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Dr. Bennett,

This letter is to summarize my examination of the horse "Golden Sovereign" owned by Virginia Stewart. This horse was reportedly turned down on the scar rule after initially passing through the DQI, entered the ring and was sent back to the DQP and subsequently failed the exam.

Based upon my examination I am unsure why this horse would have been turned down based upon the scar rule. The horse has so much hair on the pastern region it is difficult to even palpate the thin, small raised areas on the back of the pastern. There is no way to accurately tell if these areas can be flattened out or not. I have taken pictures of the pasterns on this horse to document the condition of the pastern region at the time of my exam. Following the scar rule booklet, I cannot figure out why this horse has violated the scar rule.

In my opinion this horse should not have been rejected based upon the scar rule. This horse's pasterns should serve as the poster child for what owners and trainers should strive for their horse's to look like. There is no sensitivity to palpation and no hair loss anywhere on the pastern. I don't understand how a horse can pass through the DQI and then be rejected a short time later.

If there are any questions regarding my examination please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Hopper DVM, MS, DACVS

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