

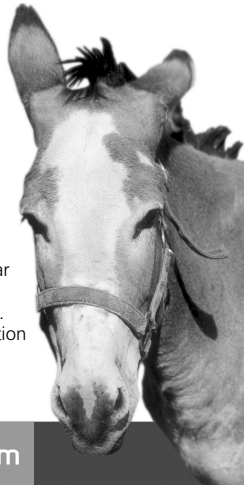
# ASS

## 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 shoved, kicked, dragged, screamed at, or whipped when they don't "cooperate."

### Ticked Off at Tip-Off

Hauled in cramped trucks from one unfamiliar 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.



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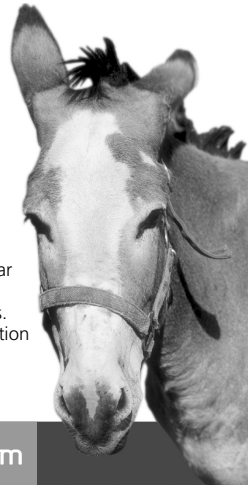
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# ALLEY-OOPS!



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 often forced to play ball on empty stomachs and are often 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."

### Courting Disaster

Organizations that host donkey basketball games are courting disaster. The potential for injury is great. Wisconsin Republican State Rep. Sheryl Albers broke her leg when she fell off a donkey during a game in Madison, and an Illinois man was awarded more than \$110,000 for injuries sustained in a donkey basketball 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 them as well. The principal at Mt. Horeb High School in Wisconsin canceled a donkey basketball game scheduled at his school, as countless other school administrators have done, 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 cruelty to animals 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 and to order free stickers and DVDs, please visit [peta2.com](http://peta2.com).**

**"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

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