

# Animal Welfare Policy

## 6. ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT

---

### 6.1 Captive animals

The SPCA is opposed to the confinement of captive animals in conditions likely to cause suffering or distress.

*The SPCA believes that animals held captive, such as in zoos and wildlife parks, must be provided with adequate accommodation and living space appropriate for the species. All captive animals should be provided with an appropriate environment enrichment programme to alleviate boredom.*

### 6.2 Performing animals

The SPCA is opposed to the use of performing animals in any form of entertainment where suffering, distress or injury is likely to occur.

*The SPCA accepts the use of performing animals, such as in circuses, only where no suffering or distress is likely to be caused during training and performances, and the animals are provided with adequate accommodation and living space appropriate for the species. Animals should be provided with an appropriate environment enrichment programme to alleviate boredom during periods when they are not training or performing.*

### 6.3 Exotic animals in circuses

The SPCA is opposed to the use of exotic animals in circuses.

*The SPCA believes that exotic animals used in circuses inevitably suffer from inadequate accommodation and living space, due to the transient nature of circuses. Training techniques cannot overcome the animals' need for complex, enriched environments. If exotic animals escape from circuses, they are likely to endanger themselves and the public.*

### 6.4 Rodeos

The SPCA is opposed to the use of animals in rodeos.

*The SPCA believes that the skills demonstrated and promoted in rodeos are irrelevant in a modern society, and that the stress on all animals involved is such that their welfare is put at risk. The SPCA is opposed to the use of spurs and rowels in rodeos, and is particularly opposed to events such as bronco riding, calf roping and steer wrestling, where injury to animals may occur. The SPCA believes that rodeos are detrimental in terms of fostering a caring attitude towards living creatures.*

### 6.5 Horse racing, trotting and greyhound racing

The SPCA is opposed to:

- striking horses with the whip causing pain and suffering;
- races, such as the steeplechase, in which excessive demands are made on the animal; and
- performance-enhancing drugs being administered to any competing animal.

*The SPCA accepts the use of the whip in horse racing and trotting only as an aid to steering the horse. The SPCA opposes steeplechase events, as they inevitably put horses at risk of serious injury.*

*continued ...*

# Animal Welfare Policy

## 6. ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT – continued

---

### 6.6 Show jumping and eventing

The SPCA is opposed to practices in show jumping and eventing which cause suffering, distress or injury to the animals.

*The SPCA accepts show jumping and eventing only when the tasks and jump heights are such that the potential for distress or injury to the horses is minimal.*

### 6.7 Endurance riding

The SPCA is opposed to endurance riding events.

*The SPCA views endurance riding events as being far too stressful and dangerous for the horses involved, and would like to see them discontinued.*

### 6.8 Use of animals in promotional and fundraising events

The SPCA is opposed to the use of animals in promotional and fundraising events where suffering or distress is likely to occur.

*The SPCA is concerned that, where animals are used in promotional and fundraising events, stress and suffering may occur due to inadequate temporary accommodation and lack of control of public interaction with the animals. A further concern is that promotional and fundraising events may be detrimental in terms of fostering a caring attitude towards living creatures. In particular, children's events such as greasy pig, rooster catching, and sheep and calf riding are totally opposed.*

### 6.9 Live animals as prizes

The SPCA is opposed to the giving of live animals as prizes in lotteries and other competitions.

*Animals given as prizes in any form of competition or lottery are likely to be accepted on impulse, and the winner may not have the facilities, time, financial means, level of knowledge or interest necessary to ensure the well-being of the animal.*

### 6.10 Home video competitions

The SPCA is opposed to home video competitions where animals may be placed in danger or may undergo pain, suffering and distress for the purpose of filming competition entries.

*The SPCA is concerned that the welfare of animals is often put at risk in the making of home videos, where the anticipation of the resulting video sequence and competition prizes overrides the appropriate treatment of the animals being filmed.*

### 6.11 Fighting animals

The SPCA is opposed to organised animal fighting.

*The SPCA views all forms of organised animal fighting as totally barbaric, particularly dogfighting and cockfighting.*