



## SPCA CLEARS TOMMY MANION OF CHARGES

**September 12, 2017**

**For immediate release:**

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has concluded the investigation of the case where Tommy Manion, on July 15, 2017, used a bb gun on an unruly and dangerous stallion at a National Cutting Horse Association event in Whitesboro, Texas. Grayson County SPCA Investigator Robert Williams and the Grayson County District Attorney declined to pursue charges against Manion.

According to the complaint, a stallion owned by Manion was causing a disruption by kicking at people and other horses, attempting to bite people, and trying to climb over a wall where the stallion was tied. Professional horseman Joe Howard Williamson, Corey Courville, and Jacob Taurel, all provided statements establishing the stallion was a danger to himself, other horses, and human life.

Sarah Sanderson, the official photographer at the show, witnessed the stallion's behavior and stated :

I saw a girl trying to approach the horse however he was kicking at her and every time she tried to circle around he would just keep moving around to try and kick her. A man decided to try and help her out by going to the horses head from across the wall and try to calm him down.. however then the horse turned into a super aggressive maniac and started trying to attack him by diving over the top of the wall pawing at it and trying to bite him. The gentleman then moved away as I don't think he had any other option and was trying to maybe at least distract him so he could hopefully get around to his head. This was not the case as the horse continued to kick out in any direction he could. At this point I said to person sitting next to me that I couldn't watch any longer as I didn't want to see this poor girl get her head bashed in.

After learning of the stallion's behavior, Manion immediately realized that a person could not safely approach the stallion because of the level of aggression the stallion was displaying. Manion retrieved a bb gun from his vehicle and stood in a position where the stallion could not see him. When the stallion engaged in aggressive behavior, Mr. Manion shot the stallion in the hip with the bb gun.

Over the course of approximately five minutes Manion administered a bb three to four times. The stallion was not injured by the use of the bb's. In the span of five minutes the stallion calmed down and Mr. Manion approached him and untied him. An SPCA veterinarian examined the stallion and found no injuries. After the incident Manion had the stallion gelded.

Manion's attorney on the SPCA case, Rick Hagen, from Denton, Texas, stated: "Tommy Manion potentially saved a human life. The stallion had turned into a vicious animal. Tommy had a legal duty to stop it. He did not have a choice. Had the stallion gotten loose and killed or injured someone Tommy Manion would have been liable under Texas law."

Hagen explained: "The SPCA investigated this case and found no violation. Tommy only used a bb when the stallion would exhibit aggressive behavior. Tommy wanted the stallion to believe that the discomfort caused by the bb was due to the stallion's aggression and did not come from a human. The simple fact is that what Tommy did worked, probably saved someone's life, and did not cause pain or injury to the stallion whatsoever."

For information regarding the SPCA investigation, contact Manion's attorney Rick Hagen at 940/391-3070 or [rick@jacksonhagenlaw.com](mailto:rick@jacksonhagenlaw.com)

For information regarding Manion's status with NCHA, contact Manion's attorney John Cayce at 817/332-2500 or [john.cayce@kellyhart.com](mailto:john.cayce@kellyhart.com)