



AAEP PROTOCOL FOR THE DETECTION OF PRESSURE SHOEING

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Putting the Horse First: Veterinary

Recommendations for Ending the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses

- **The pressure shoeing protocol is primarily an amplification of the recommendations already made in the White Paper**
- **Pre-competition Examination**
- **Post-competition Examination**



Pre-competition Examination

- Thermographic Screening
 - Determine areas requiring additional examination and/or swabbing to detect forbidden substances
- Palpation of the limbs including:
 - Routine evaluation
 - Assessment of digital pulses
 - Critical assessment of specific areas suggested to be abnormal by thermography



Pre-competition Examination

- Inspection of the hooves and shoes
 - Hoof tester examination
 - Includes pressure applied across the heels
 - Exam may be compromised by the width of the branches of the shoes (flat shod horses) and/or presence of the package (padded horses)
 - Detect and eliminate use of any devices used to tighten the bands which secure the packages



Pre-competition Examination

- Digital Radiography
 - Lateral images of those horses considered suspicious for pressure shoeing or laminitis
 - Detect the presence of acrylic extensions of the hoof capsule or sole surface
- Examination of the horses in a standard pattern at a walk and extended walk, on a loose rein, in hand and under tack



Pre-competition Examination

- Positive findings, consistent with the intent to manipulate a horse's performance with painful methods, should result in the initiation of the post-competition examination protocol and subsequent imposition of penalties appropriate to the infractions discovered.



Pre-competition and Competition Observations

- Continued observation by qualified veterinarians of the competing horses during both their warm up and while in the ring is essential.
 - During the warm up, horses should be confined to a specific warm up area which is under observation by stewards and/or veterinarians who are empowered to prevent any further manipulation of the horses' shoes or bands or the application of irritant substances or forbidden medications



Post-competition Examination

- Horses selected for post-competition examination must be held in the make-up ring as they leave the show ring until these examinations are completed.



Post-competition Examination

- Thermographic Re-examination
- Digital Radiographs of the feet of randomly selected horses not xrayed prior to the class for detection of:
 - Pressure shoeing
 - Acrylic extensions of the hoof capsule or sole surface
 - Laminitis – acute or chronic
 - Rotation of the third phalanx (coffin bone)
 - Sinking of the bony column within the hoof capsule
 - Sole thickness



Post-competition Examination

- Removal of both front shoes of randomly selected horses or horses with abnormal physical findings, thermographic patterns and/or digital radiographic findings



Post-competition Examination

- Visual and hoof tester examination of unshod feet for evidence of methods directed at inducing pain
 - Pressure devices
 - Excessive paring of the sole or frog
 - Evidence of chronic bruising (acute or chronic hemorrhage) on the sole surface
- Weighing of the shoes and shoes + packages



Conclusions

- These evaluations can be conducted in a timely manner if adequate numbers of trained personnel are available and cooperation of exhibitors is mandated. Failure to submit to these testing methods may be considered evidence of non-compliance with the HPA and subsequent disqualification from competition and the application of appropriate penalties should be considered.