

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016

Giving a voice to the voiceless

Understanding horse behaviour.

Rehoming a Redwings rescue

Why a rescued horse or pony might be your perfect partner.

Helping horses in need

Latest rescues and justice for horses, ponies and a mule!

Remember Redwings

Will you remember Redwings in your will? Read one supporter's story.

Meet our new Adoption Stars

Redwings Mountains opens its doors and launches two new Adoption Stars!

Plus much more...

The Charity's purpose is to provide and promote the welfare, care and protection of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

The crisis continues...

Will your support continue too?



We still face the daily struggle of trying to rescue as many horses as we can. Can you help them?

Turn to pages 14 & 15 to learn more...

www.redwings.org.uk

Text "HORS30 £5" to 70070 to help right now!

Welcome to Spring 2016 at Redwings!

I am delighted to introduce our latest newsletter, which is full of exciting news and lots of heartwarming stories about our recent rescues and all the work we have been doing to help improve the lives of horses across the UK, all thanks to your kind support!

In these pages you can meet tiny foals Rocket and Bowie, gorgeous new arrivals Dalva and Danita and adorable Guy the mule (I know I'm not supposed to have favourites but...!). There has been some great news with justice done in several prosecution cases (pages 4 and 5) and some wonderful happy-ending stories from our Guardians too (see page 8).

It's the nature of our work that there has of course been sad news. Not only did we have to deal with a very severe strangles outbreak last year, we also saw several horses come to us suffering from such terrible neglect that even our amazing vet team were unable to save them. It has been a sobering reminder that our work to stop the seemingly endless cruelty and neglect, and to educate owners in good welfare and horse care is more important than ever. I am so proud of all the staff here for the way they have dealt with all these challenges, clinging firmly to our core belief that every horse deserves the best possible chance in life.

In fact, even though there are some really exciting developments happening at the Sanctuary, it has been a really tough year and the reality is that we are still being called on to help horses in desperate need every single day. Horses and ponies like Violet, who without our help would simply not have had any kind of future. Please turn to pages 14 and 15 to see how you can support us as we continue that frontline work.

Finally and on a lighter note I am thrilled to let you know that we will be opening the doors of our new Mountains centre in Scotland to visitors at Easter. Turn to pages 9-13 for more exciting news from our other visitor centres around the UK.

From all here at Redwings, horses, donkeys, mules, cats, dogs and humans too, we thank you!

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive

*Kisses! Lynn is
pictured with
lovely pony
Beaman*



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Charity's purpose is to provide and promote the welfare, care and protection of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

Key Contact Numbers

General Enquiries
01508 481000 info@redwings.co.uk

News update...

Thank you for making their wishes come true!

A huge thank you from all our horses, especially handsome Shiloh here, for helping them to get well and stay well over winter! Your donations meant hundreds of horses (including Tilbury, featured below) received special care and vet treatment over the cold months.

We are pleased to say that thanks to your generous support super-star Shiloh, who had suffered from strangles and then lameness, overcame all his ailments and began 2016 fit and healthy and back with his friends. He even has a new girlfriend, gorgeous chestnut mare Copper!



Emerging into the light: Tilbury update



Having introduced you to dear Tilbury in our autumn 2015 newsletter as a very poorly abandoned colt suffering from a severe skin condition, we're delighted to be able to share this photo of him being turned out during the day.

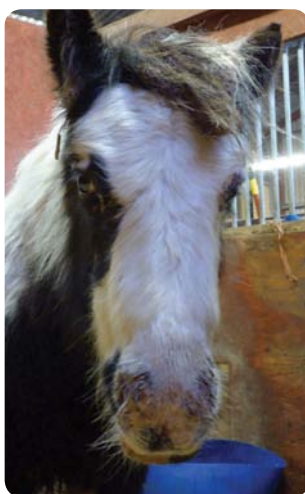
Tilbury's sensitivity to sunlight, which left him covered in painful sores, was due to liver damage, but since receiving

round-the-clock veterinary care, an extended period of stable rest and thanks to kind donations from supporters like you, he has made a fantastic recovery and is now able to enjoy more time outside in the daylight, just like any other young horse!

In memory of a pop icon: Meet Bowie

In early January, we rescued a piebald mare cob with a very sickly foal at foot from Haddiscoe in Norfolk following a call to our welfare line. Requiring urgent veterinary attention, the mare and foal were brought to our Reception Centre where Head of Welfare Nic de Brauwere and Welfare Veterinary Surgeon Nicola Berryman provided treatment and care through the night.

We're very worried for the little foal – who we've nicknamed Bowie while investigations into the pair's case are underway by the RSPCA – but we're keeping all fingers and hooves crossed for his future. And you can help us in his ongoing care by donating via our website – www.redwings.org.uk/donate



This case comes just three months after the rescue of abandoned mare Star and foal Rocket found on farmland in Harleston, Norfolk. **Read their story on page 4.**

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Prize Draw results

Last year saw an extra prize fund added to our winter draw, giving you an extra chance to win! Congratulations to those who won and thanks to all who entered!

