

Mrs Christine Lee

[REDACTED]  
SAMSONVALE QLD 4520  
[REDACTED]

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Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE 1LB 4000

RE: INQUIRY IN TO EQUIVACC® VACCINE AND ITS USE BY VETERINARY SURGEONS IN QUEENSLAND

I wish to offer the following as my submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry in to the Equivacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland.

My submission will address the following terms of reference;

1. the incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the HeV EquiVacc® vaccine;
2. who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option;
3. impacts on the equine industry and the economy arising from veterinarians applying a policy not to treat unvaccinated horses;

My submission will be based on both my own personal experiences and information referenced from various sources as will be noted at the end of this submission.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address our concerns and experiences with the EquiVacc Vaccine.

Yours sincerely

Christine Lee

## **The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the HeV EquiVacc® vaccine;**

The EquiVacc vaccine was released under a 'Limited Use' permit by Zoetis (then Pfizer), in November 2012. At that time we were agisting our horses at a local facility. We were informed within weeks of the vaccine release by the agistment managers that we would be required to vaccinate our horses if we wished to remain there. We questioned this decision as we were aware the vaccine had not been mandated, but their decision was final.

We were not prepared to vaccinate our four horses at this time for the following reasons;

1. The vaccine was very new and we wished to wait to see how horses responded to it before vaccinating
2. The cost for four horses at this time for us was prohibitive.
3. There had been no cases of Hendra in our immediate area

A document explaining what occurred with our horses when they were eventually vaccinated after we were forced to bring them home from the original agistment has been attached to this submission.

I will give a brief summary of the reactions;

- a. Horse 1 – Thoroughbred gelding 10 years old at time of initial vaccination. Condition prior to vaccination; sound with no history of illness – Became ill within hours of receiving booster No 5. Vets called when symptoms worsened over a two week period. Diagnosed with an inflamed immune system (autoimmune disease). Subsequently diagnosed with Laminitis, pedal bone rotation and Pedal Osteitis. Still requires remedial shoeing and homeopathic remedies to control symptoms one year on.
- b. Horse 2 – Quarter Horse mare 8 years old at time of initial vaccination. Condition prior to vaccination; Mild itch (seasonal), otherwise healthy – Itch became hyper reactionary after first booster and proceeded to worsen with each subsequent booster. Stopped vaccinations at 4<sup>th</sup> booster. Itch was now uncontrollable 24/7, 365 days a year. No topical treatments worked, destroyed numerous rugs. Raw wounds and scabs all over body from constant rubbing. Continues to be a problem.
- c. Horse 3 – Welsh Cob x Quarter Horse mare 4 years old at time of initial vaccination. Condition prior to vaccination; Mild itch (seasonal), otherwise healthy – Itch became hyper reactionary after first booster and continued to worsen with a subsequent booster. Stopped vaccinations at 2<sup>nd</sup> booster. Itch remained uncontrollable for a full 13 to 14 months. During that time, no topical treatments worked and destroyed numerous rugs. Was covered in raw wounds and scabs from continuous rubbing. Itch has now begun to alleviate. Personality change from inquisitive and affectionate to aggressive and spooky.
- d. Horse 4 – Thoroughbred mare 3 years old at time of initial vaccination. Condition prior to vaccination; Sound with no history of illness – Experienced mild stiffness, lethargy and inappetence soon after initial vaccinations. Dissipated within 4 days. Experienced unexplained sneezing episode with thick mucus discharge from nostrils and high temps some weeks post vaccination. Dissipated within a couple of days. Attitude went from calm and pliable to spooky and difficult to work. Has failed to take after three covers by a proven stallion. Vet could find no reason for infertility. Ceased vaccinations after 1<sup>st</sup> booster.

At no time during the vaccination process did any of the attending vets advise us that there were listed contraindications that were pertinent to our horses. Nor were we advised when we first vaccinated that the vaccine was on a trial basis (under limited use permit). We were not asked if any of the horses had pre-existing conditions that would preclude them from being vaccinated. One vet offered to give the 2 in 1 vaccination at the same time. This practice was advised against under the limited use permit rules. By this time we had already done our own research and forbade the vet giving the two vaccinations at the same time.

No reports were lodged with either Zoetis or APVMA by the vet attending our gelding. The vet refused to acknowledge that the vaccine was in any way responsible for the horse's illness.

How has this impacted us on a personal level?

The reactions our horses experienced have impacted us in a number of ways; the expense involved in ongoing treatment, the loss of use of one of the horses, the constant stress of dealing with multiple issues in multiple horses, the inability to compete our horses due to the severity of their conditions. The worry that now we cannot and will not vaccinate, in the event we require veterinary services we will not get them. All of the above has impacted on us as a family, both emotionally and financially.

With the continued refusal of veterinary staff to report possible reactions either to the APVMA or Zoetis, this has seriously clouded the real picture of just how wide spread reactions are. Vet's had an obligation to provide this information as a registered provider of the vaccine under the Limited Use Permit. This information was vital to analyse the overall efficacy of this vaccine. Instead it has been left up to the few owners who did their own investigations to report their horse's reactions. Many more have and will continue to go unreported if left up to vets.

### **Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option;**

HeV is classified as a Zoonotic disease. As described in the Workplace Health & Safety Queensland 'Hendra Virus – Information for Veterinarians' brochure; "Hendra virus is a sporadic disease of horses caused by a spillover of virus from flying foxes. Hendra virus infection in humans is rare, but it's a very serious disease, and has occurred following close contact with the blood, tissues and body fluids (e.g. respiratory secretions) of an infected horse. Veterinarians and veterinary nurses are particularly at risk of exposure to Hendra virus. This creates important work health and safety considerations for veterinarians and their staff."

The brochure proceeds to list a number of ways vets and their staff can protect themselves in the event they suspect Hendra. Other than vaccination, WH&S Qld recommend the following; Good personal Hygiene such as washing hands regularly, cleaning equipment thoroughly between patients, responsible containment and disposal of used sharps, swabs, etc and PPE appropriate to the assessed risk.

The costs to the veterinarian for PPE are passed onto the client as per normal business practice, although allegedly in some cases with what appears to have been a substantial mark-up applied. The Qld Government has also introduced a rebate scheme to assist veterinarians with the initial purchase of PPE and on-going replacement of PPE;

#### **"Hendra virus PPE Rebate Scheme**

The Queensland Government has implemented a personal protective equipment (PPE) Rebate Scheme, available from 1 July 2012, to assist private veterinary practices offset the cost of eligible PPE for use by veterinary surgeons in the testing of suspect Hendra virus cases.

#### **The following rebates are available under the PPE Rebate Scheme:**

**Start-up rebate:** A maximum of \$250 is available to assist eligible veterinary practices with the initial purchase of prescribed PPE. The rebate available is for the amount paid by an applicant for prescribed PPE, purchased on or after 24 March 2012, for each eligible veterinary surgeon employed or engaged in the applicant's veterinary practice. **An applicant can receive only one Start-up rebate.**

**Replenishment rebate:** \$250 is available for the purchase of prescribed PPE after an approved test of a suspected Hendra virus infection sample has been completed. To be eligible for the rebate, each approved test must be completed on or after 24 March 2012. **There is no limit to the number of Replenishment Rebates an applicant can receive.**

The scheme will close to applications on **30 June 2016.**"

In light of the above rebate, I would have to question the ethics of any veterinary practice who claims the rebate whilst also charging the client for the same PPE. I would also question what, if any, protocols the Qld Government has in place to prevent this practice from occurring? Are there any guidelines in place regarding what a veterinary practice can reasonably expect to charge a client for PPE where they do not intend to recoup the cost via the rebate scheme to prevent possible price gouging?

