

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Deborah Johnson

**Date Submitted:** 04/03/2023 02:49 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached letter regarding the ordinance that would prohibit the use of spurs in equestrian competitions. Thank you.



April 3, 2023

Los Angeles City Council  
City Hall Office  
200 North Spring Street, Room 480  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Adoption of an Ordinance That Would Prohibit the Use of Spurs in Equestrian Competitions

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members,

I am writing to you as the President of the Arabian Horse Association (AHA), which is a 15,000+ member organization who is an affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and Equestrian Canada (EC). The USEF is the National Governing Body of Equestrian Sport (NGB) in the United States under the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act.

It has recently come to our attention that there is a proposed ordinance coming before the Council that if approved, would prohibit the use of spurs in equestrian competitions operated in Los Angeles County. While the safety and well-being of horses and humans is of paramount importance to the AHA, we believe any consideration of a prohibition on the use of spurs must include consultation of industry professionals by the Los Angeles City Council.

AHA is particularly concerned with the proposed ordinance to prohibit the use of spurs in all equine activities and equestrian sports. As an affiliate of the NGB, AHA recognizes the USEF maintains a robust set of rules that govern the safety and welfare of equine and human athletes at all activities at USEF licensed competitions, including the use of spurs. In further support of the welfare of our members and their equine partners, USEF requires competitions to employ a USEF licensed Steward or Technical Delegate who is charged with monitoring the competition, protecting the welfare and safety of equine and human athletes, reporting to USEF any violations of USEF rules, and intervening if warranted to ensure the well-being of equine and human athletes. The USEF rules provide for the implementation of penalties for violations of USEF rules, including the misuse of spurs.

Los Angeles County is home to numerous equestrian facilities, and this provides children and adults of all ages the ability to experience the joy of horse sports, the camaraderie of a vibrant equestrian community, and the ability to achieve their goals in equestrian competition. Furthermore, Los Angeles County is a potential site of the equestrian events associated with the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, competitions which include the use of spurs under USEF and the rules of the international federation for equestrian sport, the Fédération Équestre International (FEI). Proposals such as this one will negatively impact the ability for equestrian sport to thrive in this community and will also cause a negative economic impact in Los Angeles County.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council not to prohibit the use of spurs in equestrian competitions and work with the applicable equestrian organizations to ensure a safe environment for all equine and human athletes.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Johnson".

Deborah Johnson, MA  
President

Cc: Stan Morey, AHA Executive Director  
Thomas O'Mara, USEF President

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lisa La Rosa

**Date Submitted:** 04/03/2023 11:10 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support the Rodeo Device Ban. There is no excuse for animal abuse in Los Angeles.