

Bransby *Life*

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 • BransbyHorses.co.uk • 01427 788 464

Tonks

Meet our cover
star inside
along with her
mum Miriam



BRANSBY
— HORSES —

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Welcome to the latest issue of Bransby Life

Despite the significant financial challenges that charities like ours continue to face, I can truly say I have never been more proud of the dedicated team here at Bransby Horses. Their unwavering commitment and resilience enable us to continue providing essential care to equines when they need us most.

In this issue, you will find moving stories of equines who have come into our care under difficult circumstances, alongside inspiring updates on the vital preventative work we carry out within the wider equine community. This includes our support for horse owners, helping them improve the care they provide, and our partnerships with local authorities to educate and assist when equines are found loose on roads or in distress.

We also share the story of six thoroughbreds who came into our care earlier this year, highlighting one of our key welfare messages: the importance of caring for aging equines. Providing for an equine is both complex and costly, and these needs only increase as they grow older. Older equines are particularly vulnerable to health challenges, and earlier this year, we sadly witnessed an extreme case that underlines just how vital compassionate, attentive care is during their later years.

You will also learn about River, who came to us following Appleby Horse Fair, and the touching journey of Miriam, Remus, and Tonks — with Tonks being born at Oakham Veterinary Hospital and receiving round-the-clock care from our dedicated team on her return to us.

Throughout these pages, we aim to share the remarkable work made possible by your generosity. Your support ensures we can continue to provide safety, rehabilitation, and brighter futures for horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules in need. Whether you follow our work through this newsletter, visit us at our Visitor Centre near Lincoln, explore our website, or engage with us on social media — we are deeply grateful. Thank you, from myself, the entire team, and every equine you help us to protect.

With very best wishes

Jo Snell, CEO

BRANSBY
— HORSES —

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Cover photo
Equine Welfare Assistant,
Lisa with Tonks

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Miriam and Remus before they were signed over to Bransby Horses

Meet three tiny ponies, with not so tiny problems

Featuring cover star Tonks, the second pint-sized pony to be born at Bransby Horses in just two years

Since early 2025, field officer Kris Walker had been attempting to work with owners of over 20 cobs and Shetland ponies at a location in Northern England. He attended regularly over this period as multiple calls of concern had been made to the charity, with issues relating to weight, feet, environment and nutrition.

After initially leaving an abandonment notice, the owner came forward and Kris tried to provide essential advice regarding the care of these equines, with particular

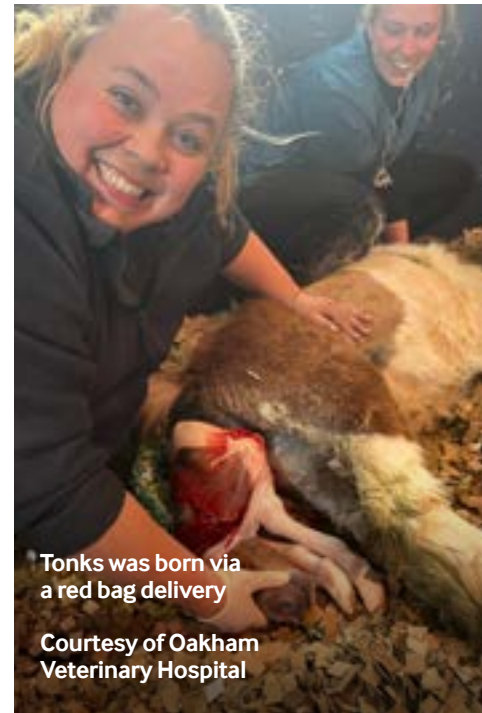
concern over Shetland pony Miriam and her seven-month-old foal Remus.

When Kris returned to the location mid-April, he noticed that the mare and foal had lost a lot of weight and were very dull in demeanour. He got in touch with the RSPCA and asked if they could attend and assist with the situation. Kris said, "We regularly attended to give advice over the situation and worked with the owners, but at the last visit the conditions had worsened, the owner agreed to sign them over to us due to their

condition and their ongoing care."

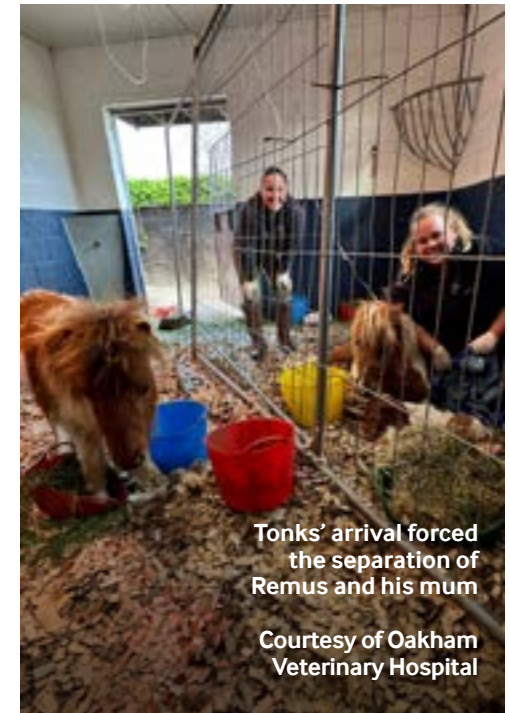
After mare and foal were transported to Bransby Horses, now safely under our care, the veterinary team could see the extent of the neglect and were immediately concerned for their health. Both Miriam and Remus had body condition scores of 0.5, overgrown feet, a lice infestation, a high worm burden and poor skin. On top of all that, Miriam was also heavily pregnant.

