

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2019

Thanks for your support!

Meet the latest arrivals you have helped us rescue and care for

A special Sanctuary star

An update on one of our most beloved residents and how we meet his specialist needs

We're open x 2!

Find out all about our new facilities in Norfolk and the Midlands

Well, hello there!

It's time to introduce our newest Adoption Stars

Plus much more...



When our rescued horses and donkeys get poorly, our in-house team of vets and nurses are on hand to help them heal.

Horses are prone to eye problems and, last year alone, we treated over 500 eye ailments across the Sanctuary. Every treatment was funded by people like you.

Please support us today to help us keep our herds healthy and happy.

Turn to pages 18 and 19 to find out how.

Please donate today:

- 01508 481000
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **VET 10** to **70085** to donate **£10**

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

Welcome to your Autumn Newsletter!

What a year it's been so far, I feel like my feet have hardly touched the ground! There have been so many exciting projects going on and we've been overwhelmed as always by your amazing support, thank you so much.

You can find out all about our latest new arrivals on pages 4 and 5. I have been at Redwings now for over 18 years but stories like Boris' still shock me. Your wonderful support means we never have to turn cases like his away, and despite the sad ending to his story, I'm so thankful for the dedicated team here who always go the extra mile and make me incredibly proud.

We've also included some news about the latest stages in our strangles campaign, which has been really gathering momentum. We saw amazing support on our first ever Speak Out On Strangles Day, thank you to everyone who took part! There are also updates from our centres around the UK including our newest centre on the border with Wales following the merger with SWHP earlier in the year, and the opening of some brand-new facilities at Oxhill and Caldecott to ensure we can see more horses rehomed like Anne here and therefore make space for even more cases like Boris. In the current climate it's vital that we do everything we can to help as many horses as possible but we must do that in a sustainable and ethical way. We know that every horse that goes out into a Guardian home will always be our responsibility too and that means we are now responsible for over 2,000 rescued horses and donkeys across the UK. Your support really is needed now more than ever!

In the centre pages there's another story that never fails to shock me, and yet he's been in our care for 10 years now. Blind Boo is a very special sanctuary resident who melted all our hearts when he first arrived and still does so today. We asked the staff to share how much he means to them – be warned, it's an emotional read!

Finally there's time for a big thank you to all those who have supported us, whether that's by donating £5, £50 or £5,000, every penny really does make a real difference here. This summer, for example, we were very touched to be approached by Althorp House, the ancestral home of the Spencer family in Northamptonshire, and childhood home of Princess Diana. They have been running an exhibition of animal-related artwork during their Open House season, and wanted to support Redwings by donating £1 from every ticket sold using a dedicated code. Of course we said yes!

Thank you so much to all those who volunteer, fundraise, visit or support us, we are so grateful to each and every one of you, and of course our wonderful four-legged residents are too.

With very best wishes

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive and Secretary



Anne when she was rescued

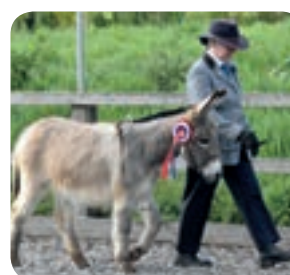


Lynn and Anne

News update...

A (not-so) icy reception!

Earlier this year, Nic de Brauwere our Head of Welfare and Behaviour and Andie Vilela our Campaigns Manager went to Iceland to take part in the three-day Dorothy Havemeyer Foundation Workshop, all about the infectious disease strangles. Nic shared details of our screening process and how we protect our residents from infection, and Andie (right) presented the findings of our strangles survey, which sought horse owner opinions on how they respond to and manage the disease. It was such an honour to be amongst such prestigious company contributing to global research on this vital topic to improve horse welfare.



Show business!

Over 100 competitors took part in the 10th Anniversary Redwings Show at Tophorn Centre in Suffolk in May. It was wonderful to see so many competitors of all ages and abilities, including a good number of our Guardian ponies and their wards! The overall winners were Victoria Campbell and her gorgeous horse Moss Town Marz, who commented on what a lovely friendly show it was. It was

reserve champion Perehill Tia (pictured) who really stole our hearts though, a little donkey who stood throughout her classes like an absolute professional, despite only being one year old! Bless!

From the horse's mouth!

This summer we partnered with equestrian app Equilab in a project to increase the diversity of horse noises in film!

We know from rescuing and caring for horses for 35 years that they communicate using a complex array of body language and noises, but often the only sound you hear on the big screen is a loud high-pitched neigh.



This project asked for horse owners to record the sounds their four-legged friends made and submit them to a judging panel – including our Head of Welfare and Behaviour Nic de Brauwere – with the chance of those noises being included in a Hollywood sound archive for use in blockbusters for years to come! We will be able to update you on the winner in our next newsletter.



Come and follow!

Don't forget to follow Redwings on social media! We have a fantastic Facebook page with over 140k people already following us, over 15k on Twitter and nearly 10k on Instagram but it's not the same without you. If you are not already following us, please do, it's a great place to keep up to date with the latest news and we always love to see pictures from your visits and hear all about why you love Redwings!

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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 lovely Lily, from Redwings Caldecott, and one of our brand-new Adoption Stars!

And finally...

Huge congratulations to Clair Turner, our horsebox driver and horse whisperer extraordinaire, who has worked at Redwings for over 30 years!

Her Redwings anniversary was in August, making her our longest serving employee! Thanks so much Clair for all your amazing dedication and hard work!

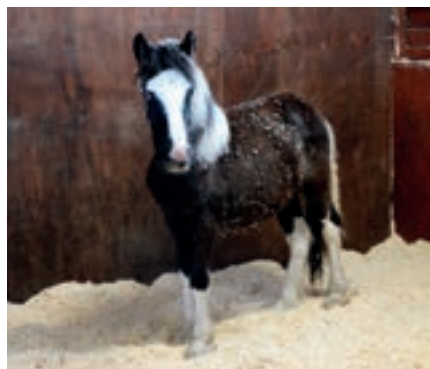


Redwings to the rescue!

News of our frontline work from around the UK



Young pony dumped on roadside



At just six months old, Buddy was discovered abandoned by a busy roadside in Norwich.

