

## Gifts and Online too

We have an onsite gift cabin that sells all kinds of donkey and horse lovers merchandise, mugs, aprons, tea towels, cuddly toys, pens, torches, note pads, pictures fridge magnets, Flicka clothing and so on.

It is still on our agenda to have an online gift store for the Flicka Foundation; all profits will, obviously, go to the charity.

## If you have any Queries or Questions

Please remember if you would like to know anything about your adopted donkey/pony or have any questions about the foundation please email us at [info@flicka.org.uk](mailto:info@flicka.org.uk), we do our best to answer all emails within three days, but do allow us up to a week. Remember if you don't read something about your special friend for sometime – rule of thumb, no news is good news! Thank you so much for your invaluable support and caring.

### Our Special Thanks To...

**Esmie, Ken and Alison Richards** – our heartfelt thanks – always xxx

**Support Adoption for Pets and Pets at Home** Falmouth for funds raised during the Santa Paws Appeal.

**Gwen Tunnard** – thank you so much for your kindness and generosity Gwen.

**Jean and Roger Salter** – thank you for your hard work with regular table top sales and fantastic funds raised.

**Margaret Mason** – for your wonderful constant, delicious, cake supply

**Hayley Bates** for making such wonderful jewellery & crocheted items for our Gift Cabin and for the delicious cakes for the tea room.

**Diane & David Racher, Patrick Cleaver, Morfydd Godfrey, David Crawley, Pauline Switzer, Barbara Pellet, Barrie Howell.**

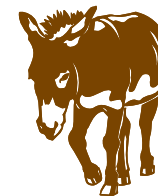
To all our Wonderful Supporters – for your overwhelming donations... thank you... THANK YOU!

We wish you all a very Happy Easter. See you in August. Flicka xxx

*“We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do. True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace.”* Albert Schweitzer



April 2017



Patrons - CAROLINE QUENTIN,  
PAUL O'GRADY, FELICITY KENDAL



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Follow us on Facebook: Flicka Foundation

## Spring greetings to all our Flicka friends

Christmas came and went like a whirlwind, a huge and heartfelt thank you to all of you who so very kindly and generously donated, it's an old cliché, but Flicka would, absolutely, not exist without you... thank you. We hope you will all have been thanked personally, if not please please get in touch; it will be an oversight on our part, ('cos we're human ;-)) !! Now here we are racing towards Easter.....

As a sanctuary, Flicka is home to many elderly and ailing horses and donkeys, it is utterly heartbreaking to lose any of them, but we have to accept that due to the volume at Flicka, ages and health issues, it will happen, sometimes with painful regularity, as we mentioned in the last newsletter sometimes our care is hospice care, we know we will not have them for the many years we would like. Even though we know time is limited, it strikes out of the blue and leaves us upset and shocked. When we lose a relatively young and fit member of our family... that is even tougher to accept, as was the case with our beautiful big strong cob 'Rosie'.

So once again we are very sorry, but we have had some deeply heartbreaking, sad losses it has been with a very heavy heart to write the first few paragraphs.

'...without sadness there can be no humanity'.

Follow us on Facebook: Flicka Foundation



## Some Very Sad Farewells to Flicka's Precious Family



### Beethoven

A very 'very' sad day at Flicka... 7th December 2016.

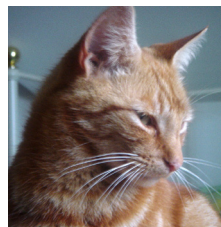
We had a heart-wrenching loss on 7th December after a short illness our gorgeous, beautiful celebrity icon, At 47 years old Beethoven left us to join his friend Bergerac at the Rainbow Bridge.

Beethoven has brought us so much fun, warmth and laughter with his antics, a donkey who made a pilgrimage to the crypt of Assisi to highlight the plight of abused donkeys; he had suffered immeasurable cruelty after being beaten about the head with a metal bar, he survived, but

was left deaf in one ear. Beethoven, who had the hands of the Pope upon his head, was a cheeky, naughty, lovable and so so friendly soul with a heart bigger than life.

How can this void ever be filled? Goodnight Beethoven, thank you for sharing your life with us, you have been a joy, we will love and miss you always xx

***'When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight...'*** Kahlil Gibran



### Dandy

On a personal note, we lost our dear lovable Dandy cat on 20th December, just ten weeks after his sister; both little souls were 18 years old. How can such a small being leave such a huge gaping heartbreak. God bless you Dandy, you enriched our lives.



### Rosie

Some of you will remember Rosie who came to Flicka in 2003 at just five years old. Rosie had been saved at the 11th hour just as she and another yearling were being loaded on to a lorry bound for the continent. Both she and her friend were saved and both went to caring homes. Rosie came into Flicka when her saviour could no longer look after her.

