



Dear Hobby Horse Federation,

On behalf of GAIA and PETA and our combined more than 10 million members and supporters across the world, we kindly ask you to consider adding a new and exciting discipline to hobby horning that could spare real horses from cruel rodeos—and highlight what the Hobby Horse Federation does best: dazzling audiences with human athleticism and creativity.

Rodeos are linked to serious animal welfare problems. Animals are deliberately provoked into unnatural and stressful behaviour through the use of flank straps and spurs. Horses and bulls are often forced to buck violently in response to pain or pressure. This results in a high risk of injuries such as broken bones, torn muscles, or internal bleeding, and many animals suffer long-term stress and trauma. In some cases, rodeos even lead to the premature death of the animals involved.¹

Hobby horning already highlights skill, creativity, and inclusion, and this new discipline could further strengthen these values, attract a new fanbase, and demonstrate that modern sports do not need to involve exposing animals to fear, pain, or harm. Our organizations would be thrilled to celebrate the news on our social media channels with the potential to reach millions and land in top news outlets around the world.

We would be happy to discuss this idea with you.

With best regards,

Michel Vandebosch
President - **GAIA**

Ingrid Newkirk
Founder - **PETA**

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Footnote

1. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – *Welfare Implications of Rodeo Events* (2021); RSPCA Australia – *Rodeos and Animal Welfare* (2020); PETA – *Rodeo Cruelty Factsheet*.