



Rodeo Events

Position

Calgary Humane Society opposes high-risk rodeo events—including chuckwagon racing, calf roping, and steer wrestling—due to the demonstrated risk of injury or death to participating animals.

While these events are legally sanctioned and culturally significant, animal welfare must take precedence over entertainment and competition. Consistent with its broader position on animals in entertainment, the Society advocates for the elimination of high-risk practices that expose animals to avoidable harm.

In the interim, Calgary Humane Society supports evidence-based measures to reduce risk improve accountability, and strengthen welfare protections. It also encourages the development of alternatives that celebrate western heritage without compromising animal welfare.

Roles and Approach

As the enforcement agency for the Alberta Animal Protection Act (APA) within the City of Calgary, Calgary Humane Society:

- Responds to complaints and conducts investigations where warranted
- Ensures compliance with legislative requirements
- Engages with event organizers to promote improved standards of care

The Society's presence at rodeo events reflects this legislated role and its commitment to minimizing animal suffering through both enforcement and proactive engagement.

Calgary Humane Society is an animal welfare organization focused on reducing harm and improving standards of care. It supports education, transparency, and evidence-based reform to improve practices and reduce risk in human–animal interactions, including rodeo events.

Rationale

High-risk rodeo events are conducted as entertainment and competition and inherently expose animals to stress, physical strain, and the risk of injury or death.

Evidence indicates that events such as chuckwagon racing, calf roping, and steer wrestling carry elevated risk compared to many other animal-related activities. Animals in these events may experience:

- High-intensity physical exertion
- Psychological stress associated with handling and environment
- Forced or unnatural behaviours

While regulatory frameworks and veterinary oversight can mitigate some harms, these risks cannot be fully eliminated.

Calgary Humane Society recognizes that participants may value and care for their animals; however, where activities expose animals to avoidable harm, the Society maintains its position to prioritize welfare and advocate for the elimination of those practices over time.

References

[Criminal Code of Canada – Animal Cruelty Provisions](#)

[Alberta Animal Protection Act](#)

[Canadian Council on Animal Care](#)

[Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare](#)