Just two days after their arrival, Veterinary Surgeon Emma Tune was very



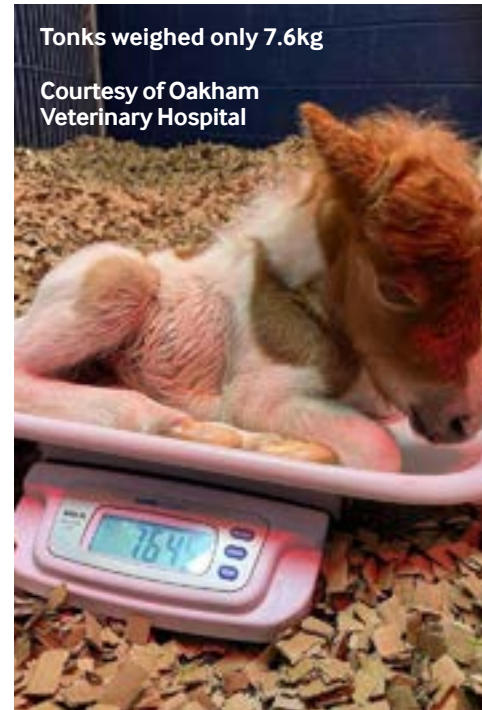
Tonks was born via a red bag delivery

Courtesy of Oakham Veterinary Hospital



Tonks' arrival forced the separation of Remus and his mum

Courtesy of Oakham Veterinary Hospital



Tonks weighed only 7.6kg

Courtesy of Oakham Veterinary Hospital



Miriam and Tonks were soon ready to return to Bransby Horses

Courtesy of Oakham Veterinary Hospital



Tonks and Miriam



Tonks

concerned about their health and made the decision to send them both to Oakham Veterinary Hospital as an emergency referral. This decision was a lifesaving one, with Miriam giving birth less than 24 hours later.

Tonks was born via a red bag delivery, where the placenta separates before the foal is born and the foal is starved of oxygen during delivery. Without the immediate veterinary assistance of the team at Oakham, both mare and foal wouldn't have made it.

Tonks weighed only 7.6kg at birth, the average weight of a Jack Russell, and was immediately diagnosed with 'dummy foal' syndrome

as she struggled to stand, nurse and respond normally to her surroundings. She was fed through a feeding tube while being taught how to drink from a bowl, with Miriam producing very little milk due to her emaciated condition and poor health.

Tonks also struggled when it came to walking, hindering the natural removal of her foal slippers (rubbery capsules that completely cover the hooves of the newborn and are worn down as the foal begins to walk).

While Tonks' start in life wasn't the smoothest journey, both her and Miriam were surrounded by an expert team at Oakham Veterinary Hospital, attending to their every need around the clock and ensuring they received the best possible care.

Meanwhile, Remus was experiencing a journey of his own. Tonks' arrival forced the separation of him and his mum, to stop Miriam from feeding two foals whilst struggling to look after herself. The team had no choice but to place a barrier between mother and son, preventing Remus from going through the gradual weaning process.

While in the same stable, with temporary fencing between them, both Remus and Miriam would only eat if food was placed along the fence line so they could be as close as possible. But Remus's health was still a concern and with the hospital not having any suitable grass turnout for him, the constant stabling caused issues with his breathing. The decision was made to bring him back to Bransby Horses earlier than planned.

Remus was placed on steroids for two weeks to help with his breathing and given a feeding plan to increase his weight. His health was still a major concern, and he was being monitored closely upon his return. Remus has been through so much for such a young pony and we can only hope he continues to improve under the care of our amazing equine team.

Tonks and Miriam also returned to Bransby a few days later, with Tonks soon up and running circles around her mum. But their return from hospital doesn't mean their recovery is over, Tonks will need ongoing farrier care to support her tendons and help her legs grow in strength, while Miriam is still suffering from a high worm burden which will possibly cause long term damage to her colon.

All three Shetlands will carry the consequences of neglect for the rest of their lives, and while they are slowly showing signs of improvement, there's still a long way to go.

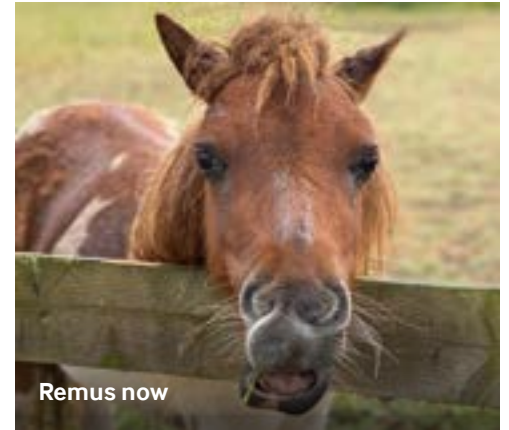
Their stay in hospital cost the charity £9,000, and that is only the beginning. Members of the team have been working around the clock to provide these equines with the care they need, leading to unplanned but necessary time off and less staff available on the yards. Their future veterinary treatments, dental checks, farrier visits and general care will also have a financial impact on Bransby Horses.

Tonks is the second tiny Shetland pony foal we've had born into our care over two years, with Pika born back in 2024. Breeding ponies smaller and smaller to achieve the 'cute factor' only leads to more health complications and costly veterinary treatments, vastly affecting an equine's quality of life. Miniature horses are more susceptible to limb deformities, dental issues, lameness and obesity, and the smaller they are the more likely these problems will occur.

