



The Animal Healing Trust

Winter 2008

OUR MISSION

To promote and provide emotional, mental, physical and spiritual well being for all animals.

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!

We officially started the charity on 5th July 2008 even though we had already rescued 2 horses 4 years ago, Billy & Daisy.

We wanted to be able to take on 2 more horses that needed helping so we decided to start the 'The Animal Healing Trust'.

Let's introduce you to our beautiful family of horses;

BILLY

Billy straight away took on the role as Herd Leader! Being between 19-20 years old he is the oldest & wisest, plus he had been through a lot himself so knew how to help the others. He is a beautiful brown ex-racehorse who was terrified of people (and stables) when we took him on, plus he had a serious back condition and would fling himself to the floor when being ridden as he was in so much pain.

Four years later he is now very laid back, happy & quite a comedian! He enjoys married life with his wife Daisy! And even likes to go into his stable for shelter (even though we never close the door on him, we let him choose what he wants to do). He can never be ridden again though as it would hurt his back.

Over the years he has had many therapies to help him, including daily Reiki! Also Bowen (for his back), herbal remedies, bio-chemistry, nutritional supplements, great food, shelter, lots of love, kindness, patience and hugs!

We DO NOT believe in EVER hitting horses so his training has been gradual & gentle at his own pace, allowing him to regain his trust with people. We are very grateful to Karen Bache who has been teaching us Natural Horsemanship. Thank you Karen, we love you.

DAISY

As for Daisy, she is the Mom of the herd! She is a beautiful grey horse, about 16 years old, who was a depressed ex show jumper when we took her on. By the age of 12 she had had several homes & had been split up from lots of horse friends, & could not understand why she kept getting passed on. We had her



at the same time as Billy & they took to each other straight away! They quickly became inseparable, and would graze on the same blade of grass!

Daisy also had lots of help to overcome her depression including daily Reiki, Bach flower remedies, Bush flower remedies, and lots of love, hugs & support from myself, Richard & of course Billy. She also had Bowen for her pelvis that was out of balance. She is now incredibly confident & lively & enjoys being fussed & groomed and of course eating lots of food!

BAILEY

Bailey arrived on 6th July 2008, a baby of just 6 years, whose owner said he had skeletal problems & laminitis & could never be ridden. I must say he did stand strangely, like his back legs had high heeled shoes on! He was very stiff in his spine. Amazingly he is almost identical to Daisy! The only differ-



ence is Daisy has a white mane & Bailey has a black mane. Daisy fell in love with him straight away & is besotted by him, so much so, we wonder whether he is her son!

Bailey is a very gentle boy, very soft and placid and everyone falls in love with him. He has had regular reiki from myself and Richard & many reiki healers who are involved with the Charity, Thank you to Paul Rogers who regularly gives 'his Bailey' Reiki!

Also our Bio-chemist tested Bailey immediately & prescribed liquid magnesium for 3 months to relax his muscles, especially to release the tightness in his back end. And thanks again to Paul & Amanda Rogers who paid for Baileys supplements.

He has improved greatly since we first had him and he enjoys his food, hay, & carrots. We are not sure if he had ever experienced hugs before as he used to look at us confused! Now he comes to us asking for them & he is lovely to snuggle up to. We have also noticed that he has now been promoted in the herd & is Billy's number 2, (we think he promoted himself actually!) he even nudges Daisy away from the hay, now that is brave, so Daisy is now number 3 & who is number 4? It's our Inka.....

INKA

Lovely Inka is a gentle little light brown 15 year old girl whose owner could no longer look after her as she had an illness in her legs that made them weak & floppy, therefore she could not be ridden. Her back legs were particularly affected & you could see she had difficulty walking on them.

She arrived the same day as Bailey and they quickly became friends. The plan was that she would live with Bailey in a separate field to Billy & Daisy, they could all chat over the fence during the day though. This was great until nightfall when we took Billy & Daisy back to their stables. Inka called out for them for 3 hours! This then repeated for the next 2 nights! The following morning we found that Daisy had had enough & had broken down 3 lots of fences to get to her new family! And the herd has been together since!

Inka also has had lots of healing from many kind people. Thanks especially to Kirk, Claire and Martin for their regular reiki treatments on Inka. Inka too had our bio-chemist test her and she found that she had a massive zinc deficiency which meant she had no strength in her muscles, she went on a 3 month zinc supplement programme & I'm pleased to say her legs are so much better! (Thanks again to Kirk & Claire who bought zinc for Inka). She has also had 2 healing treatments from our friend Eileen Drysdale in Spain, who rang up as she 'heard' that we had started an animal charity. Eileen removed a lot of the depression from Inka as she has had 5 owners in her short life & had lost her confidence & her identity! Thank you also Emma Westwood (Dr Emma!) who prescribed Bush Flower Remedies for Inka to help with her emotional balance.



