



ANIMAL WELFARE PRESENTATION

An educational and informative insight into the animal welfare requirements for rodeos run under the Australian Professional Rodeo Association.

Est. 2023



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Committed to animal welfare.



INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the APRA Animal Welfare Presentation.

An integral part of the APRA's framework and reputation, is our unequalled commitment to the welfare of rodeo livestock. Our standards and practices around the care and treatment of rodeo livestock are necessary to uphold the integrity of our association, and our sport on a whole, but most importantly, to protect the health and wellbeing of our livestock.

Animal welfare is everyone's responsibility. Competitors, officials, stock contractors and promoters are all obliged to follow our animal welfare guidelines and act within the best interest of the animal at all times. This presentation outlines the standards, rules and specific legislation that must be respected and complied to by stock contractors, promoters and personnel.





GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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The APRA's principles around animal welfare are firm and clear.

- Consideration must be given to the health and welfare of animals used in rodeos at all times.
- Our events and procedures are designed to prevent cruelty and minimise the impacts on the welfare of rodeo animals.
- Our standards and rules are designed to complement relevant legislation and codes of practice to prevent cruelty and minimise the risk of injury to livestock.
- Everyone associated with rodeo animals must comply with our standards, rules, relevant legislation and codes of practice.
- Stock contractors, rodeo promoters/organisers and all personnel must be appropriately trained to ensure that animal welfare needs are met.
- The association monitors and enforces compliance with animal welfare standards, rules and legislation.





DEFINITIONS

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Unless stated otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this presentation.

Rodeo:

A rodeo is a competition using cattle and/or horses, which includes one or more of the following events:

- Saddle bronc riding*
- Bareback bronc riding*
- Bull/steer riding*
- Steer Wrestling*
- Team Roping*
- Rope and Tie*
- Barrel Racing*
- Breakaway Roping*

Rodeo Organiser/Promoter:

Someone who instigates and promotes the rodeo. If a committee undertakes these tasks, it must designate, under these standards, a member to take on the responsibilities of rodeo organiser.

Stock Contractor:

Someone who provides livestock for rodeo events.





DEFINITIONS

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Judge:

The judge appointed to officiate at a rodeo.

Veterinarian:

A qualified veterinarian, appointed by the rodeo organiser, and who must be registered in the Australian state or territory in which the rodeo is held.

Personnel:

A person working (either paid or unpaid) at a rodeo that has contact with rodeo livestock.

Competitor:

A person competing in a rodeo event.





LEGISLATION

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While the APRA has its own animal welfare standards and rules, ultimately the individual state's legislation and codes govern the way our rodeo livestock are handled and cared for. The following legislations and codes must be understood and obeyed when rodeos are conducted in their jurisdictions. Failure to comply with these legislations not only puts the welfare of animals at risk, but it also jeopardizes our sport and association's integrity and could lead to fines and criminal proceedings.

Queensland:

- *Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice about Rodeos) Amendment Regulation 2021*

New South Wales:

- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation.*

Victoria:

- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act) and POCTA Regulations 2019*

South Australia:

- *Animal Welfare Act 1985 and Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*

Tasmania:

- *Animal Welfare Act 1993 - Standards for the Care and Treatment of Rodeo Livestock*





RESPONSIBILITIES

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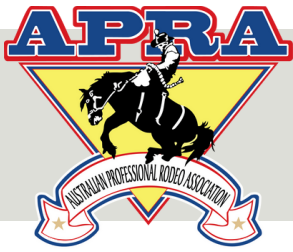
Everybody involved in rodeo has a responsibility to uphold humane treatment standards outlined by the APRA and relevant legislation.

Animals used in rodeos **must** be treated humanely. Furthermore, stock contractors, promoters/organisers, judges and veterinarians have specific responsibilities.

