

# THE HOG CATCH: DID IT MAKE YOU SICK?

@unparalleled\_suffering



**At the “wild hog catch” event at the Bandera Ham Rodeo, wild young pigs and piglets are tormented, abused, terrorized, and injured while participants risk triggering the next outbreak of a zoonotic disease.**

Dozens of young wild pigs are captured for the event, which involves chasing them around an arena, grabbing them, and stuffing them into a sack as they struggle and scream in fear.

Participants tackle, slap, and kick the young pigs, as well as grabbing them by the tail, ears, or snout. Then they drag them by the legs and stuff them into burlap sacks. According to veterinarians, such abuse can cause serious and painful injuries.

The pigs are so desperate to escape their tormentors that some try to dig under or leap over barriers, even crashing headfirst into the metal fencing surrounding the arena. They’ve also sustained open, bleeding wounds, their blood spattering the arena and the contestants.

Pigs are highly intelligent, inquisitive, sensitive, social animals—as smart as or even smarter than dogs. Their intelligence could make an ordeal like this even more traumatic. Those at the Bandera Ham Rodeo huddle together in fear, their stress exacerbated by other pigs’ screams of terror.

The Bandera Ham Rodeo poses a threat to the public, too. Wild pigs carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans, including highly contagious brucellosis as well as tuberculosis, leptospirosis, hepatitis E, salmonellosis, and *E. coli* infections. People at the event, including children, are exposed to pigs’ blood, saliva, urine, and feces—all of which can carry disease.

**PETA**

**If you felt sick after attending a hog catch competition, e-mail [HogCatch@peta.org](mailto:HogCatch@peta.org).**

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