It's only thanks to our wonderful supporters that we can provide equines like Miriam, Tonks, and Remus with the care and support they need to live as best of a life as possible. It's likely that due to their complex medical needs, all three will remain on site for a long time.



Miriam now



Remus now



Tonks now

Their stay in hospital cost the charity £9,000

Tonks had to learn to drink from a bowl



Your donations help us continue to care for equines like Miriam, Remus and Tonks, please scan the QR code, or visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/harry-potter-group-donation. Any donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.



Shrek has been living with his new fosterer since September 2024

Courtesy of AlanKPayne Photography



Shrek

11hh Dartmoor pony Shrek has been under the care of Bransby Horses since 2012, arriving as an underweight three-year-old. The team soon got him back to full strength and developed a specific rehabilitation program, introducing him to routine care and handling and even training him as a driving pony.

Since September 2024, Shrek has been living with his new fosterer and is thriving as part of their Carriage Driving Club. "We met Shrek and immediately fell in love with him, he is such a sweet little pony with plenty to offer." Said fosterer Charlotte, "Shrek came to us and settled in straight away, his little personality endeared him to everyone who met him. He is a sweet little pony, who loves nothing more than to look his best and be pulling a carriage. Shrek's attitude to work is so refreshing and he is a little superstar, willing to do anything asked of him. He now drives in around three of our carriages and has become a firm favourite within the club."

Shrek has even been competing in indoor carriage driving competitions and will possibly become part of the GB Para Carriage Driving Squad. Shrek's future looks jam packed with adventures and all of us at Bransby Horses can't wait to hear about his next endeavours.

Wish

Wish's story is one that's been shared over the years, ever since she was rescued along with three other semi-feral ponies from the Manmoel Common in South Wales back in 2013. Wish was 14 years old, suffering from a painful abscess in her jaw, pregnant, and unhandled.

Her recovery wasn't easy, caring for a foal while trying to improve her condition proved challenging. It was only once her foal had gained strength was Wish able to focus on herself, starting to increase her energy levels and even make friends with neighbouring ponies.

If you have space in your life to rehome an equine, please visit BransbyHorses.co.uk/rehoming to view our available horses, ponies, donkey's and mules or scan the QR code.



REHOMING TAILS

With over 600 equines in foster homes around the UK, there are plenty of happy endings to share with our wonderful supporters. Here you'll meet two ponies whose lives have been forever changed by both Bransby Horses and their Perfect Partners.

Wish spent eight years at Bransby Horses, all the while searching for her Perfect Partner. It wasn't until 2021, right before Christmas, that Wish found her new foster home.

Fosterer Cat said "We contacted Bransby Horses as we had just lost a companion for my old mare Pearl, not really expecting them to find anything for us. The very second we saw Wish's cheeky face we all fell in love instantly."

Over the past four years, Wish has been thoroughly loved by her fosterer, but her life hasn't gone without incident. A few months into her new home, Wish managed to break her

splint bone, putting her on box rest for six months. "That six months was the making of Wish," said Cat. "The constant human contact allowed us to put rugs on and off, handle her all over with confidence and she's even now a prize pupil for the farrier, who she was terrified of initially."

Wish became comfortable and settled in her new home, allowing her true personality to come out. "We all love Wish's spicy attitude, which definitely comes out when she sees the vet's car." Cat explained. "There is nothing funnier than seeing people creep up the field, trying to hide a headcollar and rope with a piece of bread in

their hands, trying desperately to hide the fact that we need to bring her in – she's so smart! Any other day, she will come and have her bottom scratched no problem."

When asked about the challenges of rehoming an older pony, Cat only had positive things to say. "Taking on an old pony is so rewarding, they have developed such massive characters and are good companions for the younger horses. It's certainly the best thing we have done, and she will have a safe retirement home especially after the trauma she has previously gone through, and that makes it so worthwhile."



"The very second we saw Wish's cheeky face we all fell in love instantly"



SAYING GOODBYE *to six thoroughbreds*

Why aged equine care is so important



The care of an equine can be complex and costly, but even more so as they grow older. Aged equines are more susceptible to health issues and earlier this year we sadly saw an extreme case of this, supporting an elderly owner who had recognised they were not meeting their horses needs and could no longer provide adequate care for them.

Back in spring, six thoroughbreds aged between 17 and 23 were signed over into our care, after concerns

were raised about their welfare. Four mares and one gelding were in particularly poor health, with body condition scores (BCS) ranging between 0.5 and 1, splayed and split hooves, lice infestations, lameness, and severe dental concerns. Though some were ex-racehorses, the owner had recognised that the group had not come out of winter well and that they hadn't been able to provide routine care for the horses in a long time.

One stallion aged 17 was housed separately, had a

slightly higher BCS of 2 but his feet were also overgrown and in need of immediate attention. Our welfare team worked with the owner to secure sign over into our care and all six were transported back to the charity's site in Lincoln.

Upon arrival, it was clear that some were struggling more than others. One mare had extreme dental issues, her teeth were distorted and misplaced into her gums, she had deep, ulcerated diastemas (gaps between



teeth) and even with dental intervention, there was no guarantee they would ever recover. The gelding was suffering from an inflamed eye, also known as uveitis, that had irreparable damage, he was also very lame and had dental issues relating to an aged equine that had not received any recent dental checks. Two days after their arrival, the decision was made to euthanise both horses preventing them from any further pain and suffering. Sadly, they had multiple concerns that could not be rectified at this stage of deterioration.

