



## **PETA** Factsheet

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### **Rodeo Incidents**

**The following is a partial listing of incidents since 1995 involving animals used in rodeos that includes countless human and animal injuries and deaths.**

**July 9, 2008/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** A horse had to be euthanized following a collision during a chuckwagon race at the Calgary Stampede.

**April 20, 2008/Red Bluff, California:** Three children and three adults were injured at the Red Bluff Round-Up Rodeo when a bull jumped a 10-foot fence into a section of the grandstands where 200 people were seated. Five people were transported to a hospital by ambulance, and one of them was then helicoptered to another hospital. The bull cleared the entire front row of the section before he was roped and pulled back into the arena.

**July 14, 2007/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** Two wagons bumped each other during a chuckwagon race at the Calgary Stampede and set off a chain reaction: One horse died instantly, one was euthanized on the track, a third was put down overnight, and a driver suffered a broken arm. Eleven chuckwagon racing horses have died at the Stampede since 2000.

**June 17, 2007/Black Forest, Colorado:** A woman was killed during a team roping event at a private rodeo when her horse slipped and fell, throwing her to the ground and falling on top of her. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The owner of the arena said of the incident, "I heard her neck snap. There was blood everywhere." Roughly 100 people witnessed the event, including the victim's husband and 8-year-old son.

**July 2006/Springfield, Illinois:** The Illinois Department of Agriculture concluded that animal protection rules at the 2006 National High School Finals Rodeo had been broken after viewing videotape of bulls being poked with sharp objects and still photographs of a bull being slapped and bulls' tails being pulled as they left the chutes. Files turned over to the State's Attorney's Office also indicated that at least one bull had been electrically shocked.

**June 9, 2006/Lewiston, Maine:** When a rodeo bull escaped from a pen at a bull-riding event, police on horseback chased the animal and struggled with him in a local back yard before the bull was finally captured.

**April 28, 2006/Clovis, California:** Two women sustained head injuries and had to be rushed to the hospital when they were trampled by two spooked horses who escaped a pen at the Clovis Rodeo.

**April 22, 2006/Byers, Colorado:** A 17-year-old attending a rodeo clinic was killed while trying to get off a horse following a "bucking bronco" ride. The young man's hand got caught in the horse's harness, and the horse rolled on top of him, causing severe organ damage.

**March 16, 2006/Houston, Texas:** During the steer-wrestling competition at a RodeoHouston event, a steer broke his neck and had to be euthanized.

**January 28, 2006/Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia:** During a saddle bronc ride at the Ulverstone Rodeo, a 5-year-old horse fell and broke his leg. His injuries were so severe that he had to be euthanized.

**January 14, 2006/Carrick, Tasmania, Australia:** A bull who was thought to have suffered a broken back at the Carrick Rodeo had to be euthanized. According to reports, the bull was kicked in the head in order to move him onto a truck and was left for an hour without veterinary care after sustaining the injury.

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**September 18, 2005/Whitemarsh Township, Pennsylvania:** Two rodeo operators were cited for illegally transporting horses in a double-decker trailer. They were transporting rodeo bulls (lower level) and horses (upper level) to a Shriner's fundraiser. A conviction carries a fine of \$50 to \$750.

**August 14, 2005/Omak, Washington:** A horse was killed during the Omak rodeo after he broke his neck during the Wild Horse Race.

**July 3, 2005/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** While being herded to the Calgary Stampede fairgrounds, at least nine horses died after being spooked and falling 33 feet off a city bridge into a river. Approximately 200 horses were on a six-day, 125-mile journey from the Stampede ranch near Hanna, Alberta, to the exhibition site near downtown Calgary. Some animals tumbled down a steep embankment, and others jumped or fell over the guardrail. Some horses died on impact, others drowned, and one had to be euthanized later.

**April 16, 2005/Auburn, California:** A horse was euthanized after breaking her leg at the PRCA Wild West Stampede. An 11-year-old girl who witnessed the incident said, "The leg was hanging loose, like it was not attached to the body, and blood was everywhere."

**February 20, 2005/Cape Girardeau, Missouri:** A steer was killed at a PRCA rodeo after the animal tripped and fractured his neck as he was being wrestled to the ground.

**January 31, 2005/Omaha, Nebraska:** A horse being used in a stunt at the "World's Toughest Bulls and Broncs" rodeo was badly injured and had to be euthanized. In a show called "the One-Armed Bandit," a group of horses is herded on top of a specially made horse trailer. A rider comes up behind them and performs a series of turns as the truck and trailer drive forward. One of the horses fell from the trailer and had to be destroyed.

