

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2017

Our work on Bodmin Moor

How we hope to make a lasting
difference to the Bodmin ponies

From rescue to rehoming

Exciting news from Redwings
Oxhill

Strangles Survey results

Thank you to everyone who
took part

Meet Zena

And find out how we saved
her life with your help

Plus much more...

Emergency surgery saves lives



All funded by YOU!

How emergency surgery in the Redwings Horse Hospital saved the life of one brave and beautiful horse.

Meet Zena on pages 18-19

Text
'HORS30 £10' to 70070

Visit
www.redwings.org.uk

Call
01508 481000

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...

Arriving in style!

Following an appeal, we have loaned a trailer to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service on a permanent basis to help them transport their training horse, named 'Randy'.

Full-size, 15 hands high, 200kg palomino model horse Randy has been an important Fire Service recruit since 2010. With his fully adjustable articulated joints, Randy is key to training firefighters during simulated horse rescue operations, such as when horses become trapped in hard to reach places like ditches and rivers. He is also vital to help raise the profile of the Fire Service's rescue work during demonstrations at external events – but for that he needs to travel!

When their previous trailer fell into disrepair the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service put out an appeal on Facebook and we were happy to respond. We had an old trailer that was no longer in service for us and we were happy to loan it to them for such a vital purpose. We have also pledged a retirement home at the Sanctuary to Randy should he need it!



A true hero horse

Last autumn we had to say goodbye to a very special resident. Oliver was 28 and had lived at Redwings since 1992. For seven years he acted as 'seeing-eye horse' to blind Boo the Clydesdale who had come to Redwings in 2009 having survived a shocking attack. Boo, 19, who has previously lost one eye to cancer, had been shot at point-blank range



Boo & Oliver

which resulted in the loss of his remaining eye. Sadly, no one was ever prosecuted for this despicable act of cruelty but Boo was welcomed in to the Sanctuary where he could receive the specialist care he would need for the rest of his life. Loyal Oliver became Boo's most trusted friend, and the pair remained inseparable until one sad morning in October when it was discovered Oliver was suffering from a severe impaction colic and was in a lot of pain. Due to his age, surgery was not an option and the heart-breaking decision was taken to put Oliver to sleep to save him from further suffering. Boo stayed by his side. Since Oliver's passing, the vets have been closely monitoring Boo and he has been introduced to a new companion, a piebald cob called Flynn, also 19, who is helping him come to terms with his loss. You can read more about colic on pages 18 and 19.

On the up!

In the 2016 Charity Brand Index – which is a list of the 150 most well-known charities in the UK based on brand – Redwings has risen from 118th in 2015 to 89th last year! We are listed amongst much bigger charities than our own so huge thanks to you, our wonderful supporters, who have clearly been spreading the word!



Contents

- 2-3 Welcome and news update
- 4-5 Recent rescues
- 6-7 Education & campaigns
- 8 Questions of life (at Redwings!)
- 9 Redwings rehoming
- 10-11 Doing Moor for horses
- 12-16 'Your Redwings' – all the news from your local centre
- 17 Supporting Redwings
- 18-19 Appeal – Emergency surgery saves lives
- 20 Legacies

Prize Draw Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our autumn and winter prize draws! Don't forget to buy your tickets this spring for a chance to win!

Redwings autumn draw 2016

1st Prize - £5,000 – Mr L Stent, Surrey
2nd Prize – £1,000 - Mrs C Pike, Longfield
3rd Prize - £500 – D Bhogal, Kent

Redwings winter draw 2016

1st Prize - £5,000 – Mrs A Yiannakis, Blackpool
2nd Prize – £1,000 – Mrs L Hughes, Llanfyllin
3rd Prize - £500 – Miss M Mace, Swindon

With 30 runner-up prizes in each draw there are more chances to win than ever!

"What a lovely surprise I had yesterday with the gift of a goodie bag, which I won on the Autumn Raffle. I am not usually lucky on raffles, but thank you so much. I wish you well with all the good work you do for the animals, which makes such a difference to their lives."

Mrs A Nation, Redwings Supporter

Our cover star is Blueberry, part of our Olympic heroes group (Blueberry is Valegro's stable name!). Blueberry and his mum Constantine were rescued from Wales in April last year.



Welcome to the spring newsletter from Redwings!

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year on behalf of all the horses and donkeys at the Sanctuary – and the humans too of course!

Your support really is invaluable to us and in this newsletter you'll find just a small selection of all the things we've been up to to help horses over the last six months, which was all made possible by you.

I am particularly proud of our work on Bodmin Moor. Not only have we given 23 Moor ponies a new lease of life here at the Sanctuary, but we have embarked on a major long-term project that has already made a real and lasting difference to the ponies living there. Find out more on pages 10 and 11.

We've also continued our work to help horses beyond our paddock fences. Our strangles campaign is gathering momentum thanks to a very successful survey, and we are spreading the word on horse psychology and behaviour too – something we believe is as important to a horse's wellbeing as its physical health (see pages 6 and 7).

Most of all, I am incredibly proud of the number of horses we helped in 2016 – over 140 in total (see pages 4 and 5). Each one is an individual and each one has complex needs, from Josh the tiny pony abandoned in a skate park in Harlow, to a whole group rescued from a so-called 'sanctuary' not a million miles away from us here in Norfolk. We may be operating at capacity but the team never turns a blind eye to a horse in need of our help. And as we expand our rehoming operations through 2017, we hope we will be able to make the space to help even more horses in the future.

Finally, a big thank you not only to all those of you who have donated, adopted and supported our work over the last year, but also to all those of you who have visited our centres or helped spread the word amongst your own communities about Redwings. We rely so heavily on you to keep us going and share the news about us with your friends, and we are so grateful, thank you. Find out what's been going on at your local centre from page 12 onwards.

