



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 30, 2020
TO	Veterinary Medical Board
FROM	Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 7. Report on Current Statutory Framework Regarding Rodeos

Background

During the public comment portion of the October 2019 Board meeting, Mr. Steve Hindi, a representative from Showing Animals Respect and Kindness ([SHARK](#)) raised concerns regarding the treatment of animals at California rodeos and the Board’s lack of involvement ([webcast](#)).

After hearing the concerns, the Board requested an overview on the current statutory framework regarding rodeos.

Statutory Framework

Rodeos are primarily regulated by local cities and counties, who are responsible for enforcing Penal Code section [596.7](#), which states the following:

596.7.

(a) (1) For purposes of this section, “rodeo” means a performance featuring competition between persons that includes three or more of the following events: bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, or team roping.

(2) A rodeo performed on private property for which admission is charged, or that sells or accepts sponsorships, or is open to the public constitutes a performance for the purpose of this subdivision.

(b) The management of any professionally sanctioned or amateur rodeo that intends to perform in any city, county, or city and county shall ensure that there is a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state present at all times during the performances of the rodeo, or a veterinarian licensed to practice in the state who is on-call and able to arrive at the rodeo within one hour after a determination has been made that there is an injury which requires treatment to be provided by a veterinarian.

(c) (1) The attending or on-call veterinarian shall have complete access to the site of any event in the rodeo that uses animals.

(2) The attending or on-call veterinarian may, for good cause, declare any animal unfit for use in any rodeo event.

(d) (1) Any animal that is injured during the course of, or as a result of, any rodeo event shall receive immediate examination and appropriate treatment by the attending veterinarian or shall begin receiving examination and appropriate treatment by a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state within one hour of the determination of the injury requiring veterinary treatment.

(2) The attending or on-call veterinarian shall submit a brief written listing of any animal injury requiring veterinary treatment to the Veterinary Medical Board within 48 hours of the conclusion of the rodeo.

(3) The rodeo management shall ensure that there is a conveyance available at all times for the immediate and humane removal of any injured animal.

(e) The rodeo management shall ensure that no electric prod or similar device is used on any animal once the animal is in the holding chute, unless necessary to protect the participants and spectators of the rodeo.

(f) A violation of this section is an infraction and shall be punishable as follows:

(1) A fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for a first violation.

(2) A fine of not less than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a second or subsequent violation.

(Amended by Stats. 2007, Ch. 714, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2008.)

The Veterinary Medical Board (Board) does not enforce or hold any role in issuing penalties established in Penal Code section 596.7. The penalties may be issued by local cities or counties to any individual subject to the requirements of Penal Code section 596.7, depending on the violation.

According to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development [analysis](#) of Assembly Bill (AB) [1980](#) (Hayashi, Chapter 538, Statutes of 2010), veterinarians were unaware of the reporting requirement in Penal Code section 596.7, subdivision (d)(2); therefore, AB 1980 added the reporting requirement to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

Business and Professions Code (BPC) section [4830.8](#) requires the attending or on-call veterinarian at a rodeo event to report to the Board any animal injury at the event requiring veterinary treatment within 48 hours of the conclusion of the rodeo. In addition, a veterinarian rendering treatment to an animal for an injury that the veterinarian knows occurred at a rodeo event must report to the Board within seven days of rendering the treatment. The Rodeo Reporting Form is available on the Board's website [here](#).

Rodeo Animal Injury Reports

As demonstrated in the chart below, 46 rodeo injury reports were filed with the Board over the last 4.5 fiscal years; those reports indicated 60 animal injuries. With the exception of two, all animals were treated onsite at the rodeo and not referred for further treatment. If a question arises that a veterinarian may have deviated from the standard of care or failed to report an animal injury as required under BPC section 4830.8, the Board would conduct a thorough

investigation and take enforcement action against the license of the veterinarian, if appropriate. No Board enforcement actions were taken for violations of BPC section 4830.8.

Fiscal Year	Reports Received	Animal Injuries
2015/2016	17	20
2016/2017	10	11
2017/2018	10	14
2018/2019	7	13
2019/2020*	2	2

**Data through December 31, 2019*

There is no other role the Board is sanctioned to perform regarding a rodeo event.