

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Hendra Virus policy RVC  
**Date:** Tuesday, 15 March 2016 1:12:05 PM

---

The Rockhampton Veterinary Clinic was owned by vale Allister Rodgers, who succumbed to Hendra virus infection after attending to an infected horse.

Our current policy regarding horses: we do not offer any veterinary service of any kind to horses or horse owners alike.

The OHS risk to employees outweighs the financial reward or any ethical considerations that may arise by far. Keep it simple: vaccine or no vaccine, no horses – period.

At the time of this death due to Hendra virus it was known to him (Dr Rodgers) that veterinarians and their assistants had contracted this potentially fatal disease. He did not assess the case as being a risk of the disease, and proceeded to scope the horse's airway to better examine the case. This was common practice, and he was skilled at this procedure, suspecting possible Brown snake bite as the cause of patechiation in the upper airway. I spoke with him after the incident, and to his wife when he started seizing, prior to being flown to BNE by air ambulance. At that point in time, I realised he would not be returning home or again to work.

In my view, no PPE equipment would have provided a better outcome for horse or vet due to the nature of the disease and the examination. I used to regularly attend horses at the same venue. I have since purchased the practice from his widow after his untimely death. When horse owners call after hours, begging for assistance "because the bloody vet down the road refuses to see my unvaccinated horse", I inform the person that I have no horse equipment, and do not attend to any horse any more due to their ignorance to consider the value of Hendra Virus vaccine.

Sincerely

Barrett Hasell  
BVSc, M.Med.Vet (Pretoria), Grad Dip. Animal Chiro (Melbourne)  
Veterinarian  
Rockhampton Veterinary Clinic  
[REDACTED] FRENCHVILLE, QLD  
Rockhampton 4701  
[REDACTED]