Norfolk Police were alerted to the young pony straying dangerously close to a main road in May. Redwings Senior Field Officer Julie Harding was asked to help and, together with the police officers, managed to catch Buddy and transport him to our headquarters in Norfolk, where he was immediately

provided with a cosy stable, food and water. Poor Buddy was very underweight, with overgrown hooves and a severe worm burden. He was also extremely nervous. Luckily, thanks to the fast actions of our veterinary team, Buddy has gone on to make a full recovery and will remain in our ownership for the rest of his life.

Horse saved after bramble lodged in his mouth



Our Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin was in action after Boris, a very handsome cob cross, was discovered looking painfully thin in a field in Harlow, Essex, back in February. His deteriorating appearance had caused alarm so Jo went to investigate. She discovered a 25cm thorny stick wedged in the soft tissue under his tongue, which had been preventing Boris from opening his mouth and grazing. He was so uncomfortable he couldn't even accept a piece of apple, which is when she realised he must have a problem!

Boris was immediately taken to nearby House and Jackson Veterinary Clinic where the stick was removed, his mouth cleaned and he was able to enjoy his first meal in days.

No owner came forward to claim him so we offered Boris a permanent home at Redwings. However, although he put on weight after his rescue, the team noticed Boris was very reluctant to move around a great deal and on further investigation he was found to have some very severe lameness issues. In the end our vet team could not make him comfortable so we are very sad to say that in July Boris was put to sleep to ensure he did not suffer any further. We are all devastated as we wanted to give this lovely horse the second chance he deserved. We are only grateful he was able to have some months of happiness and love with us after his terrible ordeal.



Redwings supports major RSPCA operation



In January, Redwings supported an RSPCA-led operation at a farm in Ripley, Surrey.

RSPCA officers joined Surrey Police to execute a warrant at the site under the Animal Welfare Act.

The operation saw the removal of 204 animals, including 123 horses, eight donkeys and 59 dogs, on welfare grounds. We are currently caring for some of those horses.

The investigation is ongoing so we cannot go into further details at this time, but will endeavour to update you all when we can. In the meantime your support to help aid their recovery is much appreciated.

Tilly enjoys new lease of life

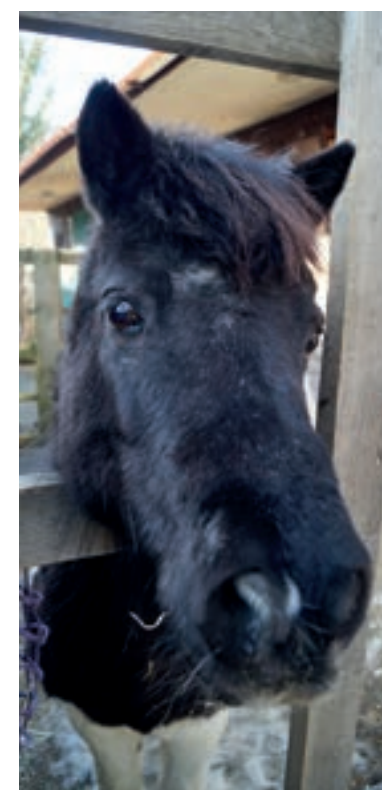


Little Tilly, who is believed to be about 19 years old, was found looking in obvious discomfort with severely overgrown feet on a large parcel of land in Tilbury, Essex, in February.

A concerned member of the public reported Tilly to a local animal sanctuary, who called on Redwings for support.

Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin worked with the RSPCA and the police to seize Tilly and take her to nearby House and Jackson Veterinary Clinic for immediate treatment.

After an extensive hoof trim, she was able to move around much more comfortably. Tilly has now been pledged a forever home at the Sanctuary so make sure to give her a welcoming cuddle the next time you visit Redwings Ada Cole!



NEWC statement: Why we must all act within the law

As a member of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC), which our Head of Welfare and Behaviour Nic de Brauwere is Chairman of, we work closely with other equine welfare organisations to help horses in desperate need.

Over the years, reports of concern from the public to our Welfare line and other charities have led to hundreds of neglected horses and donkeys being brought to safety, for which we are incredibly grateful.

In carrying out rescues, however, welfare organisations – including ourselves – must act within the law. Sadly, work to secure safe homes for rescued horses and investigate their owners can be negatively impacted by well-meaning "rescuers" who take matters into their own hands and remove horses from situations unlawfully. Often these individual cases are just the tip of the iceberg but these unlawful actions mean our hands are then tied and the charities are unable to do the work we need to do to see a situation improve long-term.

We contributed to a statement from NEWC explaining the law and the unfortunate consequences that come about when it's not followed. You can read the full statement here – www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/newc-statement-2019.

A very sad case



The owner of a 31 Arabian horses rescued from squalid conditions at a site in Blackpool last year has been convicted under the Animal Welfare Act. Redwings Senior Welfare vet Roxane Kirton joined the RSPCA, the police and representatives from fellow equine charities when a warrant was executed on the property in September 2018.

Conditions were so poor, some of the horses had to be broken out of their stables and six had to be put to sleep straight away. The rest are now being rehomed and the owner has been banned from keeping all animals for 10 years, was asked to pay £4,000 in costs and is now under a curfew order.

Campaigning for better disease prevention

This year's equine influenza (flu) outbreaks have put a spotlight on just how vulnerable the nation's horse population is to infectious disease. In 2018 there were just two flu outbreaks in the entire year whilst this year at the time of writing there had been over 200! It is so serious that in February, at the start of the outbreak, the British Horseracing Authority took the highly unusual step of cancelling all racing for more than a week after cases were confirmed on a race yard.

Not only is flu a nasty disease for horses but it's incredibly stressful for owners as, unlike strangles, it is airborne so an outbreak on a yard is incredibly difficult to contain. The key



Checking passports at the Redwings Show!

message to horse owners is to ensure their flu vaccinations are up to date and to ensure vaccinated and unvaccinated horses do not mix. Competitions and agricultural shows up and down the country are tightening their rules to reduce the risk of spread of the disease and horse owners are being asked to speak to their vet to ensure they are up to date.

What did Redwings do to combat flu?