We are pleased to report that Inka has recently been running around with the herd and thoroughly enjoying herself! So everything is working, she even jumped over the ditch the other day between the 2 fields, wow! Inka likes her home comforts & she has been the only one we put in her stable at night & close the door, this is because this is what she wants! She purrs with delight! She has her straw bed, her hay nets, her food, carrots and water & of course her pyjamas on and she loves it!

We love Inka she's great.

All 4 have had their feet done by the lovely Bruce King, our farrier, who regularly gives them a pedicure! None have shoes on and I'm pleased to say Bruce says that none have any signs of laminitis! Yippee, thanks to Bruce.

Thanks also to lovely Adrian Brazier, their horse dentist. Billy had an awful experience with the last horse dentist who was very aggressive & brutal. So much so I asked him to leave! Adrian is the opposite, he hugs them & talks to them and each one came over asking for their teeth to be done, which Richard & I found amazing, Adrian is amazing with the horses, so thank you.

We thought the four would be the herd for a while then we came across Bobbie!

BOBBIE

Bobbie is only 10 and has been in a riding school for 6 years, working 5 days a week! He is a very strong & stocky brown welsh pony with a white face, very cute. Unfortunately for him behind the cute face was a very sad pony, Bobbie basically had enough of life, and was reported to have reared and bucked & became very difficult to handle. The truth was he was having a nervous breakdown, and was therefore dangerous. I've come across many horses over the years, and many that have unfortunately been ill treated, Bobbie was, however the first horse I have ever cried in front of, his energy was so sad, desperate, lonely, lost, it was overwhelming. His feet smelt terrible, so did his breath & his bottom was covered in whip marks and scars. I couldn't stay in his stable long as the emotion was too much. Anyway to cut a long story short we agreed to take him on and on the 28th September 2008 he arrived, the 5th member of the herd!



They were so kind to him, & they all ran around the field together, Billy was exceptionally kind to him & still is & looks out for him. Some of the others have picked on him, its just that they want him to know they are higher than him in rank, nothing really nasty, just a few bites, mind you his 'Uncle Gary' bought him a lovely coat so that soon stopped him feeling any bites. (Thanks to Gary Oakes for his regular, very generous donations). His Auntie Karen & Uncle Gaz also gave him a coat and very generously a saddle. So when he is well again we can have a little ride on him, thank you so much for your generosity.

Auntie Jayne & Uncle John regularly buy him bags of horse food, thank you indeed. He loves his food!

To help Bobbie to heal firstly we give him safety & lots & lots & lots of love. He also receives reiki daily! He too has had 2 healing treatments from Eileen in Spain who felt he was literally broken inside and has done work to heal this. Bobby also loves being part of the herd and we feel it's really helping him and he adores his food! We also pop him in his stable at night and he loves the fact that he has a cosy house where no one can nick his food or lie in his bed! Bless him! We respect that he is still going through his stuff and he can literally barge past you without warning at any moment, so we have to watch out as he is so strong, it will be interesting for Karen Bache to come and meet him & do some natural horsemanship with him when he is ready. At the moment he is just chilling out, safe & loved & no more violence EVER!

And just when we thought that was it we encountered the lovely girl who we have called 'Miracle'...

MIRACLE

We had a phone call on the evening of 7th October from our friend Gemma who had come across a beautiful horse that was going to be sold to 'the meat man' the following day. The horse dealer wanted £500 for her or he was selling her for slaughter. One of my intentions and that of the charity was never to get involved with horse dealers; however this seemed an exceptional case. We didn't have £500, however 2 hours later about 30 friends and family had pledged donations from £5 to £100 & we had the money! She was secured for £450 & we had her the following day and decided to call her 'Miracle' as it was a miracle that we could save her from that awful fate. We didn't have any room for her at Alvechurch so

someone said we could put her temporarily with her horses in Cookley near Kidderminster, so thank you Alex!

Since her arrival she has developed quite a fan club! Thanks to Jenny Cooper who has given her 3 horse coats! (different thicknesses for various weather conditions). Thanks to many who have visited her to give her healing; Paul & Amanda (& Kiera) Matt & Kate, Deb, Martin & Maz, Kirk & Claire. Thanks to so many others who have sent her distance healing.

Miracle is a special girl; she is very gentle and sweet. She does have horrible bumpy scars on her face, back legs and is a little uncomfortable with you going near her back legs. She is living outside at the moment and we want to make arrangements to get her to Alvechurch asap so are going to be repairing the stable in the paddock by the back garden asap as winter is coming and we want her to have a lovely cosy house.

