

Sharon Kent

Beaudesert, Qld 4285

19<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Submission – Qld Parliament Hendra Vaccine Inquiry**

I have been employed for the past 5 years as a veterinary nurse at Scenic Rim Veterinary Service which is primarily equine based. During my time within the clinic the Hendra vaccine has been introduced and over 6000 doses have been given by our veterinarians. We have many horses residing at clinic being mainly embryo recipient mares comprising of varying breed/types. All these mares (approx 50 this season) are checked and vaccinated on arrival and continue to be vaccinated throughout their time here, most of which will be foaled down here, the foals are also vaccinated from 4 months of age and again there have been no adverse reactions in any of the foals. Having presented all these horses and many others to the veterinarian for vaccination I have seen one present with some localized swelling at the injection site post vaccination. She was administered Phenylbutazone paste for a few days and the swelling sub-sided quickly. I have seen worse reactions following an Equivac 2 in 1 at my previous work place. I enjoy my job and the vaccine has taken a lot of worry away from some of the day to day tasks performed.

The introduction of the vaccine has impacted the clinic from a health and safety point of view as much of the human risk has been lowered by the vaccine, therefore when admitting or treating sick horses that are up to date with the vaccine it gives the staff peace of mind that the risks are lowered immensely.

Being a busy equine clinic the knowledge that horses are vaccinated prior to sending vets to attend makes the visit more straight forward rather than having to explain the Hendra exclusion procedure and then the vet having to explain the use of PPE and the taking of exclusion bloods on arrival.

As a horse owner myself I have vaccinated all my horses (3) from June 2013 with no adverse reactions. I attend Riding Club level competitions and believe any conscientious horse owner would vaccinate as there is risk to human life.

The cost of the vaccine is very reasonable when compared to other ongoing costs associated with horses (i.e.: farriers, chiropractors, rugs/tack, competition fees and transportation etc).

My horses are important to me and I wish for them to get the best veterinary care if required. People who choose not to vaccinate make that choice knowing that their horse may not get immediate treatment but cannot put blame onto veterinarians who are following Workplace Health and Safety protocols for the protection of themselves, staff and human life in general.

Regards

Sharon Kent