

# Redwings

## Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2018

### ***Winter at Redwings***

Find out how we care for our residents during the most challenging months

### ***Unbacked project horses***

An exciting new development for our rehoming programme unveiled

### ***Helping horses beyond our paddock fences***

Our work involves so much more than rescue

### ***Lifelong care thanks to your support!***

Keeping horses and donkeys healthy and happy head-to-hoof

*Plus much more...*





## Lifelong care for rescued horses and donkeys

Head-to-hoof healthy horses and donkeys are our priority at Redwings. And regular dental checks are a vital part of the lifelong care that each rescued horse and donkey at the Sanctuary receives.

Every check-up and every bit of care our residents receive is funded by you. Please donate to help provide love, care and essential check-ups for our rescued horses and donkeys this autumn and beyond.

**Turn to pages 18 and 19 to find out how you can help today**

Call  
**01508 481000**  
Visit  
**www.redwings.org.uk**

## Welcome to the autumn newsletter from Redwings!

I'm photographed below at home with Redwings Ross, the latest edition to the Cutress family, after our much-loved 31 year old Redwings Treacle very sadly passed away this April.

Ross had been available for rehoming on our website since January, and although it was a shame for him to wait so long to find a new home, it was actually my gain. I am so delighted to be able to give him a home as he really is a super pony who is a credit to the Redwings rehoming team.

All I have to do is make sure to keep his weight down to prevent the risk of laminitis, which is quick and simple to do thanks to a weigh tape marked with his ideal weight range that the rehoming team supplied me with to ensure we regularly weigh-in.

Redwings has rehomed horses and ponies since 2005 and we've recently embarked on important projects to increase our rehoming capacity nationwide; such as our trial of rehoming 'unbacked project' ponies to knowledgeable homes. Until now, our horses and ponies are rehomed as either ridden or companion (non-ridden); this third route to rehoming opens the gates for more horses to find loving homes outside the Sanctuary and in turn make room for those in need (see page 9 to read more).

We have also been developing our much-loved Caldecott Visitor Centre facilities in Norfolk, not only to expand on the visitor experience but to increase our rehoming operations. Like our Ada Cole Visitor Centre in Essex, visitors will be able to see horses in training and find out more about the Redwings Guardianship Scheme.

Our development work is not just limited to Norfolk; we are developing rehoming facilities at Redwings Oxhill in Warwickshire too. Although the team already rehome companion horses, once the building works are complete, we will also be rehoming ridden horses and ponies.

We remain foremost a sanctuary for those horses, ponies or donkeys who need to be with us for the rest of their days. While keeping horses and donkeys is always a challenge – especially with the extremes of weather we've faced recently – we try to share the experience we have gained to benefit horse owners and people like you who want to learn more about horse care and welfare, so head to pages 6, 7 and 8.

Thank you for all the support you give us and for visiting, fundraising or volunteering your time for us, please do continue to spread the word and help us help horses in need.

*Lynn*

Lynn Cutress  
Chief Executive



## News update...

In our spring newsletter, we announced that Redwings is in the process of merging with the Society for the Welfare and Protection of Horses and Ponies (SWHP) in South Wales, so we thought we'd update you with the progress so far.

The first step in merging with SWHP was to find a new site that we can use as a base for our welfare work in South Wales. We are pleased to say that thanks to generous gifts in Wills, we have a new farm in Monmouthshire, near Chepstow. It is an ideal footprint for the future home of the merged charities, Redwings SWHP. There is some existing grazing acreage, a converted barn that we will use for our visitor centre – set to open in 2019 and which will include a café, gift shop and a dedicated area for donated tack – two large agricultural barns where machinery, forage and feed can be stored, and accommodation for staff to allow our special care work to continue.

As this newsletter goes to print, our priority remains to complete the work that's needed for the legal transfer and find time for our preparations for the move – it's quite a feat!

Thank you for the support you have given us for our welfare work in South Wales so far. We hope we will be able to open our gates for visitors next year and full details will be in the next newsletter!

### Tribute to three much-loved donkeys

Earlier this year, we sadly said goodbye to three elderly donkey residents – Poppet from Redwings Caldecott, Gloria from Redwings Oxhill and Jessie from Redwings Ada Cole.

Pretty Poppet arrived at Redwings in 1996 with her daughter Denise, who is now a Redwings Adoption Star, and the pair lived as part of our largest donkey herd at Redwings Caldecott in Norfolk for many happy years. Late last year, 30-year-old Poppet began to experience advancing problems with arthritis and maintaining her weight, and with a heavy heart this May our vets put her to sleep to ensure she did not suffer.

Twenty-seven-year-old Gloria, with her famously shaggy coat, was a well-known character at Redwings Oxhill in Warwickshire. She was rescued in 2009 with her companion Brecon and enjoyed a wonderful nine years at Redwings forming lasting bonds with Adoption Stars Timothy and Cain. However, Gloria had been plagued by

lameness issues and in April our vets made the difficult but kind decision to put her to sleep.

Sadly, the following day, we also said goodbye to Jessie from Redwings Ada Cole in Essex who had been suffering from severe degenerative joint disease in both of her front legs. Twenty-two-year-old Jessie arrived at Redwings in 2010 with her son Rodney and Adoption Star Del Boy when the education centre where they lived was forced to close. Jessie's love of cuddles and playful antics with her donkey pals made her a hugely popular resident.

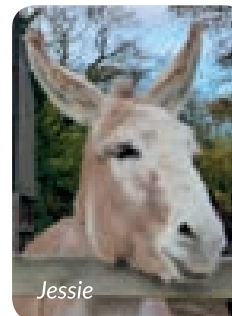
We know the loss of these three lovely long-eared ladies will be felt by everyone who was lucky enough to meet them. RIP Poppet, Gloria and Jessie, we will never forget you.



Denise and Poppet



Gloria



Jessie

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### Write to us!

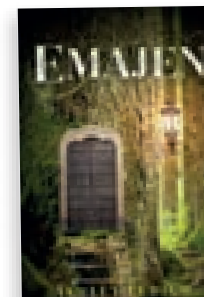
We'd love to hear your thoughts on our newsletter and find out which features you'd like to see in forthcoming issues.

Write to us at **Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norwich, NR15 1SP** or email [info@redwings.co.uk](mailto:info@redwings.co.uk).

Our cover star is Zari.

### A good read...

Suffolk-based author Ashley Ledigo is supporting Redwings through sales of her debut novel! *Emajen* is a fantasy novel for pre and early teens, so if you're looking for an extra stocking filler this Christmas you can buy a copy from our visitor centres or from our online shop – [www.redwings.org.uk/shop](http://www.redwings.org.uk/shop).





# Redwings to the rescue!

News of our work from around the UK...



## Orphaned Charlie is given a second chance

Little Welsh pony Charlie is enjoying a new life at Redwings after he was sadly orphaned when his emaciated mother was discovered trapped in barbed wire.

Redwings' Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin assisted the RSPCA following reports of a horse in distress with a foal at foot at a site near Basildon, Essex.

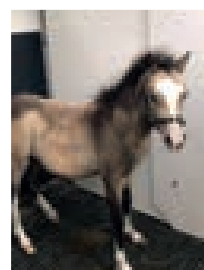
Sadly, the mare was severely underweight and, after freeing her, she was rushed to the nearby House and Jackson equine hospital for emergency treatment.

