



Newsweek, "I keep 30 head of cattle around for practice, at \$200 a head. You can **cripple** three or four in an afternoon. So it gets to be a pretty expensive **hobby**." In over 20 cities and states the majority of Americans have said "No" to rodeo cruelty by either banning or restricting events. For years, SHARK has documented and exposed violations of rodeo's "humane rules" and state cruelty laws from coast to coast.

Speaking Out

What Experts and Celebrities are Saying about Rodeo

"I don't think enough people stand up for animals. My heart goes out to them because, to me, every single animal has a heart and a mind and a soul."

~ **Carrie Underwood**, in an interview with *Reader's Digest*

"Do I think it hurts the calf? Sure I do. I'm not stupid."

~ **Keith Martin**, Chairman of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), in an interview about the abusive calf roping event

"You don't have to be an animal rights activist to see how these rodeos hurt the animals. It isn't a matter of perspective or opinion – animal suffering, injuries and death are all part of rodeos."

~ **Rikki Rockett**, drummer and cofounder of *Poison*

"Kindness and compassion towards all living beings is a mark of a civilized society. Racism, economic deprival, dog fighting and cock fighting, bullfighting and rodeos are all cut from the same defective fabric: violence."

~ **Cesar Chavez**, civil rights leader, founder of the *United Farm Workers*

"I do not torture animals, and I do not support the torture of animals, such as that which goes on at rodeos: cowardly men in big hats abusing simple beasts in a fruitless search for manhood."

~ **George Carlin**

"Without torture, there can be no rodeos. In my opinion, and based on my extensive training and experience, it is impossible to create a humane rodeo."

~ **Peggy W. Larson**, DVM, large animal veterinarian and former bronc rider

"In addition to mistreatment and neglect, animals are often injured during rodeo competition."

~ **Kerry Levin**, DVM, former barrel racer and rodeo vet

"In order for a calf roper to become proficient he must spend a great deal of time practicing. Baby calves sold to the practice pens are roped over and over until they are injured or killed."

~ **Peggy W. Larson**, DVM, MS, JD

Steer Busting is the very worst PRCA event, with dead and severely injured steers being dragged out of virtually every rodeo. Given the horrific brutality of the event, it is a wonder that any of them survive. Steer busting is the event that single-handedly belies the claim that rodeo people care about animals.

Calf Roping is also extremely cruel and



causes many injuries and deaths. Additionally, abusing an animal that is

only three to four months of age is an especially cowardly act.

Team Roping involves two contestants roping the head and rear legs of a steer and then pulling in opposing directions. Needless to say, this also results in many animal injuries.

Steer Wrestling was never part of ranch work. It is trivial, utterly pointless entertainment and nothing more. Steers often have their tails twisted and raked over fences to make them run out of the chutes. Once out, their necks are violently twisted, which can cause injury and death.

Bucking horses in the Old West were untamed horses who didn't need inducement to buck – they were wild. Today's bucking horses are tame, domesticated animals who are mistreated to artificially induce a "wild" appearance. They need to be tame because they spend half of their life riding around in trailers. So to trick