

Date: April 6, 2013, 11:09:31 AM PDT

Subject: I am against the ban on horse roping

I am a horsewoman, trainer & horselover all in one. rodeo is a sport that keeps our American heritage alive. With any sport people or animals that are trying hard to excel have risk of injury. Downhill skiers for instance! I have watched horse ropers many many times and have not witnessed an injury at rodeo... In fact, most of the animals dont get roped before the time is up. perhaps it is getting to be a lost art.. The experienced ropers demonstrate skill and compassion in stopping a wild animal and laying it down with the least trauma possible. If the truth were known you would find more broken legs and drug abuse to horses on any racetrack than you ever would at a rodeo. These young race horses have very short carriers pounding their legs on hard tracks seeking faster times and gain for gamblers! I know. Test me on this. How many old horses do you see still racing? How many old horses do you see still bucking cowboys off or running at steers and loving every minute of it! Look at how fat and well kept they are! People in the sport of rodeo love and respect their animals. I know it looks hard to people from the city life... But on a ranch roping is nessessary to doctor and manage animals on the range or in an open feild. Imagine, if you can, getting a wild or untouched young horse into a chute or confined area to doctor an injury or get a halter on the animal... You would see a terrified horse beating itself wildly... Beating it's head possibly breaking it's neck, legs, back... When you rope this same animal correctly it is actually much safer as the horse is laid down in the soft dirt and sure he struggles, but he cannot hit his head on anything hard and he cannot strike his front feet breaking them against a hard wall or post or getting legs caught in a fence or panal and in panic break a leg! I have seen more than one domestic horse ruin themselves this way just because they were unruly. Ask some veterarnarians if what I am saying is right... Large animal veterinarians please... some of the older ones. They have seen lots of this. And so how do you enforce a bill like this? You have the neighbor down the street that doesnt feed, water or care for his horse properly. You have another neighbor who doesnt tie his horse up properly and it hurts itself or the owner. Then you have the cowboy or rancher that ropes his young horse to catch it and begin to use it on the ranch. The horse struggles, but it's head and legs are being held out where they have less chance of injury. Soon he is tired and figures that it is easier if he doesnt stuggle and human hands are touching him for the first time, but they are not hurting him. He is tired of struggling at some point and finds that it is easier on himself to comply... he may stop and look you straight in the eye as if to say who are you? This doesnt mean that your job is over and he is not yet a safe horse like is shown in Hollywood movies. But the horse has a respect for you and the rope so that in the future he knows not to pull back and hurt himself. Is all this done correctly all the time? Sadly no. But, I don't believe there should be law against roping. Someone could still be charged with cruelty to animals if there was intentional harm. The sport of rodeo is an American sport and most of the cowboys that you meet love God & the USA. They need, care for and respect their animals. Laws need to be enforced to protect people against Criminals and crime. We have our hands full with that already. Thank you for reading my plea in favor of the cowboy and ranch living. They make mistakes, but they are not criminals and there lives are not easy. Besides, if times get much tougher and we see some shortage of food in the city we may actually be glad that we didnt run them all off! Please consider carefully.

Sincerely, Marcy Peterson, Oreana, Idaho.
Sent from my PANTECH Burst™ on AT&T