

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** My experience with the Hendra debacle  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 April 2016 11:49:26 AM

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Hi there ,

I'd like to put across my experience with this mess called Hendra .

In November 2015, I went away to NSW for my annual holiday from Upper Lockyer Qld.

My then 15 year old daughter was caring for my 5 horses, one being a heavily pregnant mare.

She rang me on the Sunday night , 15 th November to say that my heavily pregnant mare , will be known as Shahla , would not eat and wanted to lay down . I called my Toowoomba vet and he said he would go down.

He called around 5:45 pm to say it was just the foal repositioning itself and he gave her a sedative.

Late Sunday night my daughter rang frantic that Shahla was moaning and now had diarrhoea and still wouldn't eat. She took her temp and it was fine, she hadn't had a drink but was trying too. I called my vet again on Monday morning and he then asked me if she was Hendra vaccinated, which as my only vet, knew she wasn't . I said no. He then told me he couldn't treat her until she had the exclusion test but would go down to give her a rectal.

I told him to do the exclusion test . He went down and did the exclusion test on Monday at 3 pm. He also gave her a rectal examination and more pain relief.

I headed back to Qld very early Tuesday morning. I rang at 9 am Tuesday morning to see if there were any results from the DPI. He told me the test had not been sent and would not be sent until 4 pm that afternoon. As they didn't have the man power to take it down. He then asked me if I knew someone who could drive it to the DPI. I rang my eldest daughter in Toowoomba and she went to pick it up at 10:30 am. They made her sign a waiver to say that she was taking it at her own risk. She drove it down to Brisbane and got there by 12 pm.

He rang me at 5:15 pm Tuesday afternoon to tell me Shahla was negative for Hendra and the head vet told me that she showed no classic signs of Hendra but the vets hands were tied and they could not treat her. He then told me after 3 days of my horse suffering there was nothing they could do for her and it would be kinder to put her to sleep.

I wasn't prepared to do that as she was trying to live.

On Wednesday morning I rang the Gatton Uni veterinary hospital and the first thing they asked was she Hendra vaccinated or had an exclusion test. She was admitted Wednesday afternoon and was diagnosed with colitis which has a 98% fatality rate of not treated in the first 24 to 48 hours.

She survived and spent 13 days in hospital and had a beautiful Colt 7 days after release from hospital.

I have been forced to vaccinate all my horses as vets in Toowoomba will not treat unvaccinated horses. I feel I have had a gun put to my head to force me to vaccinate with what I feel is an unsafe vaccine with very little research.

One of my mares had a large swelling at the injection site for 3 weeks after the second injection. I am not anti vaccine but every 6 months is way too much poison in their systems .

I truly believe that if the vaccine was made an annual injection there would be less resistance.

Anyway that's my story.

Kind regards

Debbie Hage

[REDACTED]  
Upper Lockyer QLD 4352