The team were checking on the group around four times a day and had witnessed the close bond they all shared. This meant that separating them for any veterinary, dental or farrier treatment would've caused stress and hindered

their already fragile state. The team worked around this by keeping the pair bonds together whilst they proceeded with further health and veterinary assessments. The second mare was also suffering with lameness in all four limbs and required a large amount of dental intervention, which had no doubt contributed to how very thin she was. Her quality of life was already poor; she now required extensive treatments to help improve her teeth and long-term pain management due to the lameness. It wasn't easy, but not long after the first two, we also said goodbye to this dear older lady.

With just half the group remaining, hopes were pinned on the two other mares and the stallion.

"The mares also had dental issues, which we might've been able to get on top of" explained

Equine Welfare Team Leader Lauren King. "They did have lameness concerns as well, but we gave them a course of pain relief for two weeks initially, and we said let's see what difference that pain relief makes, if we can get them to a level of comfort, we can maybe do a bit of further investigation."

Unfortunately, despite the intervention of our in-house veterinary team, the two mares didn't improve. They were still suffering significantly from their lameness, even on the highest doses of pain relief, and one of the pairs behaviours made it difficult to treat her as she was very stressed and fearful of any intervention or separation from the herd. As the two mares were very closely bonded, and due to their advanced ages and multiple health concerns, another difficult decision was made to put them to sleep.

Only the stallion was left, and his issues were just as complex as the others. Every stallion that arrives at Bransby Horses is gelded and this plan was put in place for him, keeping him onsite to remove the stress of travel and to allow our vets to monitor him closely. Castrating an older stallion carries many risks, as he was 17, we delayed this procedure to see how he

would respond to treatment for his health concerns first. Sadly, over the two-months he was under our care, his lameness deteriorated significantly, and our vets suspected he was also suffering from arthritis.

The post-castration plan of restricting his movement for two weeks became less and less achievable, as doing so would only worsen his arthritis and cause him more pain. He was on the highest level of pain medication and there was no way forward for him that wouldn't increase his suffering.

"When you care for them day to day the whole team start pinning their hopes on the next one then. First it was, we can still get the mares and

the stallion through this, and then as you gradually just keep losing more, it is difficult," said Lauren.

At the end of May, we made the heartbreaking decision to euthanise the stallion. "I just felt very sorry for them." Explained Equine Welfare Assistant Georgia Form. "Just the fact that we couldn't save any of the group was so sad and such a difficult time for the teams working with them".

While this case is very distressing and not the outcome we were hopeful of, it's also a reminder of the additional care and treatments many aged equines require. Taking on a horse, pony, donkey or mule is a big responsibility and we would urge any owners that may be struggling to provide adequate care for their loved equines to call us.

The care of an equine can be complex and costly, but even more so as they grow older



If you do require advice or support on any aged equines in your care, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Welfare Team on 01427 787 369 or email welfare@bransbyhorses.co.uk. You can also scan the QR code to visit our advice page, Caring for An Aged Equine



River's Rescue



While River has come a long way since her arrival at Bransby Horses, due to her young age she still has some growing and developing to do

Appleby Horse Fair is an annual gathering of Romani people and Travellers and is considered the largest traditional Gypsy fair in Europe. Each year, members of the Bransby Horses Equine Welfare Team attend this event, working alongside the RSPCA and other animal welfare charities to monitor equine health and well-being.

While the majority of equines at this event are well cared for, there are still cases where intervention is required.

River was only eight months old when she was brought to Appleby Horse Fair, but was already being driven down the 'flashing lane' with shoes on. The tack she was wearing had caused cuts around her mouth and an injury to her jaw; she was also very sore across her back and couldn't bear to be touched.

Her owner decided to sign River over into our care and she was placed on a considerable amount of pain relief whilst at the fair, before she was fit to travel back to Bransby Horses.

Upon arrival, River was given a full veterinary assessment, and a specialised training and handling regime was put in place for her. Though she had already been handled by her previous owner, River was very nervous of human interaction and the decision was made to take her back to basics. The team worked on building a positive relationship with River, gently introducing her to different aspects of horse life, like farrier visits, brushes and headcollars.

Everything was taken at her pace, helping improve her confidence and trust of people. River's handlers soon

discovered her enjoyment of learning new life skills and were able to introduce her to clippers, trailers, injections, weigh bridges and walks around the farm, all of which she took in her stride. River also settled very well into her new herd, spending time with ponies of similar ages and experiencing new things together.

While River has come a long way since her arrival at Bransby Horses, due to her young age she still has some growing and developing to do. But we're all so pleased with her progress and have loved watching her true character shine.

The next step of River's

journey is completing her rehoming assessment and potentially finding her new home as a companion, ready to continue her education with her fosterer. We will keep you updated on River as she progresses and will hopefully be able to provide you with a rehoming update in the near future.

It's only thanks to supporters like you that we were able to rescue River and provide her with a safe environment to grow up in. Your kind donations and endless support means the world to everyone (including the equines) at Bransby Horses.

River was only eight months old when she was brought to Appleby Horse Fair



WORKING WONDERS *with welfare*



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



The Welfare Team at Bransby Horses take on a multitude of tasks and challenges, helping raise awareness of equine welfare to reduce the suffering and neglect experienced by equines nationwide. They respond to welfare concerns, advice calls, multi-agency rescues and much more.

