



"Conservator of the Peace"

MALHEUR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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April 7, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Malheur County is the second largest County in Oregon covering almost 10,000 square miles. Malheur County is sparsely populated with almost 32,000 people and about 248,000 cattle and approximately 6,000 Horses. Malheur County enjoys a rich heritage with the livestock industry.

With all of the livestock and companion animals in Malheur County the Sheriff's Office often receives complaints of animal abuse and mistreatment which we take very serious. The Malheur County Sheriff's Office has successfully investigated and helped prosecute many cases involving Cattle, Horses, Pigs, Sheep, Dogs, and Cats. We have investigated single animal cases up the seizure of 562 dogs in one case.

Jordan Valley, Oregon is located in southern Malheur County. Jordan Valley is supported by the livestock industry and most of the Ranches in the Jordan Valley are multi generation ranches.

Jordan Valley is also known for their "Big Loop Rodeo" which is fifty four years strong. One of the events included in the "Big Loop Rodeo" is horse Roping. There is much controversy in reference to the roping of horses at the Big Loop Rodeo and other Rodeo's around the Country. I believe that the controversy come from a lack of understanding and education of those in opposition of the event.

I have personally been contacted by animal rights people who believe that the practice of Horse Roping should be a prohibited activity. Some of these people have referred me to you tube videos of injured animals from horse roping. I later learned that the video's I was referred to were not a result of Horse roping.



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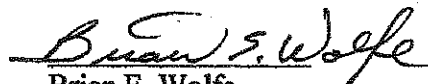
Some people also refer to Horse Roping as "Horse Tripping." The object of Horse Roping is not to "trip" or lay the Horse on the ground. The event of Horse Roping is closely monitored by professional judges. The participants have the understanding that if they are too rough on the animal they will be disqualified from the event.

I can tell you that the people that are responsible for the events are very concerned about the welfare of the animals. We all know that similar to a well conditioned athlete an animal will be injured from time to time. Anytime an animal is injured they are professionally cared for by a licensed veterinarian.

The Malheur County Sheriff's Office has and will continue to monitor the event of Horse Roping. To this point we do not believe that the animals used in this event are being mistreated.

I personally oppose any and all legislation, laws, or rules prohibiting Rodeo events including Horse Roping.

Respectfully,


Brian E. Wolfe
Malheur County Sheriff