

Report of the Animal Issues Committee to the 28th IGRA Annual Convention

The committee met Friday, November 9, 2012 from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Members Present.

Pierre Cadieux	ARGRA	Y
Michael Chavez	AGRA	Y
Debbie Cowgur	ILGRA	Y
Paul Dorcic	ILGRA	Y
Kim Fry	CGRA	Y
David Hallwood	MIGRA	Y
Brian Lindley	GSGRA	Y
JD Schwartz	TGRA	
Paula Scougal	CGRA	
Tom Seaman	TGRA	Y
Michael Weidman	AGRA	
Wes Wilkinson	SCCGRA	Y

Public Relations. IGRA has a tradition of being proactive in preventing mistreatment and injury to animals, yet has gotten some bad PR from extremist groups and individuals. This year, Chute Dogging has become an issue in the American west and Canada. Media Relations Chairman Brian Helander spoke with us about a proposal in Rodeo Rules that has been discussed for some time to address these concerns. The Rodeo Rule as written was thoroughly discussed and will be clarified in Rodeo Rules. While the rule to make a dog fall a DQ was not supported as written, the concept to address the animal issue was referred to Rodeo Rules for adjustment.

Brian also informed us of the Media Relations Committee's intent to create an FAQ to be made available to associations to give to protestors and a plan for addressing misinformation and protestors.

Also discussed were the issues surrounding an individual at the Tampa Pride event. FGRA did an excellent job in the care of their goats in the parade. It was discussed that associations need to consider animals and public relations at all events, not just rodeos.

Stock Contractors. One fine was levied to a stock contractor at a central rodeo for activities that did not meet the IGRA code of animal welfare. IGRA rodeo officials attempted to correct the issues several times during the rodeo. When the issues did not resolve to the satisfaction of the Trustees, a fine was levied. A contributing factor was the setup of the runway, which was too wide to allow the stock to turn around before entering the bucking chutes. A recommendation was made that setup of runways is checked before the rodeo begins to prevent turn around issues.

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). Breakout in New Mexico was contained and none of the rodeo stock or horses were infected.

Emergency Planning Recommendations.

- Single point of contact.
- Establish a chain of command.
- Maintain current communication with the state veterinarian.

Best Practices. CGRA changed their running order to give the calves a break between Calf Roping on Foot and Mounted Break–Away Roping due to the limited number of stock and hot weather conditions. Team Roping was a recommended event to be used between these events. Another suggestion was for the stock contractor to bring enough calves if events are run back–to–back so as not to wear them out.

Recommendations. States and provinces that have outbreaks of contagious diseases should require local contestants have at least the same health paper requirements as out of state/province contestants.

Mark junior bulls and regular bulls so that they cannot be used in the wrong event.

Junior bulls not at the beginner level should not be classified as junior bulls at several rodeos. To address this issue, we recommend the Chute Coordinators buck the junior bulls out before the rodeo begins as was done at the Finals Rodeo this year. If the stock performs more advanced than the beginning stock we require, the stock should be flanked looser and contestants advised.

Junior bulls should:

- not do high bucks and dives or spins,
- lope out, or
- be for novice, or beginner, riders.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Peebles, Chairman
Animal Issues Committee