



What can you do?

- ✓ Never attend or support rodeos or similar events.
- ✓ Join Animal Liberation Queensland: alq.org.au, 'like' us on Facebook, or contact us to learn more about this issue and our other campaigns to help animals.
- ✓ Talk to your family, friends and workmates about the issue of rodeos. Let them know that animals are injured in rodeos and that most animals only buck due to flank straps or electric prods.
- ✓ Write to your local council or showground committee asking them to ban any future rodeos.
- ✓ Contact rodeo sponsors and ask them to reconsider their sponsorship.

REFERENCES

1. RSPCA Victoria www.rspcavic.org/issues-take-action/animals-in-sport-and-entertainment
2. Animal Liberation Victoria www.alv.org.au/issues/10.php
3. Animals Australia www.animalsaustralia.org/issues/rodeos.php
4. Australian Professional Rodeo Association www.prorodeo.com.au/APRA-Event-Description-25/

CREDITS

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Brochure produced by Animal Liberation Queensland January 2014

Brochure design donated by flickrgraphicdesign.com.au



ANIMAL LIBERATION
QUEENSLAND

www.alq.org.au



WHAT'S WRONG WITH RODEOS?



FICTION:
IF RODEOS WERE CRUEL,
THEY WOULDN'T BE
ALLOWED IN QUEENSLAND.

FACT: Animal welfare concerns have led to rodeos being banned in the Australian Capital Territory, the United Kingdom, some of the United States and parts of Europe³. Our rodeos are no different. Rodeos serve no useful purpose, pose a high risk of cruelty and subject animals to stress¹. Entertainment that causes pain and suffering to animals should not be seen as acceptable and should not be allowed.

Whilst some in rural Queensland feel their annual rodeo is an important event that helps the local community come together, surely community spirit can be achieved in other ways which do not have the potential to compromise the welfare of animals.

Rodeos are condemned by all major animal protection organisations in Australia, so it is time for the Queensland Government to stop turning a blind eye to the wrongs of the rodeo industry. The time has come for rodeos to be banned.



FICTION:
RODEOS ARE A HARMLESS,
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
ENTERTAINMENT.

FACT: Rodeo events routinely cause stress, torment, pain and injury for the bulls, horses, calves and other animals involved. Injured animals may not receive immediate or suitable treatment at a Queensland rodeo because veterinarians are not even required to be in attendance. Rodeo animals are often kept without water, feed and shade before, during and after an event.

FICTION:
RODEOS ARE A GREAT
AUSTRALIAN TRADITION.

FACT: Rodeos have no genuine tradition in Australia. Since the pioneer days, Australian stockmen have been admired for their ability to work with animals, but rodeo 'cowboys' are of an entirely different nature. They follow the American tradition of deliberately provoking stock animals into displaying 'wild' and untamed behaviour. Devices such as electric prods, flank straps and spurs are used in an effort to ensure the distressed animals exhibit the behaviours deemed to be entertaining for the crowd.

HERE ARE SOME DETAILS ON THE MAJOR AUSTRALIAN RODEO EVENTS:

BUCKING EVENTS (HORSES AND CATTLE)

The animals are made to buck through the use of flank straps, rough handling and spurs. Flank straps are placed around the genital area and suddenly pulled tight when the animal is released from the chute. Prior to the strap being pulled tight and following its removal, the animal is relatively calm. This suggests that bucking events could not readily occur without this strap². Bucking horses often suffer back and leg injuries from repeated pounding on hard ground. Electric prods are often used as the bulls leave the chutes to make the normally docile bull appear dangerous and wild.

CALF ROPING (KNOWN AS ROPE AND TIE)

A calf is released from the chute and chased at high speed across the arena by a rider on horseback. It is then roped and jerked to a halt. The rider dismounts and then throws (or flanks) the calf on its side and ties three of its legs together with a "pigging string". The rider then remounts and rides forward to ensure the tie will hold⁴. Injuries caused by the force of the roping, jerking to a halt and being thrown to the ground include tearing or stretching of ligaments, disc ruptures, damage to subcutaneous tissue and haemorrhaging. Calves can also suffer broken legs and even broken necks. Research has shown that even though on some occasions they may get to their feet and leave the arena apparently unharmed, calves can still be suffering from internal haemorrhaging which is not visible without

an autopsy. Sometimes in the chutes the tails of calves are twisted and cruelly bent to ensure the frightened calf will run at full speed to get away from the pain.

STEER WRESTLING (OR BULLDOGGING)

A steer is released from a chute and chased by two riders. One rider (the hazer) keeps the steer going straight, while the second rider (the steer wrestler) leans from his horse and grasps the steer's horns. He then uses his body to stop the steer's momentum and applies leverage on the horns to throw it on its side⁴. To gain the leverage needed to throw the steer on its side, the steer's head is twisted which can cause considerable pain and spinal damage, along with muscle and tendon injury.

TEAM ROPING

After a steer is released from the chute, two horsemen (header and heeler) attempt to rope the steer within thirty seconds. The 'header' ropes around the head, neck or horns while the 'heeler' ropes both hind legs in order to bring the steer to a stop. This can result in an animal being pulled in two different directions at the same time.

