

Bransby *Life*

AUTUMN/WINTER 2023 • BransbyHorses.co.uk • 01427 788 464



BRANSBY
— HORSES —

ISSUE 28

Autumn/Winter 2023

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Cover photo

New Sponsorship Star Selene gets in the festive spirit

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Welcome to your Autumn/Winter issue!

Hello again and welcome to your Autumn/Winter issue of Bransby Life. The last 12 months have been busy for us as we continue to work on the delivery of our strategic plan, "Transforming the lives of equines together". Some good progress has been made, which you will read about in this issue, but with the ongoing increase in costs impacting us all, and rising inflation meaning that £10 today is worth much less than it was even five years ago, it is important that we approach some of this work with caution. Our over-arching focus remains to ensure that we are here to make positive impacts on horses that need us.

Your ongoing support is vital to us and in this issue you will read about some of the lives we have transformed together.

Supporting the charity can be done in many ways:

- You can choose to make a donation;
- You can make a purchase from our gift guide;
- Play the lottery for £1 a ticket;
- Take advantage of our free Will writing service and consider leaving your own legacy to help horses in need; or
- You can gift your time and become a volunteer trustee (see below).

However you choose to support us, you enable us to continue to give a voice to mistreated and neglected equines, for which I am personally extremely grateful.

Our work is overseen by a Board of Trustees who give their time and use their skills and experience to support the charity and help us to achieve our objectives. We are now looking for more volunteers to join our Board; if you are interested in becoming a trustee of Bransby Horses and would like to find out more about the role, please contact us by email: Trustees@bransbyhorses.co.uk

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of Bransby Life and wish you a happy festive season.

Jo Snell, CEO



Jo pictured with Theodore

LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM CARE

At the end of May, we crossed the 300 threshold with 310 equines living across our two Lincolnshire sites, and a further 600-plus living in the loving care of our Bransby Family Fosterers. Since our last magazine, we've provided support and advice to over 56 horse owners and received more than 73 welfare concerns. Sadly, we also received 60 requests to take over ownership of horses living in private homes, with concerns over finances or loss of land being the most common reasons given.

Our Field Officers visited 177 new equines and re-visited 477 within a five-month period. We also attended three BHS Healthcare & Education Clinics and across these events, saw a total of 156 equines.

Our Make a Difference events continued with great attendance, giving us the opportunity to share our knowledge with horse owners on a variety of equine welfare, health and wellbeing topics. Read more on page 15.

We would not have achieved any of this without you. It's only thanks to your long-term support that we can continue our regular activities alongside our reactive work to provide many equines like Gerald – found by worried members of the public collapsed in a ditch covered with lice and maggots – and Steele – retired from serving with Greater Manchester Police

– with a forever home.

Rescued by a nearby RSPCA team, Gerald was signed over to Bransby Horses for the long-term specialist care he needed. At only two-years-old it was touch and go.

As well as advanced liver disease and severe dental problems he also needed a blood transfusion. Welfare Manager Rachel Jenkinson said: "Despite his issues Gerald showed a

real determination to get better. His conditions were difficult to treat as he had multiple issues but despite being close to death, he pulled through on more than one occasion. He's a lovely pony and the team who work with him are very fond of him."

Gerald will stay in the care of Bransby Horses due to the lifelong medical conditions caused by his life before rescue.

Steele spent 11 years with Greater Manchester Police and went on to work in the aftermath of the Manchester Arena bombing and first major terrorist evacuation of Manchester United Football Club. Steele was forced to retire earlier than expected due

to failing eyesight and found his forever home with us in 2021. This brave and intelligent boy is enjoying his retirement with specialist care and adaptations thanks to your kind generosity.

Gerald and Steele's journeys highlight the long-term investment required to fully care for our horses and ponies and every kind donation and the gifts we receive in Wills helps fund their care.

Gerald will stay in our care due to his medical conditions caused by his life before rescue



Gerald



Steele



Arya and Daenerys

WINTER IS COMING

Supporters who read our Autumn/Winter 2021 issue may remember our Game of Thrones group, named after the popular television series. After assisting with an ongoing RSPCA rescue, we took three shy but inquisitive mares into our care in August 2020; mum, Sansa (20 years old) and daughters, Daenerys (two years old) and Arya (four months old). In March 2021, Sansa gave birth to the beautiful Lyanna. Three years on from their rescue, we

wanted to share the latest update.

Sansa

Following the sad passing of Sansa in late 2022, we are all still very much missing the dedicated matriarch of this group. Sansa suffered from ongoing lameness and severe back pain due to the conditions she was kept in prior to her rescue. In December last year, we found her pain had become unmanageable and made the very difficult decision to let her

go. We take comfort from the fact Sansa's final years were as comfortable and happy as they could be and that she has left an incredible legacy with her daughters.

Lyanna

Born at Bransby Horses after her mother arrived heavily in-foal, Welsh pony Lyanna has begun the next chapter of her life. After spending her first year learning to behave for the farrier and dentist, live independently of her mother,

Interested in rehoming a Bransby Horses equine?

Visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/Perfect-Partner or call 01427 788 464

load and travel in a trailer and walk on a lead-rein, we were delighted to match her with her Perfect Partner in late 2022.

Six months on we went to visit Lyanna who has settled in really well and is still full of character, continuing to grow in confidence and personality every day. Her new fosterer, Beth said: "The second she walked off the trailer, I could tell she just breathed and said 'yes, this is home, this is fine for me thank you'. Since that day, she's been superb with everything.

