compliance by reviewing show management, HIO, and DQP reports that are filed

Administrative Initiatives

with the agency, and by conducting audits of records maintained by the certified DQP programs. APHIS veterinarians are assigned to attend selected shows and sales to evaluate HIOs' inspection procedures and the performance of individual DQPs.

If an HIO fails to impose the proper penalty for a violation of the HPA, APHIS may bring administrative or criminal complaints against the alleged violators. Administrative complaints may result in civil penalties of up to \$2,200 for each violation, and an order disqualifying the violator from showing or exhibiting horses, or otherwise participating in any horse event except as a spectator. Periods of disqualification are determined on a case-by-case basis. The HPA provides for disqualification of not less than 1 year for the first violation and not less than 5 years for any subsequent violation. Civil penalties of up to \$3,300 can be assessed for a violation of an order of disqualification. The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to compromise civil penalties and the procedural rules that apply to HPA administrative proceedings to provide for the settlement of cases by way of consent decisions. Criminal proceedings may be initiated against any person who knowingly violates the Act. Criminal penalties include fines of up to \$3,000 and 1 year in prison for a first offense. Each subsequent violation may result in fines of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment for up to 2 years.

In 1999, APHIS entered into a voluntary agreement, known as the Horse Protection Operating Plan for the 1999 Horse Show Season (OP99), with the eight HIOs that operated certified DQP programs that year. This agreement was a continuation of the working relationship established between APHIS and the HIOs in previous years and outlined the process of delegating primary enforcement responsibility of the HPA to the HIOs. APHIS VMOs have historically attended only about 10 percent of the horse events affiliated with the certified HIOs, and the OP99 was an attempt to increase and achieve more consistent enforcement of the HPA at a greater number of events. The OP99 was a 1-year plan and expired on December 31, 1999.

2000 Operating Plans

APHIS revised the 1999 Operating Plan based on discussions with the HIOs at a September 1999 meeting and on APHIS' experience with the OP99 in the field. The new plan, OP2000, corrected problems and difficulties encountered in the previous year and was presented to the HIOs in December 1999. The purpose of OP2000 remained the same as previous years—enhanced enforcement of the HPA through an effective working partnership with the HIOs. HIOs would continue to assume the primary enforcement role at their affiliated shows and agree to impose the penalties listed in the plan for violations of the HPA. The OP2000 penalties were more stringent than had been imposed by the HIOs in the past but less stringent than those imposed through the USDA administrative law system.

By March 2000, three of the nine certified HIOs had signed OP2000: the National Walking Horse Association, Horse Protection Commission, and newly certified Humane Instruction Technocracy, Inc. The remaining six HIOs—Heart of America Walking Horse Association, Kentucky Walking Horse Association, Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, National Horse Show Commission, Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association, and Western International Walking Horse Association—had concerns regarding sections of OP2000 that had been changed from OP99. After discussing these concerns, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association and the Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association agreed to operate under the OP2000. Heart of America Walking Horse Association, Kentucky Walking Horse Association, National Horse Show Commission, and Western International Walking Horse Association believed that OP99 had not been in place long enough to fully evaluate its effectiveness and wanted OP99 to be continued into the 2000 show season.

On March 30, 2000, all of the HIOs were offered an additional operating plan, OP2000B. This plan contained exactly the same language as OP99 but included endnotes defining and clarifying misinterpreted sections of OP99. The HIOs were given three options: signing onto or remaining with OP2000, signing onto or changing to OP2000B, or removing their signature and not agreeing to any plan. In May 2000, Heart of America Walking

Horse Association and Kentucky Walking Horse Association signed OP2000B. The National Horse Show Commission and Western International Walking Horse Association still voiced concerns over the endnotes.

Discussions continued, and in late July 2000, the HIOs were offered a third operating plan, OP2000B-revised, which contained modifications to the endnotes. By early August, all of the HIOs had signed on to one of the plans. OP2000 was signed by the Horse Protection Commission, Humane Instruction Technocracy, Inc., Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, and National Walking Horse Association. OP2000B was signed by the Kentucky Walking Horse Association. Heart of America Walking Horse Association and Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association switched from OP2000 to OP2000B-revised. National Horse Show Commission and Western International Walking Horse Association also signed OP2000B-revised.

All three of these operating plans expired on December 31, 2000. In September 2000, APHIS began drafting an operating plan for the 2001 horse show season. The new plan was to be a multiyear plan based on the language contained in OP2000. This draft plan was presented to the HIOs in October 2000. APHIS met with the HIOs in November 2000 and, based on their comments, a final 3-year plan, OP2001-2003, was presented to them in late December 2000.

APHIS Evaluation of the DQP Program in 2000

During the 2000 show season, the nine certified DQP programs monitored 562 horse shows, sales, auctions, and exhibitions. DQPs inspected 117,240 horse entries. (Note: A horse may be entered in several classes at a show and is inspected prior to each class. Each inspection is counted separately.) Overall, DQPs identified 428 HPA violations in 2000, for an average rate of 3.7 violations per 1,000 horses inspected. APHIS personnel evaluated the DQPs at 59 affiliated events (10.5 percent of all such events), where 17,518 horse entries were presented for inspection. The number of violations identified in the presence of APHIS inspectors was 293, for an average rate of 16.7 violations per 1,000 horses inspected. However, of the 99,722 horses examined by DQPs when APHIS was not present, only 139 violations were identified, for an average rate of 1.4 violations per 1,000 horses inspected.

