

by the Equine Grass Sickness Fund (EGSF) and Animal Health Trust. The pilot study is in preparation for a full vaccine trial which is likely to start in 2013 – 14. The EGSF is spearheading the campaign to raise funds for the full trial. They are the only charity registered in the UK raising funds specifically for research into grass sickness and further improving the treatment of chronic cases. With the news of the vaccine trial it is doubly important to report all cases of grass sickness even as far back as 2000. The problem with grass sickness is the stigma attached to it so it is grossly under-reported. There is currently a surveillance scheme for vets and horse owners; all information is completely confidential. Please report all cases to the EGSF and make sure you fill in the form correctly with address or post code, if not these cases cannot be counted.

For all the information on grass sickness the best website is [www.grassickness.org.uk](http://www.grassickness.org.uk).

There is brilliant advice on their website and also wonderful stories of GRASS SICKNESS SURVIVORS. Please read the information by Catriona Rowan on the EGSF website who lost eight horses to grass sickness, she has very interesting advice on seaweed and mineral licks. I have also set up a group on facebook called Equine grass sickness awareness where you will also find lots of advice, support from a grass sickness nurse and info on our fundraising event for May 2013, we are trying to organize events all over the UK not only to raise much needed funds but to raise awareness.

I dedicate this story to my horse William and to all the other horses who have died of Grass sickness.  
NM



▲ Oscar, who sadly died of grass sickness



Minnie ▼ and Ria ► – happy survivors of grass sickness



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