

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2021

Rescue, rescue, rescue...

Your support has helped us help so many horses in desperate need

Act now for animals

We've joined forces to help animals across the UK

PLUS

Happy endings galore

The multitudes of rescued residents finding loving new homes

Our own superheroes

Go behind the scenes with our amazing vet nurses!

And much more inside...

Welcome to your autumn newsletter for 2021

What a few months it has been! We are still contending with Covid-19 of course and all the challenges that has brought us. But as you will see from this newsletter, that is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of all the activity that has been taking place at Redwings recently.

Our vital frontline rescue work has not slowed for a moment, and we have seen an unprecedented number of welfare cases come to court following the Covid delays, as well as welcoming 83 new arrivals into the Sanctuary in the first half of the year. Meet just a few of them on pages 4 and 5 and find out about the work we do beyond our paddock fences to educate and campaign for improvements to horse welfare on pages 6 and 7.

In particular, we've recently been involved in a national campaign alongside 50 animal welfare organisations to urge the Government to do the right thing and not to waste the opportunities presented by Brexit when it comes to strengthening our animal welfare laws. One of the implications of this is the potential regulation of sanctuaries and horse rescue centres, something we have long called for, and the case study on pages 16 and 17 will make it clear exactly why this needs to happen. The horses involved are also the subject of our Autumn Appeal (see pages 18 and 19) – they have been named after NHS hospitals in honour of their own bravery and that of the incredible health professionals who have cared for us through the last 18 months.

Since the start of the pandemic, I'm delighted to say that we have seen a record number of horses finding their new forever homes, more than 100 in fact. We have a special rehoming feature for you on pages 8 and 9 featuring some wonderful successful stories. One, in particular, has really captured my heart! (Hint - it may not be the one you think!)

On pages 10-11 we give a well-deserved mention to some more heroes, our wonderful vets and especially our vet nurses who have dedicated their lives to keeping our horses, ponies and donkeys in good health, and I can't praise them or the rest of our staff highly enough for their hard work throughout this time as always. We've made use of the furlough scheme where we can to try and retrieve some of the income we lost from the necessary closure of our visitor centres but of course that has inevitably put additional pressure on those still working. In some key areas such as the horse hospital or our horse care teams, the work had to carry on albeit differently.

And finally - it has been an absolute pleasure and joy to be able to reopen our visitor centres at last and welcome you back to see us and the horses of course, especially the Adoption Stars who have definitely been missing their visitors! You can read some of the news from our centres from page 14 onwards.

We continue to be so grateful for your kind support throughout these turbulent times and let's hope we have turned a corner at last.

Very best wishes,



Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive and Secretary

Lynn pictured with Fox



As horse lovers, we understand the responsibility that comes with providing for a horse's physical and emotional welfare. Sadly, when that responsibility is not met sometimes the consequences can be far-reaching and have a terrible impact on the horses involved.

Turn to page 16 to read about the rescue of over 100 horses and ponies from an organisation claiming to be a sanctuary and to page 18 to meet one of the mares now living at Redwings and find out how her life has changed forever.

Please donate today to help ponies like Harefield learn to trust*

Please donate today:

- 01508 481000
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **TRUST 10** to **70450** to donate **£10**

(You can also opt to give any amount – whole £s only – up to £20. All texts cost the donation amount plus a standard network message.)

*Your donation will be used wherever it is needed most in the Sanctuary and will help to fund the ongoing care of all our residents, including those described here.

News update...

No business like Show business

We have had yet another year of cancelled events and working from home but in lieu of our usual Show, we managed to run a wonderful online version in June where people send in their photos and videos for judging instead of having to travel anywhere. We had some great judges including YouTube sensation This Esme and over 400 entries to our classes, which this year included Heavenly Horses, Perfect Ponies, Cutest Pet and for the first time, Doggy Dressage!

The Show raised £1,250 – in fact, since our first online show in 2020, our participants have raised over £4,000, a fantastic amount. A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part so far – you are all **#RedwingsAngels!** You can see all the winning entries on our YouTube channel, and keep your eyes peeled for the next event in the autumn...



BBC Panorama report

Did you see 'The Dark Side of Horse Racing' programme on BBC Panorama recently? This upsetting episode highlighted issues that go far beyond horse racing and have implications for horses and ponies across the UK. Visit our website to read our full statement and turn to pages 6 and 7 to find out about the work we have been doing for many years alongside other welfare charities to try and improve things for our beloved equine friends.

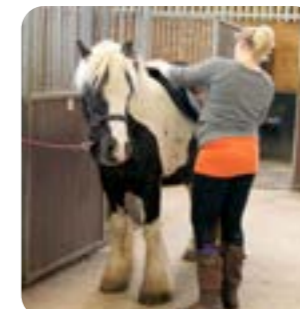


Follow the van!

We recently upgraded our Maintenance van – do you like their fancy paintwork?! If you see our hardworking Maintenance team out and about on their travels do give them a wave, they help maintain our fences, fix water tanks, build shelters, the list goes on and on! **#superheroes**

Saddling up with Redwings!

You may remember that in 2020 Redwings and The Horse Trust created an online equine welfare course for farriers. We are delighted to say that we have since been contacted by the Society of Master Saddlers to tell us how valuable they felt the course was, and asking whether we could adapt the course for their own members. Naturally, we said yes!



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Our cover star is Wacko the donkey, one half of our inimitable Adoption duo Wiggins and Wacko who live at Redwings Aylsham. Taken by lovely member of staff Chloe!

And finally...

If you are a podcast fan your wishes have come true! Redwings now has its own podcast – yes really!

Called Sounds of the Sanctuary, it can be found on all major podcast players and gives a super insight into life behind the scenes here at Redwings, and how we use all your kind donations to transform lives.

Do give us a listen and let us know what you think!



Redwings to the rescue!

News of our frontline work from around the UK



Zac bounces back!

At the start of the year, our Senior Field Officer Julie Harding transported an emaciated horse to the Sanctuary who had been left without basic care.



Zac before

The handsome 16-year-old Thoroughbred, named Zac, was discovered living in a field in Norfolk covered in thick ankle-deep mud with no shelter or access to grass, forage or water. He was assessed to have a Body Condition Score of 0.5 out of 5 (an ideal score is 3) and was teeming with lice.

When it became apparent his former owner could not provide the care he desperately needed, he was signed over into our ownership. Since his arrival, Zac has steadily gained weight and gone on to live at our Aylsham Visitor Centre where he has made plenty of new friends – two and four-legged! Just look at the difference in these photos!



Zac now

En Garde!

In the last edition of our newsletter, we brought you the story of rescued Trakehner horses Summer, Elsa and foal Bruni. Following the conclusion of the prosecution case, we have offered a permanent home to a fourth horse, an absolutely stunning 18-year-old stallion named Garde, who had been under the care of the RSPCA.