With grateful thanks from all of us here

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive

Lynn is pictured with lovely pony March who was born at Redwings in 2009, what a sweetheart!

Horse Care Advice and Welfare

01508 481008
welfare@redwings.co.uk

Visitor Helpline

0870 040 0033
www.redwings.org.uk

Address for all correspondence

Redwings Horse Sanctuary
Hapton, Norfolk NR15 1SP



Redwings to the rescue!

News of our work from around the UK...



Father and son owners of Rainbow Meadows Horse Sanctuary banned from keeping horses

Last December, William Hand and Nathan Page were banned from keeping horses having caused unnecessary suffering to horses at their 'sanctuary', Rainbow Meadows, near Fakenham in Norfolk.

The pair consistently failed to act on advice from our vets and field officers, as well as Trading Standards, and a visit in November 2015 saw 20 horses removed having been found in an emaciated state and suffering from various veterinary issues, including strangles.

After lengthy legal proceedings, the two defendants pleaded guilty to eight charges of causing unnecessary suffering to their horses and a charge of failing to take reasonable steps to protect seven of the horses from pain, suffering, injury



Lord Leap before



Lord Leap now



Frenchie & Dancer

and disease. William Hand received a lifetime ban from keeping equines, a suspended prison sentence and was ordered to pay £415 in costs, while his son was banned from keeping equines for 10 years and ordered to pay £296 in costs.

Commenting on the case, our Chief Executive Lynn Cutress said: "For this type of neglect to have occurred at a place that called itself a 'sanctuary' is unfathomable. The road to recovery

for the 12 horses taken into our care has been a difficult one, which only emphasises the extent of their previous neglect, but we're delighted that we were finally able to offer them that place of sanctuary they so rightly deserve."

Of those rescued, twelve were rehomed to Redwings where we named them after the "Twelve Days of Christmas" carol, including Frenchie, Dancer, Goldie and Turtle!

Always ensure you are donating to a reputable charity by checking their Registered Charity number on the Charity Commission website. Reputable horse rescue centres are usually registered with the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) and again you can find a list of members on their website, www.newc.co.uk.

Horses of Paper Mill Lane

On Thursday 13th January, we worked with the RSPCA to remove 10 horses of concern from a site on Paper Mill Lane in Ipswich.

The horses had been reported to us as of concern and several were underweight so they were removed on welfare grounds. We sent a team and multiple trailers and

horseboxes to remove them from the site in challenging and very cold conditions!

Six have been taken in by Redwings and four by the RSPCA. This is an active welfare case so we can't tell you any more at this time, but we will of course update you on their progress as soon as we can!

Gelligaer ponies update

In November last year, we were delighted to report that eight ponies rescued from Gelligaer Common in South Wales were finally signed over into our permanent care, having been rescued six months earlier.

Back in April, we assisted RSPCA Cymru with the round up and removal of seven ponies and one foal. One further foal was born two weeks later, one older pony sadly passed away shortly after the rescue, and one pony is now with the RSPCA who they hope to rehome. We have named the group after types of apple, including Pippin, Gala and Brina.



Pippin

Meet Josh, the skate park pony



Super cute Miniature Shetland Josh was found abandoned in a skate park in Harlow on Monday 24th October 2016.

A member of the public had reported the pony to Essex police, who assisted the Council with his removal. Poor Josh was taken to a nearby veterinary practice to receive urgent treatment as he was suffering from an ulcerated eye and covered in diarrhoea. When no owner could be found for Josh, we offered him a home for life at



Redwings Ada Cole and named him Josh after the police officer who came to his rescue at the skate park.

Bodmin Moor regulars

Our third visit to Bodmin Moor in Cornwall last year saw us carry out a huge microchipping operation in partnership with the Bodmin Moor Commons Council in which we managed to microchip and vet check 160 ponies. In true Redwings style we also managed to return with 16 ponies in desperate need of our help. They included a stallion with a nasty wound on his side and several young foals.

They have made a great recovery in our care and have all been named after Roald Dahl characters as 2016 was the 100th anniversary of the author's birth – including Grasshopper, Muggle Wump and Oompa Loompa! Read more about the microchipping operation and our other work on Bodmin on pages 10 and 11.



Humpty Rumpy and Muggle Wump



Grasshopper, Roly Poly, Mr Tibbs and James

Redwings Strangles Survey 2016



In 2015 we had an outbreak of strangles at Redwings, our first for 23 years.

Strangles is the most commonly diagnosed contagious disease in horses in the UK with an average of 600 outbreaks a year. It's a nasty infection of the upper respiratory tract that causes symptoms such as swelling of the throat, which gives the disease its unpleasant name, and in rare cases it can be fatal.

It's a sneaky disease too, as 10% of horses infected become 'carriers' of the disease. This means that despite showing no symptoms they can still cause outbreaks in the future. Preventing sufferers from becoming carriers, as well as identifying and treating carriers, is the key to stopping the disease in its tracks.

Fortunately, despite it being extremely infectious, the swift action of our vets and care teams minimised spread of the disease during our outbreak. All 30 affected horses (out of 1,500 residents in sanctuary) made a complete recovery and have been given the all-clear. However, it still had a huge impact on the charity and it remains one of the biggest health risks to our resident horses. As a result, we have redoubled our commitment to seeing this nasty disease stamped out.

We ran a survey amongst horse owners between April and June 2016 to get a picture of the issues that keep this preventable disease from being eradicated. Nearly 5,000 people expressed an interest and we received 2,002 completed surveys.

Here are some of the headlines...

