

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/15/2021 08:09 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Is it not time to end the so called "entertainment" that involves the unwilling participants...the animals? I personally check off cities to visit when I see they support and profit in any way to animal exploitation. Please end the Municipal rodeo...we live in the 21st century!

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Santell

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 03:32 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeos are inhumane to the animals involved. Only the bull riding seems to give the animal a chance to get even. Also, Has Kevin De Leon learned the Pledge of Allegiance yet?

Communication from Public

Name: JeriLynn Burks

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 11:22 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: As a child growing up in Southern Missouri, the rodeo was a part of my culture. When I was 9 years old, my school took my class on a field trip to a local rodeo show. I remember the day explicitly. The sun was beating down as my teacher ushered my classmates and me into the stands. As a child, my attention always seemed to be elsewhere rather than the intended point of focus, but this day had my full attention. I didn't understand the purpose of the rodeo, but it was apparent to me the animals were scared. At one point, a calf, no more than a few months old, shot out into the arena, seemingly running for her life. A "cowboy" on horseback galloped after her. The rider lassoed the calf around her neck, yanked her to the ground and proceeded to aggressively tackle her, mercilessly tying all of her legs together. The odd part was, after the calf was jerked by the neck, she was no longer struggling. The rider had broken the calf's neck. Her initial fear was justified. She ran for her life, and was brutally killed. The noise from the crowd died down a bit, but the show continued, not skipping a beat. Children are often brought to rodeo events, nationwide, and in Los Angeles. As a community which prides ourselves on taking care of our own, our homeless population, our underserved population, and our elderly, why would animals not deserve the same respect? Children are attending these shows, and watching violence in it's purest form, accepted and cheered for. Rodeos do not belong in Los Angeles. We are a progressive city and the rest of the country often follows our lead. If there is any area which deserves leadership, isn't it ceasing to treat animals cruelly and kill them just for the sake of sport, while encouraging children to cheer? I don't believe that kind of behavior belongs in a city of human beings - let alone, a city of Angels.

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Duncan

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 08:51 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Grown men physically & mentally abusing gentle, innocent animals is not entertainment. BAN RODEOS in the City of LA!

Communication from Public

Name: Ken Kornbluh

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 09:57 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeos are violent, cruel events that encourage public aggression, cause harm needlessly to humans and people, and debase our society by fostering the belief that harming others is fun, acceptable and without societal cost. I am outraged and disgusted and as a tax-paying, California resident, I am vehemently against rodeos. I want this to stop for the betterment of society. Exposing children to this kind of gratuitous violence is asking for violent, aggressive adults.

Communication from Public

Name: Jill Mulato

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 10:02 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support an Ordinance to prohibit electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tiedowns, and sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels at all rodeo or rodeo related events in the City of Los Angeles. Rodeos and rodeo-type activities employ the use of tools of torment in order to encourage bucking, aggressiveness, and overall “wild” behavior of animals that are generally docile. Not only are the methods used inherently cruel, the amount of animals that are injured and killed at these cruel events is abhorrent. Los Angeles needs to join other compassionate cities around our country in setting an example for our nation to follow as a whole. The use of flank straps, spurs, electric prods and other barbaric tools of inflicting abuse on animals should absolutely be banned from being used on animals during rodeos and rodeo type activities. Lets show the future generations to come that abusing animals for some sort of sick "entertainment" is a thing of the past. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Darin Read

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 04:07 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeo's are inhumane and cruel. There time is done. Please do the right thing here. Let's show the rest of the world just how compassionate Angelinos truly are.

Communication from Public

Name: Peggy W Larson, DVM MS JD

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 03:21 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Animals should not be injured or killed for entertainment and that is what rodeo is. It bears no resemblance to ranching. I grew up on a cattle ranch in North Dakota and spent 8 years as a ranch veterinarian there. My ranch clients did not ride bulls, speed rope calves or make their expensive horses buck. Rodeo is not American "tradition". As a former bareback bronc rider, pathologist and large animal veterinarian, I have both the experience and autopsy proof that rodeo injures and kills animals. Dr. Robert Bay from Colorado autopsied roping calves and found hemorrhages, torn muscles, torn ligaments, damage to the trachea, damage to the throat and damage to the thyroid. These calves never get a chance to heal before they are used again. Meat inspectors processing rodeo animals found broken bones, ruptured internal organs, massive amounts of blood in the abdomen from ruptured blood vessels and damage to the ligamentum nuchae that holds the neck to the rest of the spinal column. As a former criminal lawyer, children that are exposed to and participate in animal abuse often grow up to abuse humans. I have seen children cry at rodeos when the calves are roped and slammed to the ground. It is time for this archaic rodeo "entertainment" to end.

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
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A Special Report on Rodeo

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A SPECIAL REPORT ON RODEO

During the past several years, the "sport" of rodeo has been a controversial subject. Charges and counter-charges have been levied for and against rodeo with little or no scientific data to support those positions.

Special interest groups on both sides of the battleline have gotten into the act and had their say. On the one side has been the Rodeo Cowboys' Association, the International Rodeo Association, Collegiate Rodeo Associations, high school rodeo groups, "Little Britches" rodeo organizations, plus the many business enterprises that profit directly or indirectly from the umbrella of rodeo per se., i.e. merchants, hotel and motel operators, clothing manufacturers, trailer manufacturers, specialty manufacturers, etc.

