

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2019

A new adventure

Find out all about our brand-new centre on the Welsh borders

Friends for life

Meet two of our amazing Guardians and their beloved Redwings horses

Welcome to the fold

We introduce the latest rescued horses and donkeys starting a new life with us

Making your donations count

We'll show you where your money goes and how you can help us help horses in 2019

Plus much more...



Welcome to your Spring Newsletter!

I am delighted to be introducing the first Redwings newsletter of 2019 and, as well as Happy New Year, I'd like to say a big thank you to all of you for your amazing support throughout the last year and indeed our 30+ years of rescuing horses and donkeys in need. This year I must also add a special welcome to the supporters of SWHP (Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies) with whom we have recently completed a merger. Thank you for all your support for SWHP over the years and we hope you will enjoy being part of the Redwings family! Find out more on pages 10 and 11.

This issue features news of our planned expansion projects at Redwings Oxhill and Caldecott which are nearing completion. Both centres will have new rehoming centres so we can expand our operations in this area – crucially allowing us to make space to bring more needy horses into the Sanctuary. Find out more about these developments as well as some very sad adoption star losses (from page 12).

There has been ongoing debate in the wider equestrian community about the role of horses and whether they 'should' be worked or whether they belong in fields. At Redwings we have always advocated that horses should have a life as close to nature as possible, living in herds, with their friends and out in the fresh air as they were designed to be. That's not to say that we don't think horses can have a happy life being ridden or acting as companion ponies too and we have some wonderful horses and ponies living very happily out in loving Guardian homes and enjoying all kinds of disciplines, from dressage and showing to simply hacking out and having fun, as you can see on pages 8 and 9. The key for us at Redwings is that we believe every horse should be treated as an individual and to ensure that no matter what, their welfare and quality of life are the priorities at all times.

Speaking of putting horses' welfare at the heart of things, I am very proud indeed both of the team working here at Redwings to care for our residents and all those who are working out in the community to help horses beyond our fences and hopefully improve welfare out there too. The campaigns team recently received an award from a fellow charity for our education work at Appleby Horse Fair and our strangles campaign is going from strength to strength. Find out how you can help on pages 6 and 7 and thanks for all you have done so far to support this work.

And last, but by no means least, I hope you will enjoy reading about our rescued horses and ponies, both the new arrivals and long term Sanctuary residents. They are our raison d'être and we love them dearly. I hope you enjoy meeting them and I wish you a very happy 2019.

Thank you so much for your support



Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive and Secretary



Lynn meets
Lady the Shire filly



So much goes into caring for our rescued horses and donkeys, each and every day. And everything we do is funded by you, our supporters.

We work hard to make every penny count, because every supporter and every donation matters to us. Because of you, we were able to pledge a forever home to poor rescued donkey Dotty when she came to us last year (read her story on page 4).

Turn to page 19 to find out how we made your donations count in 2018 – and how you can help us again in 2019.

Call
01508 481000
Visit
www.redwings.org.uk
Text **DOTTY 10** to
70085 to donate £10

(This text will cost £10 plus your standard rate message)

News update...

Come and join us



We have just launched a brand new section of our website devoted to volunteering for Redwings. Whether it's helping out with horse tasks, maintenance, photography, gardening or events that you are interested in, you could come and do it for us! Our volunteers really are vital to

our work, it's a great way to help us help horses and our volunteers tell us it's pretty rewarding too! Visit www.redwings.org.uk to find out more.

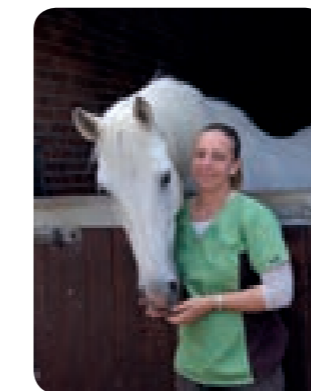
On the up and up!

We were thrilled to be named as the second highest climbers in this year's Charity Brand Index. This is a list compiled yearly of the top 150 charities in the UK and we have climbed from 123rd to 89th in one year, the second largest increase in the whole index! We couldn't do any of this without our wonderful supporters spreading the word about our work, so thank you all #RedwingsAngels!

Thank you Ray!

Here's an excerpt from an email sent by Ray, a lovely member of our vet nursing staff, who sadly left us this year for family reasons after working at Redwings for nearly 20 years! We think we have something in our eye...

"I came to Redwings fresh from college as an 18 year old and from that point on I fell in love with the Sanctuary and the exceptional work it does. I have been here for 19.5 years now and from that first day until now I am blown away by the commitment and passion



of everyone involved here at Redwings. I was fortunate enough to be able to do a job that I have loved and to work with some of the most amazing people I will ever meet in my life and for that I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

A big thank you to Ray for his kind words and of course for his incredible commitment for all that time. He's not the only long term member of staff in our vet team either. Lou the vet nurse has been with us now for 20 years (and we've told her already that she's never allowed to leave!).

Lest we forget

We laid a wreath at the Animals in War service in London at the end of last year as part of the Armistice commemorations. It was particularly poignant as 2018 marked the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War One, a bloody conflict that saw the loss of an incredible number of horses, donkeys and mules as well as our courageous soldiers. We will never forget their sacrifice. The Animals in War Memorial Fund monument on Park Lane really is a sight to behold and well worth a visit.

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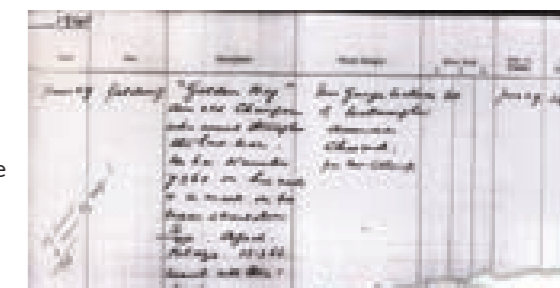
Write to us!

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

Write to us at **Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norwich, NR15 1SP** or email info@redwings.co.uk.

Our cover star is Smithy settling into our new Chepstow centre.

Some horses who survived the conflict went on to retire at our Ada Cole centre near Harlow, including Golden Boy.





Redwings to the rescue!

News of our work from around the UK...

Dotty will never fear neglect again

When Dotty was rescued by the RSPCA from a site in Essex in February 2018, her hooves were so overgrown they were causing her extreme pain and difficulty walking.

She was immediately taken to veterinary practice House & Jackson for treatment and then transferred to our nearby Ada Cole Visitor Centre, near Harlow, to continue her recovery.

