

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2026

Donate for our donkeys

Help us give our donkeys the special care they need this winter

Have your voice heard

Now's the time to have your say in the government's fireworks consultation

PLUS

A safe home for Dora

Meet Dora and our other new arrivals

Christmas inspiration? Sorted!

Buy Christmas gifts from Redwings and give safety and security to horses in need

And much more inside...

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Our cover star is adorable Adoption Star Esther.

Turn to pages 4 and 5 to read more about all the special care we will give our donkeys this winter to keep them happy and healthy.

Welcome to your autumn newsletter 2026

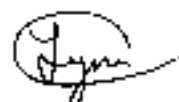
If it's your first time receiving this newsletter then a very warm welcome to you, and if you have been supporting us for years then our sincere thanks to you too! We so often hear from people who have been involved with Redwings for 10+ years, sometimes even 20+ or 30+, and it never fails to amaze and humble us. However long you have been part of our journey, please know how grateful we are for your support and commitment to the horses and donkeys who rely on us.

It has been a very difficult year as many of you will be aware. With the closure of two of our visitor centres, Redwings Mountains at Forfar in Scotland and Redwings Oxhill in Warwickshire, it really has felt like the end of an era. I was personally involved in setting up both of these centres; across the charity we have felt their loss deeply, especially the people at those centres and our visitors. These decisions are extremely difficult, and we thank everyone involved during this horrid time. The reality is that times are very difficult for charities and our peer colleagues are also feeling the pinch, closing centres or having to make redundancies – we are not alone. Caring for horses and ponies and maintaining those sites at such a distance from our Norfolk base was incredibly costly and becoming more so by the day given the exponential increases in the cost of living over the past few years. So, we had no choice but to make this painful decision so we could ensure the long-term future of the horses and donkeys in our sanctuary care. All have been rehoused at different sites and all of them travelled safely with their friends to their new homes here in Norfolk. Thanks to the teams and their careful and considerate planning, our horses and donkeys have settled in well, as you'll see on the coming pages.

We are still battling these rising costs, despite being frugal across the charity. It won't be any surprise to you to learn that our income is still not where we need it to be to meet these challenges, and so I'm asking you to please consider supporting our special winter appeal which is featured over the next few pages. We know things are difficult for everyone, but whatever you can spare really does make a huge difference to our horses and donkeys, who are all relying on us every day for their feed and care, and sometimes have very intricate care needs as you will see! The teams across the charity always go above and beyond and then some for our residents, whether it's making ice lollies for them during an extreme heatwave like we saw during the summer, or putting on extra feeds and making their shelters comfortable in the depths of winter. Despite the challenges, we face the future with optimism and determination, and we continue to work hard not just for the horses in our care but also those beyond our paddock fences. I hope you will see through the coming pages just how far your donations stretch. To help us save on production costs, we've reduced the size of our newsletter, which has made it even more challenging to show you everything we've been doing so please do also refer to our website and social channels if you can for all the latest from across the Sanctuary.

Everything we achieve is only possible because of people like you, and we never take that for granted. Once again, thank you for your kind support from all of us here, four and two legged.

Very best wishes

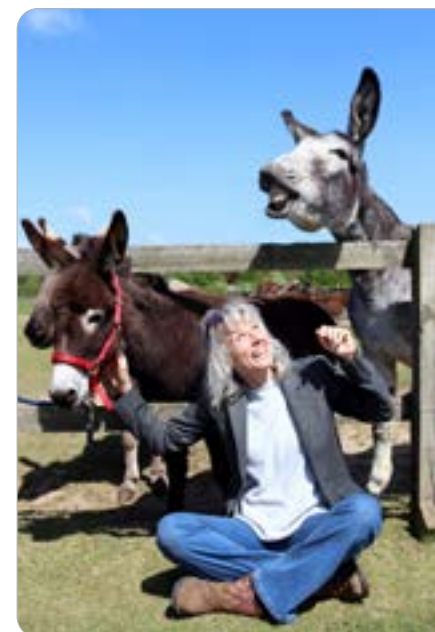


Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive
Redwings Horse Sanctuary



Lynn with Denver

News update...



Suzie Fletcher is now a Redwings Ambassador

We're delighted that TV personality and author Suzie Fletcher is now a Redwings Ambassador. Suzie is a Master Saddler and leather expert as well as a life-long lover of horses.

She has been to visit several times, and was a guest at our Redwings Book Festival in 2024 in front of a sell-out crowd! As an Ambassador, she donates her time to Redwings for free and helps us spread the word about Redwings, and our vital work caring for horses in need. Thank you Suzie!

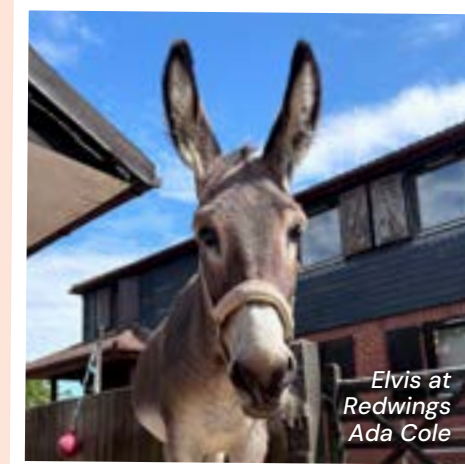
Our Everyday History Heroes

We're delighted that our volunteer team at Anna Sewell House has been nominated for the 'Everyday History Heroes' awards, created in partnership between Heritage Open Days and a UK family history website, Findmypast. These awards celebrate historic sites that champion the stories of people and communities that stood up for their beliefs and built modern Britain.

