

If you have any Queries or Questions

Don't forget 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, 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.



Don't Forget Adoptions!

The Flicka adoptions make wonderful presents, 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 – a super present that helps to make a difference.

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

Our Special Thanks To...

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

Our own Katie Hosking and Claire Robinson – for holding a very successful rug and tack sale raising around £800 – amazing, thank you girls!

Paul Dodd – thank you for your kindness and generosity

David Crawley - for your great support and kindness

Trevor & Gill Langford and Mavis – an amazing £550 from their tea and cake morning

Waitrose - £390 thank you for choosing us as one of your monthly charities.

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

Hayley Bates for making such wonderful jewellery & crocheted items for our Gift Cabin

THANK YOU!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may there be peace and happiness for all animals and people in 2017.

See you in April 2017. Flicka xxx



“Animals are more than ever a test of our character, of mankind's capacity for empathy and for decent, honorable conduct and faithful stewardship. We are called to treat them with kindness, not because they have rights or power or some claim to equality, but in a sense because they don't; because they all stand unequal and powerless before us.” — Matthew Scully

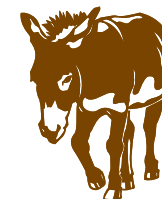


December 2016



Mary Berryman's
**The Flicka
Foundation**

Donkey Sanctuary
Registered Charity No. 1153858



Patrons - CAROLINE QUENTIN, Paul O'Grady, Felicity Kendal



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It's nearly upon us again, Christmas... and we are already preparing the paddocks and fencing for spring and summer 2017! It doesn't seem remotely possible that it was almost four months ago we sent out our August newsletter and announced the birth of Thomas!



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, ages and health issues it will happen, sometimes regularly, 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. This newsletter brings more sad news, following the loss of Tabitha we are now writing to tell you we said goodbye to her life soul mate Tammy then in September more devastation for us when we lost our dear and precious Primrose. Shakespeare wrote '...when sorrows come they come not as a single spy, but battalions...'

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Tammy

Tammy arrived at Flicka in 2011, closely bonded with Tabitha and she like Tabitha she was exhausted and thin, not only was she lame, she could not stand due to the excruciating pain in her feet, before entering market her delicate hooves had been chopped with a hammer and chisel, and who knows what horrors occurred before this; with a body hurting from abuse and a spirit broken we did everything we could to bring Tammy on the road to recovery.

We tried so hard over the years with remedial treatment following x-rays and for a time we thought we were winning. After losing Tabitha with the same condition some weeks ago it seemed to expedite Tammy's decline.



The very dear sweet Tammy left us on the 15th August to join her bonded soul mate Tabitha, they are buried side by side in the paddock it was devastating. Tammy's early life took its toll, despite five years of management, her condition deteriorated rapidly since Tabitha left. Soul mates in life and now at peace together.

We cannot express how much this upsets us, no matter how many there are here at Flicka, it is so hard to let go and hard to accept.

Dear beautiful Tammy – a loss that shouldn't have happened. We loved her so much, but God loved her more...

'Where there are no words.... know the silences are carrying the thoughts and prayers of all who love you' Dawn Dais

Primrose



...and another devastating blow for us

It is a loss that left us devastated and beyond broken hearted... saying goodbye, we cried an ocean of tears.

Our dear sweet Primrose, our lovely special girl had to leave us on 29th September. Not only did she leave us bereft, but her companions too, her special bonded partner Lonely, friends, Marybelle and Jasper.

Primrose became unwell on Wednesday 28th September in the early morning; despite vet visits and treatment (and even a short time where she seemed to improve) she deteriorated overnight and the following day.

All our big family mean so much to us, but some come along that really touch our very core – Primrose – it doesn't seem possible to have Flicka without darling Primrose.

Such was the outpouring of love for her, she had many adopters – all of you will have received a letter from us.

Dearest Primrose you epitomised what Flicka is all about, you bore years of pain and suffering you came to us - broken, but you fought and wanted to live when you found 'Lonely'. We have loved, and love, you so much and are privileged to have had you in our lives. Good night beautiful lady, sleep tight. The Rainbow Bridge is waiting. Xxx

Losing our Dear Friends

It is the very high price we pay for not just loving them, but loving them when they come to us in their twilight years of life - we offer them hospice care. It is a privilege to share their lives, all we can do is ensure their final years.....months.....however long or short, are filled with joy, happiness and freedom. And when they leave this corporeal life they are surrounded by unconditional love.