On the other side have been citizens concerned over the impact of violence on their children and our society, psychologists, sociologists, humanitarians, ministers, social anthropologists and humaniacs. Some have been knowledgeable of rodeo in general and many have just been psychologically repulsed from an aesthetic point of view primarily.

As a national humane organization of prominence, The Humane Society of the United States felt compelled to launch an objective study of its own to gather facts about rodeo and the possible abuses to the animals involved during performances and behind the scenes. The president and board of H.S.U.S. felt that the facts should be gathered, as unprejudicially as possible, so the truth could have an unveiling and the public be informed of the realities of rodeo.

Robert C. Bay, D.V.M., then a member of the faculty of Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado, was engaged to carry forward this study. The personnel selected to assist him in this study for the two summer periods of 1971 and 1972 consisted of junior and senior veterinary medical students, plus a part-time professional photographer. These people were instructed to be objective, gather pertinent data, document all information with pictures, if possible, or with witnesses. The team of participants was instructed to be fair, unbiased and objective in their fact finding ventures. Careful notes were taken, accurate records kept, and documentation established.

Flank or "Bucking" Strap Analysis:

For years, a controversy has raged over the use of the flank strap in rodeos used on equine bucking stock in the saddle bronc and

bareback bronc riding events. Humane organizations have argued that, at least, the strap was a harassment, a torment or annoyance to the horse and probably produced a degree of anxiety and some pain.

The R. C. A. et al, have contended that the strap was no more of an annoyance than a man's belt and that it did not make a horse buck - only buck "better;" that bucking stock bucked for the pleasure of bucking, etc.

The flank strap can, in no way, be compared to a man's belt. It is applied in the flank area and is cinched tightly by a heavy man holding on to a tension strap as long as possible as the animal is released from the bucking chute. This strap is, at least, a severe annoyance to the horse, applying pressure to sensitive lumbar nerves, the ingroinal canal area, and, on fairly frequent occasions, it involves the prepuce of the male animal.

A. Experimental Evidence:

1. Special anatomical dissections were done on two embalmed equine specimens with particular emphasis on the nerve fibers of the flank and ingroinal areas. In addition, special dissection attention was paid to the ingroinal canal, the spermatic cord and the prepuce.

The nerves, muscles, vessels were painted with luminous paint and detailed photographs were taken of the anatomy.

2. Close-up photographs were taken of the strap in actual use in several R. C. A. sanctioned rodeos.
3. 35 millimeter slides and 16 millimeter movies were taken of horses bucking with the flank strap applied in many rodeos. Pictures were also taken of the same animals still in the arena with the flank strap released.

4. A mare, formerly a bucking horse in "big time" rodeo was placed several times in a bucking chute and released to study her reaction to the situation without a flank strap applied. This was photographed. Under the same conditions with only a flank strap applied, the mare's reactions were photographed.
5. Two horses with known histories for calm temperaments were ridden saddleless by a ten year old boy in a rodeo arena. They were calm and gentle and typical safe kids' horses.

They were then, separately, put into a bucking chute and released several times and their reactions were recorded on film. Each went through several sequences of bucking strap applications and their reactions and behavior documented on film and written text.

B. Conclusions:

1. Most bucking horses that have been on a rodeo circuit are relatively gentle. The investigative team walked through the bucking horse stock in the holding pens with no fear of apprehension. Many were petted, examined for skin lesions, checked hooves, etc. They are, basically, no different than horse strings at dude ranches, riding academies, breeding farms, etc.

Horses come out of the bucking chutes bucking because:

- a. The pressure of the flank strap.
- b. The spurring of the cowboy. (50% of the contestant's score is for his "ride" on the horse with high spurring being a primary factor. 50% of the total score is on the performance of the animal.)

Note: Invariably, the horse stops bucking the second that the pick up rider releases the bucking strap.

2. The general language used by announcers and rodeo promotional people such as "wild brónes," "wild mustangs," "killer horses," is false and misleading. The majority buck because of the man-made devices and man's acts. There is no question that raw, unbroken stock bought at rodeo stock auctions, will buck from natural instinct for a time until "broken." Not many stay "unbroken" for very long on a rodeo circuit.

It is important to mention that a critical observer who is familiar with the natural bucking process of a horse, will quickly detect the rather unnatural bucking of a horse with a flank strap applied.

3. We have shown that gentle horses which are safe for children to ride unattended, put on a pretty good bucking display that would unseat the average cowboy when the bucking strap is applied to them.
4. Rodeo announcers and R.C.A. officials will make a great point of emphasizing to the public the fact that the flank strap is carefully padded with soft sheepskin wool. We have found that fleece lined flank straps produce more abrasions to the flanks of horses than an unlined flank strap.
5. There has to be discomfort and pressure pain to the bucking horse with the flank strap just from the plain and simple nerve anatomy of the area involved. The animal is reacting to rid himself of this tormenting device.

Note: Some rodeo propagandists have stated that horses are "flanked" by veterinarians to be cast. Some misguided veterinarians have "chimed in" that they use this method all of the time to control and take down livestock. They carefully do not use the term horse! Horses are not cast this way by any veterinarian. This technique is, however, used on the bovine species.

Roping Events: Team Roping, Steer Roping or Busting, Calf Roping or Busting

These areas of rodeo have been severely criticized by certain segments of the American public, and other countries of the free world. They are considered cruel, inhumane and unnecessary in rodeo performances.

Proponents of rodeo have contended that "it is preservation of the American heritage, "a reenactment of duties performed by the working cowboy on the working ranch, " "American he-man fun, " "preservation of the pioneer spirit of winning the West, " etc.

