

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Hendra Virus Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 29 April 2016 6:31:33 PM

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Hendra virus (HeV) EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland

I have 2 horses that are about to have their 7th hendra vaccinations.

The Arab gelding has had absolutely no problems at all.

The 23 year old thoroughbred mare had no issues till the 5 th booster where she had what my vet called a mild reaction- temperature, all over stiffness, off colour and slightly off food. But within 24 hrs she was back to herself again, with no lasting effects. My horse's reaction was reported by my vet.

For the next vaccination, her 6 th booster, our vet recommended she have anti inflammatories and anti histamines at the time of the vaccination, to which she had no reactions with.

We are in an area where a Hendra case occurred and have bats frequently on our property.

Although we take other precautions of covering paddock water at night and stabling our horses, we still frequently have bat faeces and spat in our paddocks.

We like the added protection that the vaccine gives our horses and in turn us and our vets.

I am concerned that a small minority of people are pushing to have this perfectly safe vaccine removed from the market, preventing us choice of using it. I help run a hendra face book group, we have had reports from owners of hundreds of horses repeatably having the vaccine multiply times with no reactions reported and these horses going about normal work, from competition horses, races horses and breeding horses.

For more than 3 years I have searched the hendra vaccine information, searching for anything that could give me cause not to keep giving this vaccination to my horses.

I have found nothing that would make me concerned. I know and accept that all vaccinations and drugs cause a small percentage of reactions in certain individuals, unfortunately this will always happen, no matter how many times the vaccine is tested.

I believe the science behind this vaccination and I believe that the APVMA have found no reason to not register it, with reactions being in range of what they accept for all veterinary vaccines.

I know that Personal Protective equipment can help protect us (sadly not our horses, only the vaccine does that)

I also know that it is not fail safe and does frequently fail, which is why Qld Health has a mandatory vaccine policy for at risk employees.

In regards to our vets I believe it is a human right to have choice and particularly in dealing with such a rare but deadly virus.

Vets run small businesses and need to be able to have a say in which clients to see. A hendra case at their surgery could quarantine the business for weeks and place many at risk.

I believe that vets are struggling under the laws appointed them from the work health and safety, in particular that vets are responsible for horse owners actions, I believe that this should change, particularly in light of the new Biosecurity laws, which place more onus on us the land owners.

I would also like to point out that NSW DPI staff investigating Hendra cases can elect not to not work with animals known or suspected to be infected with Hendra virus.

[http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/74041/Policy-Hendra-Virus.pdf](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/74041/Policy-Hendra-Virus.pdf)

And what DPI Qld say about our vets.. Quote

Make a business decision whether cases of equine illness will be investigated (or NOT) and accept the responsibility to manage the risk associated with investigating potential HeV cases.

[https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/60282/Reduce-the-risk-planning-for-a-safe-work-environment.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/60282/Reduce-the-risk-planning-for-a-safe-work-environment.pdf)

So I have to ask you to consider why a small minority of people(many who are not even involved in the issue, think they can demand our vets not have this choice??

Regards  
Marian Williams

<http://apvma.gov.au/node/15786>

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/qhpolicy/docs/gdl/qh-gdl-321-9.pdf>

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