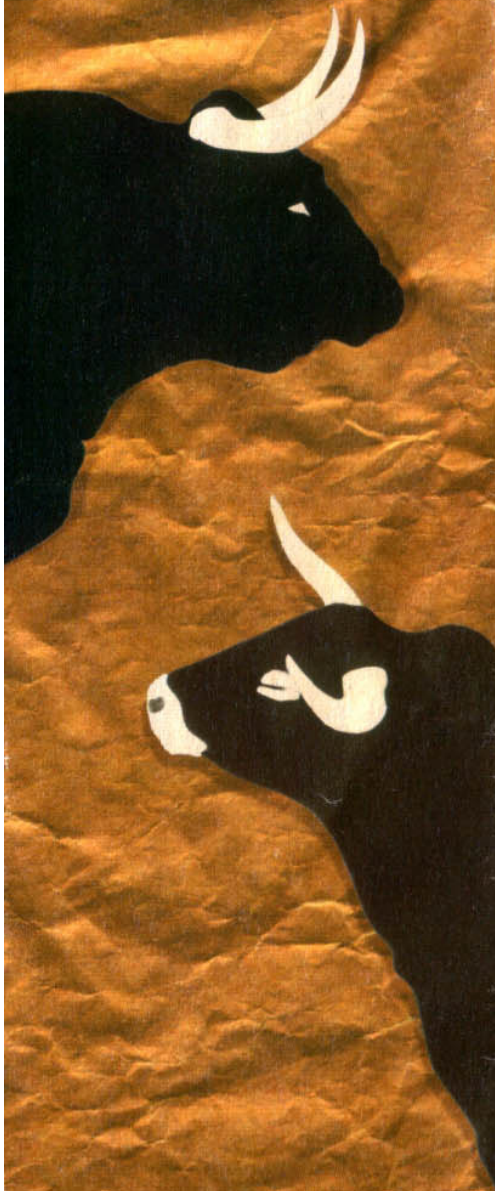


BULLFIGHTS?



The Bull has emotions as well

A Bull is a mammal capable of feeling strong emotions such as pain, fear and even anxiety. It has a complex limbic system, and a complex nervous system, as well as superficial nervous terminals allowing it to feel pain and to suffer*. The bull is a territorial herbivore, and as such it only defends itself whenever attacked or whenever its territory is invaded.

Bulls have the ability to experience pleasure, and they feel motivated to seek pleasure. Just observe how much they enjoy and seek for the pleasure of living in herds or of lying with their heads up, facing the sun.



* E.g. according to John Webster, John Webster, PhD, Veterinary Doctor, from Bristol University, 2005



For the Bull, for the Human Being and for Humanity at large

By turning suffering of an animal into a means of entertainment, the Human Being is promoting and banalizing unnecessary violence as a way of being and a way of life in society. From generation to generation, another's suffering becomes common in the collective subconscious. A more respectful, more fair and peaceful society is built greatly with the banning of "entertainment" practices based upon animal suffering and abuse, such as bullfighting.



LET'S STOP BULLFIGHTING!

How did Bullfighting start?

The first bullfighting records date from 815 AC, where presently Spain is located. It was at the time an aristocratic entertainment, occurring very rarely. During the Inquisition period bullfighting became more popular with the construction of arenas to condemn both humans and animals. And then, during the 18th Century they actually became a show for the people.

Portugal has already been a country without bullfights

Under the reign of Queen Maria II, when the Minister for the Kingdom was Passos Manuel, bullfighting was forbidden in Portugal. In 1836, Passos Manuel published a Decree forbidding bullfights in the whole country (Official Journal of the Government, n° 229, 1836):

"Whereas bullfighting is a barbarian type of entertainment, unfit for civilized Nations; whereas such performances only make men become used to crime and ferocity, and, whereas my desire is to remove all causes preventing or delaying the moral progress of the Portuguese Nation, I ordain by decree that henceforth bullfighting is strictly forbidden in the whole Kingdom."

The Catholic Church's opinion on Bullfighting

On the 1st of November of 1567, Pope St. Pius V published the papal bull "De salute gregis dominici", which is still in force:

"(...) Whereas these performances which include bulls and wild beasts in the circus or in public arenas have nothing to do with Christian piety and charity, whereas we wish to abolish these shameful bloody performances, not from men, but from the demon, and, on behalf of the liberation of all souls according to God's help and to our own possibilities, we strictly forbid (...) the performance of such shows through the means of this constitution of ours"

(in "Bullarum Diplomatum et Privilegiorum Sanctorum Romanorum Pontificum Taurinensis editio", tomo VII, Augustae Taurinorum, 1862, pág. 630-631.)

UNESCO also proclaimed the following in regards to bullfighting:

Declaration of the LFDA at the UNESCO offices in Paris October 15th, 1980: "tauromachy is the vile and greedy "art" of torturing and killing animals according to some rules, legally and in public. It encourages the most horrible instincts of men, traumatise children and sensitive adults, it deteriorates the condition of psychopaths attracted by this spectacle, it denatures the relationship between man and animal, and it is a feast for pain and death. For this reason, tauromachia is a major challenge to morality, to education, to science and to culture. "



Society evolves

On the 15th of October of 1978, the United Nations (UN) approved the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights, which states:

Animals must not be subjected to bad treatments or to cruel acts. (Article 3, no.1)

No animal should be used for entertainment. (Article 10, no. 1)

Animal exhibitions and shows that use animals are incompatible with any animal's dignity. (Article 10, no. 2)

The end of Bullfights Vs. The Bull's extinction

Just as presently the Iberian lynx and the royal eagle are being preserved, nothing seems to indicate that bulls would disappear with the end of bullfights. Bulls could live freely in animal sanctuaries or in large farms.

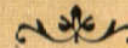
But even if this species would become extinct, such would be better than the suffering they endure throughout their life. The ecological impact of such would be null, since bulls are a domesticated species and the outcome of man-made artificial selection.

What can you do?

- Attend other type of shows, such as circus without animals, cinema, theatre, street entertainment, sports events, etc.



- Boycott and express your disapproval to companies that sponsor bullfights.



- Inform and raise the awareness of those around you on the bullfighting facts and the importance of bringing bullfighting to an end.



- Support, disseminate information, and take part in animal rights' defense initiatives and the defense of bulls in particular.



original photograph: Luis Rodrigues
<http://luisrodrigues.animal.pt/com/pt/taurino/44.html>

I LET THE BULL RUN FREE...



AND YOU?

centrovegetariano 

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www.centrovegetariano.org



Movimento Anti-Touradas de Portugal
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