Steer roping or busting is not practiced in most states that allow rodeo competition and performances because of the obvious violence, inhumaneness to beast, and frequent injury, obvious even to the eyes of the lay spectator who easily detects broken legs, broken horns, and filled nostrils and eyes.

Many performers in rodeo feel that this event is abusive and cruel and should be outlawed in every section of the country.

Team roping is seen rather infrequently but is practiced in most states that host big time rodeos. As it was seldom observed, this event was not a major part of the study. Even so, it is our opinion that it has many elements of cruelty associated with it.

The calf roping or busting event is present in all rodeo performances. Due to the universal use of this event in rodeo, the numbers of animals involved in the actual performances, the slack time preliminaries, and the practice arena animals used for contestants to "perfect" their roping skills, it was considered a major problem area and was thoroughly investigated from many aspects.

The investigative team covered many, many rodeos in Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. These included collegiate rodeos, high school rodeos, "Little Britches" rodeos, R.C.A. sanctioned rodeos, non-sanctioned "bush league" rodeos and practice roping arenas in an attempt to get a complete picture on the practice of calf roping in rodeo.

A. Experimental Evidence:

1. In addition to visual and filmed documentation of actual performances, injury pens were observed and photographed, stop watches and measured distances were used to determine calf speed, velocities and impact mass at the time the animal was busted.

2. Calves were bought that were of the age and weight prescribed by R. C. A. One of the animals was roped once and busted by a professional roper and member of the R. C. A. The animal was humanely killed and a certified veterinarian pathologist did gross and microscopic pathology of the tissue of the neck and thoracic areas.
3. A second calf was roped and tied four times by this professional roper and then killed and a pathological examination was made by the same certified veterinary pathologist of the same areas.
4. A third calf was bought, killed, embalmed and dissected in detail, including the areas of the neck and thorax that are most likely injured in calf roping.
5. Photographic, written and visual documentation was done of the roping, the pathological micropsy and the anatomical dissection. A pathological report of the gross and microscopic pathology was filed.
6. The tissues receiving careful pathological scrutiny were: the external carotid arteries, jugular veins, vago-sympathetic nerve trunk, the laryngeal cartilages, parotid gland, thyroid glands, trachea, esophagus, thoracic plura, thymus gland, certain cervical and thoracic lymph nodes, skin, fascia, superficial cervical and thoracic musculature and supporting structures.

B. Conclusions:

1. No human being, with the slightest degree of compassion for animals, could bear witness to the roping events discussed above and not conclude that there is cruelty and injustice towards the roped "victims."

The R. C. A. has stated and written that there is less than 1% injury to animals in all of rodeo. They, of course, are talking about visible injuries that the spectator might, momentarily at least, have observed from the stands and worried about. Our figures,

covering hundreds of roped animals in dozens of rodeos, are 11-12%. And, I would remind the reader, that these are visible injuries, i. e. limping animals, animals who suffered concussions and could not get up for a time, animals with obviously broken horns, broken limbs and animals removed from arenas on sleds or other mechanical means.

It is the conclusion of this study that any animal roped even once suffers injury from the scientific point of view. The injury is not often externally visible, but an injury occurs regardless.

Webster's Dictionary - 1. "an act that damages or hurts." 2. "to harm or impair" 3. "to give pain."

Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedic Dictionary - 1. "Harm, damage or grievous distress inflicted or suffered."

Dorland's Medical Dictionary - 1. "Harm or hurt; a wound or maim. Usually applied to damage inflicted to the body by an external force."

An animal roped and "busted" to the ground suffers from:

- a. Bruising with ecchymotic hemorrhaging in the subcutaneous tissues of the neck and shoulders.
- b. Dyspnea with resulting ecchymosis in the trachea.
- c. Hemorrhaging in the thymus gland.
- d. If the noose is snapped tight over the laryngeal cartilage area of the throat, there is bruising to the cartilage. This is very painful and cartilage has slow healing properties.

Note: Anyone who has ever received even a minor blow to the "adam's apple" or voice box knows how painful this can be. A "karate chop" to the larynx is almost a lethal weapon.

Necropsies prove that even one roping and busting of an animal produces the above pathology. The rodeo stock is roped many times and though most of these injuries will heal with time and nature's help, the injuries are occurring as a result of man's desire for money or pleasure.

When consideration is given to the hundreds and hundreds of animals subjected to this treatment in hundreds of practice arenas and roping schools in addition to the above, it is clear that roping events result in injury to thousands of animals annually.

2. By actual test, repeating the experiment dozens of times, we conclude that the average calf reaches a speed of approximately 27 mph at the time it is roped. Using the figure of a calf weighing 225 pounds as an average, the gravity forces (G's) equal 10 plus. We become very concerned when these "G" forces approach 4.

Note: R.C.A. rules state that it is illegal for a roping contestant to "bust" a calf. They do, however, allow a calf to be "busted" and most are, as this greatly assists the contestant in establishing better time. The calf is "busted" by the lariat being attached to the saddle of the horse. Consequently, a much more positive and violent "busting" results. Therefore, the cowboy escapes some bruising, but the animal is subjected to much more than it would be if the cowboy attempted the "busting."

3. In interviews with many ranchers in Wyoming and in Colorado, they stated that calves are too valuable to risk injury to them, so roping is held to a minimum. Holding pens, chutes, squeeze chutes and roping of the hind legs in a relatively small corral are the methods they describe using.