Autumn Draw 2015

- 1st Prize - £5,000 - A Brennan, Rickmansworth
- 2nd Prize - £1,000 - V Hubbard, Halstead
- 3rd Prize - £500 - B Tregaskis, Leatherhead

Winter Draw 2015

- 1st Prize - £5,000 - S Carr, Runcorn
- 2nd Prize - £1,000 - E Edrupt, Bury St Edmunds
- 3rd Prize - £500 - M Witts, Faversham

Help!

Entries to our prize draws raise vital funds for the charity (enough to care for 130 Redwings horses!) BUT entries have been declining. If you can help us sell more tickets please get in touch on **01508 481000** – thank you!

Our cover star is Savannah – see page 5

Redwings to the rescue!



In October 2015, we received a call to assist the Norfolk police with the rescue of a mare and foal found abandoned on farmland near the market town of Harleston. The pair had been heartlessly dumped during the night, and both were found in a very upsetting state of neglect.

Star and Rocket – as named by our team – were taken into our care for urgent veterinary attention, where it was soon identified that Star was suffering with a painful, untreated tooth abscess that had prevented her from eating. As a result, little Rocket – who was estimated to be between six and eight weeks old – was malnourished from his mother's struggle to feed both herself and him.

Worryingly for our team, despite Star's dental treatment and improved appetite, her condition began to deteriorate

Star and Rocket

rapidly. She was also suffering from a severe worm burden as a result of her former neglect and sadly the extent of the damage to her digestive system was so severe that our vets were unable to save her. Just two weeks after her rescue the difficult decision was made to put Star to sleep.

But Star's light shines on through little Rocket. Since the sad passing of his mother, orphan Rocket has found a surrogate mum in Queenie – a very

special mare who was also previously surrogate to Shaking Stephen! He's also receiving lots of special care from our farm team, and we're doing all we can to ensure this little foal has the opportunity to enjoy the happy life his mother should have been given.

If you would like to support us by donating towards Rocket's ongoing care, please text "**HORS30 £5**" to **70070** or visit **www.redwings.org.uk/donate** - thank you so much to those who already have!



Rocket and Queenie



A gorgeous Guy!

We love our mules at Redwings! They are amazing animals (a hybrid of a donkey dad and a pony mum) and last November we welcomed a gorgeous new mule into our care.

Guy the mule came in very close to Bonfire Night, hence his name! However when he arrived Guy was in urgent need of veterinary treatment. He was suffering from laminitis, a very painful foot disease, and his pain was made worse by his terribly overgrown hooves. But with lots of treatment from our vets and farriers, and plenty of TLC from our farm teams, Guy has made a fantastic recovery. We hope you'll be able to meet him yourself this summer when he joins our special donkey and mule herd at Redwings Caldecott!



Justice for Bella and Holly



In December 2015, a mother and son from Lichfield received a lifetime ban from keeping equines having been found guilty of neglecting two mares with foals at foot.

Both mares were seized on two separate occasions in late 2014 having been discovered in an emaciated condition. After her rescue Bella began to show signs of improvement while in

our care but within three months she began to lose her appetite and struggled to maintain her weight. A liver biopsy and blood tests confirmed serious liver disease and despite our veterinary team's best efforts to combat the disease, Bella was very sadly put to sleep leaving behind her foal who we named Arabella in her memory.

As well as being incredibly malnourished, Holly was suffering from worms, lice and a lack of dental care. Just as with her fieldmate Bella, Holly improved partially before we discovered she had underlying liver disease. The disease was so serious that Holly's condition deteriorated rapidly, and heartbreakingly she too could not be saved and she left behind her foal, seven-month-old Savannah.

Both mother and son were disqualified from keeping equines for life.

Despite their loss and difficult start in life, both the foals Arabella and Savannah are thriving here within the safety of the Sanctuary.



Striding out with Bango

Similarly to mule Guy, lovely cob Bango was suffering from severe laminitis when rescued from a site in Essex last year. He was in such pain from his condition that he had been rooted to one spot for days. Indeed, when offered water by our Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin, he could barely move to drink. As well as being severely laminitic, Bango was very overweight and had overgrown feet and a large worm burden – all of which indicated a lack of basic care.

Since his rescue, no owner could be identified for Bango and he has subsequently been permanently signed over into our care. Bango now lives at Redwings Ada Cole where he remains close to a special little boy. Jo explains:

"Although Bango's neglect was very sad to see, he had made a friend in a little boy from the area – who had given Bango his name! The boy, who has autism, would visit him every day and find comfort in Bango's company, and so we have encouraged the family to continue to have a relationship with this special chap while he's living here with us."



Meet Dalva and Danita

In autumn last year, we were proud to support our friends at Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary by offering a home to some of its residents. Crosskennan offers a lifeline to horses in Northern Ireland, but like so many sanctuaries at the moment it is struggling to provide a home to so many horses who need help; many of whom cannot be rehomed due to their complex veterinary and behavioural needs.

Dalva and Danita were originally rescued by their team from appalling conditions with four other companions. All were emaciated and suffering from lice and untreated conditions such as rainscald – a painful skin condition. Dalva and Danita were so nervous of people that during the group's rescue they couldn't be moved straight away; these two lovelies had to spend an additional two days being cared for in situ before they could finally be loaded and taken to the sanctuary.