With Anna Sewell's incredible legacy for animal welfare, which we are proud to continue today, it is an honour to see both Anna, and our wonderful volunteers, on this shortlist.



This newsletter is delivered to you folded to help us save postage costs. It's still packed full of the horses and donkeys you love, and stories from across Redwings – just unfold and enjoy.



Elvis at Redwings
Ada Cole

Elvis Parsley was all alone. His owner had bought the two-year-old donkey to help save him from a very uncertain future. But they struggled to find a yard that was a suitable home for him, where he could have the company of other donkeys, which is so vital to a donkey's wellbeing. Wanting to do the best for him, they reached out to Redwings to see if we could help.

Thanks to your kind support, we were able to offer Elvis a home at Redwings and all the specialist care and companionship a donkey needs. Read more about our long-eared residents and their special care overleaf...

Please donate* today:

- 01508 505246
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **DONKEY 10** to **70460** to donate **£10****

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

**Change the number that follows DONKEY to donate a gift from £1-£20. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Key Contact Numbers

General Enquiries
01508 505246 info@redwings.co.uk

Horse Care Advice and Welfare

01508 481008
welfare@redwings.co.uk

Visitor Information

redwings.org.uk/visit

Address for all correspondence

Redwings Horse Sanctuary
Hapton, Norfolk NR15 1SP

Help us prepare our donkeys for winter

Our name might be Redwings Horse Sanctuary, but we are proud to provide sanctuary to horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies (donkey/horse hybrids) – in fact, we care for almost 90 donkeys here at Redwings, and there are some key differences in their care that we are able to provide, thanks to your support.



Esther, Dave and friends

Donkeys – our fair-weather friends!

If you have visited Redwings on a rainy day, you may have noticed our donkeys are often hunkered down in their barns or shelters, and the reason for this is simple. Unlike their horse and pony counterparts, donkeys evolved to live in desert-like environments and are much less suited to inclement weather. We accommodate this at Redwings by providing special environments for our donkeys, especially in the winter months. This includes barns or shelters to protect them from the elements (unlike ponies, donkeys are not waterproof!), as well as concrete pads in their fields, or space on a woodchip paddock to give them dry spaces to stand to protect their hooves from the mud.

Donkeys like Dave and Esther (icons of the herd at Redwings Caldecott!) spend a lot of the winter snuggled up in their large barn, with deep straw bedding. At Redwings Aylsham we have multiple shelters and extra stables built for our resident donkeys like Wiggins, and the story is the same across all our sites. Each has special accommodation for our donkeys in use year-round, but especially during the winter months.

"The Caldecott donkeys love spending time in the barn in the winter, but this does mean extra work for our team, and additional costs. Daily mucking out and fresh bedding become an essential part of our winter routine. Thanks to your support, your donations = donkey duvet days!" Laura Starkey, Redwings Caldecott Manager.

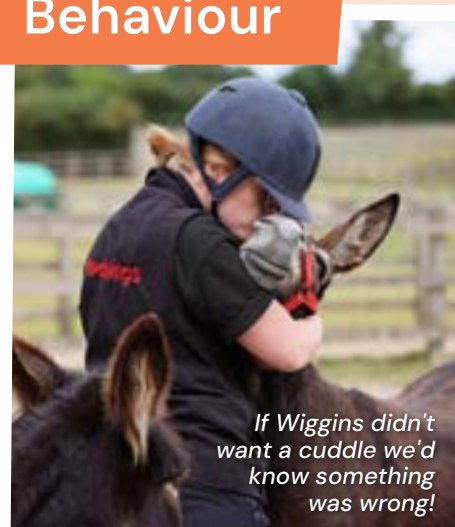


As winter approaches, a gift of £19 could help provide daily fresh and cosy bedding to the Caldecott donkey herd

Our beloved donkeys can be subject to unfair myths about their behaviour. We're sure you've heard the phrase 'stubborn as a mule', but in truth they are not stubborn, merely sensibly cautious! Unlike horses they are not simply flight animals and are much more likely to pause and assess the situation first. Donkeys and mules are incredibly stoic, and far less demonstrative in their behaviour, making it harder to tell if they're feeling unwell, in pain or frightened. This is where our team, and their expert knowledge of donkey care and behaviour come in.

"Due to their stoic nature, donkeys can mask that they are under the weather, and often by the time they are showing obvious signs that they are unwell, it's a veterinary emergency. Our team are so attuned to their individual characters and the most subtle of signs – it can be something as little as them not enjoying their usual scratchy spot. Spotting the earliest signs of illness can mean the difference between a simple treatment or a life-threatening emergency, and that's why our regular checks of our donkeys and their environment are so important."
Nicola Berryman, Welfare Vet (and self-confessed donkey fanatic!).

Behaviour



If Wiggins didn't want a cuddle we'd know something was wrong!



