

HENDRA VIRUS

A GUIDE FOR HORSE OWNERS



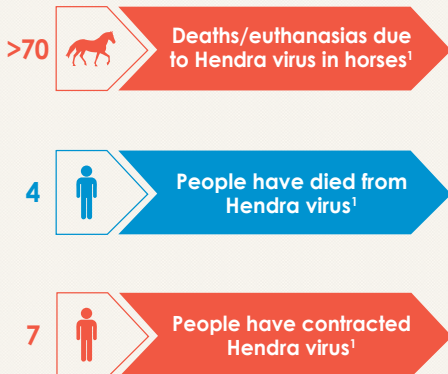
UNDERSTANDING HENDRA VIRUS

Hendra from 1994 - 2012

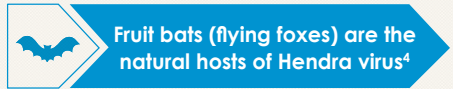
Hendra is a deadly disease that can kill horses and humans.

Hendra virus (HeV) disease has only ever been reported in Australia*

Hendra virus was first detected in southern Queensland in 1994. More recently, it has been reported further south in NSW and west of the Great Dividing Range.¹⁻³



Where does the Hendra virus come from?



How is Hendra spread?

- It is thought that Hendra virus is transmitted from **fruit bat to horse** via feed contaminated with fruit bat urine, faeces or body fluids⁵
- Hendra virus can be spread from **horse to horse** and **horse to human** through close contact with respiratory secretions and/or blood from an infected horse⁵

Don't hesitate with Hendra

If you are concerned about your horse:

- ✓ Consult your veterinarian immediately
- ✓ Isolate the sick horse straight away
- ✓ Ensure strict hygiene is practised

* information correct as at July 20th 2012.

References:

1. Queensland Horse Council Inc. Fact Sheet: Hendra Virus, January 2012.
2. Queensland Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Biosecurity News. Hendra Virus: Current Situation, 5 June 2012. <http://bit.ly/MXq717>
3. Queensland Government Health Information Directory Topic: Hendra Virus Infection, September 2011. <http://bit.ly/rhEHqQ>
4. State of Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. Guidelines for veterinarians handling potential Hendra virus infection in horses: version 4.2, December 2011.
5. Hess IMR, Massey PD, Walker B, Middleton DJ, Wright TM. Hendra Virus: What do we know? NSW Public Health Bulletin, 2011;22(5-6):118-22.

AVOID THE SPREAD OF HENDRA VIRUS

Recognise the symptoms and keep safe

Common symptoms⁴:

- Acute onset of illness
- Increased body temperature
- Increased heart rate
- Discomfort/weight shifting between legs
- Rapid deterioration with respiratory and/or neurological signs
- Depression

Other observations⁴:

Respiratory signs

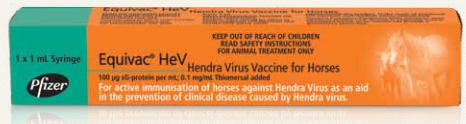
- Congestion and fluid on the lungs
- Difficulty breathing
- Nasal discharge - initially clear then frothy white or blood stained
- Weakness, loss of coordination and collapse

Neurological signs

- Wobbly gait
- Altered consciousness
- Head tilting
- Muscle twitching
- Urinary incontinence

How can I reduce the risk of spreading the virus?

- Consult your vet if you are concerned
- Protect water and food sources from contamination by flying foxes
- Do not plant trees that attract flying foxes in or near horse paddocks
- Isolate sick horses from other horses, animals and people
- Ensure strict hygiene and cleaning practices are used on your property
- Personal protective equipment such as gloves, overalls, boot covers, facial shields, safety eyewear and respiratory protective devices should be used when Hendra virus is a potential diagnosis⁴



Equivac HeV is now available to protect your horse against the deadly Hendra virus. Speak to your veterinarian to arrange vaccination today.

WHEN SHOULD I VACCINATE MY HORSES?

The Equine Infectious Diseases Advisory Board have developed an easy to follow vaccination protocol. We recommend you use these guidelines when planning an annual vaccination schedule for your horses.



HENDRA VIRUS

The Equine Infectious Diseases Advisory Board supports the Australian Veterinary Association's position to strongly recommend that all horses in Australia are vaccinated against Hendra virus to help protect humans from its potentially fatal outcome.

NOTE: In the event that you are unsure of your horse's vaccination status, consult your vet about undertaking a Vaccination Priming Regimen

* Priming protocol is one dose at eight, nine and ten months of pregnancy

** The Hendra virus horse vaccine has not been tested in pregnant or breeding horses