The other option of risk mitigation is the vaccine itself. The vaccine was released four years early on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2012 under permit No PER13510. The permit allowed for limited use directed in those areas where Hendra had already occurred. This did not stop Zoetis, AVA, EVA or veterinary practices from pushing to have the vaccine mandated throughout the equine industry primarily in Queensland and Northern NSW, but also in other Australian states. The attempt by Equestrian Australia to mandate its use at all EA events was backed by the EVA. As a result of the rushed early release of vaccine, the APVMA released it based on the six months proof of efficacy that was all Zoetis was able to provide thereby determining the six monthly booster regimen.

The vaccine is expensive. Zoetis wholesale the vaccine for approximately \$60 per vaccination. Retail prices vary from as low as a reported \$90 per vaccination (plus travel and call-out), to \$150 or more. For people with multiple horses and/or limited income, this is cost prohibitive and unable to be sustained at twice yearly doses. Add to the cost of vaccinating, the increasing costs of repairing damage done to horses systems. In my local area, two veterinary practices are amongst the top four for Hendra vaccinations in Queensland. An unofficial analysis of the monetary benefits a veterinary practice may make from the vaccine follows;

500 horses vaccinated twice yearly at \$150 each = \$150,000 less approximate wholesale cost of \$60 per vaccine = \$60,000 which comes to a total of \$90,000 profit. This does not include travel or call out fee's and does not take into account that the vet may provide (sell), other services at the time of the vaccination. Across the industry, in the last three years, approximately 400,000 + doses of the vaccine have now been administered. At even \$100 per vaccination, that equates to \$40,000,000 that a small section of the equine industry has had to find on top of their normal every-day expenditure.

#### **Impacts on the equine industry and the economy arising from veterinarians applying a policy not to treat unvaccinated horses;**

I acknowledge that vets are the most vulnerable to this rare disease due to the very nature of their business. I also acknowledge that there is a very real fear amongst **some** of the equine veterinary community over the possibility of contraction of Hendra. This being said, how real is that likely-hood?

In the nearly twenty two years since Hendra was first identified as Equine morbillivirus in September 1994, there have to date been approximately sixty horse deaths in Queensland either directly or via human intervention post confirmed diagnosis. There have been seven human infections of which, tragically, three died as a direct result of the infection and one died some eighteen months post infection from an unknown illness, (this case was and is disputed by the deceased's family), although he is officially listed as a Hendra fatality.

There have been copious amounts of material published over the last seven years regarding how the seven human infections occurred. It is acknowledged that their infections were as a result of failure to utilise sound hygiene and personal protection whilst conducting highly invasive procedures on infected horses. I refer you to the Queensland Ombudsman, Phil Clarke's 'Report on The Hendra Virus' and the 'Redlands Veterinary Clinic Investigation Report' by DLA Phillips Fox.

Qld Workplace Health & Safety rules state that when a vet is on a callout, the attending vet should firstly do a risk assessment and then proceed according to that assessment. PPE should be applied to the level of the perceived threat, i.e. if the vet genuinely suspects the presence of Hendra, then PPE and all other relevant bio security measures should be employed as per their risk assessment and QWH&S rules. If Hendra is not suspected, PPE commensurate with the level of the treatment required should be employed, i.e. for non invasive procedures, minimum PPE, face mask, goggles, gloves and overalls should be worn. This is for both vaccinated and unvaccinated horses as no vaccine can be considered 100% safe.

So what happens if vets refuse to attend unvaccinated horses as has been the case on numerous occasions in recent months? In an effort to analyse the issue of the no treat policy, I have drawn up two worst case scenarios, which bearing in mind I am not a professional in this area, I have laid out the scenarios from a laypersons perspective. All participants in these scenarios are fictional, time lines are supposition;

### **Scenario 1;**

A 7 year old gelding, Bronx, has been found collapsed in his shared paddock entangled in a wire fence. He has received severe lacerations and lost a lot of blood. His owners assume he was either startled or was galloping in his paddock and failed to see the fence. The owners in attendance are husband Bob, wife Marie and 16 year old daughter Tanya. There are three other horses that share this paddock with Bronx.

Bob and Marie are aware of Hendra and prevent their daughter having contact with Bronx. They immediately call their vet and dress in the coverall's, gloves, goggles and disposable respiratory mask that they had purchased when they set up their own bio security plan.

They keep Bronx as still as possible whilst trying to avoid direct contact with his blood and fluids that have leaked from the wounds. Their vet, Brian, arrives within 20 minutes. Brian assesses the situation. He is aware that neither Bronx nor the other three horses on the property are vaccinated for Hendra. Brian is concerned that Bronx may have actually collapsed into the fence and became entangled whilst trying to get up. Brian and his assistant, Daniel, then adopt the bio security recommended protocols and suits up in a P2 respirator, full disposable bio hazard suit, goggles and disposable boot covers. He orders Bob, Marie and Tanya to leave the paddock whilst they attend Bronx. He also instructs Bob and Marie how to safely remove and dispose of their PPE and to wash all exposed areas of skin thoroughly with soap and water.

Brian proceeds to draw bloods for a Hendra exclusion test. The bloods are then carefully stored in the refrigerated container within the practice vehicle. The needles and syringes are disposed of in the sharps container and sealable bags for disposal later.

Bronx is too badly injured to leave in his current situation. Brian makes the decision to try and stem the flow of blood from the wounds and to extricate Bronx from the fence. Bronx is given a mild sedative to allow Brian and Daniel to work safely around him. They proceed to cut away the wire. Next they analyse the wounds and discuss a course of action. Whilst this is happening, Bronx's condition has deteriorated. Brian walks to the fence and discusses the situation with Bob and Marie. It is agreed that due to Bronx's critical condition and severe wounds, euthanasia is the only alternative. Brian then proceeds to euthanize Bronx whilst Daniel moves the three remaining horses to the next paddock which is currently unoccupied.

Once Bronx has been euthanized, a tarp that Bob has thrown over the fence is used to cover his body. No attempt is made to move him. Brian and Daniel then proceed to disrobe from their PPE according to their training.

They wash carefully and ensure that all equipment used has been placed in decontaminant or wiped carefully with disinfectant before storing it in their vehicle.

Upon leaving the paddock, Brian provides Bob, Marie and Tanya with instructions regarding the body of Bronx and the other three horses. Until the exclusion test results are returned, no physical contact is to be had with any of the horses. No one is to enter the paddock where Bronx lays. The dogs and cat are to be kept locked up to prevent them from investigating the body. Hay should be thrown over the fence to the horses if required.

The next day the test results return a positive to Hendra. Brian immediately contacts Bio Security and informs them. He then contacts Bob and Marie. Bio Security proceeds to enact a lockdown of the property. All the other animals returned negative results to Hendra. Neither Bob, Marie nor Tanya were endangered because they used appropriate PPE and also followed Brian's instructions. Brian and Daniel were not endangered because they followed the correct protocols. Bronx did not have to endure unnecessary pain or suffering due to Brian following appropriate protocols that allowed him to attend to Bronx's needs with safety.

## Scenario 2;

Madi, a 12 year old mare with Cushing's has a large puncture wound in her abdomen. She has been bleeding quite heavily and appears disorientated and unstable on her feet. Ted, his wife Sarah and two sons, 14 year old Jason and 10 year old Paul are all in the paddock with her. Madi shares her paddock with one other horse, a 5 year old gelding, Fred. Its early evening.

Sarah calls their vet who promptly refuses to attend because they have elected not to vaccinate. They are shocked because they were unaware that their vet no longer treated unvaccinated horses. Sarah then calls the three other vet clinics in their area. All refuse to attend.

