



December 2017



Mary Berryman's
**The Flicka
Foundation**

Donkey Sanctuary

Registered Charity No. 1153858



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



SEASON'S GREETINGS

TO OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS



Trenoweth Lane, Mabe Burnthouse, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9JB
info@flicka.org.uk tel 01326 373601 www.flickafoundation.org.uk

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Seasons Greetings to you our wonderful supporters

As we start to put articles together for our winter newsletter 2017, the nights are already drawing in fast and the mornings are feeling that bit colder and by the time this newsletter lands on your doormat, December will be upon us! As usual, the months have flown by, but each and every day at Flicka has been as busy and eventful as ever and as always, your support has allowed us to continue our work... what a year we've had, rescues, rehoming, new foals, sad goodbye's and lots... and lots... and lots of vet and dentist visits.



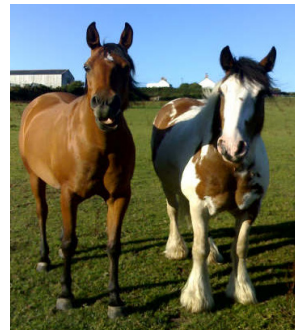
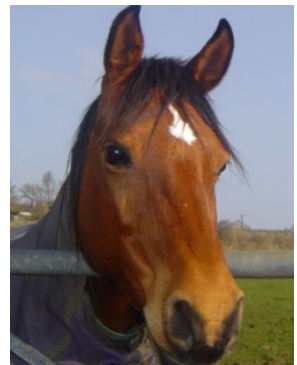
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SHIRAZ

We are so sorry to have to report in this newsletter that we lost our beautiful Arab horse Shiraz, tragically and suddenly. We can't quite believe we are actually writing these words, we have been shocked every day since.

In August we discovered Shiraz in a distressed state in his field one morning only an hour or so after he had been seen standing quietly sunning himself, suspecting colic we called the vet, but Shiraz's condition deteriorated so rapidly and violently that he passed away before the vet arrived, we were devastated beyond words – how can a beautiful, fit and well horse be with us one moment and gone the next?

Thank you for sharing your life with us Shiraz, such a handsome beautiful boy, we will always miss you...xxx





Whispa ♥♥♥♥

At the beginning of September, a little pony arrived at our sanctuary in a terrible state of neglect – emaciated and arthritic with a swollen deformed leg. Whispa had been abandoned only to be ‘taken in’ and starved for six weeks under the ignorant belief she had laminitis, so food should be withheld! Whispa’s outlook was tenuous due to her very poor health, when we collected her we feared she may pass away before we got her to Flicka.



Our dear sweet little Whispa had a full vet-check and had bloods taken which revealed Cushing’s disease and quite advanced liver disease no doubt expedited due to

starvation, we put her on medication for the Cushings and her liver failure. Whispa also saw the equine dentist; as well as her health problems, the poor girl had some serious teeth issues, which had to be cautiously treated. For almost seven weeks, although a little weak and underweight, she ate well and each day she enjoyed pottering freely around the centre, exploring and getting some fresh air before taking herself back to bed in her cosy barn stall when she was tired and wanted to rest.

We knew Whispa would not be with us for long because of neglect and cruelty, which expedited her already grave health problems, but she had love in abundance; company, all the food and treats she enjoyed and was able to wander around the centre and do whatever she felt like. Whispa knew only good things for her twilight days. Not only all staff and volunteers, but so many of our visitors fell in love with her. Then on 16th October we were heartbroken when we had to say goodbye to the sweetest little pony ever...

The emaciated, depressed pony who we thought would not survive the journey to Flicka... but she did - to enjoy just under seven weeks here with us, loved beyond measure, took herself wherever she fancied and had special feeds prepared six times a day, company and cuddles in abundance and she had been slowly putting on weight – this photo is of her having a nap after a busy day exploring all over the centre, grazing and meeting people. There is not one person who was not touched by this darling pony.

The day before we said goodbye she had a super day in the sunshine, ate lots and had lots of treats, but as with so many of these conditions, deterioration is rapid and acute the following day brought us what we had been dreading...

“Good night Whispa, we are so sorry for the hard life dealt you, you have made such a huge impression on the hearts of those who knew you – God bless you.”

Thank you to everyone who donated to help us cover the costs of Whispa’s vet bills.

A Five Donkey Saga



You can always guarantee that what would seem to be a simple relinquishment won't be!

Over a year ago Flicka was approached to take an 'aged' jenny donkey, which we were happy to do. The owners then changed their minds. Twelve months later the same owners asked us to take two elderly jennies, which again, we were happy to do so... then two became five!



Two elderly girls (in their 20s) and three younger ones (all about 8 years old, including two quite rare twins), the owners were very keen the two and three should stay together, having been so all their lives.



