

BRANSBY

— HORSES —



Your Exclusive
2024 Reflection



Dear Friend

Welcome to Annual Reflections 2024. This year, we've taken a slightly different approach by publishing a little later than usual, giving our dedicated supporters a more accurate review of 2024 and providing you with even more news, stories and exciting events.

With this edition of Annual Reflections, you will also be receiving your 2025 VIP Day invitation. Our VIP Days are designed to provide a behind-the-scenes view of the charity, including exclusive presentations, demonstrations and meet-and-greets with some well-known equines.

This year, they're taking place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th of September. Please see our VIP Day article on page 12 for full details on securing your place. **We'd love to see as many of you there as possible.**

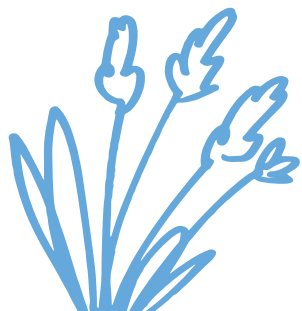
Our welfare work is a key topic of this reflection, showcasing the vital work our Welfare Team does in the community. You'll get an insight into the support they've provided and their impact throughout 2024.

We'll also reflect on the recent restructure, the challenges it brought, how the charity has thoughtfully adapted, and how these changes have helped us emerge more resilient and focused on our mission. It's only thanks to supporters like you that we've been able to continue the work we do, rescuing, rehabilitating and caring for hundreds of equines both on-site and in foster homes around the UK.

There are stories here that you may recognise, like Snowbunting and Puffin's rescue, but we know you love to hear about their progression and hopefully we're also sharing some brand-new updates.

Once again, thank you for the endless support you provide. We hope you enjoy Annual Reflections 2024.

Best wishes
Bransby Horses



Together, We Achieved *Strong Growth in 2024*

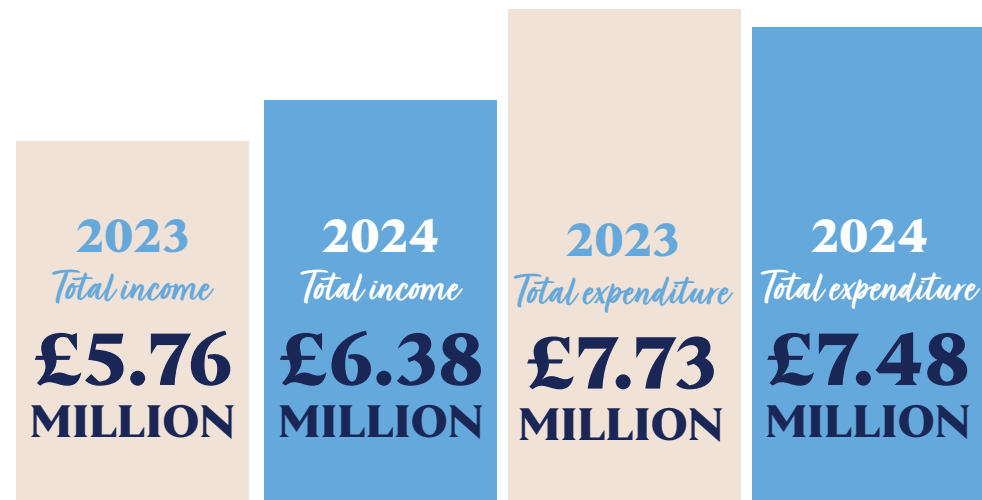
At Bransby Horses, we understand that our work is only possible thanks to the trust, kindness, and generosity of our supporters. We take this responsibility extremely seriously and are dedicated to using every donation in the most effective way possible to help equines in need.

Despite the gradual fall in inflation and stabilising interest rates, rising costs have continued to place significant pressure on the charity's finances in 2024. We have taken proactive steps to reduce expenditure while maintaining our commitment to providing exceptional care to all our equines and supporting the well-being of our dedicated staff.

Looking ahead to 2025, further increases in minimum wages and employer national insurance contributions will create additional financial challenges. As a charity, we are unable to pass on these costs, so we remain focused on managing them prudently and using our income wisely. Our trustees and advisors regularly review the charity's finances, ensuring strong governance and careful oversight. We're pleased to share that our investments grew in value during 2024, which meant we could access funds when needed without reducing their overall worth.

