

21st 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 aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Submission to Hendra Virus Vaccine Inquiry

This has become a very emotive issue which is dividing the anti and pro vaccinators for the Hendra virus and it appears to me that the veterinarian has been caught in the middle of this issue purely because he/she is just trying to do their job and provide the best to their community and clientele.

Research has and is ongoing and the majority of people are prepared to vaccinate their horses to ensure they and their families are protected against this certain death and we are all really looking forward to the day an annual booster is found!

However I for one am heartily sick of the vendetta the anti vaccinators have against vets. They continually voice their opinions to all and sundry ie, enormous threat to their hip pocket and horses (in that order), just another way of vets making money from them!! Information and education is a powerful tool and might be a blessing if they availed themselves of the facts.

I believe all people have the right of choice on whether or not to vaccinate, but when the choice is made not to vaccinate, then it also goes hand in hand that vets also should be allowed the same respect and choice on whether or not to consult that horse when and if it shows signs of possible hendra. All choices in this world come with consequences.

I am the wife and mother of vets, my husband has very successfully practiced in a mixed practice since 1977, and our daughter has practiced since 2010. I have seen my husband (as most vets also do) give his whole to his community and has never shirked his responsibility as a vet (at the expense of his family I might add). To date my husband has never refused to see a horse and so far has been lucky, but as we are all fully aware, luck has certainly run out for some already. What price do you put on your family and horses?

I find it very insulting the comments that are continually voiced by the anti vaccinators who also feel it is their right to demand that vets (including my husband and the father of our children) come out and treat their unvaccinated horse with the prospect of the horse and my husband possibly dying from this consult. Already having given all to his community, will the ultimate sacrifice be his death because he does what he loves.

I guess we can go on forever on this subject, but at the end of the day it is all about choice, but it must be the right choice, and again with that choice comes consequences.

Yours faithfully


KERRY MORLEY

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