

Date: 5/26/26
Submitted in APLCE Committee
Council File No: 20-1575
Item No.: N/A
Deputy: A. BENCOMO

Pass the Los Angeles Rodeo Ban

The Los Angeles Rodeo Ban (Council File 20-1575) is designed to prohibit certain high-risk, cruel exhibitions that inflict obvious harm on animals, such as **Bronc Riding, Bull Riding, Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling, and Team Roping**. The proposed law prohibits any activity that involves physically wrestling an animal to the ground, roping an animal, or attempting to ride and remain mounted on a bucking animal. Notably, this proposed ordinance does not prohibit equestrian, cultural, or other rodeo events that do not include any of the activities prohibited.

There is much documented harm and abuse of animals inherent within these activities.

- Regarding **Bull and Bronc Riding**: ‘Horses and cattle are prey animals and their reaction to being ridden in this way is the same as their reaction to being attacked by a predator, a situation where they experience increased fear, stress and panic.’ (1)
- Regarding **Bull Riding**: ‘Based on observed behaviour, the evidence indicates that bull riding is a stressful, frightening experience for the bull: there is no evidence that the bulls ‘enjoy’ the experience.’ (2)
- Regarding **Calf Roping**: ‘Calves in the study showed signs of distress and fear across all stages of roping. These findings suggest that calves experience fear and distress in calf roping events, which can inform discussions of the welfare of calves used in rodeos.’ (3)
- Regarding **Steer Wrestling**: ‘Like all rodeo events, steer wrestling induces fear in cattle, who are prey animals. The sudden neck twisting risks injuries such as trauma to the neck and winding due to compression of the trachea.’ (4)
- Regarding **Team Roping**: ‘The experience of complete lack of control by being forced to the ground and prevented from using their hind legs to stand could only induce terror in these animals.’ (4)

As such, we, the undersigned organizations, urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass the Los Angeles Rodeo Ban (Council File 20-1575) to protect animals from large-scale

professional rodeos and the cruelty they inflict.

- **Last Chance for Animals**
- **Los Angeles Animal Defense League**
- **Animal Legal Defense Fund**
- **Animal Defenders International**
- **Strategic Action For Animals**
- **World Animal Protection**
- **Christian Animal Rights Association**
- **Direct Action Everywhere (DXE)**
- **Humane Action Pennsylvania**
- **Voters for Animal Rights**
- **Animal Activism Collective**
- **Boston Animal Advocates**
- **NYCLASS**
- **Castleton Ranch Horse Rescue**
- **NH Animal Rights League**
- **In Defense of Animals**
- **Humane Long Island**
- **Revolution Philadelphia**
- **Western Massachusetts Animal Rights Advocates (WMARA)**
- **Columbus Animal Advocates**
- **Animal Interfaith Alliance**
- **Animal Alliance Network**
- **Pro-Animal Future**
- **Out to Pasture Animal Sanctuary**
- **Humane Voters of Washington**
- **Positive Change for Animals**
- **Animal Interfaith Alliance**
- **Ballydidean Farm Sanctuary**
- **Bleating Hearts Sanctuary**
- **Horseracing Wrongs**
- **Luvins Arms Animal Sanctuary**
- **Social Compassion in Legislation**
- **Chicago Alliance For Animals (CAA)**
- **Singer Sanctuary**
- **Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK)**
- **Associated Humane Societies**
- **New York State Humane Association**

- **Pittsburgh Animal Defenders**
- **Good Shepherd Jax**
- **Nevada Paws: The Link**
- **ACTION FOR ANIMALS**
- **Our Honor**

Sources:

1. <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-are-the-animal-welfare-issues-with-rodeos/>
2. <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-are-the-animal-welfare-issues-associated-with-bull-riding/>
3. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9913207/>
4. <https://www.sentient.org.au/rodeos>

Castillo Animal Veterinary Corporation

Dr. Daniela Castillo, DVM · Los Angeles, California

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the
Arts, Parks, Libraries & Community Enrichment Committee
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall, Room 401
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Council File 20-1575 — Rodeo Ordinance

Respetuosamente presentado en persona, en apoyo de la ordenanza.

Señora Presidenta, miembros del Comité. Me llamo Dra. Daniela Castillo. Soy médica veterinaria en Los Ángeles, nací y crecí en Oaxaca, soy constituyente del Distrito 7, en apoyo del Council File 20-1575.

De joven en México entrené para escaramuza — la disciplina femenina de la charrería. Mi familia no pudo costear un caballo, pero amo esta tradición.

Años después, en la escuela de medicina veterinaria, mi universidad organizaba una convivencia anual de estudiantes en un rodeo. Asistí una sola vez. No me quedé hasta el final. La diferencia entre un rodeo americano y una charreada, en cuanto al bienestar de los animales, fue evidente desde el primer momento.

El Artículo 13 del Código de la Federación Mexicana de Charrería llama al caballo el compañero y amigo del charro. Un charro no le haría a su caballo lo que el rodeo americano le hace a sus animales cada fin de semana.

Como veterinaria, lo que veo es la consecuencia: columnas quebradas, lesiones internas, animales orillados más allá de su fisiología.

El país del que vengo ya respondió esta pregunta. México incorporó la protección animal a su Constitución en diciembre de 2024. La Ciudad de México votó 61 a 1 para reformar la tauromaquia en marzo de 2025. California prohibió el derribe de caballos en 1994, y la U.S. Charro Federation se reformó en un año. La charrería no murió. La UNESCO la reconoció en 2016, después de las reformas.

No estoy aquí para oponerme a la tradición. Estoy aquí por los animales — los mismos animales por los que hablaríamos si una tradición lastimara a un perro o a un gato en casa. Esta ordenanza expira el 18 de julio. Le pido respetuosamente a la Concejal Jurado, como presidenta de este comité, que la agende para audiencia.

Gracias.

Respetuosamente,

Dr. Daniela Castillo, DVM

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English translation of testimony delivered in Spanish.

Castillo Animal Veterinary Corporation

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Council File No: 20-1575

Item No.: N/A

Deputy: A. BENCOMO

Madam Chair, members of the committee. My name is Dr. Daniela Castillo. I am a veterinarian in Los Angeles, born and raised in Oaxaca, a constituent of Council District 7, in support of Council File 20-1575.

As a young woman in Mexico, I trained for escaramuza — the women's discipline of charrería. My family couldn't afford a horse, but I love this tradition.

Years later, in veterinary school, my university held an annual student mixer at a rodeo. I went once. I didn't stay to the end. The difference between an American rodeo and a charreada, in terms of animal welfare, was immediately apparent.

Article 13 of the Code of the Federación Mexicana de Charrería calls the horse the charro's *compañero y amigo* — companion and friend. A charro would not do to his horse what American rodeo does to its animals every weekend.

As a veterinarian, what I see is the consequence: broken backs, internal injuries, animals pushed past the limit of their physiology.

The country I am from has answered this question. Mexico put animal protection in its Constitution in December 2024. Mexico City voted 61 to 1 to reform bullfighting in March 2025. California outlawed horse-tripping in 1994, and the U.S. Charro Federation reformed itself within a year. Charrería did not die. UNESCO recognized it in 2016, after the reforms.

I am not here to oppose tradition. I am here for the animals — the same animals we would speak for if a tradition harmed a dog or a cat at home.

This ordinance expires July 18. I respectfully ask Councilmember Jurado, as chair of this committee, to schedule it for hearing.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dr. Daniela Castillo, DVM
Castillo Animal Veterinary Corporation
Los Angeles, California