

ANALYSIS OF THE WELFARE OF BULLS IN TRADITIONAL SHOWS WITH BULLS ("CORREBOUS")

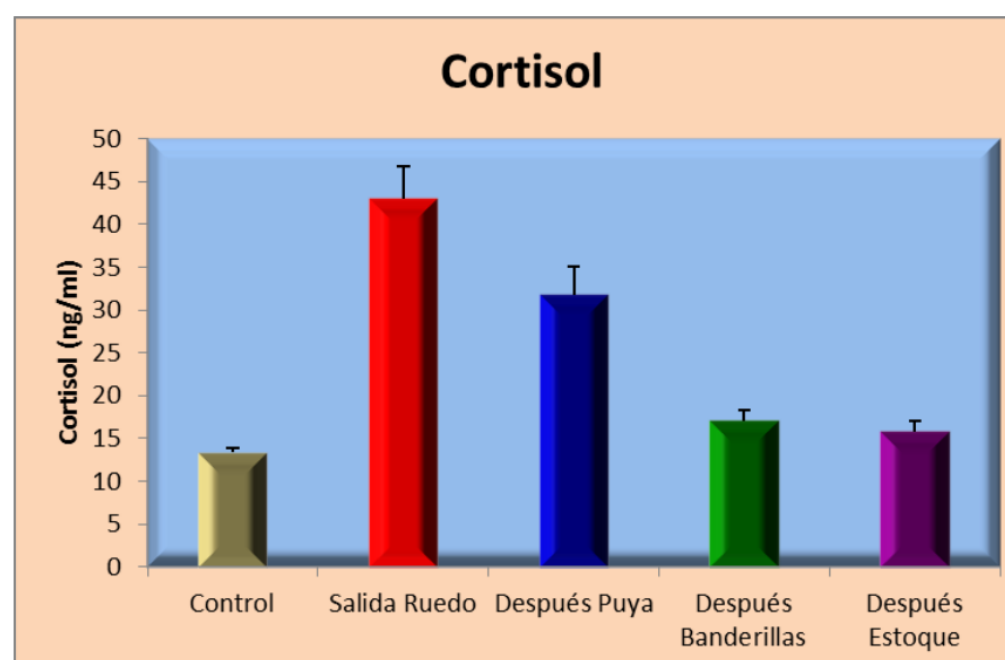
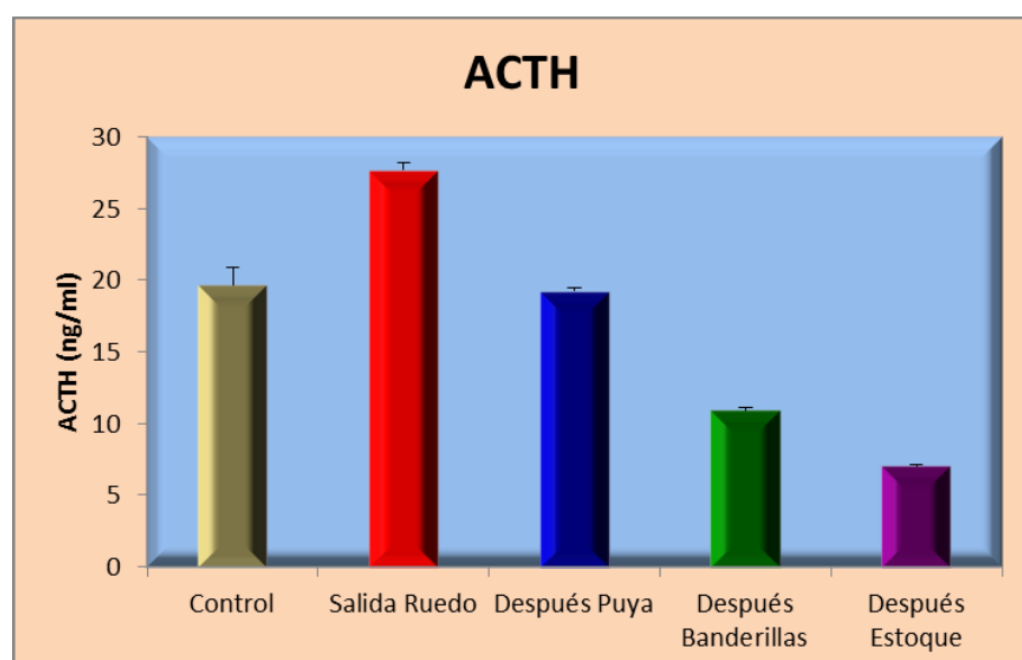
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INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVE

Human concern for animal welfare is based on the knowledge that animals are **conscious beings** capable of experiencing emotions. Therefore, their well-being should be of our consideration, especially when they are exploited for entertainment.

This work seeks to study the traditional festivities with bulls, popularly known as "correbaus", which are accepted and practiced in Catalonia. Through bibliographic research, an analysis is provided on the **welfare** of bulls that participate in these shows.

The **affective state** is a key point when studying the welfare of any conscious being. The physiological consequences of the psychological abuse are a result of the animal's **stress response**.



ACTH and cortisol concentrations in bull serum in the different stages of a classical bullfight, showing that the higher concentrations of both parameters are achieved when the bull first enters the arena, and not when the physical abuse commences. Centenera, 2014 (<https://eprints.ucm.es/28736/1/T35844.pdf>)

CONCLUSIONS

- *There are no significant differences in the stress response between bloodily and bloodlessly treated bulls.*
- *External factors present in the different modalities of the traditional shows decrease the welfare of bulls.*
- *The stress response could mask the manifestations of physical pain.*



(Correbous Vidreres Associació)

When different stress markers (being **cortisol** and **ACTH** of significant importance) are analysed after a fight, with or without physical abuse, the parameters appear above what is considered physiological in the bovine breed. This fact indicates that, what makes the animal perceive the situation as highly stressful, does not depend exclusively on the physical pain to which the animal is subjected, but is affected by a number of external factors. These factors are **management; transportation; muscle activity; isolation** with **limitation of space and movements** and **lack of escape routes**, and **interaction with unknown stimulus**.