- **Alerted all our Guardians and supporters** with horses to the dangers of flu and posted this online
- **Published new advice and guidance** on infectious diseases
- **Ensured our own vaccination protocols** were in line with the latest official guidance to ensure our horses have the best possible level of protection
- **Put robust vaccination checks in place** at our Redwings Show – 100% of competitors complied
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- **Thanks to the two husbands who 'nipped home'** to collect forgotten passports before ponies were unloaded!
- **Raised awareness** amongst Appleby Horse Fairgoers before the event via Facebook
- **Assisted with an ongoing collaborative project** surveying yards about biosecurity
- **Supported the British Equestrian Foundation** to establish a Basic Health Steering Committee to influence horse owner behaviour at horse events



More focus on endemic disease

The flu outbreaks have put extra focus on the control of infectious diseases that are endemic (regularly found) amongst the UK's horse population and many of the things we can do if we own or care for horses to prevent an outbreak. Even just making sure we wash our hands after touching or being around horses can help reduce the chances of disease being spread.

Protect yourself, protect our horses

We remind all our visitors, many of whom may have come from caring for their own horses, to use the free hand sanitisers that are widely available at our visitor centres to protect our horses from the transfer of disease.



Stamp Out Strangles: Campaign update

We have seen great progress with our campaign around the highly contagious disease strangles. The campaign promotes better hygiene and emphasises the importance of open and respectful communication around strangles outbreaks to enable people to take precautions and seek advice.



Over 130 yard managers have already joined the campaign, which involves them pledging to have horses checked to keep strangles out of their premises and an agreement with clients to help them keep risks low and respond effectively if a horse becomes ill.

More than 500 people who care for horses have also signed up, pledging to be responsible in how they protect and care for their horse. Thanks to all our amazing supporters for spreading the word!

We held our very first day of action – Speak Out On Strangles Day – on Saturday 6th July, the idea being that yards could use the day as a positive opportunity to

spread the word about strangles – and not the disease! And we were so proud to have one of the UK's leading equine colleges and international equestrian event venues – Hartpury University and Hartpury College – formally endorse the campaign. Keeping disease risk low at events and universities is not a small challenge due to the dynamic movement of horses. Meanwhile the impact an outbreak can have on horses and staff shouldn't be underestimated so we congratulate Hartpury for leading the way with this huge statement of support.

How can you help?

- Watch and share our **Stamp Out Strangles** animation which features the voices of real people sharing their tips on how to stamp out the disease – but with an amusing twist! Please check this out at www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/strangles-animation
- If you're a horse owner or yard manager, take our Stamp Out Strangles pledge! It's quick, it's free and it really makes a difference! Just go to www.redwings.org.uk/strangles/make-a-pledge
- Encourage anyone you know who owns or cares for horses to sign the Stamp Out Strangles pledge
- Help challenge strangles stigma by being sympathetic and supportive to anyone you know who is or has been affected by an outbreak



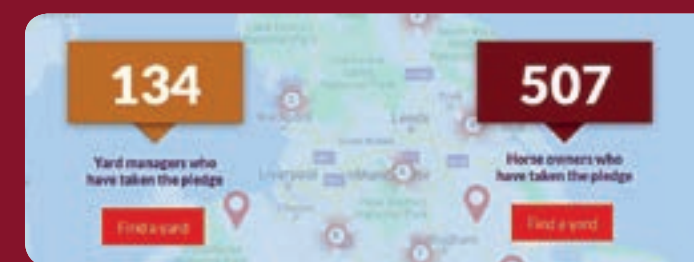
Red Farm Neston riders taking part in Speak Out On Strangles Day



Leading University and College gets behind the campaign

Hartpury is delighted to endorse Redwings' Stamp Out Strangles campaign. Our yard has already made the Yard Manager's Pledge and we are asking others to do the same. The campaign spreads the word about how we can all do our bit to reduce the risk of this devastating disease and encourages everyone to communicate openly and respectfully – something that is so important when effectively managing an outbreak.

Rosie Scott-Ward, Pro Vice Chancellor of Hartpury University and Hartpury College





We're open (x2)!

Our brand-new facilities at our Caldecott centre near Great Yarmouth opened earlier this year and so far they've been a big hit with visitors and horses alike!

The new centre includes a welcome facility, and a stunning rehoming barn and arena so we can see more horses going out into new homes like Alabama (opposite). There's a special stable and woodchip area where you can meet the horses and they can rest when they are poorly.

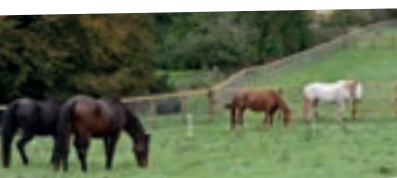
We have also renovated Caldecott Hall, now the home of Oliver's Café, named after a much-loved former resident of the site. The café has an updated and extended menu featuring home-cooked food and even more delicious cakes of course! We also have a gorgeous gift shop packed full of all our fab new gifts and there's a lovely patio where you can sit out and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. We even have a fantastic marquee on site which is available for hire for functions and events. Contact us for more details.

This summer we have also trialled opening our Caldecott and Aylsham centres in Norfolk every day during the summer holidays instead of Friday to Monday and that seems to have been very popular too – more chances to cuddle ponies!



We are also delighted to say that our Oxhill rehoming centre will soon be in full operation following a phased handover of the storage and equine facilities over the summer months. We now have a fit-for-purpose, dry area to store

machinery, feed and bedding, as well as an indoor riding arena and rehoming barn (known as The Gresham Centre) which contains stables, training area, tack room and offices. We look forward to welcoming visitors as soon as our horses and staff have settled in!



News from the borders

Following the merger with SWHP at the start of the year, we are now hard at work at the new centre near Chepstow, which is on the border with Wales. The centre is not currently open to visitors but all the horses have settled in brilliantly and it feels as though we've always been there!

Meet Redwings SWHP Bear!

Meet one of our new SWHP Guardians Grace, who sent us a lovely update about her rehomed horse, 14-year-old Bear.

Bear was rescued in 2008, after he and eight other horses had been left stranded in a field of deep mud with no food. Redwings offered homes to seven mares, whilst SWHP took care of Bear and his companion. Bear was in very poor condition, infested with worms and lice, but thanks to lots of love and TLC from the team at SWHP he made a full recovery. He was rehomed through the guardianship scheme and 'found' his perfect partner Grace in 2017; she borrowed him from a friend for a Pony Club assessment and that was that!

Grace and Bear have been such a brilliant combination they were chosen to compete at the British Dressage Youth Home International in Dorset for the Welsh Team, which Grace

described as an "unbelievable experience for us both."