The point here is that rodeo does not necessarily depict the "working ranch" situation as so often advertised. To quote from the book entitled "Calf Roping" by Toots Mansfield, a seven times world champion, he states "calf roping as it is done today in the arena evolved from the duties of the working cowboy. Since it is

competitive, certain rules and regulations have had to be worked out; and, because rodeo must depend to a degree upon spectators, the calf roping event is considerably different from what a working cowboy must do at branding time. "

The "Hot Shot" or Electric Prod:

This device too has undergone scrutiny and controversy. By R. C. A. recommendations it is to be used "only when necessary." The I. R. A. suggests that it be used "sparingly." Proponents of rodeo have proclaimed its usage as being "humane" and have stated that "veterinarians use it and recommend its use for the movement of livestock."

It is undoubtedly true that the electric prod is an improvement over the pitch fork, the pointed stick, the whip, the scoop shovel or the kick by a pointed toed boot into the midsection of an animal, but it is hardly an ideal instrument for moving animals for a variety of reasons.

Conclusions:

1. The "hot shot" is not used "sparingly" or "only when needed" as I. R. A. and R. C. A. suggest. By visible observation and filmed documentation, this device is used at the discretion of the stock contractor's personnel. Regardless of the stock contractor, however, it is used routinely to agitate Brahma bulls and roping calves.
2. By the electronic measurements of the electrical engineering department of a major university and a major international electronic manufacturer's skilled engineers, even a two (2) battery "hot shot" initially delivers a voltage exceeding 8,000 volts! The amperage is low and the administered voltage tapers down rapidly, but the initial "shock" is high voltage.
3. The "hot shot" will, at times, "draw blood" and will always produce skin damage. The owner-operator of one of the largest feedlot operations in the world has stated that he practically forbids its use because of the damage to the hide and the "marking down" in value these hides get at slaughter time. Hide buyers and processors substantiate this statement.

4. One must film this use from behind the chute areas. The spectator is rarely, if ever, aware of its use.

The users are wary, and henceforth discreet, in the use of the hot shot and keep it concealed as much as possible. They are kept in coats, hip pockets, under shirt sleeves, behind chute boards, etc. and are generally, practically without exception, taped with black friction or electrician's tape to prevent the chrome to glint in the lights or sun and attract attention to it.

5. From "Safe Operating Room Practices" manual, the voltage discharged by one of these devices is three times the allowable voltage discharge that could cause cardiac arrest in a patient.

On a few occasions our investigative personnel have accidentally been the victim of this electrical gadget and have described severe pain, lasting for several minutes and even discomfort in the opposite appendage from the one receiving the direct contact.

Hostility of R.C.A. Officials, Performers, and Stock Contractors:

From our experience this is progressively getting worse. They, apparently, feel that they have something to hide, that rodeo is "their bag." They feel threatened from without and they want no exposure or interference.

We experienced a "tightening of security syndrome" increasing from 1971 - 1972. This extends down even to high school and "bush league" weekend rodeos.

Anyone roaming about in the corrals, chute areas or injury pens is suspect and likely to be challenged even with legitimate press credentials, etc. Injury pen surveillance is strictly forbidden and considered "off limits" to anyone not immediately recognizable as a rodeo sympathizer.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

There is little or no humane supervision at most rodeos. The American Humane Association has worked with the Rodeo Cowboys' Association and the International Rodeo Association to establish a nationwide code of nineteen rules pertaining to the humane treatment of rodeo stock. However, the A.H.A. makes no claim to supervise even a majority of the rodeos currently being held in this country.

Further, in spite of the role that the American Humane Association has been playing in association with the R.C.A. and the I.R.A., even they have stated through their Executive Director Rutherford T. Phillips that "we would be happy to see rodeos discontinued or outlawed."

Care of Rodeo Stock:

This area of rodeo has wide variations. The care and condition of the stock varies greatly with the stock contractor. There appears to be no minimum standards nor any supervision. There may or may not be a supervisory veterinarian. Even when there is one listed, we have never observed the stock being checked and, the animals with obvious ailments, being rejected for use in the competition.

We can state, emphatically, that this area of rodeo should be checked more closely and improved. We have observed the following conditions being fairly common in rodeo stock:

1. Most bucking horses suffer from neglect of their feet. Most hooves need trimming and cracking is very common.
2. Abrasions from the flank straps are rarely medicated.
3. Many animals are thin and, clinically, appear to be underfed and/or heavily parasitized.
4. Draining open wounds have been observed. They most commonly occur at the point of the hip over the tuber coxae.
5. Severe ringworm infections have been noted in calves and photographed.
6. Most holding pens contain no food or water. Most have no shade. Some have been so bad as to contain at least six inches of "muck" for the animals to stand in.

7. There is little "respect for life" displayed when the stock is loaded and unloaded. The stress factors are high.
8. Lesions produced by the raking of spurs over the neck, shoulder and costal areas of bucking horses are rarely treated.
9. The frequent loading, unloading, transportation - often over long distances - is not a happy fate for livestock. The changes of water, often feed, and the environment add to the stresses. Coupled with this the prodding, goading, the noise, the spurring, flank straps, lariats, hot shots, the heat, the insect pests, the dust, and viciousness of man competing for a prize, at the expense of the captive animal, and the stress factors soar!

