7 July 2025

**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GRACE TREGEAR**

**Date of hearing:** 25 June 2025

**Date of decision:** 25 June 2025

**Panel:** His Honour John Bowman (Chairperson), Dr June Smith and Ms Danielle Hikri.

**Appearances:** Mr Scott Hunter appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Ms Grace Tregear did not attend the hearing.

**Charge:** Australian Rule of Racing (“AR”) 231(1)(b)(iv) states:

A person must not

(b) if the person is in charge of a horse - fail at any time:

(iv) to provide proper and sufficient nutrition for the horse.

**Particulars of charges:**  **Charge 1**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, an Owner registered with Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Rules of Racing.

2. You were, at all relevant times, in charge of Impression Sunrise (the Horse) and had responsibility for its care.

3. On 12 August 2024, the Horse was examined by a Racing Victoria permitted veterinarian in Kyabram, Victoria, with the Horse assessed as having a body condition score of 1 out of 5.

4. Between 1 February 2024 and 12 August 2024, you failed to provide proper and sufficient nutrition to the Horse.

**Charge 2**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, an Owner registered with Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Rules of Racing.

2. You were, at all relevant times, in charge of Persian Salute (the Horse) and had responsibility for its care.

3. On 12 August 2024, the Horse was examined by a Racing Victoria permitted veterinarian in Kyabram, Victoria, with the Horse assessed as having a body condition score of 1 out of 5.

4. Between 1 February 2024 and 12 August 2024, you failed to provide proper and sufficient nutrition to the Horse.

**Charge 3**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, an Owner registered with Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Rules of Racing.

2. You were, at all relevant times, in charge of Conceptualize (the Horse) and had responsibility for its care.

3. On 12 August 2024, the Horse was examined by a Racing Victoria permitted veterinarian in Kyabram, Victoria, with the Horse assessed as having a body condition score of 0.5 out of 5.

4. Between 1 February 2024 and 12 August 2024, you failed to provide proper and sufficient nutrition to the Horse.

**Charge 4**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, an Owner registered with Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Rules of Racing.

2. You were, at all relevant times, in charge of Shillalae Princess (the Horse) and had responsibility for its care.

3. On 12 August 2024, the Horse was examined by a Racing Victoria permitted veterinarian at Kyabram, Victoria, with the Horse assessed as having a body condition score of 1 out of 5.

4. Between 1 February 2024 and 12 August 2024, you failed to provide proper and sufficient nutrition to the Horse.

**Charge 5**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, an Owner registered with Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Rules of Racing.

2. You were, at all relevant times, in charge of Artie Fred (the Horse) and had responsibility for its care.

3. On 12 August 2024, the Horse was examined by a Racing Victoria permitted veterinarian in Kyabram, Victoria, with the Horse assessed as having a body condition score of 1.5 out of 5.

4. Between 1 February 2024 and 12 August 2024, you failed to provide proper and sufficient nutrition to the Horse.

**Pleas:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Grace Tregear is facing five charges of breaches of Australian Rule of Racing (“AR”) 231(1)(b)(iv) – the failure to provide proper or sufficient nutrition to five thoroughbred horses in her ownership. Those horses were “Impression Sunrise”, “Persian Salute”, “Conceptualize”, “Shillalae Princess” and “Artie Fred”.

The immediate cause of the laying of the charges was a Stewards inspection at the property where these horses were located. An inspection in which Dr Kath McIntosh, Veterinary Surgeon, participated took place in Kyabram, Victoria, on 12 August 2024. The five horses in question were in poor condition, with body scores ranging from 0.5 to 1.5, with three being assessed as 1 out of 5. Conceptualize was ultimately euthanised.

Apart from her early interview with the Stewards, Ms Tregear has taken no part in this case. She has been notified of Directions Hearings, has been sent emails and text messages and was informed more than once of this ultimate hearing. At no stage has she answered or returned communications.

Thus, the case proceeded in her absence. We are comfortably satisfied that the five charges have been proved. Over quite a lengthy period of time, she allowed the condition of these horses, which she owned, to deteriorate until they were in very poor condition indeed.

At no stage, has she contacted this Tribunal or participated in preliminary hearings and, as stated, she took no part in this ultimate hearing.

Animal welfare is of vital importance to the industry. I would refer to and repeat the observation to this effect made in Racing Victoria v Liam Chapman (29 November 2023). Community attention is focused upon the issue of animal welfare.

As stated, Ms Tregear has not participated in this hearing process. Apart from some initial discussion as to the care of the horses’ condition, she has expressed no regret. We understand that she is approximately 34 years of age. She does have some background in the industry, in that at one time she was a registered stablehand. Her more recent involvement has been as an owner.

Charge 3, involving the horse, Conceptualize, strikes us as being the most serious charge, that horse having to be euthanised. We agree with the representative of the Stewards, Mr Scott Hunter, in relation to this.

In our opinion, the penalty for Charge 3 sought by the Stewards is fair and reasonable. That is disqualification for a period of 24 months.

On each of the other four charges, we impose a penalty of disqualification for 18 months. Each such penalty is to be served concurrently with the penalty imposed for Charge 3.

Thus, the effective penalty is a disqualification for 24 months. This period of disqualification is to commence immediately.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal