

## I would like to make a singular donation...

Here is my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

(amount in words) \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my **cheque/postal order/CAF voucher** made payable to  
**Animal Health Trust** (please delete as appropriate)

Or charge my:

Visa       Mastercard       American Express  
 Charity Card       Maestro       Delta Card

Card No:

Valid from:         Expiry:

Issue No. (Maestro only)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick if you do NOT wish to receive a 'thank you' letter

### Gift Aid Declaration

*giftaid it*

#### This part is really important.

Please fill in this section if you are making either type of donation.

By signing the Gift Aid Declaration below, you can increase the value of your donation to the Trust by **25% AT NO COST TO YOU.**

Please treat all eligible donations that I have made in the past four years and all future donations that I make from the date of this Declaration as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In order for the AHT to reclaim the tax you have paid on your donation(s), you must have paid income tax or capital gains (in the UK) equal to the tax that will be claimed (currently 25p for every pound you give.)

*Thank you for your support*



To report a case of Equine Grass Sickness,

contact:

Maire O'Brien  
Equine Grass Sickness Surveillance  
Centre for Preventive Medicine  
Animal Health Trust  
Lanwades Park  
Kentford Newmarket  
Suffolk CB8 7UU

Tel: 01638 555399  
Fax: 01638 555659  
Email: [maire.obrien@aht.org.uk](mailto:maire.obrien@aht.org.uk)

or visit:

[www.equinegrassickness.co.uk](http://www.equinegrassickness.co.uk)



Registered charity no. 209462

## Collaborators



Animal Health Trust

*"The science behind animal welfare"*

The AHT is co-ordinating the EGS surveillance scheme. To find out about the work of the AHT visit: [www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk)



Dept: The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh. For more information on clinical work and research visit: [www.vet.ed.ac.uk](http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk)



Dept: The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liverpool. For more information on clinical work and research visit: [www.liv.ac.uk/vets](http://www.liv.ac.uk/vets)



Dedicated to supporting and advancing research into grass sickness and further improving the treatment of chronic cases. To make a donation to EGS research visit: [www.grassickness.org.uk](http://www.grassickness.org.uk)



The Horse Trust generously funded initial development of the EGS Surveillance Scheme. [www.horsetrust.org.uk](http://www.horsetrust.org.uk)



[www.equinegrassickness.co.uk](http://www.equinegrassickness.co.uk)



Animal Health Trust





## WHAT IS EQUINE GRASS SICKNESS?

Equine grass sickness (EGS) is a predominantly fatal disease of horses in which there is damage to parts of the nervous system that control involuntary functions. The most severely affected body system is the gastrointestinal tract.

Common clinical signs include:

- Colic
- Difficulty eating
- Failure to pass droppings
- Patchy sweating
- Muscle tremors
- Foul-smelling fluid pouring from the nostrils
- Rapid weight loss

Unfortunately this disease has a **mortality rate of more than 90%** and only those horses with mild signs have any chance of recovery.

While anecdotal reports suggest that EGS is becoming more common in previously unaffected parts of the UK, the true incidence of disease remains unknown.

## SURVEILLANCE SCHEME

Although EGS has been identified for over 100 years, studies have failed to identify a specific cause. At present research is investigating the potential role of the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. It is thought that a toxin produced by this soil-borne bacterium in the gastro-intestinal tract causes damage to the nervous system.

If it is the case that this bacterium causes EGS then prevention by vaccination is theoretically possible.

The **Animal Health Trust (AHT)**, with initial funding from The Horse Trust, is co-ordinating development of the first nationwide surveillance scheme for equine grass sickness. This scheme hopes to quantify the true welfare impact of EGS, as well as demonstrate trends in occurrence of the disease over time and in different areas. Regularly affected premises that participate in the scheme will ultimately be invited to participate in vaccine trials which the surveillance scheme hopes to initiate based on the data obtained from the survey.



## HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEILLANCE SCHEME

The EGS surveillance scheme relies on raising awareness of the disease and receiving notification of cases to the AHT where the study is based.

Using two simple questionnaires, the scheme aims to gather information on all current cases of EGS, as well as retrospective information on cases going back to the year 2000. These two questionnaires are both available from the AHT for owners to fill in now.

All information provided will be handled in a strictly confidential manner and the scheme is calling for owners of affected horses, or veterinary surgeons with the owner's permission, to submit case details which will enable the identification of trends in terms of timing and geographical areas affected.

If you, as a horse owner or veterinary surgeon, have seen a case of EGS from 2000 to the present day please report it to the Animal Health Trust using the details provided overleaf.

I would like to help the AHT...



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to make a regular donation...

I would like to make a regular donation of

£ \_\_\_\_\_ (amount in words) \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly  Quarterly  Annually

Please state which month you would like your Direct Debit payment to start \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick which date you would like your payment to be deducted

1st  15th  25th

(Please allow at least one month from sending us this form)

### Instruction to you Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debits

Please complete this form using a ballpoint pen and send to: Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU



To: The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank or Building Society  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Account name \_\_\_\_\_

Sort code

Bank or Building Society account number

AHT reference number (if applicable)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Animal Health Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by The Direct Debit Guarantee. Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.