

## **News from the New England Morgan Horse Show**

July 22-28, 2007 - Northampton, Massachusetts

Judges: Harold Angell, Karen Homer-Brown, Terry Jones Brennan, John Greenall, Frederick Hunt, Jan Gille

### **Another Black Eye for Trainers – Will this ever stop?**

Members of the GoMorgans Team report that trainer Bob Kellert (The River's Edge - Elizabeth, CO) won an in-hand championship class with a young horse. After the win, he went to have the horse's feet measured, during which the horse's false tail fell off right in front of the steward! The entry was disqualified and the class re-pinned. Kellert is the Region 9 representative to AMHA's Professional Committee (see below). Kellert went on to show other horses at the event.

#### *AMHA Professional Committee (2007)*

Co-Chairs: Cindy Mugnier and Jim Lowry

Staff Liaison: Erica Eulau Richard

Members: Region 1-Luman Wadhams, Mike Carpenter; Region 2: Dwayne Knowles; Region 3-Larry Bolen; Region 4-Mary Brannon; Region 5-Lyle Wick; Region 6-Phil Fountain; Region 7-Gerry Rushton (see Gerry Rushton USEF violation); Region 8-Forest Nealon, Region 9-Bob Kellert; Region 10-Diana Swanson; and At Large-Sandy Sessink.

Charter: It is the intent and purpose of the AMHA Professional Committee to encourage the enjoyment of the Morgan horse; to educate and inform the membership with respect to the training and caring of horses, and to support continuing education and interest in the breed through demonstrations of horsemanship, sportsmanship, and showmanship.

When an AMHA/USEF member asked about the Kellert show violation, the USEF response was:

“If this was a Morgan competition per MO114.3 “the use of supplemental hair on a horse is prohibited in any class restricted to Morgans and shall result in disqualification from the competition, and all entry fees and winnings of the entry for the entire competition will be forfeited.” I was aware of this situation at the New England Morgan Horse Show and to my knowledge that horse was disqualified, prizes forfeited and redistributed and that particular horse did not show for the remainder of the competition. This does not, however, bar the trainer or owner from showing a different horse at the same competition. This disqualification would only pertain to the particular horse in which the supplemental hair was used.

In these types of incidents the Steward will usually make a note on the report of the incident and the actions that were taken at the show by management. Since all of the prizes were forfeited and redistributed at the horse show it is unlikely that further action will be taken.”

Since the USEF considers the case dealt with, it is unlikely that it will appear in the USEF magazine reports of violations, etc.

Bob Kellert is a former USEF-approved “R” Morgan judge and certainly should be well aware of USEF show rules. The 2007-2008 AMHA Directory states on p. 54, “As a licensed official of USEF, knowledge of the rules for each section is crucial.”

Note:

Trainers buy false tails from the switch company listed in Saddle Horse Report and others. Tails are not cheap - the best blend horse’s hair with others to make it totally natural and hard to identify. Colors are standard bay, black, brown etc. and the prices run from \$150 up.

Here are two websites to check out:

<http://theshowpen.com/>

“The Show Pen's Horse Tail Extensions are 100% natural horsehair. Our horse tail extensions will make a dramatic difference in your horse's overall appearance by adding length and volume for that balanced, polished look that's sure to get you noticed in the show pen. The Show Pen's Horse Tail Extensions are AQHA, NSBA, APHA & PHBA Legal.”

<http://www.finishingtoughtails.com>

“The tail extensions at Finishing Touch Tails are 100% natural horse hair and will make a dramatic difference to a horse's existing tail by adding length and volume for that polished look that all exhibitors are looking for. We carry 15-stocked colors. AQHA, NSBA, APHA and PHBA legal. Easy to attach and remove (instructions available).”

Some are even sold on Ebay!

Ginger in a horse’s anus, heavily weighted shoes and shoe bands, chains and rollers, drugs, bustles, tail sets and false tails – all in the name of “showing” and “winning at all costs”??  
*What about the HORSE??*

NOTICE:

It has been rumored that there may be a proposed USEF rule change to allow "supplemental hair" on Morgans in order to “enhance the beauty of the Morgan show horse”. Grassroots AMHA members must speak up against this. We must protect our beloved breed and insist that Morgans be shown “naturally”.