Sarah returns to the paddock and tells Ted that no vets will attend. Ted then has Sarah phone their friends and neighbours to see if they have anything to help with patching up Madi. Their neighbour Joe who doesn't own horses himself has some first aid supplies that he keeps on hand for his Lama's. He comes over and so does Natalie from up the road that has a couple of mini ponies. The boys return to the house to have their showers and get ready for bed.

Between them they clean and disinfect the wound. It's quite deep so Sarah uses a syringe filled with salty water to try and flush out the wound. It stings Sarah's fingers where she had cut herself earlier that day chopping vegetables for the soup she was making for tea that night. When that doesn't work, they decide to wash it out with the hose. The spray back from the hose catches Sarah, Natalie and Ted who are all standing close to the wound. Joe is standing at the head of Madi. It's warm work despite a chill in the air and after Sarah finishes flushing the wound and applying disinfectant she wipes the sweat from her brow leaving a smear of blood behind. This proceeds to seep with the perspiration into her eyes.

Madi was becoming increasingly unsteady on her feet. Her breathing is becoming laboured. It's decided to take her into the shed where she could be kept confined. In the light of the shed they discover that Madi now has a thick white discharge coming from her nostrils. They are at a loss. They have no clue why, so assume that because she is weak from loss of blood she is getting a cold. Sarah uses tissues to wipe the mucus from Madi's nostrils. They are very concerned about the wound. It is deep and although the bleeding has lessened, there is a constant trickle of fluid. Sarah packs the wound with gauze and antiseptic. They wind a long bandage around the barrel of Madi to try and keep the wound dressing in place. They provide water and hay and then close the door of the shed.

Joe and Natalie return to their respective homes. Throughout the night Ted and Sarah take it in turns to go out to check on Madi. They are concerned because Madi appears to be getting worse. She has developed muscle twitching and is very disorientated. At 3.00am, Madi is found down (collapsed), in the shed. Ted and Sarah are worried. They ring the vet again, but again the vet refuses to come out. He is concerned it is Hendra. Ted and Sarah have heard of Hendra but do not think it could be that because there have never been any cases in their area.

At 6.00am Ted goes to check on Madi. Ted returns to the house to inform Sarah that Madi has passed away. They are deeply upset. Ted then rings Joe to inform him and Joe agrees to bring his dozer over to dig a hole for Madi. They strap Madi to the blade of the dozer and pull her from the shed and drag her carcass to the newly dug hole. There Madi is buried.

Over the next few days, Sarah is quite depressed. She is tired and not feeling very well. She decides to go to her Doctor to have a check-up. Her Doctor, not knowing the whole story, diagnoses the onset of flu. Sarah's condition continues to worsen. Ted is very concerned. She is having trouble breathing and has been complaining of a bad headache and appears to have a temperature. Ted decides to take Sarah to the emergency department of their local hospital. They are forced to sit there for four hours before Sarah is finally seen. By this time she is really struggling to breathe. The emergency doctor is very concerned. He queries Ted on what Sarah's movements have been over the previous days to try and get a picture of what might be going on. When Ted explains about Madi and how Sarah had tried to save her, the Doctor hears alarm bells ringing. He immediately orders bloods for Sarah and for her to be admitted to an isolation unit in ICU.

The bloods return a positive for Hendra. Ted is devastated. Despite all the efforts of the local and city hospitals, (where Sarah was airlifted to), Sarah passed away within two weeks of the diagnosis. Sarah had become victim number eight to Hendra virus. Ted, Joe, Natalie, Jason and Paul are all admitted to hospital to undergo experimental monoclonal antibody treatment as they are considered at risk given their exposure to Madi who has by now been

exhumed and found positive to Hendra. None of them develop Hendra and they are all eventually allowed to return home.

The above scenarios are just that, scenarios. But what if they were fact? Despite the fact that Hendra is an incredibly rare disease and also very, very hard to catch, in light of vets refusing to attend unvaccinated horses, this very remote possibility could occur. Vets are trained professionals. They have access to additional training in the use of PPE and working around contagious diseases that the everyday horse owner does not have. By refusing to attend an unvaccinated horse despite having proven safety options such as PPE to work with, they are leaving horse owners and handlers open to possible infection.

Should the vaccine be made mandatory? I do not believe so. The primary reason is the rareness of this disease. Add to that the knowledge of bio security most owners now have and employ in their everyday contact with their horses, the risks are further reduced.

Equestrian sports are expensive. Even a retired paddock horse continues to cost the owner for farrier, dental, feed and general vaccinations. Competing is expensive. There is the cost of training, saddlery, feed, transport, entry fees and insurance amongst a host of miscellaneous costs. Adding an extra cost of around \$600 per horse per year for many is just too extreme. Then once again, adding the cost of the adverse effects of the vaccine on the horses system.

Something as small as a stiff neck can prevent an elite competition horse from competing. Breeders have reported adverse reactions such as infertility, foal slippage and deformities in vaccinated stock. Forced vaccination has the potential to impact all facets of the horse sport industry; racing, showjumping, dressage, pony club, campdrafting, cutting, polo, endurance, competition trail riding, hack and hand showing are just a few of the sports that are already being impacted. Then there are the peripheral industries that operate around the equine industry; produce stores, tack stores, farriers, clothing stores, rug makers, equine massage & chiropractic therapists, stable hands, strappers to name a few, are all reliant on the horse industry for their living.

If elite horses, many worth tens of thousands of dollars are damaged or die as a result of the vaccine, who will recompense the owner? Insurance companies are notoriously difficult if the cause of loss of use or death is not clearly evident. It is a fact that many of reported alleged reactions and deaths as a result of the vaccine are not able to be confirmed. They are therefore unable to be claimed as accidental.

Hendra disease is not prolific. There are many more zoonotic diseases that take a far higher toll on human health and life in Australia. Q Fever, Leptospirosis & Brucellosis are just some of the diseases that can and do impact human health in Australia far more readily than Hendra. A review of the Australian Governments Health Department statistics on Zoonotic diseases revealed that Hendra was not even listed on any department quarterly reports.

The Equivacc Vaccine requires further research. The system that allowed this vaccine to be released and subsequently registered is fundamentally flawed. This system allows the regulator, APVMA, to accept money from the manufacturer to approve drugs and vaccines for the use on animals in Australia. Reported reactions are then referred back to the manufacturer by the APVMA for analysis and confirmation instead of utilising the services of an independent party to examine and ascertain the validity of the claim. No manufacturer can be expected to admit their product is faulty and thereby potentially impact future sales.

Add to that the recent appointment of Dr Nina Kung the Principal Veterinary Epidemiologist at Bio Security Queensland as the 2016 Qld Division President of the AVA which once again presents as a definite conflict of interest between what should be a completely independent government authority and a private association of veterinary practitioners that stand to benefit from the sale of the vaccine.

In summary;

The concerns of the horse owning public in Australia regarding the Equivacc Vaccine, it's shortened testing period, the inexplicable push to mandate the vaccine by veterinarians for a disease that is so rare that it fails to rate a mention in the official Australian Notifiable Diseases Surveillance database and the resulting animal welfare issues being experienced as a result of the refusal to treat policies of some vets have led to this Inquiry.

I would ask that you take my submission, along with the facts and documents provided, into consideration when assessing the impacts that the vaccine and the resulting refusal to treat policies have had and will continue to have on the Australian horse industry.

