

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Hendra vaccine inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 22 April 2016 6:28:06 AM

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To whom this may concern,

I have sent this following email to numerous parties voicing my concern. I submit it for your perusal in the hope of seeing an end of the division in the horse community.

The following is my experience with the whole Hendra vaccine and veterinary debacle.

I have been involved as a competitor, trainer and coach in both eventing and dressage for 30 years.

I have ridden at the highest level of eventing and in dressage gaining qualifications for the Olympics in each discipline.

Whilst in recent years my attention has been concentrated on raising a young family, I am still heavily involved in the industry.

Never before has it been brought to its knees and held to ransom like it has with this Hendra vaccine.

Before his severe adverse reaction to the Hendra vaccine, my horse and I were consistent members of the Queensland State Dressage squad.

We were consistent, respected competitors in the International level of Small Tour about to begin competing at the Big Tour (Olympic level).

With his experience and talent I had a horse worth in excess of \$100,000.

It was all about to change- with the production of the Hendra vaccine- the promise of a "safe vaccine" and the threats to make vaccination compulsory to compete.

I wanted to hold off vaccinating as I didn't think it has been researched and tested enough.

I was pushed into vaccinating by my vet and by Equestrian Australia.

It wasn't made clear to me that it was on a limited use permit and I was never given the paperwork from the vet that the APVMA had as a compulsory component on the label.

Zoetis were proud of the fact they had fast tracked this vaccine.

My concern was, just what did they by pass in order to get it out to market so quickly?

Again it was said that this vaccine was safe and it was going to become compulsory -if I wanted to compete at my events.

I needed to be out competing to keep my name out in front of potential clients, so I relented.

My worse fear was about to begin.

This is my account with the Hendra vaccine with my competition horse "Latest Playboy".

The first injection resulted in a small site reaction. This lasted a couple of days but no big deal.

The second injection resulted in a much larger swelling of the neck lasting longer and was treated in the end with an injection of Bute (an anti-inflammatory drug) and resulted in having to scratch from an official competition.

The third injection was far scarier.

On Saturday the 22nd of February 2014, the vet came at lunchtime to give the third injection. By [5 o'clock](#), feed time, Playboy was unable to get his head down. There was no swelling at this point. I had started to give him some Bute, a pain relief medication. By Tuesday morning he was still unable to get his head down. His whole neck had become swollen.

He was in obvious discomfort.

He was drooling, not wanting to swallow and obviously not wanting to eat or drink.

He was also not wanting to move around the paddock and stood there shaking.

I had contacted my vet, whom I have used since becoming involved with horses.

Without wanting to even come out and investigate, he recommended I give him bute for a further five days before eventually, he finally started to get a little relief and start to eat.

For the next two weeks he was on and off his food. He was flat looking. He was given close to over a month off from training.

I was under the understanding that vets would report any reactions which is why I didn't report it to Zoetis straight away. It became clear that my vet wasn't interested in reporting such a reaction.

I therefore reported my reaction to the APVMA where they confirmed it was a "probable" case.

Following that third injection he also developed mild laminitis that he seems to be unable to shake off.

This has resulted in a highly competitive, valuable dressage horse unable to train and compete since this event.

I am devastated.

I had brought this horse on from an untrained young horse and invested ten years of blood sweat and pain of training and money.

I was dumbfounded when my vet shrugged off this result by saying I could just get another horse and train it up again.

I wish it was that easy to find the money and to find a talented horse to start all over again.

So now I have a once highly competitive horse sitting in my paddock going to waste.

He's welcome to have a happy retirement because I love him dearly.

Yet I am faced with another dilemma. This horse has not and cannot receive any more injections for fears of what will happen next, given that each time he was given these injections, his reactions got worse.

All the local vets are now saying they will not come out to treat a non vaccinated sick horse.

Where does that leave me and my horse if he becomes sick?

Colic is a very common occurrence in horses and is deadly without quick intervention.

Some of the vets are just flat out refusing to even come out to assess. Others say they will come out, at great expense, to take an exclusions test which could then take days before a result comes back, before they will treat the horse. In the meantime horses are suffering and owners despairing.

The owners resort to trying to treat a sick horse themselves.

Something needs to be done to allow the vets to go about treating sick horses without fear of prosecution.

I am not an "anti-vaxxer".

My children are vaccinated and my horses are vaccinated for other diseases.

This vaccine is producing more reactions then Zoetis are willing to admit.

To blanket enforce all horse owners to use this unsafe vaccine is wrong.

Four human deaths in the space of twenty years due to these people (vets bar one) doing invasive procedures not using PPE is hardly a reason to enforce all horse owners to vaccinate.


Had these people even worn the bare necessities of PPE, whilst doing any invasive procedure, they would be alive today.

Doctors do not discriminate and treat all as if they are infectious, yet still go about their job. Please help us get the vets to do the same.

Regards

Emma

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