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
1604 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Communication from Public

Name: Steve Hindi

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 03:05 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: As Founder and President for Showing Animals Respect and Kindness - SHARK, I have been investigating rodeos nationwide and into Canada for nearly three decades. In 1993, I attended my first rodeo in Wauconda, Illinois. Horses, calves, bulls and steers are routinely injured and killed in rodeos. Horses are regularly shocked at rodeos. The shocking goes on even in California, which has a specific law (California Penal Code, Section 596.7 (3e)) against such abuse. California rodeos where I have documented horses shocked includes, but is not limited to the California Rodeo at Salinas, the Red Bluff Round-Up, the Redding Rodeo, the San Dimas Rodeo, and the Rowell Ranch Rodeo. These are just the more well-known among California rodeos, where I have documented cruelty. In 2008, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) fined Cotton Rosser, owner and stock contractor of the Flying U Rodeo Company \$2,500 for his illegal use of electrical prods at a rodeo in violation of HARD rules. Cotton Rosser was not fined for shocking horses in violation of California Penal Code, Section 596.7 (3e), nor has any other stock contractor in California been fined for the same. In 2019, SHARK documented Cotton Rosser of Flying U Rodeo shocking horses and again HARD fined him \$2,000 for violating their rules. Sadly, Rosser was still not fined for violating California Penal Code, Section 596.7 (3e). In 2019, SHARK and California based Animal Protection and Rescue League sued the Poway Rodeo to stop them from electro-shocking horses, and won. Steer roping is perhaps the most brutal event in rodeo. Steers are roped around the legs and slammed to the ground or are head planted. I have witnessed and video documented dozens of steers get busted and then tractored out of the arena, never to be seen again. Only 12 states allow this event because of the high fatality rates. The number of animals injured and killed in rodeos is perhaps the most closely held secret in the rodeo industry. Unlike real sporting events like football, baseball, etc., there is no transparency in rodeos. If rodeo attendees and sponsors knew the true cost of animal suffering and death, I am confident that there would be no more rodeos. California law (4830.8 of the Business and Professions Code) states that, "attending or on-call veterinarians at a rodeo event are required to report to the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) any animal injury at the event

requiring veterinary treatment within 48 hours of the conclusion of the rodeo." In 2013, SHARK video documented 23 injured animals, but the Salinas rodeo vet only reported 3 injured animals. In 2014, SHARK video documented 19 injured animals, but the Salinas rodeo vet only reported 1 injured animal. I filed two complaints with the VMB regarding these significant discrepancies, to no avail. It is all just for show. In 2019, at the Folsom Rodeo, a horse was grievously injured in the arena. Stock contractor, Cotton Rosser would not allow for the vet to do a proper assessment of the injured horse. Instead the horse was given some pain medicine and quickly hauled away never to be seen again, or reported on (another reporting violation). I testified at a VMB Board Meeting about the disappearance of this injured horse, again to no avail. The California laws that are supposed to protect the animals of rodeos are a sham. Find out more at: RodeoCruelty.com and ShameOnSalinas.com Please don't let rodeo besmirch the reputation of Los Angeles!

Communication from Public

Name: Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 03:06 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles supports a ban in the City of Los Angeles of all implements used in rodeo and rodeo-relates events (including but not limited to professional bull riding) that cause immense suffering, trauma and death. Please vote YES on agenda item #20, council file #20-1575. Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your compassionate response.

Communication from Public

Name: Silvio Curtis

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 05:27 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeos, staging artificial, unnecessary, and violent confrontations between nonhumans and humans, deserve no place in entertainment culture. I support banning rodeos and the cruel equipment that they use in the City of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Melodie J Conrad

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 07:49 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: rodeos and inhumane treatment of animals are synonymous. Please pass the resolution to ban inhumane implements used by all rodeos. The time has come to ban animal abuse labeled as entertainment. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Pranav Merchant

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 07:53 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Despite public image, rodeos are cruel and backward-looking events based in violence against defenseless farm animals. Rodeos are fun for the cowboys and cowgirls, and for the spectators, but for the animals they are hell. Imagine being prodded, electrocuted, roped, and slammed into the dirt, and you do not even know why. Rodeos project an image of romanticizing ranch life, but in reality they are based in cruelty towards the most gentle creatures. LA has a history of being a forward-thinking city that cares for all beings, including our furry friends. That is why I urge the council to ban rodeos in the city of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Sandra Couch

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 08:17 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly encourages Los Angeles supporters to speak up in support of the Municipal rodeo ban! If enacted, L.A. would join a growing number of other U.S. cities that have taken a stand against animal abuse and have banned rodeos. Animals should not be used for human entertainment when they are abused, tormented, and fatally wounded many times. These actions need to stop and act like we are civilians rather than heathens without any civility. PLEASE BAN RODEOS

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:19 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeo is a horrible torture system for animals! They don't buck like that naturally in a rodeo.. Awful torture devices are used to make them do this. You need to stop allowing rodeos!!! I'm for a country-wide ban but that is harder to achieve... Stop the torture in the L.A. area at least!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Richard Kite

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:08 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to express my support with implementing a Municipal rodeo ban in the City of Los Angeles. Rodeos are disturbing spectacles of animal cruelty that inflict tremendous suffering on animals forced to perform in this "sport". Animals used in rodeo performances undergo extreme abuse to make them perform. This includes shocking their bodies with electric prods, jabbing their bodies with sticks, and forcing animals to wear "flank straps", which are straps secured so tightly around their abdomens it causes pain and forces them to buck. The City of Los Angeles has always taken a forward approach to protecting animals. I urge you to take a stance against animal cruelty by voting in favour of enacting a rodeo ban in the City of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Carol M. Kommerstad-Reiche

