



# The Animal Healing Trust

## Spring Newsletter 2011



Miracle enjoying being groomed by 2 of our sponsors, Ruby and Maya

Dear friends  
Well time really does fly doesn't it!! It's now the beginning of April and it seems only a few weeks ago we were carrying water to the horses in the snow!

Such an amazing and unexpected winter for everyone wasn't it? The horses weren't phased at all by the snow, why would they be? They had each other, their warm coats on, their field shelters and their food! In fact I think they loved it! They were very joyful. They were thoroughly spoiled. Even though we discovered that the cost of hay mysteriously seemed to double in price over this winter, and our monthly hay bill soared to £1000 and our feed bill £750 we still kept on feeding them the same amount as always if not more due to the snow and this is only possible due to all the support we have received from all our friends, family and supporters so THANK YOU!!! Thank you to everyone who came to our fundraising events last year and a special thank you to the horses sponsors who provide security to the horses with their monthly direct debits so thank you SO MUCH we don't know what we would have done during the winter without your help, we thank you, the horses thank you xxxx

The snow was 'a challenge' for us humans I must say, frozen water pipes meant no water! So we had to carry bottles and drums of water from home, up and down to the farm everyday sometimes twice a day to make sure the horses had enough water, because they were eating more hay they were drinking more water! Shaz and Bart have very kindly bought us some insulation and lagging so we can lag the pipes this summer to see if that helps during the next winter, thanks guys.

Thanks also to the lovely Carol Deakin who spent most of her spare time in January and February doing her friends and clients Angel card readings and raised over £300 for the horses! Thanks Carol that has really helped feed the horses xx Also thanks to Amber Woolvin who did a cake sale at her school xx and to Kim Lavery who came to our rescue literally when she made a very generous donation xx

We needed some extra money too as the beautiful Miracle had some bizarre accident and injured her hoof recently. We noticed her limping and on investigating saw that she had broken a piece of her hoof off! And it had gone all the way up to the skin and fur part of her hoof and was bleeding and sore. We rang the vet and needed to get her out of the muddy field. So dear little baby Spirit (very small possibly pregnant pony) had to go back in her little house while her Auntie Miracle went into her dry and mud free paddock! Once the vet had been and bandaged Miracle's leg we allowed little Spirit in with her Auntie Miracle and a great friendship began. It was

great for Spirit as she has been getting quite bossy! She may only be 36 inches high but wow she is stubborn and bossy and confident! Well not with her auntie miracle teaching her the do's and don'ts of acceptable horse behaviour. Thanks Miracle you have really helped us humans!

Once Miracle was better we popped her back in with Billy and the big herd, and it was so lovely as Billy had obviously missed being able to touch Miracle (they are married so its allowed!) and they entwined heads in a wonderful and gentle hug, how great are horses!!

Well the good weather has now come along so a few weeks ago we took the horses coats off and they are now naked! They are SO funny, and clever, they waited until everyone had their coats off then started to one by one do a ceremony of going down on the floor and rolling in all the grass, dirt and mud (yes you Westie especially! You are supposed to be a white horse not dirty brown!) So funny to watch as they all took it in turns, it must have felt great to have their coats off and feel the sun on their backs! And may I say we were DELIGHTED that they were all a good weight too after such a cold winter, dare I even say some a bit on the chubby side! Lets name no names but Bailey, Daisy, Illy-anne, and Westie could do with cutting down on their hay intake for a while! And as for that gorgeous welsh cobb Bobby well he has with no shadow of a doubt the most cutest and biggest bottom on a horse I ever did see, its like a peach, a big round peach, I cant help keep hugging him and telling him how gorgeous his



Our welsh cobb Bobby enjoys his food!



cheeky chubby Westie no longer a white horse after rolling in the mud!

bottom looks!

