



February 25, 2021

Tom O'Mara  
President  
United States Equestrian Federation

Emily Pratt  
Director  
Regulation Department  
United States Equestrian Federation

Via e-mail: [tomara@usef.org](mailto:tomara@usef.org); [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org)

Dear Mr. O'Mara and Ms. Pratt:

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide to request that you investigate a recent whipping incident on January 30 involving German Grand Prix show jumper Kevin Lemke, at the Desert International Horse Park. We urge you to pursue all appropriate actions, including consideration of banning him from competing in future USEF-sanctioned events and permanently revoking his USEF eligibility and membership.

As a USEF member, Lemke was competing with Good Luck, who is owned by Al Masri Morad. While approaching the fifth fence, Good Luck appeared to stall, and Lemke responded by venting his anger, aggressively hitting the horse with his whip six times (four times consecutively and two more times immediately after). Lemke used the whip so harshly that the sound of it striking Good Luck can be heard in the video replay. Following the incident, it was announced that Lemke had been eliminated for excessive use of the stick, but after being dismissed, he attempted the fifth jump again, causing Good Luck to balk and collide with the fence, knocking it over and nearly causing Lemke to fall.

The video replay is [available here](#).

Although [GR 839\(5\)](#) was correctly adjudicated by the judges, elimination was not commensurate with the abuse, nor is it a sufficient deterrent to spare horses and protect other riders from such reckless and dangerous behavior. The excessive punishment inflicted on Good Luck, delivered as a reprimand by an enraged rider, is a cruelty issue that transcends a simple rules violation and is a stain on the sport.

In any other parallel competition involving animals—such as a dog agility contest—administering multiple forceful strikes on an animal as punishment wouldn't be tolerated by the public or law enforcement. Please note that we have

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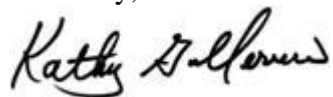
also submitted a cruelty complaint about Lemke to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Furthermore, these abusive actions committed by Lemke were clearly made in the public eye, in front of judges and other competitors, seemingly without a moment of hesitation from Lemke, which immediately should raise red flags about the way he conducts teaching and training sessions.

Those who are guilty of cruelty and who have demonstrated a clear disregard for the rules should not be granted the privilege of participating in USEF-sanctioned competitions. We strongly urge you to revoke Lemke's USEF membership permanently and investigate his training practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Guillermo".

Kathy Guillermo  
Senior Vice President  
Equine Matters Department