



April 2, 2019

To the American Saddlebred community:

This is Jimmy Robertson. In 2012, when Tattersalls Sales closed their doors, my wife Helen and I started a mostly Saddlebred horse sale here in Shelbyville, Ky. We continue to strive to provide the best possible place and personnel to market American Saddlebred horses.

Very few people have had the privilege of seeing me mad, and it's not a pretty sight. Well, I'm mad.

The assault on my friends, clients, breeders, and the American Saddlebred breed itself, is unconscionable.

I've seen it all.

I've had clients called by persons trying to discourage them from bringing horses to the sale. Sometimes, it is impossible for people to continue without sales. And yet they still are bullied — yes, BULLIED — into not taking horses to auction, telling them they might go to the wrong place. *Unconscionable.*

I've seen it all.

I've seen people shamed if they bring horses to the sale and the horse goes to what objectors say is "the wrong place." They have the gall to take pages right out of our soon-to-be-copyrighted sale catalog and put them on Facebook, not caring if it's one of our grandest breeders or our grandest and most beloved exhibitors, just to shame and BULLY these fine people into trying to retrieve the horse. Or, just to shame them because they sold their horse at auction and it went to the "wrong place." *Unconscionable!*

I've seen it all.

A great friend of mine — and friend of our breed — was cornered in the restroom at a restaurant about a horse she sold in our sale. (She wasn't even wearing a MAGA hat.) *Unconscionable.*

All these endeavors seem to be an effort to destroy our sale because the Amish people attend our sale. That isn't going to happen. But ... imagine if it did!

All of our purebred horses are duly transferred and their papers are in order. Our books are open and we have always been obliging to people as to where the horse went after the sale — *always*. The paper trail is always in order. However, if there's no auction, then a lot of those sales are completely undocumented — sold without papers. How are you gonna "rescue" them?

All of these shenanigans are doing untold damage to our horse and breed. Untold amounts of people have just quit breeding rather than being shamed and bullied when trying to market those horses that might not make it to the show ring. We are in a crisis to our breed right now; can we afford to lose breeders? Because that is exactly what's happening.

Case in point: on Facebook, last fall after our sale, there were pictures of a horse with this statement: "This is what's happening to horses used and thrown away by Currently being acclimated to the road." This breeder spent over two years paying training with three different trainers and upwards of \$30,000 trying to make a show horse out of the pictured horse. Does that sound like throwing him away? That's giving him every chance in the world to make a show horse. Of course, that blank spot in the quote was the lady's name. Is that how this small breeder should be treated? Could you blame this breeder if she just quit?

I've had enough of this shabby treatment of my friends and clients.

I love the American Saddlebred horse, the American Saddlebred breed, and American Saddlebred people. These three entities are Helen's and my whole life. We will stand idle no longer. To those who are bullying and harassing: Do your "rescuing" the right way because *I'm not going away.*

Jimmy