

**USDA HORSE
PROTECTION PROGRAM**

2008 SCAR RULE VIOLATIONS

■ Reminders:

■ Section 3 of the Horse Protection Act (HPA):

- The Congress finds and declares that –

- (1) the soring of horses is cruel and inhumane

■ Section 4 of the HPA:

- (c) The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation requirements for the appointment by the management of any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction of person qualified to detect and diagnose a horse which is sore or to otherwise inspect horses for the purposes of enforcing this Act.

'Sore', as used in the Horse Protection Act (HPA), and in USDA's Horse Protection Regulations, is a legal term and means:

- An irritating or blistering agent has been applied, internally or externally, by a person to any limb of a horse,
- Any burn, cut, or laceration has been inflicted by a person on any limb of a horse,
- Any tack, nail, screw, or chemical agent has been injected by a person into or used by a person on any limb of a horse, or
- Any other substance or device has been used by a person on any limb of a horse or a person has engaged in a practice involving a horse, and, as a result of such application, infliction, injection, use, or practice, such horse suffers, or can reasonably be expected to suffer physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise moving.

- **Horse Protection Act (HPA) – December 9, 1970**
- **Hearing before the Committee on Commerce - United States Senate - Ninety-Third Congress (convened on May 2, 1973)**
- **Proposal to amend HPA so as to prohibit scars – “We feel this would be a strong deterrent against soring during the training period in the home barn.”**
- **As an alternative to a potential amendment to the HPA prohibiting scars, the TWH industry promised to impose and enforce its own ‘scar rules’...**
- **The TWH industry’s enforcement of its own scar rules was unsuccessful, so the ‘scar rule’ was added to USDA’s Horse Protection Regulations...**

- **Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 83 - April 27, 1979 (Final Scar Rule):**
- **“The Department has recently reviewed horse industry’s enforcement of its own scar rules and have found it to be lax or nonexistent. Many 2-year-old, 3-year-old, and 4-year-old horses are being found to have scars on their pasterns when inspected by Department veterinarians. Horses of these age groups were foaled after the Horse Protection Act of 1970, and some were foaled after the Horse Protection Amendments of 1976 were enacted, and should, therefore, carry no scars on their pasterns. Due to lack of enforcement of its scar rules by the horse industry, the Department has determined to add a scar rule to the regulations and will initiate a policy of strict enforcement of the rule.”**
- **“The Department would point out to the horse industry that the scar rule applies only to horses that were foaled and trained well after the passage of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, and after the passage of the 1976 Horse Protection Act amendments. Such horses should therefore bear no scars whatsoever if the law were being complied with.”**

Scar Rule

- **11.3: The scar rule applies to all horses born on or after October 1, 1975. Horses subject to this rule that do not meet the following scar rule criteria shall be considered to be "sore" and are subject to all prohibitions of section 5 of the Act. The scar rule criteria are as follows:**
- **(a) The anterior and anterior-lateral surfaces of the fore pasterns (extensor surface) must be free of bilateral granulomas, other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation, and other bilateral evidence of abuse indicative of soring including, but not limited to, excessive loss of hair.**
- **(b) The posterior surfaces of the pasterns (flexor surface), including the sulcus or "pocket" may show bilateral areas of uniformly thickened epithelial tissue if such areas are free of proliferating granuloma tissue, irritation, moisture, edema, or other evidence of inflammation.**

Scar Rule

- Horses found to be in violation of the scar rule are legally 'sore'.
- Keep in mind that for a horse to be out of compliance with the scar rule, it must be out of compliance on both forelimbs.
- Each limb is evaluated independently, and the lesions need not be the same nor similar on both forelimbs to constitute a scar rule violation.

