

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Hendra virus (HeV) EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland
Date: Friday, 4 March 2016 4:29:05 PM

I do not treat horses any more, if I did, I would not treat horses unvaccinated for Hendra virus. Anti-vaccination hysteria has spread from corners of society to horse owners, and this anti-science is being perpetrated in a similar way.

I would not argue with a horse owners right not to vaccinate their horse, but with that right comes the obligation not to drag others into any situation arising from their failure to vaccinate said horse.

I would not criticise any veterinarian who chose to refuse to attend a horse not vaccinated against Hendra virus. Although animal suffering should be attended to, It is better for a veterinarian to return well to his family at the end of the day, and be available to serve his more sensible clients the next.

Because an effective vaccine is available, I suggest the state and federal governments should be recovering the full cost of any Hendra virus response where the horse owner chose not to vaccinate. Why should the taxpayers foot the bill for someone's philosophical eccentricity when they have already contributed to investigation of the disease and the development of an effective vaccine.

Yours sincerely

Vere Nicolson

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"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of it's heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker." **Helen Keller**