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MERGER GIVES MORE POWER TO THE HORSE

The International League for the Protection of Horses is to merge with the SPCA to create a new charity

The International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH) will be getting more horse power, more legal clout and a new name when it joins forces with the SPCA Auckland from 1 July 2009. From that date, the organisation also has a makeover with a name change to Horse Welfare Auxiliary Inc and a new look.

While the new organisation will retain its autonomy, its horse welfare activities will now include law enforcement capabilities through the warranted inspectors with the SPCA.

Horse Welfare's continuing work will include investigations, adoptions of rescue horses, ponies and donkeys, lobbying to improve legislation and codes of practice related to equine welfare, and the provision of professional and practical advice and assistance as required.

“We are delighted about our new affiliation with the personnel and supporters of the ILPH who have, over so many years, provided so much support for the equines of New Zealand,” said Bob Kerridge, Executive Director of the Auckland SPCA.

“This new alliance will provide greater strength and expertise in the management of horse problems as well any lobbying that needs to be undertaken on their behalf.”

Sandra Shearer, who has been involved with the ILPH for almost 19 years, will remain with the newly-formed Horse Welfare Auxiliary as Chairperson.

Shearer has been involved in a number of high profile cases addressing equine neglect.

In April 2008, she was instrumental in the investigation of an abuse case involving thirty-one horses on a farm in South Auckland.

At the time, Shearer deemed the situation chronic and beyond the enforcement capacity of the ILPH, and involved the SPCA immediately to negotiate to have the animals placed in their care. The neglect was so extreme, that only two mares and their foals were saved and the remaining 26 were humanely put down.

“The ILPH has always had an excellent working relationship with the SPCA,” says Shearer. “However, this new affiliation is an important step forward. It strengthens the powers of our organisation considerably to directly help horses in need. It also ensures the survival of an organisation solely dedicated to the welfare of the horse in New Zealand.”

“The charity has recently struggled with funding at a time when more and more cases of equine neglect demand our attention. We believe that with the brand awareness of the SPCA Auckland and the dedication of our combined team, we will be able to effect change for the better for horses in New Zealand.”

Operating under the auspices of the SPCA, Horse Welfare will still be an independent financial body so supporters can rest assured that their donations will still be directed to horses and ponies in need.

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For further information, please visit www.horsewelfare.org.nz, or contact:

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