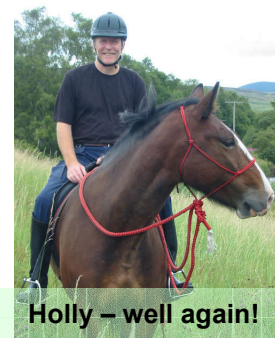


CHRONIC GRASS SICKNESS IN OUR HORSE

In May of 2003 Holly our 16.2hh Shire x Thoroughbred horse had a life threatening illness called **Chronic Grass Sickness (CGS)**. We were lucky to be able to keep her at home with our two other horses during her illness, neither of whom got the illness even though they grazed in the same fields.



We tended Holly every few hours, every day. Sometimes during the night when we weren't too tired, we sat and talked to her, groomed her whilst she lay down and kept her spirits up. She lay down for long periods, getting up for periods of about 5-10 mins only.

According to our vet, her CGS symptoms were mild but she was suffering from lethargy and rapid loss of weight. The symptoms of CGS can be read on www.grassickness.org.uk and we were told that even though we were nursing her, and she was eating plenty of hard feed and hay, albeit it slowly, she could still die on us. She was managing to eat 5 largish meals during the long days for over 3 months and after this time we began to see a difference in her. Eventually she was standing for longer periods and eating with a little more ease. She started interacting with our other horses and started eating grass again.

During this time Moira Thomson of the SEER Centre donated a bag of **SEER Rockdust** for her, telling us to put a couple of handfuls into a large barrel of water to help her with her minerals and gut. We wanted to be sure that the decision to drink the water was Holly's so we put three large barrels of water in her field, one with the Rockdust and the other two with plain water.

Every morning the barrel with the Rockdust in was almost finished and the other two were not touched at all. The barrel was also the water for the other two horses in the field too and it seemed that they were all drinking solely from the Rockdust barrel - their choice.

We still keep a barrel of water with Rockdust in their field, it is situated right next to a clear, fresh stream and every day it gets close to empty and I refill it and put more Rockdust in. Our horses seem to enjoy this water and we make sure Holly gets it regularly after exercise that has made her sweaty, so that she can replenish any minerals she has lost.

Well, Holly's illness is 3 years ago now, she has been a good steady weight for the last year so she is, as far as we know, recovered. Our vet cannot tell us if she's now immune to the disease of grass sickness or if she is more liable to catch it again. As they know so little about what causes it we just take each day as it comes. She sometimes is a 'little under the weather' but horses often are. We treat her as fully recovered from CGS.

We don't know what it's done to help her, but horses are self-medicating and if they can get what they need, then they will take it - so we think she needs and likes what's in the SEER Rockdust in her water. She is ridden out every week now, sometimes twice, often more. She is strong and has started to learn how to jump and her education with Parelli Natural Horsemanship is ongoing as it is with all our horses. Meanwhile I think it would be marvellous if scientists could research the healing powers of SEER Rockdust, along with Moira and Cammi.