In 2024, Bransby Horses reported a total income of £6.38 million, an increase from £5.76 million in 2023, with legacies making up 69% of this figure. Total expenditure stood at £7.48 million, with staff costs accounting for the largest portion. We achieved net income before tax of £620,445, against a net expenditure before tax of £547,279 in 2023.

We are deeply grateful to all who support us, enabling Bransby Horses to continue transforming lives for equines in need.



A Year of *Positive Change*

As much-valued supporters of Bransby Horses, we want to update you on the positive progress made since the restructuring of several of our teams last August.

You may recall that the restructure was necessary to address an unsustainable £2.5 million deficit budget and ensure we could continue our vital work to rescue, rehabilitate, and

rehome equines. We're delighted to report that the results of doing this work have been both positive and impactful.

Today, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our 140-strong team, we're successfully doing more with less. We now care for 250 equines across our five yards, reaching our target capacity, and remain as committed as ever to

supporting horses, donkeys, ponies, and mules in need, alongside our invaluable fosterers and welfare partners.

Critically, our Welfare Team has continued responding to every single call for help, providing essential advice and guidance. Our community rescue services have continued without interruption, and our rehoming programme is

stronger than ever thanks to the generous commitment of our foster partners, whom we continue to support extensively.

Behind the scenes, significant operational changes have improved efficiency and financial resilience. By reducing reliance on external contractors, bringing more work in-house, and streamlining processes, so far this financial year we have achieved a further reduction in costs of over £300,000. These prudent measures have ensured that every pound entrusted to us by our supporters is working

harder than ever for the equines in our care.

Alongside these savings, we have also seen a welcome increase in income, thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters and some exceptional legacy gifts. Together, these factors have enabled us to reduce our deficit dramatically - a remarkable improvement from the £2.2 million we budgeted for last year, and far surpassing our initial savings target. While this progress is encouraging, the need for ongoing support remains as great as ever, ensuring we can continue to meet rising demand and

respond to unforeseen challenges.

Building on these achievements, we are now well underway with the second phase of our transformation. Since September, we have been undertaking a comprehensive review of our assets and facilities to identify further opportunities to reduce costs and generate income. This work is already yielding promising possibilities, which we're actively exploring and developing. We look forward to sharing more about these initiatives as they progress.



For over 50 years, Bransby Horses has proudly stood as a beacon of hope, transforming the lives of countless equines. Thanks to your continued support and the positive changes we've already made - and those still to come - we're confident our charity will be here, delivering on our important mission, for many years to come.



Snowbunting and Puffin: *Flying the Nest*

For avid readers of Bransby Life and those who attended our 2024 VIP Days, you will probably be familiar with Welsh ponies Snowbunting and Puffin. They were brought into our care in November 2023 after being abandoned in a field in Flamborough, East Yorkshire. The two were suffering from high worm burdens and malnourishment, with Puffin only six-months-old at the time, but we were so happy they were finally safe.

Since then, mother and son have thrived at Bransby Horses, with Puffin growing into a cheeky and adorable yearling. He's also gone through the gradual weaning process, slowly discovering what life is like without his mum and making new friends.

Both ponies progressed so much that they were soon ready for the final stage of their journey at Bransby Horses, rehoming.

Equines who are ready to find their Perfect Partner will often appear on our website, giving potential fosterers the chance to apply for that equine and offer them a new home. Snowbunting's profile was added to the website in mid-October, and it took less than two weeks for someone to snap her up.

Our rehoming process ensures that the right equine is matched with the right home, with fosterers undergoing two visits before they can take the equine home.

Snowbunting's Fosterer fell in love with her at first sight, and there was no doubt Snow Bunting would be coming home with them.

Snowbunting has moved into a wonderful family home and is living with another Bransby Horses pony, Party Popper. Now affectionately known as 'Bunty', Snowbunting was a little unsure of her surroundings at first, but lots of love and understanding from her fosterers has helped her find her feet and she soon settled in.

Puffin wasn't ready for rehoming until a few months later, giving his handlers a bit more time to work on his training and help him mature. But at the end of May, Puffin found his Perfect Partner.

His new fosterers loved him from the moment they met and couldn't wait to introduce him to his new home.

