

HENDRA VIRUS

A Practitioners coping strategy



What do we know?

- Hev is rare
- High mortality rate in horses and humans
- Transmission – Bat to horse to horse and human
- Variable presentation - respiratory
 - neurological
- Periods of most risk? – risk assessment.

So what do we do?



- Treat all patients as a risk?
- Assess risk BEFORE examination – level?
- Improve assessment of patients with regard to potential risks.
- Consider history and location/access to infectious material – Flying foxes
- General day to day hygiene – eg hand washing, minimise contact with ALL body fluids.
- High Risk - high level of hygiene – gloves, mask, face shield, disposable overalls

Information we should give to clients

- Potential for Hev infection – Location
- Is my horse at risk from Hev? Am I?
- Don't Panic
- Hev testing of sick horses – Isolation, Implications for treatment.

WHERE TO FROM HERE ?

- Increased awareness of potential cases
- Risk assessment – EVA flow chart
- “Horse side” test
- Education – Veterinarians
 - lay staff
 - Clients