In addition to the affiliated events, APHIS attended 6 unaffiliated shows with 1,075 horse entries. Four violations were identified, for an average rate of 3.7 violations per 1,000 horses inspected.

Figure 1 illustrates the number of events attended by DQPs and/or APHIS VMOs and the number of horse inspections performed.

Figure 1
Monitoring Horse Protection
Three-Year Annual Summary

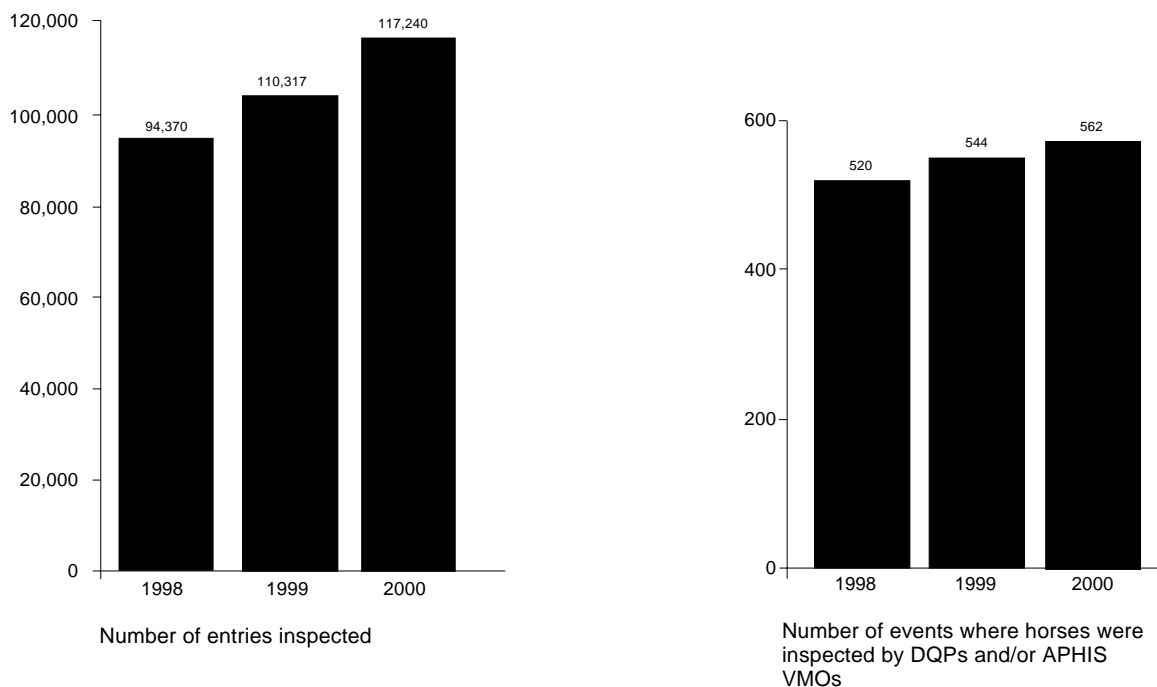


Table 1—Percentages of HIO-affiliated events attended by APHIS in 2000

Horse industry organization (HIO)	Percentage of shows APHIS attended
Heart of America Walking Horse Association	18.4
Horse Protection Commission	23.1
Humane Instruction Technocracy, Inc.	12.5
Kentucky Walking Horse Association	8.7
Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association	6.1
National Horse Show Commission	9.9
National Walking Horse Association	7.5
Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association	10.5
Western International Walking Horse Association	22.2
All HIO-affiliated events	10.5

Table 1 provides the percentage of affiliated events attended by APHIS VMOs in 2000 for each HIO.

Tables 2A and B provide a breakdown, by HIO, of the number of violations identified by DQPs. Table 2A breaks down the numbers by when APHIS inspectors were present and when they were not.

Table 2A—Horse events (shows, sales, auctions, and exhibitions) monitored in 2000, with or without APHIS present

Horse industry organization (HIO)	Events	Entries examined	Violations found	Violation rate ¹	Events	Entries examined	Violations found	Violation rate ¹
Heart of America Walking Horse Association	7	1,410	38	27.0	44	6,801	15	0.22
Horse Protection Commission	3	357	1	2.8	11	2,096	6	2.9
Humane Instruction Technology, Inc.	2	1,034	2	1.9	14	3,300	0	0
Kentucky Walking Horse Association	9	1,969	49	24.9	95	15,612	22	1.4
Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association	2	738	5	6.8	33	6,075	0	0
National Horse Show Commission	27	8,429	180	21.4	246	50,194	80	1.6
National Walking Horse Association	3	1,934	0	0	37	8,984	6	0.7
Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association	4	999	17	17.0	34	6,120	9	1.5
Western International Walking Horse Association	2	648	1	1.5	7	3,238	4	1.2
Total	59	17,518	293	16.7	508	99,722	139	1.4

¹Violation rate is the number of violations detected per 1,000 horses inspected.