Our in-house veterinary team and behaviour expertise means that we can provide the specialist support horses like Dalva and Danita need. We were pleased therefore to offer a home to the pair, plus 12 more horses, which in turn allows Crosskennan to continue its vital frontline work responding to the desperate needs of other horses in Ireland.



Giving a voice to the voiceless...

How do you give a voice to the voiceless?

Redwings' expertise in horse behaviour stems from rescuing unhandled and semi-feral horses in large open spaces, as well as from working with distressing cases where horses have become very fearful of humans.

Our Behaviour Centre, based in Norfolk and headed up by Equine Behaviour Manager Sarah Hallsworth, is dedicated to the training and rehabilitation of rescued horses with particular individual needs and problems. The centre also helps ensure that all horses are handled sympathetically across the Sanctuary by providing a facility to train all our care staff in horse behaviour, handling and training.

Understanding horses

Understanding horse behaviour is fundamental to our welfare work. Morally and ethically, we value the mental wellbeing of our horses at the same level as their physical health. This goes beyond ensuring freedom from fear and distress; we strive for our horses to be happy in everything we ask of them; whether that's standing for the farrier, being vaccinated by the vet or being trained for life in a Guardian home.

The importance of this understanding of horse behaviour is also vital in rescue operations. When rounding up and removing horses in a state of neglect, we want to do this without causing fear and stress, which could create problems for working with them later on, and of course

we need to minimise any safety risk to horses and humans during the rescue.

It was a great endorsement of our skill and understanding in this field to have been asked by the RSPCA in November to train a newly expanded team of Equine Officers in effective round-up techniques.

Leading the way

In October 2015 Redwings Head of Welfare & Behaviour Nic de Brauwere and Welfare Veterinary Surgeon Roxane Kirton were invited to present at the British Horse Society Welfare Conference entitled Unlocking the Secrets of Horse Behaviour. Alongside leading academics, our experts emphasised the importance of understanding horse behaviour to ensure the welfare of horses in rescue situations as well as every day in the home.



Horse behaviour 101

As highly social prey animals, horses have highly adapted senses to equip them for life in the wild. Being aware of how horses experience the world is the building block to understanding their behaviour:

Adapted sight – Horses have an almost 360-degree view of the world. Their focus is not as sharp as ours but it's better in low light.

Super hearing – High-frequency hearing and independently moving ears make them keenly aware of their surroundings.

Flight response – This instinctive response to run and take flight occurs when there is a threat; horses are 'flighters' not 'fighters'.

Tactile and visual – Horses have very limited vocal capabilities compared to humans – just compare the noise in a café to that in a paddock! Horses communicate and learn through visual signals, touch and body language.

Memory – Horses have a photographic memory and can form fearful associations quickly. Unfortunately, they don't have the same ability as us to reason and rationalise situations which means this super-duper memory can be a hindrance to getting over non-threatening things that seem scary. This is why fear-free training methods are so important!

What leaving a legacy can mean to you...

Legacy gifts fund more than 60% of everything we do to help horses. They form a vital part of our funding, securing the future of hundreds of horses in desperate need for many years to come. But what does leaving a gift in your Will mean to you?

We spoke to one of our special supporters, Liz, who has pledged a legacy, to find out more.

Q: What first made you think about leaving a gift in your Will to the horses at Redwings?

A: The rescue of horses from Amersham a few years ago in which Redwings was involved. I wanted in some small way to help continue the work of the charity in the rescue and care of vulnerable equines.

Q: How did you decide what to give?

A: There are several charities close to my heart, Redwings being top of the list. I've divided my bequests accordingly.

Q: What does it mean to you to have pledged a legacy to help horses at Redwings?

A: Because I enjoy doing whatever I can to raise funds for Redwings it gives me some peace of mind to know that I can continue to help after my death.

Q: Why do you love horses?

A: Although I wasn't a small girl who longed for a pony, growing up in the countryside I came to love these beautiful, intelligent animals who, for centuries, have helped mankind in so many ways. This is why I feel so strongly that they should be cherished. The short answer would be – "What's not to love?"

We are so grateful to Liz for sharing her thoughts on the most special of gifts that any of us can give to help horses in need. Leaving a legacy is such a personal decision and we hope that you feel as moved as we do upon reading Liz's words.

If you have already made a Will and would like to consider adding a gift to Redwings, or are embarking on the process for the first time and want Redwings to benefit, our Legacy Officer Katie Fulcher is on hand to help. We caught up with Katie to find out some answers to your most frequently asked questions...

Why should I make a Will?

It enables you to specify what happens to everything you own after you die. It is also your final chance to make a gift to any charities you support.

Is it difficult to make a Will?

No. You just need to consider who you want to benefit and who will be your Executor (the person responsible for carrying out your wishes). It needn't be an expensive process and, while you don't have to use a solicitor, it is best to seek professional advice as small mistakes can have serious consequences. If you have a Will already, don't forget to keep it updated. An out-of-date Will can be as problematic as no Will at all.

What kind of legacy can I leave?

Whatever you like! The three main types of legacy are pecuniary (a sum of money), specific (an item) and residuary (a share or percentage of what is left at the end). If you want to leave money for a specific purpose, I would strongly recommend discussing any specific wishes with us first. We can then advise you whether it would be possible to carry out your wishes or suggest an alternative approach.

