



The Animal Healing Trust

Winter/Spring Newsletter 2010

Here is the Spring newsletter! Apologies for not being in touch sooner, we have had a 'very challenging' few months, things are now settling down and definitely improving!!

Last October Richard and I were faced with the decision of either keeping our home or keeping the horses! We could no longer afford financially to fund both!

We obviously decided to keep the horses! We had made a promise to each and everyone of them to keep them safe and protect them which was far more important than a house! So we put an advert out for grazing and met a lovely man called Ken who offered us great grazing at a farm in Wythall. We then (with the help of Jayne and John and their horse lorry – thank you guys) moved them all. It was very emotional (I don't like moving the horses) especially for Billy as it reminds him of being transported as a racehorse and he gets so stressed. He was shaking & soaking with sweat after just a 10 minute journey in the lorry. Baby Michael on the other hand refused to leave his home and was so stubborn! "I am not getting on that lorry I want to stay here and eat the grass!" His mommy, Faith, was amazing and trotted up the ramp of the lorry fine, she was very relaxed but her son was a different story! He took ages to get on! We purposely took them in two's with their dearest friends, so Daisy and Billy, then Bailey and Bobby, Miracle and Alfie, Faith and eventually her son Michael, which left Beautiful Inka on her own without a companion to travel with, so Richard (human) travelled in the back of the lorry with her and sang to her all the way! Bless him.



Cheeky Bobby Loading



Photo: Martin Cheate

Happy horses arriving at new home

We arrived at the new location, two by two, and they were SO excited. What an amazing amount of space! And new friends to make too, as the 2 herds had never met before so they got to know each other over the fence. We purposely kept the 2 herds separate as they hadn't met before, so Billy, Daisy, Inka, Bailey and Bobby in one field then Miracle, Alfie, Faith and Baby Michael in the other. They were really happy. Their home had been upgraded!

We, on the other hand, us humans, were unable to find anything to move into that we could afford so we ended up definitely downgrading from our 3 bedroom detached house into a small caravan (that belonged to Ken), with our 3 dogs, at the bottom of the horse's field! It was fun for the first few weeks but then the winter came (snow, snow and more snow) and it has probably been the toughest 7 months of our lives! At least we didn't have any problems looking after the horses in the snow as we were a trot, canter and a gallop from them! We even joked that the horses have been living better than us especially after 'Grandad' (Amy Wooten's Grandad John) and Deb Wooten collected a load of wood & built the horses a brand new field shelter, which meant that both herds

had their wonderful field shelter in their field, the one was bigger than our caravan! (Thank you 'Grandad' & Deb)

Anyway our cheeky (and gorgeous) pony Bobby made a decision that he didn't want there to be 2 herds so as Bobby has done before he trashed all the fences!!! (being a Cobb he is very strong and focused!) So when Richard & I arrived one morning the 2 had become one!!

This was not great as poor Alfie still had some issues and wasn't that keen on the other boys & was charging around the field trying to keep them away from Miracle, Faith and Michael! For several times over the next few days we would repair and rebuild the wooden fences, separate them back into 2 herds again. Only to return and Bobby had trashed them again! (he is a naughty Pony!)

John Weston & Jayne Bills came to the rescue as they bought us an electric fence system (which costs about £350+) & helped install it too, so that kept them apart, (thank you Jayne & Jon) so there was baby Michael & his mom Faith in the one field with beautiful Miracle & Alfie then in the other were mom & dad of the herd Billy & Daisy with Bailey,



Two separate herds; not for long!!

Bobby & Inka. Peace had returned.



Photo: Martin Cheate

Handsome and sensitive Oscar

We then had a call from a lovely lady called Carla who needed a home for her beloved Pony called Oscar. He was a very sensitive black spotted Pony (you can't see his spots because he is so black) but for financial reasons she could no longer afford to keep him and she was worried that if she sold him he could end up being sold on then sold on, you know how it is... to be honest we weren't really in a position (financially) to take on another but we couldn't refuse, he sounded so wonderful and we wouldn't want him to end up with a terrible fate either so they delivered him in November. We put him with Billy's herd and he was welcomed instantly by Billy & Daisy. Bobby was so funny as he has always been bottom of his herd & all of a sudden here was a pony the same size as him (well slimmer actually, sorry Bobby) so he tried to make out he was all tough & assertive & would put his ears back every time Oscar tried to approach him for a chat, which in horse terms means "keep away, I'm not friendly, I'm higher than you in this herd", which did make me & Richard laugh, obviously at last Bobby had the opportunity to not be at the bottom any more & so it was done, he promoted himself to be above Oscar so now Oscar was bottom of herd.

