

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY....

Does this look like family fun and entertainment, or cruelty and violence against defenceless animals?

Carrieton rodeo S.A. 2011



Distressed horse bucking in response to tight flank rope and spurs, attempting to get rid of the predator.

Marrabel rodeo, SA, 2010



Images courtesy of *Animals Australia*

Dulled spurs on riders boots are used to 'rake' the shoulders of bulls and horses; the pain designed to make them throw the rider.

Grong Grong rodeo,
Southern Highlands 11.9.12



How did this poor fallen horse not break its neck? These cruel events cause pain and distress to every animal which is forced to participate.

Is this the sort of thing you want your family to see at the upcoming Lugarno Spring Fair?

We believe this is indefensible cruelty and violence against animals.

If you believe this too, please join us in speaking out to protect animals from cruelty now.

- Write or email your objections to Hurstville Council and Lugarno Lions Club.
- Post your comments on the Leader website.
- Sign the Petition asking Council to stop the rodeo, at www.sydneyrescue.com.au
- Have your say, and donate to the **Speak Out About Cruelty to Animals Now Appeal** at <http://makingadifference.gofundraise.com.au/page/SpeakOutAboutCrueltytoAnimals>
- Show your support and come to the peaceful, family friendly demonstration organized by Animal Liberation NSW.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

WHEN: Sunday, 23rd September 10:30am-12:30pm

WHERE: Gannons Park, Peakhurst

MEET: Corner of Isaac Street and Pindari Road

ENQUIRIES: Phillip Hall, Animal Liberation Humane Education Officer
education@animal-lib.org.au

AN OPEN LETTER TO HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL & TO LUGARNO LIONS CLUB

Requesting that Council and Lions acknowledge community concerns and withdraw the proposed rodeo from the forthcoming Lugarno Spring Fair.

We, the undersigned Animal Welfare and Animal Protection organisations, and concerned members of the community request responses to the following:

- 1. Why would you promote, as family entertainment, events such as buck-jumping, bull-riding and steer-wrestling, which cause distress and suffering to all the animals who are forced to participate?**
- 2. What investigation did you undertake, beyond the obviously biased advocacy of the rodeo industry, to consider the impact on the animals, before you made this decision to hold a rodeo?**
- 3. What, if any, community consultation did you undertake before reportedly committing \$23,000 of rate-payer funds to a controversial event like a rodeo?**

It is deeply disappointing that Council seems to have relied **exclusively** on the biased advocacy of the rodeo industry, and not given due consideration to credible evidence gathered over more than 10 years by Animals Australia. We also do not understand why you appear to have dismissed the protests of animal welfare organizations and local residents who have been writing to you, and posting their objections on the Leader's website over recent weeks. Residents have been protesting that they **do not** want an event which traumatises animals, causing them to react violently and in a distressed manner, in response to the cruel use of spurs, flank straps and electric prods. This distressed behaviour can result in falls and broken bones. Electric prod manufacturer, Hot Shot, which manufactures these high voltage, low current shocks strong enough to cause significant pain, specifically recommends that electric prods are not used in rodeos, or especially on horses, because they are so sensitive, yet both are rodeo industry practices. That the Council could seem to condone such cruel practices is profoundly disappointing and beyond our comprehension.

Why didn't you consider the serious issue of cruelty to animals and the appropriateness of a rodeo, at a family and community fair before you made the decision to host a rodeo?

To continue to endorse and promote a rodeo when more enlightened states and countries are abandoning them, reflects very negatively on the reputations of Hurstville Council and Lugarno Lions Club. This is an **unenlightened, unprogressive and inhumane** decision that you have made. **It is not too late to reverse this decision.**

WHY THE RODEO SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE LUGARNO SPRING FAIR

Every animal welfare organization opposes rodeos because of the cruelty to animals that they involve.

- The RSPCA and Animal Welfare League are the Government's delegated authorities charged with upholding the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
- The RSPCA states on their website: "RSPCA Australia is **strongly opposed** to rodeos because of the potential for significant injury, suffering, distress or even death to the animals involved". (Ref: http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-the-RSPCA-view-on-rodeos_239.html).
- Animal Welfare League NSW opposes Rodeo's similarly.

Rodeos are widely acknowledged as, and condemned for, causing cruelty to animals.

• Rodeos are banned or restricted in an ever-increasing number of states and countries, world-wide, including being banned in various parts of the US, the home of rodeo; the UK since 1934 when the British Parliament passed the Protection of Animals Act; the Netherlands, and in New Zealand's largest city, Auckland.

• In Australia, rodeos are already banned in the ACT. In South Australia and Victoria, the extremely cruel "sport" of roping of small animals including calves and goats has been banned.

Promoting a rodeo as family entertainment sends the message to the community, and especially to impressionable children and young people, that cruelty to animals is acceptable and entertaining. Cruelty to animals is never entertaining and is never ok!

We believe that the concept of an event which will undoubtedly cause animals fear, distress and pain is not appropriate and consistent with the spirit and intent of a community fair and family event, and it is not in harmony with evolving community expectations and values.

We believe that spending a reported \$23,000 of rate-payers' money on such an unnecessary and controversial event is a misapplication and unjustifiable use of rate-payers' funds.

- This seems especially so when there has apparently been no prior community consultation, and when there is obviously such strong community opposition.
- We believe that if the community was given a choice, it would vote in favour of the \$23,000 being donated directly to the Cancer Care Centre at St George Hospital, the reported recipient of funds to be raised from the rodeo.

We believe that hosting, endorsing and promoting a rodeo is inconsistent with Council's Code of Conduct and ethical decision-making guidelines, displayed on Council's website. We believe that Council is therefore **obliged** to take **immediate action** to withdraw the rodeo from the Lugarno Spring Fair.

Should Council decide to proceed with hosting a rodeo, we believe an explanation should be provided to the Community which explains the reasons for hosting the rodeo, and why the obvious animal welfare implications associated with the rodeo, and the concerns of the Community and various animal welfare organizations, have been dismissed during the decision making process

We sincerely hope that the Lugarno Spring Fair will be restored to the type of family event that the community has come to expect.

We await your prompt response.



Animal Aid Abroad



Animal Liberation NSW



Animal Welfare League NSW



Free the Bears NSW



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Humane Society International



Sydney Pet Rescue & Adoption



The Animal Justice Party - a Political Party giving a voice to those without a voice.

"Working together for a kinder and more compassionate world".

Authorisation of this advertisement by M.Alber on behalf of all the Animal Welfare and Animal Protection organizations endorsing this Open Letter. (02) 9262 3221