

Domesticated Animals in Recreation or Competition

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support the participation of domesticated animals in shows for public entertainment, recreation, or competition unless the following conditions are met:

- all aspects of the animals' care are addressed;
- all activities are designed with the animals' health and safety as a first priority;
- training techniques that cause pain, fear and/or undue stress are not used;
- live bait is not used.

Definition:

Domesticated animal: A "domesticated animal" is one that has been subject to domestication through many generations of selective and controlled breeding and is thereby adapted to living in close association with humans (e.g. dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, etc.). Examples of recreation or competition for domesticated animals include horse racing, circuses, rodeos, etc.

Rationale

- For any activities using domesticated animals for competition or recreation, steps must be taken to ensure the animals are treated humanely, with dignity, respect, and the animal's well-being at the forefront of consideration.
- The Society does not support any activities that portray or force animals to behave in ways that contradict typical species behaviour.

References

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Animals in Entertainment, General Considerations." ASPCA policy statement, New York, n.d.
2. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Animals in Sport and Recreation, General Considerations." ASPCA policy statement, New York, n.d.
3. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Animals Used in Entertainment or Displays." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, 1995.
4. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Horse Racing." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.
5. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Horse Shows and Eventing." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.
6. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Rodeos." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.
7. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. "Use of Animals in Entertainment and Recreation." CVMA position statement, Ottawa, 2010.
8. Humane Society of the United States. "Animals in Entertainment and Competition." HSUS policy statement, Washington, 2005.