This year, Grace and Bear even qualified to compete for Wales at the brand new Pony Club Dressage Home International at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. It was a very special event, with the competitors being led into the ring by members of the King's Troop - and Team Wales came second! What an amazing achievement!



A sweet home for Alabama!

Thoroughbred cross Alabama arrived at Redwings in 2013 with her companion Zola after reports had been made to the RSPCA and the Redwings welfare team about two extremely underweight horses. She had a body condition score of just 0.5 (an ideal BCS is 3), and was suffering from lice.

Happily, Alabama was rehomed through the Redwings Guardianship Scheme in October 2018 to her Guardian, 14-year-old, Emilia and her mum Sam, after Emilia's pony Dinky very sadly passed away. In their first few months together

Alabama and Emilia have begun to work on dressage and showjumping training and Emilia is very proud of her progress. We asked Emilia to describe Alabama in three words but she needed 13 instead, including: "beautiful, willing, special, loved and my best friend!"

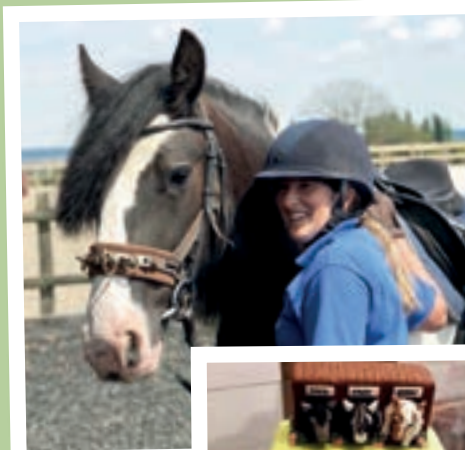
Mum Sam also added: "Alabama has helped heal my little girl's broken heart after we lost Dinky as she was utterly lost without a pony. It warms my heart to see how well Alabama has settled in her new home."



Proud riding school Guardians put the 'fun' in fundraising!

Horseshoes Riding School, in Maidstone in Kent, who became Guardians to Redwings Fred and Fig (now known as Jack) in June 2018, held a family fun afternoon for their customers and raised an amazing £751 for Redwings by holding a dog obstacle course, gymkhana races and an instructors' challenge with a prize of chocolate

goodies up for grabs! Plus Fred, who was rehomed as an unbacked project, has now made his ridden debut as a riding school horse thanks to Yard Manager Sophie and her team who took on his training. Sophie was very pleased to report: "All the way through Fred has been a pleasure, and he looks very happy in his new role."

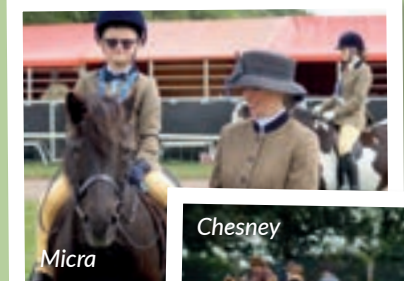


Doing us proud!

Our Redwings rehoming stars were out in force at the Royal Norfolk Show in June and we were so proud! Redwings Patchwork and Redwings Yarn who were rescued together in 2009 were reunited in the Ridden Rescue Class, with Patchwork placing second and Yarn placing seventh. Patchwork's amazing result saw her qualify for the Rescue Horse championship where she and her Guardian Yvette came second, which means they were crowned 'Reserve Champions' overall too! Redwings Yarn and Redwings Yogi were brought to the Show by our rehoming team to star in the Rescue Village to help them

find new homes and the team made them look wonderful for their special moment in the ring. Yogi was joined in the In-Hand Rescue Class by Redwings Chesney and Redwings Lowery and their lovely Guardians, and the trio placed third, fourth and fifth respectively! Not forgetting Redwings Micra who, at the fantastic age of 27, came third in the Ridden Rescue (15 years and over) class with his young rider Charlie.

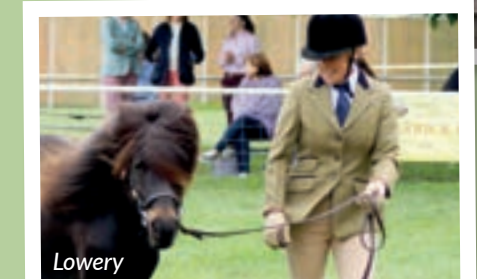
Everyone did an amazing job of representing Redwings and it was great to show just what our rehomed ponies can achieve in their new homes. It was very special to watch!



Chesney

Micra

Lowery



Every rehomed horse means one more space in the Sanctuary for a horse or donkey who needs our help!
See our website for more details www.redwings.org.uk/rehoming #LoveRehoming

Sanctuary Star

Blind Boo: Ten years on

Boo's story began in the winter of 2009, when he and his field companion were subjected to an horrific attack with an air rifle. Both Boo and his Shetland companion were shot in the eye from point blank range, and for Boo this was doubly devastating as he had already lost one eye to cancer. His owner was advised to put him down for his own safety and the safety of others as he was such a big horse and the attack had rendered him completely blind.

It's really no exaggeration to say that her desperate phone call to our welfare team saved Boo's life. Even before he'd arrived with us he had learned to adapt to voice commands and would even 'back up' on command, a huge and presumably very risky move for a large blind animal like him. Such trust in those who cared for him despite the cruelty he had been through was truly amazing and we knew we had to give him a chance.

Boo's field at Redwings was carefully chosen. Before he was turned out he was led around the field to show him the boundaries and where the water tank and shelter were (not to mention his feed bucket!). We knew company would be vital too so we introduced him to Victor the Shire, a retired Adoption Star, and they quickly became firm friends.



Boo with Flynn



When Victor very sadly passed away the hunt was on for a new friend and we settled on Oliver, a lovely calm cob cross from one of our other sites. He was introduced to Boo and it was love at first sniff! Boo and Oliver were best friends and completely inseparable for seven years. In that time Boo charmed everyone who met him, and although we said that Oliver was his 'seeing eye' horse, it was usually Boo leading Oliver around the field rather than the other way round.

When Oliver passed away with sudden colic in 2016 we didn't know how Boo would react but again he coped in his amazing way and soon took to his new friend Flynn, who is still his faithful trusty companion at our Hapton HQ today.

We love you Boo!

We love Boo!

Evey, one of Boo's carers for many years: "Boo has got such an amazing awareness of his surroundings, I've tried seeing how close I can get before he notices me and he always knows I'm coming! He is an absolute pleasure to handle and be around, you would not think he was blind most of the time. Considering what happened to him, the trust he has in people is humbling. Legend."

