

BRONCO BRANDING SA INC



ANIMAL WELFARE CODE

Part 1 –Introduction

Preface

The role of Bronco Branding SA Inc is to provide to all affiliated committees and associations, a set of the South Australian rules for Bronco Branding and assess animal welfare issues. The association's membership consists of representatives from each affiliated association or committee, and individual members.

This document is the South Australian standard recommended by BBSA for managing and controlling Bronco Branding events. It has been developed involved consultation with the SA associations, stock owners and stock contractors, and utilized existing documentation from the Commonwealth Government.

All affiliated associations or committees will accept these standards upon payment of their affiliation.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of these standards is:

- to set minimum requirements for the care and welfare of Bronco Branding livestock and to establish benchmarks for effective co-regulation between industry and animal welfare agencies to ensure animal welfare at all Bronco Branding events in South Australia

The standards define the respective responsibilities of everyone involved in conducting Bronco Branding events.

General Principles

Proper consideration must be given to the health and welfare of animals used in Bronco Branding. Events and procedures should be designed to prevent cruelty and minimize the impacts on the welfare of the animals.

Those responsible for organising and running Bronco Branding events must be experienced livestock handlers to ensure that animal welfare needs are met.

Everyone associated with Bronco Branding animals must comply with the prevention of cruelty legislation and follow the national codes of practice for the welfare of animals.

The BBSA Bronco Branding standards are designed to address issues specific to Bronco Branding, and compliment legislation and national codes of practice.

The BBSA has written rules based on, and consistent with, these standards. The rules are designed to prevent cruelty and minimize the risk of injury to livestock. Associations should monitor compliance with the standards and enforce them as required.

If other animal events not covered by these standards are run in conjunction with Bronco Branding, then the organising bodies should establish further standards which take into account animal welfare.

Objectives

The objective of these standards is to:

- protect the welfare of livestock in Bronco Branding events;

- ensure that Bronco Branding personnel are aware of their responsibilities as outlined in these standards;
- provide guidelines and standards for arena conditions, yard and bronco panel design;
- establish criteria for Bronco Branding participants and staff in the handling and care of livestock, and provide a basis for monitoring the welfare of animals at Bronco Branding events.

Definitions

Unless stated otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this documentation.

Bronco Branding Event

For the purpose of these standards, a Bronco Branding event is a competition using cattle and horses, which includes one or more of the following events:

- Singles or open event
- Doubles or team event
- Novice event
- Beginners event
- Challenge event

It is unacceptable to use animals other than cattle, horses and mules in a Bronco Branding event. Animal maturity, weight and size are specified for some events.

Bronco Branding Association or Committee

An incorporated association established for the purpose of coordinating and assisting in the running of Bronco Branding events. These may be held in conjunction with other objectives of the organization such as the running of rodeo events.

Bronco Branding Event Organiser

The person who instigates and promotes the Bronco Branding event. If a committee or association undertakes these tasks, it must designate, under these standards, a member to take on the responsibilities of Bronco Branding organiser.

Judge/s

The judges/s appointed to officiate at the Bronco Branding.

Stock Contractor

Someone who provides the livestock for the event.

Livestock Supervisor

The person who assumes the responsibilities of the stock contractor, if animals are not sourced from a stock contractor.

Veterinarian

A veterinary surgeon appointed by the Bronco Branding event organiser and who must be registered in the Australian state or territory in which the Bronco Branding is held.

Competitor

A Competitor in a Bronco Branding event.

Part 2- Responsibilities of Bronco Branding Personnel

Policy Statement

Animals used in Bronco Branding events must be treated humanely.

States and territories are encouraged to affiliate their Bronco Branding events within their jurisdiction to encourage compliance with, and adequate monitoring of these standards.

The stock contractor, judges, veterinarians and competitors must have a high level of knowledge of these standards, and ensure that the welfare of animals used in Bronco Branding events is within their areas of responsibility. They also must comply with relevant animal protection legislation.

Bronco Branding Event Organiser Responsibilities

The Bronco Branding event is responsible for:

- ensuring that all equipment owned by the club, association or individual organising the event complies with the requirements of these standards;
- appointing the stock contractor and ensuring that the contractor is competent to undertake their duties;
- appointing judges and time keepers;
- appointing the veterinarian (the stock contractor is required to do this in some states). In jurisdictions where veterinarian attendance is not mandatory and where the event is being held in a remote area, the event organiser must make reasonable attempts to secure a veterinarian's services.
- ensuring that the veterinarian or their stock contractor inspects all animals to be used before the start of the event, and each animal after it is used in the programme;
- ensuring that all personnel are aware of their responsibilities under these standards.

If a veterinarian is not in attendance the event organiser must appoint someone who is experienced and competent to assess and deal with health and welfare problems of cattle and horses, including having the knowledge and means to undertake safe and humane euthanasia. That person must assume the responsibilities of the veterinarian outlined in this standard.

The event organiser must arrange for this person to be able to contact a veterinarian for advice and direction if required. If a veterinarian cannot attend, and an event organiser has appointed someone to act in this position, then that person assumes the veterinarian's duties and responsibilities.

