

Testimony of Barbara Kahl for Senate Bill 835

I have only been involved with horses for 46 years, so perhaps my opinion won't matter to you, however, I give it lightly so that you might understand more of the horse that is damaged by this activity. My personal horses have lived on pastures, and in a barn, they've had open fields and streams to cross and carried me through thousands of miles of trails. They've taken me around barrels, flags, pole bending, steer dobbing, cattle penning and sorting; I tried roping, but I have no aim. My horses have carried me over fences, in dressage, and in parades, and never once have ever feared me entering THEIR surroundings, nor carried mental scars or had their skin purposely torn from their fetlocks, abrasions and blindness from their heads being pulled through dirt clods, necks and bones broken by the purposeful swing of a loop of rawhide to grab and tear their limbs from underneath them, disjointing them at times. Not only once but three times at each go to make SURE they fall and ROLL.

I have seen up close and personal the trauma, the abuse, the neglect that these horses endure both BEFORE competition and after. You do not know the industry these horses come from. Their stallions are kept in small stalls, darkened, to prevent light so that when daylight hits - they become excited all for show; their bone density diminishes. The mares and others used for tripping aren't well taken care of - why should they be? They are only going to go down easier if they are weak. There is no personal agenda for me to support this bill other than fighting to end this suffering. When you have lived with those animals that have been tortured by this process as I HAVE perhaps you will understand the NEED to have this bill pass. And by the way, I am no special person. I buck my own hay from the fields, and stack it in the barn tons at a time, I pack the grain bags, and build the fences and structures they live in, I clean their skin by brushing, care for their hooves to prevent rot. My hands are calloused from the time I spend just to be graced by their nature... this sport / activity is wrong. Please PM me and I'll give you more information if you like, x-rays of diminished bones from stallions being placed in 8x10 caverns until they were needed for competition, belly deep mud and frozen buckets to survive from for those being tripped...do you need more? See photos below.

The California-based [Charros Federation USA](#) states that it has voluntarily banned horse-tripping in mainstream charros for over 15 years.^[17] They also note, however, that the complete capture in mangana was not stopped due to a belief that there was an unreasonable danger to the horses used, but so teams from California would not be at a disadvantage when they competed in the United States, after a 1994 California law stopped the take down in mangana. Under the Federation rules, the complete capture is still permitted in Mexico.^[18]

Children witnessing animal abuse in Oregon is a violation of ORS167.320. It creates kids who become abusers – see Oregon's Multi-Disciplinary Team information and statistics, psychological evaluations of the lives of abusers, they usually start with animals.

Rodeo and charreada



Child in charro attire riding in a parade in Mexico.

The [Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association](#) (PRCA) distances itself from charreda by specifically opposing horse-tripping events.^[12] The California-based [Charros Federation USA](#) states that it has voluntarily banned horse-tripping in

mainstream charros for over 15 years.^[36] **There are two non-charreada events in the United States that ropes horses by their front legs, the non-PRCA Jordan Big Loop Rodeo and the Harney County Ranch Rodeo in Oregon.**^{[37][38] [39]} During the 2011 legislative debate in Nevada on legislation to ban the horse-tripping events, some opponents of a ban expressed concern that it would also undermine rodeos. However, this was disputed by supporters of a ban: "Horse tripping is not a recognized event in any form of sanctioned rodeo...This issue has absolutely nothing to do with rodeos nor is it some back door attempt to attack rodeo and livestock events..."^[29]

On the other hand, supporters of charreada point out that some rodeo associations initially opposed the California horse tripping ban,^[34] pointing out that when the original bill was submitted, supporters such as [Eric Mills](#) were also seeking to ban [calf roping](#), "steer busting" and [bulldogging](#). After the bill failed, the California Equine Counsel, who was not opposed to those events, stepped in as the main spokes group for the resubmitted bill.^[40] Once Mills no longer took an active role in the legislation, the Rodeo Associations decided to remain neutral, and the bill passed.^[34] In 2011, SB 613, a bill to stop "horse tripping" was submitted in Oregon. This was opposed by the [United Horsemen](#). "They were joined by other SB 613 opponents, including the [American Quarter Horse Association](#), the [Oregon Quarter Horse Association](#), and the PRCA. Other opponents included the directors of the [Pendleton Roundup](#) plus other rodeo directors and supporters. The bill did not pass."^{[41][42]}

The PRCA also worked with the Charros' groups to stop a bill to make steer tailing illegal, and to stop legislation that would have required two weeks advance notice of rodeo events.^[42]

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Oregon Statutes

ORS 167.315 A person commits the crime of animal abuse in the second degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes physical injury to an animal.