While Puffin and Snowbunting no longer live on site, they will remain under our care

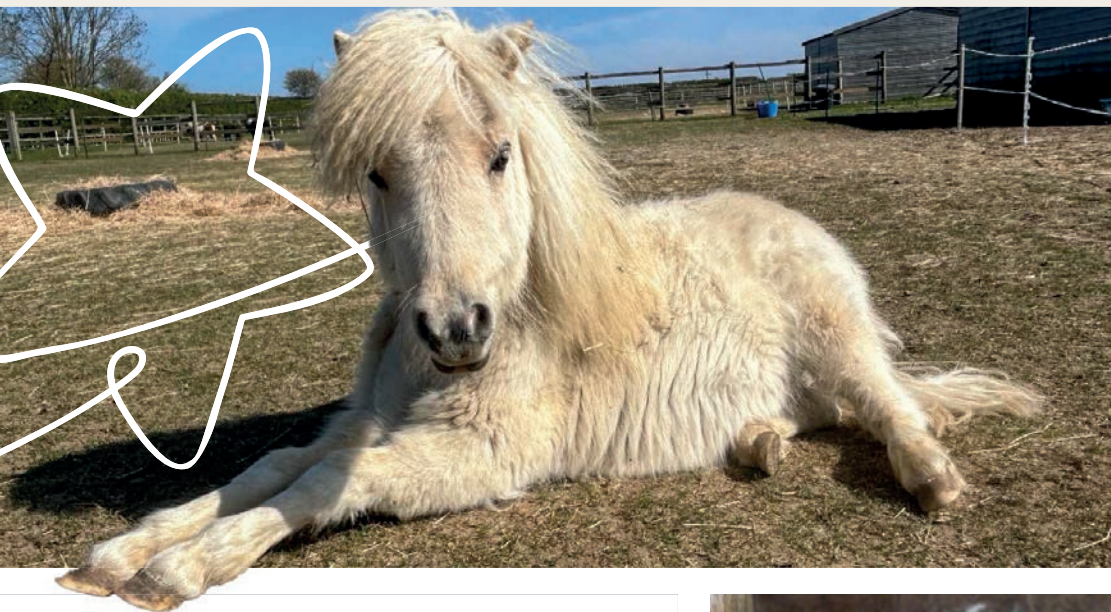
for the rest of their lives, ensuring they will never know abandonment or neglect again. We look forward to providing our Friends members with future updates on these two ponies as they navigate new environments and new adventures.



**Some of you
may have met
Snowbunting
at our 2024
VIP Day**

Say hello to our new Sponsorship star

At Bransby Horses, we love to give our Friends members the latest stories and charity updates before they're shared with our wider audience. Which is why we're so pleased to share with you, our new Sponsorship Stars for 2025.



say hello to...

