

Happy Retirements (Animal Rescue)

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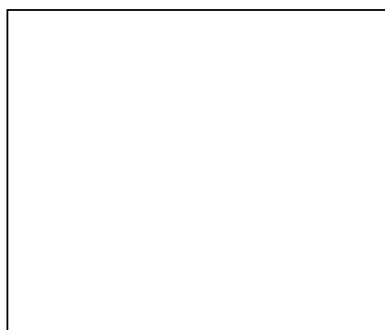


NEWSLETTER 2006

This year 'Happy Retirements' have taken on twenty-nine ponies, nine from the same home where the owners had fallen into financial difficulties and were concerned for their much loved ponies future welfare. Knowing that I never sell them (amazingly some horse charities do) and trusting that they will be in safe hands for the rest of their lives, they asked if I could take them on. At first I felt very apprehensive- so many at once and such extra costs, but once I had met them; such happy, gentle characters, I had to help.



Three of the ponies are extremely small! One of them has such short legs that his tummy 'grounds'



when he tries to clamber over kerb-stones! The ponies have been separated into several groups. Four little mares have gone to live at a children's residential home where they have lots of attention. Two mares have settled into their new, private homes, the remaining ponies (including the tiniest) are staying with us as they have re-occurring lameness which needs special care.

It seems impossible that there might be another pony which looks identical to the tiny one, but by coincidence, I took on his 'double' in September; they look so cute together!

After seeing the nine ponies and agreeing to take them on at the end of last winter, I placed advertisements in several shops asking for temporary grazing as there was not enough room at the farm for them all, the response was fantastic, and from these adverts I now have more 'foster' homes. These kind people look after the ponies whilst permanent 'LOAN' homes are being sought, I am so grateful to them all; 'Sophie' has worked with some of the younger ponies, teaching them how to behave when being groomed, lead and having their feet picked up. Charmaine and Trevor are looking after two larger horses and even had two of the very elderly ponies with them for a 'summer holiday'! Maggie and Peter foster several small ponies, they keep them beautifully groomed and give them lots of cuddles. Sheila and family continue to foster; this year not only helping Shetlands but having larger ponies to stay in their lovely grassy paddocks, until they found suitable loan homes. John and Liz still have the largest 'herd' of Shetland ponies coming and going on their farm and they even looked after four of the homeless nine last winter until there was room for them to live with us, their help and care is truly appreciated.

Several kind permanent homes have been found this year for unrideable ponies. It is lovely when people take these elderly ponies on without moaning about how much they cost to keep,(especially at the end of their days,) or the extra work that they make. These dear old horses deserve love and comfort and it seems so selfish that their ex-owners who often have enjoyed years of riding them, just discard them. Thankfully there are some very compassionate people out there.

'Granny', now nearly toothless, is beginning to show her age (forty years) Moira has taken her 'under her wing'. Granny lives with Fluffy and Doughnut who, thanks to Moira, had

a life saving operation this year and has now fully recovered. Even Sally and Manny

the chronic laminitics have a private home now where they have lots of individual care. Dear old Victor Meldrew who was pictured in last years newsletter, finally lost his battle for life this summer aged over forty years, but he certainly enjoyed a long and leisurely time with 'Happy Retirements'. He was such a cheeky, clever character and will never be forgotten. There is not enough room in this newsletter to thank ALL of those who have helped the horses at **Happy Retirements** in some way.

But as always a special thanks to Keren and all who give regular donations, the rescue could not keep going without your help, to the people who let the ponies graze your paddocks and provide water, to Sarah and Graham for the hay, Windmill Feeds for the donated food (especially this year as several of the very elderly ponies are eating loads of grub!), To Yvonne who sets out these newsletters, Karen for collecting unwanted horse tack to sell for fund raising, Angela for 'home visiting', Pat and Katie for weekend help and lastly to Heidi - without her help I could not go on four day breaks with my daughter (now eighteen) which we

have enjoyed for the last three years; before then, we had never had a holiday together. We only go to Butlins at Bognor Regis, but we really enjoy ourselves and it is so near home that if there were any 'animal emergencies' we could easily return. Luckily this has not happened yet!



Happy Retirements has had a particularly successful year for finding some very needy animals lovely homes and giving them happy, secure futures.

At present there are one hundred and sixty equines in loan homes and thirty-five ponies in our care, waiting for suitable, private homes.



Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy 2007.

Love from Lyn & All at Happy Retirements

VERY IMPORTANT:
PLEASE NOTE;

This Spring I am hoping to move, so after March 2007, please forward all correspondence to this temporary address until further notice:

*c/o Hillywood Farm
Greenwoods Lane
Punnetts Town
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