

Injuries and illnesses in performance-age bucking bulls: 78 cases (2000-2014)

J.S. Smith¹, DVM, MPS; **J.A. Angelos²**, DVM, PhD, DACVIM; **M. Chigerwe²**, BVSc, MPH, PhD, DACVIM

¹*William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California-Davis, Davis, CA 95616*

²*Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, University of California-Davis, Davis, CA 95616*

Introduction

Over the past 2 decades, bull riding has emerged as a growing stand alone industry of domestic and international interest. Currently no studies have evaluated commonly diagnosed injuries and diseases of bucking and rodeo bulls.

The purpose of this study was to describe injuries and disease conditions diagnosed in performance bucking bulls presented to a veterinary medical teaching hospital.

Materials and Methods

The records of intact male bovine inpatients ≥ 1 year of age used for or raised for use in rodeo and bucking events that presented to the University of California-Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) for non-elective procedures between January 1, 2000 and April 1, 2014 were evaluated.

Results

Most frequent diagnoses in the 78 bulls were musculoskeletal related injury (n = 54), horn injury and/or

sinusitis (n = 10), soft tissue abscess (n = 3), actinomycosis (n = 2), nutritional disorder (n = 2), and traumatic reticuloperitonitis (n = 2).

Of the bulls with musculoskeletal related injuries, diagnoses involving the vertebral region included lumbar vertebral fractures, osteomyelitis, lumbosacral disc disease, non-specific spinal trauma, non-specific lumbar pain, and epaxial muscle swelling.

Fifteen of the musculoskeletal injuries included hoof injuries. Other musculoskeletal injuries included those involving the tibia, tarsus, fetlock, distal phalanx, carpus, stifle, and femur. The 10 diagnoses involving a horn injury and/or sinusitis were comprised of sinusitis and horn fracture.

Significance

Musculoskeletal related injuries clustered around the horns and sinuses, vertebral region, and hooves. Bulls with vertebral injuries had a lower successful return to bucking. Practitioners should prepare for restraint, sedation, anesthesia, and potential imaging concerns for examination and treatment of these bulls.

Effect of castration regimen on health, performance, and inflammation in beef cattle

J.G. Powell¹, DVM, PhD; **S.L. Roberts²**, MS; **H.D. Hughes²**, MS; **J.T. Richeson²**, PhD

¹*University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701*

²*West Texas A&M, Canyon, TX 79016*

Introduction

Castration is a common management procedure for bull calves, and it is routinely performed without analgesia. In the US, there is no approved medication for analgesia in cattle. However, meloxicam is an NSAID that is FDA-approved and prescribed for pain

relief in other species, such as companion animals, but its use in food producing animals is extra-label. The study objective was to determine the effects of castration method (surgical vs banding) at feedlot arrival and efficacy of meloxicam administered concurrent to castration compared to a negative control (calves castrated near birth).