CHUELLY RELANDINALS

oncern grows over the role of animals in the worlds of entertainr

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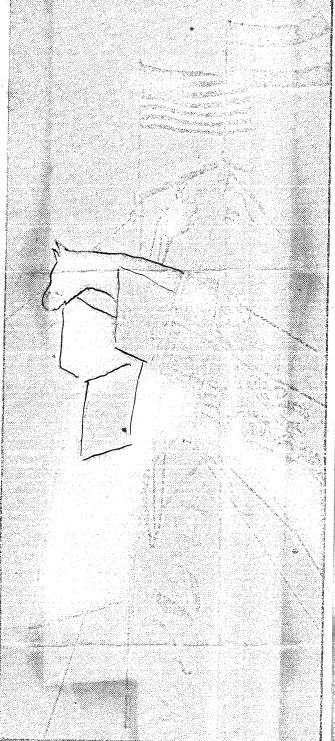
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as where barbaric acts on are a major attraction. In age, a goose is strung up the village square and a compete to pull its head another, chickens and are clubbed to death by led men.

villages of Ciruelas and sin the Guzdalajara region, to pursued across country rs until they are crushed to a Tracey claimed.

ea in La Rioj<mark>a every</mark> er young calves are thrown from a platform which is gradually raised until the animal dies. Elsewhere, balls of fire are attached to bull's horns and they are made to run in fear until they drop dead.

'Wherever there are cruei fiestas the various local and international animal welfare groups do their best to draw attention to it. But it's impossible to monitor all these places,' said Mr Tracey.

Tracey believes the Spanish Government is seriously trying to tackle the problem. 'But the Government is very aware how seasitive the people are about it,' he said.

Couclty to animals is not restricted to Spanish fiester. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, the RSPCA has been concerned about hare-coursing for many years and dog-fighting occurs across Europe, especially in Malta.

The RSPCA-backed Overseas

The RSPCA-backed Overseas Fund has publicised the plight of chimpanzees, tiggre and hon cubs which are drugged by beach photographers in Spain and the Canary Islands to pose for tourist snaps.

It has also protested over the methods used in the slaughter of fregs, cats and dogs, for human consumption.

As The Observer has highlighted recently, the RSPCA is also concerned about the conditions in which sheep are transported long distances in Europe.

THE USE of animals in bizarre spectator sports is not restricted to Spain. An attraction in New York is 'diving mules,' (above) where the animals are made to plunge off high springboards into water.

When perched at the top of the narrow-sided diving boards, the mules throw themselves off rather than turn back.

Their owners claim the animals are perfectly happy and jump enthusiastically each time.