Even though their involvement often relates to equines that come into our care, plenty of their schedule is also taken up by external work, supporting those within the equine community for a variety of reasons.

Welfare Campaigns Officer Rachel Dixon spends a lot of time offering advice and training to emergency services such as Lincolnshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police, Derbyshire Police, and Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Large Animal Fire & Rescue. These forces will come across equines in their role, but some 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.



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 aren't.

In 2024, only 5% of the equines assessed by the Welfare Team 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.

One case involving two underweight Shetland ponies was led by field officer Kris Walker, who responded to a welfare concern and immediately got in touch with the owner. After speaking to Kris, the owner recognised they had let some routine care needs slip and were willing to work with him to improve their knowledge and understanding of good equine welfare and care.

Kris spent the next few months advising and supporting the owner, leading to a positive improvement in the Shetland's states. The owner is proud of what they have achieved with our support and their equines now have an improved quality of life. When working with any equine owner, our aim is to support with sustainable changes that fundamentally improve the health and welfare of the equines, for the rest of their lives.



We encourage any owner to reach out to us for advice, guidance and support by contacting us on 01427 787369 or emailing welfare@bransbyhorses.co.uk.

Five Young Cobs

RESCUED DAYS BEFORE VALENTINE'S

From left to right:
Valentino, Casanova,
Rouge, Cupid and Eros



Following an abandonment, five young colts were taken in by Bransby Horses, just in time for Valentine's Day.

On Monday 3rd February 2025, the British Horse Society (the BHS) got in touch with Bransby Horses regarding five ponies who had been abandoned on a farm in Leicestershire. The landowner had contacted the BHS after putting an abandonment notice in place under The Control of Horses Act (COHA) and receiving no

claims of ownership before it had expired. All five ponies were soon transported to Bransby Horses and signed over into the charity's care.

Upon arrival, the young cobs, aptly named Eros, Casanova, Rouge, Valentino and Cupid, were nervous, afraid and unhandled. They were underweight with high worm

burdens, all had lice, which is usually a sign of poor health, and one had burrs matted in their tail.

Four of them were estimated to be under eight months old, barely old enough to be weaned from their mothers, while the fifth one was thought to be slightly older. All were very poorly, weak and lethargic,

but Casanova and Eros especially so. Despite a lot of treatment and care and a spell in an equine hospital, their health status was too complex, and the sad decision was made to put both ponies to sleep.

The team then focused on the three remaining youngsters, Rouge, Valentino and Cupid, who were being introduced to routine care and handling for the first time. Equine Welfare Deputy Team Leader Mia Miller said, "Because of all the medication they were on, we had to syringe them twice a day and take their stats, so whilst this was time consuming, it got them used to being handled by us."

They continued monitoring the ponies closely, keeping an eye on their demeanour and any signs of deterioration. Rouge, Valentino, and Cupid soon started to improve, and it wasn't long before they were leaving the Animal Reception Centre, starting a new journey at our Peter Hunt rehabilitation yard.

Two new geldings have since joined their little herd and are acting as 'Uncles', giving them a bit of guidance as they grow up. This was Rouge, Valentino and Cupid's first integration with other equines and whilst they were a bit unsure at first, it didn't take long for them to settle.

They have gained confidence and have become a fun trio. Their friendly nature makes the three cobs a firm favourite across the yard. We can't wait to see them grow and update our supporters on their next steps.

The initial veterinary care of these cobs reached £10,000. It's only because of our wonderful supporters that we were able to provide the necessary treatment and care to give them a second chance.



Rouge



Valentino

All nervous, afraid and unhandled, they were underweight with high worm burdens and all had lice



Cupid

From left to right: Valentino, Rouge and Cupid



A new scheme helps more equines find their Perfect Partner

Rehoming is a paramount part of Bransby Horses, creating space for more equines in need and providing horses, ponies, donkeys and mules, with the chance to thrive in a new home. On average, the charity rehomes 104 equines each year to private homes, riding schools, and to British Horse Society (BHS) Approved Centres.

Back in 2019, the BHS launched their Second Chance Rehoming Project, aimed at matching neglected, mistreated and rescued

equines to approved centres across the UK. Since then, Bransby Horses has been working closely with the BHS on this scheme, with Rehoming Coach Amy Baylis at the forefront.

The journey to rehoming starts with an equine assessment, completed by Amy who then decides whether they are ready for rehoming and what kind of home would suit them best. Once an equine has passed the pre-home health checks, Amy will collate all the information she has and send it over to her contact at the BHS.

“They put the information on their private Facebook page, so every single BHS centre in the country can see that pony. They will then apply through the BHS, who will then contact me,” said Amy Baylis. “From there it’s matching the right centre to the right pony, and the right pony to the right centre.”

Every equine that is ready to be rehomed will have their own requirements for the perfect foster home, dependant on their character, past experiences and skills. Those who are happy being around busier environments, accepting different riders and experiencing general grooming and handling, are often well suited to BHS centres.

So far, 18 equines from Bransby Horses have been rehomed through this scheme, with more ready to find the perfect centre. “It’s been really positive” says Amy. “The centres have been really willing to share photos; they love to tell us how [the equines] have settled in. Especially some of them where the staff absolutely fall in love with the ponies.”

Amy and the rest of the Rehoming Team hope this scheme will continue to be successful, providing a new way for equines to find their Perfect Partner and start their rehoming journey.