90% of respondents agreed that there should be more done to tackle the disease

Only 13% of respondents who kept their horse on a livery yard reported any kind of screening process – a fundamental part of running any yard as this ensures new horses are clear of infectious diseases before they come into contact with other residents

Almost 400 respondents had previous experience of strangles in their own horse. Analysis comparing their views to other respondents found that people without experience of strangles may overestimate the cost and effort it takes to prevent and manage the disease – a barrier we need to overcome if we want people to join our campaign

Most respondents **knew** the symptoms of strangles BUT even though it's highly contagious, many indicated that they would delay quarantining a horse suspected to have strangles until they were certain, which could be too late

1/3 of respondents think it's airborne like equine flu, which could mean they think it's harder to prevent than it really is. Strangles is actually spread by contact with infected snot (lovely!)

Most respondents **wrongly** believe that strangles is not eradicable and the feeling that "strangles is just something we live with" was one of the main reasons that prevented people taking more steps to prevent the disease

You can find out more about the survey and download the full report on our website www.redwings.org.uk. Thank you to everyone who took part or helped us spread the word! Together we can **#StampOutStrangles**.



Our Snare the Snot winner

Take our Snare the Snot challenge!

As well as the horse owning community, we also set a challenge for the veterinary profession at this year's BEVA (British Equine Veterinary Association) Congress!

We set up a fun challenge and asked vets to have a go at 'snaring the snot' in the fastest time – and yes, that is as disgusting as it sounds! It involved attempting to snare nasty strangles chondroids (hard lumps of pus, yuck!) out of a model horse's head – as close as we could get to the real procedure. To do so, they had to use a complicated bit of kit called a videoscope to guide their movements. Even the then President of BEVA, Mark Bowen, had a go! All the vets were impressive with times ranging between 1 and 4 minutes to complete the 'procedure' and the quickest was less than 40 seconds!

Change for the better

Our very own Education & Campaigns Manager Andie Vilela was one of the speakers at the very first International Human Behaviour Change Conference for Animal Welfare, held in Dorking in September 2016. The

conference put Human Behaviour Change (that is, the science of why people do or don't take certain actions or will or won't change their behaviour) at the centre of discussion about how to improve animal welfare. Andie spoke to the conference about how Redwings uses HBC approaches to complement our rescue work in recognition that, like many other organisations, not all the welfare problems can be solved by bringing the horses into sanctuary. We need new approaches to engage with owners and carers, in particular those who do not engage with advice in the form of leaflets and websites.



"...we need new approaches to engage with owners and carers, in particular those who do not engage with advice in the form of leaflets and websites."



Questions of life (at Redwings!)



Q: Do all your horses live in stables?

The short answer is no!

Firstly, stabling all 1,500 of our horses would be rather impractical. Not only would we have to build that amount of stables in the first place, but because we believe time out in fields is vital to a horse's wellbeing, we'd also have to employ enough staff to bring them in every night and turn them out into their fields every morning! It would be a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, a never-ending job!



However, even if we could afford to do that, we wouldn't. That's because we simply don't believe a stable is the best place for a horse, and there is a great deal of research which says the same. Although it can be a helpful part of their management, especially if they are sick and need to have their movement or diet restricted, horses are herd animals and they

are much more relaxed and happy when they are out in fields with their friends. All our sites have stables in case they are needed, especially at our Horse Hospital, but we ensure all the



horses are turned back out as soon as they are able to be. The vets always say Dr Green (the grass!) is the best medicine!

Of course, we don't just turn them out into a field and leave them to it. They are checked twice a day and all the horses are given whatever they need to support them. Most horses of all breeds can cope without a rug unless the weather is really cold as they have incredibly insulating coats, but those who are more sensitive or elderly have rugs to support them, and all our fields have shelter from the elements too. The donkeys in particular have special donkey-sized rugs and a nice warm barn to curl up in, as unlike horses their coats are not waterproof and they really don't like the rain!

Q: Do you have a Redwings credit card? What are some other easy ways for me to support you?

Last August we were informed that from January 2017, MBNA would no longer be running the charity credit card scheme that a number of you have used for many years.

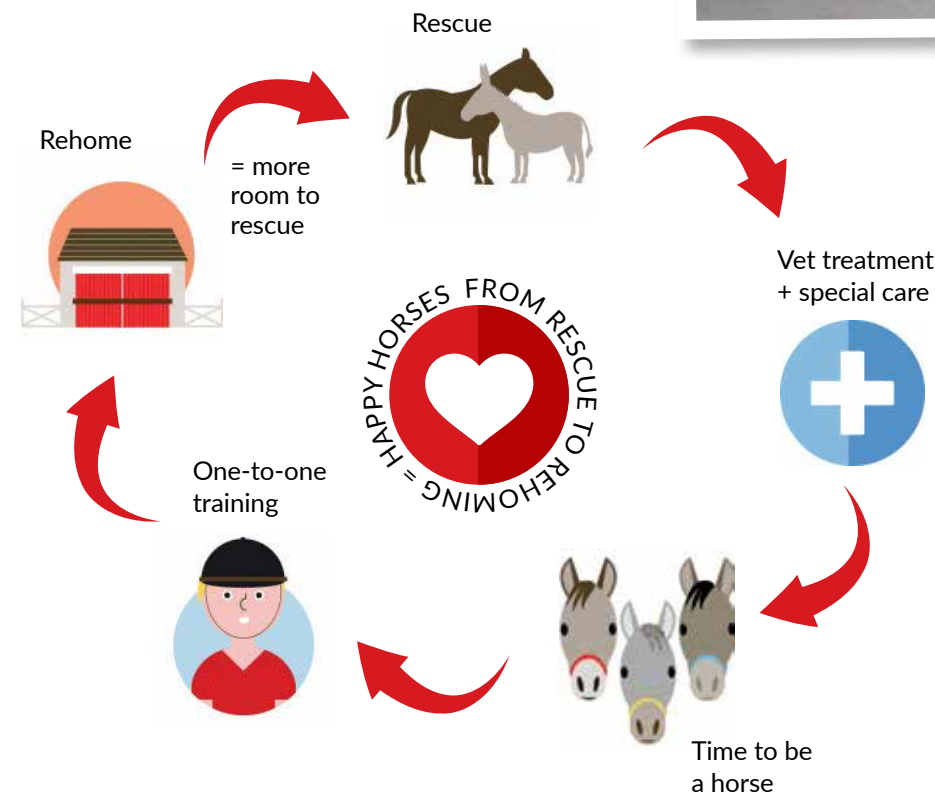
The news was a real blow to both card holders and us here at Redwings, as the scheme raised around £6,500 for the charity each year. However, at the moment we can't find a viable alternative, and in fact the website Money Saving Expert advises that using cash back cards to give to charity is a much more effective way to support the organisations you love (like Redwings!).