"She came to be a little playmate for our six month old filly and she definitely understood the assignment. All they do is play and have the best time."

Arya and Daenerys

Sansa's other two daughters continue to live with us here onsite. We're happy to report our girls have blossomed into lovely ponies since their rescue. It is our hope that following further training, they will follow in their little sister's footsteps on our Perfect Partner rehoming scheme.

Over the summer, Arya and Daenerys enjoyed each other's company living on one of our grazing track systems designed to encourage horses to travel more like they

would in the wild. Their grazing is supplemented with hay/straw depending on their weight, which is placed at the opposite end to their water source to again encourage more movement. This has really helped them maintain a healthy weight which is important for native pony breeds and will set them up well for winter.

Daenerys has been receiving training for routine handling such as dentist visits, injections and blood tests. Clicker training is a form of positive reinforcement that helps build positive associations with our team of vets. She has made great progress but because of her life before rescue, it will take time for Daenerys to fully relax. If her education goes well, her next step will be to see if she enjoys ridden training.

Arya has been working on building her confidence since her rescue and is making steady progress, so much so that she has been put forward for rehoming as a Companion with Potential. This means Arya's Perfect Partner could explore her ridden potential when she is old enough.

We are so pleased with the progress all three of our Game of Thrones girls have made during their time with us and we couldn't be prouder.

Because of her life before rescue, it will take time for Daenerys to fully relax



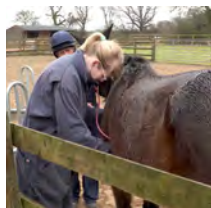
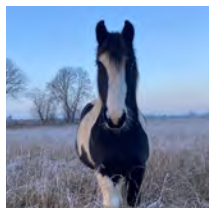
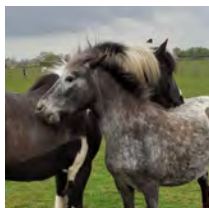
Sansa



Lyanna and Beth

No space at home for a pony but still want to help? Sponsor one of our fabulous Stars from £3 a month. See page 18 for more information

THE FIVE DOMAINS OF ANIMAL WELFARE



Since 1965, animal welfare organisations have referred to the 'The Five Freedoms' which have assisted us with assessing animal welfare. This was further strengthened in 2006 with the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which consisted of five needs:

1. **Need for a suitable environment**
2. **Need for a suitable diet**
3. **Need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns**
4. **Need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals**
5. **Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.**

These were created to help us ensure that an animal's essential needs are met as defined in legislation, as well as helping us to understand the welfare standards we should all be providing and promoting.

However, in all the years which have passed, our knowledge and understanding of animal welfare has expanded and it has become vital to re-examine the way we look at and consider animal welfare so we can ensure animals live their best possible life.

The Five Freedoms and Five Domains frameworks contain essentially the same five elements. However, the Five Domains explore the mental state of an animal in more detail and acknowledges how, for every physical

aspect that is affected, there may be an accompanying emotion or subjective experience which may also affect welfare. This is useful in terms of reinforcing the message that emotional needs are equally as important as the physical needs for animals.

The Five Domains are the most recent evolution of the Five Freedoms and provides us with a means to approach animal welfare in a more holistic manner, meaning we are not just meeting their most basic of needs, but we are making decisions that can further promote their physical and mental wellbeing.

The Five Domains Model

As you can see, the Five Domains overlap and are helping us move beyond simply providing the means for animals to live; allowing us to provide opportunities to ensure animals have a life worth living.

Behavioural Interactions

This includes interactions with humans, animals and their environment. Behaviour is the way in which an animal behaves in response to a particular situation or stimulus. Examples of horse behaviour include playing, eating and sleeping.

Nutrition

Nutrition is the process of obtaining the food necessary for health and growth. Taking

If you notice that an equine's basic needs (The Five Domains) aren't being met, you can get in touch with us in confidence for advice, guidance or to request our intervention.

the time to learn about what food and drink animals need and providing them with the right amount is very important. A horse's diet can also affect their mental state. Providing the right diet can bring a horse pleasure and satisfaction. A poor diet may result in hunger, thirst, discomfort and/or illness.

Mental State

Just like the importance of understanding human mental health, this domain ensures we think about what animals may be experiencing and feeling too.

Health

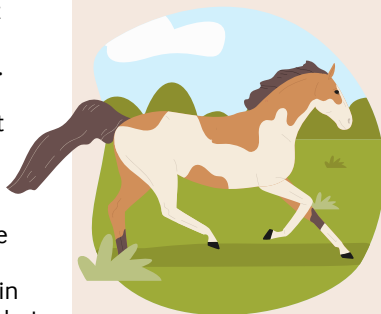
Health is defined as the state of being free from injury or illness. Animals can be in good or bad health for a variety of reasons. A horse's health can also affect its mental state.

Physical Environment

The environment is the surroundings in which an animal lives and operates. Providing a safe and comfortable home for animals is very important. A horse's environment can also affect its mental state. Providing the right environment can make a horse feel safe, comfortable and happy. A change in the environment may make a horse feel uncomfortable or scared.

How can you identify a welfare concern?

Using the principles outlined in the 'Five Domains Model' will help everyone start thinking about the wellbeing of an equine. Below are some of the basic needs which can lead to welfare concerns that you can look out for when out and about.



Behaviour

Are they able to interact with a companion? Has the horse been given the opportunity to express normal behaviour, mutual grooming, play with enrichment? Are they relaxed, fearful or overexcited?

Nutrition

Does the horse have access to clean fresh water and grass / forage?



Mental State

Are they relaxed, playing, eating, content and interacting with other horses and humans?