Following the successful prosecution of her former owner in September 2018, Dotty has now been pledged a safe, forever home at Redwings where she'll never have to fear pain or neglect again.

She's already settled well into life at the Sanctuary, making new friends within the rest of the donkey herd and charming plenty of visitors!



Dotty before



Dotty after

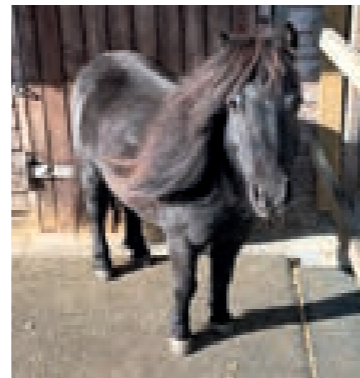


Dotty after

Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin, said: "It's so frustrating to see a case like Dotty's, whose suffering could have easily been prevented with some basic care. Thanks to regular foot trims, Dotty is no longer in pain and can happily run around her paddock with her new friends.

"Now she'll receive all the care she needs for the rest of her life. She is such a friendly donkey and our visitors here at Ada Cole have already loved getting to know her."

Abandoned Nelly is given a new start



An abandoned pony, whose incredibly painful foot condition meant she could barely walk, has been given a new forever home with us.

Nelly, a Shetland cross who is believed to be about 16-years-old, was terrified to even be touched when she arrived at our Ada Cole centre in Essex, in September 2018. While she continues to recover physically, she has already come on leaps and bounds in her confidence.

Nelly was rescued in August 2018 by the RSPCA from an area of grassland near the Dartford Tunnel following a call from a concerned member of the public. Poor Nelly, who also has only one eye, was in obvious discomfort from laminitis – a very painful hoof condition – and was struggling to place one foot in front of the other. Believed to have been abandoned for some time, she was taken to the local vets where she received treatment, including a much-needed foot trim and pain relief. After no owner came forward, Redwings offered Nelly a new home where she will be able to receive the specialist care she will need for the rest of her life.

Shire foal Papillon goes from strength to strength

Do you remember the two Shire foals, Empress and Papillon, born at Redwings who we introduced in the last edition of the newsletter? We're very sorry to tell you that little Empress sadly passed away shortly after publication.

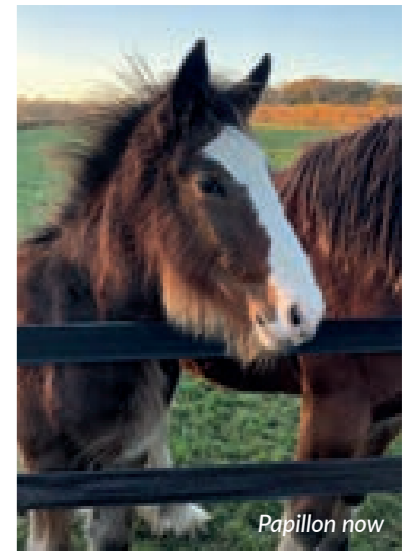
Empress began to suffer complications as a result of a blood infection, and despite the best efforts of our veterinary team, it was decided that the kindest thing to do was to put her to sleep to ensure she did not suffer.



Papillon shortly after she was born



Papillon and her mother Tortoiseshell



Papillon now

While we were devastated to lose Empress, we're very thankful that Papillon has continued to grow in strength, confidence and mischief... and is already giving many of the ponies at

the Sanctuary a run for their money - height-wise at least! Hopefully you'll be able to meet this lovely lady and her friends at a visitor centre soon.



Happy to help!

Redwings constantly looks for ways to support horses beyond the Sanctuary, and sharing our veterinary expertise is just one way of achieving this.

In October, we were contacted by a veterinary practice in Essex for advice on treating a horse called Roo, who had just been diagnosed as a strangles carrier (infected with a nasty respiratory disease - see pages 6 and 7). Most carriers have one or two balls of infected, dried pus (yuk!) called chondroids stuck in their

respiratory system that can be removed under sedation. But Roo had more than 150 chondroids, making her unusual case much more challenging!

Redwings successfully treated a strangles carrier called Benny in 2011 who had over 200 chondroids, so our vet Roxane was happy to travel to Essex to share her experience. Like Benny, Roo needed surgery to allow all the chondroids to be removed in one go, a tricky procedure but one that, thankfully, was a complete success. Today Roo is completely strangles-free and back at home with grateful owner Kezia!

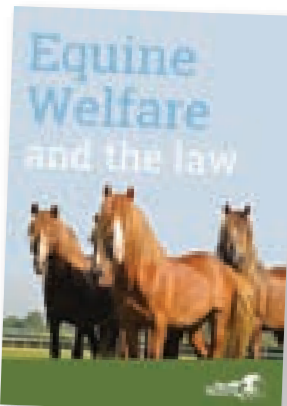
Equine Welfare and the Law

To help more people understand the breadth of our welfare work, we have produced a new booklet called Equine Welfare and the Law.

The booklet explains how our Field Officers and welfare team use the law to improve the lives of horses in all kinds of situations and in many different ways. It outlines the essential elements of the core legislation in England and Wales – the Animal Welfare Act – that shapes our welfare work, as well as lifting the lid on some of the challenges that

Redwings and other charities face when approaching situations where a horse's welfare is a concern. This educational resource will be used to accompany the many talks, tours and activities that Redwings provides for equine and animal management students throughout the year, but you can also download a free copy for yourself from www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/equine-welfare-and-the-law. If you'd like to find out more about what we can offer students, please email education@redwings.co.uk

If you would like to report a welfare concern about a horse or donkey you have seen, you can call our dedicated Welfare Helpline on 01508 481008 or email welfare@redwings.co.uk. However, always in an emergency, please call the RSPCA 24-hour cruelty line on 0300 1234 999.



Staying a step ahead

Campaigning is all about encouraging people to take action. And this year, following evidence from our 2016 Strangles survey, and boosted by the recognition of our strangles campaign at the 2017 Animal Health Trust awards, we have been developing the campaign to hopefully do just that!

#StampOutStrangles

Strangles is the most common infectious disease in horses, and it is extremely contagious. It affects a horse's upper respiratory tract and can cause large abscesses to form, making swallowing difficult and restricting their breathing, hence the name 'strangles'. Although most horses will make a full recovery, the disease can be incredibly distressing and up to 20% of sufferers are also at risk of serious or life-threatening complications.