Rodeo Promoter/Organiser's Responsibilities:

- Ensure that all equipment owned by the club/association or individual organising the rodeo complies with the requirements of the APRA standards.
- Appoint accredited stock contractor/s and ensuring that the contractor/s is competent to undertake their duties.
- Appoint accredited judges, clowns and pick-up teams (this responsibility may be delegated to the stock contractor).
- Ensure that all personnel are aware of their responsibilities under the APRA standards.
- Provide a rodeo report to the judge, stock contractor and veterinarian for completion.
- Appoint a qualified veterinarian (except in Victoria where this is the stock contractor's responsibility) – in jurisdictions where veterinary attendance is not mandatory and where the rodeo is being held in a remote area, the rodeo organiser must make reasonable attempts to secure a veterinarian's services ensuring that the veterinarian inspects all animals used in a competition before the start of the rodeo, and each animal after it is used on the program.
- If a veterinarian is not in attendance, the rodeo organiser must appoint someone who is experienced and competent to assess and deal with health and welfare problems of cattle and horses, including having the knowledge and means to undertake safe and humane euthanasia. That person must assume the responsibilities of the veterinarian as outlined in this standard. The rodeo organiser must arrange for this person to be able to contact a veterinarian for advice and direction, if required. If a veterinarian cannot attend, and a rodeo organiser has appointed someone to act in this position, then that person assumes the veterinarian's duties and responsibilities.
- In South Australia, a promoter/organiser must apply for a rodeo permit issued by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation at least 28 days prior to the proposed rodeo date.
- In Victoria, a rodeo licence and permit is required to conduct a rodeo. A rodeo permit/licence is held by the stock contractor, however it is important that a promoter/organiser is aware of this legislative requirement.





Stock Contractor's Responsibilities:

The stock contractor is responsible for the welfare, husbandry and handling of all rodeo livestock, except when animals are competing in the arena (where the judge and competitors are responsible). To ensure that they have the required knowledge and skills, stock contractors must be accredited with the APRA to supply rodeo livestock at APRA sanctioned rodeos.

The stock contractor must ensure that:

- The welfare requirements of livestock en-route to and from the rodeo are met.
- Transport and handling of animals is undertaken in accordance with the relevant state legislation and code, including the provision of appropriate food, water and shelter.
- All animals supplied are in good health, and all animals used in any event conform to the APRA standards.
- Yards, chutes and the arena surface are inspected before the rodeo and comply with the APRA standards.
- Only properly qualified and competent personnel are appointed to care for, handle and treat rodeo livestock.
- No stimulant, hypnotic or other substance is used on any animal, other than that prescribed by a veterinarian for the legitimate treatment of injury or illness.
- Unsuitable animals are withdrawn from competition.
- If the veterinarian determines that an animal is not suitable for competition, that the animal is not used.
- Cattle and horses are penned separately in the yards and during transport.
- Aggressive and injured animals are isolated from others, and animals with young at foot are not yarded or used in connection with a rodeo.
- Proper treatment for any injury is given promptly and, if required, veterinary assistance obtained.
- The requirements of these standards are met outside the arena, namely in chutes, yards, surrounding areas and, if aware of non-compliance by other personnel, advise the judge.
- All stock handlers used are competent to undertake their duties in compliance with the APRA standards.
- Require that an animal be turned out of the chute if of the opinion that the risk is unacceptable. The judge may order the stock contractor to release an animal.
- Contribute to the report of the event.





RESPONSIBILITIES

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In Victoria, a rodeo licence and permit is required to conduct a rodeo. Applications for a licence or permit can only be made by an approved rodeo organisation, or person or body corporate that is accredited by an approved rodeo organisation. Therefore, this responsibility falls on the stock contractor.

Additional Stock Contractor Responsibilities in Victoria include:

- Must hold a current rodeo licence issued by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR).
- Must apply for a rodeo permit at least 28 days prior to the rodeo start date.
- Must have and include an animal welfare plan that details:
 1. A description of the role or roles that any person employed to assist the applicant will undertake to monitor or discharge requirements under the POCTA Act and Regulations 2019.
 2. A description of the reporting and communication processes that will be implemented by the applicant, and any person employed to assist the applicant, and the veterinary practitioner, to ensure compliance with the POCTA Act and Regulations 2019.
- Must ensure both they and the nominated vet are in attendance at all times when the rodeo is in progress.
- Must accept and implement the instructions of the vet in relation to the animals used at the rodeo.
- Must be able to produce their rodeo licence/permit to an inspector on demand.
- Must be aware of and comply with requirements of their licence or permit as well as the general requirements set out in the legislation. Failure to comply could result in infringement notices, court prosecution or revoking of licence or permits.