£27 could help provide three checks for our rescued donkeys this winter, whatever the weather

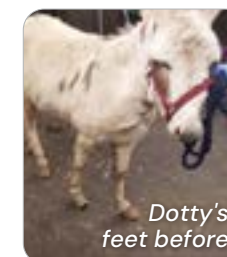
Companionship

Companionship is especially crucial to donkeys, and they often form very strong pair bonds. This is why, if any of our donkeys (like Timothy and Cain pictured here!) need to spend time in the Horse (and donkey!) Hospital, they will bring a friend – no matter what stable shuffling we have to do to accommodate them! This helps minimise stress and keeps them happy and on their way to healing.



"Sparkly hoof goo..."

Potentially not a sentence you were expecting to read in this article, but one that highlights just one of the healthcare measures we take



Dotty's feet before

for our donkeys. Thrush and seedy toe are hoof conditions commonly seen in donkeys because of the fact their hooves are evolved to live in semi-arid environments, as opposed to damp, distinctly British ones. In addition to picking out their feet daily and regular foot trims, some of our donkeys require extra support to help keep their hooves healthy with specialist hoof care oils – some of which contain sparkly silver!

At Redwings Ada Cole, at least five resident donkeys require this treatment daily during the winter, including Adoption Star Dotty. Dotty was rescued in 2018 with painfully overgrown hooves, that were preventing her being able to walk comfortably. **Your support means that her hooves are now always kept in tip-top condition and she will never suffer again.**



Dotty now



As we prepare for winter, £30 could help us buy three bottles of specialist hoof care oils to help prevent hoof problems that would otherwise need more intensive treatment

Providing the perfect home for donkeys

This winter, our almost 90 donkeys will rely on us to provide warm barns, clean and dry bedding and expert care. **Your kindness will help keep them safe, comfortable and healthy through the coldest months of the year.**

Please donate* today



Scan Me

- 01508 505246 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text DONKEY 10 to 70460 to donate £10**

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Thank you!

Redwings to the Rescue

News of our frontline work from around the UK

Providing specialist care



Queenie's feet on arrival

Shetland ponies Queenie, Angel and Jimmy arrived at Redwings in late April after being found with hugely overgrown feet by our Senior Field Officer Julie Harding. Queenie's feet were in such poor condition she was struggling to walk.

Once at our quarantine facilities, the trio received immediate farriery care to help them be as comfortable as possible.



Queenie at the Redwings Behaviour Centre

Sadly, Angel seemed to have some underlying health issues and suffered from colic, a painful stomach condition, multiple times during the trio's first three weeks at the Sanctuary, with the final episode not responding to extensive treatment from our vets. The decision was made to put her to sleep to prevent further suffering.

Stallion Jimmy was also castrated. He has proven to be a friendly boy, but Queenie is quite nervous of people. So, the pair are now settling into life at our Behaviour Centre where they can be supported by our specialist team.

Harmonia's new friends



Harmonia when rescued

One year after we rescued Harmonia, Calypso and Electra, their previous owner was found guilty of animal welfare offences and Redwings stepped in to rehome the remaining horses in his care.

The group were named Zeus, a stallion, Hera and her foal Artemis, Apollo, Hermes and Helios. Zeus arrived with an infected wound on his back leg and was

worringly quiet in his demeanour. He required immediate treatment, including a plasma transfusion. Artemis required emergency surgery after a large abscess formed on her hip, which was causing her pain.

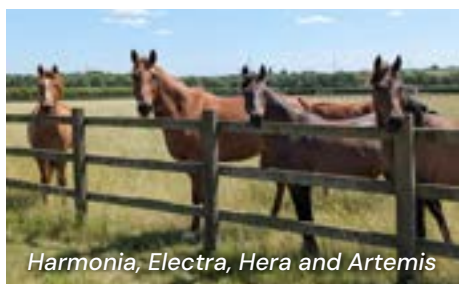
We couldn't provide this lifesaving care without your support. The group is now living happily at our Norfolk HQ, and we are grateful for your kindness which gave them the future they deserve.



Artemis' lameness investigation



Zeus and Helios



Harmonia, Electra, Hera and Artemis

Dora the Explorer

Dora, named after the famous cartoon explorer, was found out on the road multiple times after she repeatedly escaped her field due to inadequate fencing. Local police had issued her owners with a warning to secure the field, but when they failed to take action to protect Dora she was seized – to prevent an accident that could have hurt her, or drivers on the road. Dora came to live at Redwings at the end of March, and she is now settled into her new herd. At just a year old, she has lots of learning and growing to do, and with her new best friend Cabilla by her side we just know she will grow up to be super-sweet and kind, just like her namesake!



Nic de Brauwere (pictured here with Electra)

Expertise helps secure justice for pony in need

Having admitted to the "unacceptable and inappropriate method" of handling a pony, a Brecon man has been sentenced after he was filmed on multiple occasions dragging a piebald pony behind a vehicle.

The incident was investigated and prosecuted by the RSPCA, but Redwings' Head of Welfare Nic de Brauwere provided expert evidence in the case due to his expertise in both equine welfare cases and behaviour. Nic's statement explained that treating the pony this way exposed them "to a series of harmful physical and mental experiences that caused distress, fear and risk of physical injury and lasting harm."

