



CANADIAN VETERINARY  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2019

### **Canada's National Veterinary Association Supports Stampede Review as it Releases Positions on Animals in Sport and Competition, Animals in Entertainment and Arts**

Toronto, Ont. – The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Council approved two position statements on *Animals in Sport and Competition* and *Animals in Entertainment and the Arts*, which have been under development by its Animal Welfare Committee for over a year, at its annual convention in Toronto this week.

The position for Animals in Sport and Competition states that the CVMA accepts humane and ethical use of animals in competition and sport. The CVMA strongly supports progressive implementation of strategies to mitigate risks involved with the care and management of animals used in sport and competition, to promote sound physical, social and psychological health and well-being of the animal, and to find alternatives which end avoidable harm and suffering.

The CVMA supports the work of the veterinary teams that strive to protect the safety and well-being of animals at the annual Calgary Stampede. The CVMA also supports the oversight provided by the Calgary Humane Society during Stampede events.

The CVMA is pleased the Calgary Stampede is undertaking a review of the chuckwagon races, in light of the recent tragic events, with the goal of making substantive changes to better protect animals. In this regard, CVMA members and all Canadians expect leadership on affecting necessary change at Stampede events. The CVMA is willing to work with the Calgary Stampede safety committee, as it has in the past, to assist in achieving this goal. The CVMA is a national voice for animal welfare in Canada, providing science-based guidance to members and the public on animal welfare issues.

Although there may appear to be overlap between the scope of the two positions in that humans watch sport for entertainment, the critical difference is the animals' activity in these two situations. When considering the animal welfare implications of an activity, it is what the animal does and the experiences that matters. The risks to the welfare of the animal is markedly different when it is used for sport and competition, versus when it is used for entertainment or in the arts. The Entertainment and Arts position is intended to address, for example, an animal performing in a circus or on a film stage. The Sport and Competition position is meant to address activities such as dogs running in a sled dog race or racehorses on a track. Some activities, such as rodeo events, should be viewed through the lens of both position statements.

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These two statements replace the CVMA's *Use of Animals in Entertainment and Recreation* position statement which was created in 2010.

You can view all of the CVMA's position statements under the Policy & Advocacy section of our website:  
[canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/statements](http://canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/statements)

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*The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Visit [canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net) to learn more about CVMA.*

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