Table 2B—All horse events (shows, sales, auctions, and exhibitions) monitored in 2000

Horse industry organization (HIO)	Events ¹	Entries examined	Violations found	Violation rate ²
Heart of America Walking Horse Association	38	5,513	46	8.3
Horse Protection Commission	13	2,453	7	2.9
Humane Instruction Technocracy, Inc.	16	4,334	2	0.5
Kentucky Walking Horse Association	103	17,581	71	4.0
Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association	33	6,813	5	0.7
National Horse Show Commission	272	58,623	260	4.4
National Walking Horse Association	40	10,918	6	0.5
Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association	38	7,119	26	3.7
Western International Walking Horse Association	9	3,886	5	1.3
Totals for affiliated events	562	117,240	428	3.7
Unaffiliated events attended by APHIS	6	1,075	4	3.7
Totals for all affiliated events and unaffiliated events attended by APHIS	568	118,315	432	3.7

¹The number of events listed in this table is not the sum of events attended by and not attended by APHIS in table 2A. If APHIS only attended some of the days of an event, the data were split accordingly and the event was counted under both categories.

²Violation rate is the number of violations detected per 1,000 horses inspected.

Figure 2
HIO Performance
Violation Rate (per 1,000) for HIOs in 2000

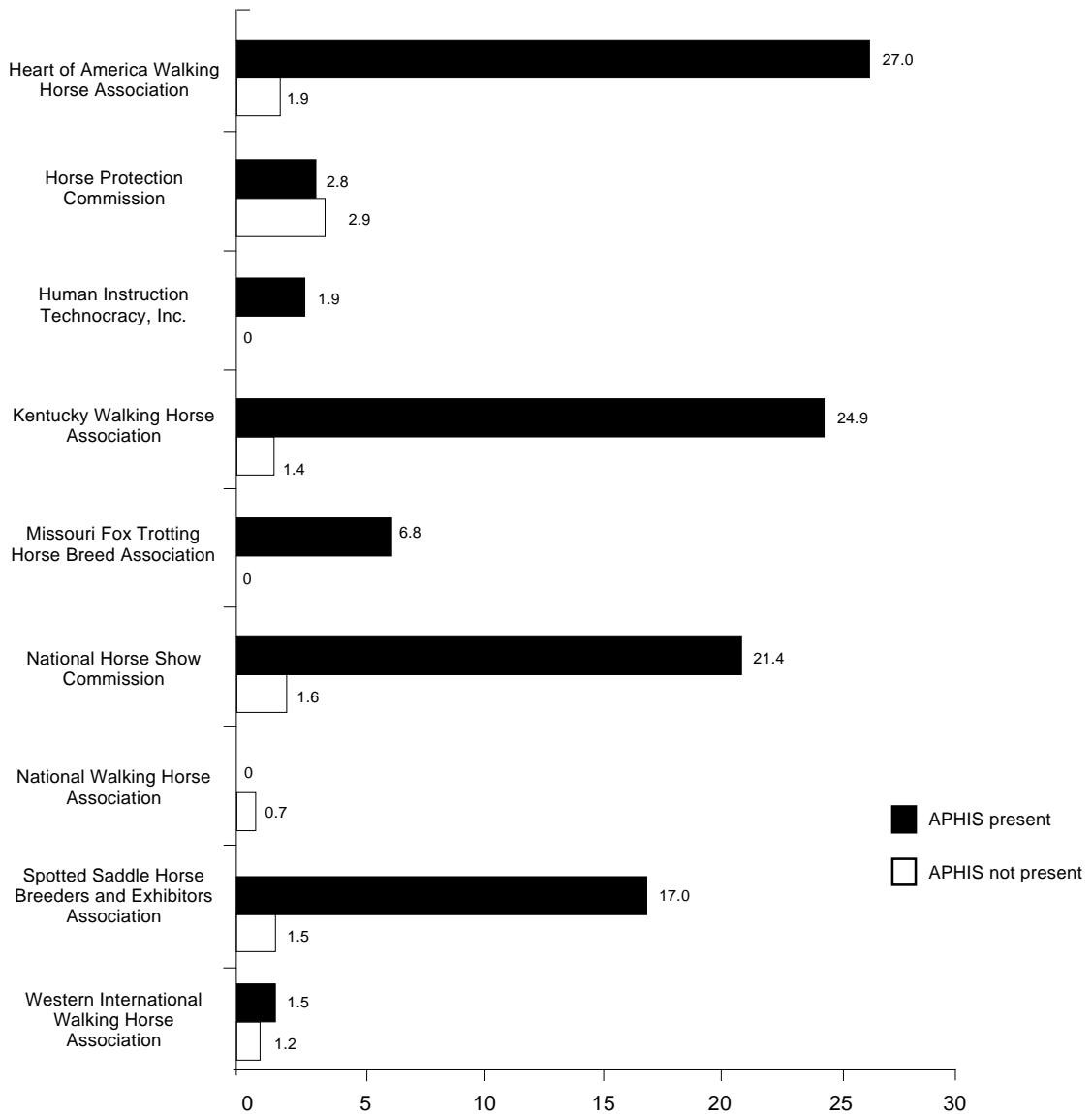
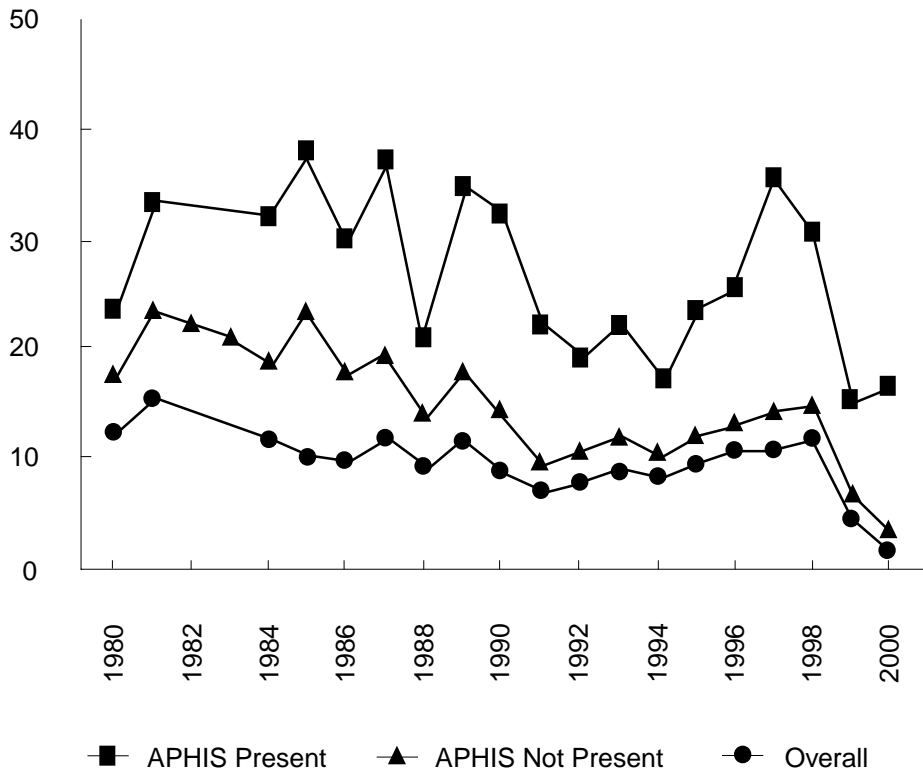


