

Mr. Stein,

As my business partner has stated this is the first e-mail that we have received from you. Thank you for contacting us with your concerns. You have stated your opinion and you have a right to that. I felt that it was totally unnecessary to threaten us meaning myself, my business partner, my business or my animals. I understand your concerns and Diane and I would never support anyone that would intentionally harm or mistreat animals.

Yes Diane and I are supporters and fans of the rodeo and have no shame in it and yes we are in support of this effort to bring tourism and business into our city that is struggling and we are working with the rodeo to make it a success. As we have read your opinion and view it as such I hope that you will now give us the same courtesy and read ours. We have the right to our views as you have the right to yours. But neither should be allowed to judge, be verbally abusive or threatened...

Now as to your claims of our supporting animal cruelty, I would like to make myself very clear. We do not support animal cruelty.

As each of us goes on about our daily lives never really thinking about the true abuse, we have to just look to our own house hold. Are we the same individuals that let the meat of an animal spoil in the ice box then toss it out; never giving a thought about the animal that lost it life to provide nutrition to their family and what was wasted. The vegetables that lay spoiling in the bottom of the vegetable bin was the product of a farmer that has been hit hard by the economy and may loose the farm because of rising costs, but gets up every day to work his land, and we think nothing of this.

The competitors of the rodeo have been protected by the cowboys long before 1947 when the Humane Society was formed. Animal welfare is an important part of the sport of rodeo. It only makes economic sense to ensure

the welfare of every rodeo animal. Broncs and bulls can cost up to \$4,000.00, whereas superstars can be worth up to \$30,000.00. If a stock contractor can't keep his animals healthy and as free from stress as possible he won't stay in business long.

People do not know what it takes to be a stock contractor and the care that is provided for these animals. Mr. Cotton Rosser has never been known as the Electric Horseman and it is not true that he has a long record of breaking state laws. These animals are protected and closely watch by officials. Mr. Rosser is highly respected for the care and treatment of his rough stock. He takes a great deal of pride and care preparing these animals for each trip. Each animal receives immunization, and checked over before they are delivered to the rodeo site.

Horses are very social animals and it takes a while for them to check out new neighbors and reestablish their pecking order. You will find more kicks and bite that break the skin and

bleed than you will see spur marks. What those who are not familiar do not know is that horses and cattle do not have a thin layer of skin. They have a very, very heavy, thick layer of skin called a hide and is covered in dense hair. You will find in the winter that their hair gets quite a bit heavier and as summer comes along it loose it's hair and the hair becomes dull and it is shredded out to a lustrous, slick shine. This is the sign of a happy and healthy animal. If an animal was not happy and didn't want to do something, there is no way you are going to get it to move it's feet 1,500 to 2,500 lbs of sheer stubbornness isn't going to move and you can't make it no matter what you may think. If an animal felt it was mistreated or abused it would become very aggressive and vicious toward those handling them. You won't see this in professional stock contractor's animals. When these animals arrive they're watched to see if there is a need to separate them. They either get a long or they don't and they are separated accordingly to prevent injury.

You won't find an underfed stock animal at a professional rodeo. If you pay attention and observe these animals you will see that they aren't showing ribs as a matter of fact they are quite the opposite. If you are really paying attention you will see that their hooves are properly trimmed and that their feet are free of cracks and are properly balanced with ideal hoof angle for comfort and proper function. And this takes skill. A correct hoof angle will match the pastern angle, which is the same as the angle of the shoulder blade.

These horses are a rare breed, rarely purebreds. Many of the stocks today are a mix of Shire and Thoroughbreds, or Percherons and Thoroughbreds. A combination of the draft horse's size, sturdiness and with Thoroughbred agility and speed makes some of the best stock today. But any cross can work.

Horses are bred to buck, ride, drive or pull just as bird dogs are bred for hunting and retrieving, some dogs were bred as lion hunters. Although

the bucking horse is allowed to remain fairly wild throughout their careers, they are handled frequently and learn not to fear humans or travel. These horses are cared for and are assured a good life. We should look in the homes of some of our owners who have forgotten and neglected their back yard ponies and you will find these animals are the true animals that need our concerns and protection. The livestock of the rodeo have rodeo veterinarians that are specialist, trained to deliver immediate care to bulls, horses and cattle and fortunately, animal's injuries are usually few consisting of a pulled tendon, bruised hoof or a bite from another horse. Their needs are immediately taken care of. Can we say that of the many horses left in backyards wondering if there owner will remember to feed them today or notice that they aren't feeling well?

