

Horse's Mouth

January 2011



Pandora's Tale

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Welcome...

Looking back at the year we have had some great success stories and some very sad losses.

One thing for certain is that we know that all of our wonderful supporters and volunteers have made a massive difference to the lives of the horses and donkeys that we have rescued. In many cases making the difference between life and death. In all cases saving them from abuse and neglect.

In 2011 with your support we will continue to make a difference and help those poor horses and donkeys who are being starved, abused and neglected right now.

Sue and Rod Weeding

We begin with three sad goodbyes of 2010



Vet Dorothea trying to save Pandora

Pandora, her winter's tale

Just three weeks ago we rescued an old mare we named Pandora. She had been locked away on a lonely piece of land in Crevillente. Her owners thought she was out of sight. She had been left to die of thirst and hunger weeks earlier and had only survived thanks to the food she received from a couple who had seen her plight and desperate situation. By the time we managed to get our vet Dorothea to her it was almost too late. She had fallen down and was so weak that she couldn't get back up. It's only due to the hours of treatment that Pandora received from Dorothea that she regained enough strength to stand and was brought here to the

centre where we hoped we could save her. Sadly this wasn't possible.

Chance, our bright star

Another very sad and sudden loss came only two months ago when we lost our special friend Chance to pneumonia. Star Chance had been at the centre since April 2009 having been rescued from a piece of waste ground where she had been tethered and left alone to face a certain slow and painful death from starvation.

Even though she was around 25 years old when she came to us and extremely thin and weak she

made a great recovery and quickly made friends with everyone here. She soon became the Star, acting as the outdoor meet- and -greet girl, she roamed the centre "free range" escorting the tours around the paddocks and soon becoming the Star of the Pony Club. She was an honorary member and joined in with all our activities.



Chance's home before being rescued



Chance helps educate the Pony Club

Her kind and gentle nature, never ending patience and love of children (and all the goodies in their lunch boxes) made her the ideal horse for even the smallest children to practise grooming. The first few weeks without Chance at the Pony Club where very strange and sad. We all missed her being in amongst us and thought no other horse could ever fill her shoes.

Princess, much loved angel

Back in June we reported the sad news that our beautiful little mini Princess had been put to sleep following the results of the tests undertaken by Gasper Castelijn's a specialist vet in Barcelona.

We were all heartbroken to lose her, this brave little girl who had suffered so much pain in her life but who gave so much affection to all around her. Princess left such a lasting impression that she will never be forgotten. There is never a day goes by at



Princess sharing lunch with best friend Cookie

the centre where she isn't thought of. Her portrait hangs in our Tea Rooms and visitors constantly remark on how her sad story had touched them. Children in our Pony Club make us smile when they say they remember the pretty white Princess pony and how they have named their toy ponies Princess.

Taking over a special role

Just two weeks after the sad loss of Star Chance we received a phone call from the police In Elche. They had found three very malnourished horses living with some gypsies in appalling conditions inside a small dark wooden pen. The roof of the pen was so low that the tallest horse could not even stand upright. This tallest horses which was a skeletal mare, was weak and needed our help urgently. That horse, Gypsy Lady as she has been named turned out to

be the lucky one. The police took her from the Gypsies and placed her in our care, much to the annoyance of the owner who thought he was doing no wrong. We brought her here to the centre where she received the medication, food and care she needed to survive. The other horses, according to the police not quite near enough to death's door to be removed from the owner under the current law! They did say they would be checking on their condition over the next month and had told the owner to make sure they were

fed (we expect to see them soon) , we felt sad and useless as we left them behind. Gypsy even though you could count her ribs and see her hip bones through her thin skin has a very strong spirit, thankfully she soon began to improve much to our relief. All she needed was the correct food and kindness. We had only just lost our wonderful Chance and now Gypsy had arrived, the spitting image of Chance and in much the same condition as Chance had been when she was rescued. It really did feel strange, and we wondered if higher powers had any influence.

She reminded us of Chance so much already, but it was when she was fit enough to go out to the paddocks with the other horses each day that it became really spooky. For like Chance before her she didn't want to go into any of the paddocks, she wanted to roam "free range". Her kind, gentle nature convinced us she could take over the role of meet- and- greet girl and then she decided she wanted to join the Pony Club. The first Pony Club was quite amazing, we weren't sure if she would like lot's of children running around her, but it was as if she had been here with them all her life. The children love her and are really pleased to have her as a member . She loves the attention and seems so happy being fussed over. She is such a lovely old girl and if ever any horse can step into Chances shoes it will be her.