"Fearful learning experiences are generally not erasable and therefore the pony has in all probability been left with a possible lifelong fear, that could be triggered by exposure to similarities to this event, even with a new owner."

Thanks to Nic's evidence, the owner was prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act, fined and ordered to pay costs.

Caring for Casey

In March, we received a report of two thin horses at a site in Essex. Redwings Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin attended promptly and found a mare who was visibly very thin. Jo's assessment determined that she was a Body Condition Score of 0.5 (a healthy BCS would be 3).

Sadly, the other reported horse had passed away, so Jo quickly arranged for a vet and the RSPCA to help the remaining mare, called Casey.

Casey came to live at Redwings Ada Cole and was utterly doted on by

our team – winning everyone over with her super-sweet nature, despite everything she'd been through. Sadly, just three weeks later she passed away as a result of a short illness. We were heartbroken. The reality of our rescue work is that sadly we cannot save them all but we're grateful that Casey had the chance to experience such

kindness – from both our team, and from people like you who make our work possible.



Casey brought to safety



Leave a legacy, change a life

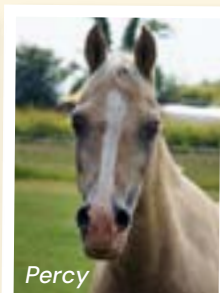
A gift in your Will, no matter the size, can help protect horses and donkeys for generations to come. After taking care of your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to support our work. If you have already done so, thank you.

To find out more visit www.redwings.org.uk/support-us/donate/remembers-redwings-in-your-will

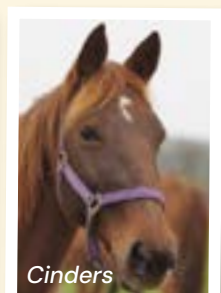
At last – the government wants *your* thoughts on fireworks



Sprite



Percy



Cinders

Pictured above: Redwings residents who have sadly died as a result of firework displays

Manager Helen said: "This is huge step in our campaign, made possible with the help of you, our supporters! Our petition calling for the noise limit of fireworks available to the public to be reduced from 120 decibels to 90



decibels closed with 184,000 signatures – and every single one of them has helped show the government that regulatory change is needed, and wanted, now."

The consultation is open to everyone, so please do add your voice and help us to encourage the government to Keep Horses In Mind. For more information on the consultation, and our tips for completing it please scan the QR code or visit redwings.org.uk/what-we-do/our-campaigning/fireworks-and-horses

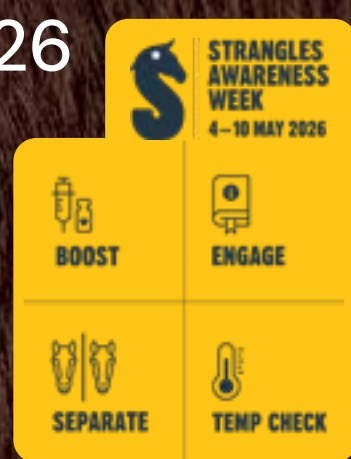


Scan Me

Strangles Awareness Week 2026

Strangles Awareness Week continues to cut through misunderstanding and complacency around the UK's most common equine infectious disease. This year's campaign, co-ordinated by Redwings on behalf of the SAW Collaboration, reached more than six million people on social media!

SAW26 highlights included a new animation, a video from four-times Olympic dressage rider Richard Davison, a free webinar looking at how Strangles compares to the exotic disease West Nile Virus, and a special series of Q&A videos answering real questions from across the equestrian sector. Sadly, recorded cases of both Strangles and Equine Flu have increased in the UK this year, showing that the need to raise biosecurity standards and protect horses from infectious disease has never been greater.



Campaigning for change

Redwings is committed to rescuing and securing the future of equines in need whenever we can, but the number of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules we can provide for directly will always be limited. By campaigning effectively, Redwings is able to play a positive role in the lives of many more horses and the people who love and care for them. Helen, our Campaigns Manager, is the force behind our campaigns and having worked as part of our rescue, education and quarantine teams for more than 20 years, she has a huge knowledge of welfare issues facing horses across the UK, and how Redwings is best placed to be a voice for change. Campaign milestones like the fireworks consultation are the combined outcome of our expertise, and your support. From your signatures and your shares online, to your much-appreciated donations, your support helps us continue to campaign for change and improve the lives of horses across the UK. **Help us continue this vital work by scanning the QR code.**



Scan Me

Helen outside Westminster on the day of the fireworks debate

Zena's Bucket List

Redwings Zena was born at Redwings after her mother, Ilesh, was offered a place in the Sanctuary as her owner was struggling to care for her and 15 other horses. Carol first met Zena when working at Redwings as a vet nurse. Zena spent a year in vet care after suffering a severe colic that required surgery and time spent wearing a specialist belt to stop her developing a hernia. Carol fell in love with Zena and once she was fully recovered, applied to offer her a home in 2023.

Zena is a sensitive soul, so Carol took things very slowly with her in her new home, starting with groundwork and gentle ridden work. To celebrate the progress they have made, Carol started a bucket list of things for her and Zena to aim for in 2026, including pleasure rides, dressage and ridden shows! She documents their progress on TikTok, and we love seeing their videos celebrating the wonderful journey of rehoming a rescued horse.



Heron has been in his home since 2010!

