



The Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) are deeply committed to the proper care and treatment of the livestock used in rodeo.

The Elizabeth Stampede:

- Has established rules and regulations governing livestock welfare and strict adherence to safety and welfare of all animals
- Created an animal welfare committee, and assigned a coordinator to assist in efforts to ensure proper care of livestock
- Conducts livestock welfare surveys to identify successful practices and areas for improvement
- Complies with PRCA livestock welfare rules and regulations
- Provides livestock welfare training for volunteers in contact with livestock
- Has a veterinarian on site
- Routine surveys of all livestock and logging and following up on even the slightest injury
- Pulls any animals from the roster that are not in top condition
- Conducts regular meetings during the rodeo to discuss the condition of all animals

PRCA Rules Provide for Safety of Livestock:

The PRCA first began implementing rules to ensure proper care and treatment of rodeo livestock in 1947. Today, the PRCA enforces 60 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 continuously 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.

Specific rules protecting the 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 and how many times an animal can perform in a specified period of time, and require that a veterinarian be on site for

as the most comprehensive in the rodeo industry and its rules are used as a model for most other rodeo associations.

What you Should Know About the PRCA and Rodeo Livestock:

- The average bucking horse or bucking bull works less than five minutes a year in the arena.
- Rodeo livestock have long and healthy lives: Many of today's top bucking horses are 20 years old, and many bulls are active buckers at 15 years of age. Veterinarians attribute these long, healthy life spans to good care, quality feed and adequate exercise.
- PRCA rules prohibit the use of sharpened spurs and other implements.
- Stock contractors invest a great deal of money in their breeding and purchase programs; many contractors pay up to five or even six figures for a top-rated bucking animal. Naturally, they are very motivated to take care of these investments.
- Both bulls and horses have natural bucking tendencies; many do so while playing together in pastures, just as horses naturally race each other. What makes an animal a candidate for rodeo livestock is the absolute determination to buck if something is on its back – often an inherited characteristic, which breeders now work carefully to bring out in “Born to Buck” programs.
- PRCA rules require flank straps to be lined with fleece or neoprene in the flank area (similar to a human waist); flank straps are tightened just enough to encourage the animal to kick behind itself instead of hopping around the arena. Overtightening would result in the animal's refusal to move at all, much less buck. Flank straps do not contact an animal's genitals.

Dr. Doug Corey, DVM: “I'm proud of the PRCA's commitment to animal welfare.”

Rodeo committees and stock contractors do an excellent job of caring for their livestock and keeping them in top condition, says Dr. Doug Corey, DVM. “Many of these animals become a part of (the stock contractors') families. In ProRodeo, I have never seen a malnourished animal or even one in need of changes in their feed program. Most stock contractors have large ranches where the stock can exercise and run when they are not at rodeos. Being turned out (to pasture) is important for muscle development, stamina and their attitude. Animals that are not in top condition and receiving the best of care will not perform to the top of their ability. I'm proud of the PRCA's commitment to animal welfare.”

Dr. John Wenzel, DVM: “Stock contractors and rodeo committees are constantly discussing animal welfare, trying to make sure that livestock get the comfort and care they deserve, so that they will perform at their best as athletes.

New Mexico Extension Veterinarian Dr. John Wenzel, who has worked with six to eight PRCA stock contractors at 40 rodeos, says they are all “extremely picky – they always want the best for their animals. Stock contractors and rodeo committees are constantly discussing animal welfare, trying to make sure that livestock get the comfort and care they deserve, so that they will perform at their best as athletes. I often use the PRCA's rules to help folks in other livestock industries come up with animal welfare standards and guidelines for their own fields. I'm really proud to be associated with the way PRCA stock contractors take care of their livestock, and I think they are trendsetters in the area of animal welfare.”