**T**he only horse that hasn't got a good weight on her is our elderly horse we rescued from France last November, little elderly Madeline does look thin, we think she is in her late 20's and she is very happy with her 3 french herd members (one being Dune her daughter, Dodger the cute cobb type but very sensitive boy and Illy-anne who is their giant of a herd leader) but she is a bit too thin so we are giving her extra meals to feed her up much to the dismay of her French friends who we are sure are asking us 'why is she getting extra food' or should I say 'pourquoi?'

**W**hen we took Westie and his herd's coats off it was a sight to see and I wish I would have had a camcorder! Westie is in charge of the elderly (English) horses, so springy (34) Cottie (30) Charlie (in his 20's) and Ruby (who is only 8 but was too scared of horses when we took her on so we put her with the oldies and she is fine now) well the coats came off, the ceremony of who can roll the best began and then Springy went over to groom Westie, well this lady may be elderly but boy does she get enthusiastic when she grooms! There was white fur from Westie flying everywhere and the speed she was doing it was hilarious like there was a 'who can groom a horse the fastest' competition! It was SO funny! But then Ruby (who we know is engaged to be married to Westie soon) decided to come over and she started grooming Westie on his left side while Springy continued on the right!!! I have never seen anything so funny! It was a comedy moment and Westie was just standing there and I am sure I heard him say 'Peace and love man, my ladies they just love me, I'm the man, yeah Westie's the

man!' He definitely is our 'Mr Lover, Lover'

**S**o I mentioned Spirit and it's a case of is she or isn't she?? We took her on at Christmas as she was abandoned and unwanted, only young about 2 years old and possibly pregnant. Well there has been no baby as yet and we have had SO many people including vets, give different opinions on whether she is or not. The only real way of knowing is by paying £150 to do a scan and that is about 17 bags of horse food so instead, and on the advice of our good friend Kelly (parelli) Smith, we are buying a human pregnancy test this week and see if we can get her to literally pee on the stick, cameras at the ready folks, this is going to be interesting!

**A**nd just as we were all having a great time, surrounded by happy horses I took a phone call... it was about 3 weeks ago now and I was contacted by an old friend of ours who asked if we could take on an unwanted pony? Unfortunately I told her we didn't really have any capacity on any level, physically, or financially but after she said he was just a baby who desperately needed a home I said I would see if I could find him a home. He was between 14-18

months old and he was a welsh cobb pony (like our Bobby). His owner could no longer afford to keep him. After several text messages and emails I miraculously found him not one but 4 potential new homes! 4 lots of people who were interested in him but when I went back to my friend just a few days later she had some bad news, she said that his owner could not wait any longer and was going to have him destroyed! (Now if you are easily upset then please don't read the next bit and skip to the following paragraph) He was not only going to be destroyed but she was going to ask the local huntsman to come out and shoot him and then feed him to his hounds!!!! What??? I couldn't believe it, in fact how could I? Surely this didn't happen, not in the UK, a country of animal lovers? But how wrong was I. After I told one of my closest friends she said she knew of someone who had given the same fate to their horse and so did the lady who works in my local horse feed shop!! I was so deeply shocked, this information rocked me, it really did. I have lots of friends who have lost their beloved horses, I have even been there at the end with some of them and it's an incredibly sad time, so much emotion, grief and loss, but the dignity, love and respect for the horse has always been so wonderful, I even remember one man who came to take my one friend's horse to the crematorium and helped us to respectfully lift the head off the floor, it was a very touching and kind gesture and I will never forget his kindness. So how could someone allow their horse to have an end like this? What was going on inside this person to think or FEEL that this was an appropriate way for a horse to end its life here on the earth? It



our eldest horse Springy who is 35 she looks like elderly but still has a good weight after winter



Lovely Louie, supposed to be as big as our welsh cobb Bobby but so weak & ill, he had been on the floor 17 hours

seems so wrong to me, so heartless and brutal and savage!

