



# NEW ADMISSIONS

**Corky, a striking 18-year-old, 17.1-hand chestnut gelding, worked with the Thames Valley Police Mounted Section based at Milton Keynes for five years, undertaking many demanding duties within the Thames Valley area. From pop concerts to football matches, catching robbers and finding missing children, Corky lived life to the full and now deserves his retirement to the tranquillity of the rolling Chiltern Hills at Westcroft Stables.**

The recipient of a commendation for bravery during a local derby football match between rivals Portsmouth and

Southampton, Corky left an everlasting impression on all the staff at Milton Keynes.

Police Constable Kirsty Bishop, Corky's rider, said: "Corky has the biggest heart. He is the oldest horse at our stables but he thinks he is the youngest. He behaves like a lovable puppy and will lick you to death given half the chance."

Police horse Bracknell TV4 is a most welcome addition to the herd. Monarch, a 23-year-old, 16.1 hands grey

gelding former resident of The Royal Mews, has also retired following 16 years' loyal service to Her Majesty The Queen.

Shuttling the mail between Buckingham Palace and The Royal Mews with stops at Clarence House and Kensington Palace, Monarch was affectionately named Pinky by The Queen due to his distinctive grey/roan colouring.

Pulling the mail carriage was a very important duty and many new drivers at The Royal Mews perfected their driving skills with Monarch before moving on to the larger carriages seen at many formal and state occasions. Stable companion St Patrick arrived with Monarch and, at 17.1 hands, was the perfect wheeler" in the Queen's

Corky with Sergeant John Thurston saying his fairwells at The home of rest for Horses. John was responsible for Corky's upkeep.



Monarch (Pinky) with St Patrick (Padi) taking in their new surroundings.



or small your chosen event is it's all about having fun and raising money in the process.

Maybe this will inspire others to do what they can to help all horses, ponies and donkeys live healthier and happier lives.

## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT HOW YOU CAN HELP?

**Occasionally we receive letters from supporters who have gone out of their way to raise funds on behalf of The Home of Rest for Horses. Pippa Froud and Rachel Ward did just that by holding a garage sale and raising an astonishing £160.34.**

dedicated supporters holds an annual coffee morning collecting donations for The Home whilst enjoying a "get together" with friends. It doesn't matter how large



Pippa and Rachel hard at work

They had taken time to decorate their stall with home-made posters, signs and leaflets and sorted out a variety of toys and ornaments to sell. To boost their income and stave off any hunger pangs homemade cakes, biscuits and sweets were

also on offer. Apparently the chickens were on overtime such was the demand for eggs!

Fund-raising isn't just about sponsored walks or swims. Anyone of any age can join in. For example, one of our

## MG OWNERS' CLUB SPEND A MAGNIFICENT DAY IN THE CHILTERN

**HORSE POWER OF A DIFFERENT KIND MADE A MEMORABLE VISIT TO THE HOME OF REST FOR HORSES BACK IN AUGUST.**

The MG Owners' Club generously gave £300 towards the care of the many elderly horses here at the stables.



For once the oldest residents at The Home were not the horses but a large number of Classic 2-seater sports cars which gathered at Westcroft Stables for the Wycombe Area MG Club's Octagonal Run.

It was great to see so many smartly presented cars in such a beautiful location. They also proved to be far quieter and a lot less greedy than the ponies and donkeys that normally graze in the field.

foals teaching them good manners and behaviour when they first left their mothers. Max has settled well in his new home and likes nothing more than having a nice rub under this tummy!

30 times. In spite of this, albeit trying his hardest, he never actually won a race! Having already retired from racing he spent several years hacking out before his owners found it too much to continue to look after him and Max. ■

Max's companion Anglo Arab gelding Jasper, who stands slightly shorter at 16 hands, also spent several years racing during which time he was placed more than



Jasper in his early form

and seven horses of The Household Cavalry.

Household Cavalry tradition dictates that horse's names are re-used dependant on their year of entry into the Cavalry. The original Sefton bore a white blaze and four white socks, very different from the new Sefton who is entirely black apart from a few flecks of white on his nose.



Sefton, the horse so badly injured in the Hyde Park Bombing on 20th July 1982 who lived at The Home of Rest for Horses for ten years until his death in 1993. Sefton suffered 37 wounds from flying metal when he was caught within yards of the explosion, cheating the terrorist bomb which claimed the lives of four soldiers

Sefton arrived after serving Her Majesty The Queen for many years. His last official engagement was at The Queen's Life Guard Parade at Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall in July. ■

[www.homeofrestforhorses.co.uk](http://www.homeofrestforhorses.co.uk)



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team. This 25-year-old Irish carriage horse acted as the brake when pulling the heavy carriages appearing at national events such as Royal Ascot, the Opening of Parliament and Her Majesty's birthday parade.

