

Summer 2017



**Patrons – CAROLINE QUENTIN,
PAUL O'GRADY, FELICITY KENDAL**



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It's Summer Time!



So many things to report on since April! We've had scorching weather, wet cold weather and more scorching weather, then rain and more rain the donkeys and horses don't know what coat to wear! Shed their winter one, keep it, shed half of it? So now we've done what every self-respecting British person does, talk about the weather, so now we will move on to Flicka news.

As we have come to almost expect sad times giving hospice care to a lot of Flicka's family, this newsletter brings some more losses. If we write the words it 'breaks our hearts' it sounds such a cliché, but we can only tell you in all honesty the affect it has on us is utterly heart breaking. We never get used to it, immune to it, it never hurts less, in fact on the contrary it hurts more and takes us even longer to recover from... we have to accept in this environment and giving twilight years care to so many, this will happen with almost certain regularity.

We will never, ever, forget any one of our beautiful family we cherish them, their lives, their very being and when the centre is quiet; we spend treasured moments with them and marvel at how special they all are.

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Tootsie

With deep sadness and aching hearts we have to tell you we lost our beautiful, kind and gentle Tootsie on Saturday 13th May. At the end of last year, following investigations, we learned that Tootsie had a condition which would ultimately take his life. There was no way we could predict how long, so every day he was with us and doing well,

was precious. Then over the course of a week there was a significant decline in his health, the signs we had been dreading.

We said goodnight to Tootsie late in the evening. Another special soul who has left us bereft. We were so lucky and privileged to share, and be part of, his twilight years. He is buried with his friends in the paddock under the trees. God Bless you special boy xxx

'...evening's peace and silent tears brings you once more to my side...' Kim
Tootsie 1986 - 2017

Cara



Not many weeks later we were saying a goodbye we had been dreading, Cara, (Toostie's soul mate) on 22nd June. All of our family are special and unique to us; losing Cara has been particularly hard to take...

Cara was one of the first rescues of the Flicka Foundation in 1995, she had been abandoned by the side of a road over four days in the blistering heat of July, tied up with a heavy metal chain which had cut into the crest of her neck 1½" deep, it had become infected and ulcerated, and with no water she was dangerously dehydrated. When the police and RSPCA caught up with her owners it was discovered she had been road raced all of her short life, 12 years, she was

no longer fit for purpose, so she was discarded. We brought her into Flicka for urgent treatment.

As with any rescue, their early life can take its toll, for Cara it was the development of arthritis in her legs, stifle and spine from being hammered on the unforgiving tarmac roads. You can see how she stands in the photo, favouring her back legs and trying to keep the weight off them.

A very nervous and highly strung pony she trusted no-one and was constantly fearful of people. Over the years this became less, but sadly her arthritis advanced. We managed her condition constantly, two years ago we did not think she could carry on, but always surprised us when she rallied and would pick up again. Now at around 33/34 years old, the heat of the last few weeks has brought about a further and more dramatic decline in her condition; pain management was no longer working.

Cara is buried next to Tootsie, her latest friend, and her two soul mates who had gone before, Nonny & Lettie, all together again. The hurt of loss will never lessen, no matter how often it occurs, and neither would we want it to, for that would mean we were getting used to it, and we never, ever will.

Just to add to the heartbreak, Nemo (one of the 'Bumbles' – mini Shetlands) had developed an exceptionally strong attachment to Cara, he was beside himself and raced around calling and calling, he carried this on late into the night, poor Nemo he didn't understand. Goodnight Cara, such a special little lady... we love you and will treasure your memory always. Thank you for being a part of our lives and allowing us to be part of yours.

'It is so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone...' John Steinbeck

Teddy, Buttercup & Angelina?!



When two separate rescue donkeys came in to Flicka in August last year, Buttercup and a small gelding called Teddy, we had the perfect foster home lined up for them.

Imagine our foster parents shocked delight when going to their paddock on the 4th June to find the most divine little package. Unbeknown to all of us Buttercup was in foal when she was saved. ❤️❤️❤️

It does not bear thinking about what may have happened to Mum and her unborn baby having been seized moments before being dispatched on to a meat lorry. So now our foster parents are the proud owners of 'three' donkeys! 'Angelina' is truly gorgeous and brings a little bit of heaven in a difficult world

Marybelle 27th June



Ever since Marybelle first arrived at Flicka when she was so ill we nearly lost her, her teeth have been a constant issue, due to early neglect and mistreatment she has suffered with ulcers, abscesses and loose teeth. Over the years some teeth have been removed, always with cautionary advice the others were not very good either.