Heron (Dylan to his friends!) is 32-years-young and is a fantastic ambassador for rehomed Redwings ponies! He originally came to Redwings from the New Forest in 1994 as part of one of our first-ever large-scale rescues. All named after birds, the group were the beginning of our work with semi-feral ponies and taught us so much about their rehabilitation.

Sarah rehomed Heron in 2010 as a lead-rein pony for her daughters. He was their first ridden pony and kept them safe on all their adventures. He has since joined the Pony Club and competed at Equifest! Sarah's daughters have now outgrown Heron, but he still plays an important role as companion to Redwings Milky Way, and is adored by all the family!



And finally, Stacey Solomon and Joe Swash become Redwings Guardians

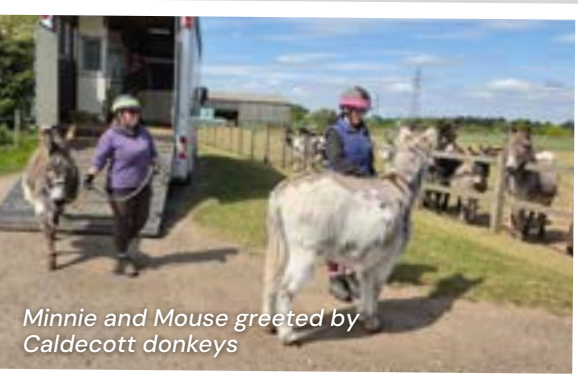
In July, TV stars Stacey and Joe became the proud Guardians of Redwings Thumbelina and Redwings Mermaid. They had approached us looking to welcome some rescued ponies into their family, and after carrying out our comprehensive home check assessments, it was our pleasure to welcome them to Redwings Ada Cole in June, so they could find out more about the Redwings Guardianship scheme and caring for our ponies. Miniature Shetlands Thumbelina and Mermaid were selected as the perfect fit for their family, and Stacey and Joe were delighted to welcome them home. Stacey's close friend Lianne, from Hopefield Animal Sanctuary, is supporting them with their daily care, and of course, just as we do with all our Guardians, we will carry out our regular home visits and be on-hand to help them throughout!

Rehoming is such a vital area of our work, helping us maintain precious capacity in the sanctuary, and we are delighted to have Stacey and Joe on board to show everyone how amazing it can be to rehome a rescued horse!

Find out more about our rehoming scheme at redwings.org.uk/rehoming



Residents settle into their new homes in Norfolk

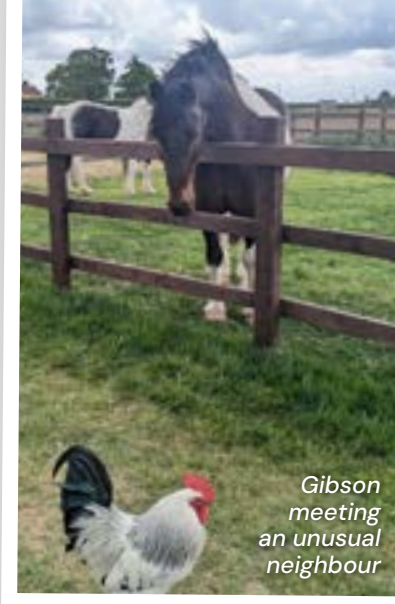


Minnie and Mouse greeted by Caldecott donkeys

Following the sad closure of Redwings Oxhill and Mountains, the horses, ponies and donkeys who once lived there have now made the journey to their new homes across our Norfolk sanctuary sites.

We are pleased to report that all residents, including our much-loved Adoption Stars, travelled well and teams at the Norfolk sites were very impressed by how quickly they settled into their new environments. Although perhaps they felt at home a little too quickly, as staff poised with cameras ready to document their safe arrival for you

thought they might capture some lovely trots as the horses explored their new homes, but the reality is that most of them immediately got down to the serious business of grazing! All our Adoption Stars play a vital role to help raise awareness of the work of Redwings and you are really welcome to come and visit them in their new surroundings! It's a fantastic way to support the charity and your support during these times of change is more valuable than ever. **Thank you to everyone who sponsors an Adoption Star – we are so grateful! Find out how on our website redwings.org.uk/adopt or call 01508 505246.**

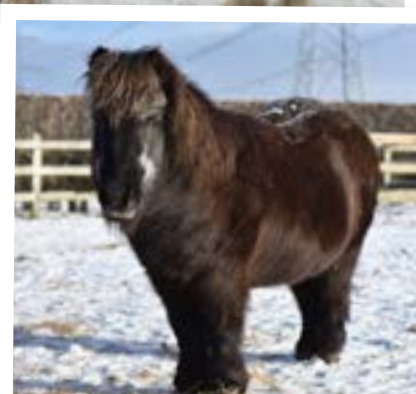


Gibson meeting an unusual neighbour

The wonders of winter at Redwings

We might be waving goodbye to summer, but we've put together a list of reasons why a trip to Redwings is extra special in autumn and winter.