Anyway quick action was needed to prevent this little boy from such a cruel fate so my friend agreed to take him the following day (thanks so much Liza!) and keep him literally at the back of her house! We would electrify the coral so our little pony 'Spirit' could go in it then the little chap could stay in her paddock (with a field shelter) for a few days until we checked out the potential new owners, BUT things didn't quite turn out that way...

We arranged to pick him up a few days later. Our friend Kelly 'Parelli' Smith very kindly brought her trailer to pick him up with 'Jackpot' Julie (thanks guys we love you!) Richard went along too and the little boy arrived Thursday 24th March 2011

Firstly he didn't have a name (???) I was thinking of lots of fun names for a red coloured cobb like 'Red' or 'Chester' or 'Barney' but when we met him none of those names were for him, the name we were 'given' was 'Louie' and it really suited him, he is such a gentle little soul, in fact just by saying his name now by heart fills with love, it really does. Well when they guys went to fetch Louie he was very weak and to say he was thin was an understatement, he was so weak Richard stayed in the back of the trailer with him in case he fell over on the way home! And he certainly didn't look like a welsh cobb! Bobby is a welsh cobb and he is very stocky with a bottom like a peach (I love that boy's bottom) But Louie looked more like a walking skeleton with a fur coat on! He had very long fur which disguised partly

how skeletal he was but when you touched him all you could feel was his bones!! How had such a young horse got into this condition?!!!! There was no way we could re-home him in this condition!! We would have to take care of him, I mean he could hardly stand up and he staggered when he walked like he was going to collapse and collapse he did...

The following day he was really poorly, he collapsed and couldn't get up. Richard, John (Saint John) and Daryn tried to lift him but couldn't. They were very inventive (and kind) and built Louie an amazing contraption, that could hoist him up, don't ask me how they did it but it was built out of scaffolding poles with ropes and a motorised winch but the winch wouldn't work so they had to use their man power and the hoist to get him up. They could then hold him suspended in the air until he was

willing to support himself and walk on his own. Unfortunately it wasn't long before he went down again so we called the vet. He was really concerned at the condition Louie was in too and gave him a thorough examination and took blood tests. He said that Louie was suffering from exhaustion, anaemia, and worms (red ones and tape-worms)!! This was serious. Also that he would ring us in the morning (Saturday) with the blood test results, which he did which confirmed a serious worm infestation, which had affected his liver, he had a liver infection, his blood cells weren't healthy and he hardly had any protein in his body either. He was prescribed antibiotics, an iron supplement and a chemical wormer, which I politely argued with the vet that I didn't want to give him as we didn't know if his weak body could handle a strong chemical wormer and it could kill him, but he said if he didn't have it he could die anyway! Louie had lots of lovely new human friends visit him that day to hug him, love him and tell him he was gorgeous! Jill and John, Kim and Daryn and Pam all visited Louie that day and Pam cried when she met him as he was in such a sorry state. My mate Jayne Bills also visited him and instantly fell in love with him! He seems to have had that affect on all of us. By 4pm that day, on the Saturday afternoon he collapsed again and had no intention of getting up he had no strength left in him and we were really worried, so much so that we decided he couldn't be left. I stayed with him



At last all 15 of us lift Louie up with the home made winch

whilst Richard went to work (he had a gig he had to do and he had all the bands stuff in his car so couldn't cancel it!) Louie was really really weak, to see a baby horse on the floor almost lifeless is very distressing and it was made even more so that it was all so unavoidable, why hadn't he been fed and how long had he not been fed for? This wasn't a horse that hadn't been fed for a few weeks, this must have been a long time for him to be in such a terrible state and why? I understand that money can be tight for people, I really do, me and Richard really do know what its like to have no money, but there are always choices to be made, free will choices, there really is no acceptable reason why Louie should be suffering like this, his owner no matter what she was going through could have asked for help surely, surely there were friends or family that would have bought Louie a bag of food? I really felt for this little boy he had been through such a lot at such a young age, not only was he on the floor weak, exhausted and ill but he had been scheduled to be killed too in such a horrible way, what must he be thinking of us humans?