Gypsy and new friends Rebecca and Rachel

Updates on some of the centres residents

Faith's first tiny steps



Faith and Nelson, love Blossoms

For Faith these tentative first steps are the first of many steps she will have to take in physiotherapy. Though still wearing a fibreglass cast it's great to watch her each day, slowly making her way around the stable yard as she visits her special friends and shares a hay net with them. After five months of intensive treatment Vet Dorothea still has to treat Faiths leg each day, a long

and not very nice process but Faith never protests. She stands quietly and patiently while Dorothea cleans the open wound and treats her with antibiotics. Great news, she has started to show signs that the nerves are recovering in her leg which is vitally important for her to make as much of a full recovery as she possibly can. Faiths injury was caused solely by a total lack of care for this sweet little pony, it could so

easily have been avoided. What kind of person could stand by each day and watch the open and infected wound that they are responsible for causing get worse and worse? The evil people responsible were eventually arrested and charged with cruelty and we are still waiting to hear the outcome of their criminal actions, let's hope they get what they deserveand more.

Cookie, finally puts on her new dancing shoes

Cookie is the darling of the rescue centre. After the years of neglect that nearly killed her and left her crippled she has become our inspiration. When we first saw her the sight of her having lain down to die and what was left of her coat covered in mud and faeces we were shocked beyond belief. Then when eventually lifted to her feet the sight of her overgrown hooves took your breath away. They were like huge wooden Dutch clogs and obviously causing her a great deal of pain. The first job when Cookie came to the centre was to remove all the matted hair and faeces that had actually become imbedded into her skin. Using the tiniest scissors removing one hair at a time this incredibly slow process alone took three days. When this was done it revealed a massive growth caused from an untreated wound on her belly.

Her condition was unbelievable. Her first operation was to remove the growth; this difficult operation took three hours as it was so large. Thanks to vet Dorothea this operation was a success and Cookie soon began making a steady recovery, she gained weight and her bald coat began to grow back. The biggest challenge was soon to come. She needed drastic surgery to her hooves to try to repair massive problems she had caused by the untreated laminitis. She was to go to Barcelona to vet Gasper who had tried to help our mini Princess. Thankfully although Gasper found that Cookies hooves were in an extremely bad condition they weren't he hoped beyond the help of the pioneering surgery he was about to perform on them. The operation went as well as it could have and we are over the moon by the results four months down the line. We can see her improving day by day and now without even a bandage her new found joy at being able to scurry around the yard is clearly visible. With her newly fitted remedial shoes she no longer hobbles with her head down taking tiny painful steps,



Cookie with vet Gasper her saviour



Happy feet!

instead she walks tall and like a little super model has all the boys following her around. Cookie even managed to make a special appearance in our Mini Horse Show back in November. We were all very proud of her and even more so when she won the prize for "prettiest head". Well done Cooks!

Bronson, turning into a movie star



Bronson finding his balance

The traumatic story of Bronson's arrival at the centre that featured on the homepage of our website shocked many people. The day he arrived at the centre back in October will stick in our memories. The sight of him staggering out of the trailer and barely being able to walk to his new stable will be forever etched on our memories. It is virtually impossible for any normal person to understand why someone would try and kill him or any living, feeling creature with a hammer.

In front of us was a beautiful, gentle young horse looking at us confused, scared, blood running down his face, he was barely able to stand. His horrific injuries prevented him from balancing enough to move in a straight line and he had to be helped into his stable where vet Dorothea spent many hours treating his injuries.

He spent five days having intensive treatment and it really was touch and go for the first few days.

Now thanks to the dedication of Dorothea and everyone from the centre he is continuing to make a steady recovery. It will be a very slow recovery, the permanent damage to his inner ear has affected his balance badly so his head is tilted to the left and he still falls over sometimes, but this beautiful young stallion is making steady progress and gets a little more confident and able to cope with his disabilities with every passing week.

Bronson has not only survived he has grown, gained weight and looks every inch a movie star with his flowing mane and handsome face. It was no surprise when SOL TV came along in November to film a day here at the Rescue Centre to find that that they

couldn't resist giving him a starring role!

The other four horses rescued along with Bronson are also doing well. Three of them including the pregnant mare are living with foster carers until we can raise extra funds to erect some more stabling, hopefully we can manage this before the patter of tiny hooves due in a few weeks comes along.

The fourth horse, a mini stallion named Nelson (named by Sue as he only has one eye) is living happily here at the centre. His right eye that had been injured and then left to rot in his head had to be removed.

It was also discovered that he had a skin problem similar to Mange which requires regular treatment but he is recovering well and will soon be able to go out daily to the paddocks with the other Minis.

Look who's a woolly bear now!

Samson came to us in September having been abandoned in Callosa suffering from neglect and was very thin. He was nothing more than a tiny dot with deformed legs but after being given the correct nutrition and care he has exploded into a gorgeous, hairy, woolly brown bear. He certainly took his name to heart, his fur coat just gets longer and longer. Even Cookie has been seen giving him admiring glances and now that she is much more agile thanks to her new "happy feet" we have caught her having little walks with him around the paddock they share.....so cute! He is a real success story, settled, happy and loved by absolutely everyone including all our other residents. He copes amazingly well with his deformity, so much so that he has become the latest member of the Pony Clubs Mini' Horse team and along with Cookie he also took part in our Mini Horse Show. Not only did he walk, skip, buck and gallop away with lots of prizes he stole the show with his huge personality.