- We serve a cracking hot chocolate. Grab yourself a reusable Redwings cup and you can take a warming drink on your walk to see the horses and donkeys – perfection!
- The ponies will be sporting their winter coats and that means one thing – floof!! Whilst they might look super-svelte in their summer coats, there's nothing quite as cute as their winter woollies, excellent beards and hairy ears.
- Enjoy a warming soup or tasty treat in our cosy cafes! We'll do the cooking and the washing up, you just sit back and enjoy.
- A nose boop on a cold day is just the best! Their warm breath on your chilly fingers – there's nothing quite like it.
- Get ahead on your Christmas shopping. No delivery costs (or stress!), just enjoy a browse in our shops after your fill of pony cuddles!



Have you discovered our raffle yet?

Our raffle is a simple and enjoyable way to support our horses and donkeys while having the chance to win fantastic prizes. Every ticket sold helps fund our vital welfare work and lifelong sanctuary care. **Return your tickets before 27th October to enter, or call 01508 505246 to sign up to receive tickets for our next draw.**



1st Prize £3,000

2nd Prize £1,500

3rd Prize £500

News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'

Visit www.redwings.org.uk/visit for our latest opening times and information to make the most of your visit!



The warmest of welcomes from Redwings Ada Cole

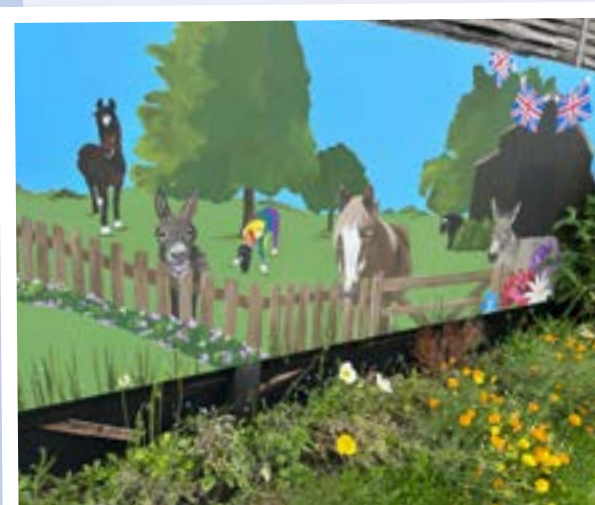
We are super proud of the Redwings Ada Cole team, who were nominated for a VisitEngland Welcome Accolade after the team at VisitEngland were so impressed with the friendly and welcoming team members they met across the centre.

The VisitEngland report also highlighted Dolly's Café's new and improved menu, and the 'really great ambience'.

Of course, it wasn't just the friendly team who won over the assessor – our horses, ponies and donkeys got a special mention in the report too!

This glowing report means the centre retains its status as a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction under VisitEngland's scheme. Why don't you come and visit and check it out for yourself?

A new mural at Redwings Ada Cole!



If you've visited Redwings Ada Cole recently, you might have spotted a colourful new addition to the memory garden! Stacey (@seeithappy on Instagram) approached us last year and offered to design and paint us a beautiful mural as part of her personal mission to give back to her local community!

Together we settled on telling the story of the site – Ada Cole Memorial Stables, which was founded in memory of nurse and animal welfare campaigner Ada Cole and offered sanctuary to horses returning from war, before merging with Redwings in 2005. It also features some of our memorable residents, including Phoenix and Adoption Star Dolly.

In July, Redwings Ambassador Olivia Bowen joined us to officially open the mural with Stacey. We are so grateful to Stacey for her amazing work!





Sleep tight Wacko and Lady

We're very sorry to share that two of our much-loved Adoption Stars have passed away since our last newsletter. Dear donkey Wacko passed away in February, aged 21, and we lost gorgeous Shire Lady in July, she was nine years old.

As half of the delightful donkey duo Wiggins and Wacko, Wacko was known for his gentle and kind personality. He had been with us since 2012, after his owner was worried he might be lonely when his previous yard closed. He met Wiggins shortly after arriving and the rest, as they say, is history!

Sadly, he developed a lameness issue and despite expert care and pain relief his condition worsened. Our vets had to make the impossible, but compassionate, decision to put him to sleep to ensure he did not suffer.

Meanwhile, our beautiful Lady had an issue with her hoof that did not improve, despite the very best combined care of our vets and experienced farriers. Between them they

Wacko



Lady



made her custom shoes for her huge Shire hooves, and even a custom 3D -printed 'squish-pad' to try and relieve the pressure on her hoof.

Lady was rescued in 2017, and she had been in our care since she was less than a year old. It was our privilege to watch her grow into the sweet and gentle mare she was, and her famous heart-shaped marking on her leg could not have been more apt!

Sadly, Lady had to be put to sleep when her condition did not improve. It is true in more than one sense, that she will leave a huge hole in our hearts here at Redwings.

RIP Wacko and Lady, thank you for everything.

Record-breaking numbers for group visit!

Recently we welcomed over 120 children, plus their teachers, to Redwings Aylsham in one day as part of their outdoor learning themed week. This is a new record for our Education Officer Charlotte! Coming from local schools, they walked over to Aylsham (in groups of up to 60 children at a time!) to meet some of our residents and enjoyed exploring our education hub 'Red's Shed'.

If you're interested in an educational visit to Redwings (in person or virtually) email education@redwings.co.uk today!