Do I have to tell you that I have included Redwings in my Will?

Not at all. You don't have to tell anyone about your Will if you don't want to. If you do let us know, we can say a huge thank you to you now. Don't worry; we will not disclose the information to anyone else.

What happens if I don't have much money when I die?

When you die, your Estate's liabilities must be paid first. Only if there is enough money left will your legacies be paid and any residue be distributed.

What information will I need to remember Redwings in my Will?

You will need our full name, address and registered charity number (Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Norwich Road, Hapton, Norfolk, NR15 1SP, registered charity number 1068911. Scottish charity number SC045070).



A Redwings rescue could be your *perfect partner*!

With so many horses available for sale, for loan or even 'free to a good home' it can be hard for those thinking of taking on a new horse to know where to start looking.

Rehoming from a charity like Redwings can be incredibly rewarding; there are many benefits to taking on a rescued horse or pony and so many wonderful, capable individuals just waiting for someone to take them home! But don't just take our word for it; find out why Guardians Verity and Patch have rehomed a rescue and never looked back:



Geoffrey and Verity

We have been very lucky to see so many inspirational young partnerships grow through our Guardianship Scheme; the ponies that children bond and grow up with play such an important role in their development as riders and as people. Jenny Skeggs rehomed 14hh native cross Geoffrey for her daughter Verity in 1997. Verity was then nine years old and almost immediately the two became inseparable; taking part in everything from Pony Club to cross country, gymkhana to show jumping.

"Geoffrey was an absolute superstar from the beginning," remembers Verity. "He loved his jumping and was unbelievably fast against the clock. Even now we still win classes regularly, though I don't ask him to do the heights we once did." All this from a pony that was found abandoned in a field in Essex with an untreated, infected wound on his leg. "You would never guess that my wonderful Geoffrey came from such an awful situation," says Verity. "I would urge anyone looking for a horse or pony to consider rehoming from a charity, Geoffrey is truly the most special pony anyone could ever ask for."

"He has a wonderful nature, loves cuddles, has kept me safe and given me bundles of fun – he even made an appearance on my wedding day. There seems to be no signs of him wanting to retire and he still loads himself on to the trailer before shows!"

Anise and Patch

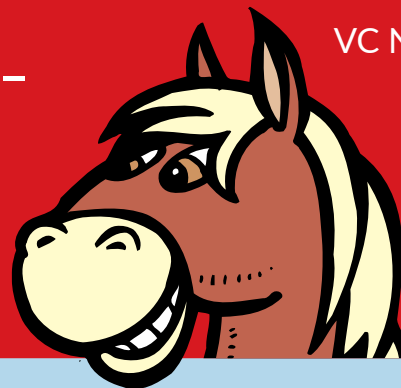
Equally besotted is Patch Guipago who applied to rehome tricoloured cob Anise (originally named Ladybird) last year. "I was looking for a non-ridden companion and Anise is just perfect," says Patch. Already in her teens when she was rescued, Anise was one of more than 100 equines rescued by Redwings in 2012 after being found fly-grazing (illegally grazing) across various locations by Welsh local authorities. They were effectively abandoned to their fate and welfare issues among the herds ranged from liver disease and worm burdens to malnutrition and untreated veterinary problems made more challenging by the semi-feral nature of the horses.

Despite her initial nerves around humans, Anise soon blossomed into a sweet-natured mare who is now thriving on the attention she gets from Patch: "I just like being around her. A relationship with any horse comes from groundwork and Anise and I already have a really close bond. I'm planning to do some in-hand showing but it's not why I took her on. I strongly believe that horses who are not in work still have so much to offer and are just as deserving of our love and care."



News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'

All our visitor centres are open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 10am to 4pm (from 25th March 2016)



Ada Cole Essex,
EN9 2DH

REDWINGS



We will never forget you, dear Troy

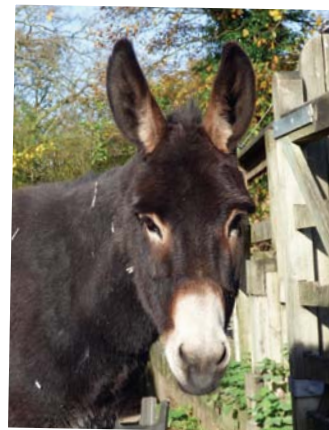
We were heartbroken to say goodbye to a very special pony at the end of October last year. Troy, who at the grand age of 33 was Redwings Ada Cole's oldest resident, sadly passed away when his arthritis could no longer be managed comfortably.

Troy spent 16 very happy years at Redwings having been rescued in 1999 when he was found in a filthy stable with no food or water, and having recovered from his ordeal he soon won the hearts of many – including Adoption Star Dolly. Troy's handsome good looks even saw him becoming a cover star for local equestrian magazine *EQ Life's* veteran special in 2014!

We will all miss Troy very much, as will best friend Dolly, but we're keeping a close eye on her – as are her fellow horsey fieldmates. #RIPTroy

Happy ending for lonely donkey Ruby

Have you met new arrival Ruby? Before coming to Redwings in October, six-year-old Ruby the donkey lived with an elderly pony and a flock of sheep. Like all young donkeys Ruby was very playful, but her pony companion thought she was too energetic and attempts to befriend the sheep resulted in them running away or hiding in a nearby hedge!