**December 21, 2004/San Angelo, Texas:** Police shot a bull after he escaped from a rodeo and began to wander around a nearby neighborhood. Though the police reported that the animal had been killed, he actually survived multiple gunshot wounds to his shoulders and head and was found with gaping, bleeding bullet holes before being euthanized.

**December 9, 2004/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A calf had to be euthanized after suffering a spinal injury during the National Rodeo Final's calf-roping event.

**November 2, 2004/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** According to an article in the *Edmonton Journal*, the Calgary Stampede's star attraction, a "virtually unrideable" bull named Outlaw, was euthanized after sustaining injuries in a fight with another bull.

**August 21, 2004/Payson, Arizona:** A bull fractured his leg during the annual "World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo" in Payson, Colorado.

**August 14, 2004/Yakima, Washington:** Three horses died after being forced to race down a steep slope at the annual Omak Stampede in Washington.

**July 29, 2004/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** Four horses at the Calgary Stampede suffered severe injuries when a pole that was being used to attach them to the wagon broke as the winning horses were being led from the race. They were euthanized as a result.

**July 27, 2004/Salinas, California:** After running 5 miles through town, a bull who escaped from a Mexican bull-riding rodeo by jumping over a 7-foot gate was shot and killed. The bull charged a man who was trying to corral him, kicking and goring the man in the arm. The man was taken to a hospital.

**July 17, 2004/Salinas, California:** A spokesperson for the Monterey County SPCA confirmed that a horse being used in a racing exhibition at the Salinas Rodeo broke a leg and was euthanized.

**July 10, 2004/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** A horse being used in a wild horse competition at the Calgary Stampede was euthanized after breaking a leg by colliding with another horse and being thrown into a rail.

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**July 8, 2004/Morris, Illinois:** According to the Grundy County Attorney's Office, a rodeo contractor pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals for shocking bulls in the chute with an electric prod at the Big Bucks Rodeo in Morris, Illinois, in September 2003. He received six months of court supervision and was fined \$300.

**May 23, 2004/Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada:** An 18-month-old steer was euthanized after his neck was broken during a wrestling competition at the Cloverdale Rodeo.

**February 27, 2004/Perry, Georgia:** A bull leaped over a fence and plowed through a group of spectators at the Georgia National Rodeo, injuring 10 people, including at least one child, and sending two to the hospital. A rodeo official stated, "He won't be back in the rodeo arena. If you eat McDonald's you might run into him again."

**February 22, 2004/San Angelo, Texas:** A horse being used in a saddle-bronc competition suffered a broken neck, died in the ring, and was removed from the arena on a forklift.

**January 31, 2004/Topeka, Kansas:** A calf used in roping events in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Championship Rodeo broke through a fence and wandered around the streets for more than an hour. It took about a dozen rodeo workers to catch the animal.

**January 20, 2004/Denver, Colorado:** A horse was killed after breaking a leg during a bucking event at the National Western Stock, Rodeo, and Horse Show.

**July 23, 2003/Salt Lake City, Utah:** A bull escaped from a holding pen at the Delta Center and bolted across the street to a shopping center, where he destroyed a table at an outdoor café before being captured.

**June 24, 2003/Reno, Nevada:** Two horses were seriously injured at the Reno Rodeo. One horse used in a bareback riding event suffered a serious head injury after slamming into the arena gate. Another horse, used in a bucking event, unexpectedly dropped to the ground. A veterinarian reported that the animal had a serious spinal injury.

**January 17, 2003/Johnson City, Tennessee:** Two bulls escaped from a gated area during a professional bull-riding event after one bull, according to a police official, "literally picked the fence up and threw it in the air." One of the bulls led police and rodeo officials on a chase through yards and busy streets, down railroad tracks, and through wooded areas.

**December 12, 2002/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A bull used for bucking events fell and fractured his spine moments after leaving the chute. His injuries were so severe that he had to be euthanized.

**August 19, 2002/Brook-haven, Massachusetts:** A 20-year-old woman died from head injuries that she sustained when she jumped from her horse during a barrel-racing event and struck a steel arena gate. The woman was unable to stop the horse from running out of the arena.

**July 15, 2002/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** By the conclusion of the nine-day Calgary Stampede, seven animals were dead: A calf had suffered a broken leg during a roping event and had been euthanized; a horse used in the chuckwagon event had suffered a heart attack-induced aneurism and died; and five more horses had been injured and later euthanized during chuckwagon events—three horses had suffered broken legs, one a broken shoulder, and another a broken back.

