



# 2023 VIP Day Round Up

**After much preparation and excitement, we were delighted to host 70 guests over two days at our 2023 VIP Day Event. The weather did not disappoint this year with glorious sun on both days.**

Welcomed by our CEO, Jo Snell, and Executive Director of Equine Welfare, Emma Carter in our (appropriately air-conditioned) conference room, attendees were given an update on some of the challenges that the charity will continue to face; including the increasingly worrying Cost of Living Crisis and the impact that this will have on the needs of our services as we come into winter.

**Sweeper vs Wheelbarrow / The Importance of Worming**  
This year our guests were split

into two smaller groups, but not before watching a demonstration together from our Estates Team about the importance of keeping our paddocks clear of droppings, to

ensure the health of over 300 equines across hundreds of acres of land. Our Head of Estates, Victoria, and Estates Supervisor, Chris explained how we tackle this enormous task



Paddock sweepers are invaluable pieces of equipment





Pansy enjoyed meeting our guests

using our field sweepers; machinery that allows us to clear our larger-sized paddocks efficiently. Guests got to see first-hand a comparison of how long it takes for two members of staff to 'poo pick' one area of a field, compared to the time it takes for a paddock sweeper to cover that same field.

Without these invaluable pieces of equipment, not only would we need to employ more staff to help keep on top of the 'poo picking', but we would also lose that all-important time that should be spent rehabilitating and training our rescued equines.

### Physiotherapy Rehabilitation

After the sweeper demonstration, group one made their way over to our Riding Barn to meet some of our Rider Trainers to talk all about physiotherapy and how it can help support our equines through their riding training. The wonderful Tarbert and his handler Evie demonstrated a series of exercises that had been recommended by our visiting physiotherapist and how these have and will continue to help young Tarbert strengthen his body ready for a rider in the near future.

Following this, the group had the chance to meet some more of the Riding Barn's residents and learn more about their background and training progress so far.



Tarbert pictured with his handler, Evie

### Rescue to Rehoming (Monty's Journey)

Group two were met by Field Officer, Kate and Rider/Trainer, Madison from the Riding Barn to hear Monty's 'Rescue to Rehoming' journey.

Kate went on to explain the very beginnings of Monty's story - abandoned as a foal during one of the COVID-19 lockdowns, Monty was taken to safety by a kind-hearted lady who housed him in her barn. She contacted a vet who advised she should have Monty castrated, microchipped and passported which she did. However, without a suitable field for the 12.2hh black cob, Monty's basic needs could not be met so we were contacted us to see if we could find a suitable home for him.

Come early 2022, Monty arrived at Bransby Horses and after leaving our Animal Reception Centre he made his way to the Riding Barn to begin his riding training, which Madison (his handler) explained the next stages of his journey, from backing to rehoming.

Guests were then shown some exclusive social media content which is yet to be released giving an



Trustee, Susan Dolan (left) enjoyed chatting to guests



Guests heard Monty's 'Rescue to Rehoming' journey



overview of our specialist yards and their purposes with questions answered by Walklands Yard Team Leader, Rosie and Equine Welfare Assistant (ARC), Olivia.

## Rescue Support Team Demonstration

The two groups then reconvened for some refreshments and a break from the heat, before heading out to our Main Arena to see a demonstration from our Rescue Support Team led by Field Officer, Nadine.

The Rescue Support Team works alongside the Welfare Team to respond to a variety of equine welfare events and rescues - this may include the collection of an equine after its owner has passed away, transport of RSPCA case equines, collection of fly grazed or abandoned animals, supporting at British Horse Society Education and Healthcare Clinics and equine fairs.

Set up in the arena was a round pen used by our teams to help contain horses, and one of our trailers. We were then joined by the two main stars of the show, Milo and Gerald, who were let loose into the arena. The Rescue Support Team demonstrated how they round up and herd loose horses into the round pen, forming a line to create a human barrier and herding the equines into the safety of the round pen.



Our Rescue Support Team works alongside the Welfare Team



The Rescue Support Team demonstrated how they round up and herd loose horses



For those that attended last year, it was lovely to catch up with Rusty and Cobalt



Tarbert enjoyed a fuss after the demonstration



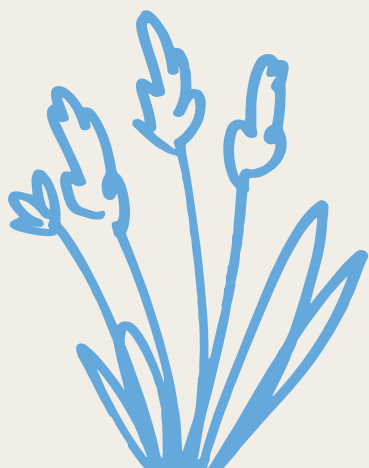
Milo helped with the Rescue Support Team demonstration



Dodger and Sikes loved all the attention they received



Our guests enjoyed Afternoon Tea in the café







The girl donkey herd were happy to meet our guests

Once horses were secure, the team opened the round pen up to the sides of the trailer ramp with the same herding method used to gently usher the equines into the trailer.

The Rescue Support Team are highly skilled and experienced in handling equines in what can be high adrenaline and stressful situations for equines. Our two very friendly ponies made this

look incredibly easy, however not all equine collections run this smoothly; a lot of the time the equines being collected have had little positive human interaction and our team needs to use their knowledge of equine body language to help keep everyone safe. After the demonstration concluded, guests met the two ponies and were able to ask questions of the Rescue Support Team.

### Meet Our Rescued Donkeys

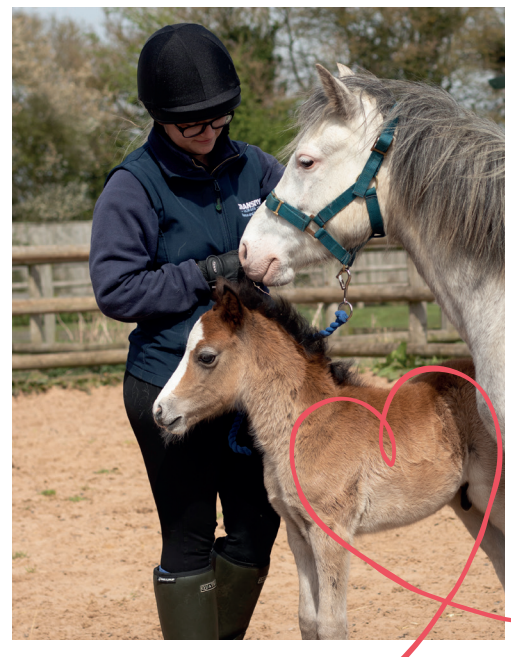
The final stop of the day was to meet our rescued donkeys of course!

Guests enjoyed an educational talk from two of our Equine Welfare Assistants, Sasha and Natalie, to learn all about the differences between donkeys and horses, and how this affects the management of our four donkey herds.

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