It looked like poor Ruby would never find anyone to play with and as donkeys need companionship to be happy, her owners knew they needed to take action – so they asked us for help. When Ruby first arrived she had to spend some time in quarantine, where her new carers hung a mirror in her stable so that she wouldn't feel too lonely – and very soon she was ready to meet her new friends – Adoption Star Del Boy, Rodney and Jessie!

Amazing Athina's generous gift!

On 30th of December Redwings Ada Cole welcomed a very special visitor. Amazing Athina had decided that instead of receiving presents for her birthday, she wanted her friends and family to donate to Redwings. As a thank you we organised a special Donkey Day for Athina so she could really see how her donation had helped.

Athina was 'buddied up' with Dawn on the yard and went straight to work cleaning out all the donkeys' stables. She then enjoyed a lovely long grooming session with donkey Jessie, followed by lots of cuddles with her adopted donkey Del Boy and his best friend Rodney. Dawn also took Athina to meet Marmite the mule, enjoying an educational talk along the way.

At lunchtime all the donkeys were treated to a haynet made up by Athina while she enjoyed a mug of hot chocolate topped with marshmallows in our café! We were touched by Athina's generosity and hope her visit showed how grateful we are!



Do you have a story to tell about how someone's love for horses and donkeys has helped Redwings? If so get in touch at info@redwings.co.uk – we'd love to hear from you!



When Harry met Derek

Supporters who follow us on social media may have seen the story of Derek and Harry who are two wonderful donkey residents at Redwings Aylsham.

Derek came to live at Redwings in 2013 with his best friend Clive. The pair had been together since they were foals and had never been apart. Very sadly we lost Clive to colic last year and Derek was understandably very low having lost his best friend.

Adoption Stars Wiggins and Wacko did a great job of keeping Derek company and helping to cheer him up, but we knew that what Derek really needed was a new special companion of his own. We sent out an urgent request across Redwings for a donkey who might be a suitable buddy for Derek and the following week, handsome Harry from Redwings Caldecott made the journey to his new home at Aylsham.

Derek pricked up his lovely long ears, went straight over to say hello and we're delighted that the pair have been inseparable ever since!



Horsey horticulture

Redwings has been lucky enough to host Easton and Otley College pupils studying for their Diploma in Land Management. Over the winter months, the students have been learning how we manage the land at Redwings Aylsham and helping us with some of our important tasks – such as hedge pruning, bulb planting, ragwort control and muck clearing. They've also gone above and beyond by constructing a log pile next to Spring Pond to enhance the biodiversity on the site by promoting insect life. Thanks so much gang!



Money for old watering cans!

Those of you who visited Redwings Aylsham last year may have enjoyed one of our special sales and events. We hosted an art sale, two book fairs, a Christmas Fair and the splendid 'Vintage Aylsham'! The events each lasted for a few days and saw the sale of items that had been donated by you, our wonderful supporters, including clothing, homewares, books, unwanted gifts such as toiletries, handmade Christmas decorations and some unusual items such as two gorgeous vintage watering cans! In total the events raised an amazing £2,138.95 – that's enough to care for donkeys Harry and Derek until summer! We're still welcoming donations of goods to sell at future fairs – for more information contact Gifts in Kind Manager Anne Galloway on 01508 481070 or agalloway@redwings.co.uk.

For a list of sales, activities and events taking place this year **turn to page 16!**



Brilliant Broadland

In October 2015, the staff at Broadland District Council decided to support Redwings as their nominated charity for the month. Taking a break from the usual cake sales, they organised a series of silly games, quizzes and a Rugby World Cup lucky dip draw. Between them the staff raised £91, which was presented to Redwings at the end of October with their good wishes for the continuing efforts to save horses, mules and ponies from neglect and ill-treatment. Thank you team; we hope you enjoyed your fundraising!



Exciting developments at Redwings Caldecott!

We are delighted to say that we are planning to move house (well visitor centre) and setting up shop in Caldecott Hall! After 16 years of welcoming visitors from some temporary and rather old wooden buildings we can't wait to put down some more permanent roots in actual bricks and mortar! It will be a bit more solid than back in the early days when our café was situated in an old bus (yes really!), but don't worry, dogs will still be welcome, as will muddy boots!

There will be lots of benefits to the move, including the ability to create more much-needed grazing and stabling for our rescued horses. And the good news does not stop there. We are excited to say we will now be able to open our doors ALL YEAR ROUND! That's right, Redwings Caldecott will no longer shut over the winter, instead we will open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday for all 12 months of the year! That means you can get your horse (or donkey) fix as often as you like!

It is going to take time (and a lot of effort!) to complete the transformation but we look forward to keeping you updated on our progress. Come and see us soon to see how we are getting on!