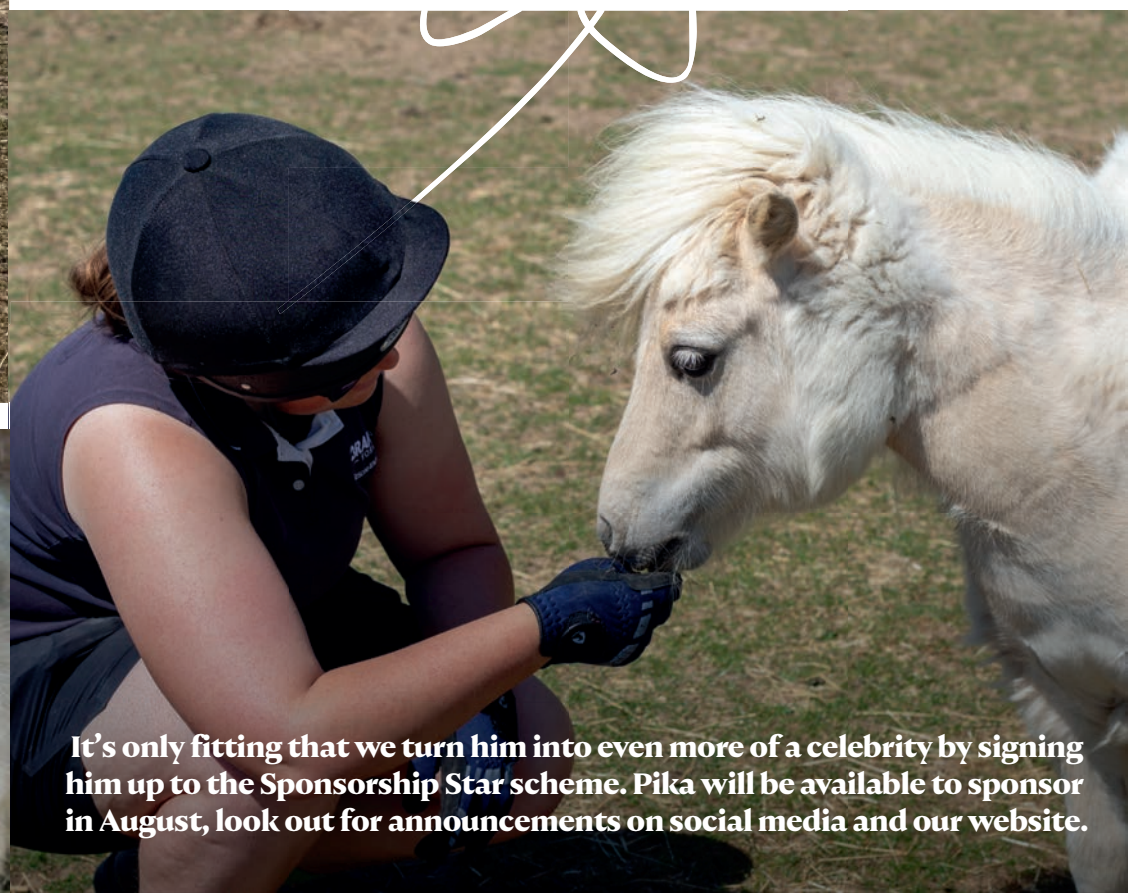
Pika



As the 11th and youngest star to join the scheme, only celebrating his first birthday last month, we know his future supporters will enjoy following his journey as he matures and discovers all that life has to offer.



Born into our care back in 2024, some of you may be familiar with the arrival of Pika. Weighing just 12 kilograms and standing at only 4hh, he was a star from day one.



It's only fitting that we turn him into even more of a celebrity by signing him up to the Sponsorship Star scheme. Pika will be available to sponsor in August, look out for announcements on social media and our website.

King Fergus and the Horrid Headcollar

Every equine that arrives at Bransby Horses requires a training and handling regime tailored specifically to them, with some more complex than others. But 13hh Welsh pony King Fergus, is a different ballgame altogether. King Fergus was signed over to the charity in March 2021 along with seven other equines, as part of a much larger multi-agency intervention. We worked alongside World Horse Welfare, Redwings and the RSPCA to rescue a group of equines who were living in unsuitable conditions.

He arrived as an eight-year-old, unhandled stallion, very nervous and reactive to his handlers, preferring to keep himself at a distance. King Fergus had a lack of trust in humans and a fear of being restrained with a headcollar, making it particularly difficult to catch him for necessary medical treatments or assessments.

When he felt afraid or pressured, he would bolt away from his handler. This behaviour would become very dangerous if it continued, even though the team knew he wasn't trying to hurt anyone. They put a plan together to help King Fergus build some trust and gain some confidence. The team worked hard to build a good relationship with him, using positive reinforcement training and taking everything at his pace. King Fergus felt most comfortable when working one-on-one with a particular handler and took a liking to target training.

Target training is a technique often used alongside clicker training, encouraging an equine to touch a specific target, using a clicker and rewarding them with a treat when they do so. Instead of leading King Fergus with a headcollar, his handler uses a moving target for him to follow, preventing him from feeling restricted.

For King Fergus this was a huge step, allowing his handler to provide him with necessary care such as clipping, brushing, farrier and veterinary treatments, without pushing him out of his comfort zone. Four years later and this way of handling is still used for King Fergus. While his progress is slow, he has come a long way since his arrival and is a testament to the kindness and patience of our yard teams.

It's unlikely King Fergus will ever be rehomed due to his complex needs, but he has a home for life at Bransby Horses, and his handler Megan will continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for him to thrive in.





You are Cordially Invited to the Bransby Horses VIP Day 2025, taking place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th of September

Our VIP Days are a chance to give back to the wonderful supporters who allow us to continue the all-important work we do within the equine community. Every year, we provide Friends members an exclusive behind-the-scenes view of the charity, including yard tours, talks, and meet-and-greets with well-known equines.

We often host around 70 members over the course of two days, so if you're

interested in attending, please get in touch with our Supporter Relations team as soon as possible by calling 01427 788 464 or emailing admin@bransbyhorses.co.uk. Each member can bring a maximum of one guest with them.