RESPONSIBILITIES

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Judge's Responsibilities:

Judges are responsible for animals competing in the arena.

They should have a thorough knowledge of the APRA standards and must ensure that:

- Any competitor who breaches these standards in the arena is penalised or reported as appropriate.
- Any animal which becomes lame, sick, injured or has defective eyesight during the competition is removed from the competition, and direct the person in charge of the animal to seek appropriate treatment for it.
- Inspections are performed on all competition equipment and ensure that the manner in which the equipment is set or used on the animal complies in all respects with the APRA standards.
- If an animal is injured in a rodeo, the incident is documented in the APRA judge's paperwork and a vet report is attached.
- Appropriate action is taken against personnel who fail to comply with these standards and rodeo rules.

Competitor's Responsibilities:

Competitors in rodeo events are responsible for the animals they use during an event.

All competitors must:

- not treat animals in a way which causes injury or harm.
- only use equipment complying with the APRA standards.
- obtain prompt and proper treatment for any injury, to any animal they use in the competition (other than animals supplied by the contractor).
- comply with all relevant sections of the APRA standards.
- Animals must not be struck or poked with any item in such a way that unreasonable pain or injury is caused to the animal.
- A roped animal must not be pulled backwards off its feet or be dragged intentionally.
- A person must not ride in, take part in or handle animals used in a rodeo if they have a blood alcohol concentration over 0.05 or are under the influence of drugs.





RESPONSIBILITIES

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Veterinarian's Responsibilities:

Veterinarians must have the necessary experience with cattle and horses to deal with the health and injury issues that might arise in a rodeo.

Veterinarians are responsible for:

- Providing expert advice on an animal's health, injury or disease status, and the animal's suitability for competition.
- Inspecting animals before and after events
- Dealing with emergencies
- Being present during all events (if required by the jurisdiction), and
- Contributing to the report of the event

Additional responsibilities in Victoria:

- Ensure he/she has experience in cattle and horses, with a minimum caseload of 20% for those species over the previous year, prior to agreeing to attend the rodeo.
- Where the nominated vet cannot attend the rodeo, advise the permit/license holder within 72 hours of the replacement appointed vet.
- Inspect animals before and after a rodeo.
- Provide a veterinary report to the Department Head detailing the condition of the animals involved in the rodeo or rodeo school and any injuries sustained.





STANDARDS & RULES

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The APRA standards for the humane treatment of rodeo livestock, as well as specific written rules addressing animal welfare in the association's competition rule book are outlined below. These standards are designed to compliment the individual States's legislation and codes.

Sick & Injured Animals:

- Stock contractors are responsible for ensuring that no sore, lame, sick, injured, or sight-impaired animal is permitted in the draw.
- In the absence of a veterinarian at a rodeo, the Stock Contractor assumes the Veterinarian's responsibility.
- If an animal becomes sick or injured between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used, it must not be used.
- Sick or injured animals must be given appropriate treatment.

****RULE 33.5** Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick, or injured animal, or animals with defective eyesight shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or injured between the time it is drawn and time it is scheduled to be used in competition, that animal shall not be used in competition and another animal drawn for the contestant as provided in the A.P.R.A. rulebook. An official veterinarian should be available at all events where possible.*

Veterinary Attendance:

- A veterinarian is the most appropriate person to look after animal welfare issues. A veterinarian should be onsite at all times to handle animal emergencies and to inspect all animals before and after competition. In some jurisdictions (Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia), the attendance of a veterinarian is mandatory.
- A veterinarian's decision on the suitability of an animal for competition is final.