Health

Does the horse look underweight or overweight? Are they free from injury and disease?



Environment

Does the field have correct fencing, space, shelter from hot/cold/wet weather?

**To report a welfare concern, contact us on
01427 787 369, email welfare@bransbyhorses.co.uk
or visit [BransbyHorses.co.uk/horse-in-need](https://www.bransbyhorses.co.uk/horse-in-need)**



What is a cob *and* why are they popular?

Cobs are one of the most popular types of horses found in the UK and out of 1,000 equines in our care, they make up almost 45 per cent of our residents. There are several varieties, from the 'traditional'

or 'Gypsy cob' with a long flowing mane, tail and thick feathering (long hair) on the legs to the types 'show cob' and Welsh cobs.

A 'type' of horse (such as a cob) describes the animal's

physical appearance, not always its temperament. While cobs have a reputation for being steady and sensible (and many are), some can be quite reactive and naturally quick.

The traditional cob, with its striking looks and reputation for being steady, sound and forgiving, makes the ideal amateur ride in almost every discipline. As a type, cobs are probably the horse nearly every rider in the UK will have started out on and can be found in riding schools, equestrian colleges and trekking centres as their sincere nature makes

Did you *know?*

Cobs are prone to suffering from conditions called mallenders and sallenders. Mallenders are scabs on the hind legs, to the front of the hock joints and sallenders occur behind the knee on the forelegs. They are a result of over-production of keratin in the body and should be seen and treated by a vet.

Do you remember Stig's rescue? Stig is a cob who went from being dumped on a landfill site to becoming the perfect companion pony and is now happy and healthy. Read his story at BransbyHorses.co.uk/Stig

them perfect 'school masters' for nervous and experienced riders alike.

Cobs of each type are generally robust however, like all native breeds that thrive on rough moorland, laminitis poses a risk if the animals' diet is too rich. Skin conditions can also be a problem for cobs, particularly around the legs.

Emaciated, abandoned cob becomes college superstar

Tudor is a 14.1hh cob who came to us in 2012. He had been abandoned, was very thin and worm infested.

The college of West Anglia rehomed him in 2015, where they continued his education and backed him to be ridden. Tudor has been with the college for over seven years now and is very popular.

Sarah Hackney, Bransby Horses Rehoming Coach said: "To be there when he arrived as part of a large group of youngsters in a very poor condition, to now being able to see what Tudor is doing is such a huge part of why we do the work we do."

Cobs found running loose on Humber Bridge find forever home

Leicester was one of four young horses to hit the local headlines when they were found running loose across the Humber Bridge in 2018. Luckily Humberside Police were able to

move them to safety before we took them in.

The horses named as Lincoln, Leicester, York and Hamilton, were all thought to be under a year old. Hamilton sadly didn't make it due to his condition as a result of his previous life, but the remaining three were in better health.

Thankfully, none of them sustained any injuries or caused any major road incidents, although this could have been the reality.

They were all extremely nervous, so we needed to allow the group time to adjust and settle into their new surroundings before starting rehabilitation.

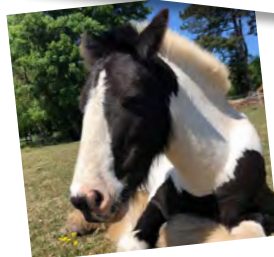
Rehoming Team member, Heidi Platt, fell in love with Leicester and fostered him following his rehabilitation in 2021. Heidi said: "I have backed him and we are now out hacking together - we have taken it slow and he has taken everything in his stride. He is an absolute gem and will always give 100% of what is asked of him... especially if there is a treat afterwards. He is my absolute world."

York lives with us here at Bransby Horses and Lincoln is also doing well in a foster home.

If you love cobs like we do, you'll find plenty of them in the fields surrounding our Visitor Centre. Or you can read more on our website and even find your Perfect Partner, as there are currently many lovable cobs looking for their forever home.



Tudor



Lincoln



Leicester and Heidi



York

We've come to know cobs pretty well over the years and many of our teams have rehomed ones they've grown to love through working here. Our expertise helps us identify issues quicker and provide early intervention.



Spring Lottery Winner **OVER THE MOON**

You've no doubt heard of the National Lottery but what about the Bransby Horses Lottery?

That's right, we have a lottery with a first prize of £2,000 which raises important funds for our continuing rescue and welfare work.

This year's spring lottery was won by one of our most loyal supporters, who regularly donates to Bransby Horses in memory of his late wife who loved horses.

Richard Rushworthy (89), who lives in the North East, was so delighted to win £2,000 he immediately donated £200 of his winnings back to us.

He said: "I couldn't believe I'd won. I donated some back to Bransby Horses and then gave another £200 to each of my three children.

"Myself and my partner used the rest of my winnings to go on a mystery coach tour and we had a lovely time. I support Bransby Horses because my late wife did – we had horses in our younger days. I hope to pay you a visit one day as I've never been."

Mr Rushworthy (pictured below), who recently flew in a spitfire and hopes to do so again very soon, added that he would recommend playing our lottery as 'you never know'.

You can play for as little as £1 and be in with a chance of winning £50 to £2,000! Don't forget you could pass any spare tickets to your friends, family and neighbours so that they too could be in with a chance of winning.

Thanks to your support we are able to act as soon as we can for equines in urgent need of our care, like those we found in Bardney living in miserable conditions with little or no food and in desperate need of veterinary attention.

Whilst we were unable to save them all (a one-year-old pony was found in so much pain an independent vet advised he be euthanased immediately), we were able to help the remaining 12, including Jasper pictured above, who are all now safe in our care.