Figure 2 illustrates the difference between the number of violations documented by the various HIOs when APHIS VMOs are present as compared to when they are not. This disparity has been documented over a 21-year period, beginning in 1980 when these figures were first reported (fig. 3 and table 3). From 1980 to 1999, the rate of disparity (the ratio of the two violation rates) has remained fairly constant, ranging from a low of 1.89 to a high of 3.93, and averaging 2.79 (fig. 4).

However, in 2000, the disparity rate was 11.93, a sharp increase from previous years. Table 2A shows the disparity rates for the nine HIOs. To help resolve this problem, APHIS will initiate an improved training program for 2001, where DQPs from all the HIOs will be trained in joint sessions with APHIS VMOs. Using experienced APHIS VMOs, DQPs and VMOs will receive training in recognizing violations of the HPA and Regulations.

Figure 3
 HIO Performance
Historical Violation Rates (per 1,000) for HIOs



Unfortunately, efforts to enforce the HPA effectively have not been embraced by some individuals. In 2000, APHIS had to request that U.S. Marshals and law enforcement agents from USDA's Office of the Inspector General accompany APHIS VMOs to numerous shows due to threats of violence against APHIS personnel. Similar intimidation of DQPs may be among the factors that have contributed to the difference in the number of horses cited for HPA violations when APHIS was present versus when the agency was not present.

Table 3—Violation rates¹ for HIOs from 1990 to 2000, with APHIS present and not present

Horse industry organization (HIO)	APHIS present	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
California State Horsemen's Association ²	Y	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—
	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17.9	—
Heart of America Walking Horse Association	Y	27.0	18.1	21.8	30.1	24.4	17.0	4.8	13.0	9.6	44.8	35.0
	N	1.9	2.2	6.0	6.6	9.7	7.8	5.5	4.8	4.3	8.6	6.4
Horse Protection Commission	Y	2.8	3.8	28.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	N	2.9	2.9	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humane Instruction Technocracy, Inc.	Y	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	N	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
International Plantation Walking Horse Association ²	Y	—	—	—	0	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	N	—	—	—	3.1	15.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky Walking Horse Association	Y	24.9	22.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	N	1.4	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association	Y	6.8	1.5	15.9	0	0	0	0	1.6	0	0.5	0
	N	0	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	0.4	6.0	0
National Horse Show Commission	Y	21.4	21.1	30.8	40.9	28.2	26.4	17.6	23.4	20.1	24.8	35.0
	N	1.6	6.2	12.9	11.8	10.7	9.7	8.6	8.9	8.5	7.0	8.9
National Walking Horse Association	Y	0	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	N	0.7	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association	Y	17.0	17.0	38.0	19.5	18.3	51.5	31.0	33.1	8.3	16.7	0
	N	1.5	1.6	9.9	12.5	16.7	15.7	10.0	11.7	9.8	7.1	5.0
Western International Walking Horse Association	Y	1.5	6.4	33.8	0	5.8	5.8	14.1	20.1	44.8	10.1	26.3
	N	1.2	0	8.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	7.8	6.6	0	11.8	12.1
Totals	Y	16.7	14.9	30.6	35.7	25.5	23.6	17.2	22.1	19.1	22.2	32.2
	N	1.4	4.4	11.9	10.8	10.9	9.5	8.3	22.1	8.8	8.0	7.1

