

# WyomingNews.com

your source for Local News, Sports and Weather

Pay Your Subscription

RSS



A joint project of the Casper Star Tribune and Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Bridal Guide 2013

click to read



Read Online!



### Most Commented

- CFD Rodeo: Safe or cruel? (80)
- Frontier Days officials make animal safety a priority (49)
- No liquor store for Safeway (42)
- Enzi leads in early poll (26)
- Welcome to Cheyenne Frontier Days (26)
- Civil Service furlough hurts us all greatly (25)
- From Stetsons to steak knives, CFD has it (24)
- Poll shows uphill battle for Cheney in Senate race (22)
- Charges dismissed

### News

#### Story Tools

Printable Version | Email This Story | Text Size | No comments posted.

## Frontier Days officials make animal safety a priority

By Trevor Brown  
tbrown@wyomingnews.com

CHEYENNE -- Like most fast-paced competitions, injuries are always a possibility during a rodeo.

And with almost 5,000 large animals passing through Frontier Park this year, there are bound to be bruises and sprains and even broken bones or torn ligaments.

But Cheyenne Frontier Days officials say they put a premium on safety and give top care and medical attention to the horses, bulls and other animals that take part in the "Daddy of 'em All."

"We pride ourselves on the level of care that we provide to every animal in this park," said Bob Budd, chairman of CFD's Animal Care Committee.

"We provide excellent facilities to keep them in. We absolutely insist and maintain that they have fresh food and water. And we want the animals to be as calm, stress-free and relaxed as they would be anywhere else."

Budd said the care begins even before the livestock enter the pens around Frontier Arena.

Each animal is initially inspected for injuries, illnesses and contagious diseases. Licensed veterinarians then conduct two to four walk-through inspections a day while the animals are in the pens.

"They will check for any kind of behavioral thing, like if they got kicked by another horse, if they have a runny nose or if they just don't feel good," Budd said. "Immediate care is given for any animal that we think needs it."

CFD's CEO, Dan Cheney, said the rodeo also makes a point to contract with reputable livestock owners to ensure the animals are healthy upon arrival.

"We only want the best animals here," he said. "The bulls and horses are such high caliber that this is not their first rodeo, and they know exactly what to do and when to do it."

Cheney and Budd said major, or even minor, injuries are rare during the competitions.

"An injury will occur less than two-tenth of 1 percent of the time," Budd said. "And a fraction of that is considered serious."

But several animal-rights groups say these injuries should never occur in the first place. Showing Animals Respect and Kindness, or SHARK, has been among the most vocal critics of CFD.

"This is despicable behavior and an outrage to decent Americans who do not need to abuse animals for entertainment," the group's president, Steve Hindi, said in a statement.

He was writing after a steer was killed at the rodeo during the weekend.

"The Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo continues to go unchallenged as it abuses and kills baby animals for fun," Hindi added.

Cheney said these sorts of accidents usually get the most media attention. But he added they do not reflect the nature of most of what occurs.



Crews examine and prepare to move a calf injured during Cheyenne Frontier Days Tie-down roping Slack last week. Michael Smith/staff