Recently Marybelle became very unwell, towards the end of June she had to have more teeth removed as they were causing her so much pain. Following surgery we were extremely worried about her as she was refusing food and becoming depressed, a critical situation for a donkey. Then we discovered something that would turn her appetite around... Ready Brek! She now has this added to her normal soaked soft diet daily. So if you fancy foregoing your bottle of wine one week, Marybelle would love a box of Ready Brek!

She loves it and, as you can imagine, is now going through boxes of the stuff! Can anyone please donate just £3 to cover the cost of one box of Ready Brek for Marybelle? If we can manage to raise £100, we can buy 30 x 750g boxes, which will keep Marybelle going for a couple of months! Thank you so much. ❤️

Blue



You may remember Rhapsody and Blue came from Budapest, saved after being spotted by a tourist who saw the boy's dreadful condition when they were pulling a very heavy cart. Both boys are quite the 'aged' gentlemen now, so their care is becoming more specialised.

Blue became unwell one morning. The vet was called; Blue had some blood taken for screening, plus some medication to help him feel better. Poor boy didn't like the injections, but hope he forgives us for making him have them! He did improve the following day and has continued to do so. We can never ever take any chances with any of our big family, especially those with some age about them. What can start off being something quite benign and mild can very quickly turn serious and life threatening.

We will be keeping a close eye on him. ❤️❤️❤️

Emma



Then it was one of our Twilight Herd members, Emma's turn to worry us early one Saturday morning.

Poor girl was unwell when Katie went to feed her in the early morning. She was suffering from a prolapse after straining constantly to 'stale' (urinate). We administered some warm wet towels to help and called the vet who checked her over and did some blood screening – we were given some anti-biotic injections to administer – (injected as this is less harmful to the liver and kidneys due to her age).

Thankfully she improved as the day progressed; it would seem she had a bladder infection/cystitis which came on very suddenly, it could well have been due to the extreme heat we have been having and poor Emma not drinking enough. Our 'aged' population cannot regulate their temperature as effectively and this can bring about some issues for them. Poor Emma was suffering there for a while, not only that, but Acorn, her shadow, was very anxious about her too. Emma has now fully recovered and doing very well.

They know how to worry us... lovely Emma

Lottie



Remember Lottie who arrived in August 2016, emaciated and very depressed? Lottie also showed clinical signs of having just given birth – we will never know what happened, if the foal survived or was taken away, but Lottie was a very sick and miserable girl. Her situation was followed up by an animal welfare organisation.



After giving birth, donkeys go through a 'foal heat' so they are immediately fertile once they have had a foal, for three weeks. Many unscrupulous dealers capitalise on this and keep donkeys pregnant practically permanently. Unbeknown to us when Lottie arrived she was in the early stages of pregnancy; blood screening, which is very time specific, did not alert us to her condition in the first couple of

months at Flicka. It soon became visibly clear she may be in foal, following further blood screening it confirmed what we guessed. We could also only attribute guessing to timescales and any clinical signs; we knew time was getting closer...

We didn't publicise Lottie's condition as she has had some very serious health issues, as well as physical examinations she has also had an ultrasound. All was not as it should have been with her udder, Lottie had several vet examinations followed by a referral, her issues had vets, specialist donkey vets all scratching their heads. All we could do was wait. We couldn't be sure Lottie would be successful in feeding a new born so we kept a close vigil for the pending birth and made sure we had colostrum milk on hand if it was necessary. There were so many 'ifs' and 'buts' with this pregnancy and we had no idea what happened after Lottie's previous birth.

However Lottie gave birth to a healthy baby boy in the early hours of 21.7.17 ...a beautiful 'tiny' baby boy!

Lottie and son are doing really well. The vet was called to check them both and Lottie's ability to adequately feed her baby. It was decided to assist with some bottled colostrum for the first 24 hours. We did need the vet again with some early concerns, but all is good now, what a clever, wonderful Mother and what a little sweetheart, one that will NOT be taken away from her.

We launched a 'Name for Lottie's foal' online, thank you to everyone who donated and took part – he is now officially '**OLLY**'...