Oscar didn't mind as he seemed very taken with the beautiful (& posh) Inka and would follow her everywhere, we were so happy for Inka as even though she had friends she didn't have a soul mate and we could see it was love at first sight for them both and they got married very quickly! We were happy for both of them!

When the winter came and it was really cold (as you know) so much so the horses had to have 2 coats on each! So thank you very much to all those folk that donated second hand horse coats and those who bought brand new ones too, especially

Photo: Martin Cheate



Oscar's new wife, the Beautiful Inka

Jayne Bills, Deb Wooten, Simon (our mate from up north) Gary Oakes & Pam & Gary Holliday, wow they needed those coats! Faith by the way, refused to have a coat on (well she is a wild Dartmoor pony) and neither did her son, baby Michael, even though we had been given a really cute small coat for him. We think he thought the coat was very scary and might eat him! So we respected their decision and allowed them both to rely on their fur and wow they both developed the most amazingly thick furry coats - they both doubled in size! Michael looked more like Bobby! Amazing what nature can do!

They loved the snow & would stand out in it eating their huge bales of hay, thanks to Rob & his Dad for delivering (sometimes twice a week) the very much needed hay during the snowy season. I must say we had taken on the farm hoping that we could reduce our hay bill but it doubled during the winter this year, oh well, at least the herd never went hungry and kept their weight on, they loved it!

Then on Boxing Day morning we got



Photo: Martin Cheate

the message that the herd really wanted to be one big family, as.....yes you guessed it all the fences were down (and these electric fences were plugged into the mains!) We immediately went over to Bobby who denied all knowledge of the event & wanted to keep on eating his Christmas meal! We didn't know who had done it but we turned off the electric while we repaired it only to turn around & Inka was leading the others through just as we were about to turn the electric back on! We were already 2 hours late for our Boxing day lunch at Richards mom & dads so we agreed to let them get on with it! If they wanted to be together then so be it!

It was a case of horses know better than humans, especially for our Alfie (who has had nervous issues ever since we have had him) and even though we didn't see it at the time he was about to have an amazing opportunity to heal. Daisy (mother of the herd) had not agreed with his behaviour, of attacking all the boys when the herds merged, so she had sent him off, away from the herd, then when he wouldn't keep away, how can I say this.....she beat him up! Yes I know it sounds harsh & when we returned to see Alfie with hoof marks on him & standing on his own we were quite upset. We don't have shoes on any of our horses so luckily there was no major damage to him, think he was bruised, upset and shaken. We gave him some Bach Flower remedies and I had a word with Daisy and told her how disappointed I was with her. Then when I tried to separate them she went & stood by Alfie who didn't move away. I found this strange (looking at it through human eyes I would) here was the horse who had beaten Alfie up but he chose to stand next to her! Then over the coming days and weeks we observed that Daisy wouldn't leave Alfie alone, infact she followed him everywhere! What was she doing?



Alfi and Daisey

(us humans have a lot to learn!) She was teaching him what was appropriate behaviour for a herd member and what would and wouldn't be tolerated. She encouraged him, praised him and most important of all LOVED HIM! They became inseparable! And even though Alfie has had Reiki Treatments, Bowen therapy, nutritional supplements and flower remedies the most profound healing experience that Alfie has had was from Daisy. He now plays, yes plays with the other boys and he is friends with everyone, he no longer teases the others, or bites them instead he hangs out with them and plays with them all, its so lovely and so amazing. I have apologised to Daisy for judging her and am so proud of her strength and wisdom. I spoke to Kelly recently, who is a Pareilli instructor (Natural Horseman/ horsewoman) and she said that that is what horses do in the wild to keep the herd safe, if there is one member who is causing ructions it can alert predators! So Daisy, mother of the herd, was doing what comes naturally to her, to keep her herd safe and balanced. God Bless Daisy for her strength and wisdom!

