



L.A. TIMES REPORTER SUSANNE RUST - RODEO ANIMAL INJURIES/DEATHS (2022, from the web)...

1 message

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Thu, Jun 18, 2026 at 1:01 PM

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.McOsker@lacity.org, Armando.Bencomo@lacity.org

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Fwd: L.A. TIMES REPORTER SUSANNE RUST - RODEO ANIMAL INJURIES/DEATHS (2022, from the web)...

Date: 2026-06-18 12:57 pm

From: afa@mcn.org

To: afa@mcn.org

----- Original Message -----

Subject: L.A. TIMES REPORTER SUSANNE RUST - RODEO ANIMAL INJURIES/DEATHS (2022, from the web)...

Date: 2026-05-30 2:19 pm

From: afa@mcn.org

To: afa@mcn.org

Susanne Rust's L.A. Times Reporting on Rodeo Animal Injuries

Susanne Rust, an investigative reporter for the Los Angeles Times specializing in environmental and animal welfare issues, has covered the hidden toll of rodeo injuries on animals. In December 2022, she reported on a Times review of 21 years of rodeo animal injury reports, revealing a pattern of severe and sometimes fatal harm Yahoo.

Key Findings from the Review

Scope and Timing: Since 2001, when California law required all rodeos to have a veterinarian in attendance or on call, more than 125 animal injury reports have been submitted to the California Veterinary Medical Board. No reports were issued in 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, or 2020; only 20 reports were made before 2010 Yahoo. (Clearly, there is MAJOR under-reporting of the injuries--Eric Mills, ACTION FOR ANIMALS.)

Types of Injuries: Cases ranged from minor abrasions to catastrophic injuries such as crushed skulls, broken legs, gored flanks, and snapped spines.

Fatalities: In 35 reports, animals died immediately or within minutes, or were euthanized or slaughtered within hours or days. In 14 cases, the fate of severely injured animals was unclear due to owner refusal to allow veterinary treatment Yahoo.

Notable Incidents:

A 2016 calf roping injury at the Red Bluff Round-Up where the owner refused treatment.

A 2018 bucking bronc event at the Folsom Rodeo where a horse's hind legs were tied together before veterinary assessment Yahoo.

Context and Impact

Rust's reporting highlighted how these injuries, while not always publicized, are part of the rodeo experience. Her work contributed to broader public discourse, influencing policy debates. In 2023, Los Angeles became one of the latest cities to ban rodeos, citing animal cruelty concerns. Councilmember Bob Blumenfield described the broken bones and pain endured by animals, framing the ban as about animal welfare rather than cultural suppression The Rural Blog.

Susanne Rust's Background

Rust is a veteran investigative journalist with a focus on environmental and animal welfare issues. She has won multiple journalism awards, including a George Polk Award and a John S. Oakes Award for environmental reporting, and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2009 Los Angeles Times+1.

Her rodeo injury coverage exemplifies her approach: using investigative reporting to expose systemic issues, even in traditional cultural events, and to inform public pol