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## **Gnangara husband and wife convicted of cruelty to horses**

A Gnangara couple have been convicted of animal cruelty at Joondalup Magistrates Court.

Keith Douglas Gee, (63), and Deanne Michelle Gee, (51), were each fined \$4,000 and ordered to pay vet costs of \$4,195.65, each. A five year prohibition from owning or having contact with a horse was imposed on both offenders.

Five horses, including; a Bay seven year old Thoroughbred; a Bay seven year old Thoroughbred gelding; a grey one year old Welsh pony; a Bay 15 year old Standardbred mare and a Bay six year old Thoroughbred, were the animals subject of the cruelty.

The horses were confined in sandy paddocks with minimal dirty water and found in varying stages of starvation with two extremely emaciated with their ribs, spine and hip bones protruding.

Some of the horses were wearing a heavy winter rug, despite it being summer time.

The horses were seized and conveyed to Baldivis Veterinary Hospital for urgent treatment. Two of the horses were rehomed and the remaining horses euthanised on humane grounds.

RSPCA Chief Inspector Amanda Swift said she was pleased with the outcome of the prosecution case against Mr and Mrs Gee, which sends a message to animal owners across WA that such cruelty will not be tolerated.

“Properly providing for a horse is expensive and people need to be sure they can afford keeping such an animal or, if the situation changes, rehome them or seek help before the animals situation deteriorates like this. Especially in summer, owners should be regularly checking on their animals to ensure there is water and adequate feed given sources can dry up over summer,” she said.

The RSPCA would like to thank members of the public for reporting the cruelty, Baldivis Veterinary Hospital for treating the horses and to SRB Legal for representing the RSPCA in court for this matter.

- In the 13/14 financial year, RSPCA WA received over 20,000 calls and investigated over 6,100 reports of animal cruelty
- RSPCA WA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has been a voice for animals in Western Australia for over 120 years
- RSPCA is a charity and relies on fundraising activities for 94% of its funding.
- RSPCA upholds five freedoms for animals and believes all animals deserve freedom from: hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury and disease and also from fear and distress.
- To report incidents of cruelty call the RSPCA Cruelty Hotline on 1300 278 3589