Garde

Garde arrived in April and has settled well into his new home at one of our closed Norfolk sites.

A safe new home for neglected ponies



Before rescue

In February, we travelled to Suffolk alongside the local police, RSPCA and fellow welfare

charities to assess the wellbeing of a group of ponies following a report from a concerned member of the public.

We removed eight ponies from the site, all suffering from overgrown hooves, heavy worm burdens and leg mite infestations. They were also significantly

underweight, and some were suffering from painful mouth conditions. At the Sanctuary, they were given immediate veterinary treatment and we named them after characters from The Little Mermaid - Ariel and her sisters.

Very sadly, one of the ponies - Alana - was put to sleep shortly after the rescue when it became clear she was too weak to fight her heavy worm burden.

Today, the remaining ponies are continuing to thrive – you can watch a video of their

transformation on our YouTube channel (scan the QR code to watch it) and thanks to all those who donated towards their care in our Summer appeal.



Three of the ponies safe in our care



New life for “pasta ponies”



One of the ponies found at the site

A north Wales man was handed a suspended jail term after failing to meet the needs of 91 ponies and causing dozens of them to suffer at his farm.

He was also banned from keeping horses and poultry for 20 years and ordered to pay a £1,000 fine following conviction in June. A large multi-agency operation took place at his farm in September 2020. Dozens of horses and other animals were found in outbuildings, barns and fields in highly unhygienic and hazardous

conditions. One horse had even been denied appropriate care for a broken leg, while others needed treatment for parasites, as well as dental care and hoof trims.

Redwings offered a home to 15 of the ponies. Since their arrival, mares in the group who were pregnant at the time of the rescue, have given birth to four foals.

In true Redwings style, they have all been named along a theme – pasta

and sauces! Names include Farfalle, Carbonara, Ragu, Macaroni and Ravioli!



Macaroni



Carbonara and Pepe

John will never face suffering again

An extremely overweight horse now has a permanent home after his former owner was banned from keeping horses for three years.

She was also ordered to pay costs of £8,000 and a fine of £875 when sentenced in June for causing unnecessary suffering by failing to prevent his obesity which was causing him pain, as well as failing to meet his needs by not giving him a suitable diet.

The horse, named John, weighed in at more than 100kg heavier than he should have been, but since his arrival at our Reception Centre last year he has steadily returned to a healthy weight and now has a home at the Sanctuary for life.



John before



John after

Horse trader jailed

A South Wales horse trader and breeder was jailed for six months and banned from keeping any animals for life following a conviction in April.

His partner was also sentenced to a 12-week custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months, and disqualified from keeping any animals for life, except a number of specified pets. Having previously found a number of sheep in a suffering state at a site in Swn-y-Mor in Wick, local Animal Health and Welfare Officers discovered horses living in appalling conditions in January 2020, at the same site and a further two locations nearby.

Redwings' Head of Welfare & Behaviour, Nic de Brauwere, provided a veterinary assessment of some of the horses and presented evidence in court. Efforts are now underway to rehome the horses, who have since been brought back to full health.

Strangles Awareness Week goes global!

Redwings led another hugely successful Strangles Awareness Week (SAW) in May, the second time a group of organisations have come together to raise awareness of the UK's most common infectious equine disease, and promote support for anyone – horse or human – who is affected by an outbreak. SAW 2021 was not only supported by almost 200 Ambassadors, who shared information and downloadable resources about the campaign through their online channels, but it also attracted unexpected international attention! Veterinary



bodies in both Sweden and The Netherlands ran parallel versions of the campaign

translated into their respective languages and we also welcomed Ambassadors from Equine Veterinarians Australia!

The huge overseas reach SAW achieved reflects the fact that strangles is very much a global issue, affecting horses in every country apart from Iceland (who have not allowed the import of horses for more than 1,000 years!). One of the most popular elements of SAW 2021 was a daily podcast sharing voices from across the equestrian industry. Horse owners, yard managers,

vets, farriers and international sports team members provided fascinating insights into their own strangles experience, the steps they take to protect horses from the disease, and why SAW is such an important campaign for them.

Covid restrictions meant SAW was held entirely online again this year, but that definitely didn't hold us back! Our posts during the week reached well over 300,000 people across social media. In addition, 36 articles in the equestrian press reached more than half a million horse-loving readers!

We are already working hard on plans to make SAW 2022 even bigger and continue to reach more horse owners and equestrian professionals so they too can spread the word, not the disease.



Two animal welfare milestones reached...

One of the recommendations in No Animal Left Behind (see below) was to recognise animals as sentient beings. This legal status was lost as the UK withdrew from the European Union, but the government has responded to overwhelming pressure to include this recognition through a new Sentience Bill. The Bill not only enshrines our understanding that animals experience emotions such as pleasure, pain and fear, but will establish an Animal Sentience Committee to ensure their status as sentient beings is reflected in all relevant government policies. At the time of writing the Bill is progressing through parliament and we look forward to bringing you news of its addition to UK law in the next newsletter!

Having already received royal assent, Redwings is delighted that the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act came into force on 29th June this year. The Act significantly increases the penalties a court can use to sentence individuals guilty of the most serious animal welfare offences, including increasing the maximum prison sentence from six months to five years.

While prosecutions are only ever taken as a last resort, Redwings has sadly seen many cases where education and support have not been effective at preventing neglect and cruelty. In these circumstances, it is important that sentencing options reflect the severity of the crime and act as an effective deterrent to those who ruthlessly exploit or abuse the animals in their care.

It's still #BangOutOfOrder!

With fireworks season almost upon us, it's time to raise awareness of the horrific impact this time of year can have on many animals, particularly horses. We will once again be supporting the RSPCA's *Bang Out Of Order* campaign to promote more responsible use of fireworks around animals, and call for more restrictions on their sale and use. Anyone who uses social media can join the call for action by simply adding the #BangOutOfOrder profile frame and sharing Redwings' posts using the hashtag!

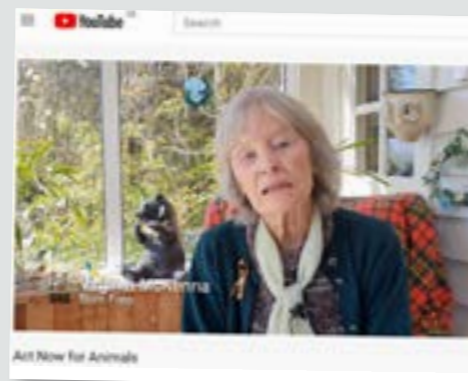


Act Now for Animals

Redwings was one of 50 organisations that came together earlier this year in a unique partnership to ask the government for more action on animal welfare. The result is Act Now for Animals, a ground-breaking campaign with a vision to redefine the UK's relationship with animals.

