

PHHVV is a non-profit organisation committed to providing hope for Victorian equines through education, rehabilitation and advocacy.

## Press Release

### PHHVV Current Stance on Rodeos

As most people would be aware, PHHVV's primary focus and reason for existence is to assist neglected equines. We achieve this through rescue and direct assistance to horses in need, as well as through education and advocacy to horse owners, the general public and the law makers.

The organisation does not support rodeos, believing they do not depict or promote a positive relationship between horse and human, and are ethically very questionable. However, at this time, as long as the rodeo is run in accordance with the Government's 'Code of Practice for the Welfare of Rodeo and Rodeo School Livestock (Victoria)', PHHVV will not actively seek to have them banned, or enter into further debate. We have enough on our plate assisting starving horses in a devastating drought.

However, having said all that, there is no doubt that although the rodeo is fun for some people it is definitely not fun for the animals. One only has to look at a photo of a bronco bucking in competition for proof of this – ears back, eyes wide with whites showing, mouth wide open, and the exaggerated and contorted movement which is not normal. Every other equine sport seeks to encourage horses not to buck and strives to achieve at least some degree of harmony between horse and rider.

Whilst competing in a rodeo the cattle and horses are frightened, if not terrified; in significant discomfort if not in actual pain; and at risk of injury due to exaggerated and unnatural movements they are goaded into making – albeit for a short amount of time. The cattle probably fare worse than the horses.

In terms of the Melbourne rodeo, it will be the subject of so much scrutiny it will probably be run to the letter of the code. It is the country rodeos, especially the more remote ones, which are more suspect. If you as an individual have great concerns, consider attending some of these rodeos, code and camera in hand. Make sure you go 'out the back' where animals are yarded and being prepared for the chutes and if an animal is hurt in the main arena try and follow it back to the yards to see what action is taken. Report adverse findings to the Bureau of Animal Welfare and perhaps the local paper.

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