

Summary of USDA 2010 – 2011 Foreign Substance Analysis

According to USDA statistics regarding 2010-2012 foreign substance testing, 83% of samples tested positive for prohibited substances, including soring and numbing agents.

2012

- At the 2012 National Trainers' Show, 95% tested positive (22 tested, 21 positive) Counterirritants (22 tested/21 positive) = 95%; Masking agents (22 tested/14 positive) = 64%; Numbing agents (22 tested/3 positive) = 14%.
- At the 22nd Annual Spring SCWHLA Festival Horse Show, 100% tested positive (5 tested/5 positive). Counterirritants (5 tested/5 positive) = 100%; Masking agents (3 tested/5 positive) = 60%; Numbing agents (5 tested/4 positive) = 80%.
- At the Bedford County 4-H Spring Festival Horse Show, 100% tested positive (5 tested/5 positive). Counterirritants (5 tested/5 positive) = 100%; Masking agents (5 tested/5 positive) Numbing agents (5 tested/5 positive) = 80%.
- At the 2012 Gulf Coast Charity Celebration, 100% tested positive (18 sampled/18 positive). Counterirritants (18 tested/17 positive) = 94%; Masking agents (18 tested/10 positive) = 56%; Numbing agents (18 tested/12 positive) = 67%.
- At the 2012 Cumberland Classic Horse Show, 25% tested positive (4 sampled/1 positive). Counterirritants (4 tested/0 positive) = 0%; Masking agents (4 sampled/1 positive) = 25%; Numbing agents (4 sampled/0 positive) = 0%.
- At the 2012 South Central Ruritan Horse Show, 54% tested positive (13 sampled/7 positive). Counterirritants (13 tested/7 positive) = 54%; Masking agents (13 sampled/5 positive) = 38%; and 4/13 tested positive for numbing agents (31%).
- At the 2012 WHOA Versatility Show, 11% tested positive (18 tested/2 positive). Counterirritants (18 tested/1 positive) = 6%; Masking agents (18 tested/1 positive) = 6%; Numbing agents (18 tested/2 positive) = 11%.
- At the 2012 Petersburg Lions Club Riders Cup, 87% tested positive (15 sampled/13 positive). Counterirritants (15 tested/13 positive) = 87%; Masking agents (13 tested/7 positive) = 54%; Numbing agents (13 tested/9 positive) = 69%.
- At the 2012 Celina Walking Horse Show, 72% tested positive (18 sampled/13 positive). Counterirritants (18 tested/11 positive) = 61%; Masking agents (18 samples tested/9 positive) = 50%; Numbing agents (18 tested/8 positive) = 44%.
- At the 42nd Annual Spring Fun Show, 73% tested positive (30 tested/22 positive). Counterirritants (30 tested, 22 positive) = 73%; Masking agents (30 tested/13 positive) = 43%; Numbing agents (30 tested/3 positive) = 10%.
- At the 2012 Brodhead Lions Club Show, 40% tested positive (5 tested/2 positive). Counterirritants (5 tested/2 positive) = 40%; Masking agents (5 tested/2 positive) = 40%; Numbing agents (5 tested/2 positive) = 40%.
- At the 2012 Columbia Spring Jubilee, 50% tested positive (8 tested/4 positive). Counterirritants (8 tested/3 positive) = 38%; Masking Agents (8 tested/2 positive) = 25%; Numbing agents (8 tested/1 positive) = 13%.
- At the 2012 Carter County Shrine Horse Club Show, 80% tested positive (10 tested/8 positive). Counterirritants (10 tested/7 positive) = 70%; Masking agents (10 tested/6 positive) = 60%; Numbing agents (10 tested/2 positive) = 20%.
- At the 2012 Lawrenceburg Lions Club 4th Annual TWH Show, 59% tested positive (22 tested/13 positive). Counterirritants (22 tested/9 positive) 41%; Masking agents (22 tested/9 positive) = 41%; Numbing agents (22 tested/6 positive) = 27%.

- At the 6th Annual Cumberland County Open Walking Horse Show, 83% were positive (6 tested/ 5 positive). Counterirritants (6 tested/4 positive) = 67%; Masking agents (6 tested/4 positive) = 67%; Numbing agents (6 tested/4 positive) = 50%.
- At the 43rd Annual Tennessee Walking Horse Classic, 67% tested positive (3 tested/2 positive). Counterirritants (3 tested/1 positive) = 33%; Masking agents (3 tested/2 positive) = 67%; Numbing agents (3 tested/1 positive) = 33%.
- At the Tony Rice Center Horse Show, 60% tested positive (5 tested/3 positive). Counterirritants (5 tested/3 positive) = 60%; Masking agents (5 tested/3 positive) = 60%; Numbing agents (5 tested/1 positive) = 20%.
- At the 2012 Annual Lions Club of Warren County Walking Horse Show, 75% were positive (8 tested/6 positive). Counterirritants (8 tested/6 positive) = 75%; Masking agents (8 tested/6 positive) = 25%.
- At the 2012 Estill County Fair Horse Show, 100 % were positive (1 tested/1 positive). Counterirritants (1 tested/1 positive) = 100%; Masking agents (1 tested/0 positive) = 0%; Numbing agents (1 tested/1 positive) = 100%.
- At the 2012 Pacific Northwest Jamboree, 24% of horses tested positive (25 tested/6 positive). Counterirritants (25 tested/3 positive) = 25%; Masking agents (25 tested/5 positive) = 20%; Numbing agents (25 tested/0 positive) = 0%.
- At the 2012 Marshall County Horseman's Association Horse Show, 83% were positive (6 tested/5 positive). Counterirritants (6 tested/5 positive) = 83%; Masking agents (6 tested/5 positive) = 83%; Numbing agents (6 tested/0 positive) = 0%.
- At the Illinois State Fair, 50% were positive (6 tested/3 positive). Counterirritants: (6 tested/3 positive) = 50%; Masking agents (6 tested/1 positive) = 16%; Numbing agents (6 tested/1 positive) = 16%.
- At the 2012 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, 76% were positive (190 tested/145 positive). Counterirritants (134/190) = 71%; Masking agents (190 tested/138 positive) = 73%; Numbing agents (190 tested/3 positive) = 2%.
- At the 2012 National in Wilmington OH, 0% were positive (11 tested/0 positive).