The first step for the campaign was the publication of No Animal Left Behind, a document outlining the chance we currently have to redefine our relationship with animals, reflecting their diverse roles within our society, from domestic and farmed animals, to wildlife and exotic species.

Supported and introduced by television presenter and activist Chris Packham, No Animal Left Behind is just the start of the campaign to bring animal welfare into the 21st century spotlight.



The document's recommendations include proposals with potential to have a huge impact on horse welfare:

- **Better use of equine identification legislation** to link every horse with an owner
- **Introduction of animal sanctuary licensing** in England and Wales, to mirror legislation already introduced in Scotland
- **Review of the use of fireworks** to inform new restrictions to curb their impact on animal welfare
- **Ban the export of horses for slaughter**, along with other farm animal species
- **Better funding and enforcement** of all animal welfare legislation

To find out more and read *No Animal Left Behind* simply go to www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/act-now-for-animals You can also use the hashtag #ActNowForAnimals across social media and look out for updates and chances to get involved and join the drive to make a difference for animals as the campaign progresses!



Did you catch Redwings Gilbert's TV debut?

Redwings resident Gilbert has found a lovely new home at the farm of wildlife television presenter Kate Humble, and his arrival was filmed for an episode of Kate's television programme *Escape to the Farm*.

The series follows life on Kate's farm, 'Humble by Nature', in Monmouthshire, Wales, and captured Gilbert arriving in the Redwings horsebox and meeting his new Guardian Sarah.

Sarah had been searching for a companion for her horse Rags, who lives at Kate's farm and who had sadly lost his stablemate.

Gilbert was born at Redwings after his mother Florence was rescued from horrific conditions, as part of a large-scale operation. Having grown up here at Redwings, Gilbert had never known anything other than love and care, and our



rehome team knew he had the perfect calm and friendly nature to make him an ideal friend for Rags.

Kate said: "Finding the perfect companion for a horse who has lost his stablemate of many years was not something I expected to be easy. But the knowledge and experience of the staff at Redwings helped us find Gilbert. He and our Rags struck up an instant rapport and Gilbert has become well and truly part of the farm family."

From matts to riches - Redwings Matty does us proud!

Redwings Matty and his Guardian Sarah (who is also one of our fantastic veterinary surgeons) were recently placed third in the Rescue In-hand Class at the Royal Norfolk Show.

Matty was rescued in 2013 at just eight weeks old. A passer-by had found him abandoned in a field in Norfolk. Matty, whose name was inspired by the once densely matted state of his coat, was severely dehydrated, very thin and had an untreated wound on his leg that was covered in maggots. Without help, he could have died within days.

Meanwhile, Sarah had just started working in our Horse Hospital and was part of the team who provided little Matty with round the clock intensive care.

She said: "It was love at first sight and I knew that one day I would like to offer Matty a home. I think he shows the joy of the process of rehoming. When he came to Redwings he was as sick as sick can be but, with the care he received, he made a full recovery and is now able to enjoy life in a home."

Last year, Sarah offered a home to another Redwings pony, 23-year-old Native cross Oak, who is Matty's much-loved companion and 'Grandma' figure!



Redwings Matty with Guardian Sarah Prior at the Royal Norfolk Show



Matty when he arrived at Redwings

A rehoming milestone – on the Dot!



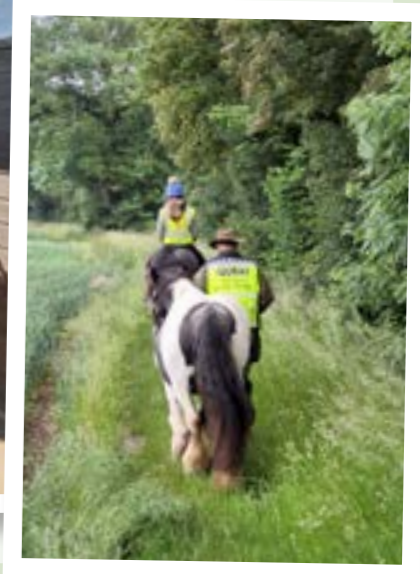
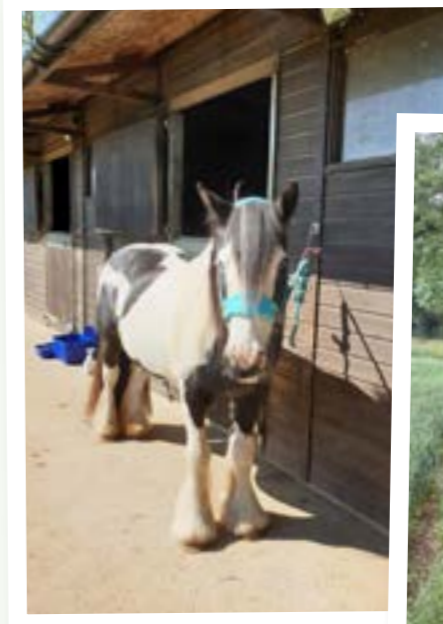
In our last newsletter we introduced you to our new virtual rehoming process, devised to enable us to continue to rehome our horses when in-person trials were suspended due to coronavirus restrictions. It is now our pleasure to introduce Redwings Dot – the 100th horse rehomed by the process since 2020 – marking a year of exceptional work by our rehoming teams, helping more rescued horses than ever before find their forever homes. Dot was rehomed to her new home in Suffolk with Guardian Karen as a companion to her horse Chocci.

Karen told us: "Dot is settled and loves her routine. Trotting her way in in the evening behind Chocci, and then giving us a lovely vocal greeting in the morning too. She has also been out and about with us on a few walks too."

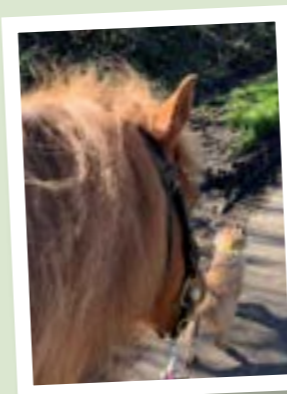
Within weeks of Dot being in her new home, she even made an appearance on BBC Radio Suffolk. A presenter visited Karen and Dot at their yard to find out more about rehoming a horse from Redwings and Dot was the perfect star!

“Dot is settled and loves her routine. Trotting her way in in the evening behind Chocci, and then giving us a lovely vocal greeting in the morning too. She has also been out and about with us on a few walks too.”

100th
horse rehomed
virtually!



