

# Former Price is Right host Bob Barker peeved at Stampede prize 85



Former Price is Right host Bob Barker is weighing in on the controversial GuZoo in Three Hills, asking Albertans to call MLAs to ensure any exotic animals left behind will have a home.

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The price is wrong for Bob Barker, peeved at his former game show offering up a Calgary Stampede prize package.

Barker, an avid animal rights activist who hosted the Price is Right from 1972 to 2007, said he's disgusted, though he won't be coming down to see the event for himself, despite an invitation from a member of the Stampede board.

"Had I been there not only would this not have happened, they wouldn't have even brought me a prize package like that to consider," he told the Sun Wednesday, hours after the prize package aired on the show.

Barker said he has not had personal dealing with the Stampede, but has "read terrible things about them."

"It has a reputation — a notorious reputation — for animal cruelty," he said.

Wednesday's comments by Barker stirred some irritation in Stampede board member Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart.

She said "it's time for him to move on," noting Barker is no longer the show's host.

"He's not even the host of that show anymore — we have Drew Carey now," said Colley-Urquhart.

"He doesn't have a clue on what he's talking about, and actually I would like to extend a warm, warm western welcome for him to come up and join us for the hundredth anniversary."

"I think a little bit of knowledge and first-hand experience goes a long way."

When told of the invite, Barker said his preference is not to attend "rodeos or bull fights."

The Stampede itself also expressed disagreement with Barker's comments,

calling the event leading and progressive in how it treats animals brought in each year.

"We're very proud of our animal care initiatives," said media relations manager Doug Fraser.

"We've got more than 7,500 animals that participate in our exhibition, education and competition events every year and we take the care of these animals very seriously."

Meanwhile, the event's plug on the internationally syndicated television game show is seen as a huge boon — Colley-Urquhart said she was thrilled when she heard about it, calling it an incredible achievement.

Barker is hoping this doesn't become a pattern for the show he hosted for 35 years.

But he doesn't blame current host Drew Carey.

"The words he uttered to me were 'Bob, I'm going to do the spay (and) neuter plug every day for as long as I host the Price is Right ... and he has done it so I think that he is an animal lover,'" said Barker.

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