Ria

A note from Judy

"In September 1998 my Mum, Mary Berryman found a kitten, just 15 days old; squeaking next to her dead siblings, tucking her in to the top of her coat for warmth Mary took her home. Ria grew... not much... into a dear, tiny, sweet little cat, so gentle, but always timid and nervous of strangers. For 18 years she was a constant companion and always stayed in or close to the house. Helping in the office, while her tail sent emails here there and everywhere, patting my face gently when I was upset and pushing her face in to mine

On Wednesday 12th October at 18 years plus old, she asked for some breakfast, had some fuss, popped out of the cat flap, collapsed and died. Dear, sweet Ria, probably the kindest way for her to leave, but not for us, shocked and broken hearted. A huge chapter has sadly ended".

'Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our own lives'

John Galsworthy



Dartmoor & Bodmin Ponies – warning contains upsetting narrative

It was that time of year again when these poor moorland ponies and their tiny foals were drifted off the moors to go to the horror of the livestock market. One of Flicka's representatives went to two of the main markets in Devon and Cornwall, what she saw was sickening, pony foals still suckling torn from their mothers, she says the cry's of anguish from both mother and foal will haunt her forever.

A Representative from People 4 Ponies wrote:

"The handling was loud, over the top, and heavy handed... 'staff' opening pens yelling at the animals to move – who could go nowhere with the staff stood in the gateway. Absolutely terrified the whole pen would clamber up over each other in an attempt to get away – we saw one foal rear up and get stuck over the top of another foal, the one below collapsing in the end to get the other one off. Panic stricken animals desperate to move and unable to get away. All it would have taken would have been to quietly walk along the rail to the back and the ponies would have moved away without anyone even looking at them.... Even in the relatively small ring there were 11 people standing in it at one stage with the ponies being sold.



The work that would be needed to undo the trauma caused to ponies at this sale would be considerable... but of course they are not here to have a long-term future. Almost all the ponies/horses went with three main meat dealers – everything from the wild foals to 16hh horses, neither domesticated nor wild were spared. The blue alkathene pipe was in play. One dealer loading up full with purchases, disappearing for half an hour, and then coming back to pick up the next shipment - they gloat over the whole performance enjoying the fact that the welfare groups are watching and there is nothing they can do to stop them. Even if there is illegal activity NO-ONE from the authorities ever does anything to stop them. The dealers that had disappeared after the horse meat scandal are now back... it's time to ask questions here – has one door shut but another opened? Where are they all going? What we are seeing here is just the tip of the iceberg"

Our Flicka representative saw one tiny, tiny foal brought in to the ring, terrified and trembling and no bigger than a Labrador dog, she couldn't bear what she was witnessing – she brought the little mite home to Flicka. 'Grace' (we named her) was terrified and confused, had no idea what a bucket of feed was or to be hand fed, she should have still been suckling from her mum. We are addressing her situation and will update you in our next newsletter.

How can we make these markets STOP???

Thomas & Susie update

Thomas and Susie are doing so well, Thomas has become quite the celebrity here at the centre, everyone wants to meet him. As soon as one photo is taken it is almost out of date immediately such is the rate that he is growing! Susie is such a wonderful, kind and patient Mum, she has lost some weight and body condition since having and feeding Thomas, she is after all quite an old lady to be having a youngster, a bit like us having a baby at 60 plus! We are giving Susie lots of extra feed and supplements.



Lottie

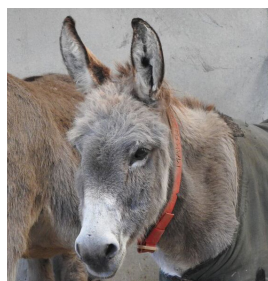
Poor Lottie, she had spent her life for breeding and riding

Lottie arrived at Flicka, she was painfully thin and very depressed, undoubtedly brought on due to having given birth –we were very concerned for her health & welfare. We cannot give all the facts here, but after just a few short weeks following extensive treatment she is now looking as a donkey should, such a lovely girl and so loves people, goodness knows why...



As you know we cannot always write about our work due to the delicacy of some situations,

but we always do what we possibly can to help... things that just shouldn't happen. We are pleased to report that Lottie's former life and condition is being addressed by the relevant authorities.



Marybelle

Lucy the equine dentist now visits Flicka approximately once a fortnight, she knows the way here blindfolded!

