

My experience with the vaccine

- I have 2 horses who have received the HeV vaccine. In the first 2 doses and subsequent 6 monthly dose, I had no major adverse reactions (site swellings were considered by the vet as a 'normal' reaction).
- On the 4th dose one horse became stiff and sore in the neck, had a much larger swelling in the neck and was unridable for over a week. I reported this reaction to the vet, who again said this was 'normal'.
- On the 5th dose, the horse whose adverse reactions were getting worse, became unwell, off his food, stiff and sore in the neck and could not raise his head. He was unridable for weeks and missed a number of competitions. The second horse reacted with swelling in the legs and also had time off from competition (the vet said this reaction could not be attributed directly to the vaccine)
- For my 6th dose, the vet recommended I move out to 12 monthly doses – being directly in breach of the HeV guidelines – and they would still consider the horse as 'current' with the vaccine and would still treat the horse should it become ill. For my 6th dose I had to administer phenylbutazone (a painkiller and anti-inflammatory drug) in conjunction with the vaccine to counteract the adverse reactions. This is an additional cost to me and also shows that vets are admitting there are adverse reactions to the vaccine that need additional medical treatment.
- After the 6th dose for the second horse, the swelling in the hind legs returned and I had to spend hundreds of dollars on drugs to relieve the swelling and inflammation. I also had to withdraw from a major competition and did not receive a refund for entries.

My concerns

- My horses' adverse reactions are becoming more severe with every dose.
- My vet has advised me to move out to yearly booster shots, which is in breach of the HeV guidelines.
- Vets are making up their own 'rules' for treating horses ie. Some will treat a horse with yearly boosters while others will refuse treatment if horses are one day over the 6 monthly timeframe.
- Owners are being 'forced' to vaccinate, and horses suffer worse and worse adverse reactions, in order to receive veterinary treatment.
- It seems contradictory that I must administer an additional drug (to stop the adverse reactions) in order to be able to vaccinate my horse, just to have a vet attend should the need arise.
- There is no WHS legislation to prohibit a vet treating a non- vaccinated horse yet countless vets are withholding treatment to horses in need.

Term 1

TRIALS AND APPROVAL PROCESS

- The vaccine is required every 6 months but there has been no research on the detrimental effects on this. My experience shows that after multiple doses the reaction gets worse.

- Titre tests conducted by concerned horse owners show that a horse that only had the initial 2 doses had a high a titre score as those considered 'covered' in the trial. This brings into question why the 6 monthly booster is still mandated.
- No tests have been conducted on the horses who have had multiple doses (some up to 8 now) to see how this amount of vaccine is effecting the horse and what their titre score is.

THE INCIDENCE OF ADVERSE REACTIONS FOLLOWING VACCINATION

- My experience shows that the reactions become worse with every additional booster dose.
- Owners are being 'forced' to vaccinate, and horses suffer worse and worse adverse reactions, in order to receive veterinary treatment.
- There is no WHS legislation to prohibit a vet treating a non- vaccinated horse yet countless vets are withholding treatment to horses in need.

Term 2

WHO BEARS THE RISKS OF HEV VACCINATION

- As my horses' reaction became worse, the vets administered Bute (a painkiller and anti inflammatory drug) along with the vaccine. This is an additional cost I must bear in order to have my horse vaccinated.
- It seems contradictory that I must administer an additional drug (to stop the adverse reactions) in order to be able to vaccinate my horse.
- If the vaccine is so 'safe', I should not have to bear an additional cost of extra drugs, just to have my horse vaccinated to have a vet attend, should the need arise.

Term 5

THE IMPACT OF WHS ACTIONS BY VETS WHO DECIDE NOT TO ATTEND UNVACCINATED HORSES

- A WHS representative at an inquiry on the 22/3/16 said there was no WHS legislation to prohibit a vet from treating an unvaccinated horse.
- By vets using WHS requirements as their reason for not attending unvaccinated horses, they are denying treatment for no legitimate reason – horses are suffering unnecessarily.
- The 'No vaccination – No treatment' policy vets are enforcing is not a requirement of WHS yet they are using this as their excuse.
- Vets should treat all horses, regardless of vaccination status, and use appropriate PPE for those horses who are not vaccinated.
- The impact of my vet not attending my horses if unvaccinated has forced me to continue to vaccinate and make my horse suffer adverse reactions just to give me the peace of mind that should something serious arise, I can get a vet to attend my horse.

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