

Hendra virus infection transmission and dynamics: Questions for horse owners

Hand out information sheet and get consent form signed. Remind participant that the interview will be recorded, then transcribed and analysed.

Thanks for talking with me today. I would like to ask you a few things about your horses generally, the health of your horses and the impact of Hendra virus.

1. Can you tell me about your Horses?

Prompt: How many do you have? What do you use them for? How long have you had horses for? How did you first become involved with horses?

Now I would like to talk with you about your horses' health

2. Have there been any times in the last few years when you have felt your horses' health has been at risk? Prompt: injuries, illnesses, colic – Tell me more about....., Can you tell me how you felt about that?
3. Where do you go for information about your horses' health? Prompt: Websites (be specific) Social media (what groups?)
4. Who do you go to when you need help with your horses' health?
5. How would you describe your relationship with your local vet? Prompt: Do you feel like they understand you and your horses?

Now I would like to talk with you about Hendra virus

6. Do you feel Hendra virus has impacted on you?

Prompt: If yes, Can you tell me about that?

If no, have you changed how you have done things after the Hendra Virus cases in this area?

If the vaccine has been mentioned, skip to Q7.

7. Do you feel the Hendra virus vaccine has impacted on you?

Prompt: If yes, Can you tell me about that?

If no, move on to others – see below

I am limited in the number of people I can interview but I would like to know what is going on in the wider community with decisions around the Hendra virus vaccine. Are you happy for me to ask you a few questions about other people's vaccination decisions?

8. Do you think Hendra virus or the Hendra virus vaccine impacted on other people in this region? If so, how? Prompt: Has it changed the way they manage their horses' health or the property that they are kept on? Has this affected what you do?
9. What do you think about the choices people have made? Prompt: What do you think about their choice to vaccinate/not to vaccinate? Do you think they are making the right decisions?
10. What would you do if you were in charge of a body that was responsible for helping people manage the risk of Hendra virus on their property and in their horses? Prompt: What has been done well in the current situation and what would you do differently?