Definitions within Oregon Cruelty Statutes

Physical injury means physical trauma, impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

(9) Physical trauma means fractures, cuts, punctures, bruises, burns or other wounds.

(10) Possess has the meaning provided in ORS [161.015 \(General definitions\)](#).

(11) Serious physical injury means physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a limb or bodily organ. [1985 c.662 §1; 1995 c.663 §3; 1999 c.756 §13; 2001 c.926 §7; 2003 c.543 §6; 2003 c.549 §1; 2005 c.264 §18; 2009 c.233 §2]

ORS 167.320 Animal Abuse in the First Degree: Animal cruelty being witnessed by a child , causes serious physical injury to an animal, or cruelly causes the death of an animal, (any practice of good animal husbandry is not a violation of this section).

167.322¹

Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree

(1) A person commits the crime of aggravated animal abuse in the first degree if the person:

(a) Maliciously kills an animal; **or**

(b) Intentionally or knowingly tortures an animal.

(2) Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree is a Class C felony.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) Maliciously means intentionally acting with a depravity of mind and reckless and wanton disregard of life.

(b) Torture means an action taken for the primary purpose of inflicting pain. [1995 c.663 §2; 2001 c.926 §9]

ORS 167.365¹

Dogfighting

(1) A person commits the crime of dogfighting if the person knowingly does any of the following:

(a) Owns, possesses, keeps, breeds, trains, buys, sells or offers to sell a fighting dog, including but not limited to any advertisement by the person to sell such a dog.

(b) Promotes, conducts or participates in, or performs any service in the furtherance of, an exhibition of dogfighting, including but not limited to refereeing of a dogfight, handling of dogs at a dogfight, transportation of spectators to a dogfight, organizing a dogfight, advertising a dogfight, providing or serving as a stakes holder for any money wagered on a fight.

(c) Keeps, uses or manages, or accepts payment of admission to, any place kept or used for the purpose of dogfighting.

(d) Suffers or permits any place over which the person has possession or control to be occupied, kept or used for the purpose of an exhibition of dogfighting.

(2) Dogfighting is a Class C felony. [1987 c.249 §2]

Note: See note under [167.360 \(Definitions for ORS 167.360 to 167.372\)](#)

CLOSING:

835 –Horse Tripping is a violation of our Animal Cruelty laws.

How is horse tripping different from dog fighting? Dog fighting is a culture held in unsanctioned “dog shows” specifically for the purpose of dropping and injuring an animal, sometimes to the death, with intent to amuse spectators. Horse tripping is a culture held in unsanctioned “rodeos”, specifically for the purpose of dropping and injuring an animal, sometimes to the death, with intent to amuse spectators. Dog fighting is banned.

Now let me change the term dog fighting to horse tripping – there is no difference. Culture and Heritage can grow in their own country, but it should not cross the borders to ours. Do we permit Hari Kari from Japan, abandoning excessive children as in China, mutilation of girls in Africa, stoning from the middle east, bull fighting with swords to the withers until death. Do we allow cattle into our businesses like India? No, it is not our culture. So why should we make an exception and allow horse tripping? Please do not continue to showcase Oregon’s ignorance in this matter. Oregonians have spoken, you must follow their desires as senators for the majority, not for the few who choose animal abuse as a way of life.

These horses were bred, born and raised to become horses sold in the “tripping” trade. It is an industry that goes unchecked, without law, filled with abuse and neglect.





Key points:

Horse Tripping was brought here by Spaniards in the 16th Century, which existed at the same time as the Catherine Wheel where bones were sledged until the person died, the Rack, being drawn and quartered, and sawing a person in half, amongst others. These practices no longer exist.

Spain no longer practices horse tripping – it is not a cultural event or a husbandry practice they use any longer. “It is horrible”. (Inma Pizarro; Cordoba Spain – Extended Family Ranch owner, raises horses and cattle, and is a veterinarian)

Horse Tripping is a direct violation of all of Oregon’s Animal Cruelty laws – it is not a good husbandry practice in any stretch of the imagination.

It is not in United States culture; it never has been. It is Hispanic. Some societies take longer to become civilized, don’t make Oregon one of them. When the country that established the sport stops it, why do we propagate it? – Makes no sense.

Remember the Country where you live, remember the sacrifices our melting-pot of people have given up to become civilized, remember who you are representing as Senators; and pray to God you do not allow a 16th Century sport to become part of Oregon’s demise allowing continuance of this crime against animals; the ramifications of such a decision would be devastating to the health of our State.

When you vote, put these horses photos in front of you, let them speak to you, know if you do not pass this bill that you are propagating ***an entire industry of abuse***, not just for just a day in the life of an abused animal while at an event. PLEASE EMBRACE YOUR MORAL COMPASS – Animal abuse, promotes human and child abuse!