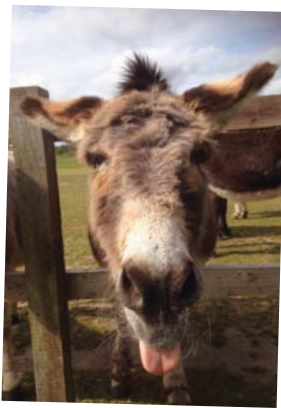
From 25th March, Redwings Caldecott – and all our visitor centres – will be open all year round every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday so you can enjoy a relaxing walk and get your horse and donkey fix as often as you like, for free!

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!

We all know Redwings Caldecott is a magical place, but did you know that the fresh sea air can help our residents with a sensitivity to sweet itch?

Sweet itch is a skin condition caused by an allergic reaction to a midge bite. It can be treated with topical creams, but as always prevention is better than cure. Midges do not like wind, fresh air and bright light – which can be found in abundance at the coast. Redwings Caldecott near Great Yarmouth has a fresh sea breeze, keeping the midge level low so it provides a perfect environment for those horses prone to the condition – just like Nutty!

Nutty came to live at Redwings in 2006 and was suffering terribly from sweet itch. Indeed, he had itched so badly in his past that he had scarring from his wounds. Nutty now lives happily at Redwings Caldecott where he now very rarely needs any treatment at all!



Fond farewell to one of our oldest donkeys

In December we were very sad to lose much-loved donkey Reuben who passed away at the grand age of 42. Sadly, old age meant that poor Reuben began to struggle with lameness in later life and so our vets had to make the heartbreaking decision to put him to sleep to ensure he did not suffer.

Reuben spent 27 very happy years at Redwings and was a hugely popular cheeky chappy with visitors to our Caldecott centre and our farm teams alike. He'll be greatly missed #RIPReuben.

Fabianne & Poppy rock our world

Hilary Colson and her grandchildren Fabianne and Poppy Brinkmann from Bury St Edmunds visited Redwings Caldecott to donate some of their toys, including a beautiful rocking horse. They had even planned how we could use their gift to raise funds to help horses by holding a 'name the rocking horse' sweepstake! The game raised £29 and the winning name was Banoffee, just like one of our beautiful Caldecott residents!



Celebrating ten years and getting ready to rehome!



Ten years ago we opened Redwings Oxhill, our first centre outside of East Anglia. It now welcomes over 21,000 people a year and is home to over 80 rescued horses and donkeys. The centre made Redwings a truly national organisation, able to help even more horses across the UK, and making us the largest horse sanctuary in the country.

To mark the anniversary, we are excited to announce that in 2016 Redwings Oxhill is planning to mark another milestone in Redwings' history, by becoming the first centre to rehome fit and healthy residents outside of East Anglia. Our rehoming scheme has operated for a number of years within Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, but we have not ventured further afield; until now. Redwings Oxhill has become an important hub in our welfare work, perfectly placed in the centre of England to house rescue cases from Wales, the Midlands and the North. By introducing rehoming we hope to see some of those cases complete their journey of rehabilitation by finding a forever home of their own.

At first we will rehome companions (those that cannot be ridden), but we have big plans to develop the site with a ménage, stables and tack room to help prepare suitable horses for riding too. This is a huge undertaking but one which is vital to ensuring that we make room for more rescued horses at the Sanctuary.

Chief Executive Lynn Cutress said: "I opened Redwings Oxhill in my first year as Chief Executive, having led on the search and development of a site outside of East Anglia to enable our charity to grow. Ten years on I am delighted to announce that we will start rehoming from the centre. Redwings has great experience in rehabilitating horses both physically and emotionally, and there is nothing more rewarding than seeing a rescued horse complete his journey and find a loving home of his own."



To meet the horses in need of homes at Redwings Oxhill visit our website www.redwings.org.uk/rehoming

If you would like to help us with the enormous task of building the new rehoming facility, call or email us to find out more on 01508 481000, info@redwings.co.uk

Look how big Arya is!

You will of course remember hairy donkey foal Arya, who arrived at Redwings in 2014 along with her mum Millie, Adel and Arya's partner in crime Merlin.

Irresistibly fluffy, one-month-old foal Arya was an instant hit and everyone immediately fell in love with her, so she simply had to be one of our Adoption Stars. Despite losing her mum very sadly last year, Arya has flourished and now at one-and-a-half years old is standing at an impressive 10.1hh!

Arya won't be fully grown until she is three years old and as she is part Poitou donkey she is likely to have plenty more growing to do yet; we are all excited to see just how tall she'll be. Place your bets!





A bonnie warm welcome to Scotland!

On 25th March we will be opening the doors of our newest visitor centre, Redwings Mountains in Angus, Scotland for the first time since our merger back in January last year! We have been so pleased to welcome the Mountains team and their stunning horses and donkeys into the Redwings family and now it's your turn to give them a proper Redwings welcome!

Mountains Animal Sanctuary was founded in 1984 (just like us!) and it has 220 stunning acres of land that are currently home to around 85 horses, ponies and donkeys, plus an adorable mule called Blue and all kinds of other incredible wildlife including red squirrels and red kites!

Part of the reason for the merger was to ensure Mountains could continue its vital welfare work in Scotland and there was an urgent need to upgrade the site's facilities in order for them to be able to do so. Work is now underway to improve the trackways and fencing and provide more all-weather facilities for the horses such as woodchip arenas and extra barns. Please do bear in mind that this is a long process and that this work may well be continuing throughout this year – however we have decided to reopen the centre to visitors as we would love to show you how your support has helped us so far and we would be so proud to introduce you to the lovely residents!

