

For Immediate Release Friday 21st November 2014

ANIMAL NEGLECT Penrith Local Court

KIM HOLLINGSWORTH AGAIN CONVICTED OF ANIMAL NEGLECT

CASE SUMMARY

Judgment was delivered at Penrith Local Court on 19 November 2014 in relation to 14 charges of animal neglect by Kim Hollingsworth against four horses of which she was the person in charge. Ms Hollingsworth maintained pleas of *"not guilty"* to all the charges.

CHARGES

- Fail to provide proper and sufficient food to four horses (four charges)
- Fail to provide veterinary treatment to four horses

(10 charges)





KEY FACTS

Matter #1

On 7 August 2013, RSPCA Inspectors responded to a complaint regarding horses at a Brownlow Hill property.

The Inspectors observed a grey mare pony in an emaciated body condition. Ms Hollingsworth was issued with written directions to have the horse seen to by a veterinarian.

On 27 September 2013, the RSPCA were again called to the same address.

Written directions were issued again to Ms Hollingsworth to provide not only veterinary treatment, but also proper and sufficient food to a grey mare and bay gelding.

On 31 October 2013, the RSPCA were yet again called to the Brownlow Hill property regarding a sick grey pony.

The Inspectors found the same grey mare that had been subject to two previous written directions. On this occasion the mare was in urgent need of veterinary treatment.

Veterinarians were called to the property and as a result of their advice, both the grey mare and bay

gelding were seized and taken into the RSPCA's care.

Both animals were found to have dental issues and required geriatric care appropriate for aged horses.

Ms Hollingsworth was charged, with one count of failure to provide proper and sufficient food and two counts of failure to provide veterinary treatment for dental issues and poor body condition for each horse.

Matter #2

On 5 November 2013 RSPCA Inspectors attended a Mulgoa property in response to a separate matter regarding a mare and foal.

The mare was in an emaciated body condition.

Veterinarians attended and as a result of grave concerns for the mare's condition, the animal was seized.

Ms Hollingsworth was charged with one count of failing to provide proper and sufficient food and three counts of failure to provide veterinary treatment for poor body condition, lice and internal parasites (worms).

Matter #3

On 8 November 2013, the RSPCA was called to a third matter at the same Mulgoa estate. On arrival, the Inspectors sighted a chestnut brumby mare and foal. The mare was in an emaciated body condition. It was not able to be established if she was lactating.

Due to the severity of the mare's condition, both mare and foal were seized and taken for veterinary assessment.

On veterinary examination, it was established that the mare was in an emaciated body condition and was suffering lice and internal parasite (worms) burden.

Ms Hollingsworth was charged with one count of failure to provide proper and sufficient food and three counts of failure to provide veterinary treatment for poor body condition, lice and internal parasites (worms).

This was the second time Ms Hollingsworth has been convicted of offences under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The Court awarded custody of the horses to the RSPCA.









All Charges Made Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act

SENTENCING

- **VET AND CARE COSTS :** \$67,609.04
- **PROFESSIONAL COSTS:** \$46,768.24
- TWO-YEAR GOOD BEHAVIOUR BOND
- FIVE HORSES IN RSPCA CUSTODY SURRENDERED TO RSPCA
- PROHIBITED FROM OWNING MORE THAN 20 HORSES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

For all the latest RSPCA NSW news, read the RSPCA NSW <u>blog</u> and follow RSPCA NSW on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

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

Jess Conway, Media Liaison - RSPCA NSW Email: jconway@rspcansw.org.au Mobile: 0488 905 353