

THE **on-line** BULL TRIBUNE



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Congress and survey in favour of bullfighting supporters.

The **Platform in Defence of the Bullfighting Feast**, presided by **Luis Corrales**, organised in the last month of November, 2005, the congress **Bulls on the XXI Century**, which took place in the Ateneo Barcelonés. The choice of this place dedicated to culture was not casual, as Corrales explained "we know that holding the Congress in the Ateneo will do a lot of harm to those who want to hurt us". A well defined strategy on the part of the bullfighting supporters: to try to justify the unjustifiable, disguising the outrage in order to try to wash it as culture. They give away themselves, because real culture implies a respect for life.

During the Congress, the Platform presented the results of a survey made by **IPSOS**, "an independent company", assured **Pierre Giacometti**, although its owner is a bullfighting fan. For the purposes of independence and likeliness of the results, it may be asked: is it possible to commission a survey about bullfighting to a businessman keen on this cruelty? The survey, as they stated, was made over 1000 people selected randomly and by telephone.

1.- *Has the enthusiasm level descended in Spain?*

70's: 55% of enthusiasm
 2000's: 38% of enthusiasm

2.- *In Catalonia, how many people are fan?*

The 11% is fan
 The 89% is not fan

3) *In Catalonia, are they in favour or against bullfighting?*

In favour: 28%
 Against: 68%

4) *Are they in favour or against popular feasts in which bullfights are organised?*

In favour: 29%
 Against: 67%

5) *Would you forbid bullfights in Catalonia?*

In favour of the prohibition, the 24%
 Against the prohibition: the 76%.

Note that to the key question, which is number 5, by forcing the surveyed person to declare him or herself against any kind of prohibition, is the only answer which results favourable to them with relation to the remaining total which resulted overwhelmingly contrary to them. Because of this, the results of this survey to which The Bull Tribune has had access have not been too advertised by the people in favour of bullfighting. But the question lies in the fact that the petitions of the animal defenders in Catalonia do not demand the prohibition, since the Catalan Protection Act already forbids the mistreatment of animals in public events, but the abolition of the exception that actually tolerates bullfights.

The dissension policy

Barcelona.- When the **Catalan Parliament** received the first signatures of the protectionist entities demanding the prohibition of bullfights, **ERC** and **ICV-Verds** showed themselves in favour of jointly elaborating the proposal, although from the first moment the ecosocialists conditioned a possible agreement to the inclusion of the *correbous* in the

prohibition. Finally, ERC has not wanted to do it, something that has caused that the two political forces present separate propositions in order to modify the animal protection legislation. The handling of the Catalan Statute has paralysed these proposals to which the **Partit dels Socialistes de Catalunya, PSC**, has opposed itself, presenting - jointly with the **Partido Popular, PPC** - an amendment to the whole.

Without cruelty there is no feast

➤ Andalusia. In an official report, the General Director of Games and Shows of the Andalusian Board, **José Antonio Soriano**, intended to bring into discredit the opinions of the **Andalusian Animal Defence Association, ASANDA**, about the mistreatments suffered by an animal in a bullfighting festivity. With this purpose, he used statements such as “[ASANDA] defends the prohibition of any bullfighting feast, either with or without mistreatment”, or “[for ASANDA] any treatment with bullfighting animals in bullfighting festivities implies mistreatment in itself, and it is even understandable this theory, for I have even heard them speak about psychological mistreatment to animals”. These points of view do not cease to be shocking taking into account that they come from the person in charge of implementing compliance with the Animal Protection Act. Notwithstanding, they are nothing compared to what he exposed last November in a conference before vets (Diario Granada Hoy, 11/07/2005): “The loss of cruelty can be the end of bullfighting. If we lose the essence of the show and the point of cruelty it conveys, we run the risk of sweetening it too much and we can fall in the trap of those against bullfighting”.

It is clear that to give competences to the Minister of the Interior in animal protection matters is as putting a fox to guard hens. The difference is that the fox, intelligent animal, kills out of necessity, whereas men do it as a show (source ASANDA).

The other side of the coin

➤ Never, in any national production, co-production or foreign production had the real face of the bullfight been shown. It had always been disguised. The bullfighter was the hero who bravely risked his life before the fearsome bull and, at the end, when he gave death to the animal after humiliating it and subjecting it to an immense suffering, he was acclaimed with fervour. No one had wanted to show how the basic rights of an alive being are violated, how the words torture, money and corruption mingle in these shows.

The film **Animal**, at present expecting to complete its financing, as the persons in charge explain, “wants to reflect that world never shown, always subject to veto and, for many, antithetic to what a civilisation in the depths of the XXI Century should entail. We would like to, in some years, contribute to being able to say, with our heads held high, with a wide smile and from the most profound of our hearts, that the National Feast of Spain is love”.

