

15 April 2016

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry
C/- Mr Rob Hansen
Parliament House
Brisbane
Queensland 4000
Phone: 07 3553 6660

By email: robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

My name is Dr Rebecca Bannan, and I am a veterinarian located in Sarina, Queensland. I have been in veterinary practice for 16 years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine.
- The development, trials and approval processes of the vaccine
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option.

My practice has administered 956 Hendra vaccinations. During that time we have had approximately 30 vaccination reactions. Most show signs of mild lethargy, mild fever and small amounts swelling at the vaccination site, which lasts for 12 – 48 hrs. Of these about 10 have required 1 – 3 days of NSAID treatment. We have had one more severe reaction that has the same reaction at each vaccination, where he is quite lethargic and not wanting to move, he comes good with 7 days treatment with oral NSAIDs. We have never had any severe adverse reactions to the Hendra vaccine.

I feel that the vaccine is safe and feel quite confident working around vaccinated horses as per my own wellbeing regarding the disease. While I realise that Hendra disease is not common, it is like playing a game of Russian Roulette, you just never know which case is going to be the bullet.

I believe that having competition horses vaccinated makes risk management so much easier. It means there is just one less thing to be concerned about. It also means that as a duty of care, event organisers are protecting competitors and spectators alike from exposure to the virus.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rebecca Bannan BVSc



Veterinarian

Sarina Veterinary Surgery



Sarina 4737

