

15 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](mailto:robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hansen,

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

My name is Dr Keith Law (Ka Nam Law), and I am an equine veterinarian located at Redlands Veterinary Clinic, Queensland. I have been in veterinary practice for 9 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.

Redlands Veterinary Clinic has vaccinated approximately 1500 horses, the majority of these vaccines I have personally administered. Aside from a few instances of mild localised swelling and pain at the site of the injection, which lasted 1-2 days, I have not had any reports of adverse reactions associated with the vaccine.

I believe the Hendra virus vaccine is very effective; to date there have been no cases of vaccinated horses contracting the virus, even when experimentally challenged.

The vaccine has greatly improved the safety of equine practice; we are no longer doing invasive procedures on horses that are not hendra vaccinated or potentially shedding Hendra virus.

The vaccine is critical for controlling the risk of an outbreak at equestrian events, which generally involve a high level of human-horse interaction.

Having seen first hand both human and horse cases of Hendra virus, I have greater peace of mind and feel safer when treating sick horses knowing that the horse is vaccinated against Hendra virus.

Anyone who has had to nervously wait for the result of a Hendra exclusion test would not dispute the value of the Hendra virus vaccine.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Keith (Ka Nam) Law B.VSc, D.V.M  
Redlands Veterinary Clinic



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