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:13 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeos and rodeo-type activities, such as bull riding, are exhibitions of animal cruelty that are sanctioned in the guise of competition. Due to events like bull riding, wrestling, calf roping, and steer tailing, calves, steers, bulls, horses, and other animals suffer horrific psychological and physical traumas including broken limbs, cardiac arrest, punctured lungs, torn ligaments, ruptured organs, broken necks, crushed tracheas, and more. Rodeos and rodeo-type activities also employ the use of tools of torment in order to encourage bucking, aggressiveness, and overall “wild” behavior of animals that are generally docile. Spurs, flank straps, 5,000-volt electric prods, and even anabolic steroids are routinely used to enrage the animals. The people involved in rodeos and rodeo-type activities suffer serious injuries as well. A study out of the University of Calgary found rodeo contestants are 20 times more likely to suffer catastrophic injuries than football players. A growing number of jurisdictions already have rodeo prohibitions or restrictions in place. These include Fort Wayne, IN; Pittsburgh, PA; Southhampton, NY; Pasadena, CA; and Chino Hills, CA. Outside of the United States, Auckland, New Zealand, part of Brazil, Quebec, Canada, and the entire United Kingdom have instituted rodeo bans. The city of Los Angeles has become a national leader in protecting the rights and welfare of animals as can be seen with their recent fur ban. Rodeos and rodeo-type activities are clearly dangerous for animals and humans alike. The well-known animal welfare organization Last Chance for Animals, as well as advocates of animal rights such as myself all over the country, strongly urge the LA City Council to prohibit the staging of rodeos and rodeo-type activities in the city of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Johnson

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 09:55 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please ban rodeos. Rodeos are NOT entertainment. They are animal abuse. From electric prods to flank straps, to roping baby calves...everything about rodeos is detrimental to an animal's well being. It is way past time for rodeos to be eliminated. Thank you from the animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Bradley Miller

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 11:38 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: February 22, 2021 Los Angeles City Council City of Los Angeles Council File No. 20-1575 RE: Comments by Humane Farming Association National Director Bradley Miller in SUPPORT of a Proposed Ordinance to Prohibit Spurs, Electric Prods, and Flank Straps at All Rodeo Related Events in the City of Los Angeles On behalf of the Humane Farming Association's 270,000 members, 11,000 of whom reside in Los Angeles County, I am writing to urge the Los Angeles City Council to prohibit the use of spurs, electric prods or shocking devices, and flank or bucking straps at all rodeo related events in the City of Los Angeles. Each year, countless horses, cattle, and calves suffer injuries associated with rodeo, and some animals pay with their lives. These injuries include excessive damage to the neck tissues in roping calves and serious injuries to the legs and backs of bucking animals. Five thousand-volt electric prods, also known as hot shots and condoned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, are repeatedly applied to animals that are trapped in chutes to motivate them to bolt out into the arena. Manufacturers of electric prods indicate that they are not for use on horses. Possibly due to the electrolyte "bath" in their large rumens, cattle are actually more susceptible to electric shocks than most other animals. Electric prods are nothing short of instruments of torture that instill pain and fear and cause animals to charge out of chutes. Spurs and bucking straps are further used to torment these domesticated animals. By driving spurs into horses' shoulders or bulls' rib cages, bronc and bull riders inflict pain and fear into cattle and horses. Bucking or flank straps, fastened around animals' posterior abdomens, cause animals to react violently in an attempt to rid themselves of these irritating devices. Bucking straps can sometimes produce open wounds and chaffing burns, which increase discomfort to animals. Spurs and bucking straps cause horses to buck beyond their normal bucking patterns. This can result in serious leg and back problems. According to Dr. Peggy Larson, a veterinarian and former bareback bronc rider in the rodeo, the irritation of spurs coupled with the bucking strap often cause the horse to "run blind" and fail to see fencing, posts, or chutes. As for cattle, says Dr. Larson, spurs and bucking straps can cause the bull to buck beyond his capability and his legs or back can be broken. The use of these devices to torment animals

does not constitute wholesome family entertainment, but rather represents a crude display of human dominance over animals as well as blatant animal cruelty that bears no resemblance to ranching roots. Ranchers do not ride bulls, speed rope calves, or make their horses buck. We urge the Los Angeles City Council to prohibit spurs, electric prods or shocking devices, and flank or bucking straps at all rodeo related events in the City of Los Angeles. We support the motion that the City Attorney write this ordinance, modeled after 1992 Pittsburgh legislation banning these implements. Sincerely, Bradley Miller National Director Humane Farming Association 36 Woodland Avenue San Rafael, CA 94901 (415) 485-1495 hfa@hfa.org

Communication from Public

Name: Bonnie Croker

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 11:42 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please stop the animal cruelty that is inescapably a tragic part of exploitive industries like Rodeo and Horse Racing. Thank You Los Angeles City Council! Bonnie Croker



**“Exploitive industries need to end,
and this applies to horse racing,
which treats animals like commodities
and exploits them for profit.
Like all animals, horses have feelings
and deserve to be treated with kindness,
and this also elevates our humanity.”**