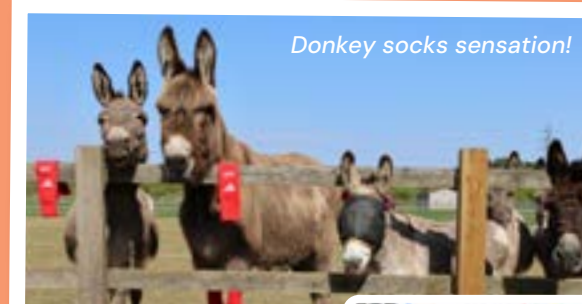
The Caldecott donkeys are a global 'sock'cess!

You may remember that in our last newsletter we told you about an unusual donation from Arsenal Football Club – many pairs of footless football socks! The socks were put to work at Redwings Caldecott and Redwings Ada Cole – protecting donkey legs from fly bites that can cause itching and irritation. What we hadn't foreseen was that our donkey socks would go global... with photos and video of our donks appearing everywhere from BBC Sport and The Times to The Washington Post and BBC Newsround and even National Geographic Kids! Our donkeys have reached countries across the world – including France, Italy, India, Azerbaijan, Singapore and South Africa – and in the first few days alone they were seen by more than 12m people worldwide! We have been absolutely blown away by the international love for our donkeys (and their socks!) – but we can't say we're surprised – they are the best!



Terribly good pet portraits!

In July, we were delighted to welcome Hercule Van Wolfwinkle to Redwings Caldecott as part of the National Human Animal Bond Awareness Day event. If you're not familiar with Hercule's work, we'd suggest looking him up on social media (@PetPortraitsbyHercule) – you won't be disappointed! Known for his self-confessed 'ultra-realistic' style, his tongue-in-cheek pet portraits have captured the hearts of many and helped raise over £500,000 for charity. You can imagine our delight when he brought with him portraits of our very own Adoption Stars Sampson and Esther! The pair were even on hand (or should that be hoof?!) to pose with his creations. As hosts of the event, it was also our pleasure to welcome StreetVet, Battersea, Pets as Therapy, NFRSA (National Foundation for Retired Service Animals), The Pony Club and Our Special Friends – as well as Redwings Ambassadors Poppy Webber and Sam Dracott, who both gave talks and demonstrations about their work!



Anna Sewell House

Gt. Yarmouth,
NR30 1NE



Celebrating our Partnership of the Year!

Redwings and the University of East Anglia's (UEA) Black Beauty Project won Partnership of the Year at the UEA's Innovation and Impact Awards! The partnership began when Redwings took on custodianship of Anna Sewell House in 2022. Since then, we have co-published a fundraising edition of Black Beauty, run writing competitions for young people, collaborated on two book festivals, produced an animation and most recently launched our 'kindness to animals' Black Beauty Pledge (see more details below.) We're incredibly proud to receive this award and we look forward to continuing our partnership working together!

Over 300 children pledge to be kind to animals!

The Black Beauty Pledge is a special initiative inspiring people, especially children, to stand up for animal welfare. Since its launch in January 2026, we've had over 300 young people sign up, and over 70 pledgers have gone on to win a special prize by showing us their commitment to animals! This has varied from caring for family pets, to visiting us at Redwings, helping out at a local stable, making gardens wildlife-friendly, and even calling a sloth rescue whilst on holiday!

If you know any animal enthusiasts that want to be part of a movement that makes the world a better place for animals, then encourage them to sign up! See our website for details.



A heartfelt thank you...

and an invitation to make this festive season extra special – **Sonny, Community Fundraiser**

As we move into the cosy seasons of autumn and winter, I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported Redwings through fundraising already this year. Your generosity, enthusiasm and dedication mean so much to all of us, and it's been truly inspiring to see the many creative ways our supporters have come together to help horses in need. As the days grow shorter and communities gather for seasonal celebrations, there are more opportunities than ever to make a difference while creating special memories with your family, friends and colleagues. Every fundraising activity helps us give vulnerable horses the second chance they deserve.



Become a Redwings Community Hero this Christmas

Why not gather your friends, family, colleagues or your local community and fundraise for Redwings during December? Whether it's a festive raffle, Donkey Day, Christmas jumper day, quiz night or seasonal get-together, you'll be helping transform the lives of rescued horses while spreading festive cheer.



Alice Bell fundraiser

Ready to fundraise?

Download your free fundraising pack at redwings.org.uk/support-us or reach out for a chat at fundraising@redwings.co.uk.

Together, we can make a life-changing difference for horses in need.

Your trust matters: how we stay accountable

When you support our work, you are placing your trust in us. Whether you donate, leave a gift in your Will or volunteer your time, you have every right to expect that we are responsibly managed. We take that responsibility extremely seriously. First and foremost, we are accountable to the horses and donkeys we exist to help, and to our supporters who make our work possible. We must ensure that every pound donated is used wisely and delivers the greatest possible impact. Our Board of Trustees have a legal responsibility to ensure Redwings is well governed, financially sound and true to its charitable purpose. They do this as experienced volunteers, donating their time to the charity. In addition, charities are regulated by the Charity Commission, which sets standards for governance, transparency and public benefit. We submit annual reports and accounts, which are publicly available and provide a detailed picture of our finances and achievements – so you can see the impact of your donations. These reports are independently scrutinised. Your support enables us to improve the lives of horses and donkeys, and strong governance helps ensure that support is used for the greatest possible impact. **Thank you for being part of our mission and for trusting us to deliver it.**

Meet Dodger!