Yours truthfully

Christine Lee

### **References;**

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, 1 July to 30 September 2015- National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System – Quarterly Report

Australia's notifiable disease status, 2013: Annual report of the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

Hendra Virus Fact Sheet – Pfizer Animal Health, CSIRO, HJF, USU, AVA & EVA

The Hendra Virus Report – Queensland Ombudsman

Redlands Clinic Investigation Report – DLA Phillips Fox

Hendra Virus PPE Rebate Scheme – QRAA

Permit to allow supply and minor use of an agvet chemical product Permit Number - PER13510 – APVMA

Permit to allow supply and minor use of a Veterinary Chemical Product Permit Number – PER14876 – APVMA

Diseases From Animals – WorkCover Queensland

Summary report: Outcomes of an audit of Hendra virus risk management in the veterinary industry – Workplace Health & Safety Queensland

Hendra Virus – Information for Veterinarians – Workplace Health & Safety Queensland

Veterinarians Duty of Care Responsibilities – Queensland Government

### **Appendix;**

Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 – Queensland Government

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 – Queensland Government

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 – Queensland Government

Personal experience with Adverse Reaction – Christine Lee

Adverse Reactions & Refusal To Treat Register – Say No to the Hendra Vaccine (Yes to Pro Choice)



Our experience with the EquiVacc Vaccine;

We have had a total of four horses vaccinated for Hendra. Although not entirely our choice to vaccinate at the time, it was a requirement of where they were agisted, we felt that we were doing the right thing for our horses and ourselves.

We commenced vaccination for one of the horses in early 2013, about 6 months after the vaccine was released on limited permit. Another horse commenced vaccination in mid 2013, and a third in late 2013. The 4<sup>th</sup> was vaccinated after we bought her in about August of 2014.

Two of our mares were both mild itch cases prior to vaccination. At no time were we informed of the possible consequences of vaccinating when the mares already exhibited overactive immune systems. We were never offered any material to read with regard to the vaccine so had no knowledge of the possible adverse reactions that might be experienced or that horses with certain conditions including skin conditions were not recommended for vaccination.

Both mares appeared fine when they were initially vaccinated, but just after they received their 1<sup>st</sup> 6 monthly booster, their itch became more pronounced. At this time we were still unaware that the vaccine might be causing this. After they received their 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 monthly booster, the itch became uncontrollable. They constantly destroyed rugs, and rubbed themselves raw. My palomino mare got so bad, she would lay her belly on rocky ground and scrape back and forth until she had strips of bloody skin hanging off her belly. She tore her face to pieces along her withers and rump. She completely rubbed out her mane and tail. They each received a 3<sup>rd</sup> booster before my own suspicions prompted me to research the vaccine and a possible association with the devastating itch the mares were experiencing which was now all year long. Neither of the mares have been vaccinated since late 2014. They both still suffer chronic itch but it has reduced slightly in its intensity with the continued application of topical treatments and detoxifiers we put in their feed. Both mares are scarred from the damage done to their skin.

The first of our horses to be vaccinated had a total of 5 boosters. It was on his 5<sup>th</sup> booster that he suffered a complete collapse of his immune system. The vet that attended for the vaccination (organised by the agistment and not one of our local vets), chose to vaccinate despite being told that Toby had been suffering intermittent scours over the previous couple of weeks. She did no health checks on him. One of our local vets was called to attend when over a two week period post vaccination, Toby developed full body hives, bloating, swelling of legs, chronic scours, high temps (40.9 plus), lethargy, inappetence, ulcerated nostrils and mouth, petechial haemorrhaging in his eyes, and unsteadiness on his feet. The vet described his entire system as being completely inflamed. I asked if the vac could have caused this, and he denied it was the vac although allowed it may have been over vaccination that caused it. Bloods were taken and he was placed on steroids to try and alleviate the symptoms. The bloods showed levels in the lower range of normal but nothing completely out of the ordinary.

Over the following weeks, every time we reduced his steroids, the symptoms would return with a vengeance. We ended up searching out our own remedies for him and placed him on activated charcoal (which he craved like a drug addict), and various detox remedies and minerals to try a boost his immune system. As the bloating decreased, it became evident that he had lost an enormous amount of weight and all his muscle tone. With the aid of the detox

agents and the vitamins and minerals we were feeding him, all the symptoms gradually abated. Approximately two months after the onset of the initial symptoms, our farrier picked up that Toby had developed low level laminitis. Subsequent x-rays a couple of months later confirmed laminitis and that the pedal bone had dropped about 1cm and that he had Pedal Osteitis. We now have the added cost of specialist shoeing on top of the expensive vitamins and minerals that we are continuing to provide him to try and build back his immune system. He is only 12 years old, and this formerly big healthy horse who was always a great 'doer' struggles to maintain weight and has had to be virtually retired. He has no stamina and even light work exhausts him and brings on scours. After some very blunt questions to our vet, he admitted that Toby had autoimmune disease.

We no longer vaccinate any of our horses. Vaccination for Toby would probably kill him. The APVMA have listed Toby's reaction as 'possible' to the vaccine. The two mares cannot be vaccinated because their immune systems are now so compromised. The fourth horse, a mare, did not show anything more than mild stiffness, lethargy and inappetence at the time of the vac although she did come down some weeks later with an inexplicable bout of sneezing which produced thick white mucus and a high temp. This eased off after a couple of days. Suffered some change in behaviour. Became spooky and difficult to work. We had been trying to get her in foal which has now been unsuccessful three times running. Because she is a maiden mare, even though the vet can find no reason for her not to take, we are unable to say whether her inability to conceive is because of the vaccine or some other reason. We stopped vaccinating her after the 1<sup>st</sup> booster. Spookiness has now eased off after approximately 8 months.

