

September 9, 2026

Steven Tears
Executive Director
Montgomery Humane Society Animal Services

Via email: [REDACTED];
humaneofficer@montgomeryhumane.com

**Re: PETA's Request That MHSAS Inform Bullfighting Organizers
of Montgomery's Cruelty to Animals Ordinance**

Dear Executive Director Tears:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to notify the Montgomery Humane Society that the upcoming "Biscuits & Bulls" event, scheduled for September 25 and 26, 2026 at DABOS Park (200 Coosa St., Montgomery, AL 36104), is advertised to include "freestyle bullfighting" events that constitute cruelty to animals and animal fighting in violation of Montgomery City Code ("Montgomery Code").¹ PETA urges your office to inform the event organizers that the Montgomery Code prohibits such bullfighting events that harass "any animal," exhibit "animals engaged in active combat," and exhibit humans "fighting with another animal."²

Cruelty to animals includes teasing or harassing any animal, and promoting, staging, conducting, or attending "any game, exhibition, or contest that features one or more animals engaged in active combat."³ It is "unlawful to cause any animal to fight another animal or human."⁴ Importantly, *there are no exceptions to these prohibitions*, and these protections apply to "cattle," "livestock," and "any other domesticated mammals."⁵

Contrary to these prohibitions, in the Biscuits & Bulls event, "Ultimate Bull Fighters" will engage in "freestyle bullfighting,"⁶ "go[ing] one-on-one with [a] bull" in a "fast-paced competition."⁷ Rodeo officials describe freestyle bullfighting as "old-school man versus animal."⁸ The bullfighters taunt bulls to illicit aggression and are judged on their ability to "expose [themselves] to risk and [their] aggressiveness."⁹

¹ Mont. Code of Ord. §§ 4-5, 4-6.; the Montgomery Humane Society, under the supervision of the Montgomery Chief of Police, is responsible for enforcement of Chapter 4 of the Montgomery City Code, including the prohibition on cruelty to animals and animal fighting. *Id.* § 4-1.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.* § 4-5.

⁴ *Id.* § 4-6.

⁵ *Id.* § 4-1.

⁶ [Biscuits & Bulls](#), MONTGOMERY BISCUITS (last visited Aug. 31, 2026).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Joseph Baucum, [American Freestyle Bull Fighting wraps up Sunday at the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo](#), GALVESTON NEWS (Apr. 10, 2016).

⁹ [Freestyle Bullfights](#), CALIF. RODEO SALINAS (last visited Aug. 31, 2026) ("bullfighters score higher when the bull is more aggressive.").

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Bullfighters get more points the more the bull “engages” with the bullfighter, and by “displaying aggressive maneuvers.”¹⁰ Thus, the more bullfighters tease and harass the bull, the more points they receive, and the more money they make.¹¹ The bullfighters are *not* merely attempting to avoid a bull—the entire point of the harassment is to fuel aggressive engagement between the bull and the bullfighter.¹²

Freestyle bullfighting promotes and relies upon teasing and harassing an otherwise docile animal such that they become panicked and frantic. Bullfighters grab onto the bulls’ horns, jump on their backs, and tie ropes to the bulls’ flanks to cause irritation and “encourage the animal to buck.”¹³ In their panicked state, the bulls feel stress akin to that of evading a predator, and attempt to flee or protect themselves. As a result of this agitated behavior, the bulls and bullfighters face serious and fatal injuries.¹⁴ Bulls used in similar events have suffered from broken legs, backs, and necks, heart attacks, and aneurisms.¹⁵ Freestyle bullfighters have been knocked unconscious,¹⁶ suffered concussions,¹⁷ broken bones,¹⁸ and are stomped and rammed by bulls.¹⁹ Bulls and bullfighters are risking serious injury or death during each cruel exhibition, and the bulls have no way to escape the torment.

Accordingly, the “Biscuits & Bulls” “freestyle bullfighting” events are prohibited cruelty to animals and animal fighting and we urge you to inform the organizers that those events cannot proceed.

Sincerely,



Cyndee Bence
Counsel
Captive Animal Law Enforcement | PETA Foundation



¹⁰ [What is Freestyle Bullfighting? A Guide To The Extreme Sport](#), FLORODEO (Feb. 8, 2019).

¹¹ See e.g., [Ultimate Bullfighters](#), INSTAGRAM (Mar. 19, 2026) (announcing a one-million-dollar season payout for 2026).

¹² Bullfighters lose points the longer a bull avoids the bullfighter. See, FLORODEO, *supra* note 7.

¹³ [Rodeo 101](#), RODEO ALL STAR (last visited Aug. 31, 2026).

¹⁴ [Rodeo: Cruelty for a Buck](#), PETA (updated July 2026).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ [Ultimate Bullfighters](#), INSTAGRAM (Aug. 26, 2026).

¹⁷ [PBR](#), FACEBOOK (Mar. 19, 2018).

¹⁸ [2 Bullfighters Injured at Boulder County Fair](#), ASSOC. PRESS & KUSA (Aug. 10, 2014).

¹⁹ [Cowboy Plus](#), INSTAGRAM (Aug. 29, 2026).