



I Speak for Paws

BULLFIGHTING

Tammy Wunsch | August 2018

About the Author

Tammy Wunsch currently resides in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut though she has also called both New York City and Los Angeles home. Formally educated in business, she has worked in a variety of industries and is both entrepreneurial and adventurous by nature. She is passionate about animals and loves to travel, cook, kayak, and read.

Her current role is as a Freelance Copywriter who promotes portable income opportunities (PIO), as well as living, product, and service options for current and future expatriates.

Visit her online at [Expat Writer](#) or follow I Speak for Paws on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Please peruse the [Expat Writer eBookstore](#) for more additional I Speak for Paws ebooks.

Remember to always use your voice to speak for those who have none.

I have a voice and I Speak For Paws!

This is Bull!

ispeakforpaws.com/this-is-bull

November 28, 2016



It has been one long, action-packed year. I feel like I've barely taken a breath and here it is, just past the one year anniversary of when I started writing this blog. I would like to sincerely thank each and every person who has subscribed to the blog and followed me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). My [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts are copied onto the Home page of the blog website if you do not have one of those accounts and would like to keep up with my posts. You may have noted that I recently added a daily report on social media which highlights stories on animal welfare and animal cruelty from around the world. I look forward to continuing this blog and would love to read any of your comments and suggestions as to what you would like to read about in the future.

Today, I would like to comment on how absolutely depraved human beings can be. As an example, back in July 2016, I wrote a blog titled "[You Say Toro, I Say Murder](#)" about the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. The way that the bulls are hyped up and tortured only to be mutilated and killed in the ring is beyond cruel and inhumane. Don't worry though. Spain found an even crueller way to torment and butcher bulls.

In the Guadalajara province of Spain, located not too far from Madrid, locals gather in a remote field in SUVs and on ATVs, motorcycles, and horseback. The vehicles circle a terrified bull and brutally poke it with sharp lances and throw rocks at the mighty animal as it rams the vehicles and tries to escape. Finally, when the bull is beyond exhausted, someone shoots him in the head and he is carted off the field by a tractor or bulldozer.

This is not limited to a single group of participants. It was reported that approximately 100 municipalities in central Spain participate in this barbaric “sport” every summer. The events are called *encierros*, which is what running along with the bulls in Pamplona on festival days are called, but these events have nothing in common with bullfighting. *Encierros* literally means enclosures, and that is what they do to the petrified bulls.

These *encierros* have been held for the past decade. The participants will chase after the bull in a vehicle while holding a sharp stick in one hand and a beer in the other. Apparently, the events themselves are not illegal – unless participants are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Videos of the events clearly show the participants drinking, and yet nothing is done to stop the bulls’ agony. In many instances, the Guarda, or civil police, are present. Yet they do nothing.

A local police spokesman said that the infractions are reported to the Interior Ministry’s local representative even if no action is taken. In 2016, there were 294 infractions reported – a 44 percent increase from 2015. Polls show that only about 19 percent of adults, aged 16 to 65, support bullfighting while 58 percent are opposed to the “sport”. Many are concerned that the level of violence exhibited is a danger to the community as a whole as it demonstrates an acceptance of entertainment violence that can manifest itself in other behaviors.

On September 10 of this year, thousands took to the streets to protest bullfighting. They held up signs proclaiming “Bullfighting: A National Shame,” “Bullfighting: A School of Cruelty,” and “Bullfighting and the Bourbons Belong in a Museum.” There is even a national party behind the movement to abolish bullfighting called PACMA. In English, this is the Party Against the Ill-Treatment of Animals. Of course, there is also the Bull Party, comprised of breeders, matadors, and supporters of this antiquated blood sport.

The footage is too graphic for me to post, however, you can go [here](#) if you have a stronger fortitude than me.

I urge you to speak with your voices and your pocketbooks and not book any travel which incorporates any type of bullfight, either in a ring or a field. We must use our voices to speak for those who have none.

I have a voice and I Speak For Paws!

Tammy Wunsch



You Say Toro, I Say Murder

ispeakforpaws.com/you-say-toro-i-say-murder

July 6, 2016



The annual torturing and murder of the bulls takes place soon in Pamplona, Spain. The “running of the bulls” as the Fiesta of San Fermin is commonly known, takes place from July 6 through July 14. Six bulls per day are released to run approximately a half mile to the bullring where they are then placed in corrals, awaiting almost certain death.

Yes, death. The running of the bulls is really all about the grotesque “sport” of bullfighting – the torturing and murder of a ring, watched by thousands of spectators. Bullfighting is a barbaric and cruel practice whose sole purpose is entertaining crowds who enjoy watching an animal be tormented and slaughtered.

Bullfighting is broken into three segments. In the first segment, called the “tercio de varas”, a picador stabs the bull in the neck repeatedly, opening up at least seven wounds, each of which has an average length of just under eight inches. The wounds affect muscles, tendons, ligaments, and nerves, and blood vessels and can result in the bull losing 8-18 percent of its blood. The sole purpose of this segment of the bullfight is to injure the bull enough that it cannot easily lift its head.

The second segment of the bullfight is the known as the “tercio de banderillas”. This lively segment consists of six harpoons being stabbed into the bull’s shoulders. The sole purpose of this segment is to inflict more pain and suffering on the already seriously-injured bull.

Now that the bull has been severely incapacitated, the third segment, called the “tercio de

muerte” commences. A matador plunges a 2.5 foot sword into the bull’s chest, which causes massive blood loss and asphyxia. The bull literally suffocates while coughing up blood and, eventually, dies.

The unfortunate few bulls that do not die after being stabbed with a 2.5 foot sword are further tortured by the matador. A different sword is used to sever the bull’s spinal cord, at which point the bullfighter’s assistant moves in to cut into the medulla oblongata which slowly halts respiratory and cardiac functions.

Each year, dozens of runners are gored or trampled by the bulls. Fifteen runners have been killed by the bulls over the last century – a far smaller number than bulls that have been tortured and slaughtered for sport. Bullfighting abuses and kills approximately 250,000 bulls annually, all for the sake of tradition. Those who condone the tradition call it a part of Spanish culture. Any culture that celebrates cruel and inhumane butchery is not one that is worth preserving.

Catalonia, in the northeastern region of Spain, banned bullfighting in July 2010, based mainly on a petition by animal-rights activists. Some see Catalonia’s ban as a snub to Spain by Catalans who would like to gain their independence. Catalonia was not the first Spanish region to ban bullfighting. That honor goes to the residents of the Canary Islands, who banned bullfighting in 1991. Whatever the reason, I heartily applaud the ban!

There can be no doubt that bullfighting is inherently cruel and inhumane. Culturally condoned torture is still torture. We must pledge to never attend these barbaric events and speak out against the tradition. It is morally and unambiguously wrong and must be stopped! No animal should ever be brutalized for entertainment.

Until the time when bullfighting is globally banned, we must use our voices to speak for those who have none.

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As mentioned previously, I Speak For Paws is working on a social network for people interested in animal welfare, animal rights, and animal stories of every flavor. The new social network will be titled “A Voice For Paws”. I hope you join the network where you will be able to join groups, meet like-minded individuals, watch animal videos, read and comment on articles and posts, and be part of a community which uses their voices for those who have none. There will also be blogs concerned with animal welfare and news from sanctuaries around the world. If you or someone you know has a blog that you would like to share on the new network, please contact me at:

I plan to launch the new site in July 2016 and will post the details here. Keep checking your inbox for updates and thank you for your support!

Tammy Wunsch