Scar Rule

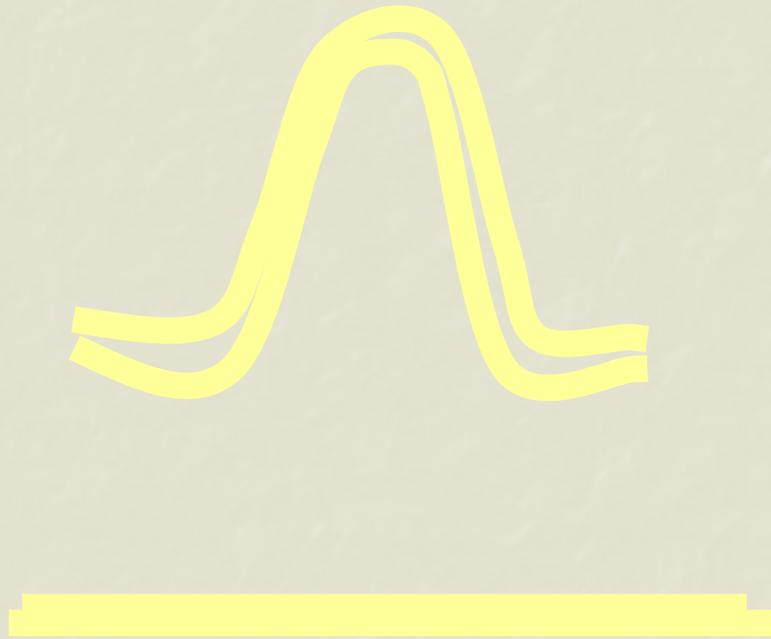
Scar Rule compliance will be determined by:

- Visual examination
- Physical examination, including palpation and assessment of the skin

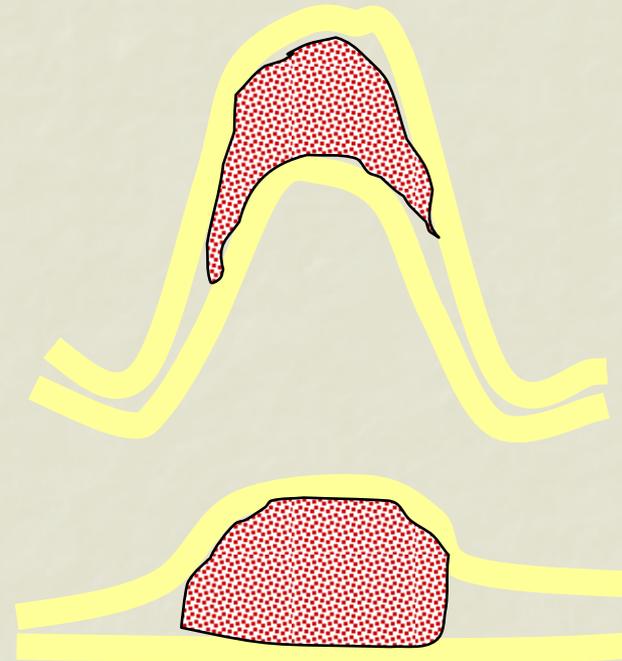


Scar Rule

"Uniformly Thickened Tissue"



"Scarred Tissue"



Scar Rule

Determining the posterior boundaries:

- **2 screening methods:**
 - **Flattened Hand**
 - **Neurovascular groove**
- **Final determination:**
 - **Measurement of pastern**