Despite the best efforts of the vets, she could not be saved and the difficult decision was made to put her to sleep.

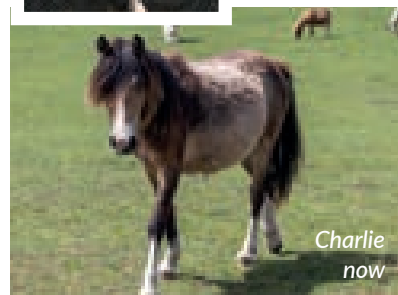
Charlie, who was about four-months-old at the time, was also taken to the equine hospital where he received treatment for a large worm burden.

We offered the youngster a new, safe home, and after a week in the hospital he was transported to our Essex centre, Redwings Ada Cole, to complete his recovery.

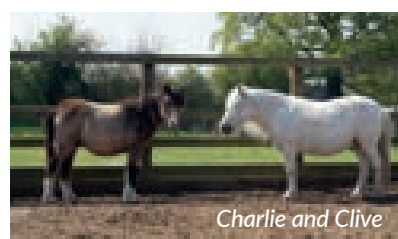
Despite losing his mother at such a young age, Charlie has flourished into a friendly young pony in our care and has made plenty of new pals, including 14-year-old Dartmoor pony Clive who has acted like a foster-father by taking the new arrival under his caring hoof.



Charlie before



Charlie now



Charlie and Clive

## Huge excitement at new arrivals



Peacock and Empress



Papillon and Tortoiseshell

Do you remember the Shire horses who we rescued in November 2017? Well, we have some very exciting news.

This summer, Tortoiseshell and Peacock, two of the six Shires offered a home at Redwings, gave birth to two little fillies! We named the group of Shires after types of butterfly, so our new arrivals are called Papillon and Empress.

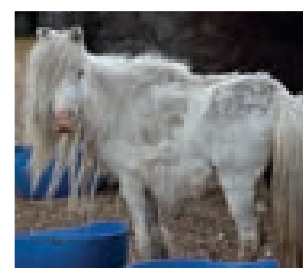
Due to Tortoiseshell and Peacock's neglected care while carrying Papillon and Empress, we have been keeping an extra close eye on the mothers and their new babies, but our vets are happy with their progress so far.

Tortoiseshell and Peacock were among 19 Shire horses who had been illegally grazing – otherwise known as

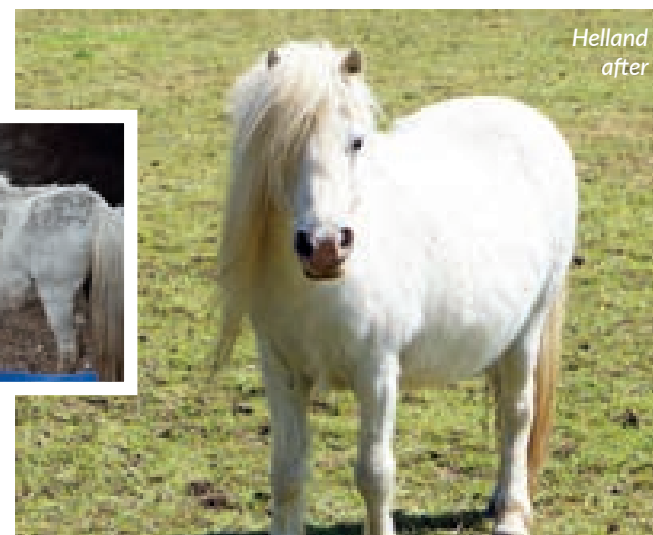
"fly-grazing" – on a property near Kidderminster in Worcestershire. Concerns had been raised for the group with the onset of winter, especially as they did not have adequate grazing and many were completely unhandled meaning they also were not receiving any routine care or veterinary intervention.

When an owner did not come forward to claim the horses, we used the Control of Horses Act (fly-grazing legislation introduced in 2015) to round-up and remove the group – a sizeable operation that involved several welfare organisations working together to secure the futures of these beautiful animals.

We will continue to keep you updated on our Shire herd and hopefully you may even be able to meet these lovely ladies at a visitor centre one day soon.



Helland before



Helland after

## Happy ending for Helland

Do you remember Helland? She was among 14 ponies rescued from Bodmin Moor in June 2016; seven of which were offered a home at Redwings.

Helland's before photographs were particularly shocking, showing the extent to which the ponies on the moor were struggling with extremes in weather, poor grazing with simply too many ponies and mouths to feed to be sustainable, and a complete lack of veterinary intervention with many suffering

from high worm burdens, injury and illness.

But just look at Helland now! Physically, Helland is transformed, but thanks to our teams she has been able to overcome her fear of humans – so much so, she is currently waiting to be rehomed as a non-ridden companion!

The journey from rescue to rehoming is what makes our work so worthwhile at Redwings and we're extremely proud of just how far our Helland has come.

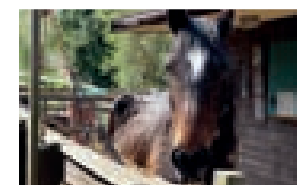
## Carmen

In April, our Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin helped to rescue beautiful mare Carmen and bring her into the safety of the Sanctuary.

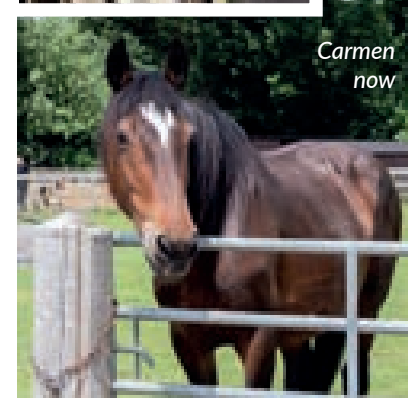
The pretty Irish Draft cross, who is believed to be about 15 years old, was removed from a field at Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, when she was discovered to be in a very poor condition.

Carmen was painfully thin, had overgrown feet, severe leg mites and was covered in lice. She was taken to nearby Catley Cross Veterinary Clinic for immediate treatment, before being transported to our Ada Cole Visitor Centre to continue her recovery.

Now, thanks to the exceptional care from our team, you would hardly recognise this friendly and gorgeous girl from the nervous new arrival who came into the Sanctuary just a handful of months ago. What a difference love and care can make!



Carmen before



Carmen now

## Leicestershire woman banned from keeping equines

Earlier this year, Redwings' vets provided expert evidence for a case that saw a Leicestershire woman pleading guilty to 31 offences under the Animal Welfare Act.

The offences related to causing unnecessary suffering and failing to meet the needs of 16 ponies in her care – three of which were in such a severe state of neglect they required putting to sleep, while another was sadly found dead on site.

The rescue in January 2017 saw a team from Redwings – including three welfare vets – joining forces with colleagues from other welfare organisations. Commenting on the rescue, Redwings Head of Welfare Nic de Brauwere said: "It was clear to see that the ponies were in a desperate state of suffering. There were simply too many horses and not enough food or basic care to ensure their needs were being met."

The owner of the horses received a four-year ban on keeping equines, a 14-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months, and was ordered to pay £150 costs and a £115 victim surcharge. Her remaining 29 horses were also signed over into the care of the RSPCA.

# Helping horses beyond our own paddock fences

With more than 1,500 residents in our direct care, Redwings has to reserve precious space at the Sanctuary for the most serious cases of neglect and cruelty, when rescue is vital.

But we also work incredibly hard to find other ways of helping horses and improving equine welfare across the country. Our teams are involved in all kinds of initiatives in an effort to reach more horses and, just as importantly, more horse owners!

## Out and about for horse welfare

Redwings' Field Officers do a fantastic job of checking the welfare of horses who may be neglected or abandoned. But they also spend a lot of time working with owners to support them with advice and practical tips to help provide the best care for their horses' health and happiness.

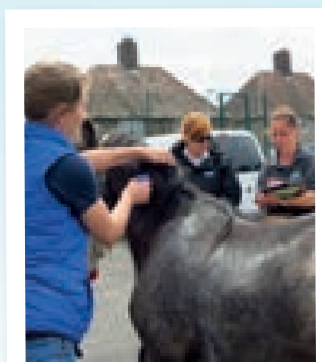
Redwings is also one of a group of charities who have come together through our membership of the National Equine Welfare Council, and we work together to provide practical support for owners in a number of different ways.

## Link days

Link days, which have been running since 2011, are held in different areas of the country at regular intervals and are an important way for welfare charities to 'link' with and help owners. These owners tend not to be part of the mainstream equestrian culture in the UK and therefore often rely on friends and family for their horse care advice.

At these events, vets from Redwings offer free visual health checks and advice, and can insert a microchip, issue a horse passport and give a wormer – all for a reduced cost.

With a new change in microchipping legislation (see opposite page) these Link days are likely to be more important than ever as a way of helping owners meet the requirements of the new law. The days are also a very successful way of sharing positive welfare guidance to benefit all the horses we meet at each event.



Redwings' welfare work has led to more than 1,000 horses being microchipped since 2011 as part of Link days, BHS Health Clinics and outreach to vulnerable horses.

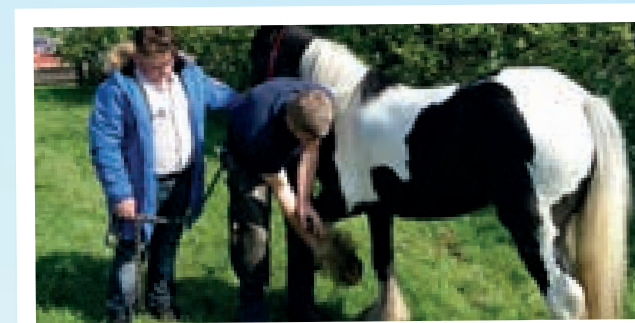
*A Redwings vet painlessly inserts a microchip into a pony at a Link day, while our Field Officer helps with the horse passport.*

## Health clinics

Redwings is also part of a charity team-effort led by the The British Horse Society in collaboration with the British Equine Veterinary Association Trust, to help reduce the vulnerable horse population in the UK. At its current level, the high number of low value horses and ponies is a driving force behind the number of cases of poor welfare and abandonment that we see every year.

The clinics are a very practical way of reducing the number of stallions, who could otherwise go on to father many foals every year, and improving their quality of life as they can go on to live more happily in groups of other males.

After piloting the clinics with the BHS back in 2014, Redwings provides consistent support through our field officers, welfare vets and education team. Similarly to Link days, these clinics offer a relatively simple veterinary process to horse (and donkey!) owners at a reduced rate, and give us a chance to talk to owners about all sorts of horse care issues, from feeding and farriery, to weight management and worming!



*We worked with Educator and Farrier, Dean Bland, to give horse owners a better understanding of the important structure, function and care of the equine foot.*

# Chips for everyone!

In June this year, an important new law was passed that requires all owners to microchip their horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. Like similar microchipping legislation for dogs, the law has two main aims.

Firstly, it will help identify lost or stolen horses as quickly as possible and make sure they can be reunited with their owner. Secondly, owners can be held more accountable for horses whose welfare or safety is a concern. The law ties in with a new Central Equine Database, which will hold details of all the equines registered, their microchip number and owner information for relevant authorities to access.

Redwings worked hard to help bring this law in by sharing our experience of rescuing abandoned horses, horses where ownership could not be proved, and bringing straying horses into our care until their owner can be found. We also take part in regular meetings where animal welfare issues are discussed with MPs and government departments.

All horses born after 2009 are already required to be microchipped. This extension of the law means that from October 2020, every equine in the UK should have a unique identification number and have their ownership details recorded, which is fantastic news for horse welfare!

We have published advice to owners who have unchipped horses and may be interested in how the law will affect them on our website [www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/compulsory-microchipping](http://www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/compulsory-microchipping)

## Advice in the digital world



As well as our teams travelling to help horses and owners across the country, we are also busy behind the scenes, creating exciting new ways of connecting with people through our website and social media. In particular, this

year is a very exciting one for our award-winning *Stamp Out Strangles* campaign. We are in the process of launching our special *Stamp Out Strangles* pledge – inviting people who own and work with horses to commit to help protect equines from this horrible disease. To help people put their pledge in place, we have also created a Strangles Hub within the Redwings website, where people can find out more about the disease, how Redwings has prevented hundreds of cases of strangles over the years – as well as facing our own outbreak in 2015 – and how anyone who is involved with horses can take simple steps to keep strangles bacteria at bay.

*We will have lots more campaign news in our spring 2019 newsletter. In the meantime go to [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk) and visit our campaign pages!*





# Questions of life (at Redwings!)



## Q: Why do you have empty paddocks at your sites?

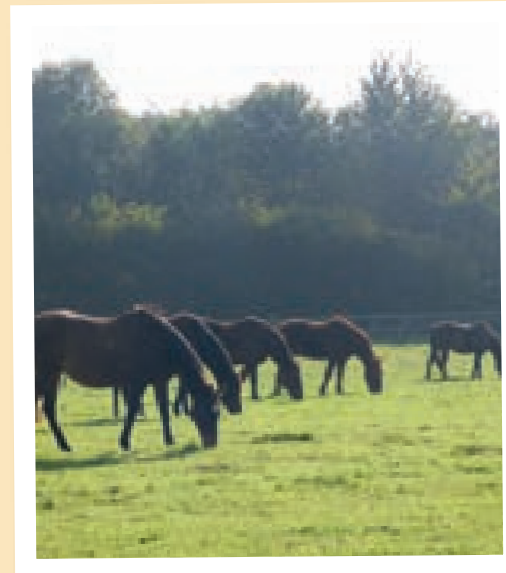
To help keep our horses healthy, we need to keep our paddocks healthy too!

Empty paddocks are an essential part of the process of looking after our 1,500 sanctuary residents on a daily basis. Grazing is essential to good horse health, both physical and mental. At Redwings, we make sure that, unless there is a veterinary reason to bring a horse into a stable, all our residents can enjoy paddock life all day, every day.

Horse hooves, horse teeth, horse muck and the weather can all take their toll on soil and grass. To make sure Redwings' precious paddocks stay in tip-top condition for our herds, we have summer fields and winter fields.

