



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE HOME OF REST FOR HORSES

The Home of Rest of Horses offers a safe haven for more than 100 elderly horses, ponies and donkeys.

To provide the specialist standard of care that each of our elderly horses needs can cost anything between £3,000 and £5,000 a year.

Without the generosity of benefactors who choose to leave a bequest to The Home,

this loving care simply could not continue. At Westcroft Stables The Home combines its individual standard of care with an education programme highlighting the cost, care and commitment necessary for owning a horse and an unmatched

THE ECHO MEMORIAL APPEAL HELP US BEAT COLIC

Colic is the worst nightmare of any horse owner - any animal can be afflicted from the highest-bred racing thoroughbred to the smallest pony. No matter how well the animal is loved and cared for colic is dangerous and can kill.

Most bouts of colic are mild and either respond quickly to treatment or get better spontaneously. However colic is potentially life threatening and the progression from normal to dead or dying can be as short as four hours. There are several types of colic and many theories on their causes.

Impaction, "twisted gut", inflammation of the small or large intestines and stress are all examples of the causes of colic. Colic is an indication that a horse is in pain - usually as a result of a serious abnormality in the alimentary tract. Echo, one of our bravest residents, survivor of the Hyde Park bomb blast of

programme of grants - assisting non-invasive, ethical research into the many ailments and diseases that affect horses worldwide.

For more information The Home has produced an advice pack on making your will. If you would like to receive one please complete the enclosed leaflet marking the appropriate box. ■

Legacies to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax - yet only 14.3% of people choose to make such tax-efficient bequests. Act today to improve the averages and benefit horses everywhere.



1982, eventually lost his life to colic. Echo spent 20 years in tranquillity at our Buckinghamshire home. As the UK's leading funder of research into equine ailments, we have already devoted many thousands of pounds to research the causes of colic. Now we have set up the Echo Memorial Appeal to go one step further to finding the missing pieces to the jigsaw and help beat colic. To donate and find out more about this appeal please contact The Home directly or visit our website on:

www.homeofrestforhorses.co.uk

If you wish to donate on-line please specify "The Echo Memorial Appeal" in the "donor instruction" box on the form.



Thank you for your generosity and support - help us win the battle against colic. ■

A HAPPY ENDING

The Home has been instrumental in the successful search for a missing pony.

One afternoon, Rebecca Evans, Head of Welfare received a distressing telephone call from a lady explaining that her daughter's pony Milly had been missing for a few days and she was desperate for help. Rebecca immediately made contact with the local British Horse Society Welfare Officer. Coincidentally the BHS officer is also the local horse watch co-ordinator and a police volunteer and had already been

alerted by the local police to a horse that had been found wandering along a road. Unfortunately by the time the police arrived the horse was no longer anywhere to be seen.

Messages and notices were placed in the neighbouring villages including local pubs and schools. Children from one school were cleverly sent home with notes regarding the missing pony in their book-bags.

THE SEARCH WAS DEFINITELY ON... AND, IT UNDENIABLY WORKED!

The Home received a very welcome call to say the pony had been found in woodland nearby looking a little worse for wear but with no apparent long-term injuries. Horse and owner were reunited and she was securely put back into her paddock to rest and recuperate from her alarming experience.

Jemma was so happy to have Milly back she said;



Milly back with a very relieved Jemma

"I want to thank everyone for their help finding Milly especially The Home of Rest for Horses for taking on the challenge. I didn't know where to start and The Home and The BHS just took over the search and Milly is now delighted to be back in her field."

FEEDING ADVICE FOR HAPPY HORSES

On occasions our eager horses, ponies and donkeys become overwhelmed with carrots during busy times such as school holidays. This can create health issues such as choking and digestive problems in some of our residents.

Whilst rare, the anguish this creates for the horses is very distressing.

We do not want our horses to be poorly so all we ask is that carrots brought to The Home are cut lengthways as shown in the picture as the

horses find them easier to chew and break down avoiding any potential health problems.

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated by all of our four legged friends. ■



A correctly prepared carrot



THE HOME WELCOMES ROYAL VISITORS

Her Majesty The Queen paid a surprise visit to The Home on 1st April and HRH The Princess Royal, The Home's new Patron on Tuesday 24th May.

Her Majesty The Queen accompanied by Chief Executive Brigadier Paul Jepson and Stable Manager Shirley Abbott meeting David Andrews The Home's Estate Worker and reunited with recent new resident 'Just Otto'.



The Princess Royal with Brigadier Paul Jepson and The Home's Chairman Major General Sir Simon Cooper meeting 'Iceland' and Groom Claire Clark.

As a knowledgeable horsewoman, Her Majesty enjoyed talking to the grooms about the horses in their care,

including two cheeky Shetland ponies and a couple of elderly donkeys. The Home's oldest resident Big John, who has now reached the grand age of 38, was especially honoured to be fed his favourite treats.

During her visit, The Princess Royal met staff and trustees of The Home and past and

present clinical scholars who have benefited from grants given by The Home of Rest for Horses to fund their specialised fields of equine research.

Brigadier Paul Jepson, Chief Executive and Veterinary Director of The Home, expressed his delight at the royal visits. "The Home was greatly honoured to welcome both Her Majesty The Queen and The Princess Royal to Westcroft Stables." He continued, "Both of our royal visitors are excellent horsewomen in their own right and are very supportive of The Home's comprehensive contribution to equine welfare, education and scientific research." ■



"WHO IS DEEMED A DESERVING CASE?"

by Rebecca Evans, Head of Welfare

"To decide which horse and why is a dilemma I face on a daily basis. What to do? So many horses and so few spaces..."

