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# RMRO Summer 1973

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# News of the HSUS Rocky Mountain Region

## HSUS Urges Ban On Rodeo Events

The Humane Society of the United States recently mustered some of its most impressive representatives before a Colorado legislative committee to support bills that would have outlawed calf roping, team roping, and steer busting at rodeos. But they found themselves surrounded by a hearing room packed with cowboys.

HSUS President John A. Hoyt presented the results of an HSUS study that concluded that 11-12% of all animals roped in rodeos receive visible injuries. His presentation was bolstered by the presence of HSUS board member Amanda Blake, identified with the Old West through her 19 years as Miss Kitty in TV's "Gunsmoke."

Although Miss Blake did not speak before the committee because of a minimum time allowance, she told reporters afterward that she had personally seen rodeo animals injured and killed when she used to make guest appearances at rodeos.



*Rocky Mountain News*

**HSUS Director Amanda Blake, Miss Kitty of "Gunsmoke," accompanied HSUS President John A. Hoyt (right) to the Colorado Legislature hearing on rodeos this spring. Here, Miss Blake and Hoyt talk with HSUS Director Robert F. Welborn of Denver before the hearing.**

Miss Blake told a reporter for the *Rocky Mountain News*:

"I saw things I couldn't believe. I saw a calf killed in the arena. The fall snapped his neck, and they just kept the rope on his neck and

dragged him out. As I saw more, I got more disgusted and wanted no more of it. It's just atrocities, in my opinion."

The bills, introduced by Sen. Ted Strickland, have not yet been voted upon. It was obvious to the HSUS contingent that the heart of rodeo country would be a difficult area in which to make changes in treatment of animals.

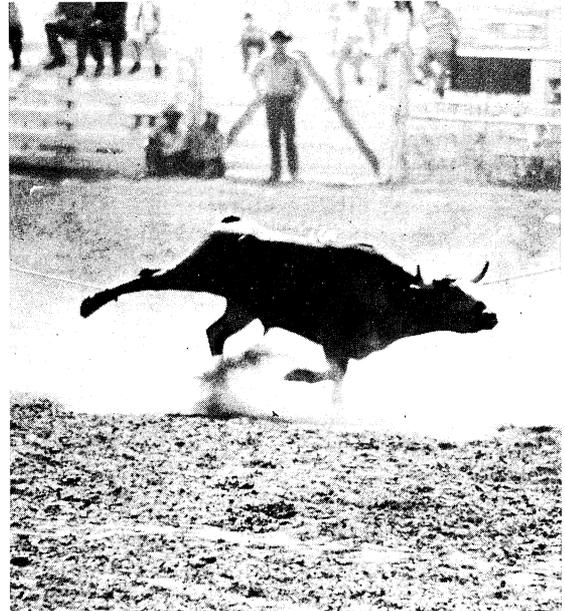
"The Humane Society is unequivocally opposed to the abuse, torment, and injury of any animal used for entertainment and profit," Hoyt said. "And when that injury is perpetrated with deliberate forethought, we deem such activity the ultimate in sadism and abusiveness."

"No rules, no matter how well intentioned—nor how singularly blessed by humane associations, rodeo associations, or the public at large—can alter the fact that in rodeo there are numerous events, which ipso facto result in significant pain and torment, as well as undeniable injuries to literally thousands of unconsenting animals annually," he concluded.



**The hearing room was packed with cowboys when HSUS President John A. Hoyt made his plea to the Colorado Legislature to ban calf roping, team roping, and steer busting at rodeos. Hoyt was accompanied by (left to right, front row) HSUS Legislative Director Guy R. Hodge, HSUS Director Amanda Blake, and (to Hoyt's immediate left) HSUS Director Robert F. Welborn. Rodeo fans even brought a school bus load of children to help their efforts to defeat the bill.**

# This Is Sport?



These animals are being tortured in the name of sport, the sport called rodeo. You can almost feel the pain being inflicted on the calf (left) as it is jerked upright from a running position by a cowboy on horseback. It gags as the rope tightens around its neck, and one of its legs may be broken as it slams to the ground.

In the team roping event (right), a steer is stretched in two directions by horses pulling on him from opposite directions. It's a sure way to tear ligaments and injure muscles. But this is all part of rodeo—just good, clean American sport.

The Humane Society of the United States believes animals should not be exploited. No animal should have to endure needless pain or agony. If you agree that the torture of animals is not legitimate sport, join with The Humane Society to change things.



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Send me more information on cruelty at rodeos.

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