Now reunited with retired team mate Iceland, both Monarch and St Patrick can now look forward to a long and happy retirement.

Two other additions this summer have been 23 year retired racehorses

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY SHOW INTRODUCES THE HOME'S NEW ARRIVAL

**Every year Aylesbury hosts Buckinghamshire's largest Agricultural Show at the beginning of September. Over the past few years The Home has attended taking one of its residents to meet members of the public who visit the stand.**

This year the main feature of the Show was The Household Cavalry who performed their musical ride in the main arena. As Sefton, an 18-year-old, 16.2 hand black Household Cavalry gelding had recently retired to The Home he was invited to be reunited with his old cavalry companions at The Show.

It was a stunning event – as the horses were

turned around to face the audience Sefton was paraded around the inner circle by The Home's Stable Manager, Mrs Shirley Abbott. With his head held high it was not difficult to imagine that he had only recently performed in such an event before retiring to The Home in the summer.

This new Sefton is proud to bear the name of his famous predecessor.





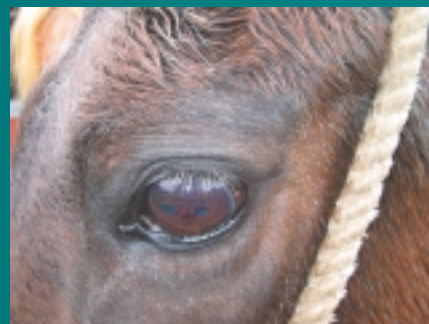
# KEEPING VETERANS IN TIP TOP CONDITION THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS

**It is not only humans that are living longer, our horses are too! Improvements in diet, management and veterinary care mean that horses, ponies and donkeys can easily live into their 20's and 30's. Just like us, older animals need special care to keep them happy and healthy.**

**A 20 YEAR OLD HORSE IS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO A 60 YEAR OLD HUMAN**

It is hard to establish exactly when a horse is "old". A 20 year old horse is roughly equivalent to a 60 year old human and like may humans at this age a horse can still be physically very fit and well.

However, signs of ageing can begin to show in a number of ways. Changes in a horses appearance is an indication that the clock is ticking on.



**DEEPENING DEPRESSION ABOVE THE EYES CAN BE OBSERVED ALONG WITH GREYING HAIR**

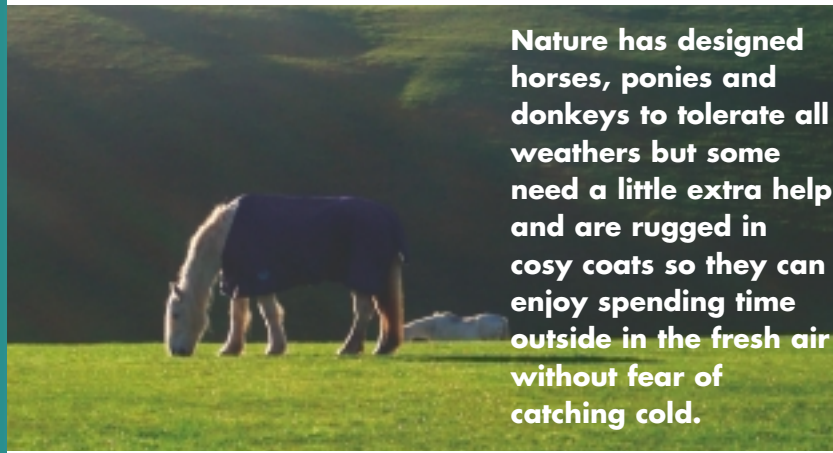


A sagging or dipped back with prominent withers is common along with a noticeable change in muscle tone. A characteristic drooping lower lip or a more hollowed appearance

to the face with deepening depression above the eyes can be observed along with greying hair around the eyes, ears, forehead and muzzle. Other indications can be messy eating habits, difficulty eating or a general loss of appetite and weight loss which can be the result of worn or missing teeth. Lameness due to the onset of arthritis which can affect one or more of a horse's joints is common in the older horse.

Whilst outward signs of ageing are apparent changes inside the body are also occurring. The heart, liver, kidneys, digestive tract and immune system become less efficient, muscles become weaker and joints and tendons degenerate. These effects of ageing mean that a horse is more susceptible to illness

and recovery from disease and injury will take more time.



Here at The Home the challenge of caring for the older horse during the cold winter months is one that faces the staff and grooms every year.



