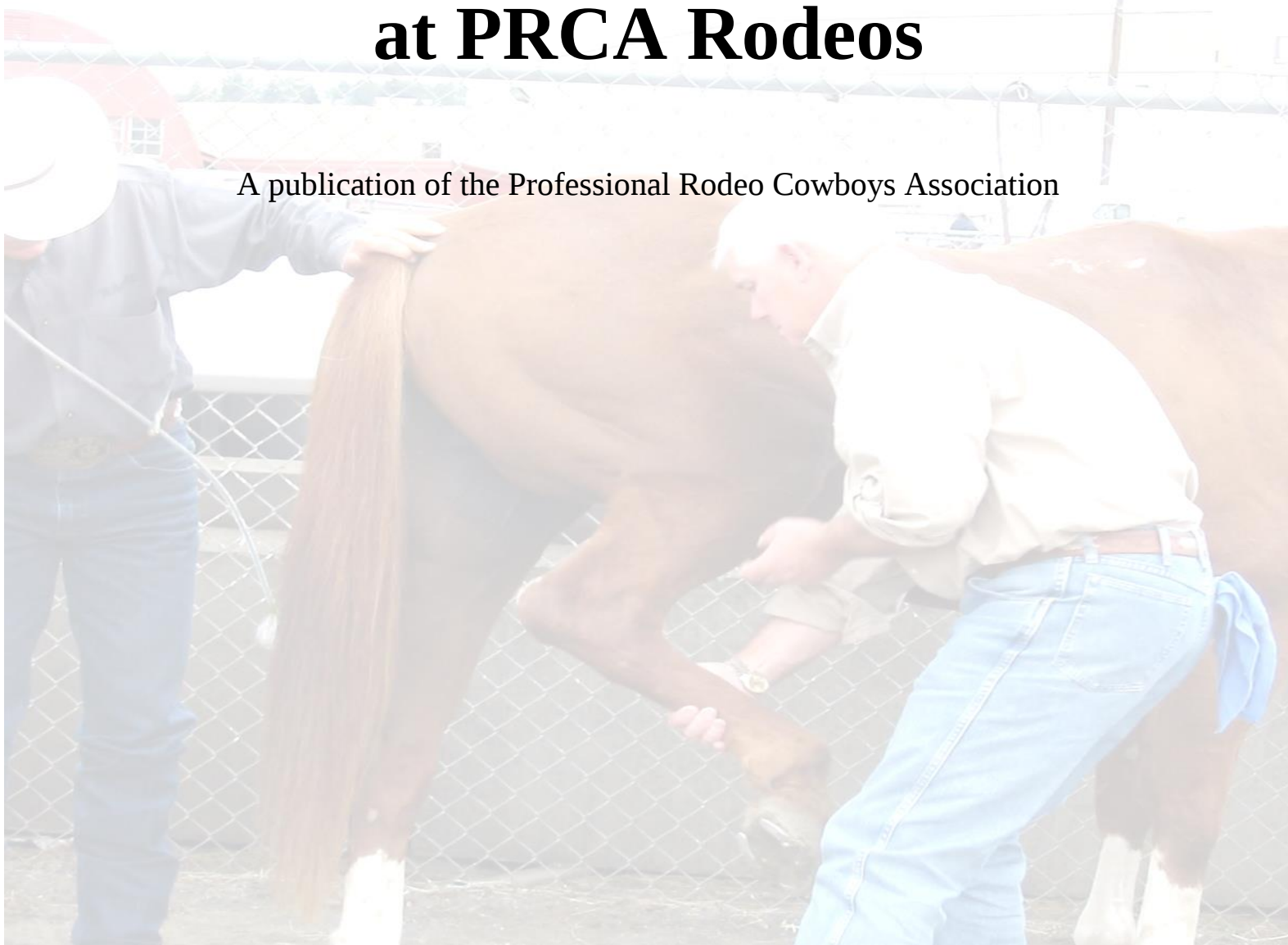




A Guide to Veterinary Service at PRCA Rodeos

A publication of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association



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Introduction

The fast-paced action of professional rodeo is unrivaled in American sports, and provides entertainment to thousands of rodeo fans each year. The unique appreciation of both the human and animal athlete is obvious in professional rodeo, and one that has prompted special attention to ensure that both are well cared for before, during and after an exciting performance. This booklet will provide attending veterinarians with guidelines to services needed during professional rodeos.



The Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA), headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado is the largest organization in the world representing the professional rodeo cowboys, as well as stock contractors, rodeo producers, rodeo committees, entertainers and others associated with the pageantry of rodeo. The PRCA officially approves more than 600 rodeos each year which offer a variety of events, including tie down roping, team roping, steer roping, steer wrestling, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding. The Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA), an independent organization, sanctions the women's barrel racing at most PRCA sanctioned rodeos.

PRCA Livestock Welfare Program

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) is deeply committed to the proper care and treatment of the livestock used in rodeo. The Livestock Welfare Program is extensive and covers many aspects including livestock care standards, education, research, outreach and government relations.

Goals of the PRCA Livestock Welfare Program:

- Insure the proper care and handling of livestock at PRCA sanctioned rodeos;
- Network with other rodeo and animal use groups to encourage similar programs;
- Educate PRCA membership regarding animal welfare/animal rights;
- Intervene in legislative issues that directly affect our members;
- Provide factual information to media/public/elected officials regarding rodeo livestock.

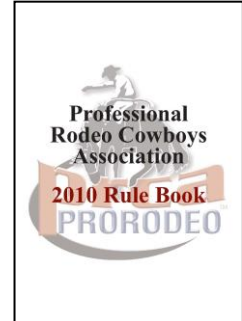
As an association, the PRCA:

- enforces rules and regulations governing livestock welfare;
- has a livestock welfare committee to assist in the association's efforts to ensure proper care of livestock;
- works with state and local animal health officials on important disease control issues;
- conducts regular livestock welfare surveys to identify successful practices and areas for improvement;
- monitors compliance with its animal welfare rules and regulations,
- recognizes the importance of veterinarians with the Zoetis PRCA Veterinarian of the Year Award;
- employs a Livestock Program Administrator to coordinate all efforts relating to care and handling of livestock at PRCA-sanctioned events, and
- proactively works with rodeo committees, stock contractors, contestants and veterinarians to ensure all livestock at PRCA rodeo are being handled properly.

PRCA Rules

The PRCA first began implementing rules to ensure proper care and treatment of rodeo livestock in 1947. Today, the PRCA enforces 70 rules that govern the care and treatment of the livestock participating in PRCA-sanctioned events – the strongest rules employed by any rodeo association. The PRCA encourages all rodeo associations to adopt similar rules. The rules are enforced by professional judges who attend each PRCA-sanctioned rodeo performance. Punishments range from fines to disqualification and suspension.

Specific rules protecting the animals govern use of the cattle prod, require a conveyance to transport injured animals, require the facilities to be free of hazards to the animals and require the animals to be inspected before each performance; any animals not in top condition will not perform. Additional rules cover how long an animal can remain in transit before a rest, how many times an animal can perform in a specified period of time, and require that a veterinarian be on site for all rodeo performances and sections of slack at all PRCA-sanctioned rodeos. PRCA rules are recognized as the most comprehensive in the rodeo industry and its rules are used as a model for most other rodeo associations.



PRCA rules require that a veterinarian be in attendance during an approved rodeo, as well as its “slack”, or competition held before or after a scheduled performance. In slack rodeo athletes who did not draw a position in the scheduled performance compete. During the rodeo, the veterinarian will work with a variety of people, including members of the rodeo committee hosting the rodeo; the stock contractor, who provides the livestock for some events; and the rodeo athlete, who usually owns his mount or contracts it to others in the rodeo.

Veterinary Organizations

The PRCA advocates the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Position Statement on Stewardship of the animal, which reads as follows: “The American Association of Equine Practitioners advocates respect for the dignity and the Welfare of all horses and recognizes their specialized needs.”

The American Association of Equine Practitioners champions and fosters;

- research towards understanding and reducing injuries and illnesses,
- education to inform and support owners, trainers, event organizers and veterinarians regarding preventative medicine, responsible training and the humane care and treatment of horses.
- modern and progressive horse care as ensured by periodic examination and disease prevention implemented by licensed veterinarians in partnership with horse owners, breeders and managers, euthanasia when justified by thorough and expedient diagnostic procedures to end suffering.

Regarding the animal in competition, the American Association of Equine Practitioners advocates:

- ethical and humane conditioning and handling in the training and care of the competitive horse; Including proper housing, transportation, and nutrition;
- standardization of rules, policies and procedures for all equine events to ensure maximum safety, health and welfare for all participants;
- quality drug testing to assure equity and fairness regarding the regulation and use of appropriate therapeutic medications as they affect the competitive horse.

The PRCA also supports the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) statement regarding use of Animals in Entertainment, Shows and for Exhibition.

The AVMA supports the humane and ethical use of animals in spectator events, shows, exhibitions, motion pictures, and television in accord with existing federal, state, and local animal protection laws. The AVMA encourages all organizations involved with animals in spectator events, shows, exhibitions, motion pictures, and television to develop, implement, and enforce appropriate guidelines or standards to ensure humane treatment of these animals, including provision of veterinary care.

Further, the AVMA recommends that any spectator events involving animals be conducted in a manner that minimizes injury and that veterinary care be provided or be readily available. Examples of such events include but are not limited to animal exhibitions, dog racing, dog sled racing, field trials, horse racing, polo, and rodeo. The AVMA condemns the fraudulent use of drugs, non-nutritive agents, or procedures intended to alter performance, conformation, appearance, or other functions of animals in competition. The Association urges its members to report such activities to the appropriate authorities.

PRCA Honoring Rodeo Veterinarians

In 2010, the PRCA took steps to formally begin recognizing the hundreds of veterinarians that contribute to rodeo in so many ways. The PRCA Veterinarian of the Year Award was created. In 2012 the PRCA welcomed Zoetis as the title sponsor of the award. PRCA members can nominate a veterinarian that they feel has contributed to the health and welfare of rodeo livestock and the sport as a whole. The inaugural winner was Dr. William Anderson, the veterinarian for the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. He was honored at the PRCA Convention as well as during the Wrangler



National Finals Rodeo. The 2011 winner was Dr. Garth Lamb of Las Vegas, NV. In 2012 the PRCA honored Dr. Jake Wells of San Antonio, TX. Dr. Joe Coli of Reno, NV was recognized as 2013 Zoetis PRCA Veterinarian of the Year and in 2014 Dr. J.Fred Rule of Elk City, OK was selected to receive the award. Dr. John Boyington of Phillipsburg, KS received the award in 2015 to join the company of these distinguished Veterinarians.

The Veterinarian's Role at PRCA Rodeos

As of 1996, PRCA rules have required a veterinarian on-site and available on an immediate basis to offer treatment and advice to injured animals for all performances and sections of slack.

When contacted by a rodeo committee or contractor, the veterinarian should, as with other clients, discuss fee schedules, payment arrangements and available services. Most often, an hourly rate is charged to the rodeo committee; however, many veterinarians will offer to volunteer their time. It is also advisable that a written agreement be established between the veterinarian and the contact, whether that be the rodeo committee or stock contractor, so a clear understanding of the arrangement is agreed upon by all parties. Usually, a letter of agreement is sufficient.