This means that horses move to lovely fresh paddocks in spring and autumn, and the field they have left behind can take a much-needed break. The paddock has a chance to rest and recover, and we have time to carry out important tasks like adding fertiliser, spraying or digging up poisonous plants and maintaining our fencing and field shelters.

The weather in 2018 has been especially challenging, with a lot of rain in the winter (not to mention the "Beast from the East"!), followed by soaring temperatures and drought in the summer, putting more pressure on our pasture. But our teams work incredibly



hard to make sure that whatever Mother Nature throws at us, Redwings' paddocks are the perfect place for our horses to call home.

## Q: Why are only certain horses and donkeys available to adopt?

We know how easy it is to fall in love with all our rescued residents, so it can seem puzzling when only a selection of

our horses and donkeys are available to sponsor on our Adoption Scheme.

We limit our adoptions to those residents living at our visitor centres, rather than our closed farms, so you can meet them in person and spend as much time as you like with your four-legged friend – plus we can host fun events such as the famous Adoption Star birthday parties!

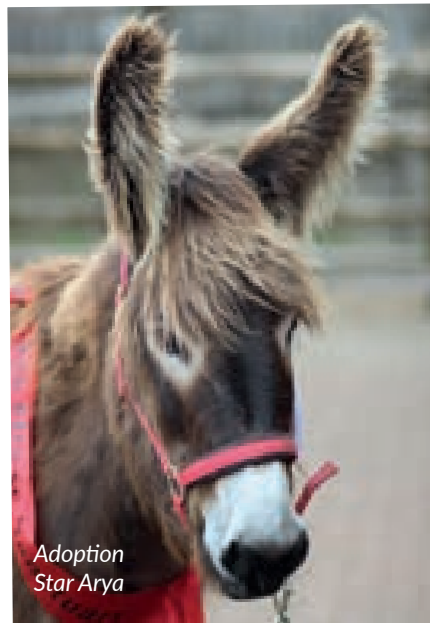
When choosing an Adoption Star we also carefully consider whether they would be happy with such attention. As our horses and donkeys have often experienced difficult starts in life, some are less confident than others or live with long-term health difficulties, which means they are best suited to a life away from the limelight. As part of the Adoption Scheme, we provide regular updates and photographs from our Adoption Stars, which takes a great deal of work behind

the scenes and so unfortunately this would not be feasible with a larger selection of residents.

However, with our 23 Adoption Stars, we do our best to ensure the list contains a variety of personalities and breeds – from irresistibly fluffy donkey Arya to handsome Thoroughbred cross Gulliver – so you're bound to find the perfect friend for you!

Most importantly, all the money raised through our Adoption Scheme not only goes towards the care of your Adoption Star, but their friends too. So even if your favourite horse or donkey is not available to adopt, your sponsorship is still helping them to lead a happy and healthy life at Redwings.

**You can sponsor a Redwings Adoption Star for £15 per year. To adopt today, visit [www.redwings.org.uk/adoption](http://www.redwings.org.uk/adoption)**



Adoption  
Star Arya

# Redwings' first unbacked project ponies become star pupils!

At the start of this year, we introduced an exciting development to our rehoming programme. Under the Redwings Guardianship Scheme we are now rehoming unbacked horses and ponies.



Moto

Unbacked horses are those who have not yet been trained to be ridden under saddle. As part of this new development in our rehoming operations, our team train our unbacked residents to the point where they are easy to handle with a head collar and lead rope, as well as to where they are happy to stand for the vet and farrier to

ensure all their care needs can be met. Their new Guardians are then responsible for training them to be ridden in their new homes.

One of the first ponies to be rehomed as an unbacked project was seven-year-old cob cross Tom from Redwings Ada Cole. Tom came to Redwings in 2015 after he was seized by the RSPCA as his owner was failing to provide him with veterinary treatment following a traumatic injury. Happily, he has now been rehomed to the riding centre at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School (RAAS) in Surrey.

RAAS stables manager, Irini Economou, first enquired about rehoming from Redwings when she met our team in the Rescue Village at the Your Horse Live event in Warwickshire last November. When Irini was put in touch with our rehoming team at our Hapton headquarters, we knew the school would be a perfect home for Tom as an unbacked project.



Moto, Clyde, Acer, Tom, Zowie and Noah at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School riding centre

Fellow Redwings Ada Cole resident Moto, who was looking for a home as a child's ridden pony, was also rehomed to RAAS to help show Tom the ropes.

"We wanted to rehome from Redwings to give rescued ponies the opportunity to live at the school and be loved by all the pupils," explained Irini. "Even though Tom was unbacked he took to his training with us incredibly well, you would think he had been ridden for years!"

"This summer he has been out cross country schooling, and the children adore both him and Moto. Moto is an absolute superstar with the pupils too!"

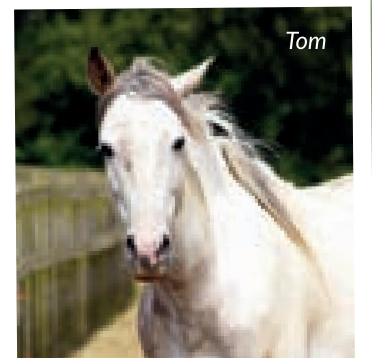
In fact, Tom and Moto were such a hit at the school they offered to rehome even more Redwings ponies. The equestrian centre is now home to six Redwings ponies with Acer, Clyde, Zowie and Noah joining them this year. Like Tom, Noah and Zowie were rehomed as unbacked projects and are now enjoying gentle hacks around the school's 200 acres of parklands as their training progresses.

Irini continued: "The Redwings staff have been brilliant every step of the way. We are delighted to have the Redwings ponies in our riding school and have thoroughly enjoyed watching them progress."

And that's not all! The school's support for the Sanctuary doesn't end there as the pupils have been busy holding fundraising events for Redwings and Irini is even planning a 10,000ft skydive!

*It's an exciting time for rehoming at Redwings as we are also currently investing in new training centres at Redwings Caldecott and Redwings Oxhill.*

*These centres will play a vital role helping us to rehome more horses, giving them the chance to find loving homes outside the Sanctuary, and most importantly enabling us to have more space to rescue horses that desperately need our help.*



Tom



# Winter care at Redwings

## Caring for our residents come rain or shine... or snow!

A British winter can provide a variety of challenging weather conditions; from gales and driving rain, to hard frosts and snow. Who can forget the “Beast from the East” at the start of this year?! Our horses live outside in natural herds all year round, but in the colder months our equine care teams go the extra mile to ensure every rescued resident remains happy and healthy.

*Let’s take a look at how we’ll be caring for our four-legged friends this winter.*

## Winter clothes

Many of our horses and ponies are native to Britain. These breeds are very hardy and are able to cope with the winter weather by naturally storing extra fat for energy and growing thick winter coats, so many of our residents rarely require the additional warmth of a rug.

Meanwhile, breeds from warmer countries – like Thoroughbreds and Arabs – cope better during hot summers. However, by providing a field shelter, a good quality winter rug and a well thought-out diet, we can help these breeds to live out happily in their paddocks all year round too.