Although Redwings has been at the forefront of strangles treatment and management for many years, many horse owners whose horses may be at risk of infectious diseases are not aware of the advice and guidance we have available. And, understandably, we know that in the event of a possible disease outbreak they are much more likely to go to their vet for advice than come to Redwings.

So, we have been working with vets to raise awareness of our strangles guidance. They are often under significant pressure to help owners with disease prevention, to help owners manage an outbreak or prevent the disease from spreading.

Taking advantage of newly published veterinary information about the disease, we updated and revised our Strangles Information Pack with the help of an expert panel from across the horse industry and gained the support and promotion of the British Equine Veterinary Association who have endorsed it. Since then we have delivered more than 100 packs to vets across the country and our own expert vets have been providing talks and training to equine vets of the future at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and beyond.



Our resident strangles expert Nic takes vet Anna through our online resources for vets and owners

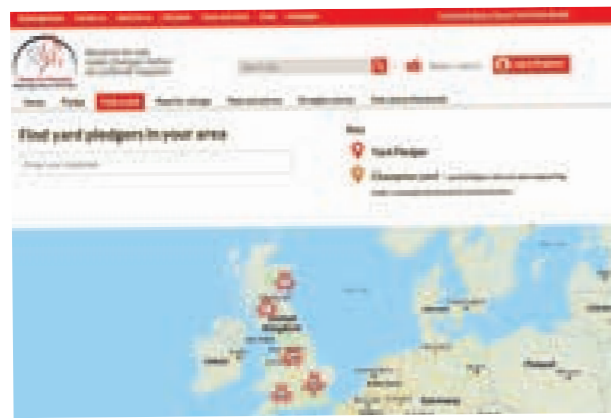
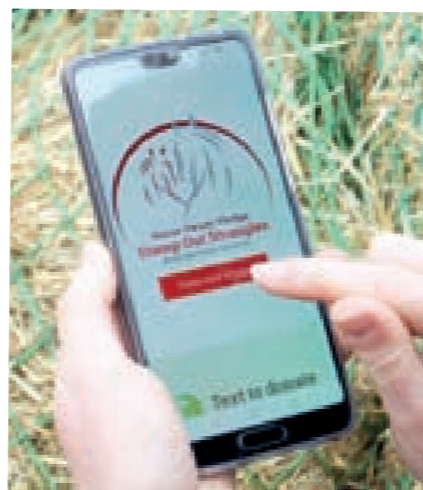
But why wait for an outbreak?

Our survey in 2016 told us that yards and individual horse owners are improving their practices due to sad experiences of having to care for a horse with strangles.

This is something that can be horrible for the individual horse and can be painfully disruptive for owners and businesses.

In the knowledge that to drive down disease we need both horse owners and livery yard managers to work together, we have devised a Stamp out Strangles pledge - and films and guidance to help people fulfil it!

By showing how widespread good practices are and rallying the support of horse owners, the pledge aims to motivate people to stick to their good intentions and help us stamp out the disease.



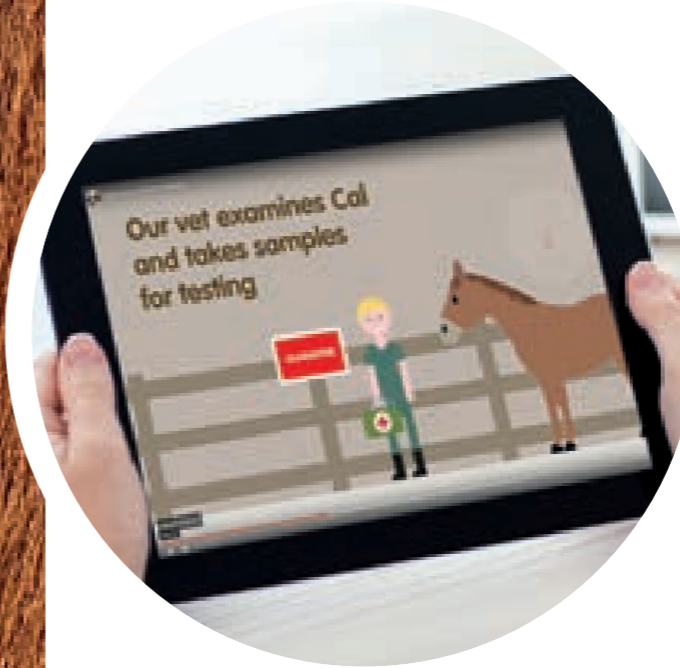
What can our supporters do?

If you don't own or care for a horse but you want to help us with our campaign you can support it in the following ways:

- Visit the Redwings Strangles Hub on our website and share the pledge with any friends or family who own, care for or work with horses
- Tell your vet about our campaign. Many small animal vets have equine practices too and the section on our website for 'vets and professionals' may be of interest
- Watch an amazing animation (below) explaining how we stamped out strangles at Redwings during our outbreak at www.redwings.org.uk/strangles/redwings-story



Helen from our Campaigns team (right) and our wonderful volunteer Michelle attended the London Vet Show to promote the campaign



Vital stats

600 The number of disease outbreaks in the UK per year – strangles is the most common infectious disease affecting horses worldwide

The number of horse owners who have pledged to do their bit to Stamp out Strangles **355** and rising

89 The number of yard managers who have pledged to keep disease prevention standards high and rising

The number of horses affected by our outbreak in 2015 – all now fully recovered! **30**

2 The number of days a horse usually has a fever before it begins shedding disease.

Positive recognition for our positive campaign

Redwings was honoured to receive a Welfare Award at the British Horse Society's Annual Awards for excellence in service of Equine Welfare for our positive welfare awards project at Appleby Horse Fair. Every year we run an awards scheme to reward good welfare and horse care at the event in the Lake District, which attracts thousands of traditional horse owners from all over the country. We have seen an incredibly positive response from the community and now everyone wants to win an award! Education and Campaigns Manager, Andie Vilela collected the award from Martin Clunes, the actor famous for his roles in Doc Marten and Men Behaving Badly, who also happens to be the BHS president! Find out more here:

www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/british-horse-society-awards



We wanted to share with you the story of two Redwings horses who have found their forever homes together through our rehoming scheme. Meet Vincent and Elsey, who have found their perfect partners in husband and wife Mark and Rachel Kennedy from Essex.



Happily ever after!

Mark first enquired about rehoming a horse from Redwings in 2011 when he was looking to get a horse of his own as a companion for Rachel's horse. "We didn't mind what sort of horse it was, we just wanted a horse to love," said Rachel. They ended up offering a home to five-year-old Trotter gelding Vincent who had been rescued by Redwings from Appleby Horse Fair suffering from injuries to his ear and body.