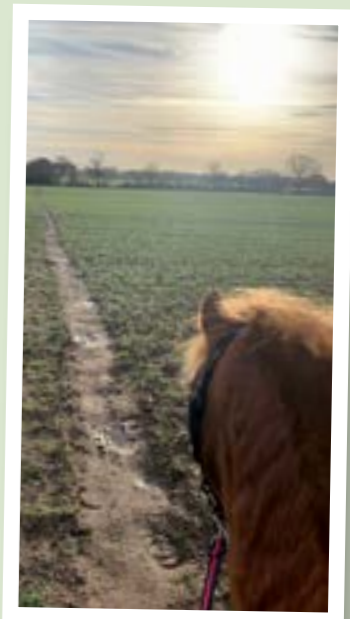
Walking with Whisper



Jenalynn contacted Redwings in 2020 in the hope of finding a pony to love, who might like to accompany her on some walks in the countryside. Our rehoming team knew Whisper, who was looking for a new home due to a change in her Guardian's circumstances, would be the perfect match.

Welsh Mountain pony Whisper, 26, came to Redwings in 2005 from the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies (SWHP) who had originally rescued her, with her foal, after she was found in very poor condition. Redwings and SWHP worked in partnership for many years prior to our merger in 2019, with horses like Whisper offered a home at Redwings to assist them with necessary veterinary treatment or handling

expertise. Jenalynn told us: "Whisper is an amazing pony who brought tremendous peace and happiness to our family during the Covid lockdown. I regularly walked her with my Border Terrier, Maisie, and people would stop and say hello to them and say how it helped them feel less lonely too. Plus, I would hear lovely stories from the ramblers of how they grew up riding similar types of ponies – often we were shouting at each other due to the two-metre social distancing but Whisper didn't bat an eyelid!"



Meet our Veterinary Nursing team!



Every person who works at Redwings plays a vital role helping horses and donkeys in need enjoy new lives at the Sanctuary.

But, in this edition of the newsletter, we'd like to throw a spotlight on one team who works tirelessly behind the scenes every day (even throughout the pandemic) to help some of the poorest ponies in our care – our veterinary nurses. Based out of our Horse Hospital at our headquarters in Norfolk, our nurses support our vets as they provide lifesaving care and ensure our Sanctuary herds remain healthy.

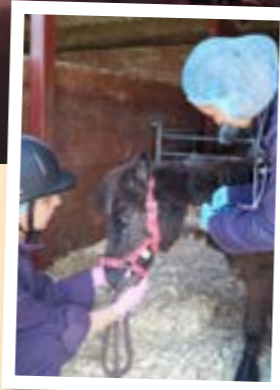
What do our veterinary nurses do?

It's difficult to describe a typical day as a Redwings veterinary nurse; one minute they could be observing a horse for lameness and the next they're rushing to assist with an emergency surgery!

The nurses meet at 7.30am before carrying out their "clinics", heading to all the stables and paddocks where a horse needs medication or to be closely monitored. Depending on the care plan for each horse, these clinics can include a multitude of tasks, such as changing dressings, blood sampling, providing pain

relief and wound treatments. Clinics can be repeated two or three times a day, or in cases of extremely unwell patients, monitoring may be required every hour or even constantly - including throughout the night! Between clinics, each nurse is assigned a role. One nurse will accompany each of Redwings' vets to assist with their cases, helping with everything from taking X-rays to administering blood transfusions, while another will be responsible for caring for the patients in the hospital's intensive care stables. And then there are the 'backroom' tasks that are vitally important to ensure the whole veterinary unit continues to work effectively. For example, one vet nurse will be assigned to the day's

"housekeeping", which involves checking that all the equipment is working, surgical kits are replenished and the operating theatre is clean so if an emergency arises, everything is ready. Before heading home at 4pm (as long as no emergencies arise!), they write up their notes and list which horses need to be visited during the next day's clinics. Some will remain on-call during the night and three nurses will work each weekend to make sure all the horses who need daily treatments are seen to.

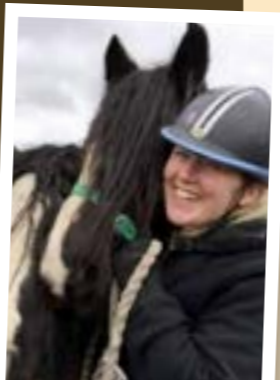


Lou Nursing Team Manager

"I've always been fascinated with horses and started training as an assistant riding instructor before working for Redwings as a farm team member. Before we moved to Hapton, I managed my own line of stables, looking after sick and injured equines and would help the vets administer treatments. I did this for seven months and then applied to become a nursing assistant – I was just 17 at the time! I passed my specialist Equine Veterinary Nursing qualification 16 years ago and still enjoy helping others just starting out. I especially enjoy geriatric patient care as I have come across some amazing equine characters in my time, including my very first patients called Bouncer and Apache. This pair of very hairy ponies could not cope unless they were standing right next to each other, even a piece of paper would have had trouble separating them!"

Abi

"I qualified as a Registered Veterinary Nurse a few years ago and have found it to be a most rewarding job. Every day is different; some days I'm cleaning and working simple tests in the lab, others I'll be working hard all hours on emergency cases, not only supporting the vets in their job but also assessing the patients through my own supportive care. I am also a qualified equine dental technician and have my own horse, rehomed from Redwings, who I enjoy riding and caring for."

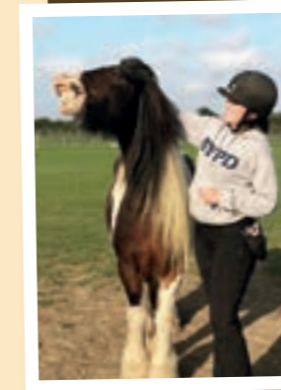


Meg

"I joined the Redwings team in 2019. I started my career as a small animal nurse, but always dreamed of working with horses, so I took a chance and moved my entire life to Norfolk! I have learnt so many new skills nursing equines (the needles and catheters are much larger!). I find the most rewarding aspect of nursing to be caring for our ICU patients and seeing them discharged back to their field of friends."

Lizzy

"I'm a Veterinary Nursing Assistant. I studied Animal Biology at Nottingham Trent University and started working at Redwings when I returned to Norfolk. I love working with so many different horses with such mixed backgrounds. We have such a great team and every day brings something new!"



Rose

"I came to Redwings with a Diploma in Equine Management. I originally started as a member of the horse care team and am now a Veterinary Nursing Assistant. I visited the vet unit on an open day when I was a little girl and was amazed by the place - so much so that from that day it was a dream of mine to work here! It can be a hard and tiring job but seeing (and cuddling) the horses once they're fit and healthy makes it 100% worth it!"

Did you know?