In all cases, we keep a close eye on our horses’ age and weight. An elderly and/or thin horse will feel the cold more so may need some extra support. Even in wintry conditions, however, our teams will remove rugs once a day to check underneath. If a horse has sweated in a rug (which can easily happen with a quick change in temperature), this can lead to skin problems. It’s also harder to check if a horse has lost or gained weight under the cover of a rug.

**Did you know?** As well as during the day, our teams will also check on the health of our horses every night!

## Managing fields

With 1,500 mouths to feed, it’s important we ensure our horses have sufficient grazing all year round. However, horses are heavy animals with big feet and they quickly churn up soft ground! Here are some of the ways we minimise the damage:

### Resting pasture

We leave some fields empty in the winter months so our horses have lush areas to enjoy once the ground has dried out. So, while it may look at times that we have space to take in more horses, empty fields are actually part of a crucial grazing strategy. Head to page 8 to read more about why we have empty fields at Redwings.

### Protecting fields

We put down a hard surface in the most used areas of the field, such as near a gate or around hayrings using straw or hardcore to protect them in the winter. This also provides a temporary reprieve from the mud for our residents.

### Straw pads

You may see areas of straw in our fields during the winter. These provide a comfy, dry area for eating hay... and even for snuggling down for a snooze.



## The “forage run”

When grass is in short supply, we supplement our horses’ grazing with forage such as hay. At our Hapton HQ, which is home to over 300 special care residents, delivering hay (known as the “forage run”) can take between four and seven hours each and every day!

**Did you know?** Last winter (September 2017 to May 2018) we purchased 2,150 tonnes of hay at £320,000!

## Topping up water

Did you know horses need extra water in winter? Grass is made up of 80% water so when horses make the switch to dry foods, like hay, they need to up their intake. Frosty nights can freeze water so our teams will regularly check every trough and bucket to break up ice and ensure they remain full.

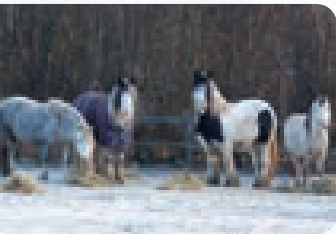


## Shelter from the elements

Each of our fields come equipped with a shelter – perfect for any residents looking to take a break from the elements (although we find most enjoy a good run around in the rain and snow!). We check our shelters annually to ensure they are able to withstand all weathers.

Just like a stable, our shelters are cleared of droppings every day as part of our management against worms and filled with clean bedding in case a horse fancies a lie down.

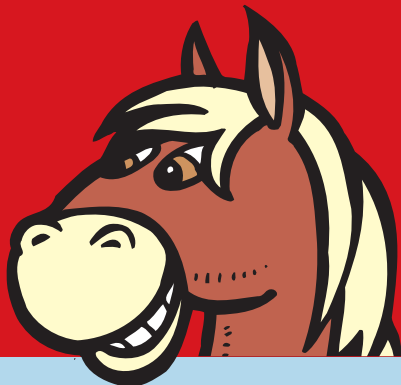
**Did you know?** Each field shelter costs £5,000!





## News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'

All our visitor centres are open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 10am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)



Ada Cole Essex, EN9 2DH

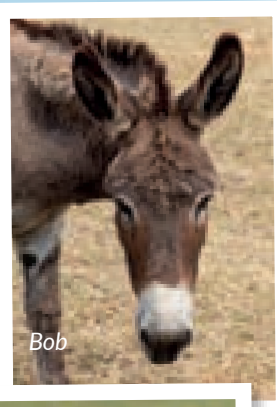
REDWINGS

## New donkeys!

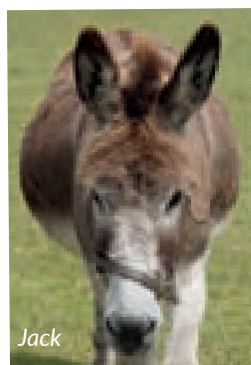
Our donkey herd at Redwings Ada Cole has grown after welcoming four new arrivals – Jack, Bob, Connor and April.

Jack and Bob arrived at the Sanctuary last December following a request from their owner who was sadly unable to continue caring for them. Connor and April arrived in May this year when Connor was suffering from a hoof condition that his owner could no longer manage. Due to his close bond with best pal April, we were happy to offer a home to the pair who are now enjoying life at Redwings.

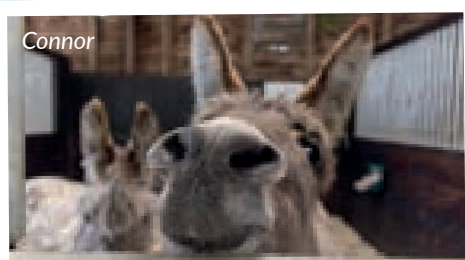
They're a friendly bunch so make sure you say hello next time you're visiting!



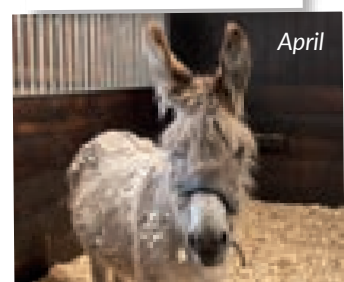
Bob



Jack



Connor



April



Josh and Tucker

## Double trouble!

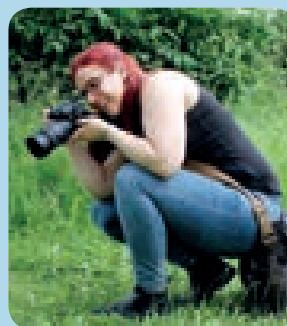
Watch out! We have a new cheeky duo in town!

Teeny Tucker and Josh – the two smallest residents in the entire Sanctuary (!) – were introduced to each other earlier this year and have become the best of friends. Tucker, who is just one year older

than Josh, has been showing his new pal the ropes of living at a visitor centre and the adorable pair love all the attention they receive from their supporters, as well as revelling in running rings around their carers! Little Josh was found abandoned at a skate park in Harlow, Essex, in 2016 suffering from lameness, chronic diarrhoea and an ulcerated eye. Despite still requiring extra TLC from our vets from time to time, Josh has settled well into life at the Sanctuary, all thanks to his new friend Tucker.

## Meet our volunteer photographer Fran!

Fran volunteers at Redwings Ada Cole as a photographer for events such as our Adoption Star birthday parties – have you met her?



Volunteering is a great way to support our charity and we have opportunities to suit everyone – from assisting with our education activities such as the Redwings Summer Club and helping our team spread the word of our work at county shows, to providing essential admin support at our head office and merchandising or maintenance at our visitor centres. Here's why Fran enjoys volunteering at Redwings:

"Being a volunteer photographer at Redwings combines my two passions in life – photography and horses. It is a great way to develop my skills as a photographer while being in a beautiful and fun environment.

"All the residents at Redwings Ada Cole are happy and well looked after, and over the year that I have been volunteering I have gotten to know some of their personalities, which I love to capture on camera. I believe these kind of images really help to show what a great place Redwings is, and I am so proud that I can use my skills to help the charity in this way."

To volunteer at Redwings, visit [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)

REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



## Art sale success

We'd like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who donated or purchased pieces in our special Amersham art sale.