— GENE BAUR, PRESIDENT OF FARM SANCTUARY



Communication from Public

Name: Christina Scaringe, for Animal Defenders International

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 12:05 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Animal Defenders International supports the LA Council File 20-1575 motion, requesting the City Attorney prepare and present an ordinance to prohibit electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tiedowns, and sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels at all rodeo or rodeo-related events in the City of Los Angeles. Our many thanks to its presenter, Council Member Blumenfield, seconded by Council Member O'Farrell. Rodeos are a terrifying experience for animals, who suffer chronic stress, pain, fear, and injuries, including broken bones, cardiac arrest, crushed tracheas, punctured lungs, torn ligaments, contusions, abrasions, internal bleeding, even death. Frequent transport and multiple showings exacerbate animal stress. Show riders must remain on a bucking bull for eight seconds without touching the bull or falling off. Rodeos rely on tools and techniques to instigate animal aggression or defensive fear reactions, such as bucking. Flank straps are tied around an animal's sensitive lower abdomen area and pulled tight before it enters the ring, to cause a bull to buck. Bulls and horses may be tormented in the chute, prior to their release into the ring. Animals may be forced to endure spurs, tail-twisting, electric prods, or anabolic steroids, all for a reaction to entertain the crowd. Rodeos also present potential public health risks. From the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians: • No US federal laws address pathogen transmission risk at venues where the public has contact with animals • Certain domestic, exotic, or wild animals should be prohibited from exhibition settings where a reasonable possibility of animal contact exists¹ The 2020 IPBES Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics described the "most important reservoirs of pathogens with pandemic potential are mammals".² Rodeo acts are exempt from many animal protection laws, including the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. §2132 (g, h)). California requires certain limited reporting, but transparency, under-reporting, and enforcement remain significant problems. These acts and their pain-inducing techniques are inherently inhumane and wholly unnecessary, a terrible sacrifice for human amusement. We ask you to support the Council File 20-1575 Motion, so that Los Angeles may continue its leadership toward a more humane community. Thanks for your consideration. 1) Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, National Association of Public Health Veterinarians (2013). 2) Executive Summary, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ipbes) Workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics (2020), available at <https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-10/IPBES%20Pandemics%20Workshop%20Report%20Executive%20Summary%20Final.pdf>.



Animal Defenders International

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www.adiusa.org usa@ad-international.org

In support of Los Angeles Council File Item 20-1575

Motion to request the City Attorney prepare an ordinance related to rodeo acts and implements

Animal Defenders International supports the LA Council [File 20-1575](#) motion, requesting the City Attorney prepare and present an ordinance to prohibit electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tiedowns, and sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels at all rodeo or rodeo-related events in the City of Los Angeles. Our many thanks to its presenter, Council Member Blumenfield, seconded by Council Member O'Farrell.

Rodeos are a terrifying experience for animals, who suffer chronic stress, pain, fear, and injuries, including broken bones, cardiac arrest, crushed tracheas, punctured lungs, torn ligaments, contusions, abrasions, internal bleeding, even death. Frequent transport and multiple showings exacerbate animal stress.

Show riders must remain on a bucking bull for eight seconds without touching the bull or falling off. Rodeos rely on tools and techniques to instigate animal aggression or defensive fear reactions, such as bucking. Flank straps are tied around an animal's sensitive lower abdomen area and pulled tight before it enters the ring, to cause a bull to buck. Bulls and horses may be tormented in the chute, prior to their release into the ring. Animals may be forced to endure spurs, tail-twisting, electric prods, or anabolic steroids, all for a reaction to entertain the crowd.

Rodeos also present potential public health risks. From the *National Association of Public Health Veterinarians*:

- No US federal laws address pathogen transmission risk at venues where the public has contact with animals...
- Certain domestic, exotic, or wild animals should be prohibited from exhibition settings where a reasonable possibility of animal contact exists¹

The 2020 [IPBES Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics](#) described the "most important reservoirs of pathogens with pandemic potential are mammals".²


Rodeo acts are exempt from many animal protection laws, including the federal Animal Welfare Act ([7 U.S.C. §2132 \(g, h\)](#)). California requires certain limited reporting, but transparency, under-reporting, and enforcement remain significant problems.

These acts and their pain-inducing techniques are inherently inhumane and wholly unnecessary, a terrible sacrifice for human amusement.

We ask you to support the Council [File 20-1575](#) Motion, so that Los Angeles may continue its leadership toward a more humane community.

Thanks for your consideration.

All my best regards,


Christina Scaringe, General Counsel
Animal Defenders International
www.ad-international.org

¹ *Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings*, National Association of Public Health Veterinarians (2013).

² *Executive Summary*, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ipbes) Workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics (2020), available at <https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-10/IPBES%20Pandemics%20Workshop%20Report%20Executive%20Summary%20Final.pdf>.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Freeman
Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:50 PM
Council File No: 20-1575
Comments for Public Posting: Please do the right thing and ban rodeos. Rodeos are very cruel to the animals involved and should not be allowed to continue. Rodeos should be banned worldwide as well.

Communication from Public

Name: Chris Leverich

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:50 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass the ban on Rodeos. They are cruel to animals - simply for the purpose of entertainment - and can no longer be tolerated. We as a society are better than that. Thank you, Chris Leverich

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine Lee

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:31 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Franklin Park and am against rodeos and any other activities that push animals to their limits and creat fear and pain. These shows are nothing more than animal abuse for profit. These animals are often mistreated and live in subpar conditions most of their lives leading up to these shows and truly terrified most of the time they perform. Please DO NOT allow these shows in California and send a clear message that these behaviors towards animals are not welcome. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Misti

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 01:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: We all know as we can easily witness time after time that there is always animal abuse in rodeos. Animals have suffered for centuries at the hands of humans and the time has come that it stops. They shouldn't suffer for human entertainment. That is all it is. Enough is just enough. We must do better and BE better.