Most rodeo contestants accept their responsibility in providing payment for services rendered

to their animals and many will have insurance coverage for their animals. Minor injuries or lameness sometimes occur while traveling, so veterinarians should be available prior to all performances. It is advisable that veterinarians provide individual service and payment information to the rodeo committee, secretary or stock contractor which can be printed in rodeo information or provided to contestants. Every contestant will have a contact address, so billing is possible and this may be obtained from the rodeo office if needed.

Planning for the Rodeo

Once an agreement to offer services has been reached, the veterinarian should determine the following from the committee or contractor:

- Date and location of the rodeo
- Hours of performances and slack
- Date(s) animals arrive
- Contact person(s) before, during and after the rodeo
- Expectations

The veterinarian should obtain the following from the rodeo officials before the rodeo:

- Parking passes and location of designated parking for veterinarian vehicle(s);
- All-access credentials for veterinarians and assistants (a practice may decide to provide services by shifts);
- Parking convenient to the treatment area and competition arena;
- Rodeo program;
- Copy of paperwork required to turn into PRCA judges when rodeo is complete;
- Introduction to key personnel, including judges, secretary, announcer, chute boss, alley boss and pick-up men.

Attending veterinarians should make an effort to familiarize themselves with the rules of competition prior to the rodeo, particularly with those involving the treatment of animals or drug testing as may be required. As with any use of animals, injuries may occur that may affect the animal's well-being, general health or its ability to perform. Injury rates are very low in professional rodeo, with less than one-tenth of one percent of animals injured, and very rarely is death the result.

While it is important to become familiar with the rules, veterinarians should not be expected to render a decision regarding the handling of an animal by a contestant or rodeo producer. Rather, an opinion may be offered which states the cause of the injury and possible prognosis.

The attending veterinarian should also determine with the rodeo committee or the stock contractor where he or she will be stationed during the event, both before, during and after the performances. It is best the veterinarian be contacted in person, by telephone or radio rather than by paging through the public address system, as this can cause undue concern by rodeo spectators who are not familiar with the circumstances of the call. The veterinarian should provide the contact person with all available numbers, including office and mobile phone. The contact person should then provide this information to all other pertinent personnel. The veterinarian may wish to confirm the information has been received by the stock contractor and rodeo secretary, as well. Prior to each performance, any communication methods should be tested for reliability.

The veterinarian should, along with the contact person, determine a location which will allow him or her to view the competition, as well as quick access to the exit or entry alleyways.



A treatment area should also be identified and the location made known to rodeo personnel. The treatment area should be out of view and access of the public in order for the veterinarian to best treat the animals.

It is helpful to both the rodeo officials and the veterinarian if a pre-rodeo inspection of the grounds is performed. Checking for possible sites where an animal could be injured lessens the possibility. The veterinarian should be available upon request to the committee and the stock contractor to assist in checking the following:

- **Chutes and Pens:** check for sagging or badly hinged gates, protruding nails, broken boards, exposed latches, wires, sharp metal edges, overhead objects, rock and debris in the footing, and potential sites for leg entrapment. Include bucking and roping chutes, loading ramps, runways, and strip chutes. If weather extremes are forecasts, some type of shelter and/or shade for the livestock, especially the calves or animals not used to those extremes can be helpful in maintaining livestock health. Sprinklers can assist in cooling the livestock in extreme heat as well as keeping dust to a minimum.
- **Arena:** check for all types of foreign and potentially dangerous materials such as nails, horseshoes, boards, rocks, glass, wires, exposed pipe ends, cable, cable ends or holes in the arena. Inspect escape routes, ease of access by a trailer, signs with sharp edges and safety of the bull fence when not in use. While colorful banners and flags are a part of rodeo, determine if any hanging signs or banners could potentially obstruct the vision of a rider or horse, cause a horse to shy during competition, or cause an obstruction for judges and arena personnel. Ensure hinges are capped so that gates cannot be lifted vertically by rough stock animals getting hung in the gate or fence.
- **Water:** ensure that the animals kept in pens have access to clean water, and that clean water is available for contestant's animals on the grounds. Check drainage systems to ensure that run-off is not eroding heavy traffic areas or could cause dangerous footing for animals. It is helpful if access to these watering sources is monitored and restricted to authorized personnel in order to reduce any chance of tampering. Avoid community water troughs to help with the possible spread of infectious disease. Avoid allowing Mexican origin steers from utilizing the same water as domestic cattle.
- **Feed:** good quality feed should be made available, including hay free of mold and excessive dirt. Feed bunks or troughs should be clean and free of sharp nails, edges and corners. Please also avoid sharing feed bunks with Mexican origin and domestic cattle.



In addition, the veterinarian should be available to rodeo personnel in helping to determine the removal of an injured animal from the arena and ensure that all pertinent personnel are informed of the sequence of events and the roles they will play. Other rodeo personnel, such as pickup men or handlers, should be advised as to potential signs of injury or illness and who to contact if detected. The PRCA recommends each rodeo committee have a written plan that outlines actions to be taken in case of an animal injury in the arena. You should ask the rodeo committee representative if they have such a plan, if not work with them to craft it. Many times a full dress rehearsal with an anesthetized animal can be performed prior to the rodeo.

SAMPLE PROCEDURE FOR INJURED LIVESTOCK

All PRCA rodeo committees should have a written procedure for handling animal emergencies. Committees should work with their stock contractor and veterinarian to create a policy that works well for all involved in the rare case of an animal injury during the rodeo. Following is a sample that may lay a foundation for your rodeo to create a complete plan.

Items to work out before rodeo

1. Where will the veterinarian be stationed and how will the arena director communicate with them?
2. Suggest to the veterinarian that it is best to have a bag with sedation, splints and other emergency items with him/her at all times. Some emergencies will not allow the vet time to get back to the truck
3. If an animal needs restraint to prevent further injury, who will restrain the animal? This would usually be the pickup man, chute boss or other experienced stock handler.
4. Who will drive the conveyance? This conveyance should be tested before each rodeo performance. Drive it into the arena, practice turning around in different positions. When possible, an animal care unit with a ramp and winch is the best way to transport injured animals. Make sure the ramp is covered with a material that will allow an animal that is able to walk to get up the ramp without slipping.
5. Who will make the call whether or not the conveyance is needed? Decide this with your stock contractor and rodeo committee contact. It could be the arena director, pickup man, livestock boss or stock contractor.
6. Make sure you are prepared during every event of the rodeo for any possible animal injury. This includes non-sanctioned events and any other event where an animal is involved!
7. Prepare a pen with bedding suitable to offload an injured animal so the veterinarian has a safe, quiet place to treat the animal. This should be accessible with the trailer and away from the crowds.
8. What law enforcement or humane organization has jurisdiction over your rodeo? Meet with them and discuss protocol. Understand the law and how much access they have by law. Work to have an open, honest relationship with this group if at all possible.

Handling the Injured Animal

1. Restrain the animal to prevent further injury if necessary.
2. Have on-site veterinarian give preliminary diagnosis while still in the arena if needed.
3. Sedate if necessary – specifically avoiding drugs such as acepromazine that cause dramatic drops in blood pressure. For horses, dormosedan, xylazine, and butorphanol are all recommended for sedating an injured equine athlete.
4. Remove the animal from the arena: small animals by stretcher or pickup, large animals by sled or animal care trailer.
5. After preliminary diagnosis, veterinarian will consult with the animal's owner whether to transport to a clinic or treat on-site.
6. Your rodeo's livestock welfare spokesperson should prepare a media statement with the help of the veterinarian and animal owner.
7. Another facility, such as a local stable or ranch should be designated to transport animals to in case of an injury that needs further care, but does not require treatment at the clinic.

Communication after the injury

1. Rodeo committee members and volunteers should be instructed not to comment, speculate or otherwise communicate about the injury.
2. The designated animal welfare spokesperson should answer any inquiries. As soon as a diagnosis and prognosis are available a short **written statement** stating the injury, the veterinarian's prognosis and a statement from the animal owner should be made available, but not released to the media or public when they inquire about the injury.
3. Veterinarians should work out with the committee ahead of time how involved they want to be in media inquiries.

CRAFTING A INJURY STATEMENT

When an animal is injured at a rodeo, the most effective way to convey information about the situation is with a written statement. A short, concise statement with all of the details about the injury can be used to give to the media, fans and others who may have questions. Depending on the situation, this information can be used only when inquiries come in or posted on the website and included in press releases if the injury was high profile and there are many inquiries. If it is a bucking horse, bull or timed event horse you will have more information, if a steer or calf is injured generally a short statement with the disposition of the injury will suffice.

SAMPLE STATEMENT

ABC RODEO LIVESTOCK WELFARE STATEMENT

For Further Information Contact:

Jane Doe, ABC Rodeo Livestock Welfare Contact

555-123-4567 or jane@abcrodeo.com

_____ **Injured During Third Performance of ABC Rodeo**

A _____ suffered an injury during the Third Performance of the ABC Rodeo on (insert date). The (insert any info you have about the animal, name, age, accomplishments)

Official Rodeo Veterinarian, John Doe, DVM, has treated the animal (insert name if possible) and has diagnosed (insert injury).

A quote from the management of the rodeo similar to this is a good way to end the statement, Joe Doe, Manager of the ABC Rodeo stated, "The ABC rodeo takes the welfare of the livestock participating in our rodeo very seriously and are thankful that our staff and on-site veterinarian were immediately on-site to tend the animal."

If there is a death or an animal must be euthanized, this should be clearly stated and the management should state they regret the loss of such a great animal athlete.

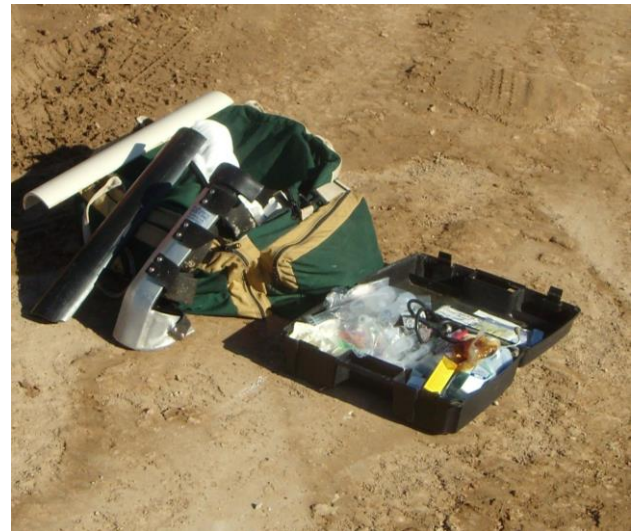
Suggested Equipment and Medications

Equipment

- Twitch
- Towels
- Halter and Lead
- Stethoscope
- Thermometer
- Syringes and Needles
- IV Catheters
- Stomach Tube and Pump
- Bucket, Cup and Brush
- IV Tubes
- Bandage Material (ie. cotton padding, vet wrap, heavy compress wraps, gauze)
- Large Tarp (to cover euthanized animals or provide a visual barrier if needed)
- Splint - Kimsey type or PVC pipe (full and half leg, for cattle and horses)
- Farley Compression Boot
- Animal Blindfold and Ear Plugs
- Flashlight
- Client Notebook
- Cast material
- Phone numbers of local surgical centers or state Veterinary Medical Directory.

