

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of issue 6 September 2017

THOROUGHBRED TRAINER - CHRISTIE BURT

Stewards today concluded an inquiry regarding licenced Thoroughbred Trainer Christie Burt, and the health, condition and welfare of horses under her care in 2016, which led to Ms Burt pleading guilty in court on 29 August 2018 to 1 count of aggravated cruelty and 1 count of cruelty to animals.

After considering evidence tendered by Ms Burt, RSPCA, Brighton Veterinary Services and Tasmania Police, Ms Burt was found guilty of the following charges under AR175 which reads; *The Principal Racing Authority (or Stewards exercising powers delegated to them may penalise;*

Charge 1 – AR175(o)(i) – Any person in charge of a horse who in their opinion fails at any time – to exercise reasonable care, control supervision of a horse so as to prevent an act of cruelty to the animal;

Ms Burt's licence was disqualified for a period of 3 years (36 months)

Charge 2 – AR175(o)(ii) – Any person in charge of a horse who in their opinion fails at any time - to take such reasonable steps as are necessary to alleviate any pain inflicted upon a horse;

Ms Burt's licence was disqualified for a period of 1 year (12 months)

Charge 3 – AR175(o)(iii) – Any person in charge of a horse who in their opinion fails at any time – to provide for veterinary treatment where such treatment is necessary for the horse.

Ms Burt's licence was disqualified for a period of 6 months

Charge 4 – AR175(o)(iv) – Any person in charge of a horse who in their opinion fails at any time – to provide proper and sufficient nutrition for a horse.

Ms Burt's licence was disqualified for a period of 6 months

Ms Burt pleaded guilty to the following charge;

Charge 5 – AR175A – Any person bound by these rules who either within a racecourse or elsewhere in the opinion of the Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) has been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the image, or interests, or welfare of racing may be penalised;

Ms Burt's licence was disqualified for a period of 2 ½ years (30 months)

In determining penalties Steward's considered;

*Ms Burt's time and involvement within the industry

*Ms Burt's overall disciplinary record

*Ms Burt's personal and financial circumstances

*Ms Burt's remorse

*The serious nature of this case

*Relevant penalty precedents relating to similar type cases

*That Ms Burt failed in her obligation as a licenced trainer to take the necessary measures to ensure the welfare of horses under her care

*The need to uphold and protect the image of the racing industry

*That any penalty must act as an individual and general deterrent

*Ms Burt's guilty plea in respect to **Charge 5**

Stewards directed that all penalties to be served concurrently and to commence immediately 6 September 2018 and expire at midnight 5 September 2021

Ms Burt was advised of her right of appeal against these decisions.

Scott Quill

Chairman of Stewards Thoroughbred