Then in 2015, following the sad loss of Rachel's horse, the Kennedys came back to Redwings looking to rehome another horse and Rachel was introduced to nine-year-old Thoroughbred cross mare Elsey, who had been rescued after she was found severely underweight and with no traceable owner.

Whilst both Vincent and Elsey were rehomed as companion horses (meaning they are not ridden), this has not stopped the Kennedys from enjoying spending lots of time in their company and finding plenty of ways to keep the horses entertained!

"We have done lots of groundwork to strengthen our bond with them," explained Rachel. "We do things like going over poles in the school and navigating various obstacles such as walking over tarpaulin and around barriers. I think it has helped us feel closer to them, and I was proved right one day when I went to take Elsey back to her field. Just as we were waiting to cross the road a huge tractor passed us, within two feet of Elsey's nose, but I was able to reassure her and she didn't move a muscle. She clearly trusted me because of the time I have spent working with her and building our bond. It was such a special moment for me."

Mark and Vincent have taken their bond-building a step further with the help of

clicker training. Vincent has a selection of toys, including a target stick and a ball which he has been taught to touch with his nose on vocal command. Mark said: "Clicker training is a great way to interact with your horse and have some fun with them and it engages Vincent's very clever little mind. He clearly really enjoys it as he gets very excited when he knows I've got the clicker and we're going to play! Both of our horses are so interactive that even if we are just doing jobs, like poo picking in the field, they will come over to spend time with us. I often have to work away from home, but as soon as Vincent sees that I'm back he will call out to me, which is always a bit special!"

Rachel agrees: "We love how cuddly they both are because they feel so close to us. They're so calm and relaxed and happy to be with us. Just spending time with them in the field is the best de-stress after a day at work I can think of!"

And that's not all, as well as enjoying hanging out at home, the Kennedys also support the Redwings Show each year and bring Vincent and Elsey to compete in some In-Hand classes (classes where you compete by leading the horse from the ground). They've gone from complete showing novices to winning rosettes in the In-Hand Best Rescue Class and others, showing just what our rescued horses and their Guardians are really capable of!

Why rehome a horse from Redwings?

You're helping two horses!

By rehoming a horse from Redwings not only are you providing them with a loving home, but you are also helping to make crucial space in the Sanctuary so we can continue to rescue horses who desperately need our help.

You'll find a new friend

We aim to find the perfect match between our horses and their Guardians and we are always honest about our horses' capabilities and histories, meaning you have the peace of mind of knowing the complete background of your horse and their training.

- You won't be alone. We will also offer ongoing support, if needed, to help your horse settle in their new home and ensure your partnership has the very best chance of success.
- You'll be joining the Redwings family! We encourage all our Guardians to keep in touch with us and share stories of their Redwings horses and ponies - we love being able to share their happy endings!

But don't just take our word for it - Rachel said: "You get an enormous sense of pride from knowing they are rescued horses, sometimes rescued from terrible conditions, but now able to live a happy life with you!" We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

And if you don't have horses yourself, you can help us by spreading the word about the Redwings rehoming scheme.

All the information is on our website at www.redwings.org.uk/rehoming and anyone interested can view the horses we have available and even apply online too!



Thank you!

"We love how cuddly they both are because they feel so close to us. They're so calm and relaxed and happy to be with us. Just spending time with them in the field is the best de-stress after a day at work I can think of!"

Rachel Kennedy, Redwings Guardian



A new chapter!

After rather a long wait it is with very happy hearts that we tell you we have purchased a new centre near Chepstow on the Welsh borders. After many years of frontline welfare work in Wales we have always wanted to have a permanent base in the area, and the second we saw Sheepcot Farm near Offa's Dyke, we knew we had finally found it!

The centre

We have purchased 86 acres of land that actually combines two farms, much like we did with Redwings Aylsham. It includes a converted barn that we hope to use for our visitor centre, plus agricultural buildings and staff accommodation. We have put in planning applications for additional facilities, mainly for the horses, including a special care facility, woodchip areas and a rehoming yard.

Sixty-three horses have already moved in and they have settled in brilliantly to their new digs! These horses were previously living at two sites under the care of the Welsh charity SWHP (Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies) but have moved to our centre as they could no longer stay in their existing homes. They are being cared for by SWHP staff who have also made the move and seem to be settling in well too!

A potential merger with Welsh charity SWHP had been on the cards since 2012 and it was finally concluded on 1st February 2019. The merger means we are now legally responsible for SWHP horses and staff and that the new centre in Chepstow will be called Redwings SWHP.

The late Jenny MacGregor MBE was the chairman of SWHP and the charity has been based at her home in St Maughans in Monmouthshire for many years. This amazing lady very sadly passed away in November 2017 at the age of 85. Jenny and her late husband Alasdair were involved in the charity from the start and were a driving force in the animal welfare sector, rescuing over 2,000 horses and ponies in their time. Jenny initiated a merger between SWHP and Redwings back in 2012 and we are very pleased to say that she had the chance to approve the new site at Chepstow and hear our plans for it before she passed away.

The setting

Offa's Dyke is a large linear earthwork dyke that roughly follows the border between England and Wales. The three-mile stretch of the Dyke near our new centre is managed by English Heritage. It is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and includes the Devil's Pulpit, a limestone outcrop right near our new centre which overlooks the stunning ruins of Tintern Abbey. Legend has it that the devil would use the spot to try and cajole the monks from the Abbey into joining him! Wildlife in the area includes herons, kingfishers and otters in the beautiful River Wye, as well as peregrine falcons and red kites.

The next steps

Our quest for a base in Monmouthshire has now ended, with a new farm that will be called Redwings SWHP (like Redwings Ada Cole and Redwings Mountains). As we have said, there are many developments going on, all subject to consents of course. For the meantime, while the farm is under development and the team (existing SWHP staff and newcomers) gets settled in, it will not be a visitor centre nor open to visitors but will operate like one of our closed sanctuary farms. However, we will update SWHP supporters between newsletters (and anyone else who particularly wants to know how the farm is doing!) and we look forward to seeing supporters there once we are able to do so. If you loan an SWHP pony we will also be writing to you separately.

Meanwhile, we know the horses are your primary concern and we will give you more details on the lovely resident horses in the next newsletter... and some of the staff too if they are not too shy!



Did you know?

Since 2002 Redwings has rescued over 500 horses and ponies from sites across Wales.