Medications

- Water (drinking and cooling)
- Intravenous electrolyte fluid (40 liters --- in extreme heat)
- Oral electrolytes
- Ice (in extreme heat)
- Mineral Oil
- Local Anesthetics
- Surgical Pack and Suture Materials
- Ophthalmic Medication
- Wound Medications
- Injectable Medications
 - Analgesics
 - Antibiotics
- Sedatives & short acting anesthesia
- Corticosteroids
- Calcium Solution
- NSAIDs, including Phenylbutazone and Banamine
- Dioctyl Sodium Sulfosuccinate (DSS)
- Euthanasia solution
- DMSO liquid



During the Rodeo

The official rodeo veterinarian should keep in mind that he or she is representing the rodeo management and stock contractor and, therefore, should offer services to those priorities. Services may be offered to contestants before and after the rodeo, however, during the performance except in the case of an emergency, the rodeo veterinarian should direct his/her services to those animals involved in the performance or animals which are immediately injured in that performance. It is also helpful to discuss with rodeo management and the stock contractor who will pay for treatment and what minor injuries the stock contractor may choose to treat themselves.

Discuss with the stock contractor methods of treatment and sedation or anesthesia prior to the rodeo and obtain his permission to administer those treatments if needed. With all pre-planning in place, review the steps outlined and make sure the contact person, rodeo committee and stock contractor are in agreement.

Prior to the rodeo, the veterinarian should move quietly through livestock pens checking for lameness, bloody noses (as indicators of a cracked horn or skull fracture) or other problems. Injured animals should be discussed with the stock contractor for removal from the draw and the identification number of the animal should be given to the person responsible for the stock draw.

It is important to work with pickup-men and handlers in explaining methods of restraint and handling of an injured animal, and impress upon them their role in ensuring the welfare of the animal and in using their experience or expertise. Pickup men and handlers are usually quite knowledgeable.

The veterinarian should also visit with the rodeo announcer and secretary prior to each performance. These individuals are often the central communication line and can assist the veterinarian in contacting emergency assistance if his attention is needed elsewhere. The announcer should make spectators aware that a veterinarian is on site and introduce that individual. If the committee desires, the veterinarian should be available to assist the announcer in preparing a “scripted” statement in the event an animal is injured and some time is needed to remove it. Scripted statements could include a brief description of the steps being taken to care for the animal and that qualified personnel are attending the animal. For example:

“Ladies and gentlemen, our arena personnel have determined this animal will need assistance and the veterinarian is now examining it. Just like rodeo athletes here today (tonight), we want to make sure this animal athlete doesn’t try to move without making sure it’s okay. So, our veterinarian, and other rodeo personnel will carefully restrain the animal and it will be removed by special equipment provided just for this circumstance. We appreciate your concern and patience while we care for the animal.”

The announcer should avoid making statements which downplay or over-dramatize the incident, such as “Things like this happen”. Having a written communication plan and a meeting before the rodeo with all involved parties will assist the announcer in knowing how a particular committee wants an injury handled.

Suggested Guidelines for Handling the Acutely Injured Animal

While injuries are uncommon in rodeo, the most often seen injuries are relatively minor and can be treated on the grounds, with a recuperation period prescribed for the animal. It is helpful if the veterinarian is familiar with basic trauma first aid techniques of large animals, as well as a

working knowledge of rodeo stock behavior in order to expedite treatment for aggressive animals.

Injuries will vary. Calves and steers, although rarely, can sometimes experience broken horns with accompanying epistaxis, sprains, collateral ligament damage and leg fractures. Torn ligaments and back injuries, also rare, have been documented. Skilled stock contractors and their personnel are often able to administer the proper treatment, however, the veterinarian should be available to examine all injuries and advise the owner as to treatment if requested.

Bucking horses and bulls will sometimes experience lacerations, displaced hips or shoulders, colic or bloat, and rarely, a fracture. Keep in mind that some bucking horses, as well as bulls, can be aggressive, so take care in handling these animals. Personal safety should always supersede animal care in the arena.

Communication and Notification

The rodeo veterinarian, along with the stock contractor and committee, is responsible for developing a plan to handle an injured animal. Communication methods should be used which are understood by rodeo personnel and the veterinarian in order to avoid stimulating any undue concern by spectators. Different communication systems may be necessary for the performance as opposed to slack, however, it is important to keep in mind that the public has access to slack performances, as well, so every precaution should be taken to handle these situations with the same care as a regular performance.

Acute Injuries

The pressure to clear the rodeo arena for the performance should not preclude the judicious evaluation and care of the injured animal. Most animals with a catastrophic injury can be loaded in the livestock ambulance by an experienced crew. Even in those severe cases where euthanasia appears certain, it may still be desirable for aesthetic reasons to load the animal in the livestock ambulance. Furthermore, it allows the veterinarian additional time to evaluate the injury and provide options to the owner. The animal can then be transported to the selected area and euthanized if the owner and veterinarian agree this is necessary. If the injury is so severe that there is no chance of recovery and the animal cannot be loaded, or if the animal fractures more than one leg, the veterinarian should strongly recommend to the owner that the animal be euthanized immediately. If, however, the horse has only one limb fractured and is able to be loaded, it is always desirable to avoid euthanasia in the rodeo arena. At the very least, the animal can be euthanized inside the animal ambulance in case of multiple limb fracture.

The animal may be very fractious, and considerable care must be exercised in handling to avoid injury to the veterinarian or the attendants. The expertise of the stock contractor and his crew in handling bucking stock should be utilized to avoid injury to the veterinarian. The first priority is to stay calm and evaluate the situation. Sedation, such as xylazine, dormosedan and butorphanol tartrate is effective even in excited, injured animals. It is suggested to have some pre-loaded syringes available to reduce the time to administer during an emergency. A large portable screen may be used to shield this procedure from the public. The veterinarian should have the final authority to euthanize a horse that is so severely injured that there is no chance of recovery. That authority should be recognized by the rodeo officials and contestants but should be exercised only in instances where there is no possibility of removing the horse from the arena.

When the extent of the injuries cannot be determined at the time, or there is a possibility that the

animal may be saved for future rodeo competition or breeding, then every possible precaution should be taken to protect the animal from further injury. The affected limb should be supported and the animal then transported to the emergency treatment area for evaluation and treatment.

In some instances, after complete evaluation of the case and consultation with the individual responsible for the animal (trainer and/or owner), euthanasia may be deemed the best course. The decision on the final disposition of the case is much better made in the emergency hospital after there has been a complete examination. This may include X-rays, and other laboratory tests along with consultation with other veterinarians. This course will result in decisions which will be more acceptable to all parties concerned, including insurance companies. In instances of high public relations impact with live or high visibility television coverage, it may be desirable to have a trauma team appointed and on site to deal with the injured horse and eliminate that responsibility from the official veterinarian who already has many extra duties during this type of event. Additionally, the appointment of a media liaison (the PRCA asks each rodeo committee to appoint a Livestock Welfare Spokesperson) can assist in communicating information to the media, leaving the veterinarian to care for the livestock. The management of the case from the onset of the injury may have a profound effect on the final outcome. Breakdowns which involve the suspensory apparatus, the first and second phalanx, the carpus or long bones, may be made worse the more the animal moves around and tries to take weight on the injured leg. As soon as the animal is up, every effort should be made to control it and protect the injured limb.

Livestock Ambulance or Removal System

PRCA Rules on the subject:

Rule 9.2.1. Removal of an injured animal. A conveyance must be available, supplied by the rodeo committee, and shall be used, where practicable, to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. The conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or bull. Injured calves shall be removed from the arena in a pickup truck, calf stretcher or by conveyance. Animals removed from the arena pursuant to this section shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress.

Rule 9.2.1. Must be humane. Any injured livestock shall be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo contest or performance.

The ambulance or removal system for an injured animal is important, not only for the safety and welfare of the animal, but for public perception. The process should be quick, simple and efficient and demonstrate a concern for the animal involved. Animals should receive preliminary treatment and evaluation in the arena with the goal to keep them as calm as possible and stabilized for transport. Although sleds and tractors are adequate and humane, public perception is best when an enclosed animal ambulance is available.

PRCA rules (as seen above) state that a conveyance must be available and must be large enough to remove a horse or a bull. Animals must never be dragged from the arena.

Depending on the type of injury and animal, different methods of conveyance can be used. If the animal appears to be only slightly winded, restrain the animal until it is breathing normally. Do not allow an



animal to limp away or show any sign of distress.

Calves and steers may be removed via most available methods. Calves, if able to be lifted, may be placed in a pick-up bed, or can be placed on a calf stretcher or on a sled. In the tied down roping, calves should remain tied to reduce struggle during transport. Steers may be removed on a flat sled or trailer. Horses and bulls are best removed on a large, well-constructed sled or trailer. Sleds should be pulled by a tractor or pick-up, while trailers should be pulled through conventional methods. Sedation, anesthesia, wrapping and splinting may be necessary prior to removal. Sleds should be equipped with a lariat, two or three ropes suitable for tying down legs and feet, and a tarp cover or screen.

The removal ambulance or trailer should be low to the ground and have adequate ramps to easily load an injured animal. It should be easily navigable for all types of arena and weather conditions. While usually unnecessary, should the injury be of an extreme nature, a large portable lightweight screen could be useful in the ambulance to shield the animal from public view.



If the animal is down, a large piece of rubber matting, belting or a metal sled may be used to roll the horse or bull onto, and then a power winch may be used to pull the animal in to the ambulance. The winch should be charged and tested prior to each rodeo performance. The trailer should have a front and side door, and be padded, with a movable partition which can allow more room while loading, and restrict



movement during transport. Emergency supplies should be stored in the trailer, such as halter, twitch, emergency splints and medications.

Some of the larger rodeos which are held in facilities that host a number of other livestock or equestrian events will have isolated treatment areas or hospitals. However, most will not. A treatment stall should be prepared prior to the rodeo which is isolated from the competition area and contestant stalling. The treatment area should be concealed from public view and access, and efforts should be taken to prevent a crowd from forming. The stall should be kept clean and be large enough to accommodate the animal and handlers. Further treatment to stabilize the animal can be conducted in the treatment stall, and depending on the condition of the animal, may require additional movement to an outside hospital.



Important points regarding conveyances:

- The conveyance must be ready at all times with the person responsible for bringing the conveyance into the arena.
- When planning for a conveyance, don't forget ancillary events that may need a way to transport an injured animal. Many different events may be a part of a rodeo but not officially sanctioned events, some examples are mutton busting, wild cow milking, chuck wagon races, horse races, calf scrambles, etc.
- The use of the conveyance must be planned and practiced so that if a rare injury occurs during the performance, the animal is safely and quickly transported out of the arena.
- A backup conveyance must be available. This is needed in case of a mechanical failure of the original conveyance or if an animal is injured and transported and another animal is injured soon afterward requiring another way to transport the second injured animal.
- The facility where the injured animal will be taken should be considered to insure that gates are wide enough and the animal can be offloaded quickly and efficiently to insure they can receive immediate evaluation.