Stock Contractor Responsibilities

The stock contractor is responsible for the welfare, husbandry and handling of all Bronco Branding event livestock, except when animals are competing in the arena (where the judge and competitors are responsible).

Bronco Branding associations are encouraged to accredit stock contractors to ensure that they have the required knowledge of the standards and skills to comply with them.

The stock contractor must ensure that:

- the welfare requirements of livestock en-route to and from the event are met;
- transport and handling of animals is undertaken in accordance with the relevant model and state codes of practice for the welfare of animals, including the provision of appropriate food, water and shelter;
- all animals supplied are in good health and all animals used in any event conform to these standards;

- yards, chutes and the arena surface are inspected before the event and comply with these standards;
- only properly qualified and competent personnel are appointed to care for, handle and treat event livestock;
- no stimulant, hypnotic or other substances is used in any animal which is to take part, other than that prescribed by a veterinarian for a legitimate injury or illness;
- unsuitable animals are withdrawn from competition;
- aggressive and injured animals are isolated from others;
- proper treatment for any injury is given promptly and if required veterinary assistance obtained;
- the requirements of these standards are met outside the arena, namely in chutes, yards, surrounding areas, and if aware of non compliance by other personnel, advise the judge;
- all stock handlers used are competent to undertake their duties in compliance with these standards;
- That only calves 100kg and less than the 300 kg recommended are used in competition.

Livestock Supervisor

A livestock supervisor must have the same level of knowledge and competences expected of a stock contractor and assume all the stock contractors duties and responsibilities as outlined in these standards.

Judges' Responsibilities

Judges are responsible for animals competing in the arena. They should have thorough knowledge of these standards and must ensure that:

- any competitor who breaches these standards in the arena is penalized or reported as appropriate;
- any animal which becomes lame, sick or has defective eyesight during the competition is removed from the competition and direct the person in charge of the animal to seek appropriate treatment for it;
- inspections are performed on all competition equipment and ensure that the manner in which the equipment is set or used on the animal complies in all respects with these standards;
- Judges report to secretary.

Competitors' Responsibilities

Competitors in Bronco Branding events are responsible for the animals they use during an event. All competitors must:

- not treat animals in a way which causes injury or harm;
- only use equipment complying with these standards;
- obtain prompt and proper treatment for any injury to any animal they use in the competition (other than animals supplied by the contractor);
- comply with all relevant sections of these standards.

Veterinarian Responsibilities

Veterinarians must have the necessary experience with cattle and horses to deal with the health and injury issues that might arise in a Bronco Branding event.

Veterinarians are responsible for:

- providing expert advice on an animal's health, injury or disease status, and the animals suitability for competition- Veterinarian's decision is final;
- inspecting the animals before and after events;
- dealing with emergencies;
- being present during all events (if required by the jurisdiction);
- contributing to the report of the event.

Part 3- Rules for the Care of Livestock

Sick and Injured Animals

Stock contractors are responsible for ensuring that no sore, lame, sick, injured or sight impaired animal is permitted in the draw.

In the absence of a Veterinarian at a Bronco Branding event, the stock contractor assumes the veterinarian's responsibility.

If an animal becomes sick or injured between the time it is inspected and the time it is scheduled to be used, it must not be used.

Sick or injured animals must be given appropriate treatment.

Veterinary Attendance

A Veterinarian is the most appropriate person to look after animal welfare issues.

A Veterinarian should be onsite at all times, or be available by telephone through their representative, to handle emergencies and to inspect all animals before and after competition. In some jurisdictions, the attendance of a veterinarian is mandatory.

A Veterinarian's decision on the suitability of an animal for competition is final.

Response to Serious Stock Injuries

A conveyance must be available to remove a seriously injured animal to a suitable place for further examination and treatment .If an animal is to be euthanized this must be done humanely.

A seriously injured animal must be yarded such that it is not endangered by other livestock, housed appropriately and be examined and treated immediately by the veterinarian or the authorized representative of the veterinarian.

A person licensed and qualified, and with the appropriate means to euthanize an animal, must be available at all time while the event is in progress.

Livestock must be euthanized in accordance with the national model and state's codes of practice for the welfare of animals for the species concerned and according to legislation.

Injury Prevention

Chutes, yards, lanes and races must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that minimizes the risk of injury to handlers or animals and assists the quiet and efficient handling of stock;

An animal that repeatedly gets down in the yard showing signs of stress, or tries to jump out of it, or becomes excessively excited must be released and examined by the veterinarian. If found to be unfit for any reason, the animal must be withdrawn from participation for the day or session;

Trained people should be available to humanely assist an animal if it gets caught in the chutes, yards or races;

Suitable equipment and people should also be on hand to make necessary repairs to these facilities and to ensure that they meet the required standard.

General Safety and Welfare Provisions

No small animal or pet should be allowed in the arena or in the line of sight without the judges' consent;

Livestock must not be directly exposed to fireworks that are likely to cause fear or distress. (Some states legislate the use of fireworks).

