

For Immediate Release  
Friday, 29 January 2015

## RSPCA South Australia vs Gristwood

*Conviction and \$10,500 fine for neglected and emaciated cows*

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The following statement is attributable to Ms Andrea Lewis, RSPCA South Australia Chief Inspector:

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“RSPCA South Australia attended the Adelaide Magistrates Court on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, for sentencing of Susan Gristwood, who pleaded guilty to multiple ill-treatment offences under the Animal Welfare Act.

“The charges include one count of neglect so as to cause harm relating to 40 cows with lice infestation, and one count of failure to provide adequate food relating to 29 cows.

“An RSPCA South Australia Inspector visited the Gristwood property in late August 2014, finding cattle and calves in emaciated condition suffering badly from lice infestation. The Inspector found the bodies of deceased cattle at the property.

“Following an examination by an RSPCA veterinarian, the cows were seized by RSPCA Inspectors and transported to an agistment property where they regained significant body condition and their general health improved. One cow’s bodyweight increased by 44% in just two months.

“Ms Gristwood was convicted and issued a \$10,500 fine. She was also prohibited by the court from acquiring or having custody of any further cattle.

“This case serves to demonstrate that anyone who owns any animals, whether they be livestock or companion animals, has full responsibility under the Animal Welfare Act to ensure the animals are adequately cared for, and all their needs are met.

“RSPCA South Australia feels this sentence is reasonable given the suffering of these cows could have been avoided by simply providing adequate food and correct herd management.”

Photographs of cows over page.

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