**Register of Reactions to Hendra virus - HeV - Vaccination**

Horse Owners Details	Location	Horse Name & Sex	Horse Age	Horse Weight & Breed	Historical Illnesses Include any current medications	Condition at time of Vaccination	Last Vaccination Date	Vaccine Booster No:	Description of Reaction	Reported To Vet/Zoetis/AVPMA Yes/No	Date Reported	Additional Notes
1 Brier Morris	Boorabyn Qld	Im A Trixta - Gelding	10	550-600 TB	None	Excellent	19/07/2013	2	Shortly after 2nd Booster experienced prolonged lethargy severe weight loss and loss of appetite loss of coat colour (bleached & dull) muscle loss & severe soreness in leg muscles. Required turnout for 1 year and still not back to 100%	Yes to Zoetis (verbal report twice by phone)	Unknown but around time of initial reactions	19/07/2013 was when my horse got vaccinated he is a big 17hh tb gelding who I compete eventing and show jumping. Asked the vet to make sure was all good to keep riding as I understand that some vaccinations you can't work them for a time period around the vaccination. Vet gave me a go ahead to ride so thought it was all good. After the first lot he was fine no signs of anything but after the second round he got very lethargic lost all his colour so he looked really sun bleached when before he was shiny and deppled and I hadn't changed anything was still wearing rugs and all that. He lost heaps of weight cause he wouldn't eat anything and for him to not eat anything is very weird because he is the biggest food horse around. He wouldn't eat anything for about 2 weeks then got his appetite back. Started riding him again was still skinny and didn't look as well muscled as what he normally did and still had a bleached colour look. He started getting really muscle sore very quick and couldn't keep fitness no matter how I trained him. After a while he couldn't jump because it hurt him to stretch his legs and all his muscles felt like they would seize up under him when he went to jump. So him going from jumping 1.35m to not really being able to do 80cm was weird. We have him a whole year off out in a 1000 acres and only just brought him back and at last year and he is all better now he looks good and is jumping great again just the only thing is that he keeps getting abscesses and it has trouble getting fit I have just given him some iron supplements and looks like it is helping him so wouldn't think he is low not sure if it is a side effect just that he has never before had that problem.
2 Christie Louise	Mid North Coast NSW	Magents - Mare	8	750 Clydesdale x	None	Healthy - no history of illness	Sep-14	4	Between 2nd & 3rd vaccination horse developed severe itch loss of hair and dry dull coat. Problems have persisted despite recommended treatment by vet.	Yes to APVMA & Vet	At time of reactions	Also lost foal that went down to unknown reason due to vet refusing to treat despite attending in full PPE because foal was unvaccinated. Vet only offered pain relief or euthanasia. Took blood test for Hendra which came back negative but foal had already died.
3 Christie Louise	Mid North Coast NSW	Dexter - Gelding	4	80 kg Clydesdale x Brumby	None	Healthy - no history of illness	Sep-14	4	Between 2nd & 3rd vaccination horse developed severe itch loss of hair and dry dull coat. Problems have persisted despite recommended treatment by vet.	Yes to APVMA & Vet	At time of reactions	
5 Stephanie Winter	Barcaldine Qld	Miss Hillbilly - Mare	18	300kg - QH	None	Excellent	27/11/2014	2	Within 48 to 60 hrs from 2nd of initial shots mare was noted to be standing very stiff and experiencing widespread muscle twitching which continued on for 3 full days. Mare was very slow in her movements for that day. Has not had any further injections since.	No	N/A	On 4th November my 18 yr old Quarterhorse mare had 1st Hendra and Tetanus vaccinations. On 27th November 2014 she had 2nd Hendra vaccination in the evening around 7pm our vet did a house call. Between 48 and 60 hrs later (first thing in the morning) I noticed her to be standing still and she had widespread muscular twitching. I noticed she walked slowly but I noticed she was her 'hey' I phoned the vet at around 9am (1000s away) who said it was unlikely to be a side effect of the Hendra vaccine due to the time lapse since the injection. My mare is a healthy athletic solid horse and has never had a "sick day". The muscular twitching continued all day but subsided by nightfall. It was an unnerving sight and I decided then that I would definitely not subject her to another Hendra vaccination.
6 Mikki Lee	Ramsomvale Qld	Toby - Gelding	12	350kg - TB	None	Healthy - no history of illness	30/04/2013	3	Within 60 hours from the injection horse presented with lethargy and appeared unstable on his feet. Fell over whilst doing a slow trot on a wide circle on the lunge. Since then has developed hives severe scouring. Inflamed eyes and severe lethargy. To be tested for Cushings.	Yes to vets still to advise APVMA	At time of reactions	Toby was given his 6th booster on the 30/04/2013. Over the next 60 hours we noted lethargy and an unsteadiness in his movements. Whilst being lightly lunged he fell over doing a slow trot. The unsteadiness dissipated shortly after that. Subsequently over the last couple of weeks Toby has developed hives over his whole body (preedy heel) scours and is extremely lethargic. Vet diagnosed an inflamed system as a result of vaccination although he denied it was due to it being the Hendra vaccine. He was being treated with Predsby Granules for his new allergies but they failed to alleviate them. He was subsequently placed on a series of Toxin-binders which brought his overall health back under control. Two months after his vaccination he was diagnosed with Laminitis. Xrays a couple of months after the diagnosis confirmed pedal bone rotation and Pedal Osteitis. He has been receiving homeopathic remedies in conjunction with specialist shoeing to try and assist him to overcome the laminitis. At present he is reasonably sound but still requires periodic courses of Homeopathic remede and full time specific shoeing.
7 Christine Lee	Ramsomvale Qld	Mia (Downgate Goldstrike) - Mare	9	480kg - QH	Mild Qld Itch	Excellent apart from itch	6/09/2014	4	First 24hrs after vaccination horse presented with lethargy and inappetence. Over subsequent months the mild summer itch she experienced became severe and continued light through the winter months.	To be advised to APVMA	TBA	Mia had suffered from a mild form of Qld Itch which was controlled mainly by rugging and the application of topical treatments. The itch was generally confined to spring/summer periods. After she received her 4th vaccination we noted a marked increase in the voracity of the itch. After the 5th injection the itch became virtually uncontrollable. No topical treatments worked and she literally tore rugs to pieces at the rate of at least one a week her record being three in one week with one new rug completely destroyed the day it was put on her. She would leave herself raw and bleeding from attacking herself with her teeth. She would lay on the ground and grind her stomach into the ground to try and get relief. She completely rubbed out her mane and tail. The skin between her front legs, girth area and loin area had a wrinkled appearance and was very reactive. She was covered in scabby patches including on her udder. We were unable to ride her during the worst of it as the irritation was so intense she became very stressed and behaved very out of character. I have removed her from the vaccination program. Now some 8 months since her last injection she is finally starting to improve although she still rubs any supposed area's and insect bites are still highly reactive. She will not be vaccinated again.
8 Christine Lee	Ramsomvale Qld	Delliah (DD) - Mare	5	450kg	Mild Qld Itch	Excellent apart from itch	6/09/2014	2	First 24hrs after vaccination horse presented with lethargy and inappetence. Over subsequent months the mild summer itch she experienced became severe and continued light through the winter months.	To be advised to APVMA	TBA	DD suffered from sometimes quite volatile Qld Itch but this was controlled by topical treatments and rugging. Usually the Itch cleared up during the winter months. After her 4th vaccination which was received at the same time our other horses had their 5th vacs her itch rapidly deteriorated. She has now scarred herself around the withers from literally rubbing herself continually raw on anything she could find. We constantly have to clean up raw & bleeding wounds on her even now 8 months later. We are introducing herbal remedies into her diet to try and assist her. There has been no decrease of the itch even in the colder months. She also destroys many rugs in her efforts to get relief. She will not be vaccinated again.
9 Rhonda Sheather	Coppabella Qld	Fourrivers Jesse James - Gelding	4	350kg - Clydesdale	Un-diagnosed illness approx. 12 months prior to vaccination & mild Itch of which vet was aware of	Healthy	11/07/2014	2	24hrs after second of 2 initial injections swelling occurred around front legs and sheath. Strained to urinate suffered severe lethargy & swelling returned on both sides of the sheath. Swelling lasted for 4 days. Stiffness and lethargy for a few weeks. Is now quite spooked. Suffers Itch a 1 year round since vaccination.	Reported to vet	At time of reactions	had my pure Clydesdale gelding vaccinated on the 13 June 2014 and 2 needle 4 weeks later. He had initial swelling around the injection site that only lasted a few days with the first needle. Within 24 hours of the second needle he had swelling between his front legs and around the sheath. He had to strain to urinate was very lethargic and swelling in the neck returned on both sides. (injected on alternate sides). He had been microchipped when he was gelded so I knew the swelling was not a reaction from implanting the microchip. Swelling lasted for 4 days. And stiffness/lethargy for a few weeks. But has since become quite spooked compared to previously. He had been quite sick about a year before the vaccination but the treating hospital were unable to tell me what it was he had. He also suffered mild Qld Itch prior to vaccination but now has this all year round. The vaccinating vet had been aware of his prior illness. Informed the vet of symptoms at the time and when they rang when his booster was due. I tried to report on govt. drug and chemical register but couldn't find the Hendra vac on there (at that stage I was unaware that it wasn't registered).