STANDARDS & RULES

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Response to Serious Stock Injuries:

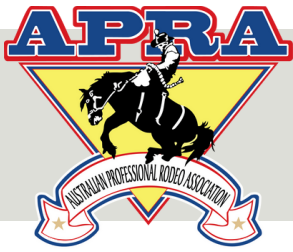
- A conveyance must be available to remove a seriously injured animal to a suitable place for further examination and treatment. If an animal is to be euthanised, this must be done humanely.
- A seriously injured animal must be yarded such that it is not endangered by other livestock, housed appropriately, and be examined and treated immediately by the veterinarian.
- Means to euthanise seriously injured animals, and someone licensed and qualified to do so, must be available at all times while the rodeo is in progress. Livestock must be euthanised in accordance with the national Model and State Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals for the species concerned, and according to legislation.

****RULE 33.7** A conveyance must be available and used, if possible, to remove animals from arena in case of injury.*

Injury Prevention:

- Chutes, yards, lanes and races must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that minimises the risk of injury to handlers or animals, and assists the quiet and efficient handling of stock.
- An animal that repeatedly gets down in the chute, or tries to jump out of it, or becomes excessively excited must be released and examined by the veterinarian. If found to be unfit for any reason, the animal must be withdrawn from participation for that day or session.
- Trained people should be available to humanely assist an animal if it gets caught in the chutes, yards or races. Suitable equipment and people should also be on hand to make necessary repairs to these facilities and to ensure that they meet the required standard.





STANDARDS & RULES

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General Safety & Welfare Provisions:

- Livestock must be removed promptly from the arena after completing an entry.
- No small animal or pet will be allowed in the arena or in the line of sight of livestock without the judge's consent. Note: legislation in some states prohibits the presence of small animals or pets in the arena.
- Livestock must not be directly exposed to fireworks that are likely to cause fear or distress. Some states legislate the use of fireworks. In NSW, fireworks are not permitted whilst animals are onsite. In Victoria, fireworks are not permitted during the running of the rodeo.

***RULE 33.18** *Any animal that becomes excessively excited so that it gets down in the chute repeatedly, or tries repeatedly to jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, should be released immediately.*

***RULE 33.14** *Livestock to be removed from arena after completion of each contest ride.*

Rodeo Livestock Handling Equipment:

- All livestock must be treated humanely, and handling equipment must not be used cruelly or excessively.
- Equipment for livestock-handling must be of the type and specification generally used to transport and handle horses and cattle, and must comply with the national Model and State Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals for the species concerned, and with appropriate legislation.

Electric Prods:

An electric prod may not be used in the arena under any circumstances.

While the legislation from state to state varies, the APRA has taken the firm stance that electric prodders cannot be used on horses at any time.

Electric prods may be used under the following conditions:

- They must be of low amperage and powered by dry cell batteries only.
- Be of a type and standard used generally for the handling, yarding and transport of livestock.





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- Used with restraint and restricted to the minimum amount necessary as an aid for loading and handling livestock (including to encourage an animal that is down and leaning heavily against the chute to re-position).
- Applied only to those parts of the animal covered by hair. A person must not use a prod on the face, anus, udder or genitals.

Electric prods must not be used in time events:

- If an animal is loaded and standing in the time event chute/box, or
- To send an animal into the arena when the chute/box gate is opened.

Electric prods must not be used in riding events:

- When an animal is secured in the chute (except in the circumstances above), or
- When the chute gate opens, unless it is necessary to protect both the animal and the contestant from possible injury against the chute or chute gate, or to turn out a chute-stalling animal. In such cases the prod may be applied only to the animal's shoulder or hindquarters to clear it from the chute, and under the stock contractor's direct supervision.

***RULE 31.21** Hotshots must not be used over or above the chutes.

***RULE 33.24** Timed event contractors are only permitted to use an electric prodder with a maximum of 6900 volts and no longer than 33cm in length. A prodder can only be utilized by the approved contractor/sub-contractor when necessary (or worker approved by the contractor and contractors' responsibility) at each rodeo who will be held responsible for any misuse. This relates in each state and must also be complied with. A first offence breach of this rule carries a fine of \$500 to the approved stock contractor. A second breach will be referred to the Board of Directors.

***RULE 33.25** Hot shots are to be banned from use on all horses at APRA events.

***RULE 33.6** No animal shall be beaten, mutilated or cruelly prodded. Standard electric prods shall be used as little as possible. Animal shall be touched only on the hip or shoulder area with prod.