This year marks 20 years since the headquarters of Redwings, including our Horse Hospital, moved to our current base at Hapton, south of Norwich. This former farm gave us the opportunity to expand our rescue and veterinary operations and set up a rehoming centre. Beside special open days, Redwings Hapton is usually closed to the public, but hopefully we'll be able to welcome you back in the future to celebrate this milestone.

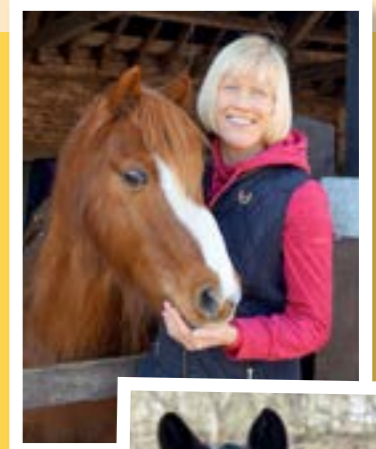
And talking of anniversaries...

This year also marks very special work anniversaries for two of our senior veterinary surgeons.

Nicky Jarvis, Head of Veterinary & Care, who is responsible for the health of our sanctuary herds and manages our hospital and veterinary team, is celebrating 25 years with Redwings.

Nicky completes two terms on the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Council this year, serving on their specialist Ethics & Welfare Committee. She regularly lectures on a wide variety of subjects including nutrition and veteran horse care, and organises CPD events to assist with vet and vet nursing training.

Meanwhile, Nic de Brauwere, Head of Welfare & Behaviour, who oversees our welfare vets, field officers and behaviour team, is celebrating 30 years. Since 2009, Nic has also served as Chairman of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC), an umbrella organisation for equine rescue centres and sanctuaries across the UK.



Nicky Jarvis

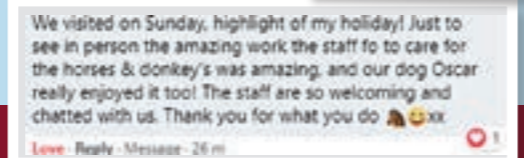
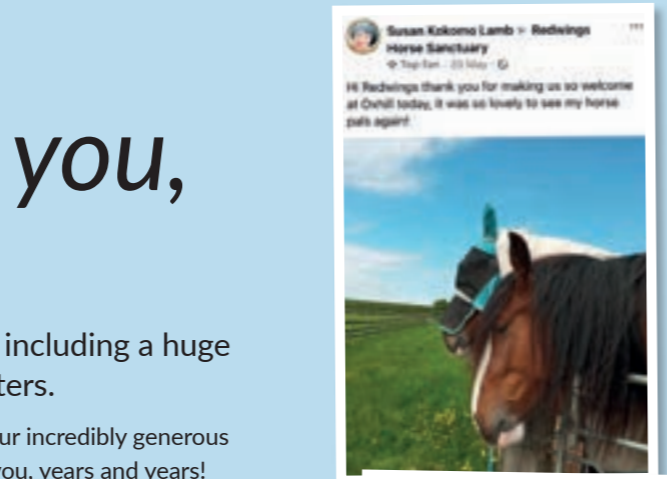


Nic de Brauwere

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We couldn't possibly send out this newsletter without including a huge shout out to all of you, our absolutely amazing supporters.

We have been so overwhelmed by your kind comments and your incredibly generous support over the past days, weeks, months and for some of you, years and years! You have been so patient with us when our visitor centres were closed, and have adapted to the new restrictions so brilliantly – it's been such a pleasure to welcome you back in person or speak to you on the telephone, via email or through our social media channels – you really are all #RedwingsAngels – thank you for keeping us going! Here are just some of your lovely comments and pictures...



We're all over social media these days!

If there's one thing that has changed during the Covid-19 pandemic, it's the way we use and interact with the world of technology. You may have dipped your toes into the world of social media for the first time over the last year or you may be a seasoned professional with a million different accounts, but either way, if you are not already a fan of Redwings on your favourite channel please give us a Like or follow us for loads of great content from the Sanctuary.

Our latest adventure is into the world of TikTok – look for 'redwingshorsesanctuary' to see some fantastic videos featuring – of course – our superstar horses, ponies and donkeys and some of the equally superstar staff too! You can help spread the word about our work by simply giving us a Like or Share – it won't cost you a penny and it means such a lot to us!

Find Redwings at the following places:

- Twitter - @RedwingsHS
 - Instagram - redwingsuk
 - TikTok - RedwingsHorseSanctuary
 - YouTube - Redwings Horse Sanctuary
- And, of course, Facebook
- Facebook - RedwingsHorseSanctuary

where more than 145,000 people already follow us – are you one of them?
Come and join the community for daily 'Hooves of Happiness' content and all the latest news from Redwings...

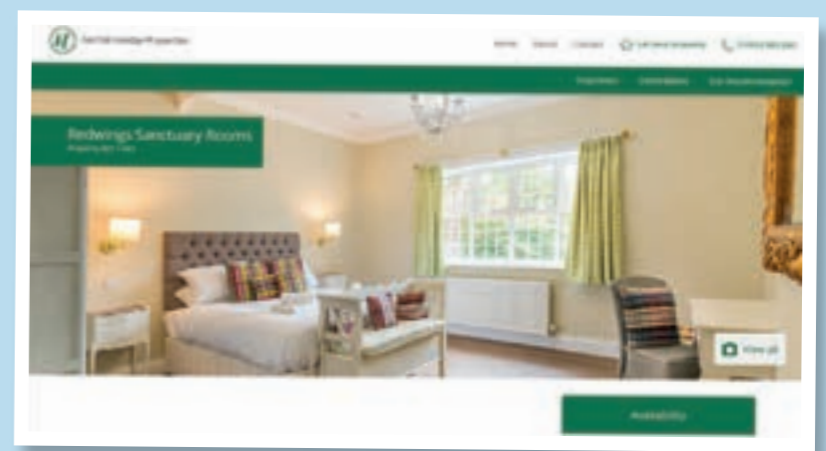
Did you know?

For teachers, scout leaders, and all the other superhero club organisers out there, we can offer virtual 'RED Talks' via MS Teams or Zoom straight into your classroom or club house – all free of charge! Email education@redwings.co.uk or visit our [website](https://www.redwings.org.uk) to book your talk today!

Our online shop is packed full of gifts including fantastic local suppliers such as Norfolk Aromas and The Garden Pantry - who grow the majority of the fruit and veg for their amazing jams, marmalades and chutneys in their own garden! We also have a brand-new range of eco pet products available. Start shopping right now by scanning this code with your smartphone or QR code reader, or visit [redwings.org.uk](https://www.redwings.org.uk)



Experience the sounds of the Sanctuary overnight!