10	Amanda Clifford		Seiding	15	B	Healthy			Ataxia swelling listlessness unable to lower neck and difficulty eating and drinking			My TB aged 19 at the time has a "probable" classification for APVMA - Ataxia swelling listlessness are the descriptions but he was honestly just "frozen" unable to lower neck and difficulty eating and drinking - horse was in work - dressage - elementary level - returned to work after fortnight
11	Moore		Mare	10	Oldie Pony				loss of hair			Over 87 mare (show horse) lost all hair within 2-3 days of 3th vac (no visible reactions prior)
12	Kristie Carmichael		Drumtop - Gelding	1	BT	Healthy			inoperable Tumor /various other (un-named) reactions			Drumtop 13 years old eventer inoperable tumour 11 months after vaccine also had other reactions
13	Dennis Richardson		Mare						swelling at injection site collapsed a week later spent half day lying down			3 days after single injection this time. Swelling continued till day 7. Eye is a giveaway to the pain. A week later she was in a state of collapse 3 hours or more and spent half the day lying down. Sparked up 5 weeks later
14	Charlie Fairley								abscesses to all four hooves approx 1 month post initial vac			abscesses Broke out in all four feet a month or more after first vaccination shot.
15	Pansy Plant		Seiding						itchy hair loss for the year post vac			no starting to feel trapped now and no idea what to do...After my horse having patchy skin for the last year...which he had never had before I vaccinated him...I DO NOT want to redo him. I never gave him his 6 month booster and at the beginning of his month got an email saying he is due on the 12th February...12 months after his first ever vaccination. I know if I don't do it they won't come out but I don't want to be spending hundreds of dollars either trying to keep him comfortable like I have for the last year.
16	Gue Middleton		Seiding	31		Healthy other than mild Cushings			diarrhoea depression head pressing loss of appetite snotty nose legs so swollen there was no definition from hoof to knee wobbly gait muscle wastage temps over 40 about twice weekly euthanised			35 year old m ld cushings horse reacted within days of being vaccinated. Happy comfortable retiree with no obvious illhealth except for the curly cushings coat had diarrhoea depression head pressing loss of appetite snotty nose legs so swollen here was no definition from hoof to knee wobbly gait muscle wastage temps over 40 about twice weekly. I was also told he vaccine was fully tested and safe for elderly horses. My horse eventually died from these conditions. His reactions were classified as "unlikely" by the APVMA as they considered him vaccinated "off label" i.e. contrary to label conditions.
17	Christine Topalov		Mare	23		Healthy			loss of mobility unstable			My 25 yr old horse went from kids jumping 60cm to tripping all the time with in a month of being vaccinated. She'd never been lame before and I was told by the vet she was now unrideable! My friend's old horse setted up (both became so arthritic) it's now dead - less than 12 months after the vaccine. It was being ridden at pony club with no problems. I'm not letting that vaccine near my other 20 year old mare! I believe the vaccine accelerated the development of the arthritis which considering her age would have been there already but to a much much lesser extent.
18	Unknown via Robbie Robertson		Seiding	7	B	Healthy			ITP	1	yes	My horse was euthanised on 4 September 2013 having been treated for ITP since June 2013. Prior to contracting ITP my horse was a frequent flyer with injury - he was very high spirited and enjoyed a daily hoon around his paddock that would always give me crazy! He was beautiful and very cheery. I had owned him for approximately 7 years - he was an OTS and I don't believe he had ever been neglected in his life! I bought him from his owner who had bred and raced him and he was loved by all. When he developed a nose bleed twelve days after his third vaccination we assumed he had smacked his nose - it would be typical of him! Stable and yard rest followed to ensure he didn't aggravate his nose. I did not know then that we would never saddle up again. He was treated and rested for the following weeks. About a week later he had developed intermittent lameness and swelling in his front legs. I was worried and booked him for x-rays to understand the leg issues. On 3 July 2013 he was diagnosed with ITP - he had purpura in his mouth nasal passages and throat blood in his urine and a very low platelet count. My vets were excellent and gave him the best of care - I am very grateful for their care. Over the next three months he received the best of care from everyone. Given he had a lot of stable time to prevent further injury or haemorrhage he was subjected to lots of visits and licorice treats from his human friends. We hoped the medication would be successful however once he was weaned from the drugs his platelet count went backwards and the decision to euthanise was made. During this time I had read anything I could find on ITP - mainly human journals and government pamphlets etc to understand what had happened. I also corresponded with Dr Jean Dodd in the US who was very informative. I was very sad and concerned when I was made aware of Faith's story - the similarities concerned me. However I had reported my horse's history to Zoetis had been assured his condition was on the register and if another horse presented with similar symptoms there would be that data available etc. I read the transcript of the ABC interview with Zoetis regarding Faith and it upset me when it was indicated Zoetis had never seen these types of symptoms. At the end of the day I hold a personal belief that the over vaccination protocol that is currently in place resulted in my horse's contraction of ITP. I wrote to Zoetis seeking compensation and a request they engage in ITP awareness on their label ing - they did not agree and that's life I guess.
19	Michelle Ross		Seiding			Small cancer located near eye			rapid increase in pre-existing cancer			have had my horses done. As I have just had to put my daughters horse down due to the spread of cancer around the eye. I feel thatched hendra needle has and did make it spread way quicker than normal. From the start he had a small mark on his eye had it removed while he was in the process he was hendra vaccinated and from there well the cancer went to town on him getting bigger and then spreading to the other eye. I spoke to my vet at the time then she hadpoko yo the main man at zoetis then he called me. Well that was a waste of time because all he could say was not the vaccine at all. He DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. Washed toff like water on a ducks back. I asked the question to him to take him for research into whether the hendra needle added to it spreading faster. His response was No it's cancer it happens and that's it and it's my bad luck. Very sad I say. I tried quite a few vets to take him for research but guess what there's not testing and no one was interested in taking him on. Now that's even sadder I feel.
20	Veronica Caton		Mare						Welts on neck & belly stiff neck shakes & runny nose			My mare had the welts over her neck & one under her belly she was paralyzed in the neck too. She had the shalaks & a running nose. I thought it was just from the weather that she caught a cold. So I nudged her & stabled her & keep a close eye. I never thought it may be a reaction!!! She was ok in a few day. I did ring my vet. & was told about 5 horses along with mine had the hakes & so nothing to worry about
21	eroy Lillian	NSW	Mare	9		Healthy		20/03/2013	sudden death			My beautiful 9 year old mare died suddenly on good Friday after receiving her hendra booster on 20 March. Autopsy clear of any obvious pathology. Behaving normally at meal time the night before. The causal link seems clear - awaiting lab results. I have lodged a report online to the Department. Meanwhile I wait and grieve
22	Shelby Alice Weyt		Seiding	7					appeared to rock on back legs collapsed when got under saddle			He went a bit weird after second would rock on back feet randomly like he shut off in paddock- believe he did it under saddle yesterday as he simply fell over on top of me and layed there for a bit before getting up like nothing happened (we were simply walking in a small circle)
23	Michelle Amanda		Seiding	30	Arab				impacted balance - Would fall when head was down			My 30 yr old Arab came to me after 1st needle seemed fine had second and would fall over his food bucket. No reason at all just would put head down n he would go over. Vets were wanting to do X-rays of his head and all sorts of scans thinking it was a tumour I didn't end up doing it but never vaccinated him again n he stopped doing it after about 6 months
24	Melynda Roberts								Ataxia Disorientation Injection site reaction Lethargy and stiffness after initial injection			Ataxia Disorientation injection site reaction Lethargy and Stiffness after initial injection