Bransby Horses has been working closely with the BHS on the scheme with Rehoming Coach Amy Baylis at the forefront



Courtesy of Peers
Clough Packhorses



Rex was three years old when he was rescued in 2023, suffering from severely overgrown hooves and a poor body condition. He was nervous of humans and the team at Bransby Horses worked hard to gain his trust through a tailored handling programme.

In March 2025, Rex was matched with a trekking centre through the BHS scheme and is now happily spending his days being fussed, groomed and led around, helping people learn all about horsemanship.

Autumn/Winter GIFT GUIDE



Christmas Cards £4.25 per pack

Festive Feet - Code 20200069

Message reads "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year"

A Christmas Chinwag - Code 20200068

Message reads "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year"

Puppy Post - Code 20200065

Message reads "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year"

A Frosty Drink - Code 20200036

Message reads "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year"

Letters to Santa - Code 20200064

Message reads "Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year"

Jenny & Foal - Code 20200072

Message reads "Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year"

A Wonderland Walk - Code 20200057

Message reads "Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year"

All profits from your purchases help us provide rescue, rehabilitation, and lifelong homes for those in desperate need, so you can be confident that you are helping to make a difference to so many lives



A Christmas Chinwag



Festive Feet



Letters to Santa

Jenny & Foal



Puppy Post



Frosty Drink



All Christmas card packs contain 10 cards with envelopes

A Wonderland Walk



Christmas Wish Wrapping Paper
4 sheets with stickered labels.
£3.95 - Code: 2100250



2026 Pocket Diary
Embossed, handy pocket week-to-view diary with page ribbon.

£4.50

Strawberry - Code: 21000366

Sky - Code: 21000367



2026 Calendar
Our popular postcard calendar featuring equines from Bransby Horses. 32cm x 17.5cm.

£6.95

Code: 21000271



pudding's Christmas Miracle
34 pages of beautiful illustrations and a rhyming story, sure to put a smile on everyone's face.

£4.95 - Code: 20700006



Buy both books for £6



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36-page rhyming children's story book. Don't miss out on Pudding's next adventure.

£4.95 - Code: 20700020

BUY BOTH BOOKS FOR £6

Code: 20700054

On The Farm 1000pcs puzzle

68 cm x 48 cm completed size.

£15.50 - Code: 20700055



Donkey Friends 500pcs Puzzle

49 cm x 34 cm completed size.

£12.50 - Code: 20700056



Travel Sweets

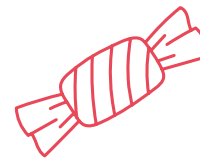
Packed into a classic silver coloured travel tin. 200g.

£4.95

Mint Selection - Code: 21100236

Fruit Selection - Code: 21100237

Barley Sugars - Code: 21100238

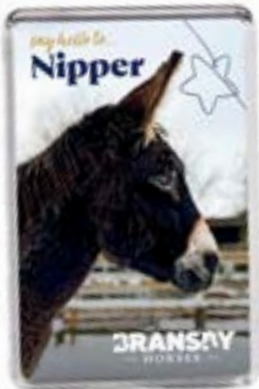


We must receive your order by Friday 5th December 2025 to give us the best possible chance of posting your parcel in time for Christmas.



Bone China Mug
Beautifully branded bone china mug featuring Bransby Horses' residents.
£5.95
Code: 20500041

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



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



Bransby Horses Keyring
Keep your keys safe and show your support for Bransby Horses.
£2.50
Code: 20600054



Bransby Horses Magnet
Brighten up your fridge and show your support for Bransby Horses.
£2.50
Code: 20600053



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



Treetops Owl Shopping Pad
Lined pages for notes and lists and a handy magnet on the back.
£6.50
21000273



Treetops Owl Spiral Bound Notebook
Textured finish, inner pages lined and illustrated with an elastic to secure it closed.
£8.50
Code: 21000187



Portman Farm Tea Towel
100% cotton tea towel measuring 74 x 48cm
£8.95
Code: 20500445



Portman Farm Oven Gloves
88 x 18 x 1cm. 100% Cotton.
£14.95
Code: 20500446



Portman Farm PVC Coated Tote Bag
Ample space for your essentials, 25 x 25.5 x 11cm
£19.95
Code: 20300313





Bransby Horses and Nottinghamshire Police Join Forces

Nottinghamshire Police has partnered with Bransby Horses to enhance the welfare and safety of loose equines across the county. Rural crime officers have received QR-coded headcollars and lead ropes, as well as specialised training in equine behaviour. The equipment enables officers to respond swiftly and safely when managing loose horses, ensuring the well-being of the animals and the safety of officers and the public. These kits, now available at stations in both rural (Retford, Harworth, Newark) and urban areas (Broxtowe, Ashfield), empower officers to safely respond to horse-related incidents, reducing road-traffic risks and improving animal care. This collaboration showcases a strong commitment to public safety and equine welfare across Nottinghamshire.

Full story is here



Rural crime officers have received QR-coded headcollars and lead ropes



Bransby Horses Seeks Passionate New Trustees

Bransby Horses is seeking passionate new Trustees to join its dedicated Board. As volunteers, Trustees share their skills and experience to guide the charity, ensuring every decision supports the welfare of rescued horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules. Help lead Bransby Horses forward and make a meaningful difference to the lives of equines. Contact us at trustees@bransbyhorses.co.uk

Bransby Horses Honoured to Join 2025 Murphy's Army Purple Poppy Campaign



Bransby Horses is honoured to be chosen as a beneficiary of the 2025 Murphy's Army Purple Poppy Campaign. This meaningful initiative, launched in 2016, honours animals who have served alongside the Armed Forces and Emergency Services. Nearly £250,000 has already been raised to support former service animals in their retirement. The purple poppy symbolises remembrance and gratitude for the vital roles these animals have played. Funds raised will help Bransby Horses continue providing exceptional care to ex-service equines, giving them the peaceful, supported lives they deserve. Learn more about the campaign and its impact at theyalsoserved.org.