Without the funds raised through this lottery, we wouldn't be able to investigate welfare concerns nor care for those we rescue every year.



**Want to order additional lottery tickets for friends and family?
Call 01427 788 464 or email us at mail@bransbyhorses.co.uk**

Sad loss of a pony rescued from heart-breaking living conditions

When an equine first arrives in our care, their future is often uncertain.

For those that have come from a situation of neglect, their health may have been compromised by their troubled past. This can sadly mean that despite our best efforts, we are not always able to help them.

One such horse was a little mare called Hobbit.

Hobbit came to us with a number of other equines and her feet were clearly in very poor condition and in need of immediate attention from a farrier and vet.

In the following months we worked to trim her feet back to where they should be and get her pain under control.

She had good and bad days. Bransby Horses' vet Rachel Muir said: "She had been with us for a few weeks but, one day it was clear to us Hobbit was very unhappy. She was reluctant to move or pick her feet up, which was unlike her.

"This was a new source of foot pain in her already fragile feet and as her discomfort level



Hobbit was 19 years old and may have suffered for many years before she came to us

after weeks of remedial farriery and consistent pain relief was not improving as we hoped, we sadly ran out of options."

After some further diagnostics and very difficult conversations, we decided that Hobbit's future quality of life would be unacceptably poor, despite our best efforts, due to the conditions she'd been left with from her life before we rescued her.

As there was no longer anything that could be done to relieve her pain, the heart-breaking decision was made to say goodbye.

Hobbit was 19 years old and may have suffered for many years before she came to us.

Rachel added: "Sadly the long-term effect of not receiving correct attention from a farrier caused irreversible damage to the internal structure of her feet. This is something we could not correct.

"In these heart-breaking situations we take comfort from knowing we did everything we could for Hobbit and gave her the very best care possible."

Following a prosecution by the RSPCA, Hobbit's

previous owner was convicted of two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to a total of 13 horses and was sentenced to 20 weeks' immediate custody, banned from keeping all animals for 10 years and ordered to pay £500 costs.

We were so touched by Hobbit's story that we wanted to share it with you. Without your kind generosity, Hobbit would not have had the intervention she so desperately needed and the end of life care from our teams.

Rehoming Our Rescued Horses

Finding homes for equines in our care, where they are safe, loved and appropriately cared for, is one of the most rewarding elements of our work. Our Perfect Partner rehoming scheme offers some of our equines the chance to enjoy life in a carefully selected loan home, whilst freeing up time and space for the rescue and rehabilitation of more animals that need our help.

Despite having more than 600 living in foster homes across the UK, we remain in touch with every single fosterer and will always take an animal back into our care should their circumstances change.

Two ponies making the most of this special relationship are Sherlock and Nelson.

Nelson is a 12hh part-bred Dartmoor pony who arrived with a group of abandoned equines when he was less than a year old.

Our Rehoming Team said: "Nelson was such a character. Since we first put him on the Perfect Partner rehoming scheme he has been in a couple of great long-term homes as a lead-rein pony. He's a great cheeky chap with so much personality."

And the family lucky enough to have him now have loved every minute with him so far.



Nelson

"It's been great to know we have given two ponies that've not had the best start in life, a loving home."

Mum, Camille said: "I have two young boys and a young nephew, they are all loud and energetic, so we were looking for a well-behaved but confident sturdy pony to become their new best friend. We were able to offer more than enough love for the right pony and Nelson has been a fantastic experience of rehoming [an equine from a charity]."

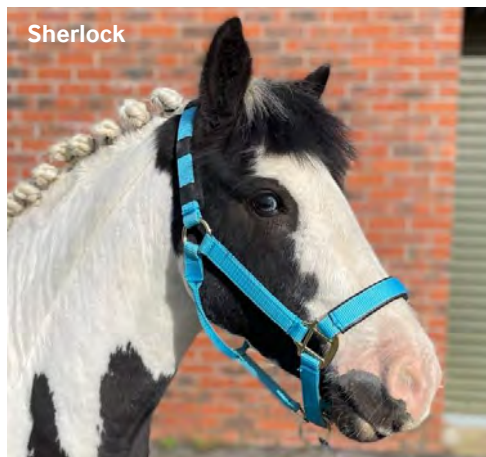
Camille added: "Everyone at Bransby Horses was amazing during the rehoming process and continue to be, they're always interested to hear how Nelson is doing and love to see his photo updates. We are so pleased we rehomed him and would like to say thank you to the charity for everything they have done."

Earlier this year Nelson's fosterers successfully applied for another pony from us called Sherlock.

Sherlock is a 12.1hh piebald cob gelding (castrated male) who came to Bransby Horses having been found running loose by a roadside with another pony.

Camille continued: "Fostering from Bransby Horses has allowed us to have two ponies now without having to spend a fortune and it's been great to know we have given two ponies that've not had the best start in life, a loving home."

For anyone looking to buy a horse, pony or donkey please do consider our Perfect Partner rehoming scheme by visiting **BransbyHorses.co.uk/rehoming**



Sherlock

Want a pony but don't have the space? You can sponsor one or more of our equines through our Sponsorship Stars. Find out more on page 18 or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/sponsor

Create your legacy with our free Will writing

We have partnered with Bequeathed who work with hundreds of UK charities like ours to make it even easier for you, our loyal supporters, to make or update your Will – and it's completely free.

Having an up-to-date Will is the best way to make sure the people and causes you care about are looked after when you're gone.