You may remember that one of the severe issues Marybelle had when she first arrived at Flicka was her teeth, overgrown and so sharp her tongue was impaled on them and her cheeks were so badly ulcerated she

couldn't eat. Since that time Marybelle has her teeth monitored and checked with great vigilance and regularity, we have known for a while now that the time was fast approaching when she was going to lose quite a number of teeth, having become loose and in danger of causing pain and infection.

The dentist and the vet got together and decided the loose teeth needed to come out, poor Marybelle had seven removed. We were quite worried that this may stop her eating altogether, but she bounced back very quickly after her extensive surgery, with painkillers and a course of anti biotics to help her recovery, Marybelle is now eating everything (specially prepared) that we put in front of her. What a strong little lady she is. Flicka's first donkey and one we cherish every day.



Compo four front teeth

Compo also had extensive dental surgery, only a young donkey, but he has inherited his Mum's (Emma) awkward mouth confirmation. Poor chap was sedated and had his gums frozen, just as we would have at the dentist, while the vet removed four front teeth that had become long and loose, one was beginning to stick out and needed to be taken out urgently. He recovered very quickly and is much happier can eat well and his mouth is no longer distorted from his rogue teeth.

Violetta (teeth done every month)

Violetta has her teeth treated every month, very much the way you or I would visit a hygienist, due to many gaps between her teeth food gets trapped, if not treated can lead to gum infection and loss of teeth.



Treatment of Equine Teeth (can be the difference between life and death)

Lucy Evans is an equine dentist, she visits Flicka regularly, we asked Lucy to write a piece about the 'equine tooth' and why it is vital to have them regularly checked.

"Horses and donkeys are beautiful and intelligent creatures. They are naturally prey animals and, with prey instinct, they will wisely (or unwisely for their owners) hide any sign of weakness or illness. In this case we are discussing their dental health. They cannot survive without a fully functional digestive system. The digestive system begins in the oral cavity where the teeth are designed to grind down coarse forage into smaller more digestible pieces before moving on for further digestion. Being grazing animals they eat forage of low nutritional quality so, in order to get their daily supply of energy, they have to eat forage in large amounts. It is, therefore, essential that their teeth are in good working order."

Unlike human teeth the equine teeth continually erupt through the gums and chewing wears them down due to the abrasive silica in forage. The food we give them in the domestic environment is not coarse enough to grind their teeth down efficiently without leaving sharp edges. Sharp enamel edges surround the outsides of the teeth which can rub and dig into the cheeks and tongue. The best way to describe the feeling of these edges is similar to a bread knife. This occurs in all horses and donkeys that are not regularly treated and, if left for long enough, will cut their gums leaving wounds and ulcers.

Further dental problems can occur when teeth are not in correct alignment or position. In the wild these issues would leave them unable to eat and therefore vulnerable to predators. In the domestic environment these problems can be managed if regularly checked and addressed from a young age. Removing the more common sharp edges or small overgrowths from their teeth is a very straightforward procedure and usually takes only around 20 minutes. The sharp edges are filed down thus allowing any sores to heal up, resulting in a much happier and healthier animal that is able to chew more comfortably and effectively.



The Flicka residents are very accepting of having dental treatment; so much so, that many of them do not require sedation to calm their nerves. It is amazing that they are so willing to put their trust in us even though, for some, it may be their first experience of receiving dental treatment. The most rewarding aspect of being an equine dental technician is witnessing the positive effect of treatment to these beautiful animals' comfort, health, welfare and ultimately their happiness. It is through the exceptional work of the Flicka Foundation, with their love and never ending devotion, that makes the potentially scary ordeal of a dental appointment a smooth, peaceful and rewarding experience for these wonderful animals".



Rusty

Many of you will know Rusty, our little Tina Turner with his thick unruly copper coloured mane! Rusty many years ago was in desperate need of saving when after standing in the corner of a ploughed up field the farmer was going to dispose of him imminently. He was very frightened when we went to remove him late one night. He is such

a wonderful, popular character here at Flicka. Unfortunately Rusty has had uveitis for many years of his life.

Equine recurrent uveitis (ERU), also known as moon blindness or periodic ophthalmia, is one of the most common eye conditions in horses and donkeys

and the leading cause of blindness. It is an immune-mediated disease, meaning the body's immune system attacks its own tissues in the eye; Unfortunately it is not curable. Rusty had this condition when he arrived at Flicka; due to it not being treated it has now sadly left him blind in one eye.