So, instead of having a charity credit card here are some other ways to help little and often:

- Set up a monthly standing order for an amount you can afford – just £10 a month could fill a stable in our Horse Hospital with soft bedding.
- Already have a standing order? Perhaps you could consider increasing it – even an extra £3.00 a month could provide a bandage for a poorly horse.
- Shop online with Easyfundraising. This website enables you to shop with big brands like John Lewis, and the company makes a donation to Redwings with each purchase (at no cost to you!). Simply visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/redwingshorsesanctuary and click 'Join Us'!
- Request a Redwings collection box and drop in your loose change. Each box can hold more than £5 and it is amazing how quickly the pennies add up!

Whatever you can do, thank you! For more information please contact us on 01508 481000 or info@redwings.co.uk

Rehoming at Redwings Oxhill



We are delighted to say that in August 2016 planning permission was granted for our new rehoming centre at Redwings Oxhill, Warwickshire.

We are even more delighted to announce that one incredible supporter has offered to fund the stables at the centre with a wonderful donation. We were more than happy to say 'yes!' and 'The Gresham Centre' will be built in honour of the donor's parents in 2017.

However we still have a long way to go.

The rehoming facility will consist of three large barn buildings. One will house stables and a tack room (The Gresham Centre), the second will contain an indoor riding arena, and the third will be used for storage (for things like hay, shavings and equipment). Of particular urgency, now that we have funding for our stables, is fundraising for the indoor riding arena. The arena will enable us to train horses

all year round and is vital if we are to achieve our mission to rehome more horses. The riding arena will cost around £100,000 and will help us rehome at least 30 horses each and every year – hopefully many more in the future. Whether they are to be trained as ridden horses, or simply to be handled safely and happily so they can become companion ponies, all our rehoming horses will benefit from the arena.

Rehoming more horses is the best way we can make room for more horses in desperate need of rescue. Unless we make more room in the Sanctuary soon, we will have to turn horses away. None of us wish to do that.

If you think you can help us build the riding arena, please contact us on **01508 481015** or email info@redwings.co.uk. Or to donate today visit www.redwings.org.uk/donating and you could help ponies like Weetabix (see right).



Meet Weetabix...



Life today for Weetabix is a far cry from the traumatic

start he had. Weetabix was found on a farm in Ireland with 60 other ponies and donkeys. Other horses had sadly already passed away, their bodies still lying in the barn where they fell.

After many months of veterinary treatment and special care, Weetabix and his friends all made a full recovery. Weetabix would now love a home of his own, either as a companion or as a ridden pony.

Could you help us build a rehoming centre so he can find a loving home?

Weetabix now



We continue to do Moor for Horses!

Over the last five years, we have been working hard to help the ponies who live semi-wild on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall. Recently that's included three trips to Bodmin in 2016 and 23 new arrivals to the Sanctuary!

The situation for welfare has always been very challenging on Bodmin due to an overpopulation of ponies beyond those that should be grazed there according to the commoners' rights. Combine this with indiscriminate breeding and minimal care provided by some owners, not to mention some very harsh weather conditions and poor grazing, and you have a recipe for disaster. Hence our intervention.

We are delighted to say that since we got involved and thanks to the incredible dedication of some real local heroes in the area, improvements have been made, such as the introduction of a Bodmin Moor Commons Council, which we helped to campaign for. However, it's still far from perfect and charities cannot continue to pick up the pieces when things go wrong.

The first step in making a permanent change is to ensure all the ponies can be identified and matched to their owners, so we know which ponies are meant to be on the Moor in the first place.

To that end, in September we developed an ambitious project with the Commons Council to try and microchip as many ponies as we could on one of the most difficult areas, East Moor. We travelled down to Bodmin for a whole week and, with the help of local charities and our friends from Blue Cross and the RSPCA amongst others, as well as the APHA (the Animal and Plant Health Agency), we were able to passport and microchip 160 ponies!

Led by our Head of Welfare & Behaviour Nic de Brauwere and funded by the Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust, the project aim was to identify the ponies of owners who have formal rights to graze on the Moor. Nic explains: "This means we can hold owners to account if things go wrong with the animals' care, and we can ensure that we prevent any unscrupulous individuals seeing the Moor as a dumping ground or opportunity to fly-graze their horses."

As well as distinguishing ponies that are legally and illegally grazed, this operation was also designed to assess the health and condition of the ponies. The ponies on the Moor are largely feral and unhandled so all those rounded up received a full health check and worming.



The local MP for North Cornwall, Scott Mann, heard about our microchipping operation and asked if he could come along to see the work for himself. He said it was one of the most worthwhile and informative visits he has made

to date. "We had a number of people contact our constituency office with concerns for the ponies on the Moor, particularly during the spring months," he explained. "I felt the welfare of the ponies was an important issue to take on and so this project was something I was eager to be a part of."