In the fourteen years Rosie was with us she remained very fit and well without a single ailment, so you can imagine our shock and horror when one morning we found her in the paddock barely able to walk and unco-ordinated. We tried to consider all kinds of

reasons, injury, vestibular, brain issues, spinal injury, but nothing seemed to fit.

After four more vet visits over the next 73 hours Rosie deteriorated with her back legs becoming paralysed. Vets could only suggest that Rosie may have had a spinal tumour grumbling away for some months and had shown no clinical signs whatsoever.

Through our upset and disbelief we had to say goodbye to our lovely girl on 13th February; such a beautiful girl with the sweetest nature.

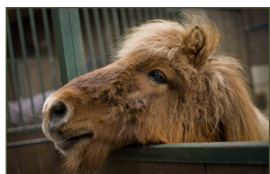
Goodnight Rosie, we are missing you dreadfully.





### Misty

Exactly one week later we suffered another loss, we can't quite believe it.... Misty very suddenly and unexpectedly on 20th February. Misty was born around 1987, at 30 years old (maybe more) she looked like a horse less than half her age. Such a beautiful girl, a kind and gentle nature, it was a dreadfully sad loss to us all here at Flicka. Rip sweetheart 1987



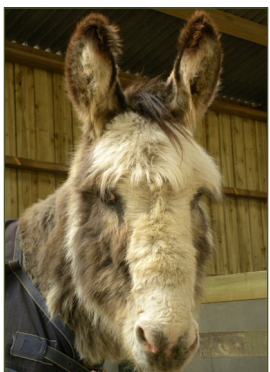
### Rusty

You may remember we did quite a long report in our December newsletter about Rusty's eye.

Our dear little man Rusty left us on 10th March. He was around 38 years old, had lived through a tumour on his sheath, surgery on his blind eye and Cushings. Rusty had been saved from the meat market at 13 years old and then saved from a farmer's bullet in 2003 at the age of at least 24. A true survivor, a wonderful personality, he was truly a gorgeous soul.

We lost him to the acute onset of a deep bone infection in his hock (like an elbow joint) that was beyond any surgery or medication, when the vets told us 'infection' we were initially relieved thinking he had fractured his hock, our relief was short lived when we learned just how catastrophic the infection was.

Rusty another life who enriched ours...



### Jasper

It is with aching hearts and deep sadness to tell you that we had to say goodbye to our very special elderly gentleman Jasper on Saturday 25th March... we can hardly take it in. Jasper had been so fit and well for a donkey of any age let alone for a donkey well into his forties, but when illness comes the deterioration is rapid.

We have had such a run of losses, particularly with our aged family, it is hard to bear, but we have to take comfort in the knowledge we gave each one the best life we possibly could, if it ever stopped hurting it would mean we didn't care enough – and we do care – beyond words. They enrich our lives and we feel utterly privileged to share theirs and utterly devastated when they leave us.

Dear lovely Jasper, so popular with so many people, if only he knew how many broken hearts he's left behind.....including his bonded friends Lonely and Marybelle, we need to keep a close eye on them, they too, are grieving.

Jasper is buried in the paddock next to his Twilight Herd friend Primrose.

Good night Jasper, God Bless you and keep you safe xxxx

***'At the temple there is a poem called 'Loss' carved in to the stone. It has three words, but the poet has scratched them out. You cannot read loss, only feel it'*** Arthur Golden

## Leaving a legacy to The Flicka Foundation Make a Difference for Donkeys



As you may be aware, in the past year, we have rescued an unprecedented number of animals and taken them into our care – many of whom we simply could not turn away. With this come massive increases in veterinary care costs and, with more hungry mouths to feed, a large rise in feed bills.

With over 100 animals now living at our sanctuary, we need to look at ways to make our charity sustainable into the future, in order to continue to provide the very best care to our residents and one of the ways we can do that is to promote legacy giving.

Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do to look after the people and causes you care about after you are gone and once you've remembered your loved ones, you could make a difference for donkeys too.

As a registered charity, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to survive and continue our vital work. A gift to The Flicka Foundation in your Will, large or small, would really make a difference. It will allow us to protect donkeys and horses from abuse and neglect, rescue and rehabilitate victims of cruelty and give them a safe, caring home for life at our sanctuary.

If you haven't already made a Will, it is recommended that you hire a solicitor to ensure that all legal procedures are followed. Contrary to popular belief, this is not necessarily a lengthy or expensive process! If you have already made a Will, but would like to leave a gift to The Flicka Foundation, you can make a simple addition called a codicil. Your solicitor will be able to arrange this for you.

You can find out more about making a Will and why it is so important on our website: [www.flickafoundation.org.uk/a-gift-in-your-will](http://www.flickafoundation.org.uk/a-gift-in-your-will)

Alternatively, please drop us an email or give us a call – we will be happy to send you more information in the post.

Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to Flicka. Legacies mean we can continue to be here for the donkeys and horses that so desperately need us... now and long into the future.

## Thomas & Susie update

Thomas has grown so much; he had his little boy operation in January and recovered almost immediately, we kept Susie and Thomas in the same barn but apart with a few rails in the middle to discourage Thomas from continuing to suckle, Susie had dropped considerable condition and Thomas is a big lad who really does not need to suckle anymore. Susie being a much older donkey should never have been put in foal; it could have been fatal for both her and 'baby'.

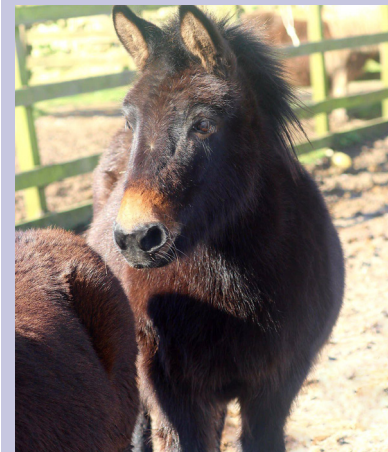


## Dominic and Donald



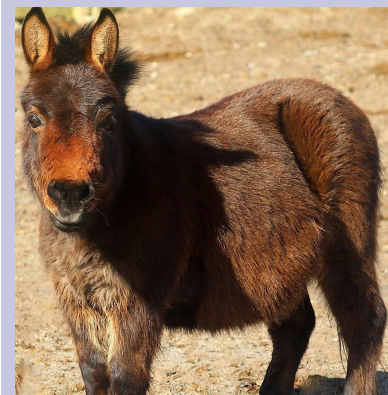
These two gorgeous boys were relinquished in to Flicka's care in January; things were looking very bleak when they had been turned down for rehoming due to their age, Dominic is 25 years old and Donald is 19. The lovely, gentle boys found their future very tenuous when their elderly owner could not care for them anymore, the only option foreseen was euthanasia, of course we could not let that happen.

On arrival they had their health check completed, their feet needed considerable trimming, but it was their teeth that needed the most attention. As donkeys get older their teeth need even more frequent check-ups, problematic teeth can lead to catastrophic consequences.



## Tinkerbelle and Coco

Two mules (donkey father horse mother) also found themselves in need of help and came to Flicka earlier this year. Tinkerbelle is tiny and does have 'dwarfism' which brings with it some congenital physical abnormalities, there are several different types of dwarfism – as well as very short legs, she has a misaligned jaw and her mouth is too small for her teeth, this has to be managed with regular dental checkups, her teeth needed a great deal of attention to make her more comfortable.



Tinkerbelle is exquisite, she is very sweet and friendly, in itself quite unusual as mules tend to be quite highly strung, Coco a little bit bigger than Tinkerbelle, but whereas Tinkerbelle is very chilled and friendly, Coco is more nervous and taking time to get used to us and her new surroundings.

She is stunning and so pretty.



**(The following contains upsetting content)**

## **DID YOU KNOW...**



**Millions of donkeys are at risk of being bludgeoned and even skinned alive because of the insatiable demand for a traditional Chinese cosmetic serum said to stop wrinkles, say animal welfare campaigners.**

**Selling at up £300 a kilo, the donkey hide product known as ejiao was once the preserve of Chinese royalty but an increasingly affluent middle class in the country has pushed up demand.**

**Yet for donkeys it can mean being stolen from owners, bludgeoned and flayed so that the skins can be turned into gelatine for ejiao.**

**As many as 10 million donkeys are at risk as the trade has led to an explosion in the number of animals in Africa, Asia and South America being “sourced, stolen and**

**slaughtered” for the Chinese market. Hides are used to produce ejiao which is mixed with herbs and other ingredients to produce pills and tonics. Ejiao is a medicine with ancient roots and has been promoted as a product worthy of emperors.**

**Wide-ranging health benefits are claimed for the products, including anti-ageing properties, an increase in libido and a reduction in reproductive-organ disease in women.**

**Numerous scientific studies in mammal models have been published, with scientists claiming significant health benefits.**

**A very worrying aspect of this is that the skin of a healthy animal generates the same profits as a diseased and poorly treated animal, meaning that the traders have no incentive in maintaining good welfare conditions.**

**Some of the worldwide animal welfare organisations have formed a coalition to at the very least try and protect the donkeys being stolen in Africa. Sadly and unbelievably there are no animal welfare laws in China.**

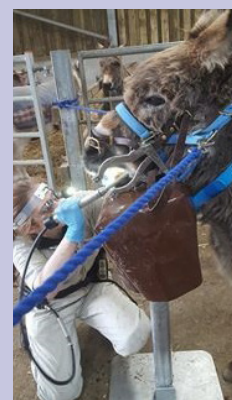
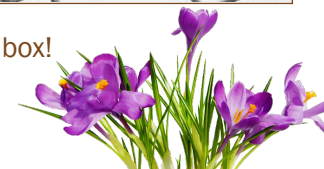
## **Donkey E-news!**

We are pleased to announce that you can now sign up to receive e-newsletters from us!

