



FAACE

FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY IN EUROPE

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Newsletter 2011

At this time of the year you'll be probably inundated with appeals for help. We send out only one newsletter a year, because our work for the animals is our top priority. But we still need your support and for this reason we would like to give you a few samples of what we have been up to in 2011.

Grand National Horse Race Demo

FAACE held it's now almost traditional annual demo against the Grand National at Aintree.



It was particularly sad this year, with the death of three horses in the three day meeting.

Every year horses are injured and killed during the Grand National Steeplechase, a deliberately hazardous race that most horses do not even finish.

20 horses have died in The Grand National race since the year 2000 and a total 34 horses have been killed at this three-day event during the same period. Some horses die a while after, but as a direct result of the race.

If you watch the National on television the cameras quickly turn away when a horse falls, in case our sensibilities are offended. You don't usually get to see the screen that is erected to hide the bitter truth of the death of a horse. However 2011 was an exception to this rule when the bodies of two horses covered in green canvas sheets were shown.

There was also the appalling spectacle of the winner, Bellabriggs, in such a state of exhaustion that he nearly collapsed and needed to have water thrown over him and given oxygen. Jason Maguire, his jockey, received a five-day ban for excessive use of the whip.

All of this resulted in "Changes to The Grand National to enhance safety" being declared by Aintree on the 15th August 2011. The changes consisted of some minor adjustments to three fences, which are very unlikely to make any difference at all!

After the whipping incident at the Grand National, in September 2011 the British Horse racing Authority (BHA) made another attempt to make horse racing more acceptable.

The offending jockeys will be banned for whipping a horse more than six or seven times, according to the race, and will have their winning money stopped. If they offend more than three times they risk a revue of their licence.

Professor Tim Morris of the BHA said that to ban whipping outright would be to give in to the animal rights groups. He said that the whipping doesn't hurt. Why then is the BHA bringing in the new rules on whipping?

Perhaps if it doesn't hurt, an extra penalty could be applied to a guilty jockey that they receive as many whip strokes as they have dealt to the horse.

Since then, owing to complaints from the jockeys, the rules have been changed again and the penalties softened. So much for their caring for the welfare of the horses. As the saying goes – "It's the money, stupid".

Bullring built at Glastonbury Festival

In early April it came to our attention that Michael Eavis, the organizer, was building a replica bullring named after the Lisbon bullring, Campo Pequeno, at the Glastonbury festival site. He announced that he was bringing a top bullfighter over from Portugal to give an exhibition of bullfighting.

We decided that we must do all we could to stop this event. Being realistic, we did not expect him to pull the bullring down, but at least we could stop the event taking place. At first he ignored us and wrote on his website that he would allow his record of being unbiased speak for itself. But after a big blitz from the media he eventually capitulated and finally - Michael Eavis announced his opposition to bull fighting.



After a telephone conversation I had on Tuesday 20th June, with a spokesperson for the Glastonbury Festival, the following was posted on the Campo Pequeno bullring web page of the Festival website:

A note from Michael Eavis:

"At the time of the very first interview about Campo Pequeno, several months ago, I failed to realise that the idea of a mock bullfight was going to be offensive, and so I cancelled it.

"We would like to state very clearly that Glastonbury Festival does NOT condone bullfighting - we are OPPOSED to bullfighting. Our reputation of 41 years speaks volumes about respect and sanctity of all life on this planet."

Appeal to Wills and Kate Not To Attend Calgary Rodeo



Prince William and his wife Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, planed to attend the Calgary Stampede rodeo in early July 2011. This event is rated as one of the cruellest rodeos in North America.

The Calgary Stampede is notorious for the number of horses that are killed in chuck wagon races. Three horses were killed in 2007 and three more in 2009.

Rodeo is North America's bullfighting. The callous treatment and extreme cruelty that is involved is unbelievable.

Contrary to popular opinion the animals used for rodeos are domesticated and tame, not wild and unbroken. They are forced to behave in a wild manner by the use of various devices such as electro shocker, flank strap, spurs and beating. The animals are terrified and in fear of their lives. They often come to grief.

We asked the Duke and Duchess well in advance not to attend the rodeo and sent them a DVD to show them what they will really be supporting by their presence. It showed the typical treatment of animals in North American rodeos. It breaks my heart to see it, but it obviously did not affect them, because unfortunately our attempts to dissuade them were to no avail.

Two months later and after the event a letter from the St James Palace contained this sentence: "I hope that you will be reassured to learn that The Calgary Humane Society and The Alberta SPCA were on-site during the Stampede, to monitor all events and to enforce the Animal Protection Act, had this proved necessary.

Result: Wills and Kate attended and a horse died in the chuck wagon race. It is safe to assume that a number of other horses will have suffered injuries too.

Flank Strap Wounds

Owing to some weak veterinary authorities in Germany the flank strap was again used in July in Cologne. We were there undercover to film and take photographs of the event. We saw a number of wounds caused by this. We informed the authorities and two weeks later at a rodeo in southern Germany the flank strap was banned.

We are fighting to make this permanent. We continue to fight to get rodeo banned in total in the whole of Europe.



Chris Rea's Anti-Bullfighting DVD



Chris Rea released a 53-minute DVD on bullfighting as part of his 'Santo Spirito' Project.

FAACE provided approximately 90% of the bullfighting footage that he used.

On the 28th June 2011 we were invited to the media preview. The anti-bullfighting DVD is very powerful. It drew the audience in to watch as the music and the pictures gradually changed and left one in no doubt about his views on bullfighting.

The journalists were shocked and very impressed with the film. We hope it will make a great impact and deter people from going to see a bullfight.

In unity for the animals,

Tony

Tony Moore,

Chairman.