

22 April 2016

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry
Parliament House
Brisbane
Queensland 4000
aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear AEC Committee Members,

RE: Submission to the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

I have been in equine veterinary practice based in Sydney, NSW, since 1981.

It is with dismay that this inquiry should be constituted in response to hearsay by non-scientists making dubious claims about the safety of the Zoetis Equivac HeV vaccine.

The sick horse most dangerous to humans is the Hendra virus infected horse. The HeV vaccine has been proven in controlled experiments to prevent disease in Hendra virus exposed horses. The experimental work was done by highly respected scientists, who studied the biology of the virus in horses before the vaccine became available.

I am the veterinary contractor to the NSW Police Force Mounted Unit. The Mounted Unit made the very important decision, exercising corporate responsibility, to vaccinate its horses against the Hendra virus, and maintain their vaccination status.

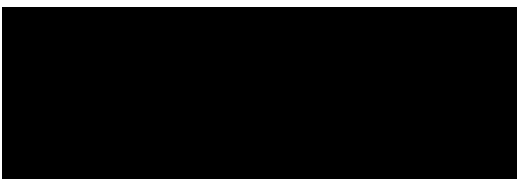
All of the 30+ horses of the NSW Mounted Police Unit have been vaccinated. Some have been delivered up to 6 separate doses (initial 2 doses, followed by 6-monthly boosters).

In giving the initial sensitising doses, some minor reactions occurred. These were within the limits of normal expectations-dullness, off feed, minor temperature spikes, injection site reactions. All reactions lasted less than 48 hours.

With ongoing revaccination/boosters no further negative vaccination reactions have been reported to me.

I urge this inquiry to find that the Equivac HeV vaccine both safe and effective. The lives of both horse owners and veterinarians in Hendra virus endemic areas rely on your findings.

Yours sincerely,



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