

# NBHA ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ANIMAL ABUSE

The National Barrel Horse Association is responsible to its members and the general public to ensure that all activities show the utmost respect of the barrel horse as an animal and that any perception of inhumane treatment is avoided. The NBHA has adopted a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** in the enforcement of its Rule in Section E, paragraph 2, subparagraph d, of the NBHA Rules.

Section E.2.d. states:

Any act deemed not prejudicial to the best interests of the NBHA may result in the suspension of a member, including but not limited to the following:

d. Abuse of a horse in any way.

Abuse includes, but is not limited to, excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping, or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to a horse. These acts could also endanger other persons or animals. Any act of abuse, or intent to abuse a horse, in the show arena or on the show grounds, will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner in accordance with Section E.

All members are encouraged to comply with the letter and spirit of the rule. It is the responsibility of every Member, District Director, State Director, and staff member to report each and every act, which could be perceived as an abusive act toward a horse during an NBHA sponsored, approved or sanctioned event. This includes such acts occurring not only in the show arena but also those occurring anywhere on the show grounds, the warm-up area, practice pen, or any other location.

The **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** requires that any of the following acts must be reported:

- a. Slapping or hitting a horse on the head with the rider's hands, reins or any other object;
- b. Using a bit, curb device, or nose device in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth, or face;
- c. Using any object held in the rider's hand, other than the bridle reins, over and under, or a light leather quirt or bat to hit a horse;
- d. Any act which the general public would perceive to be a violation of Rule E2d.

Your cooperation in promoting the welfare of our barrel horse athletes through enforcement of our rules is absolutely essential to the ongoing success of the National Barrel Horse Association and is greatly appreciated.