

JUMPS RACING DEATH AT OAKBANK

'The Illogical Races' claim another victim

RSPCA South Australia is calling on the Oakbank Racing Club committee to withdraw jumps events from future racing programs after a horse died at Oakbank today.

“It is believed Black Moon has tragically become the fifteenth horse to die as a result of a jumps race in South Australia since 2009,” said RSPCA South Australia chief executive officer Tim Vasudeva.

“What angers me is this death was avoidable.

“When will the racing industry wake up and accept jumps racing is deadly for horses, and dangerous for their jockeys?”

RSPCA South Australia has been told the six-year-old gelding was euthanased as a result of a ‘racing incident’ during a hurdle trial this morning.

This is the second jumps racing death in less than a fortnight after Viva Delspec was euthanised at Warrnambool, Victoria on April 3.

Thoroughbred Racing SA has not confirmed the horse’s name or any further details of the incident.

“Sudden death is not the only consequence of jumps racing. Horses can suffer horrendous leg, back, head and neck injuries,” Mr Vasudeva said.

“You will never make jumps racing safe. Despite efforts to improve the jumps horses need to clear, they continue to die or be seriously injured.”

A 2006 University of Melbourne study found a horse who started in a jumps race is nearly 19 times more likely to die compare to horses in flats racing.

“Horses and their jockeys are forced to clear jumps at least a metre high, in a pack, at speed - after running up to five kilometres,” Mr Vasudeva said.

RSPCA South Australia is openly opposed to jumps racing. The risk of a horse suffering serious injury or death as a result of participating in these events makes jumps racing unacceptable.

South Australia and Victoria remain the only two Australian states which still hold jumps races.

“We believe it is hard to justify the continuation of this cruel sport,” Mr Vasudeva said.

An RSPCA South Australia campaign, The Illogical Races, has already generated more than 8,000 signatures on a petition urging Oakbank Racing Club chairman John Glatz to withdraw jumps racing from the Easter Carnival.

“RSPCA South Australia is actively advocating the removal of jumps events from all South Australian racetracks not just Oakbank,” Mr Vasudeva said.

“We urge people to become informed, take action and help us end ‘The Illogical Races.’”

For more information on why RSPCA South Australia call jumps ‘The Illogical Races’ visit www.theillogicalraces.org.au .

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