

# Criminal Law News

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# Horse passports- caselaw

Roderick Ramage and Sally Ramage

The case of *R (app of Blick) v Doncaster Magistrates Court*, 7 October 2008, was a judicial review. The claimant had been convicted in her absence, in September 2006, pursuant to the jurisdiction provided for by s 11(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, of several offences concerning horse passports. Shortly after the conviction in 2006, the claimant made an application under s 142(2) of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980 for the case to be re-opened as the claimant had been convicted in her absence.

# An examination of the laws concerning bestiality

Sally Ramage

Section 69 of the Sexual Offences Act is a statutory offence against bestiality. The fact that this offence is on the statute books is revealing. Apart from the ethical and moral distaste that this subject broaches, the legal arguments against this practice is a criminal offence because of the fact that animals cannot consent, although the animal rights activist, Princeton-based philosopher Peter Singer, argued that '*sex with animals does not always involve cruelty*'.

# The ambiguities of the law: Sexual Offences Act, sections 67 and 68

Sally Ramage

The sexual offence of voyeurism, enacted by sections 67 and 68 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, Chapter 32, has not been fully debated. Considering the case of *Bassett* [2009] 1 W.L.R 1032 which was overturned because the appeal court decided that the word 'breasts in section 68 does not mean '*chests*'. Voyeurism comprises four separate, but closely-related offences contained in s. 67.

# The blocking of internet pornography

Sally Ramage

There is no one set of laws that apply to the distribution, purchase, or possession of Internet pornography. From July 2009, all personal computers sold in China were going to have software installed to block online pornography. However, China's prohibition may not prevent access to pornographic website, because the hosting server may relocate its business to another country that does not prohibit pornography.

# Emergency Protection Order under Children Act 1989

**Sally Ramage**

The grounds for emergency protection orders (EPOs) are set out in the Children Act 1989, section 44. Although an EPO can be made for up to 8 days it ought to be made for the shortest period appropriate to the case.

## A review of rendition and other atrocities

**Sally Ramage**

Since September 2001 when some terrorists committed an act of gross outrage and mass murder in New York, United States, the U.S. government has in turn, been directly responsible for a broad array of serious human rights violations in fighting terrorism, by itself committing many untold acts of torture, enforced disappearances of many persons, arbitrary detention of a told and untold amount of people, and many unfair 'trials'.

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