



## **2017 Animal Care Policy**

### **I. Statement of Intent**

Rodeo Austin is committed to the humane and compassionate treatment of all animals. The purpose of the Animal Care Policy is to provide a statement of intent and standards by which Rodeo Austin will proactively operate to best ensure the care, safety and well-being of all animals involved with Rodeo Austin events. The production practices in animal agriculture and the rodeo industry are based on the best principals of animal husbandry. No one has a greater stake in the welfare of animals than the livestock producers, stock contractors and organizations that promote animal agriculture production and professional rodeo. Rodeo Austin will take the highest level of care and diligence to ensure the proper handling and care of animals involved in its events.

### **II. Policies**

Rodeo Austin agrees to adhere to the best practices established by professional associations including but not limited to the following: Texas Animal Health Commission, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Women's Professional Rodeo Association, American Quarter Horse Association, American Veterinary Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

### **III. Official Veterinarians**

All animals at Rodeo Austin will be under the care of the official veterinarians. A minimum of one official veterinarian will be on the grounds at all times to provide expert advice on health, injury or disease status of animal and its suitability for competition. The official veterinarians will operate as an independent contractor in order to provide unbiased consultation and the highest quality of animal care at all times.

### **IV. Medication and Treatment for Competing Animals**

All medication and treatment for animals participating in Competitive Events must adhere to the rules of the 2017 Premium Book. All medication and treatment for animals participating in rodeo events must adhere to the rules of the sanctioning association. The official veterinarians, in agreement with Rodeo Austin, reserve the right to treat any animal if it is the best interest of the animal's health and well-being to be treated, regardless of its eligibility to compete. If an exhibitor or contestant refuses treatment of their animal, and treatment is determined to be in the best interest of the animal, the entry may become ineligible to compete. Eligibility will be determined by the official veterinarians and Rodeo Austin. Any decision made is final.

### **V. Animal Health Requirements**

All livestock, horses, poultry and other animals entering the grounds must be accompanied by the proper health papers in accordance with all current Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) rules and regulations. Rodeo Austin reserves the right to impose stricter requirements than that of the TAHC. Any animal on premise that is identified by the official veterinarian as having symptoms consistent with a

severe, infectious, contagious disease will be quarantined by the guidelines outlined in the Infectious Disease Quarantine Protocol.

#### **VI. Interpretation of Policy**

Any violation to the Animal Care Policy should be reported to Rodeo Austin immediately. Any contractor, contestant, exhibitor or official personnel who violate these policies will be subject to penalty by Rodeo Austin. Violations should be reported to [animalcare@rodeoaustin.com](mailto:animalcare@rodeoaustin.com) or 512-919-3033.