You may also wish to book afternoon tea after the final talk of the day. This is available at £16pp and must be booked in advance, let us know if this is something

you're interested in when securing your place. Due to this event taking place at Bransby Horses in Lincoln, we know that not everyone is able to attend, but we will be sending out an exclusive VIP Day Round-Up to all Friends members after the event. This will give you the opportunity to read about the event and what a few of our supporters were able to experience. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Leave a Legacy Change a Life

A gift in your Will to Bransby Horses can help give hundreds of rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules a second chance at life.

For over 50 years, we've been here for equines in need—and thanks to supporters like you, we can continue our vital work for generations to come.

Why leave a legacy gift to Bransby Horses?

You may have grown up with horses, shared a special bond with one, or simply want to make a difference to the lives of animals who rely on kindness to survive. Whatever your reason, your legacy could be life-changing.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps us provide lifelong care, emergency rescue, and brighter futures for equines who need us most.

Every year, it costs over £7 million to run the charity

Your legacy can help ensure that care never stops

Speak to our friendly Legacy team to learn more about how to leave a gift in your Will. Call 01427 788464 or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/legacies

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Bert's needs were complex



Bert is now forever safe



A New Beginning

Dove's Journey to Recovery



At the start of 2025, Bransby Horses received a welfare report regarding a group of cobs at a location in **South Yorkshire**. Upon attending, our field officers discovered one pony that they were particularly concerned about, a piebald filly we named Dove, thought to be between one and two years old.

We were able to work with the owner, who signed the

filly over as a welfare concern, and with the assistance of the Bransby Horses Rescue Support Team, Dove was transferred to our Animal Reception Centre (ARC).

Dove arrived with a very dull, lethargic demeanour, she was very weak, had severe diarrhoea, blood tests showed her liver was inflamed or damaged, she had difficulty eating

anything other than grass, overgrown hooves, a matted coat and a severe lice infestation.

Equine Welfare Deputy Team Leader Mia Miller said, "It was very touch and go whether she would make it or not due to how poorly she was when she first arrived."

The team were unsure what had caused her weight loss

and immediately started to investigate possible causes, while trying to get her to eat properly. Dove's coat was completely clipped, allowing the team to treat her lice infestation and remove any matting, her hooves were trimmed down to the correct length, and she was given liver supplements.

But despite all the issues Dove arrived with, she quickly started to improve and soon was spending the majority of her time out in the field, which hugely impacted her weight gain journey. She arrived at the ARC weighing 161kg with a body condition score of 1, and just two months later had gained 72.5kg with a new body condition score of 3.5.

Mia told us, "Dove is the sweetest mare ever; she loved any human interaction, she would chatter at anyone who walked by. Dove lacked life skills due to her age, but she took everything in her own stride and was good for everything. She showed how much a fighter she was. We all were very unsure on her chances of pulling through and she defeated all odds, stealing all of our hearts in the process."

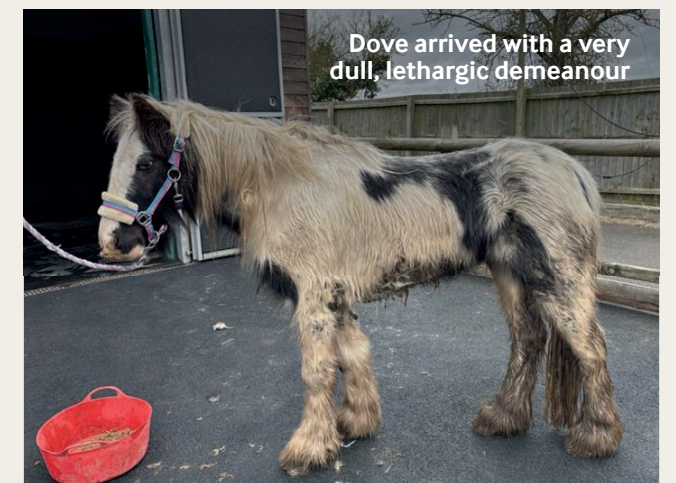
Now on the Main Yard, Dove has started her journey to

rehome, where she'll be taken through the different levels of training and rehabilitation to prepare her for life away from Bransby Horses. Dove's handlers have introduced her to clipping, voice commands, mane and tail spray, grooming and the farrier to name a few, all at a pace that works for her.

Handler Laura Holmes said, "Dove is a quiet girl, who has had much invasive

treatment due to her admission care and building a relationship is essential in shaping her handling plan for the best education possible."

We can't wait to update our Friends members on Dove and how she progresses both at Bransby Horses and beyond. Her rescue and rehabilitation were only made possible from the incredible support people like you provide.