Communication from Public

Name: Arielle Schechter

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:14 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: My family and I strongly support a permanent ban on rodeos in LA! They are cruel. They are not entertainment. They are traumatic to the animals and children watching, and to many of us adults.

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Braun

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:15 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I support 20-1575 to draft an ordinance that would ban the use of dangerous tools and weapons during rodeos and rodeo-related events. Horses, calves, sheep, and bulls are antagonized, drugged, and tortured in cruel and demeaning rodeo performances which often end in injury or worse. I'm proud to live in a city that constantly takes the lead in protecting animals. With this ordinance, Los Angeles will have the opportunity to become the largest US city to ban flank straps, electric prods, and spurs and make a statement that animals are here with us, not for us.

Communication from Public

Name: C Lewis

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:20 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: To the Council: In the 21st Century, it is completely inexcusable that the barbaric practice of rodeos continues to exist in Los Angeles. Harming animals as a form of entertainment is not consistent with the high ideals of the people of Los Angeles and the State of California. Just as our society is now trying to treat people in a more equitable manner, so our society should also try to treat animals in a more equitable manner. Banning rodeos in Los Angeles is a step in the right direction.

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Fahnestock

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:22 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I investigated my first rodeo in 2007 for SHowing Animals Respect and Kindness, or SHARK. Over the past fourteen years, I have attended dozens of rodeos in many states, including but not limited to California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Texas, Wyoming, and Kansas. I have also attended rodeos in Canada. I have witnessed and video documented many dozens of injuries to horses, calves, steers and bulls. Additionally, I have witnessed needless abuse behind the scenes, as rodeo stock contractors are determined to wring a "performance" out of their animals. Rodeo associations often tout their humane rules, but in my direct experience, those rules exist primarily for public relations purposes, and to give cover to corporate sponsors when outraged customers demand companies withdraw their support of animal abuse. Horses are riled up and terrorized in the inappropriately named wild horse race. Several individuals surround an animal who only wants to escape. They put a saddle on him/her and ride him/her around a track. As this is occurring, there is usually loud music and gunshots sounding off to add to the confusion and terror. I have witnessed too many horses injured and killed during this event. I have witnessed more calves jerked down than I can possibly remember, even though a jerk down is a violation of the supposed humane rules of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, or the PRCA, which is the largest rodeo association. A jerk down is the equivalent of being clotheslined. The violence of this illegal roping has injured and or killed many, many of these babies. Clotheslining a huge, heavily muscled NFL football player is illegal because it is so dangerous. Unfortunately, PRCA judges allow illegal jerk downs, because the calves cannot file a complaint. When an animal is injured or outright killed, the injury is hastily and literally covered up, as dozens of rodeo people come out to provide a visual barrier, while the announcer often makes light of the situation and promises updates on the animal's condition. The updates almost never arrive. Wild cow milking contests torture lactating females with no real purpose. As well as, calf dressing and other disturbing animal events. I could go on and on about what I have witnessed. However, none of these preventable injuries, deaths, and abuse should be occurring in a progressive city like Los Angeles, and the proposed rodeo ban needs to be passed.

Communication from Public

Name: Debbie Wall

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:24 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of a Municipal ban on rodeos and rodeo-type events such as professional bull-riding. These activities are not representative of what happens on ranches and have been fabricated for entertainment purposes only. Animals forced to participate have sustained injuries, sometimes those that are fatal. It is now 2021 and the exploitation of animals for "fun and profit" needs to end. Thank-you.

Communication from Public

Name: Christine Saranchuk

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: "The Greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" Gandi. Please ban all rodeos as they are a form of inhumane entertainment.

Communication from Public

Name: louis gauci

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Ban rodeos and rodeo-type activities in the city of Los Angeles
Dear Council Members, Rodeos and rodeo-type activities, such as bull riding, are exhibitions of animal cruelty that are sanctioned in the guise of competition. Due to events like bull riding, wrestling, calf roping, and steer tailing, calves, steers, bulls, horses, and other animals suffer horrific psychological and physical traumas including broken limbs, cardiac arrest, punctured lungs, torn ligaments, ruptured organs, broken necks, crushed tracheas, and more. Rodeos and rodeo-type activities also employ the use of tools of torment in order to encourage bucking, aggressiveness, and overall “wild” behavior of animals that are generally docile. Spurs, flank straps, 5,000-volt electric prods, and even anabolic steroids are routinely used to enrage the animals. The people involved in rodeos and rodeo-type activities suffer serious injuries as well. A study out of the University of Calgary found rodeo contestants are 20 times more likely to suffer catastrophic injuries than football players. A growing number of jurisdictions already have rodeo prohibitions or restrictions in place. These include Fort Wayne, IN; Pittsburgh, PA; Southhampton, NY; Pasadena, CA; and Chino Hills, CA. Outside of the United States, Auckland, New Zealand, part of Brazil, Quebec, Canada, and the entire United Kingdom have instituted rodeo bans. The city of Los Angeles has become a national leader in protecting the rights and welfare of animals as can be seen with the recent fur ban. Rodeos and rodeo-type activities are clearly dangerous for animals and humans alike. Thank you for your attention, Louis

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew U

Date Submitted: 02/22/2021 02:36 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please ban the rodeo in Los Angeles . . . the pain and suffering of animals at these events is simply unnecessary and unethical. It's that simple. Thank you for your time . . . AU