



Fwd: RODEO QUOTES - The Cowboys (and others) speak

1 message

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To: Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org, Councilmember.Nazarian@lacity.org, Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org, Councilmember.raman@lacity.org, Councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org, Councilmember.Padilla@lacity.org, Councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org, Councilmember.Harris-Dawson@lacity.org, Councilmember.Price@lacity.org, Councilmember.Hutt@lacity.org, Councilmember.Park@lacity.org, Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, Councilmember.Soto-Martinez@lacity.org, Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org, Councilmember.McOsler@lacity.org, Armando.Bencomo@lacity.org

June 6, 2026

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Please see below, a collection of rodeo-related quotes I've collected over the years, many of them underscoring the need for a rodeo ban in your fair city.

Please set a hearing date for this humane issue ASAP.

Kind regards,

Eric Mills, coordinator
ACTION FOR ANIMALS
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RODEO: THE COWBOYS (AND OTHERS) SPEAK...

"That animals should be treated humanely and with dignity is a philosophy with which virtually everyone agrees, especially the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association." (--PRCA booklet, "Humane Facts" (1989)

"Kindness and compassion towards all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Conversely, cruelty, whether it is directed against human beings or against animals, is not the exclusive province of any one culture or community of people. Racism, economic deprival, dog fighting and cock fighting, bullfighting and RODEOS [emphasis added] are cut from the same fabric: violence. Only when we have become nonviolent towards all life will we have learned to live well ourselves." (--Cesar Chavez, in a 12/26/90 letter to ACTION FOR ANIMALS, Oakland)

"It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings. We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty toward any creature is contrary to human dignity." (--Pope Francis, 2015 "Encyclical on Climate Change & Inequality")

"Cowboys, sensing--like gorillas--that their time has passed, cling ever more desperately to anachronistic styles, not willing to admit that the myth has degenerated, the traditions eroded to a point where attempting to sustain them falls somewhere between silliness and the outright ridiculous." (--Larry McMurtry, rancher and author of "Lonesome Dove," in the book, "RODEO," Aperture Books, NYC, 1994)

"No one on a working ranch would ever have any reason (or desire) to ride a bull, Brahma or otherwise. No one would ever be required to race a

horse around three triangularly placed barrels, an activity that quickly ruins the horse for more productive activity. Bull riding and barrel racing are rodeo kabuki--their relation to anything that might happen on a ranch is confined to costume." (--Ibid., #15)

"Women should not rodeo any more than men can have babies. Women were put on earth to reproduce, and are close to animals. Women's liberation is on an equal to gay liberation--they are both ridiculous." (--a Wyoming steer wrestler, in the book, "RODEO: An Anthropologist Looks at the Wild and the Tame," by Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, Univ. Tenn. Press, 1982)

"The eighteen-year-old rodeo queen and her princess told me that rodeo people, including themselves, 'hated Democrats, environmentalists, and gays.' I was astonished that their political and social outlook could be reduced to such simple platitudes of hate. And why?" (--from "Rodeo Queens and the American Dream," by Joan Burbick, Public Affairs, NYC, 2002)

"If ever there were a completely gratuitous abuse of animals, and often baby animals at that, all done for the sheer thrill and bravado of it, it is rodeo." (--Matthew Scully, "DOMINION: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy" (2002). Scully is a former speechwriter for Pres. G.W. Bush.)

"Do I think it hurts the calf? Sure I do. I'm not stupid." (--Keith Martin, CEO, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. In the February 6, 2000 SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS)

"I keep 30 head of cattle around for practice, at \$200 a head. You can cripple three or four in an afternoon." (--Dr. T.K. Hardy, a Texas veterinarian and sometime steer roper, quoted in NEWSWEEK, 10/2/72)

"Do animals feel fear? Nyaah, they don't feel fear. They're an ANIMAL!" (--Russ Fields, rancher and chair, Rowell Ranch Rodeo Committee, in a 5/19/18 KGO-TV Channel 7 news segment, San Francisco)

"If it gets to the point where people think rodeo is inhumane or cruel, they quit coming, and then we're out of business." (--Tom Hirsig, CEO, Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, in the July 27, 2018 WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE)

"As a lawyer, the 'wild cow milking contest' reminds me of rape cases I have tried in state court. Appalling!" (--Dr. Peggy Larson, Esq., veterinarian and former bronc rider, in a 2015 letter to the board of the Hayward Area Recreation & Park District (HARD), California.

"The single worst thing you can do to an animal emotionally is to make it feel afraid. Fear is so bad for animals I think it's worse than pain." (--Dr. Temple Grandin, world-renowned animal behaviorist, Colorado State University)

"Be aware that rodeo animals are "prey" animals. As such, they fear for their very lives when roped, ridden, wrestled, chased, jumped on, dragged or otherwise handled roughly." (--Eric Mills, coordinator, ACTION FOR ANIMALS, Oakland)

"Rodeo cannot be considered a true 'sport.' That term denotes willing, evenly-matched participants. Rodeo does not qualify. Rather, it's a macho exercise in DOMINATION. For most of the animals, the rodeo arena is merely a detour en route to the slaughterhouse." (--Ibid.)

"If it gets to the point where people think rodeo is inhumane or cruel, they quit coming, and then we're out of business." (--Tom Hirsig, CEO, Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, in the July 27, 2018 WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE, "CFD, animal activists see two different rodeos")

"Yeah, I accidentally killed and injured lots of calves when I was learning. I mean, I plain roped their heads off." (--a PRCA calf roper, in "The mud,

the blood & the poop," by PRCA reporter Gavin Ehringer, Colorado Springs Independent, August 19, 2004)

FROM DR. PEGGY LARSON, VETERINARIAN, LAWYER & FORMER BRONC RIDER:

"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. Calves roped repeatedly in the practice pens suffer constant pain and injuries to their necks. Meat inspectors including Drs. Haber and Fetzner who processed 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."

"Dr. C. G. Haber, a veterinarian with thirty years of experience as a USDA meat inspector, stated "The rodeo folks send their animals to the packing houses where I have seen cattle so extensively bruised that the only areas in which the skin was attached was the head, neck, legs, and belly. I have seen animals with six to eight ribs broken from the spine and at times puncturing the lungs. I have seen as much as two and three gallons of free blood accumulated under the detached skin."

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NOTE: The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales) outlawed all of rodeo back in 1934, soon followed by the Netherlands. Can the U.S. and the rest of the world be far behind? (Eric Mills, ACTION FOR ANIMALS)