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Submission – QLD Parliament Hendra Vaccine Enquiry

As a horse owner and employee within an equine veterinary hospital I would like to express my personal opinions, feeling and experience relating to the Hendra vaccine.

Working within the veterinary industry and being an active horse rider and competitor is was a great relief when the hendra vaccine was released, not only for my own safety, but for the safety of every individual who is in contact with horses. I have personally been involved with 5 horses belonging to my family which have not displayed any evidence of adverse reaction to the vaccine at the time of administration and thereafter. I have also witnessed the vaccination of resident horses at the veterinary hospital and many client horses of which I have not personally visualised a reaction.

As strongly as I feel that the Hendra vaccine has made a positive change to the equine industry, I do have two main concerns listed below, which I believe if addressed will encourage more horse owners to vaccinate.

1. Not having released evidence of study relating to the efficacy length of the vaccine. I believe owners will be more willing to vaccinate their horse if the booster was given at a 12 month interval. I believe this as many horse owners have a fear of over vaccination, and simply cannot afford the cost of the vaccine when given at a 6 month interval.
2. The cost of the vaccine is practical for someone who only owns 2-3 horses, however when people own large amounts of horses it becomes extremely expensive which is also discouraging owners to vaccinate their horses.

I do strongly believe if these issues are addressed the percentage of horses vaccinated will increase.

Kind Regards
Jennifer Thake