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Use of Electric Prodders in Victoria:

- Must not be used on cattle less than 3 months of age.
- Must not be used on horses at any time.
- Must not be used excessively or when the animal cannot move away.

Electric prodders can only be used:

- On the hip or shoulder of cattle more than 3 months of age
- On cattle in the chute where the animal is down in the chute in a position to rise or the animal has refused to leave the open chute.

Use of Electric Prodders in Queensland:

A person may use an electrical prod on the bovine only if:

- The person is in charge of the bovine and,
- Either the bovine is at least 3 months old, or it is necessary to use the prod in the interests of the bovine's welfare.
- The person has made reasonable efforts to move the bovine without using an electrical prod, the bovine is able to move away from the prod and the person uses the prod as sparingly as possible.
- It is used on the shoulder or hindquarters only.

Handling Aids:

- The use of aids such as flappers, metallic rattles and light polythene tubing to encourage movement in response to sound is acceptable, and for handling animals in yards, lanes and races.
- The use of aids such as sticks, lengths of heavy plastic, metal piping, fencing wire or heavy leather belts to strike or poke animals with enough force to cause pain or injury, is not permitted.





STANDARDS & RULES

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Event Equipment:

Event equipment is used to assist the event and should be designed to ensure that the animal is not injured. The equipment's owner is responsible for its suitability.

Equipment must conform to the specifications below:

Spurs:

- Spurs are used to help the rider's timing and purchase on the animal in bucking stock events and should not be used as a goad. To reduce possible injury to the animal, the spur rowel must be dulled and not less than 3mm wide at its narrowest part. The minimum diameter to the point of the rowel is 2cm.
- For bucking horse events, the rowels must be free running.
- For bull riding, the rowels may have restricted movement but must not be fully locked and be able to move at least a quarter turn. In Victoria, rowels must be able to move at least half a turn.
- In Victoria, only free running paddle or spur rowels may be worn when riding a horse.

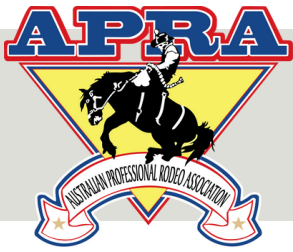
***RULE 33.1** *No locked rowels or rowels that will lock on spurs or sharpened spurs may be used on bareback horses or saddle broncs.*

Flank Straps:

- Flank straps are used to improve the animal's bucking style. Only lined, quick release straps can be used. The lining must be soft and flexible such as a soft plastic, felt or sheepskin.
- The strap's lined portion must be positioned to cover both flanks of the animal and its belly. The coverings and linings must be soft and flexible and must not be worn or damaged. Sharp or cutting objects must not be used.
- In Victoria, flank straps must not be tightened more than twice on an animal in the chute.

***RULE 33.8** *No sharp or cutting objects in cinch, head collar, rein or flank straps shall be permitted. Only sheepskin or suitably lined flank straps shall be used on bucking stock and shall be of the quick release type. Flank straps shall be placed on the animal, so the lined covered portion is over both flanks and the belly of the animal.*





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Protective Horn Wraps:

- Horn wraps must be used in team-roping to protect the ears, eyes and base of horns from possible injury.
- In Victoria, all cattle used in roping events must wear horn wraps.

***RULE 42.22** All steers used in Team Roping must be fitted with APRA approved horn wraps which protect steers ears from the rope.

Neck Ropes:

- The neck rope is used to keep the horse's head towards the steer while the rider dismounts, and to discourage dragging. The rope must be fitted to horses used for roping and tying. The catch rope must pass through it before it is tied to the saddle horn.
- The neck rope must be no more than half the distance down the roping horse's neck, as measured from the head.

***RULE 33.3** A neck rope on a contestant's horse must be used in the rope and tie event. The placement of such a neck rope must be in the vicinity from the head, to no more than half-way down the roping horse's neck. Neck rope, rope, reins and training aids must be adjusted in a manner that will prevent the horse from dragging the stock.