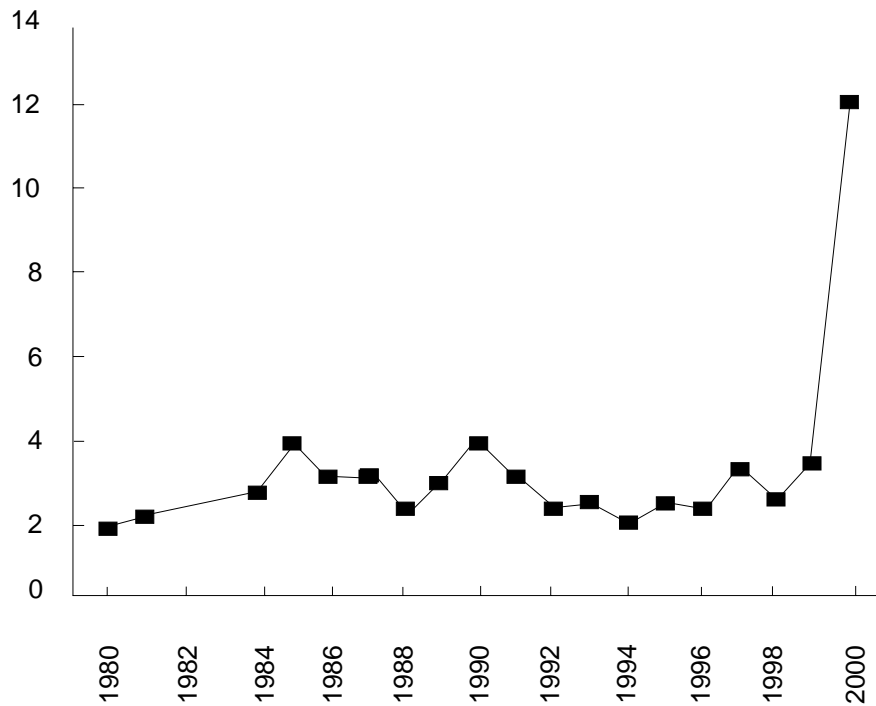
¹Violation rate is the number of violations detected per 1,000 horses inspected.

²The California State Horseman's Association and the International Plantation Walking Horse Association were HIOs with certified DQP programs in the years with data. Both voluntarily relinquished their

Figure 4

HIO Performance

Historical Rate of Disparity¹ Between APHIS and HIO Rates



¹The rate of disparity is measured as the ratio of the violation rate when APHIS was present and the violation rate when APHIS was not present.

Recent Trends in the Occurrence of HPA Violations

There has been a downward trend in recent years in the total number of HPA violations (fig. 5). APHIS has identified several factors responsible for this decrease:

- Increased emphasis on compliance,
- Implementation of the operating plans beginning in 1998,
- The rise in popularity of the “sound horse show” circuit, and
- Incomplete reporting of violations.

Figure 5 shows the total number of HPA violations since 1980. During the late 1990s, show management at a number of horse events began actively promoting the “sound horse show” circuit. These shows advertise strict adherence to the rules found in the HPA and its regulations, offering freedom from unfair competition against sore horses and providing entrants a level playing field. Over the past 2 years, this circuit has risen in popularity, and the number of shows and horse entries have likewise increased.

In some cases, reports of violations have been determined to be incomplete. Last year, 92 horses were disqualified from showing due to what were called “non-HPA violations.” Further review of these disqualifications showed the description of the DQPs’ findings accurately depicted a sore horse. An additional 165 horses were excused from showing because they were reported as “unacceptable”; these cases are also considered a “non-HPA violation.” However, APHIS VMOs stated that some of these “unacceptable” horses may actually have been sore horses. Due to their unknown status, these 257 horses were not included in the total number of violations reported for 2000. Figure 6 shows the type of violations documented at affiliated shows broken out by APHIS presence and type of horse.

Figure 5
Horse Protection Enforcement
Total Number of HPA Violations from 1980 to 2000

