

What they do to sore a horse:

- **Chemical applications** to the pasterns (ankles), the cannon bone (shin) of the horse, such as oil of mustard, croton oil, kerosene, lighter fluid, diesel fuel, salicylic acid, WD-40, various types of soaps (dish soap, GoJo, etc.), DMSO, to name only a few, and then wrap them in plastic for 24 to 48 hours. During this process, depending upon how sore the horse is, he often times is too sore to stand up in the stall. If not tied to the wall they will lie down and/or try to chew the wraps off their legs, due to the pain
- **They will make small slits in the cornet band** of the horse with a razor blade and then apply lemon juice or anything caustic that will burn or sting.
- **A maximum of a 6 oz. chain is allowed** under current regulations. If you put a 6 oz. chain on a sound leg of a horse that has never been sored, you will not see a huge difference in the horse's gait.
- **They will grind the soles** of the feet using an electric grinder, until beads of blood come to the surface, before they apply the stack or shoe.
- **They will pressure shoe the soles of the horse and then put false soles** over the soles of the horse to cover up the abuse. These soles look like the real sole of a horse foot, so as to go undetected, and covering anything going on inbetween the horses sole and this false sole.
- **There will be claims that there have been no tickets for a pressure-shod horse.** This is false. When a horse is found to be pressure shod or sore in the soles of his feet, the ticket is written as a bilateral sore ticket. So you won't find tickets describing the violation as a pressure shod violation. It will be described as bilaterally sore on the soles of their feet.

(See exhibit)
- **They will insert foreign objects** between the soles of the horses' feet and the stacks, such as acrylic substances that when intentionally mixed improperly harden like steel and the result is like walking with a rock in your shoe. These are undetectable on the padded horses without pulling the pads and shoe off. (See exhibit)

- **They will put blocks made of things such as wood**, golf balls, quarters stacked and wrapped in electrical tape, wedges of wood or plastic, seated under the sole of the foot. They will remove these things prior to inspection.
- **They will stand a horse on steel bolts** (see exhibit photo) **or wooden blocks** (see photo) **on the soles** of the feet. The horse is tied to a wall so he cannot lie down and is forced to stand on these for hours or days. They are then removed before the horse is shown, but the pain created lasts through the performance. Because the stacks or shoes obstruct access to the sole of the hoof, the effects of this abuse are impossible to detect.
- **They will sand a strip of the hoof wall** (see exhibit photo) down to the quick, and then apply a pad (called a nail-on pad) to the bottom of the foot, then attach a stack to this pad. A band is then applied across the top of the area of sanded hoof and tightened down to create pressure on the sensitive hoof wall or to create additional pressure to the sole of the foot of a pressure shod horse.
- **I have seen this band sheer off the hoof** near the cornet band (see exhibit photos), in the show ring numerous times, leaving the horse standing on a bloody nub in a pool of blood, in the show ring. At a recent seminar, one of the industry vets instructed attendees on what supplies to have in their grooming kit, so that they're prepared for when this happens.

Reasons why these things are not detected during inspection:

- **They steward the horses.** Stewarding is when a person will do a mock inspection of the horse's pasterns and another person will hold the horse. When the horse reacts to the pain, the person will hit the horse in the head with a 2 x 4, an axe handle, a baseball bat, among other things, until he stops reacting to the pain. He then has been taught not to react to inspection at the horse show. (As seen on the ABC Nightline Show, with Jackie McConnell)
- **They will ply an alligator clip** the scrotum, anus, vulva, tongue, the tail, or the tits of the horse to create a painful distraction during inspection.
- **They use numbing agents applied topically or injected** by the trainer or a sympathetic industry vet to block the pain, so the horse will not display a pain response during inspection.

- **They put zip ties or piano wire on the gums** of the horse and it tight creating pain to take their mind off of the pain in their feet. (See exhibit photo)
- **They put surgical staples under the mane** on the neck of a horse, to create pain and to distract the horse from the pain in his feet.
- **They stand their horses in a bucket of ice water** before going thru inspection, when the U.S.D.A. is present and swabbing the horses' pasterns for foreign substances.
- **They use glue on hair, Black Magic spray, tattoo ink,** or graphite, to hide illegal scars, just to name a few.
- **They put bit burrs under the saddle** girth and cinch the girth up real tight to create pain somewhere other than their feet. U.S.D.A. had to adopt a rule that all saddles must be removed before inspection, because of the prevalence of this practice.
- **They use sunblock to help to block any signs of heat in the feet** when the thermograph machine is used.
- **They inject the horses with drugs** to enable the horse to pass the locomotion and palpation exam.
- **They time their drugs and soring techniques to establish a window.** They practice back at the barn establishing how long the drug or numbing agent will last. They then establish a window for the soring agent, in order to time its effect in and out of the show ring.