Scar Rule



Flattened hand method



Neurovascular groove
method

Scar Rule

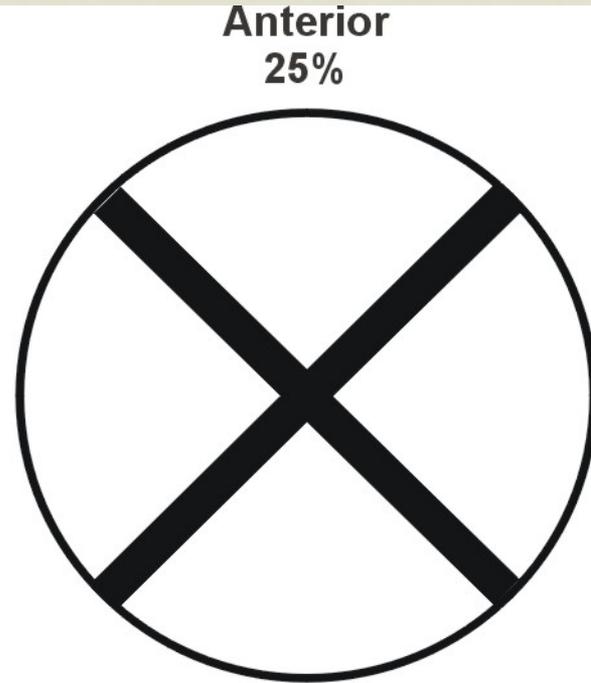


Measuring from the midline

Scar Rule



Lateral
25%



Anterior
25%

Medial
25%

Posterior
25%

Midline

Scar Rule

Scar Rule Chart
Measurements for Determining Violation of Scar Rule

Cicumference of Foot	35 Percent	17.5 Percent
7 in	2 1/2 in	1 1/4 in
7 1/8 in	2 1/2 in	1 1/4 in
7 1/4 in	2 1/2 in	1 1/4 in
7 3/8 in	2 5/8 in	1 1/4 in
7 1/2 in	2 5/8 in	1 3/8 in
7 5/8 in	2 5/8 in	1 3/8 in
7 3/4 in	2 3/4 in	1 3/8 in
7 7/8 in	2 3/4 in	1 3/8 in
8 in	2 3/4 in	1 3/8 in
8 1/8 in	2 7/8 in	1 3/8 in
8 1/4 in	2 7/8 in	1 1/2 in
8 3/8 in	2 7/8 in	1 1/2 in
8 1/2 in	3 in	1 1/2 in
8 5/8 in	3 in	1 1/2 in
8 3/4 in	3 1/8 in	1 1/2 in
8 7/8 in	3 1/8 in	1 1/2 in
9 in	3 1/8 in	1 5/8 in
9 1/8 in	3 1/4 in	1 5/8 in
9 1/4 oin	3 1/4 in	1 5/8 in
9 3/8 in	3 1/4 in	1 5/8 in
9 1/2 in	3 3/8 in	1 5/8 in
9 5/8 in	3 3/8 in	1 5/8 in
9 3/4 in	3 3/8 in	1 3/4 in
9 7/8 in	3 1/2 in	1 3/4 in
10 in	3 1/2 in	1 3/4 in
10 1/8 in	3 1/2 in	1 3/4 in
10 1/4 in	3 5/8 in	1 3/4 in
10 3/8 in	3 5/8 in	1 7/8 in

Cicumference of Foot	35 Percent	17.5 Percent
10 5/8 in	3 3/4 in	1 7/8 in
10 3/4 in	3 3/4 in	1 7/8 in
10 7/8 in	3 3/4 in	1 7/8 in
11 in	3 7/8 in	1 7/8 in
11 1/8 in	3 7/8 in	2 in
11 1/4 in	4 in	2 in
11 3/8 in	4 in	2 in
11 1/2 in	4 in	2 in
11 5/8 in	4 1/8 in	2 in
11 3/4 in	4 1/8 in	2 in
11 7/8 in	4 1/8 in	2 1/8 in
12 in	4 1/4 in	2 1/8 in
12 1/8 in	4 1/4 in	2 1/8 in
12 1/4 in	4 1/4 in	2 1/8 in
12 3/8 in	4 3/8 in	2 1/8 in
12 1/2 in	4 3/8 in	2 1/4 in
12 5/8 in	4 3/8 in	2 1/4 in
12 3/4 in	4 1/2 in	2 1/4 in
12 7/8 in	4 1/2 in	2 1/4 in
13 in	4 1/2 in	2 1/4 in
13 1/8 in	4 5/8 in	2 1/4 in
13 1/4 in	4 5/8 in	2 3/8 in
13 3/8 in	4 5/8 in	2 3/8 in
13 1/2 in	4 3/4 in	2 3/8 in
13 5/8 in	4 3/4 in	2 3/8 in
13 3/4 in	4 7/8 in	2 3/8 in
13 7/8 in	4 7/8 in	2 3/8 in
14 in	4 7/8 in	2 1/2 in