Bransby Horses Support Equine Welfare at Appleby Horse Fair 2025

Bransby Horses attended this year's Appleby Horse Fair, the UK's largest gathering of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, held from 5th to 9th June in Cumbria. The charity worked alongside other welfare organisations, including the RSPCA, to monitor and support equine welfare throughout the event.

This year, the RSPCA recorded 372 interventions, issued 18 warnings, and treated multiple animals in need. Six horses were removed, treated, and returned to their owners, while others required ongoing care or were rehomed. Bransby Horses played a vital role in offering expertise and support, helping ensure horses received the care they deserved.

The Bransby Horses team at Appleby with thanks to Redwings for the photograph



OUR YARDS

Our yards are often mentioned in various stories and news articles across the charity, but it isn't often explained what these yards do and why they're so important. Here is your guide to the five yards at Bransby Horses.

Animal Reception Centre

When an equine first arrives at the charity, regardless of the circumstances, they are brought to the Animal Reception Centre (ARC). The ARC is a biosecure yard that is closed to the public, allowing team members to identify any health or handling issues for an equine, and ensure they are free from infectious diseases. This also prevents any contagious illnesses from spreading to the 250 horses across site.



Visitor Centre Yard

One of the VC's main aims is to take care of our donkeys, whose care is very different to horses, and Shetlands. The VC Yard develops exercise programmes for overweight equines, looks after those who are in sanctuary care, and continues with handling education.

Most of the equines visible to the public are housed on this yard, allowing our supporters to interact with some of the horses, ponies, donkeys and mules under our care.



Walklands Sanctuary Yard

Walklands Yard is home to horses and ponies with multiple health conditions, meaning they need regular treatment and careful management to maintain a good quality of life. There are some elderly equines well into their 20s, though they don't act like it, whose every need is met by the team at Walklands.



Main Training and Rehoming Yard

The purpose of this yard is to get non-ridden equines ready for their new homes. Equines are given time to settle onto the yard before assessing each horse to see what areas they need more education in. These areas could be catching and leading, stabling, trailer training, bathing or clipping for example.

Peter Hunt Rehabilitation and Training Yard

The Peter Hunt Yard focuses on handling and rehabilitating equines who have come from a variety of backgrounds. The team specialise in and dedicate their time to equines that are semi-feral, nervous or unhandled, keeping a calm and quiet atmosphere that allows them to focus.

Each team member is designated a certain number of equines to handle, and it is a very rewarding job seeing a horse or pony graduate from Peter Hunt to another yard or onto the Perfect Partner scheme.



2025's Newest Star

Our Sponsorship Star scheme has welcomed a new arrival in 2025, and we can't wait to start sharing his life with you.



say hello to...

Pika



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.



Meet the rest of the gang



Woody

Woody arrived back in 2014, severely malnourished and with painful ulcers in his mouth. Due to his past, he can be fearful of people, but the team continue to spend many hours earning his trust.

At just one-month-old, **Pecan** was taken into our care along with mum Cashew and dad Pistachio. He's a very sensible pony but still loves cuddles and scratches with his handlers.



Pecan



Selene

Selene is a 14hh black and white cob who is very settled in her routine. She is a sweet, quiet mare who has become confident within herself since her arrival.

Nicknamed 'Labracob', **Frazzle** is a 13.2hh black and white cob who loves to be sociable. He is extremely friendly and enjoys playing with his herd mates.



Frazzle



Womble

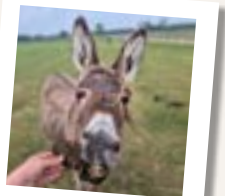
From being completely unhandled to a pony that loves scratches, **Womble** has come a long way during his time at Bransby Horses. He's an 11hh Welsh who is inseparable from his best friend Rodney.



Nipper

Nipper was the first donkey foal born at Bransby Horses in 13 years. He has since grown into a cheeky boy who loves stealing things out of the pockets of his handlers.

Known as 'Mumma **Marlene**', she is a gentle presence within the donkey herd and is always up for teaching the young ones new things.



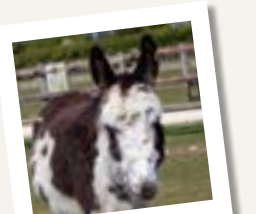
Marlene



Gnasha

Our oldest Sponsorship Star, **Gnasha** celebrated her 20th birthday earlier this year with all her donkey friends. She lives with daughter Matilda and best friend Marlene.

Matilda arrived with her mum Gnasha and two other donkeys after they were abandoned on a roadside. She loves being the centre of attention and having her voice heard.



Matilda



Master Imp

Master Imp is 10.3hh Welsh pony who's been at the charity since 2012. He loves grabbing buckets and running away from handlers, showing off his cheeky but loveable side.

Behind the Stable Door: Reflecting on our First Year



Six-months into the schedule, an incredible 299 people had attended our talks

This year marked the launch of our 'Behind the Stable Door' events, giving supporters a behind-the-scenes view of the charity and some of the equines we care for. The return of the popular Donkey Talk came alongside brand-new topics such as: The Road to Rehoming, Sanctuary Stories, Sponsorship Star Talks and The Path to Recovery.