In April 2021 we proudly opened *The Sanctuary Rooms*, a three-bedroomed apartment located at Redwings Caldecott. Situated right next to the Sanctuary, the Redwings residents are just a few steps away, meaning you may hear the donkeys singing for their breakfast during your stay! Prices start from £130 a night and all profits contribute towards Redwings' work. If you are interested in staying with us contact our booking partner *Norfolk Holiday Properties* on 01603 981390 or visit www.norfolkholidayproperties.co.uk/accommodation/redwings-sanctuary-rooms/

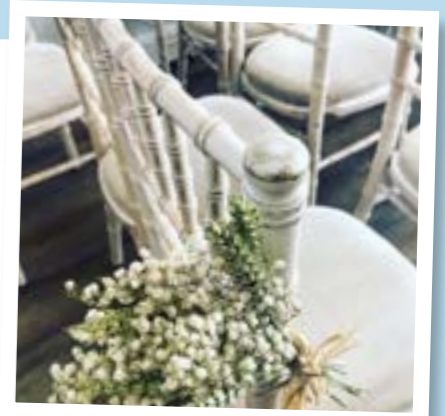
"Me and my family have had an amazing holiday. We were all speechless with how beautiful the horse sanctuary and surrounding area was. The apartment was just amazing, and we were all very sad to leave. This has definitely been the best stay we've been on and would love to come back in the future!"

Celebrate your special day at Redwings!

We are pleased to be taking bookings for weddings and events at Redwings Caldecott for 2022, giving people the chance to celebrate a momentous occasion in a unique and idyllic setting. The marquee and gardens also make a peaceful and convenient setting for corporate lunches, birthday celebrations and team away days. So, if you are looking for an event space, get in touch!

To find out more contact us at info@redwings.co.uk or visit our website.

Weddings
— by GINGER LILY —
at CALDECOTT HALL



And leave a lasting legacy...

Remembering Redwings in your Will could help us through tough times

Gifts in Wills helped us through the pandemic and along with your kind donations, they continue to ensure horses in need receive the treatment and care they deserve. Gifts in Wills fund over 65% of Redwings' work, and as well as helping us invest in vital infrastructure such as land, fencing, field shelters and special care stables, they could also fund the essential day-to-day care our 1,500+ horses and donkeys need, ensuring they stay happy and healthy even when we face troubled times. In 2020 and 2021 we have relied on legacy gifts more than ever before to rescue and care for horses in desperate need. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has chosen to remember Redwings in their Will. Your support could help us survive future challenges and tough times like these.

To join those that have already pledged a Gift in their Will, contact our Legacy Officer Katie on 01508 481030 or email kfulcher@redwings.co.uk

News from around the Sanctuary -

'Your Redwings'



Our centres have now reopened to the public and it's been wonderful to welcome you back! Visit the website to find details for your local centre!

Ada Cole Essex, EN9 2DH



Time to party (sort of!)

staff and visitors as safe as possible throughout the pandemic, that hasn't stopped the Ada Cole team and the rest of our fabulous VC centre staff from pulling out all the party planning stops to help their Adoption Stars have brilliant birthdays!

Decorations have gone up, cakes have been made and songs have been sung, with several video clips being shared to our social media channels too!

A huge thank you to everyone who sent in designs for the birthday cakes, posted cards or who sent their Adoption Star a gift from their Amazon Wishlist as well,

you all helped make their days super special! Thank you so much!



Birthday party season has been well underway at Redwings Ada Cole!

Although birthday parties have had to remain online this year to keep both

Aylsham North Norfolk, NR11 6UE

Say "Buongiorno" to delicious pizza!

Since Redwings Aylsham reopened in April, visitors may have noticed a new, delicious addition to our café menu - pizzas!

The centre kitchen is now offering homemade, stone-baked pizzas - to eat-in or takeaway - all named after our adorable Adoption Stars, including Maya's Margherita, Gulliver's Seaside Travels and Wiggins' Vegan Surprise!

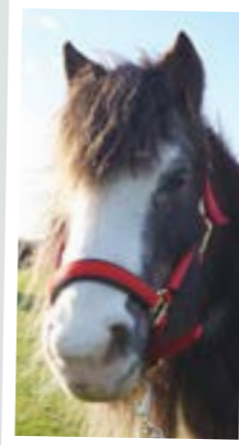
Our new menu has already been met with approval by visitors, including one

reviewer on TripAdvisor who said it was "the best stone-baked pizza I have ever had!"

Redwings Aylsham is not the only one offering some new mouth-watering meals. Visitors to Oliver's Café at Redwings Caldecott can enjoy jacket potatoes and loaded fries, as well as bakery favourites including scrumptious cakes, sausage rolls and sandwiches. Yum!



Caldecott Gt. Yarmouth, NR31 9EY



In loving memory

The team at Redwings Caldecott had a very sad start to the year with the loss of retired Adoption Star pony

Cauli. Lovely Cauli was found heartlessly abandoned in a cauliflower field, hence her name. She had a severe eye injury and had surgery to remove it after her arrival at Redwings in 2008.

After plenty of TLC she became a very friendly pony and a popular Adoption Star. Due to ongoing lameness, she was retired from the Adoption Scheme in 2019 and very sadly passed away this year after a sudden deterioration in her condition, aged 17.

Dearly departed Sanctuary residents are affectionately honoured in our new Memory Garden. With beautiful planting and benches, it's a peaceful place to reflect on lost loved ones, and features a stunning sculpture celebrating the life of former Adoption Star Welbeck. Please call us if you would like to discuss the ways you can remember a loved one at Redwings with a personalised plaque, slate stone or bench.



Mountains Scotland, DD8 3SQ

Preloved is the way forward!

We are seeing great success with our ebay store selling preloved items including lots of fantastic items of secondhand tack at really good prices! Thank you so much to everyone who has donated goodies already! Our staff have been doing a sterling job of listing all the tack ready for sale, especially at our Mountains site, well

done to Centre Manager Catherine and her team! All the funds raised go towards the Sanctuary - if you can help by donating your quality used tack for us to sell please email preloved@redwings.co.uk. Visit the ebay store by scanning this QR code:



Oxhill Warwickshire, CV35 0RP

New facilities make a BIG difference



If you have visited Redwings Oxhill lately, you may have noticed a rather large new addition - three new barns! These house our new indoor school, safe storage for forage and other farm equipment and in the third barn, named 'The Gresham Centre', rehoming facilities including 10 new stables, with adjoining woodchip turnout areas - meaning we now have

the facilities to prepare horses for life in a Guardian home, as well as provide care for our Sanctuary herd. Unbacked projects Nettie and Captain Jack, and companion pony Curtis were some of the first residents to go through their training at Redwings Oxhill and they are now enjoying life in their new Guardian homes. The improvements also saw more land being transformed into secure paddocks, meaning we now have even more room for our residents to enjoy turnout with their friends. Plus, the two-legged folks at Redwings Oxhill (our lovely horse care team) are benefitting

from having all their equipment in one handy hub, saving them lots of time travelling up and down the site. A very special thank you to the donors that made this facility possible.



