



**20 March 2013
Statement from Zoetis**

Zoetis Australia (formerly Pfizer Animal Health) confirms its ongoing commitment to making Equivac HeV available to horse owners. The company also re-iterates that it will continue to educate the equine industry on the vaccine's safety profile and its role in reducing the risk of Hendra virus infection.

Zoetis recognises that the Hendra virus continues to be a public health concern as it is an unpredictable virus that can cause disease and death in both humans and horses.

Zoetis is working closely with key members of the equine industry, government, regulatory bodies, state-based departments of agriculture and veterinary wholesalers to provide continued education, support and greater access to the vaccine. These activities include a Hendra Vaccination Month in April and ongoing education of vets and horse owners.

The CSIRO have recently completed a duration of immunity study and greater flexibility around the administration of the vaccine by vets in the near future is a possibility. Additionally, the latest safety data shows that Equivac HeV has exceptionally low incidence of adverse events, with 0.2% of horses displaying minor events.

Equivac HeV vaccine continues to be crucial to breaking the cycle of Hendra virus transmission from flying foxes to horses and then people.

As such, Zoetis remains committed to making the vaccine available in Australia and to supporting veterinarians in their efforts to control Hendra virus. Zoetis also supports The Australian Veterinary Association's position that all horses in Australia should be vaccinated against Hendra to reduce equine and human infection.

For further information please contact:

Andres Lopez-Varela
Weber Shandwick
(02) 9994 4476
0405 631 945
alopez-varela@webershandwick.com

Katherine Barbeler
Weber Shandwick
(02) 9994 4406
0439 941 632
kbarbeler@webershandwick.com