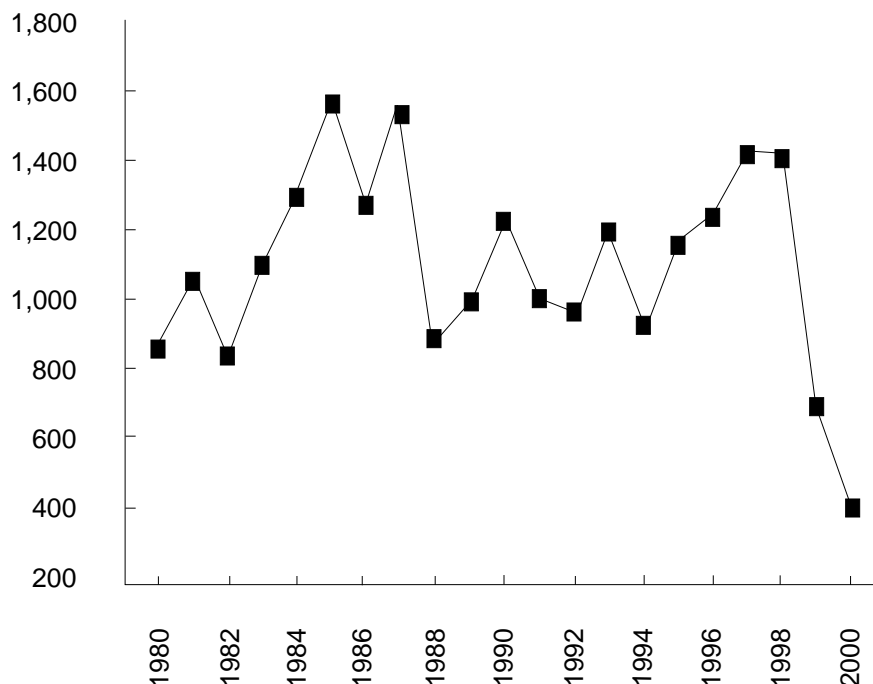
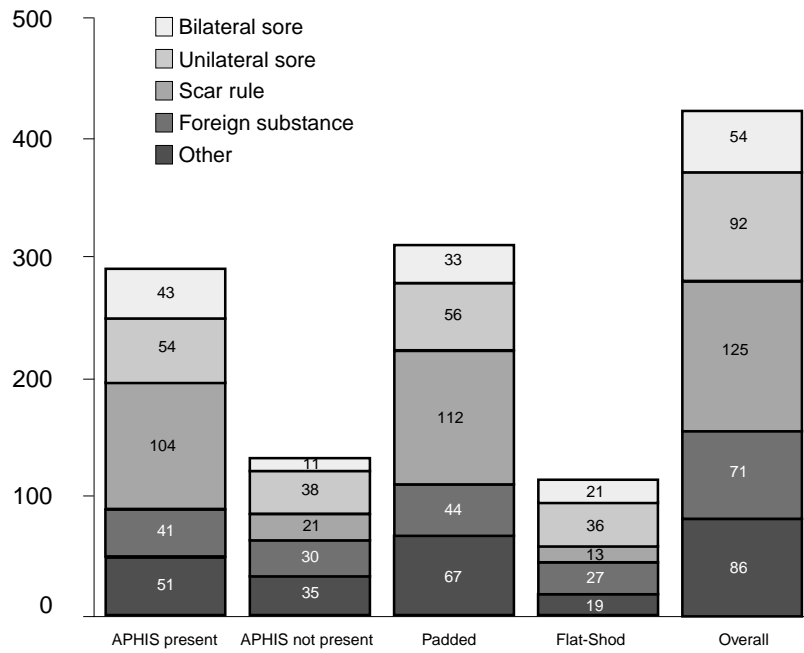


Figure 6

Horse Protection Enforcement

Types of Violations Identified at Affiliated Events in 2000



Conflict Resolution Under the 2000 Operating Plans

Under the terms of the operating plans during 2000, APHIS placed primary enforcement responsibility of the HPA with the certified DQP programs and agreed not to seek Federal prosecution if the HIOs properly identified violations and imposed the appropriate penalties as provided in these plans. Provisions were included in the event a disagreement arose between the VMOs and DQPs regarding the identification of any HPA violations. If the disagreement could not be resolved at the show, the VMOs and DQPs would submit written documentation to their respective supervisors or coordinators, who would then attempt to resolve the disputes. If a dispute could not be resolved at that level, it would then be submitted to APHIS' Deputy Administrator for Animal Care and the chairman or president of the respective HIO for resolution.

During 2000, 26 cases were submitted for disagreement resolution. All 26 were resolved—15 in favor of APHIS' original decision and 5 in favor of the HIO's original decision. In four other cases, the final decision was different from what either party submitted, and the final two cases proved not to involve a disagreement. The HIOs imposed penalties in 25 of the cases, and 1 case was dismissed. Three alleged violators appealed the penalties to the HIO's Hearing Committee, where the charges were later dismissed.

Enforcement Proceedings in 2000

APHIS assumed primary enforcement function at affiliated horse events for those HIOs that had not yet signed onto an operating plan and initiated 24 cases involving 76 alleged violations of the HPA and its regulations. In addition, 26 cases involving 82 violations were carried over into 2000 from previous years. Figure 7 shows a 3-year summary of investigations and legal proceedings in HPA enforcement.

During 2000, 17 cases were resolved. Resolutions included complaints being withdrawn, a dismissal, default decisions, and consent decisions.

At the end of 2000, 33 cases remained open. Hearings were scheduled in 17 of these cases, and motions for a hearing were pending in 10 others. Decisions from the Administrative Law Judge were pending in three cases, a decision was pending in one case appealed to the Judicial Officer, and decisions were pending in two cases heard before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Cases decided in 2000 resulted in disqualifications for 29 individuals and fines totaling \$5,001 (fig. 8). Ten respondents admitted to the violations. One respondent was ordered to resign from the Animal Welfare Committee of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and to refrain from rejoining for 2 years, in addition to not being allowed to speak for that organization on horse protection issues for a period of 2 years.

