



Dr Louisa Poutsma

BVSc (Hons I) CMAVA

Swan Creek, NSW 2462

15-Apr-16

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 Louisa Poutsma. I am a mixed practice veterinarian (the main species I treat are: Horses, small animals, exotics, cattle, and the occasional bird). I work from Grafton NSW and I own my own 1-vet practice. Approximately 35% of my practice entails treating equine patients – general medicine, surgery, emergency, dental and some reproductive work. I have been a practising veterinarian since I graduated in December 2009. 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 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.

I have vaccinated over 400 horses across an ownership of about 150 clients. Of these cases the worst adverse reaction ever reported to me has been a lump at the injection site, a sore neck and malaise lasting no more than 48 hours. I have had less than 2% of cases of reports of Adverse Vaccine Reactions (AVRs). I have reported every case to Zoetis. Every single case ended satisfactorily and of these cases every single client went on to continue to vaccinate their horses.

I consider the Hendra Vaccine to be safe, efficacious and reliable. I am impressed with the way in which it is supported by Zoetis and the amount of care taken in recording information related to AVRs.

I live and work in an area proven to have bats whose urine has high concentrations of the virus. I worry on a daily basis about treating and handling horses that are not vaccinated. I

Caring for all animals in the Clarence Valley



Dr Louisa Poutsma

BVSc (Hons I) CMAVA

[REDACTED]
Swan Creek, NSW 2462

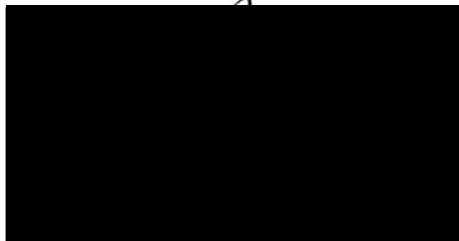
take special precautions when working with unvaccinated horses, but still feel very anxious about the chance of catching Hendra. My staff are very concerned about the danger of Hendra. Now that we have a safe, efficacious and reliable vaccine, I can feel safe when addressing illness in a vaccinated horse.

This vaccine has been a game changer. With 4 of the 7 people infected now dead, it allows equestrian events to proceed without the cloud of anxiety over the event at the thought of a Hendra Case.

I strongly support the WIDESPREAD, mandated use of the vaccine to protect people, their horses and those that they employ (such as vets, racing staff, strappers, etc) from the potential life threatening risks of contracting Hendra.

I believe this vaccine should be given full and unmitigated support from Equestrian bodies, Governmental health agencies, WH&S and the public at large. We are not dealing with a flu here, we are dealing with a disease that kills over 50% of those who have contracted the disease.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Louisa Poutsma

Caring for all animals in the Clarence Valley

