

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#); [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public Inquiry Submission Hendra Virus Vaccine  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 April 2016 8:44:45 AM

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Dear Committee,

I am a 53yo Australian horse owner who's life and finances have been dedicated to horses and the equine industry of Australia.

My horses are vaccinated for everything other than Hendra Virus. Upon the introduction of the vaccine I conducted my own research into the vaccine and decided there and then that this vaccine could pose a direct threat to my horses health and well being overall.

I also looked into the virus it's self and found it to be a very rare and fragile virus for which there was no epidemic and unlikely to be. The virus can be killed with ordinary soap and water and is not airborne.

Since the mandation of this vaccine by veterinarians I have been unable to use veterinarians any more.

There has never been a recorded case of Hendra Virus in a horse in my town or within 200km.

Yet there are no veterinarians that will treat my horses.

I am also watching the decline of the Equestrian Industry of Australia due to the segregation this mandation has caused within it. In my opinion people have been frightened into using this vaccine in order to compete by the over use of sales tactics such as "if your care about your family you will vaccinate" along with many other scare tactics used in advertising campaigns used by veterinarians and the manufacturers of the vaccine.

I am not discounting the fact that 4 people did die from this virus 7 years ago when the virus was unknown, they unknowingly transferred the virus between horses by the use of unsterilised equipment between horses.

They did not use PPE on themselves either and all contracted the virus from prolonged exposure to the bodily fluids of the infected horses. (I am trusting that you have already been supplied with evidence to prove this true).

Without human interference all other horses that have contracted this virus have been

singular with no other horses,  
people or animals in contact with the infected animals having tested positive for the virus.

It breaks my heart every time I hear of another child's pony or family pet that has died  
from a treatable illness  
whilst waiting for an exclusion test to prove to the veterinarian that the animal does not  
have Hendra Virus.

To my knowledge not one single test has come back positive at all.

Then there's the horses that are sick, dying or dead after the vaccine which seems to keep  
getting fluffed over  
by veterinarians as simply not true. (I am trusting you have been supplied with evidence of  
this also)

I believe the 15 minute stall side test that has been submitted to the inquiry or will be is a  
sensible compromise  
to this drastic situation.

If this test can be fast tracked unvaccinated sick horses can be tested for Hendra Virus and  
within 15mins

can be getting treated by a veterinarian who knows the horse does not have Hendra Virus.  
The vets can still have their Vaccine.

People would have a choice to use the vaccine or not.

No horse needs to die in pain waiting for the current 3/4 day exclusion test. (many have)  
Yes, a very sensible compromise.

I am thrilled that there is an inquiry into the use of this vaccine because this has been a  
long and difficult  
situation for the entire Equestrian industry of Australia which usually generates great  
amounts of money  
around Australia, rather than have that money in the hands of the share holders and  
foreign companies  
that own the vaccine.

I also strongly believe that the legislations surrounding and within the APVMA need to be  
looked into to  
make sure that this company is operating for the purpose it is intended for the safety of all  
Australian Animals.

Thank You for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours Sincerely

Jeany Heague

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Charters Towers QLD 4820




out to equine industry stakeholders as well as taking their own personal time to help boost vaccination in the community have been a significant part of the overall roll out of the vaccine and I thank them for this.

I also believe it is appropriate to re-affirm my personal commitment to ensuring that Zoetis continues to provide access to this vaccine for vets. Ever since my first discussion in 2010 with the then President of the AVA, we have been committed to standing side-by-side with equine veterinarians in helping them defend against Hendra virus; our commitment today is as strong as ever.

I recognise that veterinarians are one of the groups in the community most affected by the threat of Hendra virus and, for that reason, Zoetis continues to invest in ways to make it easier for members of your profession to promote vaccination.

Once again, I am sorry if my comments have personally caused any offense or anger to you and your members and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss any concerns further.

Kind regards,

  
General Manager, Zoetis Australia

## Minor Use Permit conditions

The Minor Use Permit places conditions on the supply, possession and use of the vaccine. Under the permit:

- › the vaccine may only be administered by veterinarians,
  - › the veterinarian must complete online training before they order the vaccine,
  - › all horses must be microchipped prior to vaccination, and
  - › the microchip and vaccination details must be entered by the veterinarian into the HeV Vaccine National Online Registry (managed by the vaccine manufacturer / supplier) within 48 hours of vaccination, and
  - › any adverse reaction, including lack of efficacy, resulting from the use of the vaccine must be reported to the vaccine manufacturer / supplier as soon as possible.
- The vaccine manufacturer / supplier must record any reported adverse reactions and must fully investigate and report all adverse reactions to the APVMA.