In total, over 160 ponies were rounded up and assessed during the operation. Sixteen unclaimed ponies – some of which required urgent veterinary attention and others whose condition was such that they would not have survived the winter – were rescued from the Moor and brought back to Redwings. The Mare and Foal Sanctuary and the RSPCA also offered homes to ponies, and pledges for more homes were made by Bransby Horses and Blue Cross.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the operation, especially Julie Downton from the Commons Council and Lorna Stevenson from the APHA for their incredible hard work on Bodmin Moor, all our staff for their dedication and of course you our wonderful supporters for making it all possible, and especially for funding the care of the ponies we have brought back to the Sanctuary. We are now planning more operations on different areas of the Moor for 2017, and in the meantime we are very thankful that this winter there was no need to return to Bodmin.



Doing Moor for Horses in 2017 and beyond...

Removing the unclaimed ponies from the Moor means that without over-stocking and over-grazing, the grass can grow and provide enough food to support all those who are rightfully there. If you visit you will be sure to see the difference – the Moor looks amazing.

But our work is ongoing. A number of unclaimed ponies from East Moor are currently in private boarding and are still in need of a forever home. We will take in as many as we can, but we are in talks with other organisations, including The British Horse Society, about rehoming some with experienced, knowledgeable homes across the country.

We will also be returning to Bodmin to address similar over-stocking and welfare concerns on other areas of the Moor. This was a brave and ambitious effort to prevent ponies from suffering, and it worked!

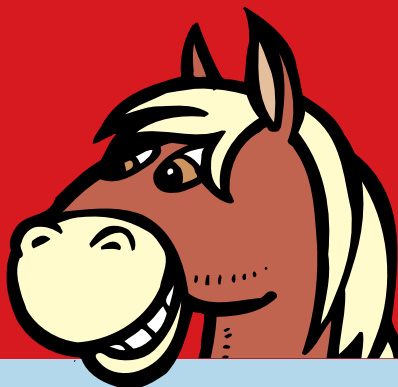
Thank you for your support.

To donate to this specific project please visit www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/redwingshs/moorforhorses - we aim to raise £6,000, £1 for every horse estimated to be at risk of abandonment or neglect.



News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'

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



Ada Cole Essex, EN9 2DH

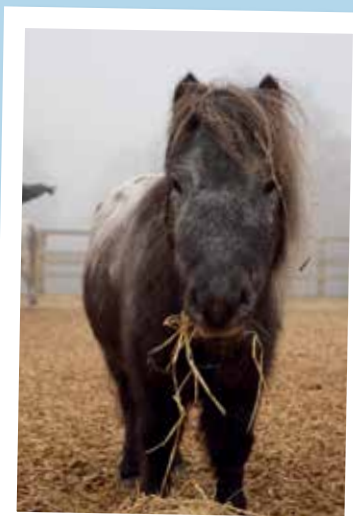
REDWINGS

Tiny pony Yogi stolen!

In September, we were all in shock when Miniature Shetland pony Yogi was stolen from our Ada Cole site. Our care team raised the alarm when the four-year-old, who is just 6hh, was not in the field where he lives with a large group of miniature Shetlands.

The site was extensively searched but to no avail. Mysteriously, there was no sign of damage or tampering to the fence around his field so we suspect Yogi had been lifted over the top. There was, however, damage to the site's exterior perimeter fencing, and electric tape and battery packs had been moved.

The suspected theft was immediately reported to the police and following calls from members of the public Yogi was safely located a few miles away near a local primary school. After a period of quarantine Yogi was reunited with his group, and we are pleased to report that he seems to have suffered no ill effects from his ordeal.



Delicious Vanilla!

At the end of 2016, we were approached by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust for help with one of the rare breed Konik ponies that they use to graze their conservation areas.

Vanilla is believed to be the sister of Fudge, the Konik pony we gave a home to last year. Vanilla has sadly been diagnosed with laminitis and vets advised she could not live on the marsh lands anymore. The Wildlife Trust do not have the facilities to cope with this condition and would have had no other option but to put poor Vanilla to sleep.

They asked for our help and we were happy to offer Vanilla a home. We have also offered advice to the Trust regarding the management of their remaining ponies. Vanilla is already settling in well and we know her striking looks will make her a big hit with our visitors!



Thanks to our festive fundraisers!

We'd like to say a special thank you to all those supporters who raised vital funds for Redwings over the festive season.

One of our amazing Redwings Guardians, Deirdre Bell, raised a fantastic £252.50 with a Christmas Fayre. Deirdre is the proud Guardian of Kizzy – a black Shetland pony who she rehomed from the Ada Cole Memorial Stables (before it became part of Redwings Horse Sanctuary in 2005) over 20 years ago.

This wonderful amount could cover the cost of 10 training sessions to help a rescued horse find a loving new Guardian home – just like Kizzy!



REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



Coming soon...

There are some very exciting new developments afoot at Redwings Aylsham. Later this year we will be opening a brand-new education centre, called 'Red's Shed'!

The centre will be packed full of fun activities and interactive displays so visitors can find out more about Redwings, and of course learn all about horses too. It will include an area where we can host talks and visits from schools and other young people's groups, as well as four 'zones' focused on different areas of our work. The plans are top secret but we can reveal that there has been mention of hay bale seats and a miniature horse ambulance! We also hope to develop the outdoor area so we can include hands-on experiences with our horses and ponies too. Watch this space!



Alycia's Dream Drive

Every summer, ten-year-old Alycia dedicates her time to raising money for Redwings and this year she did something extra-special! Alycia arranged a Dream Equine Donation Drive where companies, friends and family could either make a donation through her JustGiving page or donate an item directly to us to use in our Sanctuary or auction off.

An incredible 53 companies donated items, including riding clothes, tack, Olympia Horse Show tickets, vets supplies, and much more.

In total Alycia raised nearly £700! We would like to say a huge thank you to Alycia for all her hard work!



Donkey duo steal the show (almost!)