Our Head of Welfare and Behaviour Nic de Brauwere is currently the Chairman for the Animal Welfare Network Wales, a membership organisation which represents animals in Wales with the Welsh Government and carries out initiatives across the country to improve animal welfare. Nic and Redwings were also instrumental in the development of the recent Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014.

Meet Ginger



Ginger was nominated by the SWHP staff as the first for us to meet in print as she's one of their absolute favourites (don't tell the others!).

Ann the SWHP Yard Manager said: "Ginger was originally

reported to us by a member of the public. She was in a small mud paddock in Ebbw Vale with no food and in chronic pain. On examination she had horrendously overgrown feet and was crippled with laminitis. She was immediately signed over into our care but her rehabilitation has been one of the longest to date out of all our horses and ponies, as she needs specialist shoeing. The reason Ginger is so special to us all is that even though she was crippled with pain and extremely worried, she is the sweetest, kindest horse we have ever come across. Despite the number of times she's had to be visited by our farrier she will still lift up her own feet for him."



News from around the Sanctuary –

'Your Redwings'

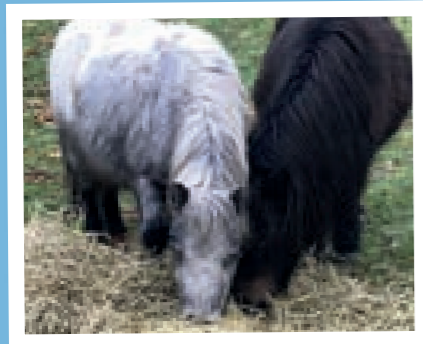


All our visitor centres are open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 10am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Essex, EN9 2DH

REDWINGS

An unlikely friendship



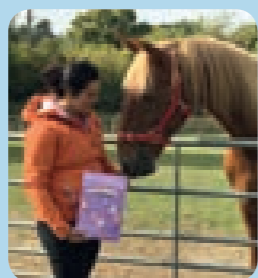
An unlikely friendship has formed at our Ada Cole Visitor Centre between partially-sighted pony Josh and new arrival, blind pony Stevie. Josh was found abandoned in a skate park in Harlow in a very poorly condition back in 2017, when he was just a year old. He had an ulcerated eye and, despite veterinary treatment, did not regain full sight in his right eye. Four-year-old Stevie arrived at Redwings in July 2018 after he was found abandoned at Appleby Horse Fair, and was suffering with cataracts in both his eyes. We hoped that by moving the pair into their own paddock, Josh would help Stevie settle into life at the Sanctuary and the pairing turned out even better than expected! The boys have become the best of friends and despite their impairments, enjoy life making mischief and playing around together continuously.

And here they are sharing a spot of lunch – aww!

Join the Club!

Our visitor centres enjoyed a very busy summer hosting our ever-popular Summer Club for children. Hundreds of children, aged 6 to 11, were given a taster at being a Redwings vet, dentist, farrier and field officer, among other exciting roles, over the school holidays. They also had the chance to enjoy plenty of cuddles with our adorable four-legged residents of course! The Redwings Summer Club provides a fun opportunity for budding horse owners and young animal fans to find out what it's like to care for our rescued horses from the people who look after them day in and day out.

Keep an eye on our website to find out how your child or grandchild can get involved with our activities this year.

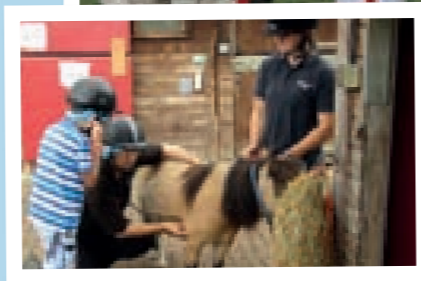
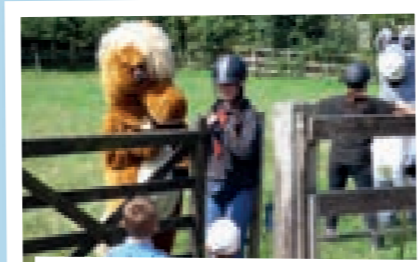


Our Adoption Stars are cover stars!

Elvis and Del Boy were just two of the Adoption Stars to feature on the packaging of a very special advent calendar in the run-up to Christmas. Equilibrium Products asked if they could help raise awareness of our Adoption Scheme by promoting it on the packaging of their latest calendar, full of tasty treats for horses and donkeys. They followed up the kind gesture by also adopting two of our Adoption Stars – Zippy and Tinkerbelle – and popped along to Redwings Ada Cole to meet their new four-legged friends and, importantly, see what they thought about the calendar! Safe to say, both were very impressed.

Important note: If you'd like to bring along some treats for our horses and donkeys during your next visit, please drop off your donations at the visitor centre reception.

We do not allow visitors to feed the horses themselves because many of our residents require special diets (and we don't want you risking your fingers!). Thank you!



Hi, I'm Elvis and I'm known for my handsome looks and rock star quiff! You can find out all about my life at Redwings Ada Cole by adopting me for as little as £15 a year!



REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



Take a trip to Red's Shed

If you haven't taken a look inside before, here's a sneak peek inside our new education facility – Red's Shed!

We've converted a former outbuilding at Redwings Aylsham into this wonderful space, full of colourful information displays, quizzes and hands-on games designed to help our visitors find out more about Redwings and the importance of equine welfare.

A particular favourite is our "Quarantine area" where you can try on all the

overalls and protective gear we use when we treat rescued horses and donkeys who may have come to the Sanctuary suffering from infectious diseases.

Red's Shed is already a big hit with our visitors and school groups who come to enjoy educational days out at the centre, so the next time you're planning a visit to Redwings Aylsham, why not pop your head into Red's Shed and see what you can learn too?!



A generous donation

We want to say a huge thank you to the Aylsham Ex-Service and Social Club, who have donated an amazing £194.20 to Redwings.

Every year the club undertakes several fundraising events, which last year included a charity night and darts competition, and we were lucky enough to be chosen to receive donations from both these events.



David Smith, President of the Club and Libby Carver stopped by Redwings Aylsham to present the cheques and meet some of our residents, including donkey duo Wiggins and Wacko, and miniature Shetland ponies The Gangsters.

Your generous donations and fundraising efforts allow us to keep doing the work we do, so thank you!

Have you met Mylo?



One of the main stars of Red's Shed is our magnificent, life-sized painted horse model, called Mylo!

Mylo was created for Redwings by talented artist Gillian Higgins and provides a colourful representation of a horse's skeleton on one side, and a horse's major organs and muscles on the other.