The film tells the love story between the sister of a bullfighter, vet, a kind and intelligent girl, truly caring for animals, and the bull “Bravo”, an animal with an astounding appearance, of the livestock of her own brother. The night before the bullfighting something incredible happens: “Bravo” turns itself into a man, a transformation which confuses Anna to the point of mixing up reality, fiction, love, pain, passion and sensitivity (www.animallapelicula.com).

The scalper makes a pile

➤ The investigation team of **Antena 3 TV** developed during the year 2004 a report in which it was shown how the scalpers work before a bullfight, an information which today continues to be completely valid. The report took place in the depths of the **San Isidro Fair**. “In this black market everything is meticulously calculated by the scalper. He will make a pile provided that in the ticket office hangs the poster “No tickets left” – explain the reporters. That is why they use poverty-stricken people that sleep all night before the ticket office in order to get the tickets.

1. Do they pay you for being here? – asks a journalist to one of the scalpers – How much?
2. Depends on the poster.
3. One thousand *pesetas*, two thousand?
4. The bosses of the group, like me, get more.

At any rate, the disproportion between what they pay to those who stay all night at the cue and what they receive is enormous. A member of the team came close to the ticket office of the bullring. At that moment, a scalper approaches and they strike up a conversation.

1. Terraces 6, but this is Sun, isn't it?
2. Shadow costs two hundred euros, my daughter.

In the most important bullfights of the Fair only some thousands of tickets are put to sale. The scalpers rub their hands together. As the report shows, swanky touting acts in the surroundings of the hotels where the bullfighters get dressed. Some go so far as to earn 12.000 euros in one Fair. They have season tickets in property for many years now. In the event that the Police discovered them, they would requisite the tickets from them and they would propose them for a sanction that can arrive up to 6000 euros.

Well-known livestock farmers, such as **Victorino Martín**, confessed to Antena3 TV team that "they have to turn to touting in order to be able to comply with their commitments". I need tickets for the people and I have to turn to touting in the Seville Fair. "I spent one million pesetas", as the livestock farmer commented.

Filed mistreatments

Terres de l'Ebre, (Catalonia).- The Government Office of the Catalan Parliament in Terres de l'Ebre has filed the 19 denounces, presented by the Anti-bullfighting Party Against Animal Mistreatment, PACMA, against bullfighting acts which took place last year in different towns of the territory. Albeit having presented graphic proof, videos and photos, of the mistreatment inflicted to oxes and calve, the Government has rejected the documents because "the people who obtained them, not being vets, were not capable of proving the mistreatments". The certificates of the vets, however, are not legally binding. Then, "what is necessary for evidencing that animals are being mistreated and that the law is being infringed?" asks infuriated the representative of the PACMA in Terres de l'Ebre, **Dora Casadó**.

In this sense, animalists denounce that the Catalan Government Parliament hides the reports of the vets regarding the "embolaos bulls" (or bulls of fire) and the "ensogados" elaborated in the application frame of the good practices guide that some city halls voluntarily follow. The PACMA had formally asked access to last year's files with all the documents relative to the authorisation of the bullfighting acts. "According to the vets, in 8% of the cases, the animals suffered mistreatment: we wanted to discover in which villages it had happened to ask for sanctions". Despite revising more than half of the reports, the PACMA's delegate assured having found none. "A civil servant of the Games and Shows General Direction declared that they did not appear because it was not mandatory and they had no legal validity. They have such. The reports signed by vets have legal validity" (source PACMA).

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NEWS FROM FRANCE

The 2005 season in France

➤ The number of bullfights and of squares where bullfights are held continues diminishing in France, as it is revealed from the data published by the magazine **Toros** (number 1768, December, 2005) concerning the 2005 season. In them, bullfights, young bulls' bullfights with picadors, and bullfights in which the bull is fought on horseback and wounded with the lance are included. Small shows (without death of the animal) and Portuguese *touradas* are excluded.

1. The Arenas

53 squares stayed active, three less than in 2004.

2. The bullfights

The total of 149 bullfights (162 in the previous year) shares itself out in the following way:

- 74 bullfights (12 less than in 2004)
- 43 young bulls' bullfights with picadors (three less)
- 12 bullfights where the bull is fought on horseback and wounded with the lance (three less)
- 11 mixed shows (5 more)
- 5 festivals (the same number as the previous year)

After the "record" of year 2003 (in which 174 bullfights took place), the total number of shows continues diminishing. A decrease which refers, above all, to bullfights. The evolution of mixed shows is intimately related to the launching *marketing* of the responsible for four of them, Julio Benítez.