Our Adoption Star donkeys Wiggins and Wacko lent a helping hoof to 100 children from two Aylsham infant schools in December who travelled to the visitor centre to learn more about the Christmas story and one of its pivotal characters – the donkey! Led by members of Aylsham Parish Church, the children performed the nativity play followed by lots of cuddles with the lovable long-eared duo. We even provided one of our field shelters to represent the stable in Bethlehem!

We hope they all had a fantastic day and a great Christmas. Huge thanks to Aylsham Parish Church for these amazing images!



Troubleshooting

Last year we hosted three evening veterinary seminars at Redwings Aylsham, where we spoke to around 100 horse owners. The speakers have been our very own wonderful vets and vet nurses, and topics have included Golden Oldies, Sweet Itch and Sarcoids (a skin condition). We've had some fantastic feedback from attendees and this year we will be looking at ways to expand their reach by potentially broadcasting them online and providing accompanying resources for those unable to attend in person.



Revamping Redwings Caldecott

As you know, we are looking forward to moving house and transferring our visitor centre to Caldecott Hall in late 2017. There will be much more room in the new café to enjoy your cup of tea and slice of tasty cake, and shopping will be a refreshing experience too with pretty views of the gardens. But it is not just our visitors who will get to experience a change of scene. Throughout the next two years we will be giving the horsey facilities a facelift too.

You may have seen the ground crumbling away by the stables, and the lining coming through the floor of the woodchip paddock in the middle of the centre. All these things have been repaired endless times, but now they are in need of extensive TLC to ensure they are safe for our horsey residents to use.

Back in 2000, our first season at Redwings Caldecott, the centre cared for around 60-70 horses. It is now home to over 100, many of whom have special care needs such as a sensitivity to midges (the sea air is great for preventing midge-bites), laminitis or old age (the team are experts in caring for elderly horses such as retired adoption favourites Oliver Twist and Icky).

After considering our horses' needs, we have submitted plans and are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to add the extra field shelters, stables and woodchip paddocks we need to care for our sanctuary herd.



Moving to Caldecott Hall will enable us to raise funds through the other facilities onsite, including a marquee and wedding licence. What a wonderful place to get married!

Darling Denise and Marvellous Muffin

Our darling Denise donkey (below left) celebrated her 20th birthday last year. She had a special birthday party and even appeared on BBC Radio Norfolk in a live broadcast!

And this year we will be celebrating a very special birthday for our beloved Muffin the mule who will be 30 years old! It is also 30 years since Muffin's rescue, as he came to Redwings as a tiny foal when he was rescued from a horse sale with his (pony) mum Doris (see below right), where they were due to be sold for slaughter. We are so glad he came to Redwings instead! Find out more about the Redwings Adoption Scheme and how you can adopt Muffin, Denise or another Redwings resident by telephoning 01508 481000 or visiting www.redwings.org.uk/adopt.



Let them eat cake!

Our adorable Adoption Stars celebrate their birthdays every year with special parties where they not only get to share plenty of cuddles with their visitors, but also get to tuck into their own delicious cakes! Our visitor centre teams love to get creative making these horse and donkey-friendly treats, and here's just one example of the brilliant cakes our Adoption Stars at Redwings Caldecott enjoyed last year.

To catch a glimpse of this year's fun designs, why not come along to one of our birthday parties... and perhaps enjoy your own piece of scrummy cake in our Nosebag Café too?!

The dates of Redwings Caldecott's Adoption Star birthday parties are:

- Icky: 26th March
- Muffin (who is turning 30!): 16th April
- Victoria: 28th May
- Oliver: 4th June
- Sampson: 2nd July
- Cauli: 30th July
- Poppy: 20th August
- Denise: 3rd September
- Esther: 29th October

If you'd like to make a birthday cake for your own horse or donkey, then you can find the recipe on our website. And don't forget to send us photos of your creations – we'd love to see them!

Kerry-Anne takes to the skies!

Well done to our very own Visitor Centre Team Member Kerry-Anne Smith who raised £278 by conquering her fear of heights... and jumping out of a plane!

Kerry-Anne, who works at Redwings Mountains, jumped from the height of 10,000ft during a skydive last August.

"So many of our horses, donkeys and mules have been through traumatic and horrific circumstances so I wanted to do something that I would personally find challenging – heights!" she said.

If Kerry-Anne has inspired you to take on a personal challenge and raise funds for Redwings, make sure to tell us all about it!



Star turns

A fantastic way to support the work of Redwings is to adopt a resident. And at Mountains we have two delightful Adoption Stars for you to choose from. Young cob Gibson's full name is Gibson Fraser and he was named after the original founder of Mountains Animal Sanctuary, Alan Fraser.

Meanwhile, adorable Minnie the donkey is the perfect Adoption Star for anyone who loves donkeys as she's the sweetest and friendliest donkey you could ever meet. She lives on a paddock just outside the visitor centre and is always straight over to the fence to say hello whenever anyone new arrives.

To adopt one (or both!) of this lovely pair, or any of our other Adoption Stars, visit the website www.redwings.org.uk or give us a call on 01508 481000. All the money we raise goes towards caring for your chosen star and their friends, and at just £12.50 a year, it won't break the bank either.

We celebrate St Andrew's Day!

We celebrated St Andrew's Day with a special weekend of family fun at Redwings Mountains.

In November, we hosted a series of activities on the theme of 'We Love Ponies' where visitors had the chance to enjoy fascinating talks, have a go at pony grooming and share extra fluffy cuddles with our herd of cheeky Shetlands.

We will be honouring Scotland's patron saint with another weekend of activities this year, so look out for more details on our website nearer the time.