Organised and often led by Welfare Campaigns Officer Rachel Dixon, supporters were guided through the journey of a particular equine, leading to a better understanding of the work we do and our processes.

Six-months into the schedule, an incredible 299 people had attended our talks, it's been great to see the interest generated and meet brand new supporters. Every talk is free to attend but the donations we receive off

the back of these events are greatly appreciated, helping us understand how well the talks have been received.

While 2025 is slowly drawing to a close, there's still plenty to get involved in, just visit our events calendar at BransbyHorses.co.uk/events.



This page will be updated later in the year to include all our talks and tours for 2026, how exciting!

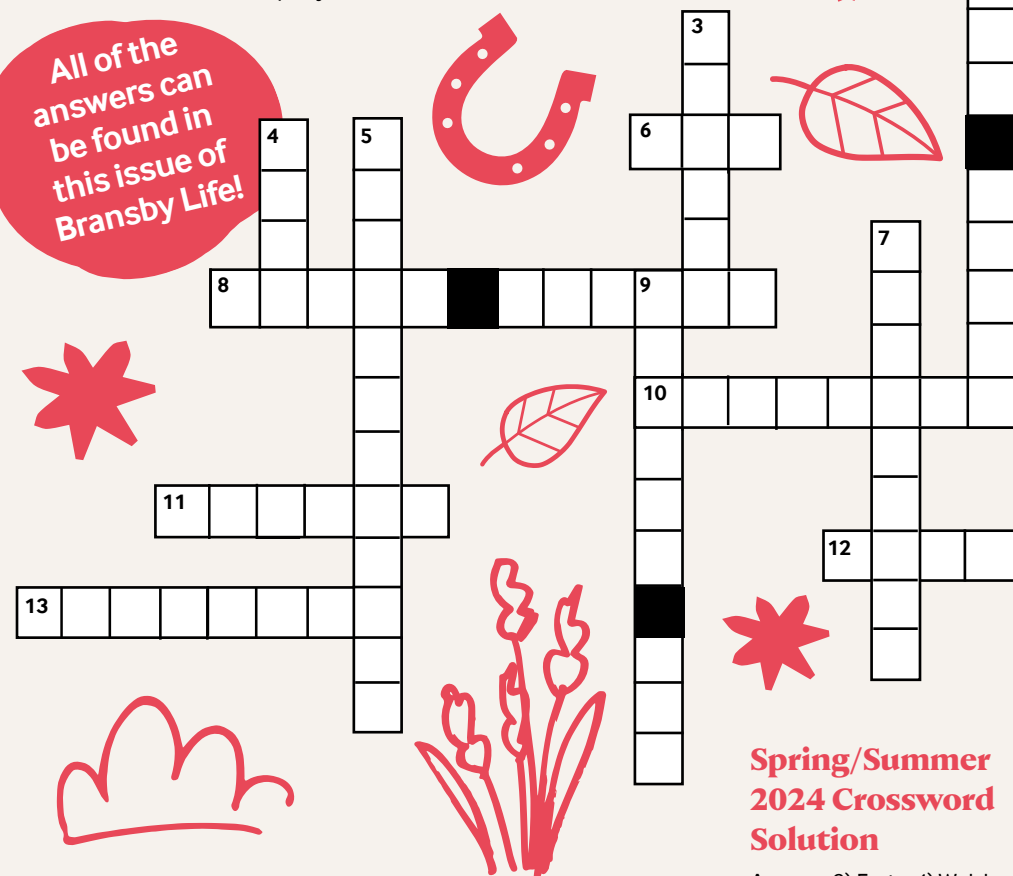
We hope all attendees have thoroughly enjoyed their time at Bransby Horses and we can't wait to welcome even more supporters next year.

Equine Crossword

Across

- 1) Equine rescued from Appleby Horse Fair in 2024 (5)
- 6) Abbreviation for the yard equines arrive at (3)
- 8) Theme of Miriam, Tonks and Remus' names (5,6)
- 10) Number of equines rehomed with the BHS second chance scheme (8)
- 11) Our oldest Sponsorship star (6)
- 12) Percentage of assessed equines in 2024 that ended up in our care (4)
- 13) Shrek is this breed of pony (8)

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



Down

- 2) Name of our Welfare Campaigns Officer (6,5)
- 3) Colour of the Murphy's Army poppies (6)
- 4) This Shetland pony is also a new Sponsorship Star (4)
- 5) Breed of six aged horses that arrived in April (12)
- 7) Group of five cobs. Rouge, Cupid, Eros, Casanova and... (9)
- 9) Wish's age when she was rehomed (6,3)

Spring/Summer 2024 Crossword Solution

Across: 2) Forty, 4) Welsh, 5) Jane Dunn, 6) Headcollars, 8) Donkey Talk, 9) Twice, 10) Gift, 11) Lottery, 13) Amazon.

Down: 1) Forever Safe, 3) Farrier, 7) Landfill, 10) Gardens, 12) Ten

Give the *Gift* that gives



Looking for a unique Christmas gift for someone who has everything or want to show your support in a different way?

Our Gift Cards with A Difference help transform the lives of the equines in our care by providing funding for essentials such as feed, farriery and vet care.

How it works:

1. Pick a card
2. Purchase
3. Personalise
4. Make a difference!

Shop now at

BransbyHorses.co.uk/gcwad
or call 01427 788 464



Charity No: 1075601

