

## Rodeos

Each year, over one thousand official rodeos occur in the United States, primarily in the Western states. Standard events include bucking contests, calf and steer roping, steer wrestling, and bull riding.

NHES opposes rodeos because it is inherently cruel to force animals by means of spurs, sharpened sticks, electric prods, flank straps and other rodeo tack to unwillingly participate in events causing pain, injury and, in some instances, death. NHES encourages individuals and families to seek alternative forms of entertainment that do not involve cruelty to or exploitation of animals.



*Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals*

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*Presented by The National Humane Education Society*



# Zoos, Circuses, etc., Are No Entertainment For The Animals



**NHES** opposes Roadside Zoos that exist for the purpose of entertainment, but supports those select zoos whose explicit purpose is to educate people about the animal world and its varied habitats, protect endangered species and thereby instill in the general public an increased appreciation and compassion for animals. To achieve these ends, a zoo must provide a humane standard of care that requires creation of natural habitats with ample area for exercise and socialization, appropriate diets, and suitable climatic controls.

### **Circuses**

NHES opposes all circuses that use animals in any of their acts because they ultimately exploit animals for human entertainment and economic gain.

Unlike reputable zoos and wildlife refuges, circuses do not serve to educate people about the animal world or its habitats; nor do they protect endangered species or strive to instill in the general public an increased appreciation and compassion for animals. Circuses fail to provide captive animals with a humane standard of care that requires the creation of natural habitats, ample area for exercise and socialization, appropriate diets, or suitable climatic controls. Further, some circuses use abusive training techniques including whips, chains, clubs, and electric shock to force animals to perform out of fear of punishment.

### **Dog & Horse Racing**

The National Humane Education Society opposes both dog and horse racing.

Though NHES acknowledges that it is in the nature of many animals to race, it is the widespread practice of abuse associated with commercial animal racing that is reprehensible.

### **Did you know that in the U.S. alone?**

- An estimated 20,000 greyhounds and many thousands of horses bred for the racetrack are destroyed annually
- Many dogs bred for racing that are not destroyed, or who are too old to race any longer, are sent to research labs
- Many horses bred for racing or who are too old to race any longer, are sent to the slaughterhouse
- Nearly 100,000 live rabbits and other small animals are literally torn apart in the preferred method of greyhound live-lure training (though currently illegal in 16 states, these laws are difficult to enforce)
- Performance enhancing and pain masking drugs are frequently given to horses and dogs before races, often creating further injuries
- Overzealous trainers and owners, abusive handlers and faulty track surfaces are responsible for the death and injury of countless animals

Local, state and federal legislators must pass and strictly enforce laws protecting race animals. Citizens can help by writing to their representatives insisting on this legislation. Citizens can also help by alerting authorities to abuses and by not attending or betting on racing events.