With good care a stock contractor can expect to see his superstar horse can delight rodeo fans at the age of twenty five. Bulls have a

shorter life on the circuit. They can buck till they are only 7 or 8 years of age. The rough stock are bucked usually only bucked for the most part once a day depending on how the animals is feeling and the tremendous amount of energy is only a few seconds when they perform. The challenge for stock contractors is finding enough cattle that are uniform in size and temperament and must meet pro rodeo standards.

The rodeo is much more than a mere competition; it captures the essence of competitiveness of its star contestants. Cowboys and Cowgirls match their ability and grit with the raw power and strength of rough stock in its essential contest that draws and attracts so many. The horsemanship and talent of the rider and mount in the timed events are a wonder to behold. Horse and rider are partners in timed events. Quick starting, quick stopping, a rodeo horse must have the ability and sense to do many jobs in a short period of time and as the crowd cheers on the event you will see the

pride of not only the riders but of the livestock that hear the excitement and know that they are the reason for the cheers.

Strong in History, Heritage and tradition, rodeo is a big part of our heritage and should be celebrated as such. Today's rodeo cowboys are a fascinating modern generation that is rooted in the land and its traditions. They represent the best that we were and what we honor. The cowboy is a professional and is totally dedicated unusual in our world today.

I hope those that usually speak from behind a false information will educated themselves and will take the time to really check out these animals, their care, the love and admiration that the cowboys and cowgirls give to the rough stock of the rodeo and take off their blinders and really look at these animals before they speak. They might just change their mind. They might even think about what's in the ice box and be a little less wasteful when letting the meat of an animal go to waste. It is our right to say

what we think, believe, but is it our right to speak of something to cause harm before we educate ourselves about the facts?

I love my horse and have 15 rescue horses that were neglected, abused, abandoned and I have had to heal minds, wounds and hearts. I have retrained them and found many homes to loving caring families and yet there are still those who take no responsibility for their lack of education and care. A few of my horse came from individuals that were saving them from slavery with no knowledge of how to properly care for them and when the expense got to much they abandoned them. These animals did nothing wrong yet were abused by do gooders. Many horses are abused from malice and ignorance by those who do not wish to educate themselves.

This will signature Palm Springs event, a combination of Western lifestyle, music, sports, art and culture and will rock Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley. We are the city that has been crying for something great to

come to our community. Our community has become so sterile, so negative we have forgotten how to be positive, how to work for success, how to look for a better, brighter way.

Now as for your threat to call Animal control to check out how we treat our animals. We welcome them to our business and our home. We work very hard to give our horses a loving and safe home to live. Our animals are treated with the love of a family and the respect that they deserve. We take extra caution in their care of their hooves with special "tennis shoes" known as boe boots that work better to save our horse's legs and hooves on the street. We work long hours in their care and their training. We work especially hard to make sure that our drivers are trained to be some of the safest in the industry. We help those who are in need of saving their horses. We have on more than one occasion had feed delivered to families that have lost their job and were struggling and came to us for help. We have found homes for horses that people could no longer care for. We have

taken on horses that were so badly treated that we were their last stop before they were destroyed. We have turned the lives of these horses around. It was not in the behavior of these animals that caused them to be vicious or scared or dangerous but the hands of an uneducated human that destroyed the trust in these animals. I have personally rescued more horses than I care to count from individuals that had no business owning a horse but I have never had to rescue an animal that was from a professional rodeo.

What I have just written is the just the facts. My opinion is Mr. Cotton Rosser is a well respected man with the cowboys of this sport and the fans of the rodeo. He would not be in business if his animals were cruelly treated, abused and Diane or I would never support anyone that would mistreat animals. These animals are not only a valuable asset to the industry but to the American Heritage, of all our early beginnings

There is one other fact that you should be clear on. We do not make our living from horses. The horse drawn carriage business very rarely makes a living from horses. Our horses work to support horses that are in need, of care, medical attention and training. In a bad economy when so many are losing their jobs, homes, the luxury of keeping a horse is almost impossible. There is no place that these animals can run free, it just doesn't exist and if you truly believe that then you are only fooling yourself. They are domesticated animals that would not survive in the wild and need financial care and protection. Rescues are hit hard by the economy and with so many horses coming to them every day they are barely surviving themselves. Many rescues are closing their doors leaving so many horses to be turned out to starve and die in the desert or other barren locations.

There are men and women who have fought for our rights to our opinion and freedom of speech. But we do not have the right to abuse that freedom. I hope that before you threaten

me or my company again that you think first and educate yourself of the facts, we do not wish to make you an enemy, nor do we wish to do battle with you. You have made it clear how you feel and we have stated ours.

Mr. Stein I do not recall ever meeting you or have had you as a guest on my carriage therefore you have never supported my business or my horses and that is ok, so I will wish you the best and thank you for taking the time to write us of your concerns.

Sincerely

Roxie

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