We will be open to visitors every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 25th March, 10am to 4pm. There will be refreshments available on site and some brand-new Adoption Stars to meet too...!



Meet our new Adoption Stars!

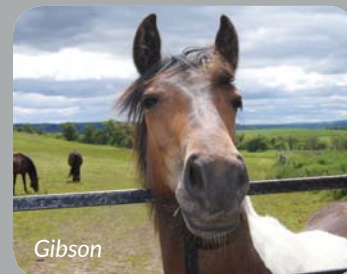
As well as opening the doors to visitors at Redwings Mountains this spring, we're launching two brand-new Adoption Stars: meet Minnie and Gibson!

Minnie

Eight-year-old donkey Minnie lives with her son Mouse and a whole gang of donkey pals at Redwings Mountains. She absolutely loves people and is always first to the fence to say hello – with little Mouse in tow.

Gibson

Gorgeous Gibson was very sadly orphaned when he was only a baby. He was taken in to the care of Mountains, where they found him a lovely surrogate mummy called Maggie and with lots of TLC he made a full recovery from his ordeal. As you can see, he's growing into an absolute stunner!



Join the Adoption Club today!

Adopting Minnie or Gibson is a great way to support Redwings while also making a new furry friend for yourself or as a gift for a loved one! It costs just £12.50 for a whole year and you can visit your Adoption Star for FREE as often as you like at our visitor centres! To adopt Minnie or Gibson and meet the rest of our Adoption Stars, head to www.redwings.org.uk/adopting

The UK Horse Crisis

Will your support continue too?

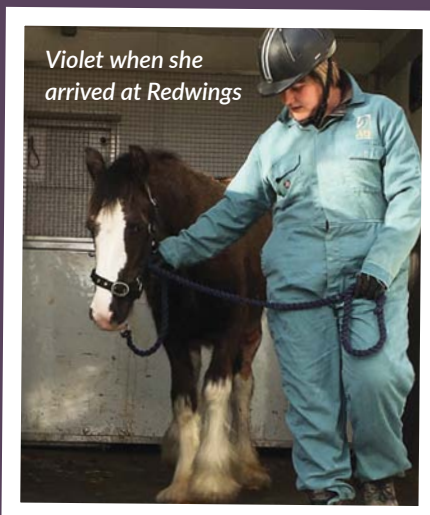
For more than five years we have been trying to raise awareness of the horse crisis in the UK, with an estimated **6,000 horses at risk of being neglected or abandoned**, and not nearly enough homes to care for them.

Despite exciting developments throughout the Sanctuary, here at Redwings we still face the daily struggle of trying to rescue as many horses as we can.

The number of calls we receive from people wanting us to rehome their horse is not slowing down. On just one day in February we had received requests to take in 16 horses before lunchtime. Although each horse was fit and healthy, the owners were no longer willing or able to care for them.

Sadly we simply do not have the room to welcome every horse who needs a home.

We must keep our doors open for those who need us the most – the emergency cases – horses who are suffering terribly and only have one chance left; horses like Violet...



Violet when she arrived at Redwings

Violet is not alone. In January 2016 we took in seven more horses who had been left to suffer severely after failing to receive even basic care. A lack of food, untreated injuries and life-threatening illnesses left each of them in desperate need.

Thanks to you we were able to rescue them.



Sadly, despite intensive treatment, two of the horses passed away; but with your support the survivors could still recover. Can you help them?



Please, donate if you can, and help us care for Violet and all the other horses who need your help today.

"We never know when a call will come in about a horse in desperate need. Often these horses have been abandoned, abused, or found in a suffering state. Whether it is an injury or illness left untreated, or simply a lack of food, so often their suffering is caused by a lack of basic care."

*Danielle,
Redwings Welfare Hotline*

**To donate today call 01508 481000 or
Text HORS30 £5 to 70070 Write to Redwings Horse Sanc**

continues...



Violet

Violet was found with a nasty wound on her leg. We offered her a home at our Ada Cole centre in Essex, where she is now recovering after her ordeal.

Hollie, Yard Manager at Ada Cole, says: "Every two days, the vet visits to treat Violet's wound. At first, despite her kind nature, Violet would kick out and twist away when we tried to touch her leg as it was so tender, so the vet now injects

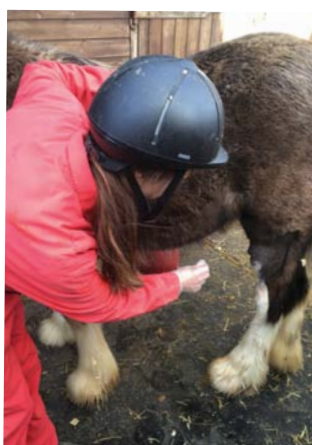
her with a mild sedative before each treatment. This enables the wound to be cleaned and dressed without causing Violet any distress.

