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7.04.2016

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I have been involved with horses for most of my life as a competitor and I now ride for pleasure. I currently work in a veterinary practice and I believe that the Hendra vaccination of horses and ponies should be mandatory, particularly in states such as Qld where the Hendra virus has been identified - but also horses/ponies that may travel to compete etc in these states.

I have not heard of any major side effects with the Hendra vaccine and even if there were - like human vaccinations, the risk of a horse possibly developing these side effects far outweighs the loss of life of vets, stablehands etc that may come in contact with an unvaccinated horse and even if they survive the virus - the permanent long time effects from recovering from it are debilitating from what I have heard/read.

I strongly support the idea of making the Hendra vaccination compulsory to all horse/pony owners that live, travel through and/or compete in the affected states.

Regards

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Sharon Ciranni