It is not permitted for veterinarians to advertise the sale of the vaccine to clients, but you can promote a vaccination service by using words such as "veterinarians can provide vaccination against Hendra virus in horses".

For full details of the supply and use of the vaccine under the Minor Use Permit see the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) Permit. The APVMA recommends that vets using the vaccine keep a copy of the permit available to refer to when discussing the vaccine with clients.

A Minor Use Permit is not equivalent to full registration of the vaccine. To reach full registration, a complete data package will need to be submitted by the vaccine manufacturer / supplier to APVMA detailing information on safety, efficacy, duration of protection and small scale application in the field to ensure the vaccine performs with the same level of efficacy in the field as under experimental conditions.

All the major insurers have this exclusion for horses that reside in or have visited Queensland. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have now fully registered the vaccine and therefore we can be assured that it is safe and effective; the APVMA are arguably the toughest veterinary pharmaceutical regulators in the world.

Some people believe everything they see on TV or that they read on Facebook, and this can dangerously result in uninformed decisions around protecting their horse & people from Hendra.

"There is a great deal of misinformation on social media"



arks in Queensland



# INTRICATOLENA

**I**ntricatolena was bred in Texas by Joel Hardy and in 2001 brought to Australia as a weanling by Winderadeen Quarter Horse Stud. He was by High Brow Cat from Ms Colonel (by Colonel Freckles).

Dale and Kirrily Simpkins purchased Intricatolena at the Winderadeen Dispersal Sale in 2010 for \$220,000. "We had been watching his foals, and thought he looked like a good producer. We thought if we went to America and bought a young colt it might not produce anything."

His progeny had been creating a lot of buzz and then just months after the dispersal sale a mare by Intricatolena won the NCHA Futurity. That mare was Winderadeen Whiskey Cat, owned by Jason Leitch. Jason also won the Classic Challenge on another good daughter of Intricatolena called Winderadeen Black Label Cat.

**Intricatolena has 220 registered progeny. Some of the best performers include:**

**Just A Busy Cat** - Barrel Racing

**King of the Cats** - cutting

**Katastic** - cutting

**Winderadeen A Smarty Cat** - cutting

**Winderadeen Blancas Cat** - campdrafting

**Winderadeen Black Label Cat** - cutting

\*2010 NCHA Classic Challenge Champion

**Winderadeen Catsaplavin** - cutting

**Winderadeen Grousekitty** - cutting

**Winderadeen Ms Shorty Cat** - cutting

\*2014 NCHA Classic Challenge Champion

**Winderadeen Scat Cat** - cutting

**Winderadeen Scotlynx** - cutting

**Winderadeen Whiskey Cat** - cutting,

campdrafting, stockmans challenges

\*2010 NCHA Futurity Champion

\*2011 Paradise Lagoons Stockmans

Challenge Champion

Kirrily describes Intricatolena as a friendly horse, and something of a softy. "He was the biggest sook but he was also cheeky and playful. When mares came to be served he would let out the loudest squeal, so loud it would scare you but that was it, he didn't misbehave. His bark was worse than his bite."

"We thought he would be so difficult, a big bad horse - but he was really a big baby."

Kirrily said they found Intricatolena sick

one morning when they went to feed him. "He was a tough horse but he was just standing trembling when we found him." The vet was coming that day to preg test some cows but that was put on hold to attend to the stallion. There were no gut sounds and he was given pain relief. Dale put him on a truck and left for a bigger vet centre so that they could do an ultrasound and see what was going on. "We suspected a twisted bowel and I was ready for them to operate."

In a devastating turn of events Dale was forced to turn back for home as the vet centre wouldn't take the horse as he wasn't vaccinated for the Hendra Virus. They quickly scrambled to get a Hendra test done and Intricatolena was given more pain relief. However, when Kirrily got back she found her beloved stallion had passed away.

Intricatolena was buried under the lone pine tree in his paddock.

Dale and Kirrily have a mare called Katastic and a 3-year-old filly by Intricatolena. They also have 6 foals due to be born in the coming months. They have a little frozen semen that they will use for themselves.



Sunday 17 March 2013

[REDACTED]

St Leonards  
NSW 2065

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to express my apologies to you, as well as the leadership and members of your organisation, for comments attributed to me in an article in the 16 March edition of *The Weekend Australian*, which reported on uptake of the Equivac HeV vaccine.