Earlier this year, we called upon all budding artists to create artwork inspired by the survivors of the Amersham rescue to commemorate its 10th anniversary.

We were thrilled to receive scores of beautiful paintings and sketches; and thanks to your talents, and the generosity of our buyers, the art sale has raised an incredible £1,233! This wonderful total will now go towards our Amersham 10 Fund,

which will help us continue giving our Amersham survivors a safe and happy home at the Sanctuary for the next decade.



Hersheys approves of his portrait

## Cookie's first party as an Adoption Star

After joining the Redwings Adoption Scheme at Easter to commemorate 10 years since his rescue from Spindle Farm in Amersham, spotty pony Cookie enjoyed his first-ever birthday party as an Adoption Star.

We were delighted to see so many supporters join Cookie for his big day, especially as it was also a big birthday for this handsome chap, turning the grand age of 21!

Cookie, accompanied by best pal Coral, was treated to a lovely groom, before meeting lots of visitors and enjoying plenty of cuddles during his birthday parade. He then tucked into his very own birthday cake, topped with all his favourite treats – we definitely think he's enjoying his new role as an Adoption Star!

## Sharing our expertise!

Not only does the wonderful visitor centre at Redwings Aylsham welcome thousands of visitors each year, it is also a perfect place to host our regular programme of free evening veterinary seminars.

This year has already seen successful seminars focusing on two very different issues that Redwings is equally passionate about – equine behaviour and infectious disease!

Our 'To treat or not to treat?' evening in April gave horse owners top tips on how to use food as an effective reward when handling, rather than offering their horse titbits, which is known to encourage bad habits like nipping.

In July, Redwings vet Nic de Brauwere shared his extensive knowledge and experience of protecting horses from the contagious and very unpleasant disease 'strangles', helping owners and yard managers to find practical ways of keeping this horrible illness at bay.

To find out more about our seminars and the many other ways Redwings works to share its expertise, go to [www.redwings.org.uk/welfare/advice-and-information](http://www.redwings.org.uk/welfare/advice-and-information)



Coral and Cookie

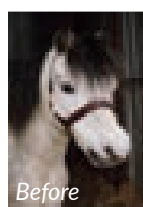
## A sad farewell to Oliver Twist

We were terribly sad to announce that retired Adoption Star Oliver Twist passed away in March.

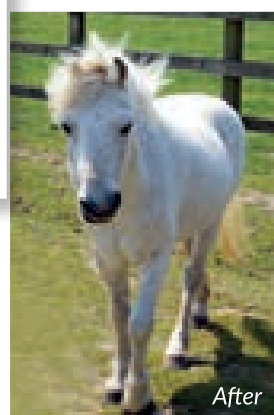
Oliver Twist came to Redwings in 1997, after he was rescued from a horse sale in Nottingham. Oliver had a condition called "wry" nose, which meant his muzzle was twisted (hence his name), but this never seemed to bother him and we think it only added to his charm.

Oliver had lived at our Caldecott Visitor Centre since it opened in 1999, and was due to celebrate his 27th birthday this summer. He stole the hearts of many supporters during the 17 years he served as an Adoption Star, with the last three years spent as a retiree.

While he was still in reasonable health for his age, on Wednesday 21st March, Oliver suffered a very sudden and severe seizure, which he failed to recover from



Before



After

and our vets had to make the heart-breaking decision to put him to sleep.

We'll never forget this handsome and friendly chap, and we know you won't either. RIP Oliver Twist.



Redwings Caldecott was honoured with two awards at this year's Greater Yarmouth Tourism and Business Awards, which celebrated the best in tourism excellence in the area!

We also took home the award for best Marketing Campaign for the sensitive way new Adoption Star Fox was introduced onto our Adoption Scheme as a replacement for much-loved Shire horse Poppy, who sadly died very suddenly last year.

Janet Arlow, Visitor Centre Manager, said: "I'm incredibly proud to be a part of the Redwings Caldecott team. Everyone works so hard to take care of our rescued residents, but we're also equally passionate about ensuring our visitors have a wonderful time and, importantly, go away with a better understanding of horse welfare."

The centre was presented with the Working Team award for the promotion and delivery of its activities for families, in particular our popular Summer Club, which offers free, fun and educational sessions for children aged six to 11 during the school summer holidays.

## Caldecott scoops two tourism awards

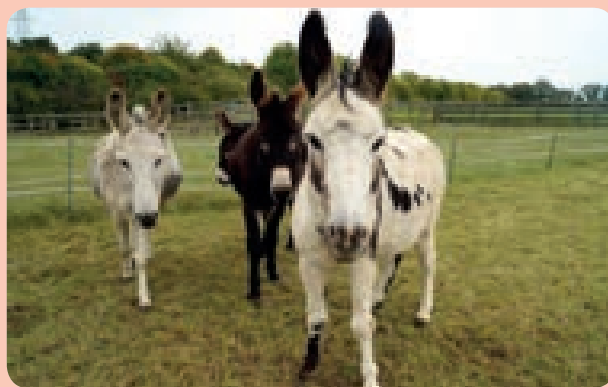
## Exciting plans ahoof!

Redwings Caldecott has been undergoing some exciting changes!

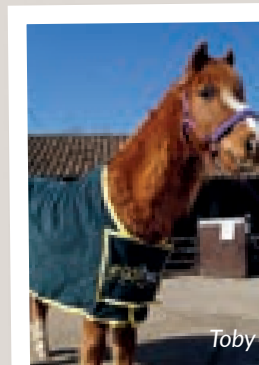
This summer, we have been developing Caldecott Hall where our brand-new gift shop and café will be located. The relocation of our visitor facilities will enable us to build a

new rehoming centre as part of plans to expand our rehoming operations so even more rescued horses and ponies can find loving homes outside the Sanctuary.

While works have been underway, our visitor facilities have been relocated to a temporary welcome building and some areas of the centre were cordoned-off. We want to thank all our



visitors for their understanding and support during this time and hope you'll all be able to pop back soon so we can share our fantastic new facilities with you!



Toby



Gibson and Martha

## Ponies in pyjamas!

We'd like to say a big "thank you" to Easibedding who have kindly donated a beautiful selection of new fleeces for our rescued residents. Easibedding, which supplies bedding for horses, poultry and cattle, have sent these fantastic items to a number of our visitor centres across the country, including Redwings Mountains.

Don't you think Gibson and his friend Martha look lovely in their new fleeces?

The lightweight fleeces are also being put to particularly good use at our Horse Hospital at our headquarters in Norfolk where they provide the perfect level of warmth for our patients. They're just like a cosy pair of pyjamas!

**Did you know?** Not all horses and ponies need to wear rugs during the winter – even in Scotland! Many of our rescued residents, such as native breeds and cobs, are well-equipped to cope with the cold and are happy to live out in their fields no matter what the weather! (Head to pages 10 and 11 to find out more about how we care for our residents in winter)



## Out and about with Redwings Mountains

Despite challenging weather conditions brought by the "Beast from the East" at the beginning of the year preventing the Redwings Mountains team getting out and about as much as they would have liked, the start of summer brought some kinder weather and an opportunity to visit some local shows.

We kicked off the summer season by heading to the Angus Show in June, followed by the Kirriemuir Show in July and the Perth Show in August – they really have been a busy bunch!