And miraculously a house became available to rent just 60 seconds from where the horses live in April this year which was within our budget! So after 7 long, cold and cramped months in the caravan us 2 humans and 3 hounds moved into a lovely, cosy place that has brick walls and a bath! Heaven! How happy we are!

And then there came Pearl.....we had a phone call about a white pony called Pearl who had aggression issues from a lovely family in Leicester. I went to visit them (Mike & Bea) and they were very upset about

the beautiful pony they had bought last July for their 15 year old daughter Holly. They told me that the vet had given her a clean bill of health and they were lucky to have a field at the bottom of their garden to keep her. Unfortunately after having Pearl a short time it became evident she had behavioural issues so they gave her temporarily to someone to train her for them. When she returned from her 'training' experience she was worse than before so we can presume that the training methods were not exactly kind!! The family were heartbroken as they had thought they were doing the right thing by Pearl. They tried other traditional 'horse experts' too but she became more unapproachable and aggressive. She also became very distressed when her 2 pony friends next door left.

What most people would have done in this situation would be to sell the pony on to someone else, who would then have the same problems again so she would be sold again, and again and the cycle continues until no one wants her at all and she ends up at a market where often the 'meat men' are prowling, it's a terrible fate for such beautiful and I believe spiritual creatures when all they need is love, patience and understanding. Look at our girl 'Miracle' she is such a beautiful, gentle and affection horse but she was going to be bought by the 'meat man' and thanks to our friends, family and supporters we raised the money to rescue her hours before she would have gone to a terrible fate.

Anyway I shall get off my soap box and go back to PearlHolly loved Pearl very much, (even though she wasn't sure if Pearl loved her back!) In fact all the family loved her! They were upset and frustrated because they knew Pearl wasn't

happy but didn't want to sell her on due to the reasons I have just mentioned. All they wanted was for Pearl to be happy, which may I say is such an admirable and wonderful thing. They could have easily sold her and made money from her but refused to give Pearl that fate!

I went into their field to meet Pearl & she snorted at me to keep away, I was very respectful towards her & checked my body language was non threatening, but when I got too close she stamped her foot at me, to reinforce the message 'Keep away!' She wouldn't allow me within reach to make contact, or stroke her, which I respected, so I beamed some Reiki energy to her instead, just to let her know that I came in peace and wanted to help her heal. The energy I FELT from her was amazing, she wasn't really aggressive at all, not deep down, at was an act, she was just broken. Here was one scared and sad pony in a world where most humans had been cruel to her and she lacked any horse friends to help her heal and feel safe.



Photo: Martin Cheate

Our Unicorn horse Pearl

So they asked if we would take her on, where they were confident that she could live with other horses, and form relationships, and where she would be guaranteed she would not be sold, not be beaten again, and receive healing for her aggression, of course we agreed! And on the 12th April, Pearl, (who looks like a pure white unicorn by the way), arrived at our farm, here is what happened....

We unloaded her in a field separate to the others and immediately the herd ran to the fences and gate to see her. Richard and I FELT very strongly that Pearl had to be welcomed and integrated into the herd very quickly (even though we knew her family were concerned she may be very aggressive to the other horses). We wished we had have videoed the homecoming, we opened the gate and one by one the herd calmly strolled into Pearl's field, they ignored her and instead



Photo: Martin Cheate

"Lets have a hug"

starting gently trotting in a circle around the field, (this was all led by Billy by the way) until Bobby and Michael (who were last to arrive, probably eating as usual) caught up with them, then they went into a ceremonial full gallop, all 10 of them! It was amazing to watch, it was as if they were celebrating Pearl's arrival! She called out with a very loud whinny (which translated we reckon was 'wait for me!!') then rushed towards the back of the circle to join in with the celebration! They then galloped round and round and round and round, it was like they were all dancing with joy! Richard and I were really emotional, it was wonderful to see them accept her & welcome her so lovingly – it was actually Richard's birthday that day and he said seeing that was the best birthday present he has ever had!