To be able to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome all the horses, ponies, donkeys and mules that need our help, we rely entirely on donations from the public.

Legacies – also known as gifts in Wills – represent 69% of our yearly income and provide funding for three in four horses in our care; without these legacies, we would simply cease to exist and wouldn't be here for the equines who need us.

Executive Director of Equine Welfare, Emma Carter said: "From our Field Officers investigating reports of neglect and abandonment, to our Rehoming Team placing our rehabilitated and healthy equines in their loving homes – legacies provide the essential funds for our daily activities.

"I'll never forget their impact during the different crises we've faced over the last few years either. Without them, I'm not sure we'd be there for horses in need in the same capacity as we are today."

The free Will service is available to anyone, regardless of whether they leave a gift for Bransby Horses.

A gift of this kind is an incredible way to celebrate your love for animals. Help us transform the lives of equines together with a legacy left to Bransby Horses in your free Will or Codicil.

If you have any questions, would like to request a legacy pack or would like to talk about making a free Will, please get in touch – we would be happy to talk you through everything.

To take up the free Will service just follow these simple steps:

- 1** Take a short questionnaire online or over the phone in as little as 20 minutes at BransbyHorses.co.uk/legacies or on 01427 788 464. Your Will is created from your answers which is then transferred to a legal professional.
- 2** Arrange a suitable time for a 30-minute in-person, telephone or video appointment with a legal professional. They will discuss your situation and your wishes and confirm the Will caters for your needs.
- 3** Receive your free Will to ensure it includes all you need and is legally correct, then sign and store safely with your solicitor or at home.



Legacies provide the essential funds for our daily activities

To create your legacy, please contact Debbie, Laura or Mel in the Legacy Team on 01427 788 464 or legacyofficer@bransbyhorses.co.uk or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/legacies

How our work in the community is changing attitudes



Rescue and rehabilitation is a large part of what we do but our work in the community is just as important in preventing mistreatment and neglect.

As a charity, Bransby Horses is committed to improving the care, health and wellbeing of all equines by building positive relationships with their owners and carers. We pride ourselves on being approachable and non-judgemental to offer help to owners which will benefit both them and their horses.

With our work in the community, we aim to influence and change attitudes to responsible equine ownership, from birth to end of life care, tackling myths and sharing what we do with our supporters. This often involves working with people who may not be aware of the work we do or services that we offer, as well as teaming up with other charities and organisations to increase our impact.

This includes attending annual horse fairs, assisting with the British Horse Society's (BHS) Healthcare and Education Clinics and hosting information evenings at our main site in Bransby, covering important topics from weight management and road safety through to worming.



Our talk on grazing track systems was very popular

Appleby Horse Fair

In June this year we worked alongside other animal welfare organisations to monitor equine health and wellbeing at the biggest traditional Gypsy Romany and Traveller fair in Europe. It was possibly the biggest fair yet with the sunny weather bringing in the crowds.

Six members of staff covered the four days, including Rachel Dixon who was involved in the multi-agency Equine Welfare Project Group activity.

This activity included asking fairgoers what changes, if any, they would like to see to make it the best possible event for horses. These responses will inform part of the work of the project over the next five years (2023-2028).

Rachel said: "The aim was for us to have open conversations with people attending the fair. Overall, it was really well-received and we hope it will help to improve welfare in a positive way without alienating the people who look after their horses well."

With our work in the community, we aim to influence and change attitudes to responsible equine ownership

British Horse Society Healthcare and Education Clinics

These events take place all over the country multiple times a year and welcomes horses and their owners who require advice, guidance or veterinary treatment. Many equine welfare organisations like us assist the BHS by sending our equine experts, from vets to Welfare Officers, to help in whatever way we can.

At the time of writing, we've attended clinics in Surrey, Bridgend and Cumbria, which saw a total of 158 horses –

75 horses were castrated, 119 received passports and microchips, and welfare support and advice was given on worming and hoof care.

Make a Difference Events

This year has seen the exciting return of our information evenings where our experienced team accompanied by industry sector experts, share their equine knowledge with horse owners.

The theme this year has been weight management and events have concentrated on key factors such as nutrition, grazing management, laminitis and hoof care.

These events have been well-attended with positive feedback and an additional event to cater for demand. Due to this year's success, we'll definitely see their return in 2024.

To find out more about our work, events and more, visit **BransbyHorses.co.uk**



Working with the BHS

There are a number of different ways you can help us to continue with our work in the community; call us on 01427 788 464 or visit 'How To Help' on our website.

Say hello to our new **Sponsorship** stars

After reading all about cobs on pages 8 and 9, you will understand why we have two fabulous cobs joining our other Sponsorship Stars! Our new recruits are 'chomping at the bit' to build their own fan base - could you be their first sponsorship supporter?

Frazzle



Frazzle

Frazzle has had a big impact at Bransby Horses since his arrival in 2016 at just two years of age and has quickly become a favourite with us all.

He was part of a group of horses who were signed into our care from the RSPCA as his needs were not being met and he was very thin, and at such an early stage in his life.

His feet were overgrown and he was showing signs of pain, so we immediately sought treatment. It was later discovered via X-ray that Frazzle had floating bone fragments in his feet which cause him to have intermittent lameness, meaning he will never be strong enough to be ridden. Frazzle was

also put on medication for a high worm burden, which was successful.

He was a nervous but inquisitive horse on his arrival but with patience, he soon began to gain trust. Now Frazzle loves people and is affectionately known as "The Labracob" (a cross between a Labrador and a cob) because he is extremely friendly and enjoys human interaction. He would stand all day to be groomed and fussed if he could.