Melissa, Boo's vet: "Boo is a gentle giant and excellent to handle, he completely puts all his trust in you and will follow you wherever you need him to go. He always stands quietly for examinations and injections. You just have to make sure you talk to him and let him know where you are at all times so you don't frighten him or make him jump!"

Talita, manager of Boo's farm: "I could talk about Boo all day long, we just love him here! He answers to his name when we call him over, he absolutely loves being clipped (especially around his belly!!!) and he has a natural gift to find any treat we might have in our pockets and point to us where it is (just in case we were not aware of it)."

Rachel, who took the call from Boo's owner: "Aside from the shocking act of cruelty that he was subjected to, the timing of it all was the most profound thing for me. The vet had been booked in to put him to sleep but it got delayed due to a heavy snowfall that winter. That delay provided the owner with time to see how well he was responding and gave them the glimmer of hope that he might have a future, if only she could find him that special home. His gentle and laidback temperament instantly made everyone here involved determined to give him that chance, and I'm so glad we did."



Evey, Boo and Victor



Caring for a blind horse

"Consistent habits are very important for Boo and his blindness. If we need to move him to a new field, we first walk around the new paddock with him, showing him where everything is. He must always be with his friend Flynn, though he is very confident and might take the lead when we walk him. Boo relies on his other senses, hearing and smell, to get to grips with his surroundings and he is really good at it!"

"We try to avoid fields with large amounts of footfall going past, so as not to cause any unnecessary stress to him. Boo suffers from a condition called sweet itch, so he also requires a more open field, not so close to ditches and marshes in order to minimise the midges. He also wears a sweet itch rug, is fully clipped so he doesn't overheat over the hot days, and receives a special treatment on a weekly basis too to help.

"Being a heavy horse we also must take special care with his feet, so he and Flynn have a special trimming rotation, twice weekly they have their feet picked out and disinfected and they receive balancer feed as a supplement to support a healthy foot too."

Talita, manager at Hapton where Boo lives...and Boo fanatic!

Thanks to your kind support we can give Boo all the special care he needs every day - thank you #RedwingsAngels. Turn to pages 18-19 to find more examples of our amazing sanctuary care.



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

Dotty donkey joins the Adoption Scheme!

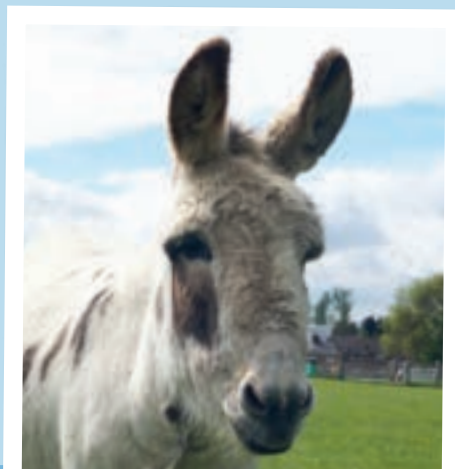
Spotty four-year-old donkey Dotty has become the newest donkey to join the Adoption Scheme!

You might remember Dotty arrived at Redwings Ada Cole in 2018 after she'd been discovered with incredibly overgrown hooves, which were causing her a lot of pain, especially when walking. Sadly her condition could have been easily prevented by allowing her to see the farrier for regular hoof trims. Her owner was in fact prosecuted for failing

to provide her with the adequate care she needed and Dotty was pledged a home for life at the Sanctuary.

Since arriving at Ada Cole she has grown in confidence and become a lovely, friendly girl, making her the ideal candidate for joining the Adoption Scheme. Make sure you say hello to her when visiting!

You can adopt Dotty or one of her friends from just £15 a year.



Happy retirement to Adoption Star Del Boy!

We recently wished a very Happy Retirement to one of our much loved residents – Del Boy – who is stepping down from the Adoption Scheme.

Del Boy arrived at the Sanctuary in 2010 with his best friend Rodney and four other companions after a request was made from a small animal education centre that was sadly being forced to close due to the recession. Over the last year, Del Boy has been suffering with recurrent lameness issues, and

requires regular specialist attention and radiographs from our skilled farriers. So we decided it would be best if he enjoys a slower pace of life by stepping down from his Adoption Star duties. Retirement simply means Del Boy will no longer be available for new adopters, but he will keep in touch with his existing sponsors and his fans can still visit him at his home at Redwings Ada Cole!

Happy Retirement Del Boy!



Hello, I'm Dotty! I'm a brand-new spotty donkey Adoption Star here at Redwings Ada Cole. There's nothing I love more than a fuss and a cuddle from my lovely fans!



REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



Awards galore!



Earlier this year, Redwings Aylsham was honoured with a 2018 Attractions Accolade from VisitEngland for providing an "outstanding experience" for our visitors.

The visitor centre is one of just four Norfolk attractions this year to be honoured by VisitEngland – in fact, only 76 attractions were awarded with special prizes across the whole country! The award particularly recognised the warm welcome given to visitors, as well as the hard work of staff and the high quality customer service they offer throughout the year.

And then... Redwings Aylsham was named Norfolk's Best Family Attraction in the 2019 Muddy Stiletto Awards.

Muddy Stiletto Norfolk is a popular online guide to the very best of local independent and lifestyle businesses and charities across the county.

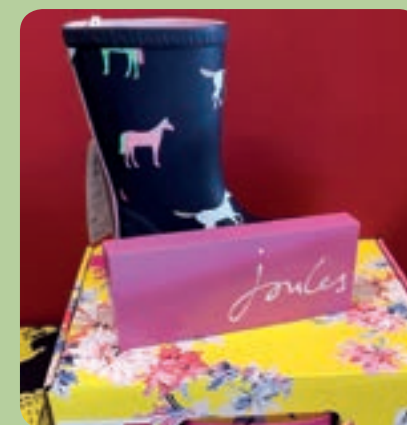
Every year, people have the chance to nominate their favourite organisations in 24 categories. After making it through to the top five shortlist in the Family Attraction category, Redwings Aylsham was then voted as the overall winner!

And finally... there was yet another reason for Redwings Aylsham to celebrate this summer! The centre was presented with a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the second year in a row! Well done team and thanks to all our fantastic visitors who have left lovely reviews!