Dominic & Donald

Remember these two older boys from April's newsletter?



"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".

Donald and Dominic have gone to the most wonderful home, they are so loved and adored, it couldn't have been a better happy ending/beginning for these two gorgeous boys – thank you Patricia and Richard Bircher for giving them such an idyllic life xxx

Little Bracken & Sammy

Sammy was rescued in 2010 after he and Frodo had spent over 12 months wandering around open countryside in Cornwall, hedge hopping crossing main roads, aimlessly travelling around to find food and shelter. When we brought the boys to Flicka they were exhausted and very thin.



Years later they are both blooming with health, but have been a bit of a problem for us, every paddock we put them in they escape!! At one time we had to go to the next village as they had travelled as the crow flies across many paddocks!!



Two years ago Little Bracken arrived at Flicka, removed as part of a welfare case involving several animals. Such a dear little pony, he and Sammy became best friends, but the boys had to stay in our 'playground' area being the only place Sammy couldn't escape and obviously not wanting to separate them we needed to keep both in this area together.

In April this year we had a visit from a lady who loved the two boys and wanted to give them a home for companions and pets.....we are delighted that Little Bracken and Sammy have moved not too far away from Flicka and can now be ponies in a big paddock that has over 4' high fencing, they are both doing so well. That is what we call a happy outcome and a difficulty solved!

Esmie, Flo, Tilly, Olive Diane, Pansy, Heather, Polly



Just look at these gorgeous girls! Do you remember these donkeys? We spent four years trying to coerce relinquishment from their owner who was dealing and selling donkeys at market. Their sad and poor condition was heart breaking, but after four years we finally collected the last one who was left in isolation, now they are enjoying a life of luxury and love.

Eight donkeys all mothers, daughters and sisters, all so happy to be reunited with each other.

All eight girls are in the most amazing foster home, Teresa & Alex, wonderful people we can't thank enough for their love and care for these very special donkeys. All fit and well with every luxury lavished on them... makes our hearts sing. ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Esmie, Flo, Tilly, Olive, Diane, Pansy, Heather and Polly. xxx



Molly & Matilda

There were two jennies on our radar for some time, their condition was a source of worry and we knew they were ultimately heading for market. We cannot give too much detail, but we are delighted to tell you with the help of Flicka these

two girls, Molly and Matilda, are now safe and in a loving caring forever home. They are both, more than likely, in foal – four lives, victims of the meat trade, live export, breeding and markets are abhorrent and need to be addressed by the government.

An Exciting Project Planned at Flicka



As you know, we are always striving to improve the lives of the donkeys and horses at our sanctuary. Considering the horrendous traumas they've all suffered before they were rescued, we feel they deserve only the best and we will do anything to make life as happy and comfortable as possible for them!

Our next big project is building an 'Activities Barn'. Every day, whatever the weather, the donkeys have to go outside so that the Main Barn can be mucked out. This isn't a problem on a fine day, but, as you know, we do get our fair share of rain here... and donkeys absolutely hate the rain and cold, their coats are not waterproof like horses' coats. They do of course have dry and sturdy field shelters to take cover in, but they are limited to just standing around in those, so we want something even better!

Our vision for the Activities Barn is a large structure of around 60' x 40', which will provide lots of space to shelter, socialise and play in. It will have a nice, dry sandy floor to roll around on, as well as lots of stimulating toys and enrichment items, such as; balls, hanging feeders and treat dispensers; all designed to enhance the donkeys' physical, psychological and social well-being.

We estimate this project will cost in the region of around £45,000 and hope to obtain grant-funding to cover some of this huge cost, but stayed tuned for how you can help as a supporter of Flicka. In the meantime, if you know of any building or engineering companies who might like to generously donate their services or have any other ideas for fundraising for this project – please get in touch!

Open Day Saturday 15th July



Our Open Day was a great success this year, the weather was kind and we had a huge turnout, fundraising almost hit the £2000 figure which is a healthy amount towards 2017/18 hay and straw.

The Odd Quad Quartet gave their time to play some wonderful music for the day. Thank you so much to the group for giving their time and talent so generously.

Thank you to all our volunteers, we couldn't do it without you and thank you to everyone who supported our day we wouldn't be here without you!

