

107 Ala Mesa Rd.  
Woodside, CA 94062

May 29, 2017

Dr. Russ Peterson  
Peninsula Equine Medical Center  
100 Ansel Lane  
Menlo Park, CA 94026

Dear Dr. Peterson,

My name is Anna Calia and I'm 11 years old. I'm a concerned Woodside resident. I value the humane treatment of animals. You may not know that the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County showcases an inhumane event called the pig scramble during the Woodside Jr. Rodeo. I'm writing to ask you to reconsider sponsoring the rodeo until they remove this cruel event.

During the pig scramble small kids chase even smaller pigs around a hot dusty arena and receive a prize for catching one. An announcer instructs the kids that the best way to catch them is to hold them by their legs. Kids try to catch the pigs but inadvertently tackle them, while supervisors dangle and drag the screeching pigs. If pigs are reluctant to run, they are tossed out into the arena. Research shows that crowds, noise, chaotic activity, and forced human interaction causes stress, fear and even jeopardizes the pigs' health.

The Mounted Patrol claims that the scramble showcases western heritage and the pigs enjoy it. I've researched these statements. A search of the archives in the National Cowboy Museum yielded no information relating to pig scrambles as a part of western heritage, and veterinarians agree that this event is detrimental to the pigs' health.

As a veterinarian, this event directly opposes your mission to support the health and wellbeing of animals, and it educates kids that it is ok to treat animals inhumanely.

With so many better choices of entertainment, I urge you to sponsor events that do not involve the mistreatment of animals.

Please reconsider supporting the Woodside Jr. Rodeo until the pig scramble is replaced with an event that reflects our common values!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,