

HENDRA - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Hendra vaccine fully tested?

The Hendra vaccine, manufactured by Zoetis, has approval for use from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

What was the approval process for the Hendra vaccine.

The APVMA is the approving authority for the Hendra vaccine and issues minor permits when there is an urgent need to release a new product. The minor use permit status does not mean that the virus is unsafe. On 10 August 2012, the APVMA issued a Minor Use Permit for the Hendra vaccine, effective for two years. The approved effective period for the vaccine is six months. The testing in support of the permit was conducted at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, which is the only level 4 biosecurity centre in Australia. In May 2014, Zoetis applied to the APVMA to extend the effective period to 12 months. This is under review, with a decision expected shortly. Zoetis has also applied for full registration, based on the 12 month effective term and pregnant mare test results.

Why isn't the vaccine effective for twelve months, not six?

Zoetis has submitted an application to the APVMA, to extend the effective period from six to twelve months. The APVMA is reviewing the application.

Does Equestrian NSW understand the high additional costs of vaccinating horses?

The additional costs were analysed in the development of the By-Law and considered to be warranted under the circumstances.

What are the side effects of the vaccine and how often do they occur?

Your vet is best placed to explain potential adverse reactions and relevant treatment. Vets are required by law to report all adverse reactions to Zoetis. The reported rate of adverse reactions is about 1 in 400.

What is the chance of contracting the virus?

The likelihood of contracting Hendra will depend on individual circumstances. The consequence, however can be fatal. The objective of the Hendra By-Law is to assess and manage the risks associated with Hendra at an EA event to be as low as reasonably practical.

Is there a Hendra vaccination for Humans?

Not currently. Development of a human monoclonal antibody is under development.

How long does the virus survive outside a host?

From several hours to several days depending on environmental conditions.

Why are you implementing a policy which no other body or organisation is enforcing?

Other organisations are implementing their own policies including Pony Club New South Wales – you can view their policy here: <http://www.pcansw.org.au/?Page=27287> . It is up to each of the industry and sporting groups to look at how to best minimise the risk of a potential Hendra incident using the resources and facts available.

If Equestrian Qld aren't making the By-Law compulsory why is NSW?

The Hendra Vaccination By-Law is an EA national policy.

Why are you enforcing compulsory vaccination?

The vaccination is not compulsory. The By-Law works by assessing the risk of a Hendra incident at an event through the Equestrian Competition Hendra Biosecurity Checklist. Only Events in NSW that score 50 or above using the checklist will require all attending horses to be Hendra vaccinated.

Can I apply for an exemption?

You can apply for an exemption for your horse. Please refer to the following link for further information on how to apply. <http://www.equestrian.org.au/default.asp?ID=35697>

How are elite riders going to take their vaccinated horses overseas to compete in a country that does not allow vaccinated horses?

Whilst there are current restrictions imposed on vaccinated horses travelling to Malaysia, China, Singapore and the UAE, this cannot be allowed to dictate EA's position on Hendra.

Does Zoetis sponsor Equestrian NSW?

Equestrian NSW has not received \$250,000 in sponsorship, nor does it have any commercial relationship with Zoetis.

Further information - <http://www.equestrian.org.au/default.asp?ID=35697>