The Home of Rest For Horses was originally formed in 1886 to help the over-worked London cab horses. The Home would provide loan horses in order for the tired cab horses to receive adequate rest and recuperation. As the use of horses has evolved to become a leisure pursuit rather than a form of

transport the entry requirements to The Home of Rest For Horses have altered. We do not re-home or offer respite care to horses as this is seen as a very exhaustive drain on resources. We only accept elderly horses in balance with our staffing, stabling and grazing capacity.

"THEY MAY STAY IN OUR CARE FOR MANY, MANY YEARS."

Some of the horses at The Home are in their 40's and therefore it

has to be considered when accepting horses that they may stay in our care for many, many years.

"THE SHEER NUMBER OF HORSES FAR OUTWEIGH THE SPACES AVAILABLE"

The Home continues to have a commitment to what we deem the "working horse"; loyal servants to the Army and Police Forces and those used by organisations such as Riding for the Disabled or the Horse Rangers Association based at Hampton Court, for example. Recently Queensbury and Organza joined us from the Household Cavalry Regiment and Knightsbridge, our most recent arrival, had spent many years with the army but was then

retired to a couple who could no longer care for her. Jack joined us after retiring from 15 years of service with the Horse Rangers and finally Teddy has come to Westcroft Stables from the Waverley Driving Group which is a group connected



Teddy in harness

to the Riding for the Disabled Association. This organisation gives carriage rides to disabled people who have a passion for horses.

I deal with numerous calls on a daily basis from people who can no longer look after their horse. The reasons for their predicament vary a great deal, usually it is because they can no longer afford to look after a horse that is unrideable. People find it very difficult to justify the expense of looking after a horse which they cannot ride but quite often they would prefer

a charity to take on this expense in order for them to purchase another horse which they can then ride. Unfortunately the sheer number of horses which fall into this category far outweighs the spaces available and therein lies the very difficult dilemma, what makes one horse more deserving than another?

Some people acquire horses as teenagers and when they grow up, get married and have children they find that they can no longer afford to care for their horse. I always endeavour to be understanding and helpful and when people ask me "how do I get my horse into your place?" I can only say there is no clear cut answer. Each case is assessed on an individual basis because everyone's circumstances and story is different. I advise people of the service provided by commercial retirement homes, these are livery yards which specifically cater for the retired or unrideable horse. Our website has a comprehensive list of livery yards of this nature.

Some people even contact me in an effort to find an establishment which would take care of their horses in the event of their death. There are quite a few people who have made a covenant in their will dictating that their horses will come into our care if they die. Similarly people have contacted me when their relative has died and left them with a horse. I am also contacted by terminally ill people who desperately need someone to take care of their much loved horse. People who through no fault of their own and, much to their own frustration, have developed age onset health problems such as arthritis and



Knightsbridge with her Groom Dayna McGrudge

angina that prevent them from doing all the daily manual tasks that owning horses involves.

As well as taking what I would call "at risk" welfare cases, The Home of Rest For Horses also likes to help those people who have displayed a loving long term commitment to the care of their horse. Only this week I was visited by a lovely couple in their 70's who have cared for their horses for well over 20 years but are realising that it really is becoming too much for them and they want to make plans for the future. Similarly, we recently took on 2 very elderly donkeys which had previously been cared for by a local lady in her 80's but sadly she had to go into residential nursing care and there was no one available who could appropriately care for these lovely creatures.



Teddy enjoying his retirement



Si, Chloe and Pandora

"THE HORSE MAYBE ON A WAITING LIST FOR UP TO 2 YEARS."

If I decide that in essence the circumstances of a particular person seem worthy of further investigation, I will send that individual a questionnaire to complete. If all the information seems to suggest that the person is genuinely in need of help I will then go and visit the horse and

owner with our Stable Manager, Shirley Abbott. However, even if deemed suitable the horse maybe on a waiting list for up to 2 years.

At no point throughout this process does the amount of money an individual is prepared to donate influence whether or not that horse or pony is admitted to The Home of Rest For Horses. Some people can manage to contribute to the care of their horse and for other people it is because they have no money that they require the charity's help. Other people cannot afford to make regular donations but

have left the charity a legacy in their will.

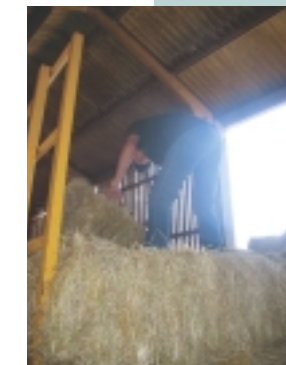
Unfortunately The Home of Rest For Horses cannot operate as a safety net for all the elderly, unwanted and unrideable horses in this country. We accept a small number of needy horses but at every given opportunity we try and advise and educate people of the **"THE HOME CANNOT OPERATE AS A SAFETY NET FOR ALL THE ELDERLY, UNWANTED AND URIDEABLE HORSES IN THIS COUNTRY"**

cost, care and commitment involved in owning a horse in order to reduce the huge number of "surplus" or "unwanted" horses in this country.

The Home of Rest For Horses really is the fairy tale ending for our horses. Our horses are the lucky ones. I hope that with your continued support we can continue to help many, many more horses and their owners through analysis, advice and admissions." ■

HAYMAKING

Westcroft Stables is a working farm and has been very busy over the past few weeks harvesting the hay crop for the winter months. The Home prides itself in its self-sufficiency and in recent years has won



prizes at local agricultural shows for the quality of it's hay. ■

DISPLAY BOARDS

For those of our supporters who have visited The Home you may have noticed the addition of two large display boards under the archway at the entrance of the yard. These boards illustrate The Home's objectives as a leading animal welfare charity and also allows us the opportunity to thank our many supporters who so generously donate to our good cause. ■