As so often happens, money will suddenly become a factor despite their 'apparent' concerns for the donkeys and their future the owners sold them, unbeknown to us, just one day before Flicka was due to collect them. With no guarantee two and three would stay together we were utterly deflated and so sad for the girls and what may lay ahead...

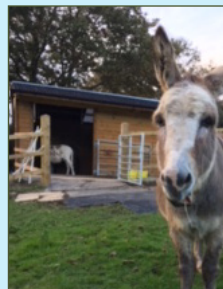


So for discretionary reasons we cannot report too much, but happily we located all five girls and managed to get them safely to Flicka. They have received full vet screening, their feet have been attended to and their teeth. Poor girls had 'never' had their teeth treated.

We have two 5 star homes lined up for them, the two senior girls will stay together in one home and the three younger ones will go together to another.

That is the result we like – happy, safe donkeys!

Teddy, Buttercup & Angelina



Remember our foster home who had two of our rescue donkeys Teddy & Buttercup, then Angelina was born to Buttercup giving our foster home a complete and utter, delightful, shock. Well she has grown and grown, what a stunning girl. Teddy Buttercup and Angelina are a very tightly bonded little herd – such lovely, affectionate donkeys, Marise and Simon love them in abundance



Susie, Thomas, Lottie and Olly; A Special Friendship...



Olly.



Thomas & Olly.



Olly & Lottie.

As most of you will know, we've had two donkey foals born at Flicka in the past couple of years; Thomas to Susie in August 2016 and Olly to Lottie this past July.

Susie was originally from Bulgaria, where she was forced to pull heavy carts and cruelly hobbled, before she spent umpteen years giving rides in a petting zoo. She had probably been used as a breeding jenny and was pregnant when she arrived; giving birth to baby Thomas on 4th August 2016. The very same month, Lottie arrived at our sanctuary. She had been exploited as an unlicensed beach donkey; her poor and emaciated condition was very worrying, but she settled in well and began to recover from her past life. Some months later, we discovered she had also arrived in foal.

Lottie had some very serious health issues and required many vet visits throughout her pregnancy, but we were delighted when she gave birth to little Olly on the 21st July 2017. All was well with Mum and baby, who were initially separated from the others for their safety, but Lottie was quick to let us know that she was not at all happy with this arrangement! It was decided to move her into one of the barns, so that she could be in a pen next to Susie and Thomas, she was immediately much happier and more settled. Once Olly was a bit bigger and stronger, we introduced the four of them together out in one of the paddocks. This social arrangement has worked out great for everyone! Lottie and Susie really enjoy each other's company and graze the paddock together, whilst keeping an eye on their youngsters. Just like Thomas, Olly is rather spoilt and cheeky and gives his poor Mum lots of trouble, but luckily the two boisterous boys have become great friends and, with just 1 year separating them in age, they enjoy many hours of chasing and rough play. This leaves them thoroughly tired out by the end of each day and gives their long-suffering Mums a well-deserved rest!



Thomas & Olly.



Susie.



Olly.

Teresa Morrison: Why I Foster Flicka Donkeys



"Hello, I'm Teresa and I foster eight of Flicka's donkeys. As I love fostering them so much I asked Judy if I could write this article about how wonderful it is! So here goes, I'll try to capture everything that makes it such a special experience.

I suppose to start with, there is something important about supporting an organisation that holds the same principles, values and ethics towards animals that I do. As a long standing vegan, I have a huge admiration for the work Judy and Laurie do and their endless endeavours to save and rehabilitate as many donkeys (and other animals) as possible. On a practical level, it's also good to know that by fostering, I'm freeing up space, time and funding for the next animal in need. Don't think though, that for Judy and Laurie, out of sight is out of mind, far from it! They care about your foster donkey every bit as much as those at the sanctuary, and are always there to advise and support those foster carers they have entrusted to continue their good work.

Then of course there is the donkey, all jennies in my case, and probably all related in some way or another. There are eight, I never intended to have that many (and I hear smaller numbers are available to foster!) but they were all rescued, over the course of several years, from the same place, and it felt important to reunite them. They range in age from about 5 to twenty six and are now a tight knit little herd with bonded soulmates and broader friendships. Of course, all Flicka followers will know just how special these sentient creatures are, so to be able to care for them, to develop close and trusting relationships with them, and enjoy their company on a daily basis is an honour indeed. Little Esmie, kept alone in the corner of a run down, dilapidated barn for goodness knows how long, joined the herd a withdrawn and isolated donkey, hardly seeming to notice the presence of the others or me around her. A year on, she is a different donkey, one who chooses to come over, loves a cuddle and perhaps most importantly, grazes alongside and plays with her field mates. Donkey therapy doesn't just work on humans!