Jerk Line:

- The jerk line is used for roping and tying events. The rope is fed from the bridle through a pulley on the saddle to the rider.
- As the rider dismounts to throw the steer, the jerk line plays out in a series of jerks, which encourages the horse to move backwards slowly, retaining the tension on the rope, thus preventing entanglements.
- The contestant must adjust the catch rope, reins and jerk line to prevent the rope horse from dragging the roped animal.

Roping Device:

- An APRA approved roping device must be used at all times in the rope & tie event to reduce the risk of injury on both horses and cattle. A roping device works as a 'shock absorber' to lessen the force experienced by both the horse and calf.

***RULE 39.11** An approved roping device must be used in all rope and tie events at APRA affiliated rodeos and 300-600mm must be paid red. If device and rope is not set up according to instructions on APRA website will have to face a penalty.





STANDARDS & RULES

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Sourcing Stock:

Rodeo livestock must be supplied by an accredited APRA stock contractor.

***RULE 33.17** *No stock should be confined in vehicles beyond a period of twenty eight (28) hours without being unloaded, properly fed, and watered. When animals are carried in conveyances in which they do have proper food, water, space and opportunity to rest, the provision for unloading shall not apply.*

Horses:

- Horses used in rodeo rough-stock events must be mature, sound and fit for the intended use. Age should not be used as the sole criterion of maturity; other factors such as size and physical conformation must be taken into account.
- Horses under three years old may not be mature enough for bucking events and must not be used.
- Horses used for bucking events may not be used on more than three occasions in a day.
- If a time-event horse shows signs of injury or fatigue, it must not be used.

***RULE 45.21** *Hitting horse around head or excessive use of whip, over and under in barrel race competition will result in disqualification for the duration of the rodeo. Ruled by judges. There will be no refund of entry fees. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the board in the form of a fine*

Cattle:

All cattle must be fit, healthy and suitable for the intended use. The number of times that cattle may be used in competition varies according to the rigours of the event and the conditioning of the cattle to rodeo competition.





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The following limitations must be observed:

- The same cattle must not be used for steer wrestling and roping events on the same day.
- Cattle may not be used for steer wrestling and roping more than three times on any one day for contract stock, and twice a day for local stock, including practice for events and the event itself.
- Cattle may not be used as bucking stock more than three times on any day, including practice for events, and the event itself, and
- Each competitor is allowed only one loop (throw) in roping and tying events and, in team roping, only two loops are allowed in each team.

***RULE 38.28** *All animals used for timed events should be inspected, and objectionable ones eliminated.*

***RULE 38.36** *Timed event stock can only be run three times at a one-day rodeo. At a two or more day rodeo, only two runs per day are permitted.*

Selecting Animals for Rope & Tie:

Cattle used in roping and tying must be fit, healthy and without defects. The optimum weight for roping and tying is 115kg, with a minimum of 100kg and a maximum of 130kg. However in Victoria and South Australia legislation requires a minimum weight of 200kg.

Selecting Animals for Steer Wrestling:

Animals used in steer wrestling must be fit, healthy and without defects. The optimum weight for animals is 250kg, with a minimum of 200kg and a maximum of 300kg. All animals must have suitable horns, which must be a minimum of 23cm long.

Selecting Animals for Team Roping:

Animals used in team roping must be fit, healthy and without defects. The optimum weight for animals in team roping is 250kg, with a minimum of 200kg and a maximum of 300kg. All animals must have suitable horns, which must be a minimum of 17cm long.





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Arena, Chutes & Yards:

The veterinarian and the stock contractor must be assured that the arena, chutes, yards and races will not compromise the animals' welfare.

Surface:

- Stock contractor is responsible for ensuring the arena surface provides traction, stability, reduction of shock and improved safety for personnel and livestock.
- In general, the standard arena should be a suitable, soil-based surface, rotary-hoed or softened to a depth of about 8-10cm, and must be free of rocks, holes and obstacles.
- Other surfaces may be used if they are well drained, provide secure footing and are at least as safe for the animals as an appropriate soil-based surface.