Shetland pony Dayzee

A true pioneer: Alan Beaufort Fraser

Born to Scottish parents in Kent, Mountains founder Alan Fraser (1930-2010) had a lifelong obsession with cars and in 1962 he started the Alan Fraser Racing Team. So successful was the team that the 'Fraser Imp' racing car, complete with Scottish flag, became an icon of racing in the 1960s. In 1967 Fraser and his racing team raced in Tenerife, and it was while seeing the conditions many animals lived in that he became passionate about animal welfare. So much so that when he left racing he was inspired to start an animal sanctuary at his family home, Mountains Country House in Kent. When space ran out at the site, Fraser transferred 100 horses and donkeys to a new site in Glenogil, Scotland, which he named 'Mountains' after his childhood home and first motoring business – and the stunning countryside of course!

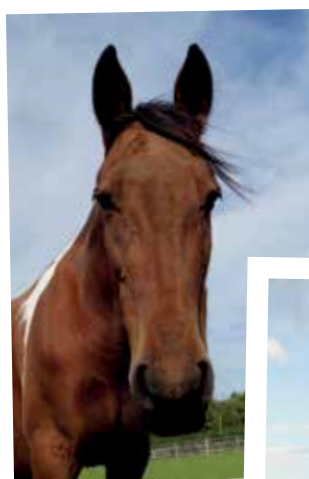


Cowslip finds a buddy

Visitors to Redwings Oxhill have been enjoying cuddles with two new additions to the centre's horsey family – beautiful Trotter pony Cowslip and her friend, Clydesdale Buddy.

Cowslip was rescued in June from Appleby Horse Fair having been found in a distressing state of neglect and was taken to our Horse Hospital in Norfolk for treatment. Meanwhile, handsome Buddy had been living near the hospital since 2015 after his previous owner struggled to cope with the specialist needs of a heavy horse. When Buddy's field mate sadly passed away in November, he was introduced to Cowslip and the two struck up a quick bond. Due to the experience of Redwings Oxhill's equine care team in looking after heavy horses, it was decided the pair should start a new life at our Warwickshire centre.

Both Cowslip and Buddy are settling in bit by bit, and they love all the extra fuss and attention shown by our lovely visitors!



Volunteer at Redwings

Do you live near one of our visitor centres? Can you spare a few hours a month? We are seeking passionate people with smiley faces to join us in making Redwings an even more wonderful place to visit. If you enjoy gardening, meeting and chatting to people, displaying stock, washing up or photography, and can spare a few hours each week or month we would love to hear from you.

"I have been volunteering at Redwings Mountains since July 2016 and I really enjoy giving something back. I volunteer my time for around 20 hours a month to help keep the memorial garden, flower beds and tubs looking their best for visitors. I also enjoy helping out the yard team by washing out feed buckets and scoops when I can and that allows them to concentrate on horse care. It's a wonderful way to help horses and great to be part of a friendly, happy team." Beth, Redwings Volunteer.

To find out more call 01508 481000, email info@redwings.co.uk or pop into your nearest centre!



Stars one and all

This year at Your Horse Live, one of the biggest equestrian events of the year, our ponies stole the show in the Redwings Rescue Village, which showcases our work to a huge audience of horse lovers! We took along six horses and ponies from Redwings Oxhill: Marmite and Muesli from the Breakfast Club rescue, Hamish and Sydney who were rescued from Cumbria, and the adorable Mini Shetlands Edam and Mozzarella from our cheese group, originally rescued from Lincolnshire. The boys behaved beautifully and were a huge hit with the Your Horse Live visitors; they even got a sneaky peek behind the scenes at the event!



(Almost) better than the real thing!

You can get your hands on fluffy versions of Adoption Stars Poppy, Tinkerbell, Maya and of course Major from Oxhill! They may not be as big as the real thing but they are just as cuddly. All four are on sale via our website and through our catalogues. And three more cuddly additions are coming soon – watch this space!



Thank you for your generosity! We have been inundated with some lovely donations so we no longer need garden equipment at any of our centres – especially Oxhill – for now. Thank you once again!

Supporting Redwings

Are you involved in a business or social organisation that could help support Redwings? Some of our creative supporters have found wonderful ways to help horses. Could you do the same?

A Pony Named Bart



Redwings supporter Angela Hobbs is supporting the charity with her beautiful book about her pony Bart. Angela decided to put pen to paper after being inspired by a book called, 'What cats think of humans'. Angela says, "I thought, Bart could write a book about what he thinks." The idea took hold and she started writing.

"While writing the book I decided that I wouldn't go down the route of contacting publishers as I am not seeking financial gain. I came upon the idea of all the proceeds going to help horses and ponies who, perhaps unlike Bart, didn't have such a happy story to tell."

This is Bart's second time in the spotlight. In 2010 he appeared on BBC1's 'Inside Out' pulling a carriage in a feature about Bournemouth!

Angela is kindly donating 100 copies to Redwings which will be available to purchase at our visitor centres. If you cannot visit and would like a copy, contact us! Remember 100% of the proceeds will go to Redwings!

Peppa's Pantry



We were delighted to meet Peppa when she and Terry visited our Hapton HQ with some samples. Isn't she gorgeous?!

Redwings supporter Terry recently launched a dog food company called 'Peppa's Pantry' and decided to help charities like Redwings in the process.

Peppa's Pantry produces quality dog food at affordable prices, and they will donate £1 to Redwings for every bag purchased online by shoppers who select Redwings as their chosen charity. Simply select RW1 at the checkout – head to www.peppaspantry.co.uk to start shopping!

To tempt your dog's taste buds Peppa's Pantry have also donated three bags of feed, which we are giving away to three lovely supporters.

If you would like to enter the draw for the chance to win a bag please complete the form below and send it back to us at Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norfolk, NR15 1SP.



Name

Pet's name(s)

Phone Number (so we can let you know if you win!)

If I win I would like my dog to try a bag of:

- ☐ Peppa's Pantry Grain Free Dog Food
- ☐ Peppa's Pantry Naturals Dog Food
- ☐ Peppa's Pantry Light Dog Food (suitable for seniors)

Please note we will only use your details to enter you into the competition. We will not share your information with any third party.

