

PHHVV is a non-profit organisation committed to providing hope for Victorian equines through education, rehabilitation and advocacy.

## Press Release

### Cranbourne Case

PHHVV has been aware and assisting in a case involving the welfare of a number of 'at risk' horses in Cranbourne since early March 2007. At the time of the first report in March a PHHVV representative attended and made the assessment that the horses were in a borderline condition. We were also made aware that the case had been reported to RSPCA by members of the public. At this point in time offers of assistance were made directly to the owner and via the RSPCA, however these offers were declined. PHHVV continued to liaise with the RSPCA and monitor this case, which was made very difficult at times due to the horses constantly being moved and placed out of sight.

Last week the owner of the horses contacted PHHVV after the RSPCA had attended yet again. This time the owner wanted to surrender two horses. A time was made to collect the horses but this did not occur as the owner made the decision to give the two horses away privately. Regretfully the owner did not let PHHVV know of this decision, wasting a lot of our time, but we are pleased to advise that one of the horses named "Chester" has gone to a very loving and knowledgeable home.

The owner made contact again to arrange PHHVV to attend the property on Monday 28 May 2007 to inspect the remaining horses and provide the necessary advice. The PHHVV representative had concerns about all the horses; particularly a stabled TB gelding, a TB mare with severe rain scald, as well as two older horses. Unfortunately due to body condition scores of 0.5 and advanced age, euthanisa advice was given to the owner in relation to the latter two horses.

The owner contacted PHHVV yet again to make another time to surrender two horses, but backed out at the last minute. We have since been informed that one of these potential surrenders was later euthanised by a vet after it went down.

At this time PHHVV has done all that it legally can in this case. It is important to note that we don't have the authority to seize neglected horses; regardless of what our hearts would like us to do. An enormous amount of time and effort has gone into trying to assist these horses and organise homes to provide care for them. We have been in contact with the RSPCA almost daily and the continual renegeing on the part of the owner has been very frustrating. However, our offer to take any or all of the horses into care still stands and has also been extended to the RSPCA if they proceed with seizing these horses.

Finally, PHHVV has become aware of a lot of misinformation circulating on internet forums and threads about this case and on occasions others cases. As a general rule we prefer not to get involved in these discussions, as time simply doesn't permit it. However, it is very disheartening to read these criticisms, particularly when these statements can also be read by countless other people who can be misguided about our work and motives.

We acknowledge that the internet is a place where people can air their frustrations and we support the right to do so; however it is important that all the facts are available before such public criticisms are made. We thank all those informed people that know us and are prepared to go online and defend us. But we strongly urge anyone with criticisms against us to contact us on 1300 881 606 or email [info@phhvv.org.au](mailto:info@phhvv.org.au) and allow us the right of reply. We will be happy to discuss any issues with you, or you can find information about PHHVV at our website.

If you would like to find out more about PHHVV or make a much needed tax deductible donation please visit [www.phhvv.org.au](http://www.phhvv.org.au).

For Release by 1 June 2007