



Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy

03 November 2025

Dear Ms Allan:

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Ahead of the Melbourne Cup, we're writing to request that Nagambie's statue of Black Caviar be updated to reflect her final years as a breeding mare by adding hobbles to her legs (used to stop broodmares from kicking during mounting), and a twitch, which tightly squeezes the top lip to reduce the panic many female horse feel when repeatedly and forcibly bred.

Currently, Black Caviar's bronze likeness reflects only the abuse she endured on track, and not the fact that, even after bringing those who exploited her fame and fortune, she enjoyed no rest in retirement. Forced to produce nine foals in 11 years, Black Caviar did not relax – instead, she was used to pump out more horses right up until she died from an excruciating foot condition, likely exacerbated by her string of pregnancies.

Black Caviar might be the most famous horse to be bred to death, but she's far from the only one. To meet the racing industry's hunger for potential money spinners, horses in stables all over Australia are bound and mounted in the pursuit of profit. The statue additions we propose (available [here](#) and [here](#)) will reflect this reality. As well as the breeding hobbles and twitch, we suggest adding a breeding cape, used to stop the stallion biting the mare, and a tail bandage to prevent injury to the penis of the male, who also suffers during the unnatural mating processes central to the horse racing industry.

If our suggested additions evoke "Handmaid's Tale" imagery, they should. In addition to being whipped as they run too quickly on ankles no bigger than ours (which contributes to the deaths of at least one horse every two days), horses are denied natural mating rituals, and racegoers should know that their attendance means condoning forcible impregnation and lifelong exploitation.

Horses are clever, intuitive animals with strong spirits. Like all equines, Black Caviar deserved better than to be raced until she could race no more and then used as a baby machine until she died. By adding the restrictive and cruel apparatus that plagued her final days, the statue will be more accurate and will help educate punters on what they're really gambling on: horses' lives.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mimi Bekhechi

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