Before finding a home in Red's Shed, Mylo made his debut at the Redwings Hapton Open Day where he gave a helping hand (or should that be hoof?) during our veterinary demonstrations. Did you see him?

Mylo has proved a major asset for both our educational work for children and our veterinary seminars for adults, and we look forward to even more people meeting him this year.

Hi, I'm Gulliver. I've lived at the Sanctuary for most of my life after I was rescued as a little foal and I'm known for being a bit of an athlete here at Redwings Aylsham. You can follow my adventures by adopting me for as little as £15 a year!



Sad loss of two cherished retired Adoption Stars

We were terribly sad to announce the passing of two beloved retired Adoption Stars, who both spent much of their lives greeting supporters at our Caldecott Visitor Centre.

Denise arrived at Redwings in 1996 when she was just a few days old. Her mum had developed mastitis (an inflammation of the mammary gland), which meant she could not produce milk for Denise. After arriving at Redwings, Denise was given round-the-clock care by our team who bottle-fed her morning noon and night and she grew up into a happy and healthy donkey who was loved by all. Denise moved to Redwings Caldecott in 2001 where she spent 17 years as an Adoption Star before retiring from the scheme in September 2018, shortly after her 22nd birthday.

Denise had recently been diagnosed with Cushing's disease, a common condition affecting the pituitary gland in older equines, and had been receiving special veterinary attention for her teeth. Despite the treatment and lots of TLC, she began to struggle to maintain her weight. Sadly her condition took a downturn and our vets felt they had no choice but to make the heart-breaking decision to

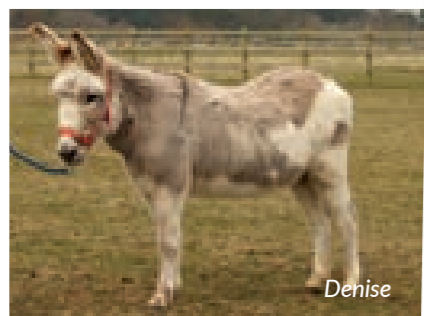
put her to sleep to ensure she did not suffer. She passed away on Tuesday 27th November.

Icky arrived at Redwings in 1991 after he'd been found abandoned and was destined for slaughter. His real name was Haw Idris, a special name given to him when he was born and registered with the Spotted Pony Society. Icky later moved to Redwings Caldecott when it opened in 1999, and had lived there ever since before moving to our Horse Hospital at Hapton at the beginning of 2018 where our vets could keep a close eye on him.

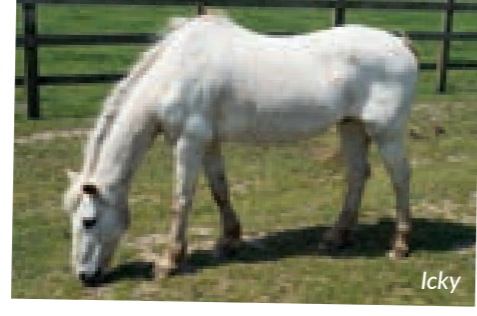
Icky had sadly started to suffer with recurring bouts of colic, which was believed to be linked to issues with his intestines that meant he was unable to absorb glucose and nutrients. Unfortunately, when his condition deteriorated, our vets had to make the devastating decision to put him to sleep and he passed away on Friday 27th July at the Horse Hospital, shortly after his 30th birthday.

As two of our longest-serving Adoption Stars, we know both Icky and Denise will be sorely missed by their supporters and carers alike.

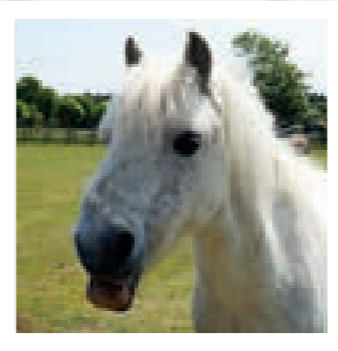
RIP Denise and Icky.



Denise



Icky



Grab a coffee in Oliver's Cafe!

We're putting the finishing touches to our brand-new visitor facilities at Redwings Caldecott! As well as a new welcome building, where you'll be greeted by our friendly team ready to help you enjoy your day at the centre, we've also created a new gift shop and café in the beautiful surroundings of Caldecott Hall. The café is named in memory of a very special and desperately missed resident - former Adoption Star Oliver Twist.

You'll also notice a new rehoming centre taking shape which means we'll soon be able to train horses to find loving Guardian homes outside the Sanctuary right from Redwings Caldecott. This is especially exciting as the more rescued horses we can help to start new lives beyond our paddock fences, the more space at the Sanctuary we can provide for other horses and donkeys in need. We hope you can visit soon and see our new facilities for yourself!

Hi, I'm Fox! I'm a Shire cross and I live at Redwings Caldecott with my best buddy Bungle - you'll never find him far from my side. You can adopt me for just £15 for a whole year!



Say hello to Jaffa!

Have you enjoyed a cuddle with our latest resident yet? This is Jaffa (pictured top right) - a very handsome, 17 year-old Appaloosa who arrived at Redwings Mountains just before Christmas.

Jaffa had been cared for by a charity called Equi-Power, near Stirling, who provide riding opportunities for disabled children and adults.

Having given joy to so many people for many years, they felt this special horse deserved to put his feet up so Equi-Power contacted us to see if we could give him a new home.

Jaffa has settled well into life at the Sanctuary where he is making plenty of new four-legged friends, as well as enjoying lots of visits from his fans and former riders.

We bid a sad farewell to our oldest resident

In October we said a sad farewell to Victor, a beloved Shetland pony, who was our oldest resident at the Sanctuary.

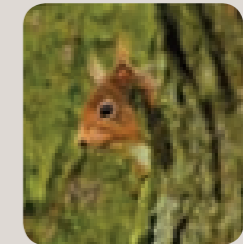
Handsome Victor was the grand age of 45 when he passed away on 19th October.

Victor arrived at Mountains Animal Sanctuary in 1994 (before the merger with Redwings in 2015) when he was 21

years old. Though he suffered with a few age-related problems, Victor had been in relatively good health for his age, and enjoyed life playing with his younger Shetland friends, including Adoption Star Dayzee.

