

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission for Queensland Hendra vaccine inquiry
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2016 7:05:54 PM

Dear

We are Kallon Park Equestrian centre, a horse boarding facility, located in Townsville North Queensland.. Hendra poses a serious health and safety risk to us, our clients, farriers, vets, physios, dentists and chiropractors as well as the general public when our horses are out and about.

When the Hev vaccine was released in 2012 we decided to make our facility a Hendra vaccine mandated property for the safety of everyone. We gave all our clients notice of this change and the reasons for it – safety pure and simple - and have to say we were pleasantly surprised when not one client opted to leave rather than vaccinate.

Since that time all horses on the property have been vaccinated every 6 months. Everything from yearlings, a stallion, mares and geldings, performance horses and pleasure horses. With horses coming and going (especially from interstate) this would equate to approximately 35 horses having their first ever Hendra Vaccine whilst in quarantine at our property.

After witnessing what is now some 80 plus vaccinations we have not had one single horse show an adverse reaction to the Hendra vaccine. To be honest I've had more issues with microchip site swelling. We have had one horse where we delayed the second vaccine as it was very hot the day it was scheduled (Fillys temp was 38.5) but the following day she was vaccinated in the morning without any reaction.

I have a young daughter who competes and I wont let her go to competitions where there isn't Hendra Policy in place. The reality of this virus is that a healthy horse can be shedding the virus well before it shows any sign of sickness thus negating peoples claims that they would not travel or compete a sick horse. It also affirms why vets are loathe to treat unvaccinated horses and will often refuse to treat any unwell unvaccinated horse. I agree, I love my horses but I love my daughters life more.

I am sorely disappointed with the equine community and their anecdotal carry on about side effects of this vaccine. Many also site cost as a factor but in reality equestrian sport is an elite expensive sport and the vaccine in comparison to other horse ownership costs are minimal. You only have to look at most equestrian events to see thousands of dollars worth of horses, saddlery, fancy matching rugs, farriery, floats, goosenecks and trucks. Don't get me started on the cost of rider apparel – be it western boots or top boots.

The Hendra vaccines cost around \$110.00 per horse when you have more than one done (spreading consult time and travel between all horses). Having a policy that no horse may

be agisted or ridden here without a current Hendra certificate makes sure that we and anyone else who deals with our horses is safe. Surely \$220.00 per annum is not an excessive cost – and before anyone talks about multiple horses I own 9 myself and they are all vaccinated. I cant wait for the day the AVPMA mandate the vaccine for annual use but until then I will live with it because i don't want to risk not living, as small as that risk may be.

If I could ask for anything it would be that pressure be applied to the AVPMA to urgently process the annual vaccine request as I am sure every horse owner would be relieved and it may even help the uptake of the vaccine (annual along with other vaccines)

Kind regards

Paul, Jayne and Piper Riley

Kallon Park Equestrian Centre

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