

Concern grows over the role of animals in the worlds of entertain

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

villages of Ciruelas and
s in the Guadalajara region,
re pursued across country
until they are crushed to
r Tracey claimed.

ea in La Rioja every
or 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 cruel 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
sensitive the people are about it,' he
said.

Cruelty to animals is not restric-
ted to Spanish fiestas. 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
Fund has publicised the plight of
chimpanzees, tigers and lion cubs
which are drugged by beach photo-
graphers in Spain and the Canary
Islands to pose for tourist snaps.

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

As *The Observer* has highlighted
recently, the RSPCA is also con-
cerned about the conditions in which
sheep are transported long dis-
tances 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 enthusias-
tically each time.