Dodger when rescued

2 1-year-old Welsh cross pony Dodger was rescued almost 20 years ago. He was one of a group of ponies who had been turned out on over 10 acres

of lush grazing, leading to many being overweight and having related health problems. Redwings worked with their owner to improve the situation of the ponies, including removing some of the group. As Dodger was a stallion, it was important to remove him so he couldn't go on to breed.

He was rehomed via our Guardianship scheme but has since returned to the sanctuary, and our commitment the day we rescued him was one for life. He has been diagnosed with some health conditions that mean he will now remain one of our sanctuary residents, so we can offer the care he needs. Much like in humans, ponies produce insulin when eating. Dodger has insulin dysregulation, which means his body produces an exaggerated insulin response. As part of the treatment for this, Dodger receives medication, which works in the kidneys to get the body to excrete glucose in his urine, in turn lowering insulin in his blood. His medication costs over £15 a week.

In the last year, Dodger has had his insulin levels tested four times, so we can monitor if the medication is working well. Each test costs almost £40. Insulin dysregulation often comes hand-in-hand with ponies being at a higher risk of laminitis, and this is something we also manage for lovely Dodger. He is part of a herd of ponies with similar needs, who spend their time between one of our woodchip paddocks

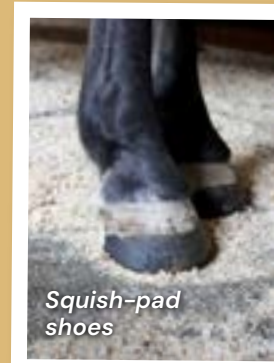


Dodger receiving medication



and grass turnout, so we can carefully manage their grass intake – but also allow them to stretch their legs and express all their natural horsey behaviours.

He also wears special shoes to provide support for his hooves. Known as 'squish-pad' shoes, they are specialist shoes for remedial farriery, used under the combined consultation of our farriers and vets to support our laminitic ponies. They are a unique honeycomb mesh that conforms to the hoof and the part of the foot that needs the most support. All this expert care comes together to support Dodger to live the life he deserves in the sanctuary, under the care of his vet Sarah.



Squish-pad shoes

"Dodger is a sweetie to treat, and always a good boy for me when I need to examine or treat his feet. He is a real favourite of many but does like to keep us on our toes with his cheeky side!"

When a rescued pony like Dodger comes into our sanctuary, our promise to them lasts a lifetime. That's why regular gifts are so important. By giving regularly, you'll help provide the predictable funding that allows us to plan ahead, invest in long-term care and offer sanctuary horses and donkeys like Dodger the security they deserve every day of the year.

A monthly gift of £10 could help meet the ongoing costs of the medication, shoes and tests for ponies like Dodger who rely on us every day.

If you'd like to provide lasting support, please visit www.redwings.org.uk/donate or contact our Supporter Engagement Team on 01508 505246.

A donation of talent

Redwings supporter Colin has kindly made an exceptional donation of his wonderful art. Colin grew up living on a farm and painting horses, and he got in touch to ask if he could donate a piece of his artwork, depicting beautiful horses tucking into their breakfast on a snowy morning.

It only took one look at this wonderful work of art to see that it could be the perfect fit for our Christmas card range! Working with our printers, we have been able to make the perfect copy, now available in our cards (10 cards and envelopes costs £4). So, when you send your festive wishes this year, you can help our horses and donkeys and make Colin smile too! Thank you so much Colin!



Meet Dave

The donkey, the legend, the icon... Dave the donkey! Cheeky Dave, who lives at Redwings Caldecott, has become a huge favourite with staff and supporters and we regularly share updates on social media of the unique brand of chaos he brings to life at Redwings – from disturbing the team during poo-picking to get extra fuss, to delighting visitors with his energetic displays of tussling with his donkey pals, as well as being renowned for having the loudest bray in the herd! (Also excellent for getting attention with!) Just in time for Christmas, we're delighted to introduce to you Cuddly Dave! This little guy is a bespoke cuddly toy, complete with Redwings red ribbon and proudly displaying his Redwings tag. He is 18cm tall, and £8.99. Just like with any products purchased through our Redwings shop, all proceeds go towards the care of our rescued residents (just like the gorgeous donks you read about on page 4-5) – so he's a cuddly for a good cause! Most importantly, he's just as cute as the real thing, but perhaps with a smidge less chaotic energy – which might be a good thing for the sake of your house and furniture!



Head to our website, our gift catalogue or one of our Visitor Centre shops to buy yourself your very own Dave!

Gifts that do good this Christmas

It's that time of year, where we start thinking about choosing Christmas gifts for our loved ones – and the amount of choice of where to shop and what to buy can feel a tad overwhelming! But, there is one choice that you can make that will mean your gifts give twice this Christmas.



A8937 Horse and Robin Tea Towel



A8938
Gingerbread
House Tea
Towel



A8889 Redcurrant
& Clove Soap



A8930
Horse and
Robin Mug

Choosing to shop from Redwings means your purchases help protect horses and donkeys in need across the UK. **Head to our website, our gift catalogue or our Visitor Centres to see what delights we have for this festive season.**