Part 4- Equipment Requirements and Specifications

Bronco Branding Event Livestock Handling Equipment

All livestock must be treated humanely and must not be handled cruelly or excessively;

Equipment for livestock handling must be the type and specifications generally used to transport and handle horses and cattle and must comply with the model and state's code of practice for the welfare of animals;

Electric Prods

Electric prods may be used under the following conditions:

- They must be of low amperage and powered by dry cell batteries only;
- Be of a type and standard used generally for the handling, yarding and transport of livestock;
- Used with restraint and restricted to the minimum amount necessary as an aid for loading and handling livestock;
- Applied only to those parts of the animal covered by hair.

An electric prod may not be used in the arena under any circumstances.

Handling Aids

The use of aids such as flappers, metallic rattles and light polythene tubing to encourage movement in response to sound is acceptable for handling animals in yards lanes and races.

The use of aids such as sticks, lengths of heavy plastic/metal piping, fencing wire or heavy leather belts to strike or poke animals with enough force to cause pain or injury is not permitted.

Event Equipment

Event equipment is used to assist the event and should be designed to ensure that the animal is not injured.

The owner of the equipment is responsible for its suitability.

Equipment must conform to the specifications.

Spurs

Spurs are used to encourage the horse to pull and must not be used excessively if the horse fails to pull.

If a competitor uses excessive spurring they will be disqualified.

To reduce possible injury to the animal, the spur rowel must be dulled and not less than 3mm wide at its narrowest part; the minimum diameter to the point of the rowel is 2 cm.

Part 5 Stock Selection and Use

Stock Source

Ideally a stock contractor should supply all Bronco Branding event stock - it is acknowledged however that in some areas and for some events local stock may be used.

Where there is no stock contractor the event organiser must designate a livestock supervisor to assume the responsibilities of a stock contractor.

Horses

Horses used in Bronco Branding events must be mature, sound and fit for the intended use.

Age should not be used as the sole criterion of maturity: other factors such as size and physical conformation must be taken into account at the discretion of the judge.

Cattle

All cattle must be fit, healthy and suitable for the intended use.

The number of times that cattle may be used in competition varies according to the rigours of the event and the conditioning of the cattle to Bronco Branding competition.

The following limitations must be observed:

- The cattle must not be caught more than twice in one day;
- Cattle may not be used as Bronco Branding stock more than four times on any day, including practice for events and the event itself.

Selection of Animals for Bronco Branding

Cattle used in Bronco Branding events must be fit, healthy and without defects. A calf must have a minimum weight of 100kg and no heavier than 300kgs.

Part 6- Arena Selection and Use

Arena Chutes and Yards

The veterinarian and the stock contractor must be assured that the arena, chutes, yards, races and bronco panel will not compromise the animal's welfare.

Surfaces

The stock contractor is responsible for ensuring the arena surface provides traction stability, reduction of the shock and improved safety for personnel and livestock.

In general the standard arena should be a suitable soil based surface, rotary hoed or softened to a depth of about 8-10 cm, and must be free of rocks, holes and obstacles at least 4 metres around the panel.

The rest of the arena should be as free of rocks as possible.

Other surfaces may be used if they are well drained, provide secure footing and are as safe for the animals as an appropriate soil based surface.

Size

The arena must be big enough for the events taking place.

Too small an area for an event creates a danger to livestock, competitors and spectators.

Fencing

The Bronco Branding event organiser is responsible for fencing around the arena. The stock contractor must inspect and approve the fencing before the event. A stock contractor is also responsible for its suitability.

Careful planning and construction of the arena will make handling and removing stock easier, and will also increase the stock, competitor and public safety.

The top rail of arenas should be strong and secure enough to prevent breakage in the event of an attempted escape by an animal.

The construction height and appearance of arena fencing should discourage stock from attempting to push through the fence or jump over it.

There must be no protrusions on fences or gateways that are likely to cause injury.

Arena fences should be clearly visible and not appear open to the animal.

If it is thought that stock will pressure certain points of an arena more than others, care should be taken to ensure that the fencing is suitable.

Portable Arenas

Portable arenas must have suitably braced and secure panels.

The minimum height should be 1.8 metres.

A stock contractor supplying fencing, yards or chutes is responsible for ensuring that they comply with these standards.

Fixed Arenas

Fixed arenas should be of secure construction and flush on the inside.

If cable is used in steel arenas, it should be strained and the space between the cables should not be wide enough to allow stock to pass through it.

The minimum height should be at least 1.6 metres.

Part 7- Specific Bronco Branding Events

All Events

The judges have the final decision on the suitability of the equipment.

Any equipment either on the animal or which may be used on the animal, and which may compromise its welfare, is not allowed.

A judge may instruct anyone to remove or modify equipment for which they are responsible, in accordance with these standards.

Jerking Down and Dragging

Pulling an animal backward off its feet (jerk down) or dragging a roped animal that is lying down is unacceptable.

Contestants must use an appropriate technique and appropriate and properly fitted equipment, to protect the animal against an abrupt stop after it has been roped, and to prevent the Bronco Branding horse from dragging the roped animal.

Contestants will be deemed to have been in breach of these standards if they:

- pull the calf backwards off its feet or
- drag it more than one metre after it is tied.

Contestants will be deemed NOT to be in breach of these standards if the animal throws itself down of its own accord.