



Ark Vet Centre

Equine Newsletter



November 2025



Welcome to the November Newsletter, the dark nights are now here and we've been experiencing some really wet and windy weather recently. Its this time of the year we start to see conditions like mud fever, thrush and rain scald from the wet and damp weather. Its also the time of the year we need to be more mindful of our geriatric horses to ensure they are getting enough nutrition now before getting into the real winter. This month we will discuss a recent development in the predictability of grass sickness and a new alert system.

Grass sickness alert system

The Equine grass sickness (EGS) fund has recently announced their new EGS weather risk alert system. Through extensive research its been established that certain patterns in weather, and in particular patterns of temperature fluctuations and breaks in drought, followed by sufficient rainfall, may lead to a higher incidence of EGS cases. This has allowed them to create a model where they integrate real time weather forecasts alongside recent cases of EGS to predict the possible risk of EGS . It allows users to select a geographical region of interest and obtain risk alerts for potential EGS. Users (such as vets and horse owners) can opt to sign up to weekly or monthly WhatsApp messages which will contain risk predictions for their selected region. The link to sign up to these alerts is:

<https://moredun.connectanimalhealth.com/apps/egssubscribe/>

In our area locally we have not had any confirmed EGS cases in 2025, however the majority of Dumfries and Galloway is currently under EGS risk 2 (the highest level), the rest risk 1 (middle level) meaning we do have a high risk of getting EGS cases locally at the moment.

Knowing we have an increased risk allows us to put management practices in place which may reduce the chance of EGS such as:

- Minimise exposure to pastures where previous cases have occurred
- Minimise pasture/soil disturbance
- Minimise soil exposure
- Avoid sudden changes in diet

Atypical Myopathy

A brief reminder that Atypical Myopathy cases can increase during the autumn months caused by horses ingesting the toxin Hypoglycin A found in the seeds, seedlings and leaves of sycamore trees.



Clinical signs in poisoned horses include depression, weakness, stiffness, lying down more, trembling, sweating, painful muscles, which in severe cases can affect the muscles in the heart and respiratory system. Unfortunately it does carry a high mortality rate (reported at 74%) so its important to be vigilant if your horse grazes near sycamores, especially after windy conditions, as the seeds can get blown a large distance at this time of the year.



**Equine Grass
Sickness Fund**



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