Hi! I'm Reggie and I'm one of the six members of the cheeky Gangsters. You can often find us up to no good and planning our next mischievous move. You can adopt the whole gang from just £15 a year!

Joules has just arrived at Redwings!



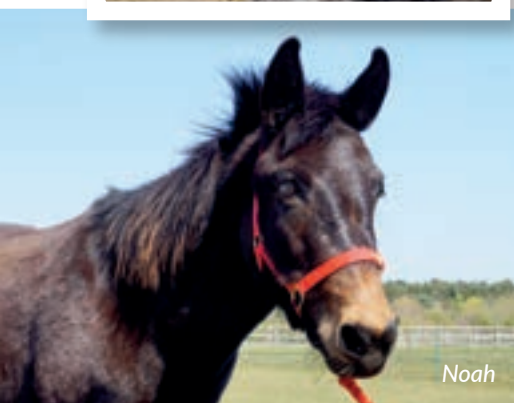
We are really excited to have partnered with Joules and are able to bring you a fabulous selection of the popular clothing range which is now in stock at Redwings Aylsham!

We have a great selection of women's tops from the popular "Harbour" selection and with winter on the horizon we also have a fabulous selection of matching wellie boots and raincoats too! And for children and babies there's a great selection of tops, dresses and wellie boots, so cute! Proceeds from all the Joules collection go towards providing vital funds here at Redwings for all our resident equines so you can treat yourself to something super stylish safe in the knowledge that you are helping Redwings at the same time. What a great excuse to go shopping!





Lily



Noah

Introducing Lily and Noah!

There's exciting news at Redwings Caldecott after two brand-new Adoption Stars joined the Adoption Scheme. Lily, a beautiful dapple grey native pony and Noah, a mischievous mule, both took up their new starring roles shortly before the summer and have been enjoying their new-found fame, including meeting their adoring fans and taking part in the summer holiday activities.

Noah arrived at the Sanctuary in 2010 with his horse and pony companions, after another organisation requested assistance with rehoming them. He has taken over the important role of star mule from Muffin, who retired from the

scheme at the age of 30 in September 2017. Noah particularly enjoys a good ear scratch (preferably both ears at the same time)!

Lily arrived at the Sanctuary with her companion Satin from another organisation in 2013. Lily started her training to be rehomed as a ridden horse, but sadly due to ongoing issues with her hooves, could no longer be ridden. But her super friendly nature and love of people made her a perfect pick for our Adoption Scheme.

You can adopt Lily, Noah or one of their friends from just £15 a year. Visit Caldecott or go online www.redwings.org.uk/adopting

Happy retirement to adorable Adoption Star Cauli

We're wishing a Happy Retirement to adorable pony Cauli – who is stepping down from the Redwings Adoption Scheme after eight years.

Lovely Cauli was found heartlessly abandoned in a cauliflower field in 2008, hence her name. She was standing over the body of her friend who had sadly passed away. After arriving at the Sanctuary, she had one of her eyes removed, but coped amazingly. Her bright and friendly nature later made her a perfect candidate for joining the scheme.

Sadly in recent months she has been suffering with ongoing lameness, meaning she has had to spend a lot of time at our Horse Hospital to ensure she receives the best possible veterinary attention and farriery.

Cauli has been diagnosed with both Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) and Cushings Disease (PPID) and requires careful management and veterinary treatment, so the decision was made to retire her from the scheme so she could enjoy a slower pace of life.

Happy Retirement Cauli!



Hi! I'm Noah and I'm the newest mule Adoption Star! You'll find me rolling in the dustiest spots or hanging out with my donkey and mule friends here at Redwings Caldecott!

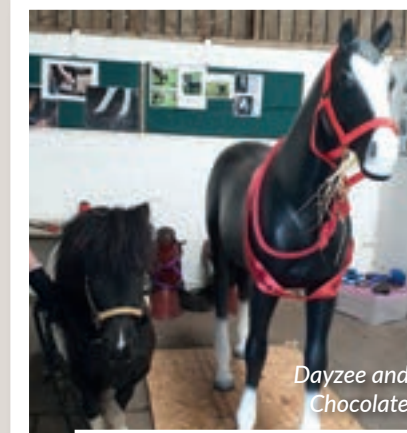


Welcome to the gang!

We've been lucky to welcome some new arrivals to Redwings Mountains in the last few months - have you met them yet?

They include handsome cob cross Alfie and his friend Troy, plus super-fluffy Shetland pony Gunner (pictured here with his excellent hair-do!). They have all been settling in well, and the team at Redwings Mountains have loved getting to know their pony-personalities! Fellow new arrival, gorgeous cob Ellie-Mae, who came to Redwings with Highland pony Forrest, has become very firm friends with Adoption Star Gibson and was even invited as his special guest to his birthday party in June, with a cake made especially for her too! Another exciting arrival was an equine of the plastic

variety! Mountains' newest resident now has pride of place in our visitor centre and will play a vital role in our education work. He was a big hit at this year's Summer Club, enabling the children some hands-on practice of their new skills, and they even picked his name too!

Dayzee and
Chocolate

Ellie-Mae



Gunner

Summer club fun up in the Mountains!



Petra the donkey 'helping' the team with muck picking - er, thanks Petra, we think!

Once again Mountains Summer Club for children aged 6 - 11 has proved really popular. During the school summer holidays we had a jam packed schedule of activities designed to give the children some mini taster sessions of what it is like to work at Redwings, guided by the people who look after our horses and ponies every day.

Activities have included being a Redwings vet, farrier, dentist, donkey expert, farm team member and even a

field officer. This has given the children a whole bank of equine knowledge in a friendly and fun environment. They have had a great time learning lots of new skills and who knows, some of them may even go on to work with horses in the future inspired by the fun they have had in Summer Club! Keep an eye on our website to find out how your child or grandchild can get involved in the Mountains Summer Club or any of our other Redwings Mountains activities.

Have a clear-out or bag a bargain!

We will be holding regular tack sales at our Mountains centre and would welcome any donations of tack. For dates please keep an eye on our Facebook page and if you have something to donate please get in touch via our website or email info@redwings.co.uk.

FACT

Donated tack sales now account for 25% of our income from donated goods!

FACT

We will also gladly accept good-quality clothes, homewares and bric a brac!

Hi there! I'm Dayzee! I'm a little Shetland pony, who loves hanging out with my best friend Kassie! You can be my friend from just £15 a year.