Arena Size:

Too small an area for an event creates a danger to livestock, competitors and spectators. The arena must be big enough for the events taking place.

Fencing:

- The rodeo organiser is responsible for fencing around the arena. The stock contractor must inspect and approve fencing before the rodeo. A stock contractor supplying the fencing is also responsible for its suitability.
- Careful planning and construction of arenas will make handling and removing stock easier, and will also increase stock, competitor and public safety. The top rail of arenas should be made of steel to prevent breakage in the event of an attempted escape by an animal.
- The construction, height and appearance of arena fencing should discourage stock from attempting to push through the fence or jump over it. There must be no protrusions on fences or gateways that are likely to cause injury.
- Arena fences should be clearly visible and not appear open to the animal.
- If it is thought that stock will pressure certain points of an arena more than others, care should be taken to ensure that the fencing is suitable.





STANDARDS & RULES

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Portable Arenas:

Portable arenas must have suitably braced and secure panels. The minimum height should be 1.8 metres. A stock contractor supplying fencing, yards or chutes is responsible for ensuring that they comply with these standards.

Fixed Arenas:

Fixed arenas should be of secure construction and flush on the inside. If cable is used in steel arenas, it should be strained and the space between the cables should not be wide enough to allow stock to pass through it. The minimum height should be at least 1.6 metres.

Timed Event Chute:

The time-event chute for steer wrestling must be at least 75cm wide at the animal's head height in the chute and when the gate is open.

Individual Rodeo Events:

The judges have the final decision on the suitability of equipment. Any equipment, either on the animal or which may be used on the animal, and which may compromise its welfare, is not allowed. A judge may instruct anyone to remove or modify equipment for which they are responsible, in accordance with these standards.

***RULE 33.16** *Contestant will be disqualified for any mistreatment of livestock.*

***RULE 33.19** *Any A.P.R.A. member, including stock contractors, guilty of mistreatment of livestock may be fined by the Board of Directors with a fine not to exceed \$500.00.*

***RULE 33.22** *Any member who mistreats livestock at rodeos will be fined \$100.00 on the first offence, \$300 on the second offence and \$600 plus 3 months suspension on the third offence. Each offence will remain on record for a 3 year period. The Board has the power to increase the fines and suspensions at their discretion. Names of offenders will be published in the 'Rodeo News'.*

***RULE 33.23** *Persons found guilty of twisting or bending the tail of timed event stock will be fined \$100 on the first offence. The penalty for repeat offenders will be determined by the Board of Directors and may include fines and/or suspension.*





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Saddle Bronc Riding:

- The saddle must not be set too far forward on the withers and must be correctly fitted. The minimum under the gullet of the saddle must be 10cm. Sharp or cutting objects must not be used in a cinch, saddle or girth.
- The front cinch must be a minimum of 12.5cm wide. The back cinch must not be over-tightened.

Bareback Bronc Riding:

- The bareback rigging must not be more than 26cm wide at the handhold, and no more than 16cm wide at the D rings.
- Suitable pads must be placed under the rigging and extend a minimum of 5cm past the back of the rigging. The girth on rigging must be no less than 12.5cm wide.

Bull Riding:

- The equipment used in bull-riding rigging shall be a loose rope with or without a handhold. There must be no knots or hitches preventing the rope from falling from the animal after the contestant has been thrown or dismounted.
- A contestant must not re-set and re-pull the rope more than twice if the bull is standing quietly in the chute.

Timed Events:

- In Team Roping the steer must be standing when it is roped by both the header and the heeler, and not be roughly handled.
- Due to weight limits in the Victorian and South Australian legislation, the Rope & Tie event is substituted with Steer Roping.
- Pulling an animal backward off its feet (jerk down) or dragging a roped animal is unacceptable. Contestants must use an appropriate technique, and appropriate and properly fitted equipment, to protect the animal against an abrupt stop after it has been roped, and to prevent the rope horse from dragging the roped animal.
- In the Rope & Tie event, after the tie is completed, and the time signaled, the roper must immediately mount the horse and ride it forward to loosen the catch rope.
- In all roping events, only one loop is allowed per contestant in each round of the event. If the first throw fails to catch the animal the roper is not permitted a second throw to prevent prolonged chasing of an animal around the arena.
- Team Roping, Rope & Tie, Steer Roping, Steer Wrestling events all have a time limit of 30 seconds. The Breakaway Roping event has a time limit of 20 seconds. Once this time limit has expired a competitor must not continue to actively pursue their head of livestock.



