

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Robert Hansen](#)  
**Subject:** Hendra Vaccine Enquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 April 2016 3:38:18 PM

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The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry  
C/- Mr Rob Hansen  
Parliament House  
Brisbane  
Queensland 4000  
Phone: 07 3553 6660

Dear Mr Hansen,

**RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry**

I have been a registered veterinarian in QLD since 1982 and currently own a mixed practice in S.E.QLD. I have a large number of horse clients that are all vaccinating their horses willingly with no unexpected truly adverse reactions.

To date we have administered approximately 3000 doses of Equivac HeV vaccine with less than 10 vaccine reactions, non of which have been extreme or unexpected. All reactions have been a localised muscle soreness at the injection site. Only 2 or 3 of these have required treatment with anti-inflammatory medication and all have recovered in 48 hrs.

I am confident that the vaccine has been extensively studied and trialled and proven to be extremely safe to use. This vaccine provides an extremely good protection from Hendra virus infection in the horse, which in turn stops the virus infecting people.

In our area the vaccination of horses against Hendra virus is imperative if

- (a) horses are to receive all the routine and emergency treatment that is required for best practice husbandry and welfare, and
- (b) we, as the treating veterinary surgeons, are able to practice in a safe environment free of the unnecessary risks and stress associated with dealing with non Hendra vaccinated horses.

My practice policy to only treat Hendra vaccinated horses is designed to allow my staff to work in a workplace that provides a very low risk as regards exposure to a Hendra infected horse. As a practice we have invested highly in staff and client education around this topic and will continue to do so.

My family breeds and competes horses in a variety of disciplines and I am a member of PCAQ, ASHS, EQ, and ACA. I represent PCAQ on the HBMALG and the QHIA, and am on the Chief Instructors Panel of PCAQ. This broad industry experience gives me an appreciation of the diverse views within the horse world on all issues not the least of which is the subject of mandatory vaccination of horses attending events.

My opinion is that in high risk areas the best practice approach for biosecurity, animal welfare and OH&S at horse events is that all attending horse should be protected from Hendra virus by vaccination. Any other approach is a lower tier approach.

In closing I urge you to consider all the factual evidence produced and disregard the unproven scaremongering and push the horse world into a greater uptake of vaccination and thus protection against this unnecessary risk of Hendra virus infection in our horses.

Yours sincerely

Rod Howard B.V.Sc.

Principle

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