During the day, Frazzle likes to be busy as he enjoys playing with each of his herd friends in the summer fields and can be visited onsite.

In preparation for his introduction as a Sponsorship Star, we arranged for Frazzle to attend his first ever photoshoot. He was a bit wary of this new experience at first, but after getting to know the photographer and relaxing into the shoot, we took some great shots and Frazzle enjoyed the attention.

We're sure Frazzle will soon relish his newfound sponsorship fame.

Your sponsorship contributions fund our rescue and welfare work as well as caring for the hundreds of equines we look after in Lincolnshire. For more information, call us on 01427 788 464.



Selene

Known as "Selene the Queen" this 13-year-old piebald cob joined us in 2019 and is proud mum to Quinn.

Selene was part of a widely reported huge rescue mission involving numerous animal welfare organisations. The RSPCA, Guildford Borough Council, Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, Bransby Horses, Redwings, The Horse Trust, The Donkey Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare, Dogs Trust and a number of vets assisted on the day. Rescuers discovered horses, dogs and farm animals living in utterly horrendous conditions.

In total more than 200 animals were removed by various charities from the Surrey farm in what was described as some of the most challenging and harrowing conditions that rescue workers had ever witnessed.

When Selene arrived at Bransby Horses she was in foal and soon gave birth to a beautiful colt (uncastrated male) called Quinn. The two of them received the best care and attention and are now living happy and healthy lives.

Selene is a sweet, quiet mare who has become confident within herself through months of rehabilitation work. Although she suffers from asthma, Selene doesn't let it stop her enjoying herself. She has been living with her friend Joules for nearly two years and is very settled in her routine. Joules and Selene are the best of friends and enjoy spending time in each other's company.

Because of her life before Bransby Horses, Selene requires constant reassurance from her handlers, but she often greets them with pricked ears and a little nicker (a noise horses make to greet herd members).

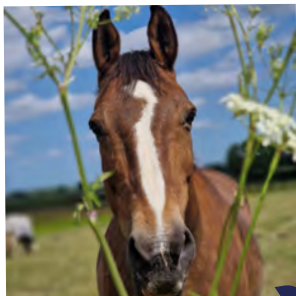
Both of our new Stars are eager to meet you! If you'd like to sponsor Frazzle or Selene from £3 a month, please complete our direct debit form or order form enclosed or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/ sponsor today and come to visit them soon.



Sponsoring one of our Stars makes a fantastic Christmas present. With your sponsorship, whether it be a gift or for yourself, you'll receive a welcome pack containing more information on your chosen equine, a lovely photo and keepsake plus regular updates throughout the year.

Sponsorship *stars*

Our Sponsorship Stars have been busy enjoying their summer, playing with their friends and making great memories with everyone involved in their care at Bransby Horses. Now the winter months are drawing in and days are getting shorter, it's time for all to prepare for the colder months ahead. **You can sponsor any of our fabulous Sponsorship Stars from just £3 per month – please add to your order form, call us on 01427 788 464 or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/sponsor**



Woody

Woody has been busy making new friends this year, most recently with a coloured cob called Ifan who lives on the track system with him at Walklands Yard. He has decided that Ifan is now his best friend and must go everywhere with him in order to keep him calm - no other equine will do! These two can often be found grazing near to each other.



Matilda

Practise makes perfect for **Womble** who has been busy learning to travel in a horse trailer – this is because he needs to learn to safely and calmly move from place to place. He isn't keen on small spaces as they make him nervous, so this training is helping. So far Womble has made good progress, managing to get on and off a few times with encouragement from his best pal, Rodney.



Womble

Matilda has been busy with delivering donkey training for our teams and enjoying another opportunity to be the centre of attention! She's been making sure she leads her herd from the front with her handlers close behind when out walking around the yards.



Pecan

Pecan's been having a great time playing and going for walks. He particularly enjoyed helping friend Alfie, a fellow Shetland pony, when on walks as part of his physiotherapy. Alfie has a condition called 'locking stifles' which is improved by exercise, so he is taken for walks and over poles on the ground to improve his muscle tone. Pecan was delighted to be able to help out a good friend and get his own steps in at the same time.

Over the summer the donkeys returned to grazing in the fields with **Nipper** leading the way when they moved from the barns into the field. He isn't looking forward to winter as he isn't a fan of the weather. If you've followed Nipper for a while you'll know that he doesn't like anything involving puddles or mud – generally anything that involves getting mucky or spoiling his beautifully groomed coat!



Nipper



Honour

Honour has been enjoying her new home and spending time out in the fields with her new friends, Minnie, Laila and BJ. She still likes to scratch against fences and gate posts, including her bottom, so some things don't change. Honour is on her best behaviour to try not to break the fences this time though. As Honour has now settled in her new home, this will be her last update as a Sponsorship Star. Through your support, you have made it possible for her to find a loving foster home and make space for more equines in need of our help.

Want more ways to show your support for your favourite Star? Our Sponsorship Star merchandise is available now – see page 30 and add to your order form or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/shop

Retired Police Horse SETTLES INTO LIFE AT BRANSBY HORSES

We were humbled and honoured to be able to offer police horse Pendleton, or Penny for short, a home following her well-earned retirement from London Metropolitan Police due to lameness after 11 years of brave service.

Each year we allocate space for up to two retiring police horses that cannot be rehomed due to illness or injury, as these working horses bring many benefits to the charity. They are popular with visitors and can be useful around young and nervous horses, as they are well-trained and confident.

