

JUMPS RACING DEATH AT MORPHETTVILLE

'The Illogical Races' claim another victim

RSPCA South Australia is calling on the South Australian Parliament, to take immediate action to stop jumps racing in this State after Trenchtown died after being injured at Morphettville yesterday.

“Trenchtown has sadly become the sixteenth horse to die as a result of jumps racing in South Australia since 2009,” said RSPCA South Australia Animal Welfare Advocate Dr Di Evans.

“Trenchtown’s tragic death could have been avoided if South Australia had followed the lead of other Australian States who no longer hold jumps races.”

The ten-year-old gelding was euthanased as a result of a leg injury during the 3100 metre William Hill Hurdle at the Morphettville Racecourse.

There also concerns that inadequate measures are being taken by both the Victorian and South Australian Jumps Review Panel, as Trenchtown suffered a serious fall at Bendigo on 28th June and then dislodged his rider during a follow-up trial but was still permitted to race.

“It is not possible to make jumps racing safe. Despite efforts to reduce the risks, horses continue to suffer fatal injuries,” Dr Evans said.

“Horses and their jockeys are forced to clear jumps more than a metre high, in a pack, at speed - and in some events after running nearly five kilometres.

“Recent events also point to the serious injury risk to jockeys when participating in jumps races.

“Despite continued calls over the past three years by the South Australian Jockey Club to cease jumps at Morphettville, Thoroughbred Racing SA continues to sanction this inhumane

sport.”

RSPCA South Australia strongly supports the Animal Welfare (Jumps Racing) Amendment Bill introduced in March this year by Greens MP Tammy Franks to prohibit jumps racing in this State.

“We call on the SA Parliament to implement a committee into jumps racing as quickly as possible.”

A 2006 University of Melbourne study found a horse competing in a jumps race is nearly 19 times more likely to die in an event compared to a flat racing horse.

RSPCA South Australia is 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 are the only two Australian states which still hold jumps races.

RSPCA South Australia, through its ‘Illogical Races’ campaign, is hosting a petition urging the State Government to take action to stop jumps racing in South Australia. For more information, visit www.theillogicalraces.org.au

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For more information, or an interview with an RSPCA spokesperson, please contact:

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