We would love the opportunity to share more updates on our wonderful residents with you, as well as news about our charitable work, special appeals, events and more - simply visit this website link to sign up to start receiving Donkey News in your inbox!

**[www.flickafoundation.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-e-news](http://www.flickafoundation.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-e-news)**

Thank you, as always, for your support! X



### **Snowberry**

Poor Snowberry needs to have the dentist every month, it is quite traumatic for him, poor boy has a difficult shaped mouth with gaps between his teeth creating food impaction, this leads to gum disease and bleeding of the gums thus giving him pain and discomfort. This has also caused him to lose weight and not want to eat. The specialist equine vet/dentist is going to widen the gaps between the teeth so food does not get trapped, this will hopefully alleviate the problem. Snowberry's case is unusual in a donkey of such a young age.

Three other older donkeys, Minstrel, Harry and Violetta have similar issues and will need the same procedure.

## **Vet Help – Please**

Due to the amount of rescues and relinquishments we have taken in and also the dear friends we have lost over the last five months, this has meant very frequent vet visits along with farrier and dental work amounting to umpteen tests, treatments, x-rays and medications. Our veterinary fees for three months alone have surpassed our yearly budget.

It is not our intention to send out appeals with every newsletter, but this time there really is the need to ask for your help. Contrary to many assumptions Flicka does not receive discount or preferential rates for veterinary treatment.

When we have a 'rescue' the initial fees are very high, following on from this is a lifetime of commitment and care for them. Then there are the aged residents

whose tlc care starts to increase in terms of regular vet checks, supplements, medications for arthritis and special feed for greatly impaired teeth.



We are now faced with five donkeys who require urgent surgical dentistry procedures at the veterinary hospital. Some donkeys have teeth and mouth problems from early neglect, some have congenital issues. One of the donkeys is Snowberry (see previous paragraph), who although only young himself has a 'difficult' mouth, this may be as a result of being born to Marybelle when she was a very sick donkey and then being unable to give him the milk he needed for growth.



The others in need of surgery are Minstrel, Compo, Violetta, Emma and Harry. Neglect and cruelty to an animal has very far reaching consequences, for mothers and their unborn. We would be so very grateful if you could possibly give us some help to help these donkeys.

*On the day of rescue*

## Limited Edition T-shirts!

Talking of raising funds... we are excited to present our beautiful, limited edition Donkey T-shirt! 'A Flicka of Hope' features our very own rescued donkey Dino, drawn by the talented Rachel Dixon.

Each T-shirt sold will help to raise vital funds for Flicka so please help us cover the costs of vet fees and support the donkeys by buying your T-shirt today!

They are only on sale online until 21st April before they are printed and shipped out, so order yours now to avoid missing out!

To buy your limited edition T-shirt, visit this webpage:  
**[www.everpress.com/a-flicka-of-hope](http://www.everpress.com/a-flicka-of-hope)**

Thank you for your support!



## Carol Concert



Our Christmas Carol Concert on Saturday 10th December with our fabulous singing duo Bedlam Bess was a huge success with a great turnout; thank you to everyone who came along, the weather was kind and actually very mild. The singers Kate and Sue were, as always, superb. At one point during the evening we had a crescendo of donkey brays, they drowned out absolutely everything!!



## Tea Bray'k

Don't forget our lovely Tea Cabin (all vegetarian) now offering home-made sandwiches, cakes, scones, veggie sausage rolls, tea cakes, crumpets, cream teas, soup and more. So if you're ever passing and a bit peckish come and say hello to the donkeys and have something to eat.



## Adoptions! Adopt a Donkey this Easter



We know that everyone loves chocolate, but why not ditch the commercialism in favour of a unique, ethical gift idea this Easter? Adopt a Donkey!

Flicka adoptions make wonderful presents or a keepsake for yourself, presented in lovely glossy folders with a welcome letter, certificate, photo of your chosen horse or donkey and a brief history of them, the latest newsletter, a wristband, fridge magnet, pen, members card and car sticker. It really does make a difference too.

Just visit our website to choose who you would like to adopt this Easter!  
**[www.flickafoundation.org.uk/adopt-a-donkey](http://www.flickafoundation.org.uk/adopt-a-donkey)**

**Note:** We do not share any of your details with anyone, our adopters and supporters are 'strictly' for Flicka...