

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Hendra vaccine inquiry  
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I purchased a horse from QLD and as the EFA NSW was talking about the vaccine being made compulsory for state titles, I went ahead and kept her vaccine updated. A booster shot resulted in the horse showing extreme symptoms FOR TWO WEEKS and being totally unrideable for months. She ran a high temperature, required the vet at night, could hardly eat, stood in the stable and the paddock with her head almost on the ground. I contacted the dept Primary Industry and Richard at Zoetis and reported it. I was asked by the vaccine company to describe the symptoms. The horse could hardly move, had a wobbly gait of a few strides, a huge lump at the vaccination site, ran a high temperature of 39 degrees. The horse failed to eat more than a few isps of hay and lost weight rapidly. Bute controlled the temperature, but as soon as it wore off it went up high again continually for 2 weeks. At exactly the 2 week mark, the temperature returned to normal. In this time, this valuable animal lost over 20 plus kilos in condition, was withdrawn from state and interstate competitions due to illness.

It was terrifying to have such a very sick animal. Her poo got smaller and smaller, and I was concerned her bowel would stop working. Horses must eat, and there bowel can shut down in these circumstance. Fortunately after 2 weeks she picked up. It took her 4 months to regain weight. We cancelled all of our pre-booked competitions (hundreds of dollars lost as I had to cancel Melbourne Royal and Show Horse Council Canberra). My friend had the same thing with one of her horses. I have a pony stud. This was a serious case of the vaccine imitating the actual disease. At the time, the horse had previously been treated for ulcers but was over them (standard ex race horse) and also had her strangles UPDATE BOOSTER at the same time as the Hendra booster.

This was not the only horse in our area that had an extreme reaction to the vaccine. Made me join the pro choice side for vaccination. I found that other people who did not have this trouble were all pro vaccine, and when I queried the safety of the vaccine it was as if I had done something wrong, or exaggerated the situation. It was scary, expensive, and out of my control once the horse had the injection. I have had lots of horses routinely injected for other vaccinations. I would probably stop competing if it became compulsory in NSW. I could not put myself or a horse through a 2 week extreme illness again. I wondered if it was a bad batch of vaccine, or if there was too much mercury building up in the horse from repeat vaccines. I even wondered if I could catch the disease from the reaction, as it was just that so severe. I later had a vet take a blood test, before she was put back in work, incase it had affected her kidneys or other functions. The vet said the test was ok and I could start working her 2 months later.

In addition, I contacted Zoetis, to see if I could get an antibody test done, to prove that the horse did not require further vaccination. I was relieved when NSW EFA dropped back from making it compulsory.

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