Injured Animals in the Arena:

In the event of an animal being injured in the arena and requiring treatment or euthanising, the following **MUST** be adhered to:

- A suitable vehicle and conveyance **MUST** be available at all times to remove injured livestock or livestock that has died or been euthanised from the arena. The most suitable conveyance is a rubber belt sled.
- A screen **MUST** be on hand to use when treating or euthanising injured livestock.
- Livestock that are frequently housed or grazed with rodeo animals must be readily available to put into the arena to settle an injured animal if required.
- Accomplished stockpersons must be on hand and readily available to assist in the confinement or removal of injured livestock from the arena to a suitable facility where they can be treated. Stockpersons aim is to restrict the movement of the injured animals as much as possible.
- All reasonable attempts should be made to entice the injured animal to move to secure facilities of their own accord.
- In situations where this does not occur within a reasonable time frame and a veterinarian is in attendance and in possession of a 'jab stick' injector, it may be used providing the vet or nominated person is capable and confident that they can administer the drug in a safe manner and without causing further stress and discomfort to the injured animal.
- If required a bolt gun, firearm or lethal injection may be used to euthanise the seriously injured animal.





PAPERWORK

In the event of an animal being injured or dying at a rodeo it is imperative that the incident is documented as thoroughly as possible.

For every APRA sanctioned rodeo, the committee/judge's pack will include an 'Animal Welfare Form.'

This form is used to document any animal injuries or animal welfare incidents to rodeo livestock. It needs to be completed by the officiating judge and returned to head office.

If the animal received any veterinarian treatment, the treating veterinarian must also complete a report and it also needs to be filed with APRA head office as supporting documentation.



VETERINARIAN DETAILS

Name of Veterinary Surgery:	
Name of Veterinarian:	
Status of Veterinarian:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attending full time during the rodeo <input type="checkbox"/> Inspecting stock before and after the rodeo <input type="checkbox"/> Available on call for services <input type="checkbox"/> All the above

ARENA & CHUTES STATUS

Chutes:	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Portable
Arena:	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Portable
Arena Surface:	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor

LIVESTOCK INJURY REPORT

What type of animal was injured?	
Owner:	
Stock Number & Name if applicable:	
In what event was the animal used/to be used?	
When did the injury occur?	<input type="checkbox"/> Before the event <input type="checkbox"/> After the event <input type="checkbox"/> During the event
Where did the injury occur?	<input type="checkbox"/> In the yards <input type="checkbox"/> In the chutes <input type="checkbox"/> In the arena <input type="checkbox"/> Other - _____
How did the injury happen?	
Why did the injury happen?	



What was the nature of the injury? (Use veterinary report if applicable)	
Severity of injury:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor - superficial and no treatment needed, full recover expected. <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate - short term treatment, full recovery expected. <input type="checkbox"/> Severe - long term treatment and/or long-term rest for full recovery. <input type="checkbox"/> Serious - immediate veterinary treatment requirement full recovery not expected.
Did the veterinarian treat the animal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please include the veterinary report) <input type="checkbox"/> No
Outcome of the injury:	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal will be used again when fully recovered. <input type="checkbox"/> Animal will not be used again when recovered. <input type="checkbox"/> Animal died or was euthanised because of the injury.
Any further information in related to the injury:	

JUDGES SIGNATURE

Judge Name:	Judge Signature:
Judge Name:	Judge Signature:





SUMMARY

That completes the APRA Animal Welfare Presentation.

Happy and healthy animals will also be one of the APRA's highest priorities. We thank you for your participation in this presentation and your dedication to the welfare of rodeo livestock.

Should you have any queries, questions or concerns relating to animal welfare at APRA rodeos and events, please don't hesitate to contact the APRA head office on 07 4661 8183.