Sickness, Support **and Second Chances**

Some of you may be familiar with the story of Rex and Lotso, two ponies brought to Bransby Horses after a member of the public woke up to discover them dumped on their land, both with extremely long feet and looking very unwell. No owner came forward to claim them, and they were signed over into our care. Their hooves were severely overgrown; they were both underweight and had mud and faecal matter matted into their tail and halfway up their bodies. Not only did they need immediate attention to their hooves, but they also needed worming, castrating, and dental work.

The team worked hard to help Rex and Lotso receive the care and attention they both required, and it wasn't long before they started to see a difference. With their hooves the correct length, their weight back up to normal, and settled into a handling routine, they were good candidates for rehoming.

Instead of advertising Rex on our website like we normally do, he was put forward to the British Horse Society's (BHS) Second Chance rehoming project, aimed at helping rescued equines find their forever home. The scheme focuses on equines who have experienced mistreatment, cruelty and neglect, pairing them with a BHS Approved Centre. Every centre has BHS-qualified professionals who are trained to handle these kinds of equines, providing them with a new home and further rehabilitation. Before we knew it, Rex had been paired with a Trekking Centre based in Lancashire, and he departed from Bransby Horses in March of this year. "For twenty years we have worked with a changing and developing team of locally bred Fell ponies who have always suited our trekking and nurturing horsemanship business." Said fosterer Christine, "We had been keeping an eye out for an older, sensible pony – but they are gold dust. An 11hh five-year-old cob was not really on our list, but this has proved that thinking outside the box can sometimes be the best thing.

"Rex settled down immediately with the super bonus that he is happy in his own company. He is gradually meeting our other ponies with the accompanying excitement of equine friendship. He has relaxed into a settled routine with ongoing extra small challenges."

Rex is already a popular resident with clients aged seven to 70, allowing them to lead, brush and fuss him without a problem. We are so pleased Rex is thriving in his new home, and we can't wait to provide our Friends members with future updates on his adventures.



External Efforts

Why our Welfare Team is So Important

We often focus on the work that happens on-site, equines that come into our care and the rehabilitation and rehoming journeys that we love to share. But some of the most important work we do is away from the charity altogether, organised by our incredible Welfare Team who spend every day trying to prevent equine welfare concerns before they arise.

Emergency Services

Welfare Campaigns Officer Rachel Dixon spends a lot of time offering advice and training to emergency

services such as Lincolnshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police and Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Large Animal Fire & Rescue. While they may come across equines in their role, they might not know how to understand their behaviour or how to handle them, potentially leading to dangerous situations.

Rachel works to educate those in the emergency services on this topic, so they can keep themselves, the public, and any equines safe. She's also built-up positive relationships with

allied professionals, making them aware of the charity and the support we can provide if needed. This support reaches out to all kinds of equine professionals, including those who work for the RSPCA, transporters, as well as emergency services, all within a two-hour radius.

Owner advice and support

The field officers at Bransby Horses do an incredible job of responding to welfare concerns across Lincolnshire and beyond. While their role is essential

for equines who are eventually brought to the charity, it is also vital for the ones that don't.

In 2024, only 5% of the equines our field officers assessed ended up in our care. The primary goal isn't to take in every horse, pony, donkey and mule we may be concerned about, we always try and work with the owners first, providing support and advice to help remedy the situation.

Even though all of this is done off-site or away from the public eye, it doesn't make it any less important than our visible efforts. Keep a look out in the next edition of Bransby Life for more information on our Welfare Team and the preventative work they do to influence change.

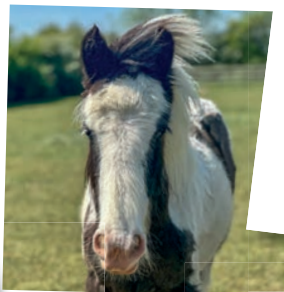


2023 in numbers

292 Total number of equines onsite	175 Total welfare reports	162 Private intake requests	241 Horses affected by private intake requests
205 Equines supported at health clinics	95 Number of welfare admissions	133 Calls to the charity for welfare advice	1622 Number of equines seen by the Welfare team

2024 in numbers

262 Total number of equines onsite	193 Total welfare reports	181 Private intake requests	330 Horses affected by private intake requests
241 Equines supported at health clinics	95 Number of welfare admissions	94 Calls to the charity for welfare advice	2212 Number of equines seen by the Welfare team



THANK
you!



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