Once the dancing had calmed down they all started grazing and we observed Billy walk straight over to Pearl, he stared at her directly into her eyes and held this stare for about 5 minutes, during that time we could FEEL the energy and we knew he was welcoming her into his herd, he was probably explaining the ground rules, explaining what happens etc as she respectfully kept his gaze for the whole time as they surely were sending telepathic messages to each other. At one point cheeky Oscar came over to disturb the conversation and Billy told him off & ushered him away then returned to continue his conversation. When he had finished he started grazing next to Pearl and kept her close over the next few days, we felt this was to protect her and help her feel safe. We have had

no issues with Pearl at all since that day. She eats her dinner with the others, she lets us stroke her and groom her and she is relaxed. Mike, Bea and Holly visited a couple of weeks ago and were shocked, amazed and pleased at how happy and peaceful she was. So one extra in the herd and a very happy pony indeed, how great it is to be able to make a difference to a horses life.....

We also had not just new horse members to the family but also new human members too.....Pam Holliday is a new volunteer who has been wonderful over the last few months! She comes up every Saturday to help us prepare feeds, take hay deliveries whatever needs to be done, she also comes up Thursday afternoons when she can. We are so grateful to her and her husband Gary for all their help, as well as her Mom & Dad and Aunt & Uncle who have also been supporting us!



Photo: Martin Cheate

Our Pam feeding stunning Bailey

Also Kim McCabe has started taking a front seat role and has also been instrumental in helping us moving the Charity forward. Kim works so hard and is so dedicated to helping us achieve our goals. Thank you Kim! And Naomi Palmer (with Roy and Romy) is a key player too, organising, and helping us. So with Pam, Kim, Naomi, Richard and myself have all decided to become trustees and have recently applied to the Charities Commission to become a registered charity! How great is that! I must thank my wonderful sister Louise Gessey as she has helped us navigate

the Charities Commission website and paperwork and has been very patient and spent long nights helping us prepare and write all the necessary documentation! We will let you know when we receive our Charity number!



Photo: Martin Cheate

Baby Michael

On a completely different note we had to make a really tough decision concerning Baby Michael. He is coming up to 18 months now and we know that the decision about gelding him had to be made. Michael has never shown any 'stallion behaviour' about being aggressive or fighting, in fact the opposite, we call him our 'International Diplomat' as he is friends with everyone! That's humans and horses! Sometimes too friendly as he forgets humans aren't horses and nibbles us like a horse and sometimes it hurts! Then as soon as the springy energy arrived, let me put this politely, he started getting a little bit "too friendly with the ladies" (if you know what I'm saying) So much so we are not sure if one of the herd may now be pregnant! Naughty Michael! (it was funny actually as he is only little but for some reason he had the urge to get fruity with Bobby, but mounted him on the side rather than from behind, Bobby stopped eating for a moment looked at Michael, gave him such a look as if to say "What do you think you are doing brother!?" And Michael very quickly dismounted!! Hilarious)

Anyway the call was made to the vet & 2 of them arrived with their needles and their equipment, one to do the operation and one to administer the anaesthetic, as well as a nurse. We kept the herd in the bottom field out of sight & put Michael in the very top field and his Mommy Faith in the one next to him so he could see her. We also explained to Faith what would be happening. After having experiments done on her in a laboratory we didn't want her to think we were doing similar things to her son!!

I had asked lots of Reiki friends to send energy to Michael to help the whole process and I thank you all for that. The vet gave Michael his anaesthetic and it was awful when he crashed to the floor (I really didn't like that) then they got to work in the field on his operation, Richard went down to keep a check on the others but I said I would stay with Michael and beam Reiki to him to support him in which ever way he needed it. I did for quite a while until it got that the operation was too overwhelming and I became too emotional to see what was happening to him so I moved towards the gate but continued to send him love and healing.

He did recover very quickly, after he came out of the anaesthetic he walked over to his mom in the next field for a hug and wouldn't leave her side for a few days (just shows the bond between a mare and her foal, no matter what age the foal is!!)



Photo: Martin Cheate

"I need a hug mum"

He acceptable a big bucket of food from us in the evening after his operation but refused to look at us or be friendly to us that evening or the following day! Can't say I blame him, sorry Michael, we only did it for the greater good of the herd.

At the other end of the age spectrum we have the lovely, and elderly, (possibly 33, or 34 years young) Springy who has been living with her herd in Bromsgrove since we took her on 12 months ago. She has been very poorly recently, has lost a lot of weight, developed a skin condition and has had a sinus infection so we decided that she needed 24 hour care from us so collected her only a few days ago from Bromsgrove and have brought her back to live with us.

