



Catherine May Angus,
Trainee Veterinary Nurse,
QLD Parliament Hendra Vaccine Inquiry

Owens personal horses and works in both small animal and Equine nursing.

To whom it may concern;

I support the use of the Hendra vaccine and I believe it is an effective vaccine for acting as the first line of defence against the Hendra Virus. Working with horses and having horses of my own it is fundamental that I am able to know that my horses, my workplace, my family and myself are safe especially through the high risk of the Hendra Virus.

Through work I come in contact with a large number of equine patients and also a large variety of small animal patients. The high risk of cross contamination of a possibly infectious horse could lead to cross contamination to the entire work place. Therefore, having only vaccinated horses on the property is important and always taking care with sick horses. Knowing the horses in my workplace can simply get infected by grass that has been contaminated in my work place increases concerns and the risks to humans and shouldn't be overlooked. Hendra virus poses a large risks to humans and the entire work place so through vaccinating us as nurses and vets can protect ourselves. Hendra Virus has killed many people and has killed many more horses so it is vital that horses are vaccinated and that the protection and prevention is there.

The protocols of sick unvaccinated horses at my work place puts all staff in a position where they are able to make decisions and give veterinary advise easily.

With me owning my own personal horses and competing regularly it is like a weight off my shoulders knowing that my own horses have some form of protection being in an area with a number of horses some that may not be vaccinated. I had two horses and sold one so I now only own one however I have religiously kept up to date with vaccinations alike to worming and farrier. I regularly compete in show jumping most weekends, which as a result, my horse and I get in contact with over a hundred horses and riders in a day. With varying opinions of the Hendra vaccination I believe that it is the safest option for horses and for riders as it is hard to know of the incubation period of the Hendra virus and these healthy competition horses could be spreading the infection before they even start showing symptoms. Knowing a horse is not vaccinated against the Hendra Virus is unnerving especially when my own personal horses come in contact with possible sick and unvaccinated horses. Therefore, having the knowledge that a horse is vaccinated is comforting for both humans and their horses. My own personal horse had a Vaccine reaction through sweating quite profusely overnight following the injection the afternoon. I have noticed a stiff and sore neck following the vaccine but this has also been noted with the strangles and tetnus 2 in 1 vaccine.

I am pro vaccinating as it is the safest and best line of defence for both the horses and humans.

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