Euthanasia

While the euthanasia of an animal is extremely rare, veterinarians should be prepared to carry out this act, if necessary, under the guidelines of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

AAEP Euthanasia Guidelines (2011)

The AAEP recommends that the following guidelines be considered in evaluating the need for humane euthanasia of a horse. The attending veterinarian is often able to assist in making this determination, especially regarding the degree to which the horse is suffering. It should be pointed out that each case should be addressed on its individual merits and that the following are guidelines only.

It is not necessary for all criteria to be met. Horses may be euthanized at an owner's request for other reasons, as the owner has sole responsibility for the horse's care. Prior to euthanasia, clear determination of the insurance status of the horse should be made as this policy constitutes a contract between owner and insurance carrier.

In accordance with AVMA's position on euthanasia of animals, the AAEP accepts that humane euthanasia of unwanted horses or those deemed unfit for adoption is an acceptable procedure once all available alternatives have been explored with the client. A horse should not have to endure conditions of lack of feed or care erosive of the animal's quality of life. This is in accord with the role of the veterinarian as animal advocate.

The following are guidelines to assist in making humane decisions regarding euthanasia of horses.

- A horse should not have to endure continuous or unmanageable pain from a condition that is chronic and incurable.
- A horse should not have to endure a medical or surgical condition that has a hopeless chance of survival.
- A horse should not have to remain alive if it has an unmanageable medical condition that renders it a hazard to itself or its handlers.
- A horse should not have to receive continuous analgesic medication for the relief of pain for the rest of its life.
- A horse should not have to endure a lifetime of continuous individual box stall confinement for prevention or relief of unmanageable pain or suffering.

Techniques for Euthanasia – The following techniques for performing euthanasia of horses by properly trained personnel are deemed acceptable:

1. Intravenous administration of an overdose of barbiturates.
2. Gunshot to the brain (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vm114> Shearer JK, Nicoletti P. Humane euthanasia of sick, injured and/or debilitated livestock. University of Florida IFAS Extension).
3. Penetrating captive bolt to the brain (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vm114> Shearer JK, Nicoletti P. Humane euthanasia of sick, injured and/or debilitated livestock. University of Florida IFAS Extension).
4. Intravenous administration of a solution of concentrated potassium chloride (KCl) with the horse in a surgical plane of general anesthesia.
5. Alternative methods may be necessary in special circumstances.

Special Considerations for the Insured Horse and Cases Involving Multiple Practitioners:

Each insurance policy for a horse is a contract between the horse owner and the insurance company and will dictate the specific terms and conditions concerning the payment of a mortality claim. Careful consideration should be given to possible “conflicts of interest” as referenced in the Ethical and Professional Guidelines in the AAEP Resource Guide and Membership Directory. The attending, consulting and referring veterinarians should follow the Ethical and Professional Guidelines under section IV, “Attending, Consulting and Referring,” as described in the AAEP Resource Guide & Membership Directory.

The AABP’s Practical Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Cattle is available here:

<http://www.aabp.org/resources/euth.pdf>

The AVMA’s Guidelines for Euthanasia are available here:

http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf

Insurance

The value of animals competing in rodeos is higher than most may think, and many competitors and some contractors will carry some type of insurance on their animals. Most often, these policies will be mortality, major medical or surgical. Mortality is the most common.

If an animal is injured and it becomes apparent that surgery or euthanasia will be required, the veterinarian should inquire if the owner carries insurance on the animal and the name of the carrier. *This request is not to be made in order to determine if surgery or euthanasia is appropriate, but for information purposes only.*

Some insurance agencies require that they be notified prior to an animal being euthanized or having surgery. However, if the animal is experiencing undue suffering and it has been determined that it cannot be saved, euthanasia is appropriate and the insurance company will usually honor the veterinarian’s opinion.

The veterinarian’s responsibility to the agency is to identify the animal beyond a reasonable doubt, noting sex, color, breed, age, markings, tattoo and brands. A photo is very helpful and today’s cell phones offer a camera that is always handy. The veterinarian is required to report the medical facts to the best of his or her knowledge, summarize the condition of the animal and the action taken. The veterinarian’s responsibility to the client is to provide an objective evaluation of the animal’s condition.

The owner of the animal is responsible for contacting the insurance company; however, the company will likely contact the veterinarian for more information. In the event of death, it is necessary to know or attempt to determine the cause of death. If the attending veterinarian is not prepared to complete this task, then a referral to a full-service diagnostic facility is advisable.

Veterinarians do have the express authority to do whatever is prudent and necessary in their judgment to preserve the life of the attended animal, and to carry out destruction in emergency circumstances where suffering is great and there is no hope life can be preserved. It is advisable that the veterinarian maintain well-documented records to verify that actions were taken according to current veterinary practice standards. In addition, many insurance companies appreciate photographs of the injury and of the animal for identification purposes, if possible.

The rodeo veterinarian should be able to do the following:

- Perform emergency services – clarify if this means after hours also;
- Prescribe medicine;
- Provide expert advice as to the health of animals performing;
- Assist the rodeo committee in creating a plan in the case of a contagious disease outbreak among rodeo livestock;
- Pre-rodeo facility and livestock inspection;
- Provide expert advice to rodeo personnel for the care and treatment of injured animals.

Your veterinarian should not be expected to:

- Offer certificates of health for the state in which the rodeo is held in a time period less than required;
- Speak to the media unless adequately prepared by publicity staff or without prior media training;
- Include the cost of medications or supplies in any services offered free of charge.

For the safety of contestants and animals, the rodeo committee and stock contractor should be aware of all federal and state health regulations in regard to the transport of livestock.

All states require a certificate of veterinary inspection, with certain conditions, and most states require a test for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins test). Some will require or recommend a temperature reading, entry permit numbers, or CVI's issued 72 hours less. Efforts should be made to be aware of any infectious disease outbreaks in a given state where cattle or horses may be coming from to the rodeo. Vesicular stomatitis, EHV-1, Strangles, Tuberculosis, Equine Infectious Anemia, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are a few examples. Rodeo veterinarians should also be aware of regulations regarding Mexican Corriente steers used in the team roping, steer wrestling and steer roping. Many states have testing requirements for bovine tuberculosis for the steers that have been imported from Mexico. Additionally, State and Federal animal health officials recommend that the imported steers not be comingled with domestic cattle. This includes preventing nose to nose contact and eating or drinking out of the same troughs.

A Final Word

No words better describe a veterinarian's role at a rodeo than "practice prevention, be prepared and take prompt action." Those words briefly and clearly say it all. Prevention is the first order of business. Try to eliminate or prevent injury through pre-rodeo inspections. Preparation is having equipment and supplies available to handle the situation. Prompt action is vital, and decisions may need to be made quickly. Steps should be taken to protect the animal from further injury; to delay is often inhumane. The PRCA believes its animal athletes deserve the best care, treatment, and handling and appreciates your contribution.

APPENDIX

THIS APPENDIX INCLUDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT THE PRCA FEELS CAN ASSIST ON-SITE RODEO VETERINARIANS

PRCA RODEO VETERINARIAN CHECKLIST

At least three months prior to rodeo:

- _____ Make sure you have a written agreement with the rodeo committee stating when the veterinarian is supposed to arrive, what your duties are and what the compensation for these services will be.
- _____ Ask if the committee would like you to inspect the facilities and make any suggestions that might improve the stay for the rodeo livestock. By doing this three months ahead of time, the committee or facility has time to make such improvements.
- _____ Ask the committee when they expect the livestock to arrive so you can arrange to be on-call for the duration of time after the livestock arrive and before the competition begins.
- _____ Ask the committee what plans they have for a conveyance to transport injured animals. If they are supplying the conveyance, ask to inspect this to make sure it is adequate. If the stock contractor is supplying the conveyance, ask to inspect when the stock contractor arrives.
- _____ Discuss with the committee how media inquiries regarding livestock welfare will be addressed and if they expect you to assist. Indicate your comfort level helping with these issues.
- _____ Ask if there are any laws regarding rodeo in the community which the rodeo is held. I.E., California has a law requiring the rodeo veterinarian to report any injury requiring veterinary treatment to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine within 48 hours of the injury.
- _____ Ask the committee if they have an emergency plan for escaped livestock and if you would play a role in this plan.
- _____ Ask the committee if they have written plans and procedures for injured animals as well as contagious animal disease outbreaks. If not ask them to work with you to create these plans.

One week prior to the rodeo:

- _____ Ask when the stock will be arriving and if the committee would like you to be there or inspect the livestock soon afterwards.
- _____ Arrange to meet with the stock contractor as soon as possible after his arrival to discuss any veterinary needs for the rodeo livestock.
- _____ Make sure you have all parking passes, tickets and other information needed to gain entry into the rodeo grounds. Ask the committee to block off a special place to park that allows you good access to your truck, the arena and the livestock.

After the stock contractor arrives:

- _____ Arrange for a meeting with the stock contractor, livestock welfare spokesperson, arena director, announcer and others who will have input concerning the handling of the livestock during the rodeo. At this time finalize the injury procedure plan and iron out any details of your duties.

At this meeting decide:

- _____ Where will you be stationed, what type of communication device will be used to contact the veterinarian?
- _____ Who will be driving conveyance to remove injured animal? Make sure they are readily available by the gate with the keys during the entire rodeo?
- _____ Does the stock contractor need any help with the removal of an injured animal from the committee or should the committee allow the stock crew to handle the entire process.
- _____ What is the stock contractor's plan for removal of an animal?
- _____ Is there an isolated, quiet pen to take an injured animal on the grounds?
- _____ How will the announcer address the crowd if an injury occurs, if so how will the veterinarian get information to the rodeo announcer?
- _____ Will the veterinarian have all needed medications and equipment: anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers, splints, euthanasia drugs, etc.
- _____ Who will address media questions concerning animal injuries?
- _____ If an animal requires euthanasia, what arrangements need to be made?
- _____ If you have a concern about an animal or animal treatment, who should you talk to?

Day of Rodeo or Slack:

- _____ Make sure you are introduced to rodeo judges and check in with them prior to each section of slack or performance. In the Appendix of this document is a "Veterinarian Check In Sheet". The rodeo judges should have this in the rodeo secretary's office and veterinarians should sign in when they arrive so the judges, stock contractor and committee know that the veterinarian is present. If the veterinarian fails to sign in or be available if needed an in-arena injury, the rodeo committee is subject to a \$500 per performance fine.
- _____ Check communication system with veterinarian to make sure it is functioning properly.
- _____ Double check that conveyance is accessible and driver will stay close by with keys.
- _____ **After final performance check in with judges report any injuries and sign the judges report and record any injuries you observed and/or treated.**

After the Rodeo:

- _____ Review all procedures and see if there are changes needed before next year.
- _____ Make any suggestions to rodeo committee regarding your experience or the welfare of the animals.