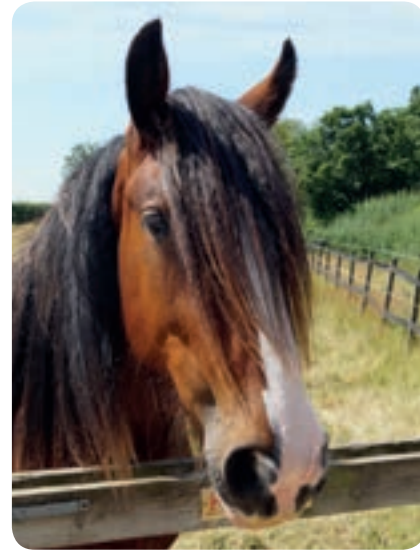
Big news at Redwings Oxhill!

If you've visited Redwings Oxhill recently, you might have spotted a striking new arrival!

At just two years old, Lady has become the youngest star to join the Adoption Scheme. She travelled to Oxhill with her companion Holly Blue back in June following their rescue from a site in Kidderminster in November 2017. Lady, Holly Blue and 17 other Shire

horses had been left to fly-graze on farmland, and following their rescue six of the group were offered a home at Redwings.

But don't be fooled by her youth - at 15hh she's still growing, and is already towering over many of our residents! Just make sure you look out for the adorable mark in the shape of a heart on her bottom when visiting!



Timothy and Cain take the leading role!

Adoption Stars and donkey duo Timothy and Cain enjoyed a moment of fame when they travelled to St Andrew's Church in Shotton, where the pair had been invited to lead the annual Palm Sunday procession to the church.

The boys were on their very best behaviour while they led the procession alongside their carers, and enjoyed plenty of fuss from the crowds along the way. Thank you to St Andrew's for inviting the boys along and for the generous donation. Timothy and Cain are already looking forward to returning next year!



Althorp House opens doors in support of Redwings!



Althorp House in Northamptonshire, the ancestral home of the Spencer family, opened its doors this summer with an exciting new art exhibition – and £1 from every ticket purchased with a special code was donated to Redwings!

Home to one of Europe's finest private collections of furniture, art and ceramics, the Animals of Althorp exhibition celebrated the historic House's lesser-known residents, including some incredible equestrian paintings.



Redwings Oxhill is less than an hour's drive from Althorp, and after a wander around the exhibition, visitors were encouraged to drop by the centre and enjoy cuddles with our rescued residents.

"Althorp has a strong equestrian tradition, dating from the first years my family settled here in the 16th century," said Earl Spencer. "I am delighted that Althorp has partnered with Redwings this summer, a charity that holds animal welfare very much at its heart."

Hello, I'm Rumpel! I was rescued from the horrifying conditions of Spindle Farm in Amersham, Buckinghamshire when I was just six months old. You can be my friend from just £15 a year.



Super Supporters!

A tribute to a great supporter

We were very sad to hear that long-term Redwings supporter Peter, featured in our Autumn 2018 newsletter, passed away earlier this year. Peter and his family would regularly visit Redwings Caldecott and donate money raised through Peter's tombolas. We send our thoughts and wishes to Peter's family at this sad time.



Making a splash for Redwings

Fab fundraiser Lisa completed her first open water swim for Redwings in June, taking part in the John West Great North Swim in the Lake District. Lisa, who took part in the one mile course, said: "Completing the swim was a real personal achievement, I got a real buzz when I got to the finish line and got the best cheer from my family! Next year could it be the two mile?"

Lisa smashed her personal fundraising target and raised an amazing £500 – enough to help care for two rescued horses at Redwings for a whole month, well done Lisa!



Jumping for joy!

A huge thank you to manufacturers *Jump 4 Joy* who donated brand-new jumps for our rehoming centres! The company has chosen Redwings as their charity of the year and personally delivered a set of jumps to our centre in Warwickshire ready for our new rehoming centre. They also sponsor Oxhill residents Rumpel and Wensley who watched over proceedings! They have also donated jumps for our Norfolk rehoming centres – thanks so much *Jump 4 Joy*!

Ministry of Makeovers!

Our education and tack sheds at Redwings Ada Cole were treated to a fresh makeover thanks to staff from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. A group of ten volunteers cleaned and decorated the areas to create inviting spaces for our visitors to peruse donated items and learn more about our work. Thanks gang!



And finally... a real bonus!

We were delighted to be awarded a prize of £15,000 in the SEIB Charity Awards earlier this year. Every year the insurance brokers give awards to 10 charities and for the second year running Redwings made it on to the shortlist, which is all based on public votes. SEIB clients then voted on how the funds would be awarded and we came second overall, winning the money to make improvements to the treatment room in our Horse Hospital at Hapton. Thanks to everyone who voted!

Feeling inspired?

If our amazing supporter stories have you thinking about your own personal fundraising challenge, why not get in touch? We would love to hear from anyone looking to fundraise through events in the community. Contact us by emailing fundraising@redwings.co.uk or call 01508 481000.

Help fund life-changing treatments at Redwings

Like all animals, our rescued horses and donkeys get poorly sometimes. When they do, our in-house team of trained vets and nurses are on hand to help them heal.

This autumn, can you help us raise funds for life-changing treatments for our horses?

Eye injuries and infections in our rescued horses are some of the most common issues treated by our care teams – the wide set and prominent position of a horse's delicate eyes are great for peripheral vision but make the horse prone to a whole range of eye problems.

Eye conditions like conjunctivitis, ulcers and uveitis (an inflammation of the eye) are not only irritating for a horse but can be extremely painful too. Thankfully at Redwings we have a fully equipped Horse Hospital where our vets can treat eye problems in our rescued residents as quickly as possible. But treatment – and particularly surgery – can be expensive. For recurring problems, veterinary costs can run into hundreds of pounds for one horse alone.

At Redwings we will always do everything we can for a poorly or injured horse. But we can only do it with your help.