I could probably be classified as a 'donkey bore'; everyone who comes to our home who expresses the slightest interest is given a tour, a meet and greet of all the donkeys and a brief story of their desperate pasts at the hands of mankind. Most say they have no idea donkeys suffered in this way, and by the time they've experienced the full force of donkey magic, go away wanting at least two!

People who come often ask me why I have them, what do they 'do'? A strange idea that donkeys, unlike any other pet we humans have, have to earn their keep or contribute to the family business in some way! Some folk seem to have an expectation that donkeys must be 'used' in some way (maybe a lingering image of beach donkeys or those poor creatures sat on by tourists?) or are an appendage to something else, a field companion for a horse perhaps. My reply, that they don't have to 'do' anything, that we have no expectations of them (although a rudimentary tolerance towards people is helpful, it is not a human right) tends to confuse people further. But of course, this does not do our donkeys justice; they give back so much more than we ever ask with their forgiving nature and quiet affection. In short, they bring themselves and their benign presence and that is more than enough. And the bonus is that, given understanding and time, they will enjoy our attention, stand for the farrier without taking a pot shot at him, and not disappear across the fields when the vet arrives! So perhaps the question should really be, what do you, the human, do? Well, I muck out, pick up poo, worm, treat lice, groom, cuddle, worry, watch, pay for all those farrier and vet visits, and love every minute. People don't understand that either!

So there are some of the reasons I foster Flicka donkeys. In a nutshell, they enrich your life beyond measure and give back more than you could possibly hope for".

The Activities Barn



We reported in our last newsletter about an Activities Barn for the donkeys...

From August 2017

"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.....”

Since this news Flicka received two legacies of £38,000 and £5,250 – receiving such funds is always rather bittersweet knowing a special person has passed away, but we hope that in their memory having something permanent done will be the best way to thank them. Due to this we have submitted planning for a barn of 50' x 80' slightly larger than we first suggested, at an estimated cost of £60,000, lots of fund raising on the horizon!! We are currently waiting for the planning decision and hopefully work can start sometime in early 2018. We will be so relieved to have this extra covered space for the donkeys, especially now seasons are just warm wet and cold wet!!



Chinese medicine continues to fuel the rise in donkey slaughter for global skin trade

The crisis continues for poor donkeys across the globe.

Demand for hide, used to make traditional ejiao, has raised the price and rate of slaughter of donkeys, endangering the livelihoods of those who rely on them

This surge for donkey skin gelatine has been attributed to the rise of China's middle class and belief in the herbal medicine's efficiency, Ejiao can sell for up to £300 per kilo. There are so many alternatives that can be used; in the UK it is illegal for herbal practitioners to prescribe medicines which contain animal products.

The demand for donkey hide is surpassing supply. Around 1.8m donkey hides are traded per year, while global demand is estimated between 4 to 10m skins. This has raised the price of donkeys in some countries, making them unaffordable for many people who use them to take goods to market, cultivate land, and fetch water.

Countries with large donkey populations also report an increase in their slaughter. Illegal or “bush” slaughter, which frequently involves stolen donkeys, has been reported in Egypt, South Africa and Tanzania, while legal, government-sanctioned slaughterhouses have been found in Kenya and Ethiopia, home to the largest donkey population in Africa.

Five countries have banned exports of donkey hide – Pakistan, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger – but, more countries need to ban the slaughter and export of donkeys for their skins.

IFAW Philip Mansbridge UK Director reported.....

“The ongoing use of animal products in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is something that genuinely no longer needs to occur,” said Philip Mansbridge, UK director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. “Although only around 3% of TCM materia medica is made up of animal-based ingredients, and domestic and international laws have reduced demand for such products, many unscrupulous traders work to stoke demand, promoting non-essential, unlicensed and even counterfeit products and advertising false claims of the curative powers of such products.”

This is not just an animal welfare issue but a humanitarian crisis.

As usual, it is animals being exploited for the greed and selfishness of indulgence and profit.



Dental Treatments



Thank you to so many of you who helped with the dentist appeal, we were able to give more donkeys the treatment they desperately needed.



Harry, Compo, Snowberry and Minstrel were first in the queue to receive their specialist procedures. All four donkeys required teeth extractions, gaps between the teeth widened to ensure food does not get lodged; this causes soreness, inflamed gums, pain and early tooth loss. The four boys had lost a considerable amount of weight due to their problematic teeth, eating had become very difficult for them. Happily all boys have now put on weight and looking very well.

Harry and Compo have been out on various events this year looking very healthy with beautiful shiny coats.

Apart from these four, there has been a continuous list of other donkeys and ponies who are benefitting from veterinary dental treatment, including Tickety-Boo who became famous when she was filmed and aired on the local 'Inside Out' news programme on BBC.

Teeth issues are constant, treatment is vital and as regular as having the farrier, we can never be complacent; teeth can be a life or death situation.

Will you help Flicka this Christmas?