Total for 2012: 65% positive (478 tested, 309 positive).

Counterirritants 58%, Masking Agents 56%, Numbing Agents 15%

2011

- At the 2011 Celebration, 98% tested positive (156 tested/153 positive) (Counterirritants (52 tested/51 positive) = 98, Numbing Agents (52 tested/37 positive) = 71.1%, %, Masking Agents (52 tested/45 positive) = 86.5%)
- At the 2011 Fun Show, 95% tested positive (20 tested, 19 positive) (Counterirritants (20 tested/19 positive) = 95%, Numbing Agents (20 tested/13 positive) = 65%, Masking Agents (20 tested/18 positive) = 90%)
- At the 2011 National Trainers Show, 92% tested positive (13 tested, 12 positive) (Counterirritants (13 tested/12 positive) = 92.3%, Numbing Agents (13 tested/7 positive) = 54%, %, Masking Agents (13 tested/12 positive) = 92.3%)

Total for 2011 - 97% tested positive (189 tested, 184 positive)

Counterirritants 96%, Numbing Agents 67%, Masking Agents 85%

2010

- At the 2010 National Trainers Show, 90% tested positive (20 tested, 18 positive) (Counterirritants (20 tested/16 positive) = 80%, Numbing Agents (20 tested/8 positive) = 40%, Masking Agents (20 tested/12 positive) = 60%)
- At the 2010 ETWHTA, White Pine, TN, 95% tested positive (19 tested, 18 positive)

(Counterirritants (19 tested/17 positive) = 89.5%, Numbing Agents (19 tested/3 positive) = 16%, Masking Agents (19 tested/11 positive) = 58%)

- At the 2010 Baileyton Horse Show, 100% tested positive (6 tested, 6 positive) (Counterirritants (6 tested/6 positive) = 100%, Numbing Agents (6 tested/1 positive) = 16.6%, Masking Agents (6 tested/5 positive) = 83.3%)
- At the 2010 SSHBEA Mid Season Classic, 50% tested positive (10 tested, 5 positive) (Counterirritants (10 tested/5 positive) = 50%, Numbing Agents (10 tested/0 positive) = 0%, Masking Agents (10 tested/0 positive) = 0%)
- At the 2010 Celebration, 86% tested positive (302 tested, 261 positive) (Counterirritants (302 tested/238 positive) = 79%, Numbing Agents (302 tested/106 positive) = 35%, Masking Agents (302 tested/184 positive) = 61%)

Total for 2010 - 86% tested positive (357 tested, 308 positive)

Counterirritants 79%, Numbing Agents 33.1%, Masking Agents 59.4%

Total for 2010-2012 – 83% tested positive (1024 tested, 801 positive)

Counterirritants 88%, Masking Agents 75%, Numbing Agents 41%

These results suggest that **83%** of horses randomly tested at shows attended by USDA during the reporting period had been treated with soring, numbing and/or masking agents. This represents a much larger proportion of noncompliant horses than have been reported by the major USDA-certified horse industry organizations (HIO) as being noncompliant under the HPA as found by their inspections.

For example, the USDA's statistics for the 2011 Celebration indicate that a shocking 98% of the horses randomly tested for prohibited substances had positive test results. By sharp contrast, Dr. Steve Mullins, SHOW HIO President recently claimed "At The Celebration in 2011, the World Championship Horse Show, the compliance rate was over 98% working in cooperation with the USDA inspectors."¹ This discrepancy was repeated in 2012, when the foreign substance testing conducted by the industry identified only 2 horses positive for foreign substances, while USDA testing revealed that 76% of the horses tested were positive.

Between 2008 and 2010, the USDA documented 395 first time foreign substance violators, some of which incurred 2nd, 3rd and 4th time violations during this time period. It is obvious that the current penalties are not stringent enough to deter competitors from implementing illegal and cruel practices to place at a competition. These statistics highlight two critical issues: the illegal practice of soring is rampant throughout Tennessee walking horse competitions and the industry, through HIOs, cannot or will not properly uphold the Horse Protection Act.

¹ Dr. Steve Mullins, "Walking horse industry responds to critical article", March 1, 2012 <http://www.t-g.com/story/>