Penny started her career in 2012 when she was five years old. Standing at 16.2hh, she is a grey, Irish Draught mare with all the presence and bravery you would expect from a police horse.

Penny was named after Victoria Pendleton, the track cyclist who won gold at the London Olympics, then went on to become a professional jockey.

Upon passing her initial training, Penny was assigned to Lewisham Police stables where she went on to attend her first football match at Charlton v Ipswich in November 2013.

PC Carly Harper said: "Penny proved to be very brave on the streets, excellent in open spaces and always keen to get out on patrol. As a young horse she was strong, energetic and bold and often wanted to go faster than required."

Penny proved her versatility when she took part in an inter-unit competition as part of a troop drill team and jumped a clear round in the novice show-jumping.

The grey mare served for many years policing football matches all around London, including Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham, Millwall, Chelsea, Charlton, Crystal Palace and Wembley and her

first ceremonial event in central London was a Korean state visit in 2013.

After spending the first 14 months of her career at Lewisham stables, Penny moved to Bow where she quickly became a favourite with officers and the local community – Penny regularly received fan mail and Christmas cards in the post.

Other career highlights for this loyal girl include being selected for the Singapore State visit in 2014, being promoted to 'Pointer' (being the escort) for every ceremonial event between 2015 – 2019, including state visits, and the State opening of Parliament.

PC Harper added: "She was dependable and gave many new officers their first experience of the mounted branch and when she returned to Imper Court in 2021, she escorted young horses, taking their first steps out on to the roads. Penny will be sorely missed by the London Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch."

**"Thank you
for your service
Penny, you are
dismissed with
thanks."**



Penny, now 16 years old, lives with her friend Rosie on the Visitor Centre Yard at our site in Bransby. If you're planning a visit, make sure to pop by and say 'hello'.



Autumn/Winter GIFT GUIDE

Why not get organised and start your Christmas shopping early this year? Inside you will find special gifts for your loved ones and by shopping with us, you will be helping us rescue and rehabilitate even more equines in need. You simply don't get that warm, fuzzy feeling buying your Christmas shopping on the high street, so go on... treat yourself. Even better, if you spend over £50 you'll receive a free gift.

Happy shopping!

Sarabi

Orders must be received by 30th November 2023 and be over £50 to be eligible for a free gift (does not include lottery entry or postage). Postage of £4 is domestic second class only. For questions or queries, please contact our friendly team on 01427 788 464.

Christmas Cards



A Snowy
Sanctuary



All Christmas
card packs
contain 10 cards
with envelopes



Christmas
Committee

Cheeky
Donkey



Season's Greetings



A
Wonderland
Walk

*Message inside all
cards reads "Wishing you
a Happy Christmas and
a joyful New Year"*



By placing your order online or by phone, you'll save the charity
vital administration time and money: BransbyHorses.co.uk/Shop



Letters
to Santa



Wheelie
Good
Christmas

Christmas Cards £4.25 per pack

A Snowy Sanctuary - Code 20200062

Christmas Committee - Code 20200063

A Wonderland Walk - Code 20200057

Cheeky Donkey - Code 20200060

Letters to Santa - Code 20200064

Wheelie Good Christmas - Code 20200061

Nipper & Noel - Code 20200058

Waiting for Santa - Code 20200059

Nipper
& Noel



Waiting
for Santa



Every penny of profit from our Gift Guide and online shop sales goes directly back into the daily care of our 300-plus equines.

Christmas Gifts

Wrendale Donkey Gift Set

Small porcelain mugs and melamine tray featuring donkey and robins.

Royal Worcester Wrendale design. Tray 21cm x 14cm

£17.95 - Code: 20500208



Bauble

Individually hand-painted glass bauble in a cotton gift box.

£9.95 - Code: 20200017



2024 Diary

Embossed, handy pocket diary with week to view and page ribbon.

£4.00

Green - Code: 21000193

Pink - Code: 21000194



Bransby Horses Christmas Story:

Pudding's Christmas Miracle

34 pages of beautiful illustrations and a rhyming story, which is sure to put a smile on everyone's face, young or old.

Pudding's Picnic Panic also available on our website.

£6.95 - Code: 20700006





Holly Stocking

Sophisticated Sophie Allport Christmas stocking. 60cm.
Made from 100% cotton
£9.95 - Code: 20200024

Wrapping Paper

Two different designs, four sheets of wrapping paper and eight tags. 70cm x 50cm
£4.95 - Code: 21000028



2024 Calendar

Full-colour postcard calendar featuring equines rescued by Bransby Horses. 32cm x 17.5cm
£6.50 - Code: 21000164



Shop at Amazon? Now you can add something to your basket from our Amazon Wish List – from enrichment toys for our equines to tools and equipment for our teams.



Fashion Accessories



Wrendale Foldable Shopper
 Stylish and handy foldable shopping bag. 80% cotton, 20% polyester. Machine washable. Measures 16cm x 16cm when folded. 41cm x 44cm unfolded
£8.95
Dog - Code: 20300218
Cat - Code: 20300219

Soft Touch Pink Scarf
 Plush soft-touch fashionable scarf.
£14.95
 Code: 20300223



Winter Cuff Socks
 Keep toastie this winter with these warm socks. One size.
£7.50 - Code: 20300136



Bransby Horses Cap
 Structured 6-panel cotton baseball cap with embroidered charity logo. Pre-curved peak and fabric covered adjustable touch strap. 58cm crown.
£7.50 - Code: 20300004



Wrendale Fox Umbrella
 Contrasting piping with laser engraved logo and silver coloured wren charm on the handle. Made from 100% recycled polyester with a maple wood handle. Plastic free. 24cm x 4.7cm closed.
£22.95
 Code: 20300220

