

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Robert Hansen](#)
 Subject: Objections to mandatory Hendra vaccination
 Date: Monday, 18 April 2016 10:57:02 AM

Dear Sirs

I wish to record my strong objections to the compulsory vaccination of all Queensland horses for Hendra virus. I have two miniature horses. My objections are as follows:

Leading Vets acknowledge Hendra virus is rare & hard to transmit so mandatory Hendra vaccination is superfluous

I quote from an article published in *The Horse Report*, 2nd September 2015 written by Dr David Lovell BSVC whose assistant Dr Ben Cunneen died from Hendra virus

- “The reality is that firstly, Hendra disease is extremely rare”
- “Secondly, it is not that easy to become infected from a horse”
- “Human exposure to a horse with Hendra, has to be reasonably close or invasive, for the disease to transmit”
- “In most cases, common sense and reasonable precautions would be reasonably safe”
- “The disease is not highly contagious and needs significant exposure to bodily fluids from the horse for transmission”

Vaccination whether in humans or horses has unpredictable side effects

- Vaccination side effects cannot be predicted before vaccination
- High levels of toxins are present many months after a Hendra vaccination has taken place → I have miniature horses so they are more vulnerable to overdosing and increased side effects →
- Well documented reports of horses falling sick or dying after a Hendra vaccination:-
 - The vaccine could be wholly responsible
 - Vets now refusing to attend an unvaccinated sick horse so a pre treatment vaccination may fatally exacerbate the existing condition

Vets can take simple precautionary measures to attend a sick horse

- Not all horse complaints produce mucous or bodily fluids so no need to Hendra vaccinate – see above quotes from Dr David Lovell BSVC
- In mucous producing ailments, vets can don biohazard protection garments
- Dentists, also traffic police testing for drivers with alcohol, wear nitrile gloves to prevent HIV cross infection → but patients and drivers not required to have HIV vaccinations, ditto neither should horses and Hendra

Deliberately created hysteria about potency of Hendra virus

- Monopoly of one company producing Hendra vaccine → unacceptable in a human medicine situation so why in horses?
- Vets being prosecuted for not wearing protective clothing by Queensland Government →
 - Why? None of the treated horses of prosecuted vets had Hendra – over zealous and heavy handed exercise of power for the sake of power
 - Why is the judgement of your highly qualified and experienced vets not trusted?
 - Which monopoly companies/interest groups are promoting compulsory vaccination:

- Individuals are not compelled to have the annual flu vaccine/or rabies/or shingles/or tetanus/or whatever vaccinations to receive medical treatment
- Horse owners are the most passionate of animal owners but they are resisting mandatory vaccination → must be cogent reasons

Bats are the transmitters of Hendra virus


Cull the bats in a high density bat population area

- Unacceptable because Australian wild life is protected→
 - Horses are expendable
 - You can't make a dollar out of eliminating an over density of bats
 - You can make lots of dollars from horse owners
 - Easier to threaten the livelihoods of hard working vets
 - Easier to terrorise horse owners
 - Make money for a monopoly company
 - Ignore farmers complaints about over density of bats as it's "an environmental" protectionist issue→ bad farmers, bad horse owners, makes too much all round logical sense
 - Protect the culprit and blame the victim i.e. it chose to be a horse when it could have been a human pharmaceutical giant or a protected bat

Mandatory Hendra Vaccinations are a threat to horse health and welfare

- Vets are being bullied by threatened prosecution into insisting on Hendra vaccination before attending a sick horse irrespective of it not producing mucous or bodily fluids
- Vets can easily don protective clothing → if not, why not, why blame the horse
- Hendra virus is rare and hard to transmit, see above quotes from David Lovell BSCV
- Horses will suffer by non attendance of a vet if the horse isn't vaccinated
- Vaccination of a sick horse in order to receive vet treatment may result in its death as, even in humans, a sick patient is never vaccinated
- Many horse complaints and diseases do not produce mucous or bodily fluids so a Hendra diagnosis is unlikely→ no need for a Hendra vaccination
- Horse owners can be prosecuted for not obtaining medical assistance for their sick animal, yet a non attending vet attracts no official censure or responsibility
- Terminally sick animals will be denied euthanasia if not vaccinated but owners, not the vet who refuses to attend a sick animal, will be liable to prosecution → meanwhile the horse suffers unnecessarily
- Horse owners know all about their pets being a money pit but their objections to mandatory Hendra vaccinations are based on the welfare of their horse and not pecuniary interest
- Problem of knowing whether a horse is healthy enough to be vaccinated in the first place
- Why don't the powers that be listen to the loving owners of the Queensland horse

Yours sincerely



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