Only a few days ago, Miracles back leg developed an infection and swelled up, so much so we called a vet see her. She has an infection of the soft tissue called cellulites, which could be related to the scars on her back legs? She is on antibiotics for 5 days. Get well soon Miracle!



She was very brave when Bruce the farrier came & let him take her horrible metal shoes off without any fuss even though she has a poorly back leg. Unfortunately Bruce says her feet are not in very good condition, so with having bare feet, and good food and a warm house for the winter we trust they will improve and get stronger. Thanks to Bruce King for coming all the way from Henley in Arden to see Miracle!

THANKS!

So there's been loads going on in the last 3 months. I must say it is a challenge, a lovely challenge, to know that these wonderful beautiful animals are now safe and have a loving place to heal and grow makes my heart sing. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Richard who does loads daily for the horses, feeding them, carrying water, mucking out, rolling large bales of hay down the lane to them (hilarious) and thanks to Jan, 'Cosmic Jan' and also Carolyn & Roy who regularly come over at weekends (in all weathers) and help me muck out & pick up all the poo from the field (5 horses = lots of poo!) I really appreciate that. Thanks also to Jayne Bills & John Weston who have been so kind as to 'taxi' the horses in their horse box, we knew Inka, Bailey & little Bobbie were in safe hands! Thanks also to Paul & Amanda Rogers for all their support, financially & with admin, you've been great!

Thanks also to those who came to the 'Open Day' on 3rd August, and supported us, what a great day, we raised £350, great.

Thanks also to the Lovely Helen Yates has just completed a sponsored marathon! And is busy collecting the sponsor money. Well done Helen! And thank you! Full details will be in the next newsletter.

THANKS FOR MIRACLE!

And thanks to all those lovely people who donated money to rescue Miracle you are all wonderful & may God bless you, you are, in no particular order:

Dorothy Gessy, Louise Gessey, Elaine Hall, Gary Oakes, Liz Rose, Wendy & Keith Schofield, Jo Skitt, Emma Westwood, Carol & Jim Deakin, Deb Nicholls, Ruth Champion, Paul & Amanda Rogers, Kirk Mitchell & Claire Elwell, Liz Elwell, Matt & Kate Robinson, Jan, Michelle & Dave, Maz & Martin, Jo Prince & John Holland, Jo Sowerby, Helen Yates, Jayne Bills & John, Gemma Benning, Jenny Cooper, Sarah Osbourne, Nick Walker, Lucy Fallon.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS & IDEAS...

Saturday 13th December – We are holding a Christmas Fayre at the Oakfield Centre, Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY5 3LT to raise money. We are currently looking for donations for the fayre including tombola prizes, presents for Santa's grotto, Cakes (homemade or shop bought), books, jars of pickles, jam, sweets etc for a lucky jar stall. We would also be grateful for any people who could spare some time on the day of the fayre to help us man the stalls etc and are looking for anyone who has a 'hidden talent' they can offer, such as face painting, hair braiding etc. If you would like to help in any way or discuss anything please contact Paul or Amanda Rogers on 07939 449 965 or 07939 681 631.

Angel day workshop with Richard Keogh & Carol Deakin – January 2009 – date & venue to be confirmed – Please ring for more details.

Christmas cards – beautiful Christmas cards will be available soon of the horses to buy – Please ring for more details.

2009 Calendar – will also be available soon, which one of the horses will be photographed wearing a Santa's hat?! – Please ring for more details.

AND FINALLY, WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!...

Yes indeed winter is coming (or indeed here already!) therefore the grass stops growing so we have to feed the horses large amounts of hay daily plus we feed them horse food twice daily too supplement their diet.

All of this costs a lot of money during the winter (food & hay alone costs approx £50 per week) and we would therefore be so very grateful for ANY donation no matter how small to help us continue our work.

We now have our official charity bank account! - 'The Animal Healing Trust' - with the Co-operative Bank so if you would like to make a donation then kindly forward a cheque made payable to 'The Animal Healing Trust' to the address below.

We are also offering 'Sponsor a horse scheme', where you can choose which horse you would like your money to go to & you will receive a regular letter from that horse letting you know how your money has been spent & what progress they are making, as well as photo for you to treasure! We are enclosing a standing order form, so if you would like to take that option, kindly complete & return the form to us, again at the address below. You can also visit your horses, just ring to arrange & we will happily introduce you!

Thanks for reading our first ever newsletter, another one will be coming before christmas!

Much love & thanks

Sue Gessey & Richard Keogh

The Animal Healing Trust
c/o Woodville Cottage
Pestilence Lane
Alvechurch
Nr Birmingham
B48 7TJ
Telephone 0121 445 0150
Mobile 07780 698 393