



**The Exhibitor & Horse Cards administered by TWHBEA
will not be enforced by the KY-HIO for the 2024 show season.**

Recently you may have heard the announcement from TWHBEA on the implementation of Exhibitor & Horse Cards. These cards will be required for all walking & racking horses and exhibitors at shows sanctioned with SHOW HIO, AHS HIO and KY-HIO. After the TWHBEA announcement, the KY-HIO received numerous calls from exhibitors, owners, and show managers with concerns on how the implementation of the cards could impact an already strained industry.

The geographical area our HIO services is vastly different from the mega capitol of the TWH industry located in middle Tennessee. Show managers were confident the implementation of the cards would impact entries at their shows and discourage newcomers from getting involved with the breed. Many shows were considering cancelling and owners were making plans to downsize their show string. Our industry is already strained and the last thing it needs is for show entries and breed registrations to decline. It would be disheartening to see youth not being able experience our great horse and families leaving the industry because they can no longer afford to stay involved. After careful consideration of the comments we received, the KY-HIO has decided to opt out of enforcing the exhibitor and horse cards. Therefore, exhibitors and horses will be able to compete at any KY-HIO sanctioned events without the card requirement. We believe this is necessary to help promote and preserve the walking and racking horse industry for all in our region.

While we fully support the industry in its endeavors to fight for justice and due process for the TWH, the owners, the exhibitors, and the trainers, we are committed to do what is best for those in our region. Although we will not enforce the card requirement, we vow to do our part to support the legal challenges to preserve our beautiful horse. The KY-HIO will make a monetary donation to the legal fund at year end based on its 2024 income profitability. We also commit to work with show managers to accept donations from exhibitors at the show office. No donation is too small, and it will allow a budget friendly method for exhibitors and owners to support the legal fund.

The KY-HIO takes great pride in offering an affordable show experience to our smaller one-night shows as well as the larger multi-day shows. We hope this action allows all exhibitors, owners and show managers the ability to continue "Walking Together".

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