When is a sanctuary *not* a sanctuary?

Providing sanctuary is a big responsibility, and one that Redwings takes very seriously. But sadly, not every organisation calling itself a sanctuary consistently offers the safety, comfort and care that rescued horses need and deserve.

In November 2019, conditions at one 'sanctuary' were found to be so bad that a major operation was needed to move all 137 horses living there to new homes where they could start to overcome the profound neglect they had experienced. Unable to

talk openly about the rescue while legal proceedings were being taken against the owner for animal welfare offences, we can now tell the story of this special group who found real sanctuary at last in Redwings' hands.

A shocking sight

Some horses at Whispering Willows in South Wales were so thin that their ribs, spine and hips were clearly visible. Serious conditions such as wounds, lameness and skin problems had been left untreated.



Vets called in by the RSPCA found that, in total, 22 horses were found to be clinically suffering due to neglect. The sanctuary owner had also failed in her duty to meet the basic needs of other residents, who were judged to be likely to suffer if they remained at Whispering Willows and therefore all 137 horses required urgent rescue.

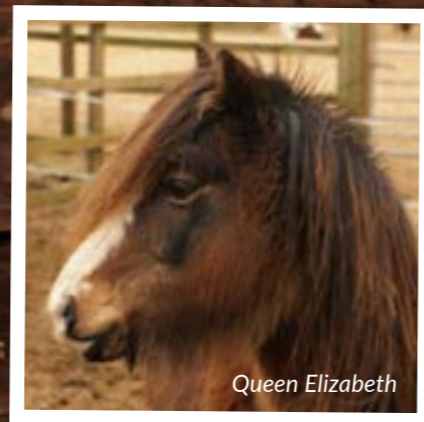
Working in partnership

It took nine charities, including Redwings, coming together to make the Whispering Willows rescue possible and ensure safe homes could be found for all the horses who had been so badly let down. Several large charities regularly collaborate on large rescue cases, co-ordinated through their membership of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC).

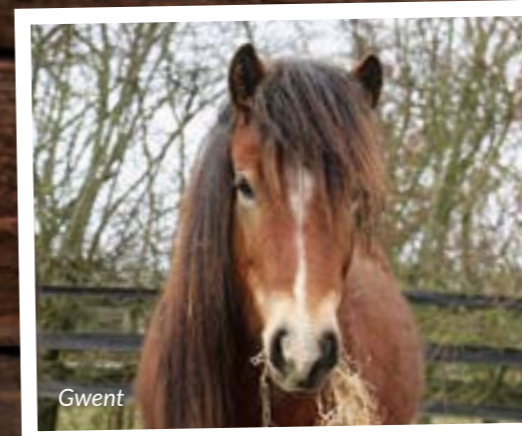
Redwings' Head of Welfare and Behaviour and chair of NEWC, Nic de Brauwere, attended to support the rescue operation. We then offered a home to 23 individuals in total, including some with complex physical and behavioural issues who would benefit from the expertise of our specialist veterinary and behavioural teams. Transporting and caring for a large group of horses at short notice is always challenging when charity space and resources are stretched. Four horses whose health was of concern were brought to Redwings' quarantine centre immediately for specialist veterinary testing and treatment. Very sadly, these horses were found to have serious health issues

that our vets were not able to fully treat, despite their best efforts. Being unable to offer these individuals a life free from discomfort meant the kindest option was to put them quietly to sleep. Making this decision is never easy, and particularly difficult when horses have only been with us for a short time. But as a caring owner, it is always our ultimate responsibility to recognise when we have to let go for the sake of a horse's welfare.

The remaining 19 horses were housed at a boarding yard where all their needs were provided for, before moving to Redwings when time and space allowed.



Queen Elizabeth



Gwent



Princess Royal

Continued care at an extraordinary time

The 19 Whispering Willows horses arrived at Redwings just as Britain entered the first Covid lockdown. Thankfully, essential animal care has been permitted throughout coronavirus restrictions, meaning that with use of precautions such as PPE and social distancing, our dedicated teams could provide the new horses with all the care they needed. To honour the extraordinary work of the NHS in dealing with the overwhelming number of intensive care patients at that time, we named the group after hospitals, including Nightingale, Chelsea, Radcliffe and Good Hope.

Today, the horses rescued from Whispering Willows continue to receive all the care they need within the Sanctuary. Many are extremely nervous of humans, meaning they require specialist handling and training to ensure they benefit from routine care such as farriery and vaccinations, and can learn to trust humans again.

To read more about the ongoing care of this very special group, turn to pages 18 and 19.

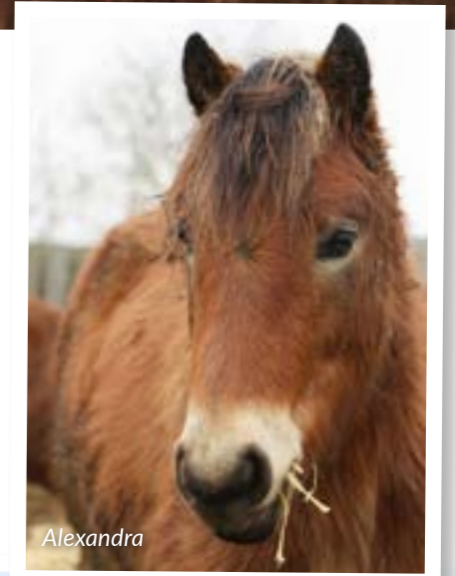
Making sanctuaries safe

Sadly, Whispering Willows is far from being the first time Redwings has had to step in and rescue neglected horses from organisations operating as 'sanctuaries'. Not only are vulnerable horses let down when sanctuaries fail, but so are those caring people who donate to appeals for money and trust that it is put to good use. Sanctuaries are currently unregulated. There is no requirement for them to be registered (unless they choose to become a registered charity), have a licence or be inspected. Until this situation changes, a small number of sanctuaries will be at risk of becoming a welfare problem, not a solution.

Redwings is one of many organisations calling for all animal sanctuaries to require a licence. We're delighted that the importance of the issue has been recognised at government level. The Scottish government has already carried out a public consultation on the topic, and English and Welsh governments have also made a commitment to pursue legislation. Licensing is a much-needed safety net if we are to be sure that rescued animals can be sure of true sanctuary when they need it.

Find out how Redwings is asking the government for more support for animals, including through sanctuary licensing, on pages 6 and 7.