Livestock Welfare Resources Available from the PRCA

1. **ProRodeo Livestock Video:** a 20 minute educational video covers rodeo history, livestock care, PRCA stock contractors' born-to-buck breeding program and PRCA rules that govern the safety of animals in competition.
2. **ProRodeo Livestock Booklet:** a comprehensive look at the care, treatment, rules and other issues surrounding PRCA rodeos and livestock.
3. **ProRodeo Livestock Brochure:** brochure with the basics about the care and treatment of livestock at PRCA sanctioned rodeos.
4. **PRCA Guide to Animal Welfare Issues:** a booklet aimed at students and others involved in the rodeo industries who wish to learn more about dealing with animal welfare and animal rights issues.
5. **PRCA Rodeo Committee Guide to Livestock Welfare:** A guide to assist PRCA Rodeo Committees in preparing for and dealing with livestock issues.
6. **A Communication Guide to Handling Rodeo Animal Welfare Interviews:** a guide to those who might find themselves talking to the media regarding animal welfare in rodeo.
7. **Prorodeo.com** – much of this information is available on the PRCA's website, prorodeo.com, click on livestock welfare.
8. **Social Media** – updates are available on rodeo livestock health and welfare as well as legislative and regulatory issues as they happen on our livestock welfare social media sites – Pro Rodeo Livestock Group on Facebook (must ask permission to join), [rodeolivestock](https://twitter.com/rodeolivestock) on Twitter.
9. **PRCA Livestock Welfare Monthly Email Update** –offers the latest news regarding rodeo livestock health, welfare and legislative and regulatory issues. To subscribe send an email to animalwelfare@prorodeo.com.
9. **PRCA Livestock Survey Results** – these are following in this document.
Periodically the PRCA has called upon on-site rodeo veterinarians to complete surveys that document the welfare of the livestock at PRCA rodeos. These surveys have shown the rate of injury in rodeo to be very low.



About the Survey:

- The surveys are completed by on-site rodeo veterinarians at PRCA Rodeos.
- Veterinarians were asked to report on the condition of the livestock upon arrival and departure from the rodeo as well as report any injuries.
- The injury figure reported includes all injuries that happen in the arena during a PRCA rodeo to the livestock.
- The definition of injury in the survey is: "*Injury incurred in performing resulting in a significant change that would affect the animals well being, general health and/or ability to perform*".

2010 Rodeo Livestock Survey

Veterinarians Report on Rodeo Livestock



The PRCA has continually called upon on-site, independent rodeo veterinarians at PRCA-sanctioned events to conduct livestock welfare surveys. The purpose of the surveys is to determine the rate of injury to rodeo livestock and the effectiveness of PRCA livestock welfare rules. Over the years, the results have continued to show a rate of injury that is very, very low. The most recent survey, conducted at 148 rodeo performances held during the 2010 PRCA rodeo season. As in the past, the rate of injury is proving to be very low with the rate of injury calculating out to .00046.

The complete results of the survey are as follows:

TOTAL ANIMAL EXPOSURES:	60,244
NUMBER OF RODEO PERFORMANCES:	148
SECTIONS OF SLACK:	70
NUMBER OF INJURIES:	28
INJURY RATE:	.00046

COMMENTS FROM VETERINARIANS PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY

"Excellent. Well fed, good body condition. All classes and species."
Abilene, KS Veterinarian

"Stock was well cared-for and in satisfactory condition."
Bakersfield, CA Veterinarian

"All animals look good upon arrival and at rodeo end."
Burwell, NE Veterinarian

"Cattle and horses are in good condition."
Elko, NV Veterinarian

"Stock all in good shape."
Estes Park, CO Veterinarian

"Good to Excellent for all events - bucking stock in good condition - roping stock are of good weight & appear robust."
Tucson, AZ Veterinarian

"Good - cattle in good body conditions, horses had good coats and body weight appeared normal."
Springville, CA Veterinarian

"All of the stock involved in this rodeo arrived healthy and in good condition - all left as they arrived."
Sisters, OR Veterinarian

"Everyone looks well fed, and no lame critters noted."
Riverton, WY Veterinarian

"Rough stock - excellent. In good body condition. Timed event steers and calves, good body condition."
Shelby, MT Veterinarian

"All of the stock was in good health. There were no issues that were observed."
Ringgold, GA Veterinarian

"Excellent stock - Excellent care and management."
Jasper, TX Veterinarian

"All stock on arrival and at end of rodeo was in excellent condition. Animals were fed 15 tons of high quality hay and 3 tons of grain."
Cody, WY Veterinarian

"Stace Smith does an excellent job of maintaining his stock. I commend his employees."
Coleman, TX Veterinarian

"Well cared for, in and out in a timely manner."
Dodge City, KS Veterinarian

"Excellent. All observed to be in good flesh, no signs of shipping stress, no apparent injuries upon arrival."
Poway, CA Veterinarian



**"All stock
were in
good,
healthy
condition.
Stock well
cared for
on
grounds,
healthy
when
left."**

**Duncan,
OK**





PRCA LIVESTOCK SURVEY

The PRCA has continuously called upon on-site, independent rodeo veterinarians at PRCA-sanctioned events to conduct livestock welfare surveys. The purpose of the surveys is to determine the rate of injury to rodeo livestock and the effectiveness of PRCA livestock welfare rules. Over the years, the results have continued to show a rate of injury that is very, very low. Statistics from previous years can be found below.

Following are the results of the 2009 survey:

TOTAL ANIMAL EXPOSURES:	75,472
NUMBER OF RODEO PERFORMANCES:	194
SECTIONS OF SLACK:	78
NUMBER OF INJURIES:	28
INJURY RATE:	.00037

Following are the results of the 2008 survey:

TOTAL ANIMAL EXPOSURES:	58,656
NUMBER OF RODEO PERFORMANCES:	148
SECTIONS OF SLACK:	55
NUMBER OF INJURIES:	27
INJURY RATE:	.0004

Following are the results of the 2006 survey:

TOTAL ANIMAL EXPOSURES:	61992
NUMBER OF RODEO PERFORMANCES:	159
SECTIONS OF SLACK:	67
NUMBER OF INJURIES:	38
INJURY RATE:	.0006

Following are the results of the 2004 survey:

TOTAL ANIMAL EXPOSURES:	60,971
NUMBER OF RODEO PERFORMANCES:	198
SECTIONS OF SLACK:	73
NUMBER OF INJURIES:	27
INJURY RATE:	.0004

COMMENTS FROM VETERINARIANS REGARDING HEALTH OF RODEO LIVESTOCK AT PRCA RODEOS

"All stock present appears healthy and in good condition."

McComb, MS Rodeo Veterinarian

"Stock in Good - Excellent condition upon arrival and after completion of competition."

Stonyford, CA Rodeo Veterinarian

"Stock was in good condition all four nights at end of each rodeo performance."

Gladewater, TX Rodeo Veterinarian

"Healthy & well-fed. All animals were in the same condition at the end of the rodeo as on arrival - healthy."

Truckee, CA Rodeo Veterinarian

"All appeared comfortable, in good body condition; no injuries noted in pen. All stock appeared sound, witnessed normal appetites, cattle chewing cud, and sufficient feed and water at all times."

Logan, UT Rodeo Veterinarian

"Visual inspection of stock showed no cause for concern. Animals were in good condition, no sign of disease, etc. Stock still looked good at the end of the rodeo. Were well fed and watered adequately & had sprinklers going on pens for dust control & to reduce heat."

Preston, ID Rodeo Veterinarian

"Condition of all stock was excellent - on visiting with Ike Sankey stock are fed supplemental grain with added trace minerals, minerals, electrolytes and vitamins. Rodeo pens were well maintained and animals were handled in a stress free, professional manner. Stock left the rodeo in excellent condition."

Cody, WY Rodeo Veterinarian

"Condition of animals on arrival was very good. No sign of transport injury or symptoms of disease noted. Body condition of all stock was adequate to above average. The rodeo week was very hot and humid, however, the stock performed very well. The condition of the stock at the end of rodeo was still very good."

Burwell, NE Rodeo Veterinarian

"Stock was in good shape at the end of the rodeo. All had access to water immediately after each category of competition."

Summerville, GA Rodeo Veterinarian

PRCA RULES GOVERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK AT PRCA SANCTIONED RODEOS

PRCA RULES GOVERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK AT PRCA SANCTIONED RODEOS

Revised 8/13/2015

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) has been enforcing rules to protect the livestock participating in their sanctioned events since 1947. Through the years, the PRCA has created the most comprehensive set of animal welfare rules in the sport of rodeo, creating a model for other rodeo associations to follow. Rules are subject to change and full language is not included in all of these rules, the “official rules” and can be found online for members under the member self-service page, non-members can contact the PRCA to purchase an official rulebook at 719-593-8840.

****Rodeo Livestock****

1. Rule 8.4 No Hold Overs.

No cattle that have been used may be held over from one calendar year to the next, unless approved by the Event Representative.

2. Rule 8.4.1 No switching of events.

No steers may be switched in events unless approved by the event representative or the Director of Rodeo Administration.

3. Rule 8.5 Running of Timed Event Stock.

All timed-event stock shall be run through event chutes and through the arena prior to the start of contest where conditions permit.

4. Rule 8.6 Preparation of Tie-Down Roping Cattle.

1. Tie-down roping cattle must be prepared by being roped and tied in a controlled environment from a horse three times at least 48 hours before scheduled competition, under the supervision of the Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his appointee.
2. The Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his appointee will attend the preparation and submit a report to the Director of Rodeo Administration with the tag numbers of the animals prepared per section one of this rule.

5. Rule 8.6.1 Fresh Cattle

1. Stock contractor and/or rodeo committee must notify PROCOM prior to position callbacks if fresh tie-down roping cattle will be used at the rodeo.
2. Tie-down roping cattle prepared at a location other than the location of the rodeo without approval and full knowledge of the Tie-down Roping Event Representative and the Director of Rodeo Administration will result in a fine.

6. Rule 8.6.2 Tie Down of Tie-Down Roping Animals

The Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his duly appointed designee has the authority to tie-down roping animals that have already been roped in competition tying them no more than three times unless otherwise approved by the stock contractor and/or judge. This must occur no less than two hours prior to competition with a judge present. The time for preparation must be designated and reported to PROCOM. If no PRCA members show up to tie down the cattle, the preparation will be cancelled and not rescheduled.

7. **Rule 8.8 Unsatisfactory Animals.**
An Event Representative may declare particular animal unsatisfactory. Upon notification, either written or verbal, the stock contractor or Rodeo Committee shall eliminate such animal(s) from competition draw.
8. **Rule 8.8.1 No Change of Events**
If an animal has been declared unsatisfactory for an event, that animal may not be used for another event without the approval of the events representative.
9. **Rule 8.8.2 Definition of Unsatisfactory in Timed Events.**
A Timed Event Representative may declare a timed event animal, or herd of animals, unsatisfactory if the animal (1) is considered by the Timed Event Representative to be unhealthy or not suitable for competition, (2) has in the past caused safety concerns for a contestant or his horse, (3) would cause an uneven competition, if used, (4) has in the past demonstrated a disposition to act in a manner which may cause Bylaws or Rules violations or humane problems if used in a timed event, or (5) does not comply with one or more provisions of the PRCA Bylaws or Rules or if such animal's use would result in a violation of one or more Bylaws or Rules.
10. **Rule 8.9.1 Trimming the Horns.**
Stock contractors and the Rodeo Committee will be expected to cooperate in trimming the horns of steers that are not able to pass through the timed event chute.
11. **Rule 8.9.2 Steer Wrestling Cattle.**
The horns on steer wrestling cattle must be blunted to the size of a dime. Horns must be no less than 9" on each side. (Note: this is for the safety of the steers, horses and contestants as sharp horns pose a risk)
12. **Rule 8.9.3 Steer Roping Cattle.**
Plaster and rebar must be placed around the horns of steer roping cattle prior to contesting, and all such steers should have horn wraps that extend 4 inches down the jaw from the base of the horns. The horns must be blunted to the size of a quarter. Horns must be no less than 6" on each side, and no more than 10" on each side.
13. **Rule 8.9.4 Team Roping Cattle.**
All team roping cattle shall be protected by horn wraps. The horns on all team roping cattle must be blunted to the size of a dime.
14. **Rule 8.9.5.1 Blunting of Bulls Horns.**
All horned animals used in the PRCA bull riding shall have their horns blunted to at least the diameter of a half-dollar.
15. **Rule 8.9.5.2 Inspection of Horns.**
Judges are to inspect bulls' horns at least two hours prior to performance. If bulls are not available at that time, inspection will be allowed up to the time of competition. If the horns are considered too sharp, the stock contractor must immediately tip the horns, or the contestant shall have the option of a reride.