Figure 7

Horse Protection Enforcement

Investigations and Legal Proceedings in HPA Enforcement, 1998–2000

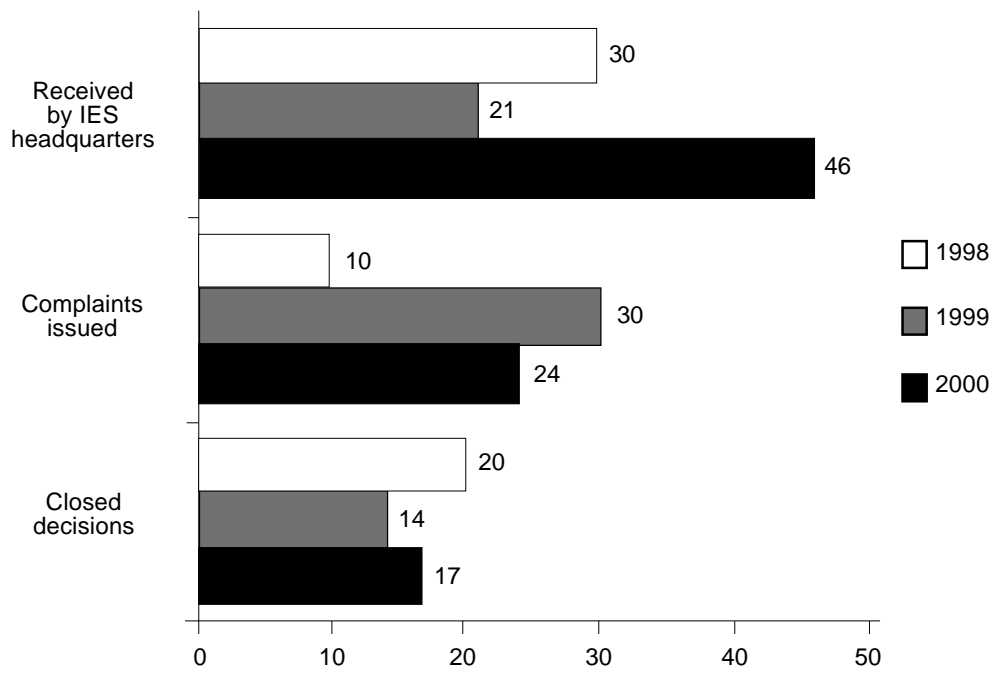
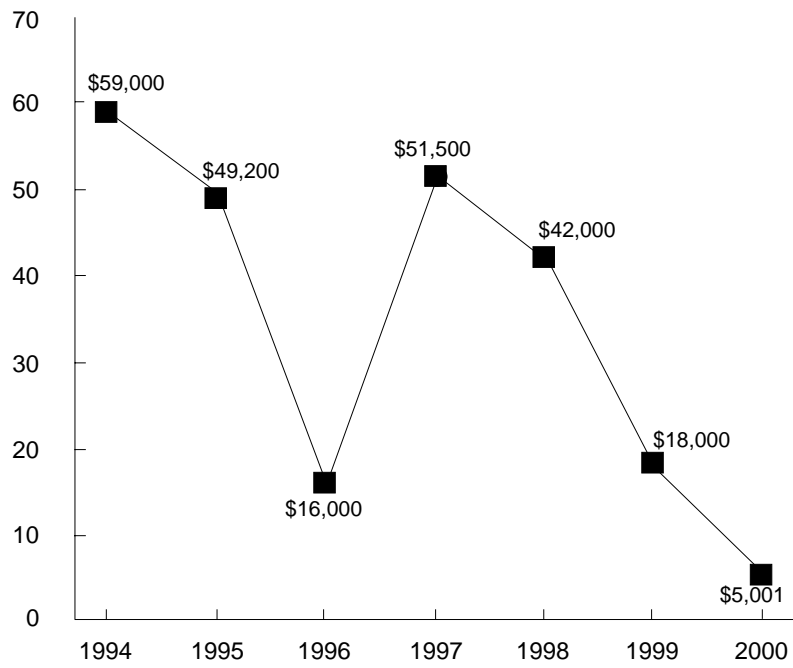


Figure 8

Horse Protection Enforcement

Dollar Value of Assessed Penalties Under the HPA, 1994–2000



Government Performance Review Act Reporting

The Government Performance Review Act (GPRA) requires that Federal agencies submit an annual report to Congress on the effectiveness of the programs they administer. The data in table 4 was collected during 2000 by APHIS VMOs at 56 affiliated and unaffiliated events. APHIS believes that the incidence of pathological abnormalities indicative of soring is a measure of the overall level of soring occurring in the horse industry. Any abnormality not related to soring, such as scars as a result of an injury, was not included in the data. A decrease in the incidence of pathological abnormalities could be used as a measure of the effectiveness of the Horse Protection program.

In 1999, the overall incidence of abnormalities was 43 percent for the 2,907 horses examined at 43 events. There was no breakdown between flat-shod and padded horses for that year. However, as a result of anecdotal observations made by APHIS VMOs while collecting the data in 1999, the GPRA report for 2000 was made with this distinction.

Table 5 shows the difference in the rate of violations between padded and flat-shod horses. Padded horses are found in violation at a rate almost five times that of flat-shod horses.

