Equine Grass Sickness





• Colic

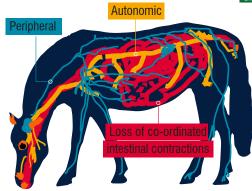
Listlessness

· Changes in faeces

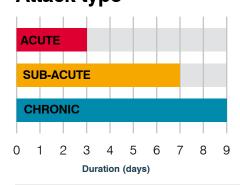
· Loss of appetite



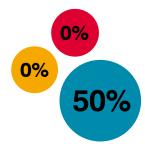
- Attacks nervous system
- · Disrupts food passage and digestion
- Impaction
- Malnutrition



Attack type



Survival chance



Clinical signs/symptoms

Severity high and onset fast

Drool saliva difficulty swallowing silent -distended gut Tucked up patchy sweating high heart rate (60-120 pm) Ptosis (droopy eyelid) listless gastric reflux

Slower onset Rhinitis sicca Some appetite loss of appetite Mild colic Slow recovery Rapid weight loss Reduced gut sounds

Land factors Management factors • Previous EGS occurence · High soil nitrogen and loam/sandy soils · Mechanical spreading of faeces · Pasture/soil disturbance · High stocking density · Ivermectin use in succession · Possibly abundance of buttercups · recent change of feed or pasture Region **Climate factors** Risk Temperate · Cool, dry weather factors · Irregular ground frosts · Increasing sun hours Age of horses 60 120 **Native breeds Time of Year** 50 100 40 80 30 60 SPRING 40 20 20

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Prevention

These recommendations are derived from published associations which are not necessarily causal; therefore, the potential value of acting upon these associations is not known, nor can it be predicted.

- Keep stock density low
- Mixed species grazing
- Check horses daily
- Thorough faeces picking or vacuum removal

6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20

- Check faeces daily
- Worm according to faecal egg count – avoid ivermectin use in succession
- Keep hay in diet all year
- If soil needs to be 'disturbed' remove horses, reseed and wait for full grassland recovery
- No sudden dietary changes: gradual introduction to turnout
- X Avoid pasture where cases have occurred - change livestock

Potential EGS case?



Yard First response:

- Ideally, remove horses from the affected paddock immediately. Stable with soaked forage, good access to water and use arena for exercise. Gradual introduction to turnout.
- Prioritise 'at risk' horses: native breeds, horses aged 2-7 yrs, newcomers.

In case of euthanasia following confirmed EGS. Please contact us to arrange a sample donation.