**Please help us today to keep our herds healthy and happy.
Thank you.**

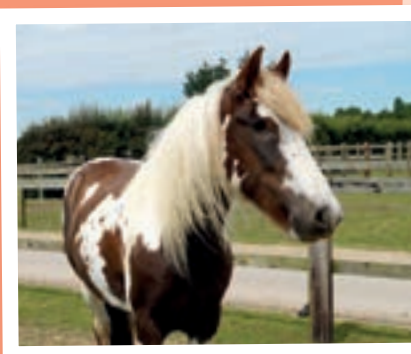
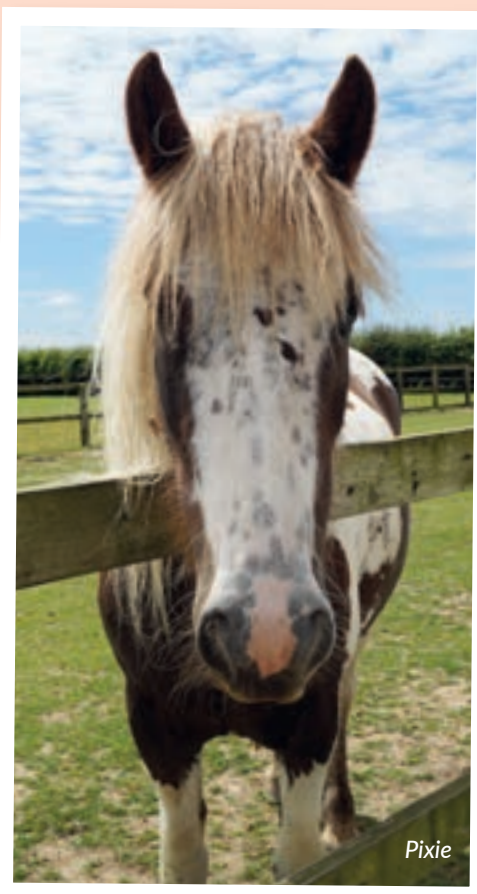
“Last year, we treated over 570 eye problems across the Sanctuary. Every treatment was funded by people like you.”

Life-changing surgery for Pixie

Removing a horse or pony's eye is not a decision we take lightly. But for poorly pony Pixie, undergoing surgery in our Horse Hospital has given her a future free from the extreme pain of a recurring eye condition.

Rescued pony Pixie has been a regular visitor to the Redwings Horse Hospital ever since she arrived at the Sanctuary in 2016. Pixie was found to have uveitis, an exceedingly painful inflammation of the eye. For some horses, uveitis gets better with treatment. But for Pixie, the relief was only temporary and the problem soon returned. Despite regular visits from our vet team, Pixie's eye problems continued. Eventually she was also diagnosed with ulcers and a cataract in the same eye. Each time Pixie's uveitis returned, despite specialist treatment from her vet Dawn Trayhorn, her eye became even more sensitive and painful.

A lavage kit enables small fluid lines to be placed through the eyelid, allowing our vets 24/7 access to treat the eye. This can be particularly helpful for horses with serious eye conditions and injuries and also those patients who are nervous or difficult to treat.



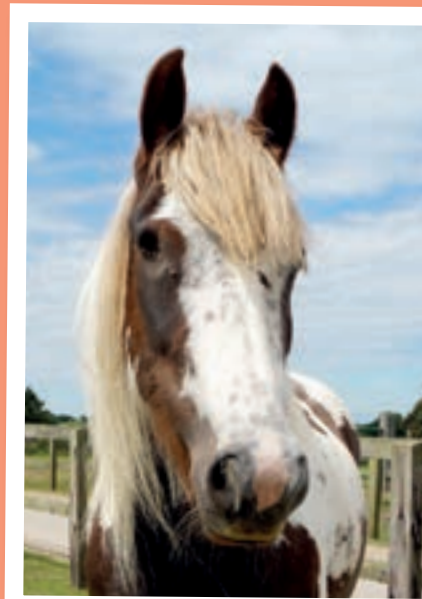
Our vets use a bright green stain to help identify eye problems such as ulcers



Pixie's life-changing treatment at Redwings was funded by public donations. Thanks to your support she can continue living a happy and healthy life.

Please donate today to help other ponies like Pixie.

“Just a month after her surgery, Pixie was able to start enjoying life again.”



Pixie is recovering well after her surgery and has now returned to her field with her herd.

How you can help*

Your donation could help pay for essential eye care and treatments in our Horse Hospital.



£11

A course of eye drops to treat minor infections



£63

A contact lens to provide eye protection and to assist healing



£28

A lavage kit to allow our vets 24/7 access to treat poorly eyes



£168

A guardian mask to protect eyes from sunlight and help to heal

Have you read Boo's story

Horses like Pixie can enjoy happy and normal lives with only one eye. But what happens when a horse loses both eyes? **Turn to page 10** to read the remarkable story of blind horse Boo, a much-loved Redwings resident.

Please donate today:

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

(You can also opt to give any whole amount up to £20. All texts cost the donation amount plus a standard rate message).
*We will use your donation wherever it is needed the most to aid the treatment, recovery and care of Redwings residents.



Thank you!

Let your memory live on at Redwings

So much of the work you have read about in this newsletter was made possible by some very special supporters. *Every year around 300 amazing people make a lasting difference to our work by leaving a gift to Redwings in their Will.*

Gifts in Wills have helped us develop our Horse Hospital where hundreds of life-changing treatments happen every year. They have funded new facilities at our centres that provide homes to our rescued residents. And every year, these lifesaving gifts enable us to rescue more horses and donkeys in desperate need of our help.

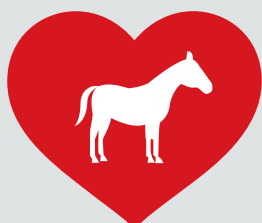
Your commitment today could provide a lifeline for a horse in years to come.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, please call our Legacy Officer Katie on **01508 481030** or email legacies@redwings.co.uk.

Remembering a loved one

We know that horses and donkeys hold a special place in so many people's hearts. That's why Redwings offers a number of ways to help you commemorate a loved one and their love of horses. Memorial plaques and benches* at our visitor centres provide lasting tributes. And every year, donations made in memory of someone special help fund the care of our rescued residents. To find out more about remembering a loved one through donations or a memorial, please email fundraising@redwings.co.uk or phone us on **01508 481000**.

*available at selected centres



New Memory Garden at Redwings Caldecott

Plans are underway for a new Memory Garden at Redwings Caldecott. We will be contacting supporters with an existing memorial at the centre, but anyone can receive more information on the project and details about purchasing a memorial by emailing fundraising@redwings.co.uk or by calling our Individual Giving Manager Hannah on **01508 481010**.