



Dr Robert Wang  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
United States Embassy of Beijing  
No. 55 An Jia Lou Lu  
Beijing 100600

August 2011

Dear Dr Wang

We are writing on behalf of the Asia for Animals 2011 organising committee members, representing international organisations with extensive knowledge of animal welfare issues. We express our deep concern with regards to the United States Embassy of Beijing's support for the development of rodeo events due to take place at the national stadium during the Chinese national day holidays in October.

Rodeo is an inherently cruel form of entertainment, disrespectful to the welfare of animals and contributing to the desensitisation of viewers to animal violence. Acts of such cruelty condition children to regard animals simply as objects to be used and abused for entertainment even though science has proven horses, cows, and other animals - are sentient animals with the ability to develop complex thoughts, social skills, and the ability to feel pain and to suffer.

The common use of electric prods and bucking straps to artificially induce 'wild' frenzied behaviour has the potential to cause severe pain and suffering. The roping of calves which are moving at speeds of up to 35 km per hour can lead to severe neck and back injuries, broken bones, internal haemorrhages and possible death.

The rodeo industry lacks comprehensive regulations to eliminate practices that cause injury, suffering, distress and death. The lack of animal protection legislation in China means animals will be injured and killed during these events in the name of entertainment.

Rodeos have no place in modern society. On behalf of our members globally, we appeal to you to re-consider your support for the promotion of rodeo events in Beijing. We wholeheartedly support initiatives by the Chinese authorities to implement animal protection legislation to ban this outmoded activity, thereby showing China's continuing commitment to improving animal welfare and a harmonious society.

**Sent on behalf of the following organisations**

- Animal Guardians
- Animal People
- Animals Asia Foundation
- Animal Concerns Research & Education Society
- Compassion in World Farming
- Humane Society International
- International Animal Rescue
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK)
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Hong Kong
- World Society for the Protection of Animals

Please respond to David Neale, Animal Welfare Director, Animals Asia Foundation, 10/F, Kai Tak Commercial Building 317-319 Des Voeux Road, Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong  
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