She was so wonderful and went on the lorry straight away. When she arrived in Wythall we felt she was too weak to mix with the herd, especially as there are 11 of them now, as it may be too overwhelming for her so we have popped in the field next to them. She was very excited to meet new friends and has been whinnying

and chatting to all of them! And they have been chatting to her too. This was she can have her 3 meals a day in peace, eat as much grass as she likes and still socialise without having the pressure on integrating with a new herd. When she puts a bit more weight on and is healthier we will introduce her to the others.



Photo: Martin Cheate

The Beautiful Springy

Thanks to all of our Reiki Healing friends who have been sending Springy healing, we really appreciate your support!

The rest of the herd have all been fine! Bailey has been having a few issues with his posture again so Tim (& Tracey) Barnett have been visiting regularly to do magic on his feet with Equine Podiatry. Thank you!

Miracle, Oscar and Daisy all enjoyed some healing therapy from the lovely Eileen Strong who did them all an Equine Touch treatment, than you Eileen and 'our Louise' Louise Harris has been working her magic on 'my Billy' (he was our first horse) by doing some Bowen therapy on him to help his back. Thank you Louise! Also thanks to Julie Higgs and her sister Dawn who have been grooming the herd and the girls definitely prefer it to the boys!

Thanks also to Jan & Pat who regularly pick up the poo (an important job!) And all of our friends, family, volunteers and supporters who have helped with so many things from fundraising to buying bags of carrots! We really value all of your help!

What's next?

Well we have a wonderful few people who have taken out monthly direct debits

to 'sponsor' either one or more of the horses (THANK YOU!) After this we still have a large shortfall (about £700 a month) of the financial commitments we have to pay to keep the horses (field rent, hay and food bill) and we now also have quite a large vet bill after Michael's operation and Springy being poorly too so here are a few ways you could help.....

Come to one of our 3 up and coming Fund raising events!

Sunday June 27th 2010 we are having an open day at the farm in Wythall! Its 11am till 4pm, it's a chance to see and meet the horses as well as buy things to help us raise money, all sorts of things from home made cakes, to raffles, horsey gifts and face painting! There will also be a demonstration of Natural Horsemanship and Animal Healing and Communication! A great day!

Thursday 1st July 2010 a great evening out at The Gainsborough Hotel, Kidderminster, an evening of entertainment with Born again Beatles, Robbie Williams tribute act, Abba tribute band, 1980's tribute, Motown and Swing tribute and more! Tickets are only £3 and we need to sell 100 to make the event worthwhile, so PLEASE buy a ticket and have a great evening out, the show starts at 8pm, ring me for tickets

Sunday 25th July, a 'Mind, Body, Spirit' Day at The Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge, 11am till 4pm. There will be stalls with all sorts of folk doing angel card readings, reiki treatments, bowen therapy, crystal jewellery, and lots more



Photo: Martin Cheate

Proud herd leader Billy

plus chance to attend short workshops on a variety of subjects from meditation to Angels!

If you would like to attend any of these (please do) then ring me or Richard for further details (07780 698 393 or 07930 383522)

You could also sponsor a horse! So for a monthly (or annual) contribution you could help us secure their monthly financial commitments.

You could organise a fund raising event! We could help you!

You could volunteer and help us at the farm.

You could make a one off donation, (cheques payable to 'The Animal Healing Trust')

You could donate any of the following items:

- Carrots, apples, pears
- Bales of hay
- Wheelbarrows
- Feed buckets
- Horse coats
- A horse lorry! (or trailer)
- Wood (for fences and field shelter)
- A field shelter!
- A portakabin
- More land for grazing!!
- Help of any sort!

So THANK YOU SO MUCH for reading this newsletter (and thanks Martin Cheatele for helping to turn my typing into a newsletter!) We are dedicated to helping save lives of horses and making a difference and we really value and appreciate the support people give to us. EVERY penny goes to the horses, and we need to raise such a lot more money VERY QUICKLY to secure their financial commitments especially for this coming winter so ANYTHING you could give would be gratefully received.

We thank you, and the horses thank you!

With love and blessings to you

Sue Gessey, Richard Keogh and 'the herd' at The Animal Healing Trust

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Photo: Martin Cheatele

Daisy, Alfie, Billy and the Ponies, Faith and Michael



Photo: Martin Cheatele

Miracle, Billy, Bailey and Bobby

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