I expressed both disappointment and frustration that the vaccine to help control the human and equine life threatening virus had not yet been widely adopted. I know this is a frustration that our organisations share, especially considering the severity of this disease and the clear threat posed to the veterinary community.

I did not intend to assert that the veterinary community is falling short in its efforts to protect equine and human health in the face of the public health risk Hendra virus poses. Rather, I expressed my view that we can and should do more to educate the equine community about control of Hendra virus and the role of the Equivac HeV vaccine toward that goal.

Our work with the leadership of the EVA and the AVA, as well your members, has been a cornerstone of the success of Equivac HeV to date. I am personally very appreciative of the contributions you have given to the education and roll out programs we have been running during the past five months.

We value your commitment to battle Hendra virus and pledge to continue Zoetis' work with you and your members to educate the equine community and to obtain the required long-term immunity and safety data to secure full licensure.

It is my hope that we can continue to work together in this positive way to give equine veterinarians and their colleagues as much support as they need. Thereby helping to protect them, as well as everyone in close contact with horses, from the potentially deadly consequences of Hendra virus infection.

I also recognise the important contributions that your members have made in a voluntary capacity to assist in the adoption of Equivac HeV. Their work in reaching

## UPDATE: Correctly Advertising Hendra Vaccine

Dear Veterinarian,

Happy new year! Equivac HeV has now been available for two years, with over 300,000 doses administered. During this time the product has been available under a minor use permit, which brings with it a need to disclose the permit status of the product in any advertising or promotion. Zoetis includes the following disclaimer on all promotional materials relating to Equivac HeV:

***Equivac HeV and its active constituent are not registered. An application for registration/approval of the product and active constituent has been submitted to APVMA.***

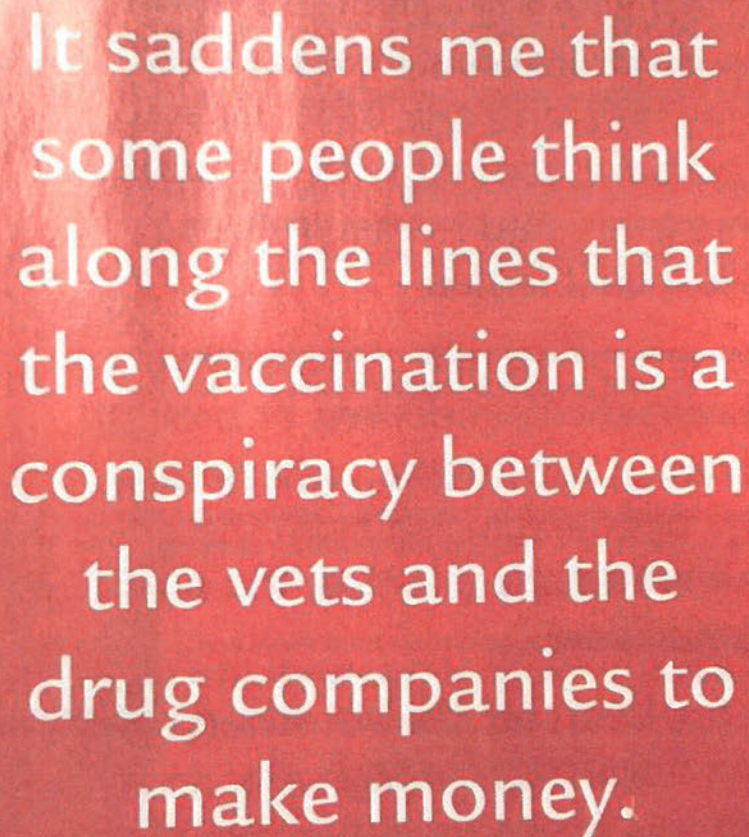
We recommend you also use this disclaimer on *any notice that you publish that offers to sell, or invites the making of offers to buy Equivac HeV* (this is the wording used in the relevant legislation) until the product is registered by the APVMA.

We thank you for your understanding and your support of Equivac HeV. With over 105,000 horses now vaccinated you have played a significant role in helping to reduce the threat posed by this virus.

Kind regards

The Equine Team at Zoetis

higher order risk management control measure and is reasonably practicable.



It saddens me that some people think along the lines that the vaccination is a conspiracy between the vets and the drug companies to make money.





## Vet vouches for virus vaccine

The Hendra virus is going to come to the region and if you care about your horses – and yourself – you'll vaccinate.

NORTHERNDAILYLEADER.COM.AU | BY FAIRFAX REGIONAL MEDIA