16. Rule 8.10.1 No Use Other Than Contest Events.

An animal used in the contest events of a PRCA rodeo may not be used in any way, other than in the contest events of that rodeo, until after the last time that animal has been used in the contest events at that rodeo, unless otherwise approved by the Event Representative.

17. Rule 8.11.2 Injured Animals at Rodeo.

The stock contractor of record shall be responsible for notifying the Central Entry Office of riding event stock that becomes injured and is in the draw for later competition time.

18. Rule 8.11.2.1 Ineligibility Time.

If a riding event animal is replaced in the draw at a rodeo, that animal cannot be used for a period of 48 hours following the first performance that the animal was replaced.

19. Rule 8.12.1 Tie-Down Roping Cattle.

1. Weight for tie-down roping animals shall be a minimum of 220 pounds and a maximum of 280 pounds with fresh tie-down roping animals not to exceed 260 pounds and must be healthy.
2. Any deviations must be approved by the Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his duly appointed designee and the Director of Rodeo Administration.
3. There can be no more than a 50-pound variation in weight from the smallest to the largest tie-down roping animal in a given herd.
4. The Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his appointee and a PRCA Judge must approve the cattle prior to the establishment of the herd.
5. If any individual tie-down roping animal does not meet the requirements, the Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his duly appointed designee has the right to remove immediately (but prior to the establishment of the “herd”) that tie-down roping animal from the herd for the duration of the rodeo, potentially subjecting the stock contractor to a fine per head for being short of the required number of cattle.
6. Failure of the PRCA member owner and/or committee to comply with the criteria listed above will result in the PRCA member owner and/or committee to be fined an amount equal to the shortage of livestock fines outlined in the Rulebook.
7. Judges have the authority to weigh the tie-down roping cattle. If the PRCA member owner refuses to allow weighing of the cattle the member will be fined for underweight cattle for the tie-down roping animals in question.
8. Adequate facilities that may include shelter, shade and bedding must be provided by the rodeo committee.

20. Rule 8.12.2 Steer Wrestling Cattle.

All steer wrestling cattle must be Mexican Corriente steers. All steer wrestling cattle must weigh a minimum of 450 pounds and a maximum of 600 pounds.

21. Rule 8.12.3 Team Roping.

The maximum weight for animals that are to be used in team roping is 650 per head, and the minimum is 450 per head. Any deviation from the rules must be approved by the Team Roping Event Representative and Director of Rodeo Administration. All team roping steers must be Corriente steers of Mexican descent. All team roping steers must have a minimum of 8 inch horns on both sides of the steer’s head.

22. Rule 8.12.4 Steer Roping.

All steer roping steers must be Mexican Corriente steers. All steers used in the steer roping event must weigh a minimum of 450 pounds and a maximum of 600 pounds unless otherwise

approved by the Director of Rodeo Administration and the Event Representative.

****Humane Treatment of Rodeo Animals****

23. Rule 9.0 General.

These rules are intended to ensure the humane treatment of rodeo animals and shall be in effect for all PRCA-sanctioned events. No animal shall be treated inhumanely by any Member.

24. Rule R 9.1 Sore, lame, sick or injured animal.

Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal or animal with defective eyesight shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or incapacitated between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in competition, that animal shall not be used in competition and another animal shall be drawn for the contestant.

25. Rule 9.1.1 Veterinarian. Refer to Bylaw 15.7.6

A rodeo committee shall ensure that a veterinarian is present and on-site for every performance and/or section of slack. Any rodeo committee failing to do so shall be subject to a fine of \$500 per performance and/or section of slack per rodeo

26. Rule 9.1.2 Removal of an Injured Animal.

A conveyance must be available, supplied by the rodeo committee, and shall be used, where practicable, to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. The conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or bull. Injured calves shall be removed from the arena in a pickup truck, calf stretcher or by conveyance. Animals removed from the arena pursuant to this section shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress.

27. Rule 9.1.2.1 Must be Humane.

Any injured livestock shall be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo contest or performance.

28. Rule 9.2 Rowels.

No locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs, may be used on bareback horses or saddle bronc horses. Spurs must be dulled.

29. Rule 9.3 No Sharp Objects in Cinch, Saddle, Girth or Flank Straps.

No sharp or cutting objects in cinch, saddle girth, or flank straps shall be permitted. Flank straps used for horses must be either sheepskin-lined or neoprene-lined and shall be of the quick release type. Sheepskin-lined or neoprene lined flank straps shall be placed on the animal so the lined portion is over both flanks of the animals. In the bull riding, a soft cotton rope at least 5/8" in diameter is acceptable as a flank strap and does not require the sheepskin or neoprene lining.

30. Rule 9.4 Movement and Loading of Livestock.

Except as set forth in rule 10.1.5.1 and 10.1.5.2, standard livestock prods shall be used to move and load livestock when necessary and the animal has an open gate or area in order to move forward. If a prod is used, the animal shall only be touched on the hip or shoulder area. Commonly accepted livestock moving tools such as sorting sticks and paddles are also acceptable, when used appropriately, to move and load livestock. Once livestock is loaded into the chute which it will compete out of, the prod may only be used when needed for the safety of

the livestock, contestant or personnel. All determinations of necessary use of a prod during competition will be determined by a rodeo judge. Any violation of this rule will result in an initial fine of \$1000 to the stock contractor/ stock contracting firm owning the animal with that fine progressively doubling for any additional offense(s). The contestant will receive an automatic option for a reride.

31. Rule 9.5.1 Construction of Chutes.

Chutes must be constructed to prevent injury to an animal. Maintenance men and equipment shall be available at chutes to assist in removal of any animal should it become necessary.

32. Rule 9.5.2 Conditions of Arena.

The arena shall be as free as possible of rocks, holes and unnecessary obstacles.

33. Rule 9.5.3 No Small Animals.

No small animals or pets allowed in the arena, unless part of a contract act.

34. Rule 9.5.4 Removal of Livestock after Competition.

Livestock must be removed from the arena after each competition is completed.

35. Rule 9.6 Neckrope Must be Used in Tie-Down Roping.

In tie-down roping, a neckrope must be used. Calves may not be intentionally flipped backward. Contestant must adjust rope and reins in such a manner that will prevent horse from dragging calf. Rope to be removed from calf's body as soon as possible after "tie" is approved. Roping calves shall be strong and healthy.

36. Rule 9.7 No Stimulants or Hypnotics.

No stimulants or hypnotics may be given to any animal used for contest purposes.

37. Rule 9.8 Animals Excessively Excited in Chute.

Any animal that becomes excessively excited and lays down in the chute repeatedly, or tries repeatedly to jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, may be released immediately.

38. Rule 9.9 Confinement and Transportation.

No stock shall be confined or transported in vehicles beyond a period of 24 hours without being unloaded, properly fed and watered.

39. Rule 9.10 Mistreatment of Animal.

Any member who mistreats an animal anywhere on the grounds of a facility in which a PRCA sanctioned rodeo is being held will be disqualified and shall be fined and depending upon the severity of the offense, may be declared ineligible, suspended, suspended from PRCA privileges and/or expelled.

40. Rule 9.12 Tie Downs Covered.

All chain, metal and wire tie-downs and bosals must be covered.

41. Rule 9.13 Apparent injury during competition.

Should a riding event animal show evidence of injury inflicted by a contestant during competition arena, that contestant will be fined \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for the second offense, and \$1000 for the third and subsequent offenses.

42. Rule 9.13.1 Delay Further Use of Animal Injured.

Should a riding event animal be apparently injured by a contestant during competition, thus resulting in the contestant being reported for such a violation, that animal cannot be used until such time the injury has completely healed.

****Riding Events****

43. Rule 10.1.4 Animal Becomes Sick or Injured.

If an animal that is drawn in a riding event becomes sick or injured before it is competed on, a judge must pass on the animal's inability to be used before it can be shipped or replaced in the draw.

44. Rule 10.1.5. 1 Chute Stalling Horses.

In the bareback and saddle bronc events, events, use of prods and similar devices is prohibited except in the case of a chute stalling horse. In this instance, the use must be agreed upon by the contestant, stock contractor and the judge notified before the contestant's competition begins. The prod shall be the handheld variety and be used only on the neck or shoulder. Use of a prod without the agreement of the contestant, stock contractor, and the judge before the contestant's competition begins in the saddle bronc and the bareback riding, shall result in a fine of \$1000 to the stock contractor/stock contracting firm owning the animal with that fine progressively doubling with each violation to the stock contractor. The contestant will receive the automatic option of a reride.

45. Rule 10.1.5.2 Bull Riding.

The use of the standard livestock prod during the bull riding event is strictly prohibited once the bull is loaded into the bucking chute which it will buck out of, except if needed for the safety of the livestock, contestant or personnel as determined by a rodeo judge. Any violation of this rule will result in an initial fine of \$1000 to the stock contractor/stock contracting firm owning the animal with that fine progressively doubling for any additional offense(s). The contestant will receive the automatic option of a reride.

46. Rule 10.4.1.3 Bareback Riding. Cinches and Latigos.

Cinches on the bareback riggings shall be made of mohair or neoprene and shall be at least eight inches in width at the center, but must be tapered to accommodate cinch "D" rings. Latigos must be of leather only.

47. Rule 10.4.2 Bareback pads.

Required bareback pads are to completely cover the underside of the ridding, and are to extend a full 2 inches behind the rigging.

48. Rule 10.4.2.1 Pads Must Cover Underside of Rigging.

Pads used under riggings must be leather-covered on both sides. No hair pads will be allowed. Only a high density foam pad, at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick will be allowed. In addition, the pad must have leather over the bars $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick extending at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on either side and the back of the handle bars.

49. Rule 10.4.2.2 Leather Attached to Pad

In addition to the pad, a piece of leather a minimum of $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick and 4 inches square must be glued or sewed to the pad, and centered in comparison to the total body length of the rigging. This piece of leather shall be placed so that $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of it extends behind the rigging and the remaining 2 inches are under the rigging.

