Leone Equestrian Law LLC

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Tip of the Month

Have separate and labelled feed buckets for competition horses at shows to help ensure that you avoid unneccessary doping charges.

Whatever you do, don't mix feed buckets at horse shows, especially in U.S. National competitions where certain nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are allowed if used alone. Don't take the chance of residue of one NSAID in a feed bucket for one horse contaminating another horse maintained on a different one, if the buckets are used interchangeably. It is good practice to have a dedicated feed bucket for each horse to eliminate the possibility of cross-contamination. If nothing else, having and using a separate feed bucket for each horse shows that one is trying to avoid possible cross-contamination.

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When to Call an Equine Lawyer

Armand Leone is an attorney by trade and no stranger to the court room, but when he leased a horse in 2012 that became injured, he was involved in a lengthy and expensive arbitration for which he hired a lawyer. After giving endless "horses 101" lessons to his counsel before any progress could be made on his case, Leone realized there was an opportunity for him to help his fellow horsemen. As a result, Leone Equestrian Law was born in 2014.

Leone operates his business on a simple principle: horses are unique. According to him, the way horses are bought, sold, and leased is a process unlike any other seen in contemporary society.

Leone Equestrian Law was founded after Armand Leone dealt with his own equine litigation and recognized the need for lawyers that understand the equine industry. Now he shares here when it may be time for you to get an equine lawyer involved!

"Paying to educate an attorney about the horse business is not a cost effective way to resolve legal matters," he says.

While the scenarios are endless, Leone has encountered common legal matters that affect people within the equine industry. The bad news: problems ranging from unpaid client bills to lease agreements gone wrong are common within professional circles of the horse world. The good news: you don't have to go it alone; there is help out there.

Click to read which three scenarios are the most prevalent indicators that it may be time to call on an equine lawyer!

In the Press

BETWEEN ROUNDS WITH:

ARMAND LEONE

USEF Widens Responsibility For Horse Doping Offenses

Anyone connected with a horse can now be held responsible for prohibited substances—but the USEF process could still go further.

PHOTO BY CHARLES MANN FOR HOND BIOMAGNOST

A January announcement from the U.S. Equestrian Federation Hearing Panel suspending both the trainer (Larry Glefke) and the rider (Kelley Farmer) for use of prohibited substances is a step forward in eliminating drug abuse in competition horses. The days of restricting responsibility for drug offenses to the person signing as trainer on the entry blank are over.

The practice of holding the signing trainer responsible began with the American Horse Shows Association. As equestrian sport developed, the support staff for trainers and riders grew. More people are involved in getting a horse to the ring than ever before, and more opportunities exist today for a horse to be given prohibited substances before entering the ring.

The Fédération Equestre Internationale has led the way in holding athletes and their support staff liable if involved with horse doping. Under the FEI system, the person automatically responsible is the rider, driver, vaulter or handler who competes with the horse. This person will be initially charged and suspended if a horse tests positive. But it doesn't stop there. If the evidence obtained by the FEI from its investigation, or presented by the athlete, shows that other individuals had knowledge or participated in the doping offense, charges will be brought against them as well. The same array of penalties exists for support staff as for the athlete.

The prior USEF practice of holding only the signing trainer accountable was not only outdated, but it also created a legal loophole for unscrupulous trainers. By having a person other than the trainer sign the entry blank, the trainer could administer prohibited substances and then avoid being charged and suspended for a medication violation. This allowed dishonest trainers to use medications to compete unfairly against others while preventing their businesses from being disrupted if one of their horses got caught with a positive test. The new USEF policy

The USEF has taken steps to hold more people responsible for prohibited substances—but should they work toward a policy even more like that of the FEI?

26 The Chronicle of the Horse

Earlier this winter, the U.S. Equestrian Federation Hearing Panel suspended both a trainer and a rider for use of prohibited substances - expanding the responsibility for drug offenses beyond just the person signing as the trainer on the entry blank.

Armand Leone weighed in on the USEF's 'widening responsibility for horse doping offenses' in a special "Between the Rounds" in this issue of the *Chronicle of the Horse*. ***Click to read the full article***!

Connect with Leone Equestrian Law!

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