25	Kristen Bates-Taunton	Multiple horses							dull coat - long hairs anhidrosis EMS				have one that gets horrid coat after each vacc. Very dull and grows long cat hairs. Also have had laminitis, anhidrosis and EMS develop in others. I have had a horse die on the operating table because of an exclusion test taking too long. What was upsetting was that they took him into the vet hospital the weekend before he coliced when he hit his head. No questions asked. But when he coliced 3 days later they wouldn't take him til a negative Hendra test. He was a stabled Riding Pony stallion. Of course test was negative but by the time they opened him up to operate his stomach had ruptured.
26	acquí Stocker	gelding							itchy bleaching infections high body temp (intermittant)				have just noticed my gelding has light coloured blobs coming out on his legs. He's a dark bay. Also has lots of erections & his body temp seems very hot at times. Still sweats but puffs.
27	Carole Isaacs	Mare			healthy		No itch		severe itch				My mare developed severe itch after the first booster. I was required to have her vaccinated as a condition of her aglignment. She is 6yo and has never had itch before. Eight months down the track she is still itching. I worked in a Saddlery for 6 months and spoke to at least 20 other horse owners who described exactly the same reaction after the first booster was given.
28	Ron Collins	filly - Mare	26		healthy				Colic - Died				We lost our beautiful mare Nikita four days after the hendra needle with a severe attack of colic in the sma l intestine. She was twenty six years old and never had colic in her life. My two other horses were also done without any problems. It is difficult to think rationally when something like this happens but I still feel that the vaccination caused it. The reason I had this done in the first place was because of all the fear that was created when the virus broke out. It appears that people who try to do the right thing have become the victims of this little studied vaccine. The EA By-Law does not make sense. If it is so deadly how can you run any comps with horses not vaccinated? Also I have been told that to get the virus yourself it must be in the bloodstream and that's how those two vets died when they were doing tests on a horse that died from the virus.
29	Fennille Schaefer	Mare			healthy				severe rapid weight loss immediately post injections				My mare lost south weight the first time she had it she was skin and bone we fed her up and for her nice and fat ready for the six month injection only for the same thing to happen from nice and fat to skin and bones in less than five days after having the injection and down and depressed was a drastic weight loss in such a short period of time. We did tell the vet but they didn't worry about it
30	Anonymous	Mare			healthy	healthy		2 Of initial injections	Neurological issues seizures prolonged cough	Zoetis & vets		Dec-13	I nearly lost my mare (neurological seizures etc) 2 wks after her 2nd vaccine 5 vets couldn't diagnose the cause and as soon as I would bring up the fact she was vaccinated two wks earlier with the second Hendra vaccine I was shut down. I reported it to Zoetis spoke with their vet Richard LeStrange who reassured me it wasn't connected to the vaccine. I bred my mare who has been in the same paddock for 8 years now no feed changes no other environmental changes and has always been in good health only change I could come up with was the Hendra vaccine. we also found a paralysis tick on her however she has had one on her before without reacting. Its difficult to prove any connection to the vaccine as vets are reluctant to go there understand why they would be as they want to protect themselves and their fam lies. I searched the internet for weeks after my mare went through this (back in December 2013) however couldn't find anything on adverse reactions to Hendra vaccine just a great deal of info pointing to the manufacturer Zoetis have you heard of any other horses having fits neurological signs? My mare also had a cough for several months after and seems to be more susceptible to colds now and more sensitive after being shod. Im back out competing on her but wonder how many other people havnt been as lucky as me and have lost their horse(s). I also had our pony vaccinated no issue at all so it seems to be random. I decided not to get the booster done after what I went through with my mare so neither were done. I would be interested in finding a vet who is open to looking at the possibility that the Hendra vaccine can potentially cause adverse reactions in some horses. I think horse owners have a right to know that there is the potential for an adverse reaction and let them decide wether they want to take the risk.
31	Anonymous	Mare			Mild itch	healthy			severe and prolonged itch				had a mare that had only minor itch that was easily managed with lotions. Never warned that she shouldn't be vaccinated. since the itch has become uncontrollable even with depred injections. I have ended up giving her away to someone outside of itch area. it was awful and also cost me thousands as the mare had to be given away.
32	Kathryn Covic	gelding x 2							severe swelling at injection sites permanent hair discoloration at injection sites severe weight loss for one horse - continued stomach issues swelling glands diarrhea loose stiffness depression	vet			I had 3 horses vaccinated and 2 of them had reactions both with massive swelling. Not eaten for days. 1st horse has now got a permanent black patch on his neck where swelling was and 2nd horse has a permanent white patch that has to be dyed due to him being a show horse. he also has stomach issues since his 2nd vaccine he gets massive toxin build ups that make his flans swell extremely tight muscles in his neck and servers diarrhea this happens on a regular basis in which we have to get him acupuncture on a regular basis otherwise he becomes unrideable (bucking) goes off his feed and looses weight instantly becomes very depressed. This has become very costly to us and before the hendra vaccination none of these issues were here. we also reported to the vet of our issues and they told me its normal. but got a second opinion from another vet and he told me no horse should react in this way after showing him the lumps. he also informed me he was against vaccinating until all testing and results are done ( he is a top race horse vet ) and said the racing industry is not doing it because the vaccine is causing to much reactions and would cost the racing industries to much in lost stock and non performance. so if the racing industry is not being forced to vaccinate then why should we. I have refused to have the 3rd vaccination done on my horses as I do not want to loose them or increase what they have suffered from having the injections
33	Anonymous	gelding	3 WB						fever lethargy swollen glands high temp 41.2 staggering thick pusy discharge from nose and eyes				My 5yo WB gelding was done in late august. After the first shot he developed a slight fever and lethargy for 6 days managed with bute etc. We did not necessarily put it down to the vaccine as the stable he was at had had a few with sim lar symptoms previously that week. He had his second injection he became extremely ill with swollen glands temp of 41.2 staggering and thick pusy discharge from the nose and eyes. The vet looked down the place convinced he had strangles! He was kept in isolation and treated daily. All tests came back negative and mire exhaustive tests were carried out with nothing being found. The horse was unwell for 6 weeks before full recovery and even our vet could find no other explanation except the vaccine. I did not get any of my horses their 6 month booster and quite frankly am terrified to do this particular boy ever again.
34	Narelle Rudder Luman	3 x horses			healthy		Jul 13		inappetence High temp depression bloody discharge lipped foal temporary sterility in sown breeding stock				Vaccinated 5 horses July 2013 2 older horses with no reaction at time 1 15yo QH gelding off his feed depressed high temp or 24 - 48 hrs. 1 5yo WB preg mare off her feed depressed high temp and bloody discharge resulting in slipped foal within a few hours of injection. 1 6yo RP/SH stallion high temp off feed 24 hours. When serving our mares for 2013 with our vaccinated stallion none went in first cycle took a few cycles and believe they went in Jan/Feb haven't preg tested so am waiting to foal soon. 1 older mare that I vaccinated is normally a VERY horsey mare but failed to come into season naturally so needed her in an which brought her on in a few days.
35	Charlotte Craig	gelding	WB		healthy - fit	healthy			ocalised swelling Stiffness ethargy Sweating heavy ly and gasping for breath when worked tightly inappetence				I had my warmblood vaccinated late last year against hendra and his reaction was minor I guess his entire neck was swollen and he was extremely stiff but a few doses of bute and some time off training fixed it. However his reaction to his 6 month booster was much worse! He had it around Easter and I was advised by my vet to give him some bute after the vaccine. This made sure he had no swelling or a temp but I gave him some time off anyway. I thought everything was fine until I brought him back into work nearly 2 weeks later! Normally he is extremely hot and spooky to ride and he is also a fit performance horse that competes regularly but he was dead and lethargic! It was so out of character After only 10min gentle warm up work he would be dripping in sweat and gasping for breath! He went off his food so I had a vet out to take bloods to see if he was sick but results came back with nothing because it wasn't a virus plus no other horses on the property were showing signs of being sick. This went on for about a month now he is back to normal and is fine



