

CHEYENNE FRONTIER DAYS ANIMAL CARE FACTS

Each year, about 4,300 “four-legged athletes” enter the arena at Cheyenne Frontier Days. Steers, calves, bulls, broncs and the talented horses that partner with cowboys and barrel-racing cowgirls are essential to the rodeo, and all deserve the level of humane care due any ranch animal – even more so due to their roles in the success of our rodeos.

Cheyenne Frontier Days takes pride in our animal care policies. We value our animals and we are committed to making sure that rodeo is as safe as possible for the animals and the cowboys.

Some facts you should know:

- We are sanctioned by PRCA and we follow their very strict 60 guidelines on animal welfare. In some cases we even go above and beyond those guidelines.
- We have an Animal Care Committee that works closely with veterinarians and the Contestants Committee to ensure, along with rodeo judges, that animal care guidelines are enforced.
- We have Board-Certified veterinarians on-site at every rodeo event to make sure that the animals are treated humanely and are well cared for. These veterinarians ensure animal care standards are in place and provide continuing care to any animal that may have sustained an injury.
- The animal injury rate in rodeo is extremely low, less than five-hundredths of one percent (0.0004). The findings are based on a recent PRCA national survey involving 75,472 animal exposures, 194 rodeo performances and 78 sections of slack (qualifying).
- The spurs allowed in PRCA-sanctioned rodeos have dull rowels, which is the wheel of the spur. Contestants who violate rules regarding the spurs face fines, suspension and/or disqualification. In both bareback riding and saddle bronc riding, the rowel must be loose and roll across the hide of an animal.
- Flank straps cinched around the abdomen of bucking stock are aimed at signaling to these experienced horses that it is time to buck. When tightened, it is likened to tightening a belt. The straps are made of soft fleece or neoprene-line material. The straps contain no sharp objects and are never strapped across an animal's genitals, as some animal rights activists allege.
- No electric prod devices may be used at CFD to promote bucking; they may be only used to aid in moving the livestock to prevent injury.
- CFD works hard to ensure that all our animals receive proper care and treatment before, during and after every rodeo performance. PRCA rules require that horses and cattle travel to rodeos in trucks that are specially designed for their protection. When they get here, the animals are placed in large holding pens, provided with fresh feed and water, and monitored frequently for any health concerns.
- Animal rights groups continue to post videos of real or apparent unfortunate animal injuries sustained at any of the 2,100 rodeos (high school, college, county fair, other) of all kinds held annually through the U.S. Only about 700 of these rodeos, like CFD, are PRCA-sanctioned and thus held to PRCA's stringent animal welfare standards. In some cases, video clips of injuries occurring at other rodeos are posted as if to indicate they happened at CFD.

**For more information on PRCA's
Livestock Welfare Resources and Animal Welfare Rules, visit:
www.prorodeo.com/animal_welfare.aspx?xu=1**