Advisory Form & Position Statement for use by Veterinarians providing services at equestrian events that DO NOT have a mandatory vaccination requirement, and where competitor’s horses have originated from a Hendra endemic area within the states of Queensland and New South Wales.

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NAME AND DATE OF THE EVENT

Statement of Veterinary Advice for Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmanian & ACT Equestrian Events

1. I _____________________________ am a [licensed] veterinarian who has been requested by the Organising Committee of _____________________________ (the “Event”) to provide veterinary services at the Event.

2. I have advised the official representative of the Committee of the following with respect to the Hendra virus (“HeV”):
   (a) HeV is a deadly infectious virus that has killed both horses and humans in recent times.
   (b) a fully registered vaccine against the HeV virus in horses is readily available on the market and vaccinating horses with the (HeV) vaccine, according to the vaccine manufacturer’s instructions, is the single most effective way to prevent HeV infection in horses and humans.
   (c) the most effective way to prevent horse or human HeV infection occurring at events is by a requirement that all horses attending events that have travelled from a Hendra endemic area within the states of Queensland and New South Wales in the 30 days prior be currently vaccinated with the HeV vaccine, and that the horse’s name appears as current on the “Vets Australia HeV website”.
   (d) in the interest of implementing the highest standards of horse and human safety, the event must be an “Targeted HeV vaccine Compulsory Event” – requiring every competitor to provide the Committee with evidence that each horse that has travelled from a Hendra endemic area in Queensland and New South Wales in the 30 days prior, has been vaccinated against HeV by a registered veterinarian.
   (e) if the Committee determine to not run the event as a “Targeted HeV vaccine Compulsory Event”,
       then the Committee have proceeded against my professional veterinary advice and the recommendation of Equine Veterinarians Australia, a special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association.
   (f) if a veterinarian participates as a veterinarian at the event (regardless of whether the veterinarian is paid or works on a voluntary basis) , then that veterinarian is not in any way responsible for any actions, results, costs or future occurrences that may take place as a result of a confirmed OR suspected HeV case, and that the entire responsibility for such actions, results, costs or future occurrences must be taken by the Committee.

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FULL NAME OF THE VETERINARIAN AND VETERINARY PRACTICE

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SIGNATURE OF THE VETERINARIAN