

19 April 2016

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

By email: robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

My name is Dr Roxanne Thompson, and I am an equine veterinarian located at Kuranda, Queensland, having previously been located in Brisbane, Queensland. I have been in veterinary practice for four years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine.
- The development, trials and approval processes of the vaccine
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option.

Working in Brisbane, as a clinic we had administered over 2500 doses of the Hendra Vaccine. Out of the doses administered we have had reported approximately 20 adverse reactions, by far the most common presentation being a lump at the injection site which resolved with no medical treatment required. The second most common being a stiff neck, which resolved with administration of phenylbutazone (Bute; Ranvet) a non steroidal anti-inflammatory paste once daily for up to five days. I personally have not witnessed nor had any adverse reactions reported to me that have been of any increase in severity. As I have alluded to, all cases of adverse reactions I have seen have resolved satisfactorily, some with no further medical intervention.

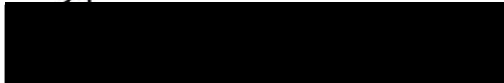
I have no reason to doubt the safety or efficacy of the Hendra Virus vaccination. It has been subjected to and passed rigours clinical trials which I have no reason to have any doubt in. I feel that it remains the most effective way of managing the catastrophic work health and safety, public safety and equine welfare risk posed by Hendra virus. When there is a vaccination that is the most effective means of disease prevention and transmission of such an important zoonotic virus, it is incomprehensible to me that as an employee I should be put in a position of great health and ultimately life risk during my daily work activities.

I understand and appreciate the notion of free choice and that some (a minority) of owners are taking the stance of free choice and are choosing not to vaccinate; I too as a professional should be able to have the free choice to make an informed and educated decision on a case by case basis as to the risk involved to myself and any one else under my responsibility as to whether the risk to mine and their safety is too great to provide veterinary treatment to that horse if it is not vaccinated against Hendra virus. Having the horse vaccinated against Hendra Virus mitigates this high level risk,

allowing us to safely provide care and treatment to vaccinated horses using the standard biosecurity measures acceptable for standard day to day veterinary practice.

Vaccination with the Hendra virus vaccine remains the most effective way of preventing Hendra virus infection in horses and the subsequent catastrophic transmission to people.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roxanne Thompson BVetMed MRCVS

Kuranda and Mareeba Veterinary Services



Kuranda

Queensland

4881