The most active Arenas continue to be the same: **Nîmes** with 16 bullfights, five less than in 2004, and the decrease could grow in 2006 with the abolition of the Spring Fair; **Arles**, with 11 (3 bullfights less, among them 2 festivals); and

there follow **Dax**, with 10 (the same), **Bayone** with 8 (- 1), **Mont-de-Marsan** with 6 (-1), **Béziers** with 5 (- 1) and **Fenouillet-Toulouse** with 5 (the same).

Desperate intents to fill the arenas.

✚ Hagetmau (Landes department).- In view of the drop in the number of spectators, bullfighting supporters struggle to try to carry the public to the Arenas. The Mayor of Hagetmau (little town of the Landes department) has reduced the question to offering free seats to all the local families (Tendido, number 154)

The future? of young bullfighters

✚ In France many bullfights with young bulls without picadors (bullfights in which the entry tickets do not result very expensive) are organised in order to try to accustom the great public and, thus, be able to train the greater possible number of young bullfighters, as the magazine **Tendido** informs. This publication presents an interview with one of these young people, **Marco Leal**, from which it is obvious that "his father, matador, took him when really small to the Arenas". He went to the bullfighting school in Arles, directed by his uncle **Paquito Leal**, also matador. Only 16 years old, and he is no longer attending school: "I will train all the Winter, a bullfighting school is important, I think, for the future", asserts the young man.

NEWS FROM SOUTHAMERICA

“Fuck your mother” in the lips of the bishop.

✚ Mexico City.- Bullfights are not only dangerous for animals, but also for people. So it shows the balance that left the bullfight that took place last 30th of January in the **Monumental Plaza Mexico**: seven injured that needed hospitalisation, among them, an old woman, **Julieta Gil**, with a goring in the pubis and tens of bullfighting fans with slight bruises.

The incident, as the press informs, occurred when the bull "Pajarito", as it went out running and feeling that he was about to crash into the refuge in the bullring, jumped taking impulse with the left legs and leaned in an awning with the right leg, to fall against the metallic seats marked with numbers 190 of the Shadow area terraces. In the trance, "Pajarito" went over the men, women and children who, terrified, threw themselves to the bullring and escaped from their seat neighbours. A bullfighting fan took the bull by the tail, the mounted bullfighters who use the lancethen killed it with the point of the sword on the cervix and finished it off. After the incident, the injured advanced that they would present a claim against the businessman **Rafael Herrerías**, for not having offered the public enough security conditions. An incident from which the chief of the Federal District Government **Alejandro Encinas**, who has overlooked the innumerable and systematic violations of the regulations committed by Herrerías, will not be able to wash his hands of.

From the rest of the bullfight it can be emphasized that the bull "Troyano", of 570 kilos of weight, knocked out three times the drugged pike horses. The people asked for indulgent and when the matador took the killing rapier, the bullring covered itself with cushions and the terraces with handkerchiefs. The clamour continued until the bullfighter killed it. Slivered by pressure, the Presidency decreed the back to the bullring of the bull without giving the ear to the bullfighter, something which very few demanded, among these, the most famous bishop **Onésimo Cepeda**, who upon seeing that his demand was not satisfied, closed his fist, took it to the temple, and cried piously and christianly "Fuck your mother!". La Razon de Mexico DF 01/11/2006.

Pepe the bull.

✚ The caricature character of the **World Society for the Protection of Animals, WSPA**, was born in Holland originally by the **Anti-bullfighting Dutch Committee, CAS**, in collaboration with **ADDA**, a few years ago and arrived in Mexico to stay with the **International Anti-bullfighting Campaign** promoted by WSPA. **Pepe** thus joined in the fight against the presence of children in bullfights. Our main character has gained life, measures almost 2 metres, speaks, dances, and spreads out his message of love and respect for animals in schools, parties and there where there are children who love animals. Pepe the bull is always nice and friendly. He never uses violence, because the image of the movement must be of peace and agreement; it is a conciliating character, autonomous and independent who collaborates in the project that the animal friends propose or organise. He does not represent any religious or political tendency. Both people and animals find a real friend in him.



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STAFF

The new Bull Tribune is a regular publication promoted by the Association for the Defence of Animal Rights, ADDA, with headquarters in Barcelona and office in Madrid (Spain). Director: Flora Aguilera (Journalism degree from the URL University) Correspondents: In France: Robert Clavijo, In Latin America: Gerardo Huertas, In Portugal: F.

Lopes, In Ireland: Animal Watch

The new Bull Tribune - C/Pere Vergès nº 1 10.3 - 08020 Barcelona (Spain)

 Tel. 00 34 93 313 25 46 email:  thebulltribune@addaong.org www.addaong.org
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