

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has a history of acting in the best interest of animal welfare. The City took a leadership role in banning the use of bull hooks in the handling of elephants at traveling circuses or exhibitions, and the sale of fur products. Action to address inhumane treatment of animals at rodeos and rodeo-like events is long overdue. Numerous American cities have rodeo prohibitions or restrictions in place, including Pasadena, Irvine, and Napa County in California; Fort Wayne, Indiana; St. Petersburg, Florida; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Southampton, New York; and others. In 1992, Pittsburgh passed an ordinance that prohibited any rodeo or rodeo related event in which animals are induced or encouraged to perform through the use of any practice or technique, or any mechanical, electrical, or manual device that will cause, or is likely to cause physical injury, torment or suffering.

Rodeos often use a number of inhumane implements, including electric prods, flank straps, and spurs to encourage aggressive behavior in animals to produce an entertainment product. Animals suffer significant injuries during common rodeo events such as bull and bronco riding, steer wrestling, and calf roping. Many animals are put down as a result of injuries sustained during these events. There are a number of rodeo events in the County and City of Los Angeles that utilize inhumane methods or instruments during their events. It is time for our City to act in the interest of animal welfare on this issue as it has in the past for other issues.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance that would prohibit electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tiedowns, and sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels at all rodeo or rodeo related events in the City of Los Angeles, modeled after the City of Pittsburgh's 1992 ordinance banning the aforementioned implements.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____

MITCH O'FARRELL (verbal)
Councilmember, 13th District

DEC 08 2020