"As well as giving Violet the veterinary care she needs to recover from her injury, we are helping her with her emotional and behavioural needs. Violet's injury has made her distrustful of people touching her leg, so every day we spend time grooming her and stroking her gently with our hands. Each day we get closer to the wound so she learns human touch can be a positive experience, not always a painful one.

"Despite her tough start, Violet seems to like people. She is the first to greet us in the morning, whinnying for her breakfast. She has three tasty haynets a day to keep her tummy full and help her grow as she is only young. This also keeps her occupied as she cannot live with other horses while her wound heals – she is on strict bed-rest!

"Violet is already a little star – the team adore her. She is one of my favourites as despite everything she has been through, she is still really sweet-natured."

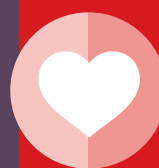
- **54p** could provide Violet's hay for a day
- **£4.50** could ensure someone is there to take an emergency call about a horse like Violet
- **£6** could dress a wound like Violet's
- **£12** could fund a visit from the vet
- **£27.50** could fuel a horse ambulance to collect a horse in need and take them to safety



Will your support continue?



Do you want to be there for horses in desperate need?



Would you like to provide daily care for Violet?

You can!

visit redwings.org.uk
tuary, Hapton, Norwich, NR15 1SP



Dates for your Diary!

We've got lots of great fundraising events and initiatives planned for 2016 and we really hope you'll be able to share in some of the fun! Here are just some of the dates that we've already put in our diaries and are really looking forward to!

Good Friday 25th March

Redwings Mountains Grand Opening!

Come and meet the newest members of the Redwings family – horse and human!

Redwings Caldecott reopens

Our rescued residents can't wait to see you again!

All visitor centres now open four days a week

Sunday 15th May

Redwings Show

A great day for riders of all abilities, or those who just want to watch! Visit our website www.redwings.org.uk to find out more.

29th April to 9th May

Art Sale at Aylsham VC

Back by popular demand – donate your pieces by contacting agalloway@redwings.co.uk

27th to 30th May

Book Fair at Aylsham VC

Calling all bookworms! Don't miss the chance to help horses by browsing for a bargain!

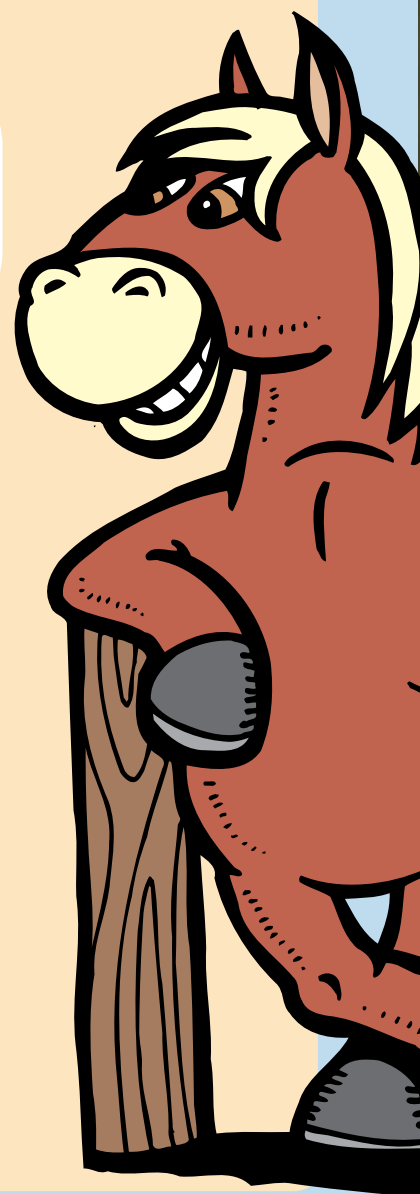
25th Nov to 23rd Dec

Christmas Fair at Aylsham VC

Get into the festive spirit with our annual Christmas Fair!

Don't forget that every Redwings Visitor Centre also runs a fun-packed schedule of events throughout the school holidays! There will be themed activities, crafts, demonstrations and guided tours for all the family and entry is still completely free of charge!

For details of all our visitor centres, their opening times and special events please just go to www.redwings.org.uk/visiting or ring 0870 040 0033!



Adoption Star birthday parties

Our fantastic Adoption Stars celebrate their birthdays each year with their very own party! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and help give our celebrity residents the special day they deserve!

Ada Cole

Tinkerbelle – Sunday 10th April
Del Boy – Sunday 8th May
Dolly – Sunday 12th June
Elvis – Sunday 3rd July
Zippy – Sunday 14th August

Aylsham

Maya – Sunday 15th May
Wiggins & Wacko – Sunday 12th June
The Gangsters – Sunday 24th July
Gulliver – Sunday 28th August

Caldecott

Muffin – Sunday 17th April
Victoria – Sunday 29th May
Sampson – Sunday 3rd July
Cauli – Sunday 31st July
Poppy – Sunday 21st August
Denise – Sunday 4th September
Esther – Sunday 30th October

Mountains

Gibson – Sunday 5th June
Minnie – Sunday 14th August

Oxhill

Wensley – Sunday 1st May
Major – Sunday 29th May
Rumpel – Sunday 10th July
Arya – Sunday 17th July
Timothy & Cain – Sunday 14th August
Dylan – Sunday 4th September