Unfortunately, Victor had begun to suffer from blockages in his oesophagus, which was potentially caused by an abnormal growth and meant he was

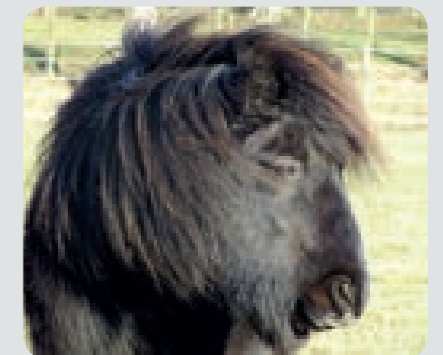
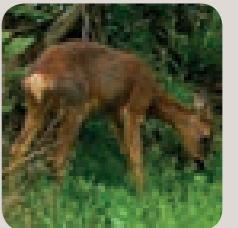
More than just a horse sanctuary



If you go down to Redwings Mountains today, you're sure to be in for a surprise! That's because the visitor

centre is not just home to 100 rescued horses and donkeys, but with 220 acres of paddocks and woodland to discover, it's teeming with incredible wildlife! There is an abundance of red squirrels, deer, red kites and buzzards, to name just a few. So after saying hello to our adorable residents, why not strap on your walking boots, bring your binoculars and enjoy the wonderful surroundings?

Afterwards you can enjoy a delicious hot chocolate in our visitor centre too - yum!



struggling to get all the nutrients he needed and maintain his weight.

We know that Victor will be sadly missed by his carers and visitors alike.

RIP Victor.

Hi! I'm Minnie and I'm a skewbald donkey living at Redwings Mountains with my son Mouse, best friend Petra and all our donkey friends. I'd love for you to become part of our gang by adopting me for just £15 per year!



A fond farewell to Dylan and Major



Dylan

We're terribly sorry to bring you some doubly-sad news in this edition. At the start of 2019, we said a heart-wrenching goodbye to retired Adoption Stars Major and Dylan.

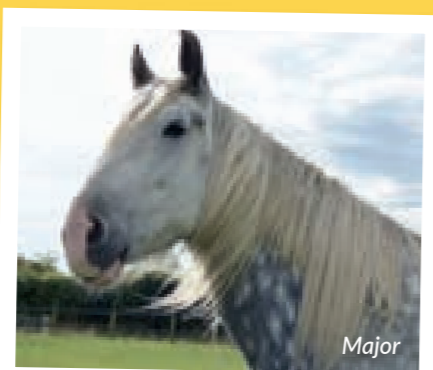
Towering at 17.3hh, it wasn't difficult to spot mighty Major at Redwings Oxhill! This stunning Percheron cross came to Redwings in 2012 when the rare breeds country park where he lived was forced to close. Despite his size, Major was a real gentle giant and would even lower his head so his supporters could tickle behind his ears.

Major retired from our Adoption Scheme in 2017 due to chronic lameness and worsening ataxia (wobbliness on his feet). Unfortunately recent tests showed his condition had deteriorated and he had also begun to suffer from degenerative joint disease. Despite the best efforts of our vets and farriers to keep him comfortable, the heart-

breaking decision was made to put him to sleep and he sadly passed away on 22nd January.

Just two weeks previously, we lost Welsh cross pony Dylan, who had lived at Redwings Oxhill since it opened in 2004! As a youngster, poor Dylan was found painfully thin, wandering the Welsh commons. He was born with a condition called 'locking stifles' which made it very difficult for him to move about and find food. At the Sanctuary, he received all the specialist care he needed and was a popular Adoption Star for 14 years before his retirement in January 2018. Sadly, in later life, he began to experience persistent and worsening lameness, so the kind decision was made to put him to sleep so he would not suffer.

We are all devastated at their loss and will never forget these wonderful Adoption Stars who gave so much joy to so many supporters for so many years.



Major



Marmite makes a special appearance at Your Horse Live!

In November, the Redwings team and three fluffy helpers went along to Your Horse Live to greet members of the public in the rescue village. Shetland duo Doc and Pinocchio, as well as a Sanctuary favourite, Marmite, made the journey from their home at Redwings Oxhill to Stoneleigh Park in Coventry where they spent three days making lots of new two and four-legged friends. Marmite is a very special resident not only because he had one of his eyes removed as a result of recurrent eye infections, but also because he was infected with the highly contagious disease strangles (see pages 6 and 7) and was incredibly poorly when he arrived at the Sanctuary in 2011. Both his history, and his incredibly friendly nature, made him the perfect resident to help launch our Stamp out Strangles campaign at the event, and for posing in our selfie frame with members of the public who'd made the pledge. We think he did a great job!

New rehoming centre nears completion

If you've visited Redwings Oxhill recently, you will have noticed a large building starting to take shape. This building will soon form the home of a brand-new rehoming centre where you'll have the opportunity to watch rescued horses from the visitor centre be trained to find new loving Guardian homes outside the

Sanctuary. We have previously rehomed companion (not able to be ridden) horses and ponies from our Warwickshire centre, but this new facility will enable us to rehome even more, as well as ridden horses too, in central England for the first time. We look forward to showing you around our new facilities soon!



Hi, I'm Arya! I'm a part-bred Poitou donkey living at Redwings Oxhill, with my best pal Merlin and our donkey friends. Do you like my fluffy coat? You can adopt me for just £15 for a whole year!



Super Supporters!

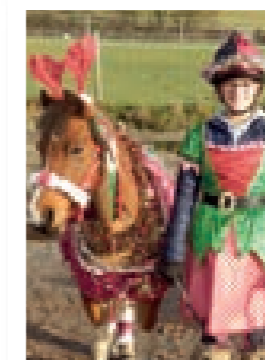
You lovely supporters have been at it again, going the extra mile to support Redwings. Thank you all!

Here are just some of the wonderful donations and activities our #RedwingsAngels have been up to, and you can join them too. If you've been inspired to help Redwings, why not head to our JustGiving page (www.justgiving.com/redwingshs) to start fundraising today? We're here to help too! If you have a question about fundraising, would like a fundraising pack or just need some encouragement along the way, please get in touch by calling 01508 481000, emailing info@redwings.co.uk, or get started by visiting www.redwings.org.uk.

Festive fun raises funds!

The horses of Grangefields livery yard in Derbyshire put their best hooves forward at Christmas and helped to raise £240 for Redwings. The livery yard hosted a just-for-fun festive horse agility competition (with fancy dress!) and the money was raised through entry fees, donations and a cake sale. This fantastic amount could pay for over 50 small bales of hay for our rescued residents.

Charlotte, of Grangefields, said: "We organise a couple of fun competitions each year and give all the proceeds to a nominated charity. For our Christmas competition we decided to choose Redwings so that the funds raised would go on to help more equines in need."



Window cleaner offers free services!