**May 24, 2002/San Diego County, California:** A bucking bull appeared to have broken a leg during the Western Days Valley Center Rodeo. He reportedly hobbled across the arena, dragging one leg behind him. Rodeo officials subsequently issued conflicting stories stating that the bull was being sent to Colorado for breeding and that he had been treated and was back home and healthy. Riverside County Animal Control confirmed that the bull was sent to slaughter.

**December 9, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** At the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, a "bucking horse" flipped over and broke his back. The horse was removed from the arena and had to be euthanized. An article in *Extra!* magazine stated, "[T]he TV audience had no clue about what happened: The camera cut just before the horse flipped over, and none of the announcers said one word about the incident."

**November 11, 2001/Ed-monton, Canada:** A 27-year-old man fell into a coma after he was repeatedly stomped, trampled, and rammed by a bull he was riding at the Canadian Finals Rodeo. The bull continued to

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attack him as he lay unconscious on the ground. The man had been blinded in one eye two years earlier when the horn of a bull he was riding slammed into his face, shattering it from jawbone to forehead.

**November 7, 2001/Beau-regard, Alabama:** A 19-year-old man died after being trampled and kicked by a bull during a bull-riding event on a private farm.

**October 31, 2001/Kansas City, Missouri:** A calf was unable to move and had to be removed from the arena after having been roped around the neck and thrown to the ground and having his legs bound during a calf-roping event.

**July 2, 2001/Salinas, California:** A horse had to be euthanized after falling and breaking a leg during a racing event at the California Rodeo Salinas.

**May 1, 2001/Rockford, Illinois:** A bull who escaped from a farm that trains animals for rodeos was found roaming around a soccer field where children were playing. Police fatally shot the bull. The county animal control agency had cited the bull's owner for previous escapes.

**April 27, 2001/Gonzales, Louisiana:** A 22-year-old man died after being trampled by a bull he was riding in a rodeo at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center.

**January 22, 2001/Millville, Ohio:** A 16-year-old was killed while riding a bull when he lost his grip and was struck in the head by one of the bull's horns. The boy was preparing for a local weekly rodeo bull-riding event.

**December 9, 2000/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A calf was removed from a National Finals Rodeo calf-roping event on a stretcher after being roped around the neck and thrown to the ground.

**November 4, 2000/San Francisco, California:** A bull broke his neck at the Grand National Rodeo after crashing into the metal base of a teeter-totter being ridden by four cowboys.

**July 2000/Rainier, Canada:** A 29-year-old man was killed when a bull he was riding at the Medicine Hat Stampede stepped on him.

**May 1, 2000/Spokane, Washington:** A bull escaped from a bull-riding contest and ran down the interstate before being hit by a car. Despite being shot at by police, the bull disappeared into the woods before being recaptured three days later.

**March 24, 2000/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** A 30-year-old man was thrown and then stomped on by the bull he was riding at an Albuquerque rodeo. He was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, where he died of massive internal injuries. The man's brother had sustained traumatic head injuries that led to a coma after being thrown from a bull during a rodeo in Idaho several years before.

**February 24, 2000/Tucson, Arizona:** A spooked horse broke his reins and led his team into a crowd gathered at the Rodeo Parade. A 2-year-old boy was kicked in the head by one horse, and another horse trampled a 3-year-old girl.

**February 4, 2000/San Antonio, Texas:** A horse broke his back during a bareback bronco-riding event. Paralyzed, the horse dragged himself by his front legs across the stadium before collapsing. The horse was euthanized. Rodeo officials said that this incident and "a couple of calves with fractured legs" were "freak accidents."

**October 2, 1999/Montgomery County, Maryland:** A man died after sustaining injuries in the rodeo chute prior to a steer-riding competition. The bull became agitated, and the man was thrown into a side rail, striking his head. Because he was unable to stand back up, he was either "stomped by the steer or injured with the steer's horns."

**August 9, 1999/Ottawa, Canada:** A horse was killed when he slammed into a fence during a bucking event at the Can-Am rodeo. Spectators watched the horse go into death shudders after breaking his neck.

**August 6, 1999/Santa Barbara, California:** A horse was killed during the bucking bronco event at the Santa Barbara Fiesta rodeo. This was the 10th documented animal death at a California rodeo since 1995.

**July 22, 1999/Ford City, Pennsylvania:** A bull had an “anxiety attack” during a rodeo event and jumped an 8-foot fence to escape.

**July 21, 1999/Hilliard, Ohio:** A bull escaped from the Franklin County Fairgrounds and was not found until early the next morning. When police contained the bull, he charged an officer and was fatally shot.

**July 9, 1999/Calgary, Canada:** A crash that was called “one of the worst pileups” in the history of the chuckwagon event at the Calgary Stampede resulted in the death of one horse and sent two drivers to the hospital, one with massive head injuries.

