



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
E-ALERT – May 29, 2014



Please Contact Senator Claire McCaskill - Ask Her to Co-Sponsor the PAST Act/S.1406

Did you ever wonder how trainers of Tennessee Walking Horses are able to teach their horses to pick up their legs in such an exaggerated manner? Unfortunately, the answer far too often is not from rewards with treats or other positive reinforcement methods. Rather, the preferred method is a form of torture whereby the trainers apply chemicals or caustic blistering agents, such as mustard oil or kerosene, to the horse's front legs or hooves. These painful substances cause excruciating pain to the horse and in response to such pain; the horse produces an exaggerated unnatural high-stepping gait. While such a gait appears pleasing to show judges, it is a very agonizing experience for the horse.

After the horse's legs are covered in caustic chemicals, often times the trainers will then wrap the legs in plastic in order to "cook" the chemicals deep into the flesh of the ankles. When the horse is ready to enter the show ring, the trainer then places chains around the

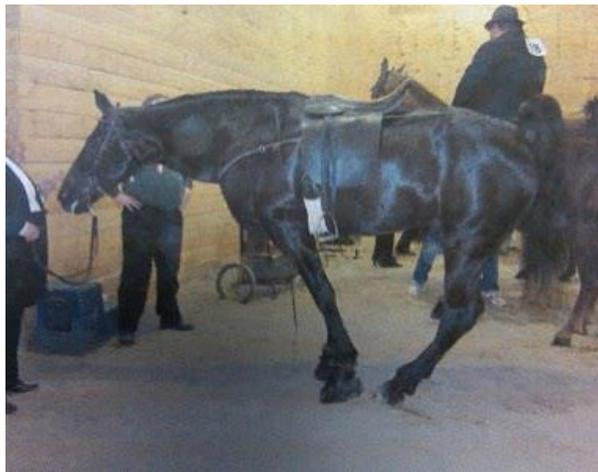
horse's ankles to aggravate the wounds since the chains slide up and down the ankles as the horse travels around the show ring further irritating the "sored" legs.

As if the horse is not in enough agony, walking horses are forced to wear heavy stacks of pads underneath their hooves to further accentuate the gait. These tall stacks of pads cause the horse to stand at an unnatural angle and frequently foreign objects are inserted between these pads and the horse's hoof to increase the suffering. Unfortunately, the horses are in too much pain to be left out in pastures to walk around and graze on grass. Instead, they are confined in their stalls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, while enduring the suffering caused by the blistering agents.

Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act S. 1406

Fortunately, legislation has been introduced in Congress that would significantly enhance the Horse Protection Act, the current law addressing this problem. The PAST Act would flat out prohibit all acts of soring as well as the use of any types of chains or action devices on the lower extremity of the leg of a horse. The PAST Act would also increase the civil and criminal penalties for violations and would mandate enforcement by the United States Department of Agriculture instead of the current practice of allowing self-regulation by the horse industry. The PAST Act would also ban weighted shoes and pads.

This is not simply a problem in Tennessee or in the South. ***Sadly, Missouri hosts several walking horse shows and is home to numerous walking horse breeders and trainers.***



A sored walking horse from Missouri assumes an abnormal stance to relieve the pain in its legs

PLEASE CONTACT SENATOR CLAIRE McCASKILL
Ask Her to Co-Sponsor the PAST Act/S. 1406

Supporters of the PAST Act, also known as S. 1406, believe they need 60 co-sponsors to pass this legislation in the Senate due to fears of a filibuster. There are currently 54 co-sponsors. ***We desperately need Senator McCaskill to sign on as a co-sponsor.***

Please take a moment to write, email, or call Senator Claire McCaskill and ask her to co-sponsor the PAST Act/S.1406. [Let her know that we don't need this cruelty in Missouri.](#)

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You can contact her at www.mccaskill.senate.gov and leave your comments under "Tell Claire Your Concerns."