Table 4—Incidence of pathological abnormalities indicative of soring, by type of horse, at events attended by APHIS in 2000

	Random ¹		Winning ²		All horses		Overall ³
	Flat-shod	Padded	Flat-shod	Padded	Flat-shod	Padded	
Horses examined	538	272	1,391	976	1,929	1,248	3,260
Percent with abnormalities	18	82	17	79	17	79	42

¹Horses in the “random” category were examined prior to showing and were selected for examination randomly.

²Horses in the “winning” category were examined after placing first, second, or third in their event.

³These figures include additional horses for which the type was not indicated.

Table 5—Violations by type of horse at affiliated events¹ in 2000

Type of horse	APHIS present				APHIS not present				Totals			
	Events	Horses	Violations	Rate ³	Events	Horses	Violations	Rate ³	Events	Horses	Violations	Rate ³
Padded ²	43	5,801	227	39.1	373	32,905	80	2.4	414	38,706	307	7.9
Flat-shod	57	11,069	65	5.8	501	63,579	51	0.8	553	74,648	116	1.6

¹Events affiliated with the Western International Walking Horse Association are not included because this HIO did not separate violations for flat-shod and padded horses in their reports.

²Human Instruction Technocracy, Inc., Horse Protection Commission, Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, and Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association did not inspect padded horses at their affiliated events. The National Walking Horse Association inspected a total of eight padded horses, all at one event.

³Rate is the number of violations detected per 1,000 horses inspected.

Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations

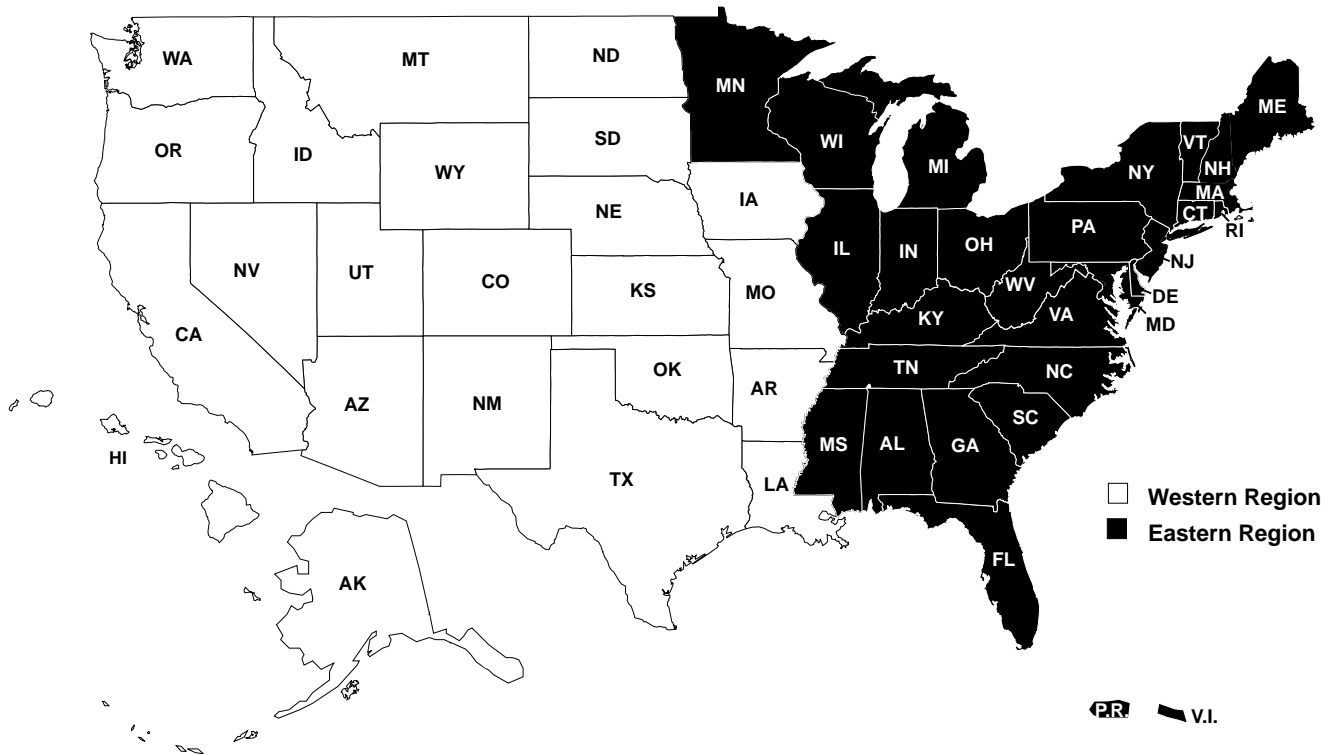
USDA does not anticipate the need for additional legislation at this time.

APHIS is considering several additions and changes to the HPA regulations based on initiatives presented in the Strategic Plan. Any such changes would be published as proposals in the *Federal Register*, and we would consider public comments.

Animal Care Offices for FY 2000

In conjunction with APHIS' consolidation of regional offices into hubs in Raleigh, NC, and Fort Collins, CO, AC's Western and Central Regions will begin consolidation into one region with the new Western Region office in Fort Collins during fiscal year 2001. The current offices in Fort Worth and Sacramento will remain open as satellite offices until the physical office consolidation can be completed.

Animal Care Offices for Fiscal Year 2001



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