Older horses need a lot of TLC, which the grooms give in abundance. This creates a special relationship and enables the grooms to keep a watchful eye on weight loss, change in condition or just general depression. Like humans, horses do find the winter a challenge. The short days and long dark nights take their toll. Even in bad weather elderly horses need to

exercise in the fields during the day to prevent their joints becoming stiff.

**Nature has designed horses, ponies and donkeys to tolerate all weathers but some need a little extra help and are rugged in cosy coats so they can enjoy spending time outside in the fresh air without fear of catching cold.**

Each of the grooms at The Home of Rest for Horses has around 15 horses in their care and with the constant reassurance of Shirley, The Home's Stable Manager, and Charli, Head Groom, any concerns about any of their horses are always met with a willing pair of ears or hands which are available at any time of day or night.

These concerns are also extended to the horses' diet. Older horses have different nutritional requirements due to the reduced efficiency of their digestive systems and poor dentition. Worn or loose teeth means that veteran horses and ponies are

unable to chew their food properly and may even find it impossible to eat long forage such as hay properly. As forage should form the mainstay of the horses' diet to ensure the digestive tract remains healthy it is important to provide forage alternatives to horses and ponies that cannot eat hay. It is advisable that a horse has his teeth checked at least twice a year or at any time that a problem is noticed. A horse which has had regular dental treatment throughout its life is far more likely to have teeth in good working order when it is



approaching its 30's.

The reduced efficiency of the older horses' digestive system to digest, absorb and utilise certain key elements of their diet, such as protein and phosphorus means that diets formulated specifically for the older horse can help

compensate for the reduced efficiency. The diet also needs to provide enough digestible energy to ensure that large horses such as Janus and Leonidas, ex drum horses from the Household Cavalry, maintain good body condition without the requirement to feed them huge amounts of hard feed. Highly digestible sources of fibre combined with high oil levels reduces the reliance on starch in the ration and with a good oil supplement even winter coats will gleam. Yeast helps to maintain a stable environment in the gut and aids the absorption of phosphorus. A probiotic, like in humans, reduces the risk of



As horses are 'trickle-feeders' and graze almost continuously for up to 17 hours per day the winter months and periods of confinement potentially reduces their intake of this essential vitamin. Vitamin E boosts the horses' immune system, assists with wound

**"HORSES ARE 'TRICKLE-FEEDERS' AND GRAZE ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY FOR UP TO 17 HOURS PER DAY"**

bacteria in the gut such as E. Coli or Salmonella, which could have serious consequences in older horses. The most abundant source of natural Vitamin E is in

healing and may even have an anti-aging effect in some of our residents! Before changing a horse's diet it is essential to consult a veterinary

surgeon who will probably do some tests to check for any kidney or liver problems. If a change in the horse's diet is necessary this needs to take place over a period of 7 -10 days as unexpected changes can disrupt the digestive system.

There is no reason that an older horse should not continue to enjoy its life as it did as a younger animal. However, the welfare of a horse must always be in the forefront of a horse owners mind. If a horse is not happy and not able to live a



At the end of the day sensible management of a veteran horse is essential for general well-being. Routine care such as worming and vaccinations is vital and the provision of shelter and warm stabling in the winter is as important as ever. Where possible twice daily checks should be observed and just because a horse is getting old doesn't mean that it won't need a regular exercise. Caring for a horse's feet is equally important and even if the horse is not shod, feet still need to be trimmed and checked regularly at least every 6 to 8 weeks.

contented life, then euthanasia must be considered. There comes a time for every horse when things get too much. Responsible horse owners need to make sure that the best treatment possible is provided, however, if the time comes when the accumulation of years of wear and tear and general old age catch up on them, euthanasia is the kindest thing for a horse that is no longer able to live the quality of life it truly deserves.

## THE HOME OF REST FOR HORSES CLINICAL EVIDENCE LITERARY PRIZE 2005

**Meredith Smith, who works at the equine clinic of a Salisbury veterinary group has been awarded The Home of Rest for Horses Clinical Evidence Literary Prize 2005.**

This is the first time a clinical scholar funded by the Home has been awarded this peer-reviewed honour.

Meredith graduated from Cambridge University Veterinary School in 1999 and went on to Liverpool University to undertake a three-year residency in soft tissue surgery, funded by the Home of Rest for Horses.

Her prize of £1,000 and a bronze sculpture of a horse's head was presented by Chairman of The Home of Rest's Scientific Sub Committee, Professor Stephen May at the BEVA Congress in September.



Paul Jepson, Chief Executive of The Home said, "It is very satisfying that a clinical scholar funded by The Home has received such a high degree of honour by her peers". He continues, "The Home's commitment to supporting research and training posts continue and are a large part of our dedication to equine welfare".