With Christmas fast approaching, some of our long-eared residents are hoping to make a guest appearance or two at local venues to help spread some festive cheer so make sure you keep a look out for them.

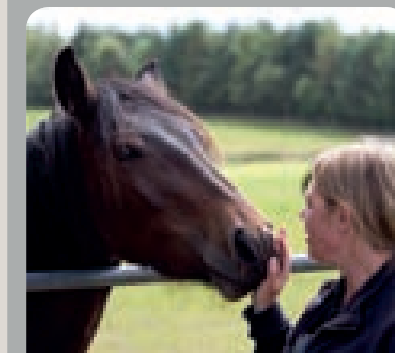
## Generous donation helps us help more horses

We're incredibly thankful to the Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust, which has gifted Redwings a donation of £14,004 to replace and repair paddock fencing at Redwings Mountains.

Unfortunately, three of our large paddocks have been out of action due to urgent repairs needed to their fencing. But, thanks to the generosity of the Trust, they can be brought back into use, ensuring a safe and secure environment for the centre's existing rescued residents, as well as providing extra space for more horses who need help in the future.

This is the second time the Trust has awarded funds to Redwings having supported a successful five-day project in September 2016, which saw a number of equine welfare organisations come together to microchip and health check 160 ponies living on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall. A spokesperson for the Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust added: "We were very impressed with Redwings' work to improve the long-term welfare of ponies on Bodmin Moor, so we're delighted to support the charity again with a grant for fencing at its newest visitor centre."

"Something as simple as better fencing will make such a difference to Redwings' goal of helping even more horses in need of sanctuary – a cause we feel equally passionate about."





## Visitors give Redwings Oxhill the thumbs up!

We're delighted that Redwings Oxhill, alongside Redwings Aylsham and Redwings Caldecott, have been awarded with TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence for 2018. To be awarded the accolade, an attraction has to receive a

consistently high number of reviews on the travel website rated as either "Very Good" or "Excellent".

Our teams work incredibly hard to take care of our rescued residents, but also to ensure everyone who visits enjoys a fantastic day out too



so we're thrilled to receive this acknowledgement from our visitors. Thank you everyone!



## Have you met our new group of ponies at Redwings Oxhill?

An adorable gang of eight Welsh ponies have arrived at the visitor centre from one of our closed farms and are enjoying all the extra fuss they've been getting from our supporters! Our new residents are connected to a large, multi-agency rescue in 2013 where Redwings rescued 53 ponies from a horrific site in Caerphilly, Wales. They were sadly severely emaciated and had been kept in barns with dead horses strewn around them.

The following year, their owner was successfully prosecuted for their neglect and the rescued ponies began a new happy life at Redwings. Some of the mares even went on to give birth to foals at the Sanctuary. All the ponies were named either after fictional detectives or villains, so with names like Harlequin (pictured), Professor Plum and Barty Crouch, what category do you think the majority of our new arrivals fall under?! We hope you can come and meet them sometime.



## Rehoming facility underway

Having been given planning permission for our major rehoming development at Redwings Oxhill, we're delighted to report that work is well underway.

Centre Manager Helen Glen and the Oxhill team have been involved with the design of the rehoming facilities, which include an arena, stables, turnout corals and viewing area for visitors, so it is very exciting for them to see work progressing so well.

We have previously rehomed non-ridden, companion horses and ponies from our Warwickshire centre, but this new venture will make a great impact on our ability to rehome even more (and ridden) horses to free up space at Redwings for other horses and donkeys in need of rescue.

Work is due to be completed this winter so we look forward to showing you around our new facilities and how we prepare our residents for happy homes outside the Sanctuary.

# Fab fundraisers!

There are so many ways to fundraise for Redwings! Whether holding a bake sale, hosting a coffee morning, running a half marathon or even completing a skydive, everyone can be a #RedwingsAngel and help us help horses in need!

Here are just some of the activities our fantastic fundraisers have been up to this year. Thank you to all of them for their efforts, and if they've inspired you to raise money for Redwings, why not head to our JustGiving page ([www.justgiving.com/redwingshs](http://www.justgiving.com/redwingshs)) to start fundraising for your own challenge? We're here to help too! If you have a question about fundraising, would like a fundraising pack or just need some encouragement along the way, please get in touch by calling 01508 481000 or emailing [info@redwings.co.uk](mailto:info@redwings.co.uk). And let us know how you get on!

## Becs reaches new heights

Fearless fundraiser Becs took to the skies to complete a tandem skydive for Redwings!

She said: "It was an absolutely amazing experience, and I would definitely recommend it if anybody has it on their bucket list. Redwings does brilliant work for our equine friends, and I wanted to do something to say thank you for all their hard work."

Becs smashed her fundraising goal of £150 – an amazing amount that could provide 10 horses with hay for a whole month!



## Going the extra mile

Congratulations to Megan who took on the huge challenge of running her first ever half marathon, the Milton Keynes Half Marathon, and raised over £100! This wonderful amount could fund health checks for two new arrivals at the Sanctuary.

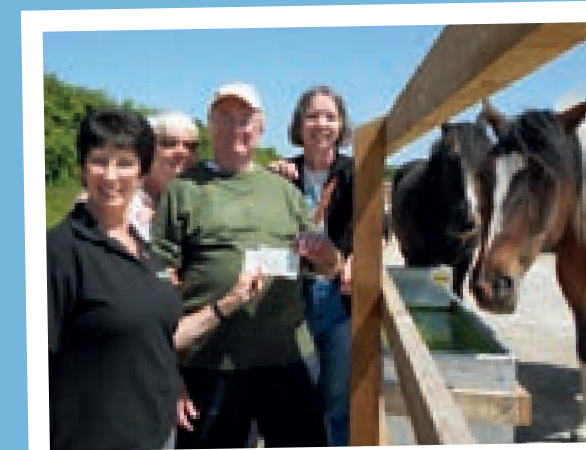
Megan said: "Redwings is a charity that has been close to my heart ever since I was a little girl obsessed with horses. Beginning with Christmas and birthday presents of sponsorships, a lifelong relationship with Redwings was born. Now, finding myself with a broken wrist that left me unable to ride for a year, I decided to challenge myself and improve my fitness by running."

"When the chance came to run a half marathon, I saw a wonderful opportunity to support my favourite cause and to do a bit more for the charity I love so much. And as Redwings does so much for equines across the UK, relying totally on its supporters and kind donations, I wanted to take this chance to keep them going in their important role of helping rescued horses, ponies and donkeys."

## Every penny helps

Long-term supporter Peter and his family visit Redwings Caldecott every year where his daughter Keely sponsors Adoption Star Victoria. During each visit, Peter presents our team with a cheque for money raised through a tombola he hosts at local car boot sales. This summer, Peter donated £18, and his contributions over the years now total more than £200! This great amount could pay for 20 stables to be filled with comfy bedding, and even £18 could fund at least three nutritious feeds for a rescued horse. Every penny really does help!

Peter said: "My daughter used to sponsor Adoption Star Darcey, but when Darcey sadly died she went on to sponsor Victoria. She is a lovely horse; we love to visit her and see all the horses enjoying time in their paddocks. I think it's great what Redwings does and I'm happy to carry on helping where I can."