50. **Rule 10.4.6 Disqualification.**
A rider shall be disqualified is riding with rowels too sharp or locked.
51. **Rule 10.4.6.1 Spur Rowels.**
Spur rowels must have five or more points.
52. **Rule 10.5.5 Saddle Bronc Rider Disqualification.**
A saddle bronc rider shall be disqualified for riding with locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs, and/or rowels not dulled.
53. **Rule 10.6.3.1 Bull Riding. No Bull Tails Under Flank Straps.**
No bull tails will be allowed under flank straps.
54. **Rule 10.6.4 No Sharp Spurs.**
Rider shall not use sharp spurs.
55. **Rule 10.6.7 Disqualification of a Bull Rider.**
A bull rider shall be disqualified for using sharp spurs.

****Timed Event Rules****

56. **Rule 11.1.4.1 Lining for Timed Event Boxes.**
In order to protect the contestant's horse, the back and the side opposite the timed event chute of the timed event boxes shall be lined from a minimum of 4 inches under (unless properly supported by other means) up to a minimum of 3' high with a solid panel (metal or no less than 3/4 " thick plywood). Box pads are likewise required for each timed event box.
57. **Rule 11.3.8 Drawn Animal Becomes Sick or Crippled.**
If an animal that is drawn in a pen in a timed event becomes sick or crippled before it is competed on, a judge must pass on the animal's inability to be used before it can be shipped or replaced in the draw.
58. **Rule 11.3.13.2 No Consecutive Runs on Same Horse.**
In timed events, provided there are other qualified horses on the rodeo grounds, no consecutive runs shall be allowed on the same horse, or horses, unless approval is granted by the arena director, arena boss and/or stock contractor.
59. **Rule 11.3.14.3 Horses Allowed in Box**
Only the horse s needed during actual competition in the event will be allowed in the boxes during any timed event and/or noncompetitive runs.
60. **Rule 11.3.16 Neck ropes Must Be Tied With String**
Neck ropes must be tied with string. No metal snaps, elastics or hardware shall be used on neckropes in the times events. Adjustable slide shall be used on all neckropes for cattle used in timed events.
61. **Rule 11.6.3 Tie-Down Roping Time Limit.**
There will be a 25-second elapsed time limit in the tie-down roping. A whistle indicating "no time" shall be blown by the timer at the end of a 25-second span. Roping a calf after the 25 second whistle has sounded shall be a Class III Offense for mistreatment of animals.

62. Rule 11.6.4 No Dragging of Calf.

A neck rope must be used on the horse, and contestant must adjust rope and reins in a manner that will prevent horse from dragging calf. Intentionally dragging a calf shall result in a fine and possible disqualification.

63. Rule 11.6.5 No Jerk Down.

1. In the tie-down roping event a contestant will receive no-time for that run if he brings the animal over backwards (between 10 and 2 on a standard clock) with the animal landing on his back or head with all four feet in the air if the cattle are prepared as per Rule R8.6
2. If cattle are not prepared per Rule R8.6 the no time provision will be waived. The contestant will receive a \$150 fine for the infraction.
3. The Tie-down Roping Event Representative or his appointee must approve the length of the score. At a two judge rodeo if the field flagger is in doubt he may confer with the line judge and if the line judge is not definitive there is not a jerk down violation.
4. At a rodeo that has three judges, the third judge is responsible for calling the jerk down. If the judge is in doubt he may confer with the field flagger and if the field flagger is not definitive there is not a jerk down violation.
5. A no time provision also requires the committee to have scales available to weigh the tie down animals.

64. Rule 11.7.6 Limit use of Steer Wrestling Cattle

Cattle used for steer roping, team roping, cutting, or other events shall not be used for steer wrestling.

65. Rule 11.7.8 Steer Wrestling Time Limit.

There will be a 60-second elapsed time limit in the steer wrestling. A whistle indicating “no time” shall be blown by the timer at the end of the 60-second span.

66. Rule 11.8.10 Team Roping Time Limit.

There will be a 30-second elapsed time limit in the team roping. A whistle indicating “no time” shall be blown by the timer at the end of the 30-second span.

67. Rule 11.9.3.2 Intentional Trip with Illegal Catch

Any steer roper who intentionally trips a steer with an illegal catch shall be flagged out. If flagged out, the steer roper will be fined.

68. Rule 11.9.3.4 Jerking Steer Down Without Having a Trip

If in the Opinion of the Judge the steer roper jerks the steer down intentionally without ever having a trip, he will be fined.

69. R11.9.6 Steer Roping Time Limit.

There will be a 30-second elapsed time limit in the steer roping. A whistle indicating “no time” shall be blown by the timer at the end of the appropriate time limit. Deviations must be approved at time of rodeo approval. If a roper trips a steer after the whistle has sounded, the roper has committed a Class III Offense for mistreatment of livestock.

70. Rule 11.9.10 Excessive Dragging of Steer.

Steer Roping Contestant, who in the opinion of the judge, excessively drags a steer may be disqualified and/or fined.

****Miscellaneous****

71. Rule 3.2.2 No Animal May be in the Draw Twice on the Same Day.

In all riding events, stock cannot be placed in the draw twice in the same say, with the exception of rerides, unless approved by the event representative and the Director of Rodeo Administration.

72. Rule 4.8.3 Unsafe Arena Conditions.

If the arena conditions are deemed at any time to be unsafe by the arena director, a majority of the event representatives present, any judge, or the primary stock contractor, competition may be stopped until which time the arena conditions are deemed satisfactory by the individual or individuals who initially determined that arena conditions were unsafe.

PRCA LIVESTOCK WELFARE TALKING POINTS

When addressing animal issues, the PRCA feels the most important issue is the difference between animal rights and animal welfare. Those who believe in animal rights believe that we do not have the right to utilize animals in industry, entertainment and recreation. They believe that use of animals equate abuse and should be banned. PRCA believes in animal welfare – that we have the right to interact with animals in activities such as rodeo, but along with that right comes the responsibility to provide proper care and treatment.

- The PRCA feels that sharing the importance of animal welfare and our comprehensive program is important. Through the years, the PRCA has hosted Animal Industry Animal Welfare Conferences and invited all rodeo associations to come and network on the issues. Most rodeo associations have adopted rules similar to PRCA's to govern the care and treatment of rodeo livestock.
- The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) is pleased to release the results of a survey conducted to insure the welfare of rodeo livestock. The survey was covered **148 rodeo performances and 70 sections of slack. During the 60,244 animal exposures, 28 animals were reported with injuries, mostly minor.** This calculates to an injury rate of .00046 or less than five hundredths of one percent. Veterinarian's filling out the survey had universal praise for the care of the livestock.
- The PRCA began conducting surveys to document the rate of injury to rodeo livestock in PRCA sanctioned events in 1993. In 1995, the PRCA adopted a rule requiring a veterinarian on-site for all rodeo performances and sections of slack. The presence of veterinarians has allowed the surveys to be conducted periodically as samplings of large and small rodeos across the United States. All surveys conducted through the years have shown a very similar low rate of injury.
- Animal welfare is a priority for the PRCA and more than 70 rules are the cornerstone of the PRCA's animal welfare program. These rules govern the care and handling of rodeo livestock and the equipment used.
- The PRCA's animal welfare program is recognized nationally as a model for groups that incorporate animal use in sport. The American Association of Equine Practitioners recognized the PRCA for its rules and enforcement mechanisms in 2003 with the Lavin Cup, awarded each year to a non-veterinary group that has demonstrated exceptional compassion or developed and enforced rules and guidelines for the welfare of the horse.
- The PRCA depends on those with expertise and jurisdiction to guide the animal welfare program. Veterinarians and others with experience with rodeo animals assist the PRCA in animal welfare issues.

RODEO LAWS OF IMPORTANCE TO VETERINARIANS

The PRCA continuously monitors legislation and works to oppose legislation that would negatively affect rodeo. There are some laws that regulate and a few that ban certain events or equipment. This list is for reference only; please check all local, state and federal officials for complete language and any other laws that may affect rodeos in your area.

LOCAL LAWS:

Alameda County, CA – defines rodeo, requires a veterinarian on-site at all rodeos. Veterinarian may not be a contestant, requires notification of the sheriff and animal control not less than 14 days in advance of a rodeo or rodeo-like event.

Contra Costa County, CA – defines rodeo, bans horse tripping and steer tailing (Mexican Rodeo Events). Requires a veterinarian onsite that is not a contestant.

Baltimore, MD. : City ordinance bans flank straps, cattle prods, spurs and twisted wire snaffle bits.

Fort Wayne, IN – Department of Animal Control must approve events.

Glenn County, CA - Defines rodeo, bans steer tailing.

Irvine, CA – an ordinance passed in September of 2011 that bans the retail sale of pets, rodeos and circuses with exotic animals.

Pasadena, CA – an ordinance passed after a hard fought battle in 2000 bans rodeos and circuses on city owned property.

Pittsburgh, PA: Bans rodeo equipment (1990) - no electric prods, flank straps, spurs

Southampton, New York - no flank straps, sharpened spurs, electric prods, wire tie downs & bullwhips

Poway, CA – after rejecting proposed bans the City of Poway adopted many PRCA rules as local ordinances. The new ordinance requires a veterinarian on-site, fleece lined flank straps on horses and limits the use of the cattle prod. In addition, local animal control must be notified 14 days in advance of a rodeo.

San Juan Capistrano, CA - adopted an ordinance in 1995 that makes the humane rules of the PRCA law in San Juan Capistrano.

San Francisco, CA - after an unsuccessful campaign to outlaw flank straps, calf roping and steer wrestling, a law requiring all rodeos to follow PRCA rules and banning cattle prods and greased pig contests was passed in 1999.

Sacramento, CA – in 2010 the Sacramento City Council voted to pass an ordinance that would require circuses, rodeos and other animal events in the city to get a permit and follow regulations. If you are planning on holding an animal event, contact City of Sacramento Animal Care Services.

St. Charles, IL – prohibits electric prods and requires a Veterinarian on-call.

STATE LAWS

CALIFORNIA

Text of Current Law Pertaining to Rodeo In California:

596.7. (a) (1) For purposes of this section, "rodeo" means a performance featuring competition between persons that includes three or more of the following events: bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, or team roping.

(2) A rodeo performed on private property for which admission is charged, or that sells or accepts sponsorships, or is open to the public constitutes a performance for the purpose of this subdivision.

(b) The management of any professionally sanctioned or amateur rodeo that intends to perform in any city, county, or city and county shall ensure that there is a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state present at all times during the performances of the rodeo, or a veterinarian licensed to practice in the state who is on-call and able to arrive at the rodeo within one hour after a determination has been made that there is an injury which requires treatment to be provided by a veterinarian.

(c) (1) The attending or on-call veterinarian shall have complete access to the site of any event in the rodeo that uses animals.

(2) The attending or on-call veterinarian may, for good cause, declare any animal unfit for use in any rodeo event.

(d) (1) Any animal that is injured during the course of, or as a result of, any rodeo event shall receive immediate examination and appropriate treatment by the attending veterinarian or shall begin receiving examination and appropriate treatment by a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state within one hour of the determination of the injury requiring veterinary treatment.

(2) The attending or on-call veterinarian shall submit a brief written listing of any animal injury requiring veterinary treatment to the Veterinary Medical Board within 48 hours of the conclusion of the rodeo.