Did you know, you don't have to make a monetary donation to support Redwings? Richie, who runs Richie B Cleaning Services in Norfolk, has offered to clean the windows of our Aylsham visitor centre for free! On why he chose to volunteer his services, Richie said: "I live in Aylsham with my partner and three daughters who love visiting and adore seeing Adoption Star Cookie who lives there. I wanted to show support for Redwings by providing a service to help maintain the visitor centre, not just for the visitors but for the staff too."

We're incredibly grateful to Richie, who by offering his time and skills is helping us to reduce our maintenance costs; savings we can put towards the care of our rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.



Long-eared residents receive an early Christmas present

Our donkeys were treated to an early Christmas present last year when supporter Debbie kindly donated six brand new rugs. Like all donkeys, our long-eared residents need lots of special care, especially in the winter when they are particularly sensitive to the colder temperatures.

These cosy coats are just perfect for keeping out the winter chills - and we think Ryan and Rory Best (pictured) look very handsome in their new togs! Debbie has donated rugs for our residents every winter so we (and our toasty rescued residents) would like to say a big thank you to her for her continued support.



STOP PRESS

We're delighted to announce that CVS Group's equine practices have chosen Redwings as their charity of the year for 2019. CVS Group Plc is the largest provider of integrated veterinary services in the UK and we were selected following a staff vote.

Gifts with a difference

Show someone you care with a *unique and memorable gift*

Whether it's for a birthday, Mother's Day, or 'just because', a Redwings Charity Gift is the perfect way to show someone you care for them and for horses and donkeys.

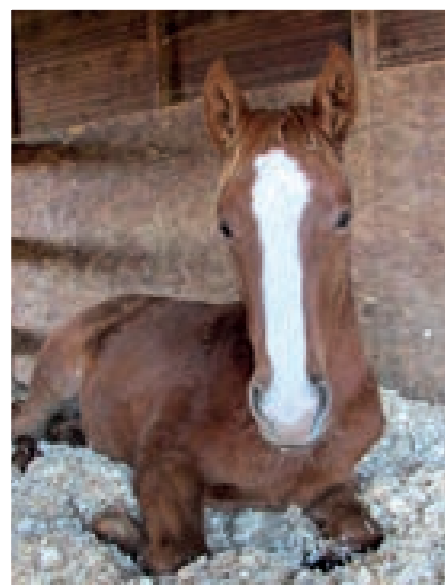
These handpicked gifts all include a beautiful card and keepsake for your recipient to treasure.

So why not make someone smile today by ordering them a gift with a difference?

All proceeds from your chosen gift help Redwings rescue, care for and rehome horses and donkeys in need.

Here's how it works:

1. Choose a gift to suit your recipient
2. We will send a beautiful gift card and unique keepsake to you (to personalise) or directly to the recipient



Tender loving care

Redwings has its very own Horse Hospital with intensive care stables, an operating theatre, a team of vets and nurses, and even horse ambulances.

Your gift will help provide all the specialist treatment and TLC a poorly pony needs and makes a heartfelt gift for all animal lovers.



Perfect gift for Mother's Day!

£20

Includes an adorable felt pony for your loved one (approx. size 11cm).

Wrap up warm

Just when we thought spring was on the way in 2018, the "Beast from the East" was a reminder of how challenging cold weather conditions can be for our horses and donkeys. During these colder months, warm rugs and deep straw beds help keep our donkeys warm and cosy.

Your gift can help spread warmth and happiness and is the perfect pick-me-up present for donkey lovers.

£45

Includes a delightful felt donkey for your loved one (approx. size 18cm).



Your charity gift donation will be used wherever it is needed most, including helping to care for all our rescued horses and donkeys. Please note that the keepsakes included are not toys.

Order by phone on **01508 481000** or online at **www.redwings.org.uk**

Making it count

So much goes into caring for our rescued horses and donkeys each and every day. Below are just some of the things your amazing support helped fund in 2018. We work hard to make every penny count, because every supporter and every donation matters to us. *Everything we do is funded by you and without you, we simply wouldn't exist.*

Thank you!

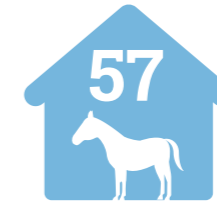
2018:



miles travelled by our horseboxes



calls to our welfare line



horses rehomed



bales of bedding shavings purchased



2,150 tonnes of hay purchased last winter



dental checks



welfare cases attended



rehoming training sessions each month

1,500

horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in our Sanctuary

100%

funded by public donations

- We need to do it all again in 2019! -

Looking after a horse or donkey not only takes time but incurs many ongoing costs. This year, like every other, we will again need to purchase hay and bedding, pay for dentist and farrier visits, repair and replace fencing... the list goes on. *Please give what you can today to help horses in need in 2019.*

How your donation could make a difference:



could fund a day of care for a rescued horse or donkey



could fund a welfare visit to check on a welfare concern



could pay for a dental and health check

A lifeline for Dotty

Seeing a horse or donkey that has suffered at the hands of humans is one of the most heart-breaking parts of our work. But thanks to public support, Redwings has been able to offer a safe and loving home to hundreds of horses and donkeys that need us. Donkeys just like Dotty. Thanks to you, Dotty is now safe and will receive all the care she needs for the rest of her life (read her story on page 4). Your gift today can help us care for Dotty and others like her.

Your donation today could be a lifeline for a horse or donkey in need tomorrow.



Please donate today:

- 01508 481000 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text DOTTY 10 to 70085 to donate £10

(This text will cost £10, plus your standard network rate message)

Thank you!

Love horses, *remember Redwings*

Behind every rescued horse and donkey at Redwings is a team hard at work to ensure a safe and happy future for these animals. And behind this team are you, our supporters, who fund everything we do to help horses in need. *If you love horses, why not consider leaving a gift in your Will to Redwings?*

By remembering Redwings in your Will, your generosity can last beyond your own lifetime and help ensure the care and protection of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules for years to come. It could be the greatest gift you give to a horse in need.

To find out more about remembering Redwings in your Will and the difference your gift could make, please contact our Legacy Officer Katie on **01508 481030** or email legacies@redwings.co.uk.



Redwings is 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 2019. Taking part is easy: simply visit the Free Wills Month website at www.freewillsmoonth.org.uk to find a participating solicitor and call them for an appointment.

About **Free Wills Month**:

- 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, but there is no obligation to do so.
- The campaign pays for simple Wills. If your Will is more complex you can pay the solicitor for any extra work.

March 2019

**FREE WILLS
MONTH**

helping great charities