

29th April, 2016.

[REDACTED]
PRATTEN Q 4370
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Hendra Virus Vaccine Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

As a horse owner, I have 3 horses that are simply pleasure horses. I would like to be always able to call a vet should I need to in case of accident or emergency.

A friend who lives not far from me has already been refused treatment for colic symptoms until an exclusion test result came back – it was simply very lucky that the colic was not severe, and no damage was done. Her horse is not vaccinated. At the time she was told that vets would soon be refusing treatment for unvaccinated horses, which caused her to ring around to find out who would treat – and as a result I have changed my vet accordingly.

I have one horse who was already vaccinated with 2 shots before I became her owner – I arranged for the 3rd shot to be administered, but then decided not to continue any further treatment. I would prefer her to have a titre test before I even consider further injections. Without that I won't progress to continuing vaccinations. My refusal to continue was based around concerns I heard about regarding reactions – and having been told almost 2 years ago when she was last done that yearly vaccination was likely to come for the HeV regime. When that didn't happen I just ceased any thoughts to vaccinate until I knew more.

I have since got 2 other young horses, both 5yo, and neither will be vaccinated until I (a) know more and (b) am able to do it at most yearly or (c) better still, be able to vaccinate or not based on titre levels if a programme of vaccination was ever started on these boys.

I do worry about being unable to call a vet – I hope this doesn't happen. But I would prefer not to submit my horses to what I believe is a big unknown risk when the actual risk of contracting Hendra from where I live and with few risk factors – including limited travel away by my horses. The risks appear to be greater in not using correct PPE to treat a horse than in my horses contracting Hendra.

I totally object to being forced to vaccinate horses who run the risk of a bad reaction when the virus itself appears to be hard to contract and short lived at best even if I was living near where risks were high.

I hope this submission, along with others, will result in a closer look at the situation whereby we pleasure and private horse owning public are almost being forced by a group of vets and a drug company into a regime of vaccination that is risky to our horses.

I object to being held over a barrel by the veterinary profession.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Marianne E Irvine
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