

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Enquire into Hendra Virus

I'm a Riding Coach/Competitor on a small Training, Breeding and Agistment property on the Qld boarder. After talking with our local vet back in 2012, he voiced concerns about the Hendra Vaccine roll out and mandatory requirement by EA to compete and advised me to hold off until he felt confident with the vaccine. I had a number of beautiful German and Dutch competition horses here plus some breeding stock.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: A number of our agistees went ahead and Vaccinated and one by one all of these horses have shown some adverse reaction, from a simple sore necks, swelling and sweats to life threatening conditions that develop as the immune system seem to become overloaded. I also had a number of clients who came for regular lessons and noted a number of cancellations because of reported reactions to the Vaccine. I will use one agistees experience here as an example, a bay gelding rising 14yrs became mildly lame over a number of weeks, so was taken to a vet over the boarder, he miss diagnosed the problem and gave it cortisone for what turned out to be a abscess, with in three days the horse was seriously lame(of coarse you say, wrong treatment). So owner called in the local vet who correctly treated the problem but because of the cortisone horse's immune system was compromised and now the owner has the perfect storm brewing, lowered immune system from the cortisone and the Hendra Vaccination. After nine months and three vets later the horse is now in the care of the Gatton Uni and after radical treatment their advise was to give him a week and if no improvement euthanasia him??? With, no discussion as why a simple abscess has turned in to a life threatening situation, luckily for this horse the owner came across a naturopath who assisted in his rehabilitation by building up his immune system. There is plenty of hearsay evidence from clients of hair loss, itch, loss of condition and behaviour changes and another who had a lesson only today told me that there Royal Hack(\$\$\$\$) is now in the paddock unable to be used again and will try the naturopath my agistee used as there last desperate hope.

VET, NO VAC NO TREATMENT POLICY: The saddest thing of all for me, Vaccine solely to protect the horse from non-treatment by a vet. My vets have been part of our team here, my first thoughts when a horse suffers from a reaction, was to get the vets to study his reaction in hope that it would help other horses, I couldn't see why vets were so unwilling to discuss the possibility of reactions by vaccinating so frequently. As soon as I read into the liability of the use of the product I realised (silly me) this was never going to happen. No vet or drug company were ever going to accept the reactions as they would accept legal liability in doing so. I must state here that the vet we use locally has been very supportive of our right to choose not to vaccinate at this time.

MADATORY POLICIES FOR EVENTS: This has been one fabulous sport, where the highest expectation is held for sportsmanship. Now because of a few out spoken vets using innuendo and a fear campaign we find we are not all equal, if we have not vaccinated you may find you are not welcome and no risk assessment available for scrutiny?

COST PROHIBITIVE: Owning a horse is expensive full stop, I recently bought a horse I paid \$45,000 and I'm not prepared to risk his health with this vaccination.

Yours Faithfully

Dawn McKenzie

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