We had the Hen Welfare Society here too, promoting their rehoming scheme with three of their gorgeous ex factory farm girls all happy now following a miserable existence. There was a lot of interest and many homes were secured. If you could give a home to an ex factory farm hen please get in touch with The British Hen Welfare Trust, Hope Chapel, Rose Ash, South Molton, Devon EX36 4RF – tel 01884 860084 website www.bhwt.org.uk. They are nationwide and would love to hear from you.

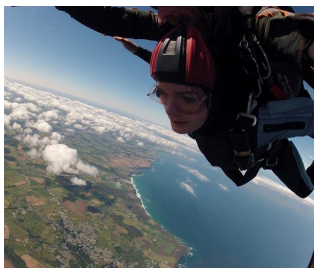


The Sponsored Skydive



We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in our very first Skydive for Donkeys event this summer. Despite high winds and low cloud postponing the jumps (numerous times for some of our dedicated participants!), the event was a great success with 14 brave Flicka supporters taking on the challenge of a lifetime and jumping out of a plane at 10,000ft before hurtling towards the Atlantic Ocean at 120 mph; all to raise vital funds for our work!

We are so grateful to those who signed up and took part. Everyone worked really hard to hit their sponsorship targets (and many participants raised a lot more!) – asking friends and family to sponsor them, having donation tins in their workplace and even organising bake sales, raffles and pamper evenings to raise funds!



We are delighted to announce that the event has raised an absolutely fantastic £6396 so far and we still have 3 participants who will be completing their skydives later this year.

Aaran Sheppard, Ann Lawrence, Hannah Lawrence, Beth Moore, Claire Billington, Dion

Saayman, Matt Rose, Alison Rule, Meghan Porter, Peter Vale, Rachel Comer, Samantha Gill, Tina Childs, Charlotte Bain, Julie Dronfield, Kelly Bridges and Amethyst Newman – on behalf of the Flicka Team and the beautiful donkeys and horses that live at our sanctuary – thank you so much!



Marks & Spencers Famouth

Flicka has been selected by M&S in Falmouth to be their partner charity for this year 2017/16. Thank you to M&S and their staff who voted for us. Lots of fund raising activities with them in the pipeline, starting with Falmouth week when on 9th August two donkeys will be outside M&S helping to raise awareness of the plight of donkeys around the world.



CALLING ALL DONKEY DEFENDERS!



Do you know a young person who is Dotty about Donkeys?! We have the perfect Mission for them...

Flicka's brand new Donkey Defenders scheme is a great way for young, passionate people to become involved with our charity and build on their key skills by encouraging them to raise funds and awareness for our work. Our Donkey Defenders gain exclusive access to a secret area of our website where they can find useful fundraising tools, as well as access to fun donkey facts and games. On completion

of their 'Special Mission', participants will receive a certificate of achievement, Donkey Defender badge, thank you letter, donkey photo and more!

With recent huge vet bills to pay, we really need all the help we can get... do you know any young people, friends with children, group leaders or teachers who might be interested? You can find out how to become a Donkey Defender here: www.flickafoundation.org.uk/donkey-defenders or email info@flicka.org.uk for more information!

Leaving a legacy to The Flicka Foundation -

Make a Difference for Donkeys

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.

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

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

Thank you, as always, for your support! X



Tea Bray'k



Don't forget our lovely Tea Cabin (all vegetarian) now offering home-made sandwiches, toasted sandwiches, cakes, scones, veggie sausage rolls, tea cakes, crumpets, cream teas, Barista coffee (vegan coffee too) 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.

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**, 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.



Adoptions! 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 for yourself, family member or friend.

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.....



Above: Bertie. Below: Lottie and Olly.



Our Special Thanks To...

Esmie, Ken and Alison Richards – thinking of you Esmie, get well very soon xxx

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

Tamsin Gay – for running and completing an amazing online auction raising £1200!!

Adsa Penryn – thank you to you and all your customers, we won the green counter vote and had a £500 donation, just wonderful.

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

Trevor Gill and Mavis Langford – over £500 raised from your coffee morning – amazing!

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.

To all our Wonderful Supporters – for your donations from our April newsletter Vet Appeal, your generosity is overwhelming... thank you so very very much.

THANK YOU!

We wish you all a Wonderful Summer

xxx

See you in December

Flicka xxx

***“Some people don’t understand why I help animals in need...
I don’t understand why they wonder...”***