

PROTECT AGAINST HENDRA VIRUS

Protect your race horses without affecting their performance

More trainers and owners have been vaccinating their horses against the deadly Hendra disease since a Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) commissioned world first study confirmed vaccination does not affect the racing performance of racehorses.

Learn about the Hendra virus, and how you can protect yourself and your horses.

Hendra virus can be deadly

Hendra virus is found in flying foxes, who can transmit the virus to horses, who can then pass the virus onto humans. It can cause severe disease in horses and people, and has a high mortality rate.

In horses, there is usually a rapid onset of illness, fever, increased heart rate and rapid deterioration with respiratory and/or neurological (nervous system) signs. Most horses die within 2-3 days of showing the first signs of disease.

In humans, it can cause fever, coughing, sore throat, headache and tiredness. Meningitis or inflammation of the brain can develop, causing headache, high fever and drowsiness, and sometimes convulsions, coma and death.



Reduce your risk

Infected horses can pass Hendra virus on to other horses or people several days before they show any sign of having contracted the virus. The more severe the disease in the horse, the more virus they shed into their environment. Always employ good biosecurity and personal hygiene practices when handling horses to avoid contracting the virus.

To help your horse avoid Hendra virus, minimise the risk of its exposure to flying foxes and their excretions by keeping horses away from trees that flying foxes roost or feed in. Take care to protect the horse's feed and water from flying fox excretions too.

The most effective thing you can do to protect your horse is to vaccinate it against the virus. The highly effective vaccine will not affect your horse's performance but will provide excellent protection from this deadly disease.

If a horse has symptoms that could indicate Hendra, veterinarians must rule out Hendra virus before starting extensive diagnostics or treatment.

The results of this Hendra exclusion testing can take several days to become available.

A fully vaccinated horse will not require Hendra virus exclusion testing and therefore full treatment can start straight away. This can be the difference between life and death in some cases of serious disease, e.g. colic, and ensure the best welfare outcome for the horse.

Hendra vaccinations and racing performance

A 2017 a QRIC commissioned study by Sydney University researchers concluded that Hendra vaccinations had no effect on racing performance.

The ground-breaking study was one of the largest of its kind conducted to investigate the effect of any vaccine on horse racing performance anywhere in the world.

The study used Timeform rating, margin-to-winner, prize money won and winning or placing as measures of racing performance for 1,154 thoroughbreds over 12,066 race starts over a period from three months before to three months after vaccination.

The study showed there was no difference in the racing performance of the horses before or after vaccination.

This study has been published in a reputable scientific journal giving owners, trainers and other racing participants the confidence that Hendra vaccination not only provides reliable protection, but does so without adverse effects on racing performance.

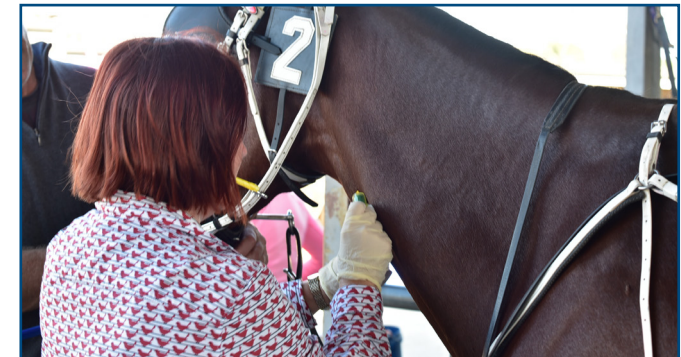
THE QLD Biosecurity Act 2014 and your obligations

Hendra virus is a category 1 restricted matter, under the Biosecurity Act.

As a horse owner or person who works with horses, you have a legal obligation to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the effects of a biosecurity risk.

Hendra virus poses a serious biosecurity risk. This means you are legally required to reduce the risk of Hendra virus infection and limit the spread of Hendra virus when working with horses and other possible carriers.

This obligation can be met by instituting suitable biosecurity measures and keeping horse vaccinations up to date.





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Help keep racing
integrity on track
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If you have any information about the mistreatment of racing animals or wrongdoing within the three codes of racing, we urge you to come forward and report it.

When everyone competes on an even playing field, racing is fair and everyone can win.



QUEENSLAND RACING
INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Engagement | Education | Enforcement

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission works in partnership with the industry to:

- Monitor racing activities
- Uphold the Rules of Racing
- Safeguard the welfare of racing animals

The Commission exists to contribute to the ongoing success of the racing industry in Queensland.

HENDRA VIRUS

Our goal is a sustainable, fair and safe racing industry, where everyone can compete on a level playing field.

** This information is provided as a guide only and is not legal advice. It is your responsibility to refer and adhere to the current national and local Rules of Racing.*



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