His blind eye became infected, maybe from scratching against the corner of a field shelter or maybe from a scratch from some brambles. The vet had a look and was very concerned at the severity of it, the eye had effectively 'imploded', Rusty was given eye drop, and injections of painkillers anti inflammatories and anti-biotics, it was hoped that the eye would just 'die', if not we were looking at surgery for removal, this in itself it a huge risk for Rusty due to his age, 30 plus and also not having very good sight in his other eye, not ideal to have such invasive surgery. At the time of writing this the eye is progressing the way we hoped it would, the vet has called in each day to monitor progress – so far so good...

A Happy Christmas Story

Teddy

Not all our attempts for relinquishments, saving or rescuing have successful outcomes, but in the case of two lonely donkeys – Teddy and Buttercup, their story has a fairy tale ending. Teddy had been a lone donkey for most of his life; his owner thought he would benefit from the company of other donkeys. He came in to Flicka...

Buttercup

Buttercup's owner had gone to market in the hope of getting herself another horse, her intention was side tracked when she saw three poor donkeys about to be loaded on to a lorry for the continent, unfortunately she only had enough money in her pocket to buy one, so Buttercup was saved. It is so sad about the other two; these market places are brutal and abhorrent.

A thin Buttercup was taken home with her saviour to have some tlc. After five months her owner also decided she should be with other donkeys, so Buttercup was relinquished in to Flicka's care.



Teddy & Buttercup came in to Flicka not too many days apart, so we introduced them. It didn't take long for a friendship to develop, now the happy couple have gone to their new 10* foster home, both are really happy and loved to bits by their new family. Not only are they doing really well, but the cheeky pair broke through some fencing to be with the foster home's three pet alpacas, they all love each other! Now that's what we call a perfect ending – or perhaps we should say a perfect beginning, this is the stuff story books are made of and why we love doing what we do!

Winter Appeal

This year has brought an unprecedented amount of rescues, vet visits and treatment, equine dentist treatment (dentist every week now) and farrier work. This is due to the rescues who arrive in need of urgent attention and also because of not just the advancing years of many of our residents, but many who have on-going issues that have to be managed.

It has been a challenging year, we don't know what each day will bring, but we do need help from all our wonderful supporters, you are the reason we can keep going and do what we do. It always sounds such a cliché, but it is an absolute fact. Please this Christmas will you help us, we need to keep going to ensure we can continue saving and caring for these animals who have no voice and rely on people like you to help them.

Whilst there is so much cruelty – unspeakable cruelty – abhorrent images on social media and the internet, it sometimes feels as if we really are making any difference at all? We get demoralised, so sick of the things we see and read about, we're not even a grain of sand in a world fraught with problems, but we try to tell ourselves, for each one we help, for each one we save, we have made a difference to one small life and to that one small life, it is their world.

Please will you help 'their' world?

Fun Dog Show and Open Day Saturday 3rd September

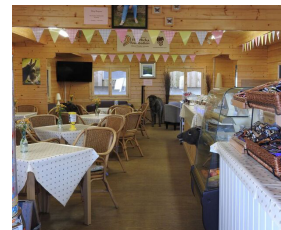
Our annual Fun Dog Show and Open Day on the 3rd September, was not quite the occasion we hoped for, with sunny days on Friday 2nd and Sunday 4th, the Saturday brought us not just torrential rain, but rain that came down in stair-rods! The whole occasion was held under cover in the big donkey barn.

It was still quite well attended, but not as it would have done if the sun had been shining! We have, over the years, been exceptionally fortunate with the weather on our open days, we guess it was bound to happen, a soggy, doggy day. Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who supported the event.

CAROL CONCERT

Our Christmas Carol Concert is on Saturday 10th December at 7.00pm in the donkey barn with our fabulous singing duo Bedlam Bess.

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. So if you're ever passing and a bit peckish come and say hello to the donkeys and have something to eat.

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.

Calendars... We have Donkey Calendars!!



We still have some of our lovely calendars for sale! They are £8.50, all proceeds go to Flicka. If you are ordering from a distance, I am sorry, but the postage is £1.50. (1st class not tracked).

You can order yours by emailing your details, paying by BACS or simply send a cheque to The Flicka Foundation, Penty Noweth Farm, Trenoweth Lane, Mabe Burnthouse, PENRYN Cornwall TR10 9JB.

Could this be all your Christmas presents sorted? ;-)

