

media release

AN END TO JUMPS RACING!

The RSPCA is elated at the news that jumps racing will be banned in Victoria from 2011.

RSPCA Australia President, Lynne Bradshaw, said the RSPCA has worked for 30 long years to have the cruel 'sport' of jumps racing banned and today's decision is a huge relief for all involved.

"Most importantly, it's a tremendous win for horse welfare," said Mrs Bradshaw.

"Despite many disappointments, RSPCA Victoria has been unyielding in their efforts to bring an end to jumps racing, with the death of 10 horses during the 2009 season only strengthening their resolve.

"Around one in 24 horses that started a jumps racing event last season was killed on the racetrack. Nearly one in four horses sustained injuries during the same season and have not been seen on the track again.

"It's simply unacceptable to put horses at this kind of risk in the name of sport and entertainment.

"While we would prefer that the 2010 season didn't go ahead, we are pleased that the Board of Racing Victoria has recognised the overwhelming public disapproval of jumps racing.

"The RSPCA also welcomes the announcement of high weight races to be scheduled for the 2011 season, to help jumps horses, jockeys and trainers go through the transition.

"This is great news for all involved, especially the horses that were at serious risk if jumps racing continued.

"The RSPCA urges the South Australian Government and Thoroughbred Racing South Australia to follow suit and ban jumps racing in that state too."