Scar Rule



Normal pastern

Scar Rule



Scar Rule



Scar Rule



Scar Rule



Scar Rule



Scar Rule

**“Conflict Resolutions” Horses
from the 2008 show season...**

























































Additional 2008 Scar Rule Violations



TW H NC
DATE Aug. 20, 2008





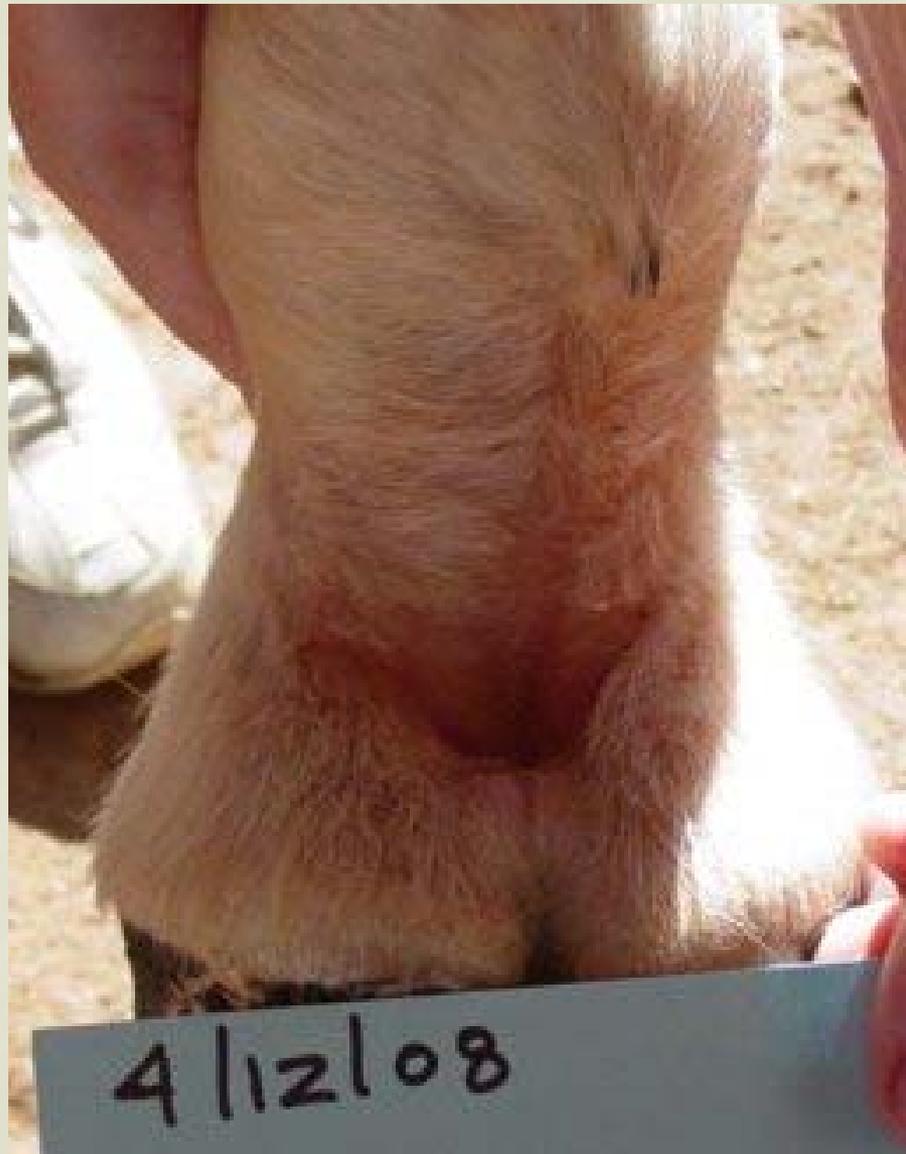






2008 TWH CELEBRATION
8/21/08





412108







TWHNC
DATE 8-30-08





TW4NC
Date 8-30-09

Scar Rule

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Additional Violations Seen In 2008

Heel - Toe Ratio Violation



Illegal Trimming and Shoeing





TWHNC
8/23/08





2008
Calibration

