

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry

C/- Mr Rob Hansen

Parliament House

Brisbane

Queensland 4000

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21 April 2016

Dear Mr Hansen,

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

My name is John Wallace and I have been a Thoroughbred racehorse trainer in Queensland for 52 years. I have trained multiple Group 1 winners and had a placegetter in a Melbourne Cup.

In 2008 I trained a very promising young horse called Tamworth. Tamworth was sent to the [REDACTED] for treatment for an eye problem and during this time contracted Hendra Virus. My understanding is that he had no or minimal symptoms of the virus but was euthanased anyway. The loss of this horse was deeply upsetting to myself and my clients who owned the horse.

I now vaccinate all of the horses in my care for Hendra Virus and have done so for the past 4 years. Occasionally some of the horses may leave a little bit of feed after the vaccination but the majority are fine. The vaccination can be timed so that if this happens it doesn't interfere with their training significantly. I am happy to forgo a few days of reduced appetite in a handful of horses if it means that I will never lose another horse to Hendra Virus.

None of my clients have had any problems or questions about having their horses vaccinated. They all want the best for their horse and are happy to vaccinate. They want their horses to be able to be treated if they become sick and not have vets restrained by workplace health and safety issues.

As an employer I also have an obligation to protect the health and well being of my staff. Vaccination ensures that none of my staff are going to be exposed to Hendra Virus from any of my horses.

The vaccine is safe and essential. Complaints about it seem to only come from those who are uneducated, misinformed and too mean to pay for it. Those who genuinely care about their horses and the people who care for them vaccinate.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
John Wallace

[REDACTED]  
Southport QLD 4215