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**24 August 2005**

**To whom it may concern,**

**I am writing to express Voiceless' opposition to the rodeo industry in Australia.**

Rodeos involve placing animals in situations of significant distress. Animals endure the trauma of transportation and stress of being placed in unfamiliar environments. Rodeos exist for the sake of human entertainment and Voiceless, therefore, believes the industry sends the wrong message to children and adults alike that animals do not deserve our respect.

**We urge the future of rodeos to be re-considered. Animals deserve to be treated with respect and compassion and have the right not to suffer.**

**Voiceless is a non-profit organisation working to promote respect and compassion for animals. We are joined by Nobel Prize for Literature winner, J.M. Coetzee as our Patron (Disgrace, Elizabeth Costello) and acclaimed Australian actor Hugo Weaving as our Ambassador (The Matrix, Lord of the Rings Trilogy).**

**The Voiceless Grants Program is the largest of its kind in Australia; annually awarding over \$100,000 to non-profit organisations, universities, schools and local government to undertake projects to help animals. In addition, Voiceless' legal arm works to further the humane treatment of animals within law and policy. Please see [www.voiceless.org.au](http://www.voiceless.org.au) for more information.**

**In banning rodeos, Voiceless looks forward to seeing a positive outcome for both the animals and people of Australia.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Ondine Sherman  
Director**