# Lifelong care for rescued horses and donkeys

Head-to-hoof healthy horses and donkeys are our priority at Redwings. And regular dental checks are a vital part of the lifelong care that every rescued horse and donkey in our Sanctuary receives. The right dental care can prevent painful and sometimes serious health problems, and is particularly important for our many elderly residents.

**Every check-up and every bit of care our rescued horses and donkeys receive is funded by you.**

**Please support us this autumn to help us continue providing the best daily – and lifelong – care to our rescued horses and donkeys.**

Did you know that horses spend around 16 hours grazing each day? With so much chewing and grinding, it's vital that our herds have healthy teeth and gums. And just like humans, horses and donkeys need regular dental checks.

Every one of our rescued horses and donkeys has a dental check-up with a veterinary surgeon or qualified equine dental technician at least once a year to check for and help prevent problems. With 1,500 horses and donkeys in our care that's a lot of mouths – and a lot of teeth – to keep healthy!

This autumn, your donation could provide a dental check for a rescued horse and help to keep our horse and donkey herds happy and healthy all winter long.

## Did you know?

Young horses have very long teeth with the roots buried deep inside the bones of the face and jaw. As the teeth wear down through chewing and grinding food, more tooth emerges from the gum. If the teeth don't wear down evenly it can cause sharp enamel edges and ulceration.



## Healthy teeth, happy horses

Dental problems such as overgrown or misaligned teeth, abscesses and gum disease can not only be painful for our horses, but they can affect a horse's ability to eat and lead to other serious problems. For example, problems that prevent horses chewing properly could result in life-threatening conditions such as choke and colic as a result of half-chewed food getting stuck in the gut. Regular dental check-ups help to prevent pain and illness and are essential to ensuring the ongoing care and welfare of our horses and donkeys.

## Caring for our elderly residents

The many elderly horses in our care need more regular dentist visits as their teeth come to the end of their working life. Our older horses and donkeys usually have a dental check-up twice a year and those with more advanced problems may be seen every three to four months. These check-ups are vital because, as their teeth wear out, older horses may find it difficult to chew long fibre foods like hay, or struggle to pick up grass. We give some of our older horses special feeds of soaked high-fibre cubes at regular intervals to satisfy their need to constantly eat throughout the day.

## How you can help\*...

*Your donation could help pay for essential dental equipment to keep our horses happy and healthy!*

£35

Drench gun to flush out a horse's mouth at the start and end of a dental

£50

Dental mirror to ensure a complete mouth check

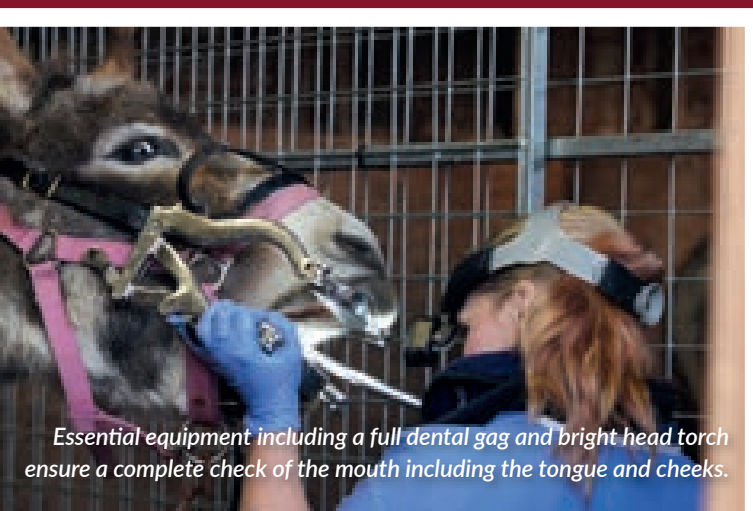
£200

Specialised dental head torch



If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration your donation is worth an extra 25p in every £1 you donate! So, we can turn your £100 gift into £125, which would fund a whole tonne of hay, enough to feed 100 horses!

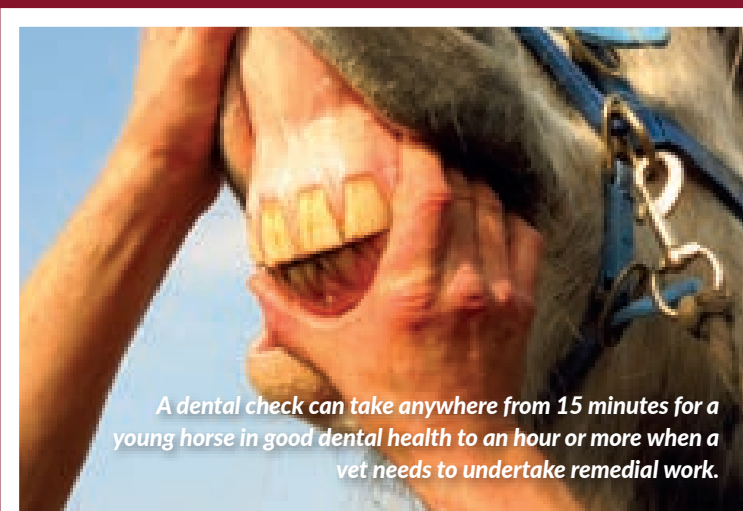
\* Your donation will be used to help provide lifelong care for horses and donkeys at Redwings, including the equipment and staff needed for dental treatment



Essential equipment including a full dental gag and bright head torch ensure a complete check of the mouth including the tongue and cheeks.



With our herds grazing for around 16 hours each day it's vital their teeth and gums are kept healthy.



A dental check can take anywhere from 15 minutes for a young horse in good dental health to an hour or more when a vet needs to undertake remedial work.

**Please donate today**

**01508 481000**

**Text 'REDW18 £15' to 70070 to donate £15**

**www.redwings.org.uk**

*Thank you!*





## Your love of horses can live forever: lifetime gifts providing lifelong care

Whether it's providing daily essentials like food and water, regular dental check-ups or simply some extra TLC in the winter months, your donations provide love and care to every one of our 1,500 rescued horses and donkeys.

Thanks to gifts left in Wills by our supporters, Redwings makes a promise to provide lifelong care to every one of our rescued horses and donkeys. Remembering Redwings in your Will is a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy and help ensure the

care and protection of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules for years to come.

*Your once in a lifetime gift will make a lasting difference to our future and the lives of our horses: it's that simple.*

To find out about giving a lifetime gift of love and care by remembering Redwings in your Will, please contact our Legacy Officer Katie on **01508 481030** or email **legacies@redwings.co.uk**. Thank you.



Adoption Star  
Cookie

## Adopt a Horse for Christmas

Sponsoring a Redwings horse or donkey not only makes a special and unique Christmas gift, but helps to provide year-round love and care to all our rescued residents. For a minimum donation of *just £15 per year*, you can sponsor an Adoption Star at the Redwings visitor centre of your choice.

If you adopt as a gift for a friend or loved one, they will receive a wonderful adoption pack, an invite to their Adoption Star's birthday party and access to regular online updates from their new friend.

Find out more and adopt today at **[www.redwings.org.uk/adoption](http://www.redwings.org.uk/adoption)** or call our team on **01508 481000**.