Calling all knitters! (And crochet creators!)

Do you have a talent or passion for knitting, felting or crocheting? Would you like to use your skills to help us with an exciting new project? If so please write, email or call us to find out more – 01508 481000, info@redwings.co.uk

Seeking support!

We welcome groups for volunteer days to help clean and repair our centres, and are always keen to discuss innovative fundraising initiatives. If you are involved in a business, hobby or social organisation that could find a way to help horses please call us on 01508 481000 or email info@redwings.co.uk to talk more!

Emergency surgery saves lives. All funded by YOU!

Each year, more than a dozen Redwings residents require emergency surgery for a life-threatening condition, such as colic.

Thankfully at Redwings we are lucky enough to have our own Horse Hospital, fully-equipped with an operating theatre, treatment room and recovery stables. We also have our own team of trained vets and nurses.

This means that each and every rescued animal can receive the best treatment, as quickly as possible, giving them the greatest chance of recovery and survival.

And what makes all this possible? You!

Everything in the hospital, including medication, bandages, surgical gloves,

disinfectant, instruments, and even the vets themselves, is funded by your donations.

Without you we would not be able to run the hospital.

With your help we can ensure that it is open and fully operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week for any resident who may need it.

Please help us keep the hospital running in 2017. Thank you.



As our vet team work with the horses every day they know their patients very well



What is colic?

Colic is a common ailment in horses and often occurs through no fault of the owner or carer. It can become very serious very quickly so it should always be reported to a vet as an emergency. Mild colic can be likened to a bad tummy ache and can be easily treated, but horses with an impaction (which is like constipation) will need a course of fluids. In very serious cases, for example if there is an obstruction in the intestine or a twist in the gut as with Zena, a horse may need surgery. Without swift treatment this form of colic can be fatal.



Zena is not alone. Each year over 100 sanctuary residents develop colic. Not all of them require surgery, but they all need a visit from the vet, pain relief medication, and close monitoring until they have fully recovered. Josephine, pictured, was in hospital at the same time as Zena. She needed her belly band for four months.

Zena's story

How emergency surgery in the Redwings Horse Hospital saved the life of one brave and beautiful horse.

One winter's night, Zena was found showing signs of colic. She was sweating and pawing the ground, clearly in pain. She was immediately brought to the Redwings Horse Hospital and given pain relief and a clinical examination followed by lots of fluids through a stomach tube. It was hoped this would ease Zena's discomfort, however at 2am the vets were concerned that her condition was deteriorating, and she was taken into the operating theatre for emergency surgery.



Redwings' Head Veterinary Surgeon Nicky Jarvis operated for two hours, untwisting Zena's intestines and flushing them through to clear a large impaction.

Nicky was assisted by Redwings vet Sarah Prior and two vet nurses throughout Zena's life-saving surgery.

But the hard work did not stop there.



After the operation Zena needed intensive care and close monitoring for several months to ensure she had the best chance of recovery. Her wound was clad with sterile dressings that were checked and changed each day, and she was fitted with a belly band. When she was strong enough, she was taken for short walks around the veterinary centre.

Please donate today to help keep our Horse Hospital running – Call 01508 481000, visit www.redwings.org.uk or text 'HORS30 £5' to 70070 Thank you!

*We will use your donation where it is needed the most to aid the treatment, recovery and care of Redwings' residents.

How your donation today could help:*



Pair of surgical gloves – £1.93



Two bales of shavings for a recovery stable – £10.20



Disinfectant for the operating theatre – £18.66



Care for recovery for a day – £27



Fluids for a horse with colic – £78



Set of surgical instruments £296.35



Team of vets and vet nurses to operate in an emergency – £100

Legacies: The gift of life

Have you met Zena?

She needed life-saving emergency surgery after developing colic in the middle of the night.

Thankfully, our amazing team of vets was able to reach her and treat her in time, providing not only a two-hour long operation, but weeks and weeks of specialist aftercare. None of this would have been possible without one incredible facility, which is our Horse Hospital.

In a private home, a visit to the vet for colic surgery could cost thousands of pounds. By running our own Horse Hospital, we are able to provide emergency treatment straight away and give residents the best chance of survival.

The Redwings Horse Hospital and much of the equipment within it was funded by gifts left in Wills.

It is only thanks to legacy gifts that we are able to create these specialist facilities and in doing so save the lives of rescued horses like Zena each and every day.

To find out more about remembering Redwings in your Will please call our Legacy Officer Katie on **01508 481030**, email legacies@redwings.co.uk or tick the box on the back of your form. Thank you.

Meet Zena on pages 18 and 19.



New-look Young Reds!

Do you have a family member who would enjoy one of our magazines for young supporters? Our Young Reds magazine, for supporters 8 years old and over, has had a complete redesign and is packed full of stories, quizzes, fact files and loads more!



Mini Reds is a fun activity book aimed at children aged 3-7 and every issue is full of stories, fun horsey games and loads of activities to keep your little ones entertained! Young Reds and Mini Reds are sent out twice a year and are completely free! To sign up visit youngredwings.co.uk and click on the 'Join up' page or call **01508 481000**.

Free Wills Month

Redwings is again participating in Free Wills Month, which gives people aged 55 and over the chance to have a simple Will written or updated for free throughout March 2017.

Taking part is easy – just call a participating solicitor for an appointment. To choose a solicitor visit

www.freewillsmoonh.org.uk, call 0345 686 4309 or look for advertisements in your local paper featuring the 'Free Wills Month' campaign. Handy to know:

- The campaign pays for simple Wills. If your Will is more complex you can pay the solicitor for any extra work.
- If you are making a Will as a couple, only one of you needs to be 55 or over.
- An up-to-date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected.
- Free Wills Month is a great opportunity to remember a charity like Redwings in your Will.