Following prosecution, the owner of Whispering Willows was banned from keeping any horse for 10 years



Alexandra



Gordon, Radcliffe and Paget

Turn the page to meet one of the mares from this very special group of ponies

Creating trust, changing lives >



Creating trust, changing lives

Harefield (right) with daughter Alexandra

A past of neglect or mistreatment often means that a horse is fearful of people when it first comes into our care. Any contact with the horse care teams, vet, and farrier can be stressful for the horse and potentially dangerous for them as well as for the people involved. This can make treating illness and injury challenging and the recovery process faces setbacks. Helping a horse learn to trust someone is sometimes just as complicated.

Whispering Willows

As you will have read on the previous pages, in November 2019, Redwings became a new home to 23 horses, who arrived in varying states of poor health, and some were very fearful. The group came to us from Whispering Willows which had claimed to be operating as an animal sanctuary but where 137 horses were found living in horrendous conditions.

Some horses taken in by Whispering Willows were not receiving treatment for illness, others were suffering from severe weight loss. A number of horses with serious behavioural problems had been taken in but there were very few signs that those horses were receiving the help they needed.

Redwings Head of Welfare and Behaviour, Nic explained how, once they had adjusted to a new home, we would help these horses overcome some worrying issues:

“On a physical level, the remaining horses have recovered well but most of those admitted to Redwings are currently spending time at our specialist Behaviour Centre. While there, we will undo the neglect of their behavioural needs experienced while at Whispering Willows, which left them fearful of people... for now they are enjoying happy and healthy new lives at the Sanctuary.”

At the Behaviour Centre each horse is allocated an individual trainer when they are ready to begin to be handled. This is very important in the early stages of training, it provides the horse with consistency, security and a sense of control.

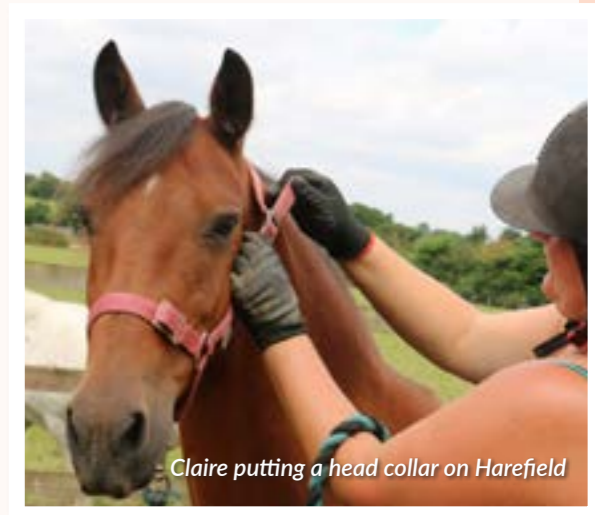


Harefield grazing in her paddock

Meeting Harefield

Harefield is one of the older mares from the group. Although she showed signs of being handled in the past and some experience of learning, Harefield initially had a very negative reaction to contact with her trainer, Claire. Putting her ears back and pulling faces at even the slightest touch, engaging with Harefield proved to be challenging for Claire and so the work to rebuild her trust in people began.

Claire started to use a clicker and food treats to reward Harefield each time she made progress in her handling. Harefield began to understand the questions her trainer was asking of her and became more and more interested in contact and, in time, with learning. While being introduced to a headcollar, Harefield had the freedom to walk away from Claire at any time. We can only guess at the experiences in her past but by working in a way that focused on Harefield's comfort and confidence, Claire has helped her manage her anxieties.



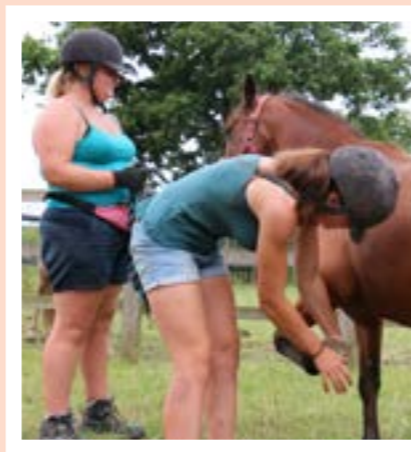
Claire putting a head collar on Harefield

“I believe that, when being asked to lead in her past, Harefield felt huge amounts of pressure put on the lead rein with no release. Every time I asked her to lead from a small amount of pressure, she would turn her head the opposite way and run off, releasing the pressure herself. We worked with Harefield to the point where she effectively volunteered to wear a headcollar and by making a fresh start, on her terms, she learned to understand the communication of pressure and release through a lead rope and headcollar, in the same way as other horses. Every step was small and progress slow. We simplified leading by getting her to just take one small step forwards or backwards from the lightest of pressures, rewarding her with the release of pressure, a 'click' followed by food when she gave us the answer we were looking for.”

How creating trust has changed a life

Having learned to trust first Claire and, more recently, new handlers Harefield leads a very different life, one in which because she understands what people are asking from her, she has gained a sense of security. The farrier is able to trim her feet regularly and the routine vaccinations and dental treatments that she needs can be provided while Harefield is at ease with the situation. By understanding how horses think and respond to training, and by putting that knowledge into practice with patience and care, the team caring for Harefield has shown her that she can trust people again. One day this could mean that she can be rehomed to a new Guardian who can reinforce that confidence and help her continue to lead a life free of fear.

(Pic left) Harefield has her feet picked up, this is a sign of how far she has come in terms of learning to trust people.



Please donate to Redwings today to help many more horses like Harefield learn that people can be a source of kindness and can be trusted. Helping a horse to trust us, can change its life.

Please donate today
to help horses like Harefield learn to trust*

- 01508 481000 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text TRUST 10 to 70450 to donate £10

(You can also opt to give any amount – whole £s only – up to £20. All texts cost the donation amount plus a standard network message.)

*Your donation will be used wherever it is needed most in the Sanctuary and will help to fund the ongoing care of all our residents, including those described here.



Thank you!

Renew your friendship with a regular gift

Sponsoring a Redwings Adoption Star continues to be the best way to support the Sanctuary. This autumn we invite you to renew your sponsorship with a regular gift so that your support goes even further.

Adopting with a regular gift saves us valuable funds, reducing the cost of printing, posting and processing your renewal reminder letter. Plus, it is more convenient for you! Never again will you have to remember to renew that cherished Christmas gift or personal treat, ensuring no one misses out on updates from their favourite horse or donkey.

To help us help more horses and donkeys by renewing your adoption by direct debit, **please go online and renew today**, or call **01508 481000** and we will help you renew over the phone.
www.redwings.org.uk/adoption



Just £2 a month can help feed and care for your sponsored horse or donkey, spreading the cost for you and helping to provide a secure income for the Sanctuary.

Meet some of our Adoption Stars!