We don't publicise or report on all the welfare, rescues and relinquishments we carry out, but they go on every day of every week. As well as 'saving', we help, visit, advise, rehome and source homes. Each year our work increases and each year our vet visits, health screening, medications, equine dental procedures also increase, not only for new arrivals, but Flicka's resident family, as they age so do their requirements. Please consider helping us this Christmas, it always sounds such a cliché, but Flicka would honestly not exist without the big hearts and kindness of all of you, every one of you are part of Flicka, we work for 'you' so we can save and care for our beautiful friends who need us forever.

Thank you xxx



Support Adoption For Pets



We are delighted to share our news that Support Adoption For Pets have generously given us a grant to purchase a 'newer' tractor and brand new paddock sweeper! Our old tractor and sweeper are now very old and unreliable, frequent repairs are costly and in the case of

our 40 year old tractor, parts are hard to get! To replace them will cost over £20,000. They are essential pieces of equipment for keeping the paddocks clean and safe for the donkeys and horses, we are thrilled to have this amazing support. Thank you SAFFP!



Your next Newsletter

Just a quick note to let you know that your next newsletter will be due to arrive in June! Moving into the future, we have taken the decision to publish Flicka's newsletter twice annually. As a small charity, we are always extremely busy (there are simply never enough hours in the day!), so this will save us much needed, precious time to better concentrate on vital aspects of our welfare work. Not only that, we will be able to re-direct the funds saved on printing and postage towards the care of our precious residents. We hope you understand that we've made this decision in the best interest of our charity and the animals we care for... and you won't be missing out - it will just mean that each edition will be packed with even more Flicka news and updates! Don't forget you can always follow us on Facebook, or if you have any questions about your special donkey or pony email info@flicka.org.uk and we will give you and update.





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

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.

Flicka's 2018 Calendar

Our 2018 Calendars are on sale! For just £8.50 (plus £1.50 p&p), they make wonderful gifts for Christmas or to hang on your own wall. What better way to start each month than with a stunning photograph of one of our beautiful donkeys; next year's calendar features some gorgeous familiar faces including Bertie, Lonely and baby Oilly... You can order yours by emailing your details to info@flicka.org.uk and paying by BACS or sending us a cheque and a note with your address or check out our brand-new online shop to buy online!



Carol Concert

Flicka's Carol Concert will be held on Saturday 9th December at 7.00 pm in the big donkey barn (with the donkeys) and our famous duo Bedlam Bess, Kate and Sue. Tickets are £5 each (£3 for children) which includes a mince pie and mulled wine. Pasties will be for sale on the night, as will teas and coffees. Tickets are 'very' limited, this evening has become more and more popular each year, we are limited to 250 places....so be quick folks!



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. We should just add here that ALL proceeds from the tea room goes to the charity and is a great source of help to Flicka's survival. Thank you to everyone who has come along this year and hopefully tasted some of the delicious items on our menu ;-)

About Flicka's Adoptions and Adoption Packs

Monitoring our data of adopters has been no easy task over the years, due to the volume and lack of physical resources many yearly adopters membership lapses and what is worse for the charity, many of the standing order adoptions cease within a couple of months and sometimes don't even commence. It would be very helpful if you could ensure the standing orders are leaving your bank account as although we now have a super volunteer, Ruth, who is taking on the mammoth task of checking the database it will take some considerable time.

The beautiful adoption packs we send out are not subsidised, this means it is a considerable cost to the charity when standing orders don't materialise – thank you for your help and understanding.

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 donkey or horse 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...

Our Special Thanks to...

Jayne & Chris Keast – we are overwhelmed with your donation, this has made big inroads to our appeal for another barn, thank you so so much xxx

Esmie, Ken and Alison Richards – thinking of you all, thank you for your amazing kindness xxx

Trevor, Gill and Mavis Langford – once again for the amazing funds you have raised!

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

Hayley Bates for the wonderful jewellery & handmade items for our Gift Cabin.

Barrie & Sharon Howell – thank you so much for your kindness.

Pauline – for the wonderful knitted donkeys and finger puppets – they are so popular.

To all our Amazing Volunteers – your help and hard work is invaluable.

The Uni Girls, Exeter University – wish you could stay forever!
Thank you girls

To all our Wonderful Supporters – for all your donations, your generosity is overwhelming and Flicka would just not exist without you... thank you so very very much.

THANK YOU!

We wish you all a Truly Wonderful Christmas

Thank you for being a hugely valuable Flicka supporter

We could not do this without you!

Thank You.....really, Thank you xxx

See you in June 2018

Flicka xxx

“Maybe it’s animalness that will make the world right again: the wisdom of elephants, the enthusiasm of canines, the grace of snakes, the mildness of anteaters. Perhaps being human needs some diluting.”

Carol Emshwiller