Home Comforts



Anthina Apron
Cotton.
70cm x 90cm,
£9.95
Code: 20500350

Popular
William
Morris
design

**Anthina
Tea Towel**
Cotton.
70cm x 50cm.
£6.95
Code: 20500352

**Anthina
Oven Gloves**
Cotton.
89cm x 17cm,
£9.95
Code:
20500351

Bray and Bumble Donkey Mug
Fine china mug by
Bree Merryn. Boxed.
£7.50 - Code: 20500344

**Pebbles &
Paloma Coaster**
Cork-backed
coaster. Boxed.
£2.50 - Code: 20500349



**Pebbles &
Paloma Mug**
Fine china mug
in stunning
Pebble and Paloma
design by Bree
Merryn. Boxed.
£7.50
Code: 20500037



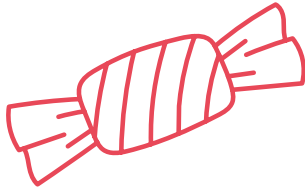
**Rug and tack donations help us raise funds to continue our rescue and welfare work. If you'd like to make a donation, please post them to us:
Donated Goods, Bransby Horses, Bransby, Lincoln, LN1 2PH**

Food, Glorious Food

Jute Gift Bag

Butter chocolate biscuits, stem ginger & lemon biscuits & premium blend tea in a beautifully presented jute gift bag.

£19.95 - Code: 21100185



Christmas Sweet Selection

Meg Hawkins design. Triple pack of dolly mixtures, midget gems and liquorice allsorts. 375g total weight.

£8.95 - Code: 21100186

Wrendale Recipe Tin

64 recipe cards in a metal tin with delightful colour-illustrated dividers. 17cm x 7cm.

£14.95 - Code: 20500062



Sweet Treats Churn

Clotted cream recipe, perfect for the festive season. Reusable stylish metal tin. 150g.

£7.50

Fudge - Code: 21100183

Toffee - Code: 21100184

Stationery



Nipper Notebook
200 page spiral bound notebook featuring exclusive artwork. A5 (15cm x 15cm), Lined, **£6.95** - Code: 21000059



Wrendale Fox Magnetic Shopper
Keep organised with this lined and beautifully illustrated magnetic shopping list pad. 21cm x 10cm. **£4.95** - Code: 21000210



Wrendale Dog Notecards
4 blank notecards, 8 correspondence cards and 12 envelopes. Printed on high quality sustainably sourced textured board in a beautiful presentation wallet. 12cm square. **£6.95** - Code: 21000004



Wrendale Fox Sticky Notes
Sticky note block. Measures 8cm x 8cm x 3.5cm. 250 sheets per block. Plastic free and presented in a card sleeve. Sustainably sourced. **£4.95** - Code: 21000209



Bransby Horses Ballpen
Engraved soft feel dark grey ballpen with black ink in a slider box. **£4.25**
Code: 21000208

Gift Ideas



Blue Tit Cross Stitch Kit
Premium white 14 count Aida fabric. DMC stranded cotton threads pre-sorted on cards. Clear colour cross stitch charts and instructions. Colour thread key and needle also included. 20 x 20cm finished product.
£19.95 - Code: 20700024



Horse Manicure Set
5-piece set in zipped case.
11.5cm x 7cm x 2cm.
£6.95 - Code: 20800030



Sponsorship Star Magnet
Brighten up your fridge with your favourite Sponsorship Star. Please state name required.
£2.50 - Code: 20600012

Donkey Warmie
Wheat-filled and lavender scented, pop in the microwave to keep warm this winter. 13 inches.
£18.95 - Code: 20100280



Sponsorship Star Keyring
Keep your keys safe with one of our sponsorship horses, ponies or donkeys. Please state name required.
£2.50 - Code: 20600013



For more Christmas present inspiration, find lots of extra products online at BransbyHorses.co.uk/Shop



Equine Crossword

Across

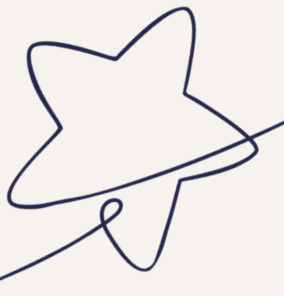
- 2) Removing equines from mistreatment and neglect.
- 4) A castrated male equine.
- 5) Hobbit didn't receive this vital treatment prior to her rescue.
- 8) One of the Five Domains.
- 10) A serious equine condition caused by overeating.
- 12) Ex-Greater Metropolitan Police horse featured.
- 14) Frazzle's affectionate nickname.



Down

- 1) Also known as the Queen of Bransby Horses.
- 3) Womble and many other of our rescued equines benefit from various forms, which can range from weeks to years.
- 6) Our Perfect Partner programme.
- 7) Biggest horse fair in Europe.
- 9) Taxpayers can make their donation go further.
- 11) Rehomed from our Game of Thrones Group.
- 12) Selene's colouring, distinguished by large black patches on a white coat.
- 13) Equines eating grass is also known as...

All of the answers can be found in this issue of Bransby Life!



Will you *remember* us?



**3 in 4 of our rescued horses
are cared for by generous people
creating a gift in their Will.**

Remember us in your Will to help us relieve their suffering and provide a safe and secure future for horses that need our help.

**Take advantage of our
FREE Will service and
create your legacy today**

Call 01427 788 464, visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/legacies
or email legacyofficer@bransbyhorses.co.uk

