

From: [Matt Rossell](#)
To: [Linda VanBuskirk](#); [Mathew Fuzie](#)
Subject: Adoption of policy prohibiting cruel rodeo events
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 4:27:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
James Boswell, Board Chair
Board of Directors
Matt Fuzie, General Manager
4444 East Ave P
Livermore, CA 94550

Sent via email to: mfuzie@larpd.org and lvanbuskirk@larpd.org

RE: Adoption of a policy prohibiting cruel rodeo events such as animal scrambling, wild cow milking, and mutton busting and requiring on-site veterinary care

Dear General Manager Fuzie, Chair Boswell, Vice Chair Furst, and members of the Board,

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) has been working for more than four decades to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system, including support for the protection of animals that are involved in rodeos. As you are aware, The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has passed common-sense protections for animals used in the rodeo and mandates on-site veterinary care.

On behalf of our over 22,000 supporters in California, we want to convey our support for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District to adopt a written policy regarding rodeo regulation to bring Livermore in line with the community standards of humane animal treatment in the county.

Similar to Alameda County municipal code, we would suggest the District policy should prohibit inherently cruel rodeo events, namely animal scrambling, wild cow milking, and mutton busting. Additionally, the policy should require an on-site veterinarian to provide immediate care to injured animals.

An animal scramble is an event where children try to chase down and “catch” terrified animals running in fear. This event is not only inhumane for animals and dangerous for children, but it also wrongly teaches impressionable youth that it is acceptable to torment animals for so-called fun. During wild cow milking – arguably one of the most egregious rodeo events – a mother cow is separated from her calf and then chased, lassoed, and wrestled into submission so someone can milk her. Wild cow milking is not a sanctioned event by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). Finally, mutton busting typically involves a young child clinging to a scared sheep set loose in the arena. The sheep are running terrified, creating a

chaotic environment with a high chance of children becoming injured.

Public displays of animal cruelty should have no place in a community with humane values. A department policy would improve safety for rodeo participants and animals alike. Please consider a ban on these inhumane rodeo events. We would be happy to discuss these issues and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Matt Rossell (he/him/his) | Campaign Manager

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