(3) The rodeo management shall ensure that there is a conveyance available at all times for the immediate and humane removal of any injured animal.

(e) The rodeo management shall ensure that no electric prod or similar device is used on any animal once the animal is in the holding chute, unless necessary to protect the participants and spectators of the rodeo.

(f) A violation of this section is an infraction and shall be punishable as follows:

(1) A fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for a first violation.

(2) A fine of not less than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a second or subsequent violation.

New language that was added to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act in CA in 2010 **Effective: January 1, 2011**

Link to the entire new language that amends the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act in California.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_1951-2000/ab_1980_bill_20100929_chaptered.pdf

Section that pertains to rodeo specifically:

SEC. 10. Section 4830.8 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4830.8. (a) An attending or on-call veterinarian at a rodeo event shall, pursuant to Section 596.7 of the Penal Code, report to the board any animal injury at the event requiring veterinary treatment within 48 hours of the conclusion of the rodeo.

(b) A veterinarian, other than a veterinarian identified in subdivision (a), shall report to the board

within seven days of rendering treatment to an animal for an injury that the veterinarian knows occurred at a rodeo event.

(c) A report submitted pursuant to this section shall include the title, location, and date of the rodeo event, the name of the attending veterinarian at the event, the name of the reporting veterinarian, the type of animal, and a brief description of the injury suffered by the animal. The board shall post a form on its Internet Web site to be used by veterinarians for purposes of submitting this report.

The Veterinary Medical Board has created an online form to report injuries at rodeos that require veterinary treatment, this is available here:

http://www.vmb.ca.gov/laws_regs/rodeo.shtml

For questions about reporting requirements, contact the Veterinary Medical Board at 916.263.2610 or at www.vmb.ca.gov.

OHIO

1965 State Statute ORC 959-20 was enacted: partial text: “No person shall directly or indirectly by aiding, abetting, or permitting the doing of hereof, put, place, fasten, use, or fix upon or to any animal used or reading for use for a work purpose, twisted wire snaffles, bucking straps, electric prods or other similar devices.

1985: The law was amended...No person shall.....unpadded bucking straps, unpadded flank straps. Although the ban on using cattle prods still stands, the new law does allow all other needed equipment used in rodeo.

RHODE ISLAND

Currently bans tie-down calf roping. This law also regulates rodeo, requiring a vet on-site and other regulations.

RODEO VETERINARIAN SIGN IN SHEET

Rodeo Name: _____

Veterinarian	Cell Number	Date	Check In Time	Check Out Time

This form will be in the rodeo secretary's office and the veterinarian should sign in and out for performance and/or section of slack. This allows everyone to know which veterinarian is working that performance and when they arrive and depart. Failure for the veterinarian to sign in each performance or be available for any needed veterinary care for livestock could result in a \$500 per performance fine to the rodeo committee.

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA



The media can play a very important part in the image of rodeo portrayed to the public. Rodeo proponents need to be aware of the proper ways to work with the media, communicate the positive stories about rodeo, and respond to any questions. By understanding how to work with the media and handle controversial issues, the sport of rodeo can continue to thrive.

1. Understand your relationship with the media.

- Build relationships with local media, provide them good content on your rodeo, arrange tours behind the chutes and introduce them to key personnel and contestants. By getting to know them they will be much more likely to reach out to you when dealing with a controversial story.
- Always be respectful of journalists' deadlines - answer inquiries promptly.
- If the inquiry is from a print journalist ask for the questions via email and answer them via email, this allows you to protect yourself from being misquoted and check the accuracy of your answers.
- For controversial issues such as livestock injuries, create a written statement and submit that to media if they ask about the issue.
- Take into consideration that most of the time the media will feel obligated to present both sides of the story to their audience.
- Never make an "off the record comment". Assume everything you say will be used.
- A "no comment" does not reflect well on you, your organization, or rodeo in general
- The editor or producer determines the content, not the journalist.
- Be prepared to report on your own bad news, this will increase your credibility as well allow you to determine when and how the story is reported.

2. Preparing for the Interview.

- Avoid going into an interview with no preparation.
- Ask the journalist what topics will be covered, who he/she works for and when the story will run.
- Ask the reporter the subject of the interview and who else they will be interviewing. If you are not the best person to do the interview, direct them to another person. If the questions are not about your local event, but about the sport of rodeo as a whole, direct them to the PRCA office, and their questions will be handled there.
- Know the journalist and do not do an interview immediately. Ask the pertinent questions, get their information and schedule a time that works for both of you to conduct the interview. Google the reporter and see the type of stories they have written.
- Decide beforehand what two or three points you want to get across and work them into the interview.
- Do your homework. Know the current events involved in the issue that is to be discussed. Make sure you know your facts and figures and research any quotes.
- Know the opposing view and the stories that have been in the news lately. Be prepared to answer their view without appearing defensive.
- Ask about other sources or people they have interviewed for the story.

3. The Interview.

- Stay positive. If the journalist is negative, steer him/her to a positive topic.
- Be aware of positive stories and people in the rodeo industry.
- Be friendly and greet the journalist by his/her name.
- Be relaxed and make eye contact when answering questions.
- Don't look away or down; it portrays nervousness or loss of confidence.
- If you don't know the answer, say so. Only talk about things you are very confident in your knowledge of.
- Be brief and concise. You will lose your audience drawn out explanations.
- Avoid using rodeo slang terms. If you use them, explain them.
- Use personal examples and stories that the audience can relate to.
- Don't get bogged down in statistics and numbers.
- If a journalist states a fact about rodeo that is wrong, refute it immediately and politely. Make sure to correct in an informative and helpful manner.
- Avoid answering hypothetical "what if" questions.
- Take control of the interview. Make sure your point gets across.
- Maintain an even temper. Your opinions and emotions should never be obvious.
- If you have reason to mistrust the reporter, ask to record the interview.

4. Dealing with Inaccuracies in the Press.

- Determine if the story contains inaccuracies or if it is just annoying.
- Confirm inaccuracies with others and determine a plan of actions.
- If the story is highly visible and potentially damaging, call the reporter and ask for a retraction. Call other press in the area and set the story straight. If the story is run in a news outlet with little circulation or credibility, don't draw attention to it.
- Have fact sheets and statistics to back up your position.
- There are some situations where you may want to let the issue go away, by bringing the issue up in a letter or rebuttal, you may prolong it. Factors in your local community and media should help you decide on whether to address these issues or allow them to fade away.

Biosecurity Considerations for PRCA Rodeos

The outbreak of a contagious animal disease in your area or within the rodeo industry can have a profound effect on a rodeo if the rodeo committee is not prepared. Rodeo committees should be proactive regarding bio-security and disease mitigation efforts before the situation arises. Following are some tips on how a rodeo committee can prepare.

1. Insure you are in communication with your State Veterinarian's office and on any distribution list to update you on contagious animal disease outbreaks in your state. Get a copy of any state regulations regarding animal health requirements that may affect your rodeo. You can find a list of state veterinarians at this web address of the United States Animal Health Association:
<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>
2. If you decide that your rodeo has a need to require something stricter than the state animal health requirements, this must be put in the ground rules in time for this to be printed in the Pro Rodeo Sports News. If a disease outbreak occurs and the state veterinarian or rodeo committee will be strengthening health requirements for your event, Jed Pugsley at the PRCA at jpugsley@prorodeo.com or 719-528-4782 and these requirements will be shared via email, social media and procom if possible.
3. Talk with your rodeo veterinarian and let him know you are working up protocols for bio-security and disease mitigation at your event and ask for his suggestions and guidance. Your veterinarian is an important part of this process and should be relied upon for his/her expertise.
4. While horse diseases have garnered the most headlines recently, Bovine Tuberculosis is always a consideration when Mexico-origin timed event cattle are present. Recommendations from animal health officials are to no co-mingle Mexico origin (m-branded) steers with domestic livestock. This means no sharing of feed or water troughs and no nose to nose contact if possible. See the flyer on the subject in the following pages.
5. Put into place good biosecurity measures for your facility and events including:
 - i. Wash down all stalls with a solution of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups of bleach per gallon of water;
 - ii. Remove any communal water troughs and encourage contestants to only water their horses out of their own buckets;
 - iii. Do not allowing tying of saddle horses where they can have nose to nose contact with bucking horses;
 - iv. Discourage the sharing of tack, buckets, etc.
 - v. Have a sharps container available for contestants to use to allow for the safe disposal of needles;
 - vi. Have hand sanitizing stations available on the grounds;
 - vii. Post biosecurity posters in the rodeo secretaries office and in the barns if or stall areas;
 - viii. Employ an insect control program to spray for flies that may spread disease between animals;
 - ix. Have a plan to dispose of manure.

6. Create a written plan to deal with an animal displaying signs of a contagious disease while at your event/facility. Items to be addressed:
 - i. What role will your veterinarian have in the plan?
 - ii. Where will the animal be isolated?
 - iii. What state/local/federal animal health officials need to be notified?
 - iv. How will you address the media's questions? Preferred method is a press release that is pre-prepared and the needed information added once a sick animal is found.
 - v. Who will lead the effort to contain the disease?
 - vi. Who will contact the PRCA in order to notify all contestants and stock contractors who have been at the event and left as well as notifying rodeos that the horses from your event may be headed to?
 - vii. How will you regulate the entrance and exit of livestock from the facility?
 - viii. Put into place a stronger health monitoring system for all livestock on the facility that are at risk.
 - ix. Prepare

ANIMAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

Colorado Department of Agriculture Bio Security Resources

This page include the document "*Business Continuity Plan for Equine Events*" which will help your event formulate a plan.

<http://veterinaryextension.colostate.edu/menu1/biosecurity.shtml>

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Biosecurity Toolkit for Equine Events – a very comprehensive document that will assist your event in improving biosecurity and preparing for a contagious animal disease event.

http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_biosecurity.html

Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) Myeloencephalopathy

A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/equine_herpesvirus_brochure_2009.pdf

Vesicular Stomatitis Fact Sheet

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/fs_vesicular_stomatitis_2012.pdf

Questions and Answers: Bovine Tuberculosis

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/faq_bovine_tb.pdf

List of State Animal Health Officials

<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

Protect your Horses... Protect your Investment.

Don't let an infectious disease stop your Horses in their tracks.

**EHV-1 and other diseases can be transmitted through the respiratory tract.
Minimize the risk to your herd with good biosecurity practices.**



KEEP YOUR HORSES SAFE

Infectious diseases can be spread through contaminated objects such as brushes, feed/water buckets, halters, and bridles. It is important to use separate equipment for all horses or thoroughly clean equipment between use on horses.

Monitor your horses for signs of a fever, lethargy, or incoordination.

Quarantine new horses for at least 3 weeks before introducing into your herd.

Prevent nose-to-nose and shared water/feedbunk contact with other herds.

Clean trailers and equipment with 1³/₄ cups bleach in 1 gallon of water.

KNOW YOUR REGULATIONS

Horses entering Colorado must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and a Negative Coggins/Equine Infectious Anemia Test within the last year.

Neurologic EHV-1 is a reportable disease. Contact your veterinarian if you have any concerns about the health of your animals.

Brought to you by:
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