### Register of Refusal to Treat Due to No/Lapsed HeV Vaccination

Horse Owners Details	Location	Horse Name & Sex	Horse Age	Horse Weight & Breed	Details of Illness/Injury at time of Event	Reason Why Vac Lapsed/Not given	Last Vaccination Date	Description of Reaction	Reported To Vet/Zoetis/AVPMA Yes/No	Date Reported	Additional Notes
1	Jacki Dillon	Old	Bay - Gelding	18	Colic	Never vacced					Friday morning at 8:45 am we noticed he wasn't himself and had all symptoms of colic. Rung MANLY road vets and they denied to attend. Spent all day ringing vets trying to find someone to come out and attend my horse. At 6 pm Friday night we finally found a vet that would attend and then under went scans x-rays and checks. To find out my horse had twisted his intestines and popped his stomach and was to far gone and was put to sleep. I have over 7 horses and not one of them is vaccinated and I will not vaccinate any of them. The Hendra vacco isn't 100% proven to prevent Hendra. I had and friend vaccinate her horse for Hendra and she almost lost him
2	Malanda Masters	Old									My horse has not been Hendra vaccinated as he hadn't even been to a vet I bought him unhandled in November. I called Gympie Veterinary surgery in regards to having him ultrasounded as he has a undescended testicle and will require surgery to have it removed. He had never been to a vet before and this was in January I called. They asked if he was Hendra vaccinated after I enquired in regards to if they ultrasounded and they said yes. Anyway when I said no he's not vaccinated they said sorry we don't deal with unvaccinated horses
3	Hollie Anne Edwards										lost my horse 3 weeks ago after being refused treatment for my horse not being vaccinated. Name: Ellie Age: 3 Breed: clydesdale General health: was good apart from bad feet and struggling to keep weight on Symptoms of illness: loss of condit on labored breathing with fluid coming from the nose and high temperature Vets response: I was to do to bring the horse in by receipt onists no Hendra questions were asked once I got the horse in there the vet said she rightly doubts Hendra but would not treat but would take blood tests to rule out Hendra which incurred a \$200 suit up fee once this was done the vet gave a pain killer and took samples and sent me on my way and said my horse would most probably die over night which she lasted 2. They give her a shot of antibiotics and pain killers but it did very little she should have been in full 24 hr care they diagnosed her with liver issues which causes fluid to go into her lungs and pool around the bottom of her organs. They basically said they could do nothing because of the risk even though the vet said she was 99% sure it was not Hendra and that it is greatly unlikely to catch Hendra
5	Courtz Altenkirk (not the banner)										Date: October 22nd 2014 Booster: First ever Hendra vaccine Health: both horses healthy, one was eventer show gelding and other her young mare that she was training for competing. Both were up to date with 2 in 1 and dental. Farrier came out every month and she did trims herself if needed in between, chiro came out every 14 days to check horses over (especially her eventer). No problems prior to vaccinations. Reactions: Her young mare went loco, started lunging at people just mere days after vaccine. Would kick and bite if when into paddock. She was declared too dangerous and had to be put down. Her eventer also went loco but not as extreme, just would buck and kick around when ridden, this continued for a further 7 months slowly getting better in that time, she refused to vaccinate him in case the same happened which would put him out of work for another 7 months which means out of training and any competitions. She couldn't compete on him without being Hendra vaccinated but she couldn't compete if he was vaccinated either. She had to end up selling the horse as she had spent about \$5000 buying him for competing but couldn't compete. Age: Mare was 4 and gelding 12/13 was 5 Breed: Mare was Stock horse cross Thoroughbred and gelding 12/13 was Warmblood cross thoroughbred
6	Deb Hage										In November last year I travel ed to Sydney from just near Toowoomba Old for an annual family holiday. My 15 year old daughter was caring for my 5 horses, one which was 3 weeks from her due date. So very heavily pregnant. I left on the Thursday. On Sunday afternoon I got a frantic call from my daughter to say my pregnant mare, Shahia, was refusing to eat and wanting to lay down. I called my vet and explained I was in Sydney and what my daughter had said. I remember saying "its probably nothing but can you go and check" He went out Sunday arvo and checked her over. He rang me to say he felt it was the foal moving into position and has made her uncomfortable. He gave her pain killers and did a rectal examination. My daughter rang me in the early hours of Monday morning to say she had not improved and now had watery diarrhoea. I rang the vet again and that's when he asked me if she Hendra vaccinated, which as my only vet he knew she wasn't. He then told me he could not treat her until she had an exclusion test done. He said he would do a rectal examination and give her pain killers but could not do anymore until the test came back. I told him to go ahead and do the test. I rang two other vets to see if they would treat her but they both said no and one vet said now that an exclusion test was done "no vet was allowed to enter my property and I was not allowed to move her off my property until the test comes back. I was frantic and rang my head vet, same practice, he said that the vet who initially treated her said she did not show any of the clinical signs of Hendra but due to the DPI laws they could not treat any unvaccinated horses. I asked him why I wasn't informed of his new policy and he said they were working on doing a letter as we speak. I actually received the letter in the post 3 weeks later. Anyway Tuesday I started driving back from Sydney. I rang the vet at 9 am to see if the bloods result had come back. He told me that they hadn't been sent as they couldn't spare the man power to get the bloods down to DPI and they wouldn't go until 11 pm that day, 2 hours after taking the bloods!! He said "I could get someone to drive them to DPI in Brisbane I would get the results faster. I rang my eldest daughter and she said she would take them. She had to sign a waiver to say she took full responsibility. He rang at 5 pm to say her test results were negative but he couldn't do more for her and I should consider putting her to sleep. This is what I was not prepared to do. I rang Galton Uni veterinary hospital and they asked if she was vaccinated or if she had the exclusion test done and said they couldn't see her unless she had either. I explained she had the exclusion test and was negative but they asked for my beta name to check. She rang back and said to bring her down (immediately). This is on Wednesday at 1 pm, my mare had been unwell since Sunday afternoon, 3 days!!! She was diagnosed with Colitis which has a 50% fatality rate if not treated in the first 2 to 8 hours! Things didn't look good. She was a fighter and fought a good fight. After 13 days and ALOT of money he came home. I have since started the vaccination treatment, not because I want to, but I never want to see one of my horses suffer that way again. The only reaction I have had is a swollen neck for 2 weeks. This whole experience has made me lose faith in the vets and the DPI

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July 2015, my horse was foraging through dust to scab the last of grain that fell on the dusty ground he got some sort of bacteria infection, I tried fixing it myself, but I truly needed an antibiotic, so I approached the chinchilla vets for some help, they informed me of Hendra and before they could see him they would have to give him a titre test, I replied he has had it or 2wks and if he had Hendra he'd be dead by now and told them I didn't need their services, as they were being ridiculous and no I would get him vaccinated. Then in Feb 2016 same horse got colic after giving him his first treatment of beer oil etc. he didn't come good, so worried I rang a vet in Brisbane a 2 hr clinic, they couldn't help me and put me onto the Gatton Equine centre, who informed me that I would need a titre test before they could see him and I would be advisable to get him Hendra vaccinated to be safe?? then when they found out I was Miles away, they informed me I could only see them with a referral, and they put me onto a vet in Dalby the vet in Dalby told me I would have to have a titre test, he would be quarantined for 14 days and nobody could go near him (that made my blood boil) and then he would have to have the vaccine after the results of the titre test came back as they did not like treating horses who haven't been vaccinated, it was a matter of safety for them and their families etc. (all the vets I have rang seem to have said exactly the same thing) as you know I have ended up fixing him myself and he never would be alive today if I had to wait for some stupid test, I have lost all trust in vets and have chosen to research and learn as much as I can so my animals have a good life at my hands not some political money making scam.

7 Trudy Murphy

Another horse dies in Jimboomba after suffering from a colic all night, the horse had been vaccinated but was overdue for the booster. And please before the all the haters come saying it's only hear say these are f ends I have known for 20yrs and now are devastated because they couldn't get a vet.

8 Via Glenn Pearce

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