



Don't Be an

ASS

BOYCOTT DONKEY BASKETBALL

Each year, schools, civic clubs, and recreation departments across the country use donkey basketball games as fundraisers. During these games, donkeys are dragged around a court and mishandled by participants who have no experience with donkeys—they are often punched, kicked, dragged, screamed at, or whipped when they do not “cooperate.”

Ticked Off at Tip-Off

Hauled in cramped trucks from one strange high school gym to the next, donkeys can and do develop unpredictable temperaments. They have been known to lash out in frustration or fear, causing injury to participants and bystanders.



PETA

ALLEY-OOPS!



"Children should see adults treating animals with dignity and respect at all times. When we do not meet the objective, we are teaching our young to ignore the feelings, the needs, and the rights of other living individuals. We can't let that happen."

—M.D. Levine,
M.D., Director,
Clinical Center
for the Study of
Development and
Learning,
University of
North Carolina at
Chapel Hill

Riders can fall from donkeys' backs and pull donkeys down on top of them. Both players and spectators have been kicked by frightened animals. Participants have had their legs, arms, and wrists broken and have even suffered concussions after being slammed to the floor.

Even the rubber "shoes" nailed to their feet often don't prevent donkeys from slipping and falling.

No Gatorade for These Players

If food and water is not withheld before games, donkeys may have "accidents." So, donkeys are forced to play ball on empty stomachs and are given no water before or during the games.

Stress from frequent travel can weaken the donkeys' immune systems, leaving them susceptible to a common and sometimes fatal respiratory disease known as "shipping fever pneumonia."

"Nothin' but Debt"

Organizations that host donkey basketball games are courting disaster. The potential for injury is great. A participant in a Waterloo, Ill., donkey basketball game was awarded over \$110,000 from Crosby Donkey Ball for injuries he sustained in that game. Schools or clubs that host games are also subject to liability when a rider is hurt.

Mounting Disapproval

Schools across the country are bucking old-fashioned donkey basketball fundraisers and rejecting the notion that they are humane to animals or educational for young people. The Monmouth County Education Association in New Jersey instituted a ban on donkey basketball games, and the New Jersey State Education Association has publicly shunned it as well. The principal at Mt. Horeb High School in Wisconsin, as countless other school administrators have done, canceled a donkey basketball game scheduled at his school and stated, "[C]learly, this is not the sort of fundraiser we want to be associated with. It is not necessary when other fundraisers are available."

Put Donkey Basketball out to Pasture

Urge school officials to take a pass on animal cruelty by dunking donkey basketball—students would line up for a chance to dunk the principal in a tank of water or pack the bleachers to watch a game between faculty and students or between local celebrities and students.

For more information, please visit PETA.org or WildlifePimps.com.



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