**June 21, 1999/Long Island, New York:** Police fired 40 shots at a bull who escaped from an illegal rodeo; it took 15 minutes for the animal to bleed to death.

**June 5, 1999/Santa Maria, California:** Three horses fell while running at full speed during a rodeo event. One was able to walk away, but two were limping as they left the arena.

**January 25, 1999/Ft. Worth, Texas:** A bull escaped from his pen, tearing through the concourse, bumping into several people and knocking over a beer stand before being roped by cowboys on horseback. A spokesperson said, “[T]he bull was just as shaken up as the people.” One woman was hospitalized after a piece of wood left a gash in her head.

**January 16, 1999/Denver, Colorado:** A horse being used in the bronc-riding event at the National Western Stock Show crashed into a wall headfirst, breaking his neck. The horse’s rider suffered a broken wrist. In a second incident during the same rodeo, a horse being used in the saddle-bronc event was bucking so hard that he broke his back and had to be euthanized.

**July 3, 1998/Brecksville, Ohio:** A 1,600-pound bull escaped from the One Armed Bandits & Co. traveling rodeo show and ran through a neighborhood, hitting cars and sending people running. The bull was later killed after wandering into a residential area.

**June 2, 1998/Guilford, Connecticut:** During a “dash for cash” contest at a rodeo fundraiser for the Connecticut Make-A-Wish foundation, a steer had his neck broken when he was tackled and thrown to the ground. Organizers of the rodeo called in a clown to distract a stricken audience. The steer died, and the Make-A-Wish foundation later announced it would no longer be associated with the rodeo.

**March 16, 1998/Fort Worth, Texas:** A 25-year-old man was paralyzed below the waist after he was thrown from the bull he was riding in the Professional Bull Riders’ Cup Tour.

**March 2, 1998/Houston, Texas:** A steer suffered a broken neck during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo steer wrestling competition, and two calves suffered broken legs during the calf-roping events.

**July 15, 1997/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** A bull being ridden in a bucking event at the Calgary Stampede kicked so high that his leg became wedged in the chute gate. His leg was completely fractured above his fetlock, exposing the bone. He had to be euthanized.

**May 9, 1997/Fort Worth, Texas:** A 20-year-old professional rodeo cowboy was thrown and kicked by a bull at a bull-riding performance at country music club Billy Bob’s Texas and suffered fatal head injuries.

**April 24, 1997/San Luis Obispo, California:** A horse being used in a bucking event fell and died in a rodeo at California Polytechnic State University. One witness stated, “[T]he horse tripped, did a somersault, landed on its head, and its back legs began to twitch.”

**February 21, 1997/Houston, Texas:** A heifer escaped from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and ran kicking into a group of school children, injuring 10 of the children and one adult.

**September 30, 1996/Pomona, California:** A horse died of a broken neck after crashing into another horse during the wild horse race at the Bullriders Classic Show held at the Los Angeles County Fair.

**July 11, 1996/Calgary, Alberta, Canada:** Three horses were killed during the chuckwagon event at the Calgary Stampede. Two horses died instantly and the third was later euthanized after crashing in the “half mile of hell” event. Two riders had to undergo emergency surgery for head injuries.

# PETA Factsheet

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**April 18, 1996/Laramie, Wyoming:** A Laramie County Community College rodeo coach was charged with cruelty to animals after four rodeo steers froze to death.

**April 12, 1996/Alexandria, Alabama:** A professional bull rider was thrown from a bull and crushed under the bull's hoof at the Brown Branch Rodeo. Medical personnel tried unsuccessfully to revive the man, and he was pronounced dead later that evening.

**March 16, 1996/Edmonton, Alberta, Canada:** A Montana man fell from a bull at the Camrose Spring Classic Rodeo, at which time the bull stepped on his stomach. The man was flown to the nearest hospital, where he died in surgery the next day.

**February 12, 1996/Anaheim, California:** A bronco died after crashing headlong into a heavy metal gate. Spectators reported that wranglers were "prodding the horses and hyping them up." One rodeo official admitted that his staff used 4-foot-long wooden prods to keep the handlers out of kicking range.

**October 22, 1995/ Gaithersburg, Maryland:** A Mexican rodeo participant was thrown from a bull, then gored, suffering severe puncture wounds to his torso.

**August 8, 1995/Santa Barbara, California:** A horse was gored to death after being improperly housed with a bull in a holding pen. Three shots were fired at the dying animal in front of a large crowd that included children.

**July 23, 1995/Salinas, California:** During the California Rodeo, three horses died in the "Wild Horse Roundup," a steer was killed during the steer-wrestling event, and a calf died after his neck was broken during a calf-roping event.