**O**ur wonderful friend and trustee Pam Holliday rang to see how Louie was and she was so concerned she rang the vet again (she sneakily had his mobile number!) The vet said to keep an eye on him and report back if he hadn't got up within 12 hours and to make sure he had his medicine!

**I**lay with Louie in the field, when it got to about 900pm it went dark, he was lying flat out on his side and even though it was dark I could still see Billy and his herd in the field next door, it was an honour and

a privilege to see them like this, they were all calm, and still, many of the herd had chosen to lie down and interestingly most of the girls, I could see Inka, Daisy, Miracle, Pearl, Faith and her baby Michael all lying down having a sleep and also Billy and Oscar too and then on guard watching over them was Bailey, Alfie and of course our hero Bobby! Who said horses don't lie down to have a kip? Well they certainly do and for quite sometime! It was in that moment that I realised that if the horses weren't worried about Louie then they must know something that I didn't! Perhaps Louie was going to make it after all and perhaps he would make it if us humans all got together and did something wonderful for him! So I sat up and got my phone out and wrote a text, I asked for friends, family and supporters (who were in my phone) to focus on Louie and send him healing, send him love, prayers, light a candle, send him positive thoughts, whatever they could do, that fitted in with their belief system! I sent loads of texts and then lay back down with Louie, told him over and over again that I loved him, that we all loved him and started giving him some healing... then my phone started bleeping and over the next few hours I received an astonishing 48 texts from people saying they were sending Louie love and healing to make a full recovery! I had texts from folk all round the UK, in the Midlands, Liverpool, Newcastle, Burnley even 2 friends texted me to say they were in India and were meditating on a mountain sending Louie love and healing!!! WOW the good stuff was coming Louie's way!!!!!!! At 1030pm John came back

to the farm and we both sat with Louie trying to encourage him to drink and eat and then after midnight Richard returned too and John went home tired and cold! I went home to check on the dogs and to grab a couple of hours kip then came back to stay with Richard who by this time resembled a gnome in his many layers of clothing and a hilarious wolley hat!!

**M**orning came and Louie made no signs of wishing to get up and by 9am he had been down 17 hours, so I sent another text out asking anyone if they could and would come to Louie's rescue and see if we could lift him up! SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE CAME!!! And on a Sunday! Car after car came to the farm, Deb Wooten and her Dad John first (and thanks Deb for telling me I looked rough! Ha ha and thanks John for the hay boxes the horses love them) then John Smith (Saint John) Jason (who was Pam's niece's boyfriend, who we had never met! What a great bloke) Jacquie and Mike Swan (our bee keeping friends) Judy Rosenburg, and Ross, 'our' trustee Martin Cheatle, Paul Rogers, and even Kirk Mitchell and Clare Elwell, who abandoned their holiday to come to help Louie! Others rang to offer but we by then had enough so thanks Jayne Bills and John Weston, Shaz and Bart Lounds and others, we were overwhelmed by the kindness shown for Louie!!! How blessed is he now!!!!

**W**e all tried for what must have been a couple of hours to encourage Louie to get up and even though we using the magic scaffolding frame and ropes etc he just didn't want to stand up, he was so very weak and he just didn't want to, he didn't even want to eat any food out of his bucket, it was by then all too much for me and I broke down in tears, I was crying for Louie, this was such an avoidable situation, Louie didn't have to be in the state he was in, it was only due to human neglect that he was so poorly and suffering, such a beautiful little boy. I apologised to him for what humans had done to him, I was so very sorry. Amazingly even 'Baby Michael' (we still call him Baby Michael even though he is 2 now!) was distressed and was at the fence and was stamping the ground with his front hoof, he seemed desperate to get into Louie to help



Louie has a brand new coat to keep his little delicate body warm and a bale of hayledge all to himself!



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