Left: Samson on arrival at the rescue centre
Above: Luscious long locks

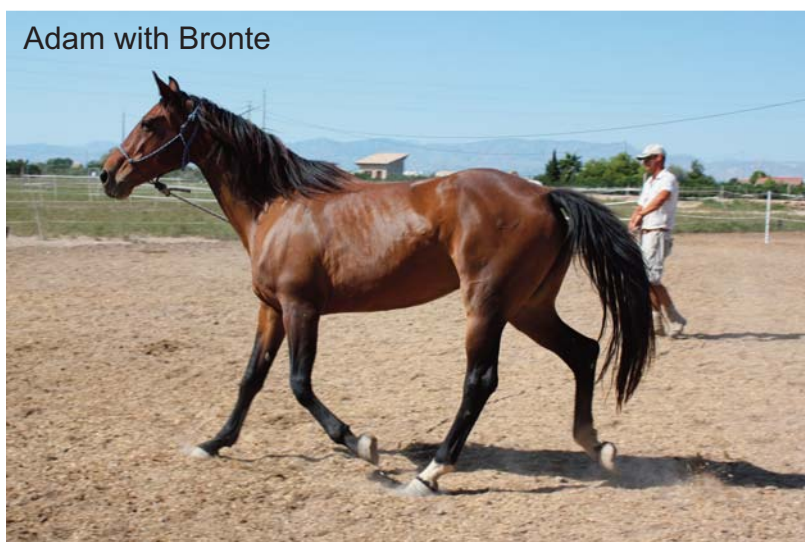
What's been happening.....

Another inspirational visit from the horse whisperer

Once again Adam Shereston amazed us all with his ability to communicate with horses when he visited us back in November.

Adam demonstrated his methods on how to build a relationship with a horse that is based on trust, respect and understanding. The horses he worked with certainly seemed to understand his methods and it was really interesting to watch him gain the trust of some of our more timid

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Adam with Bronte

horses. More importantly perhaps is the fact that the results have been lasting.

We are all looking forward to his return in February when we hope to learn more about his techniques. This visit, a three day event will incorporate a day of private clinics working with individuals who wish to learn his techniques on a one to one basis. A day open to the public where he will be demonstrating using our rescue centre residents and a further open day that looks as if it will be extremely popular with our Pony Clubbers as it is a

Starting them young, meet the Pony Club

Since the very start of this weekend pony club we knew that it was going to be a major feature of the rescue centre.

The combination of horses, ponies, education and fun has proved a massive hit with the children of all ages and nationalities that now visit each week. It is open to residents and holiday makers and run by two experienced and UK qualified riding instructors who give their time freely recognising the importance of educating the horse owners of tomorrow.

We have a progressive learning award scheme where the children earn badges and certificates when they reach a certain standard of stable management and riding.

For the more experienced older children we offer them a chance to study and take the ABRS tests that we offer here at the centres riding school. The club has grown from 10 members to almost 50 within the last six months thanks to the dedication and commitment of Rachel and Sarah, who have worked extremely hard make it the success that it is. The Pony Club team members along with learning all about horses are also learning another very valuable lesson. That is, we are all here at the centre because we care enough to want to help abused, abandoned and sick horses and donkeys to recover and live a happy and abuse free life. It's amazing how children, some as young as 4 years old have such an empathy for all the animals we have here, not just the horses and the donkeys but the rescued dogs, cats, chickens, pig and now even tortoises.

They are never scared by the sight of some of the injuries and neglect but simply cannot understand why and how people can treat animals in such a

special Junior Horse Whisperer day where children can come along and learn some of Adams methods. He will be working with lots of our Pony Clubbers and some of our more challenging mini horses and donkeys! (good luck with that one Adam!)

If you would like to book a place on one of the days or require any information please email riding@easyhorsecare.net or call Sue on **652 021 980**



Halloween party fun

way. It's very rewarding to see them developing into caring, knowledgeable young people with an understanding of how to care for horses and treat all animals.

The older Pony Clubbers also take part in some of the fundraising activities and especially like taking the Mini's out on tour visiting some of the great events that our supporters hold. We also have lots of fun at the Pony Club, most recently a fancy dress Halloween party, Mini Horse Show and fantastic Christmas party with a visit from Santa.

The Pony Club have their own newsletter, so if you fancy seeing what they have been getting up to you can find it available to read on our website. For information on the Pony Club please email us at riding@easyhorsecare.net

SOL TV

It was an exciting day when SOL TV came to spend a day at the Rescue Centre to film a typical day with us. It wasn't strictly a typical day because Adam Shereston, the Horse Whisperer was visiting us at the time to hold another one of his fascinating demonstrations but they did capture the spirit of the centre and its amazing residents very well. It will hopefully spread awareness of the Rescue

Centre and help us to gain further much needed support to help us to keep raising funds to help our horses and donkeys and those poor animals still out there needing our help. If you can receive SOL TV, or have access to their website is repeated quite often, have a look we think it's well worth a watch to see the horses proving what stars they are.



Mini horses with big personalities

Our Miniature Horseshow show held on 13th November turned out to be one of the highlights on our equestrian calendar. With seven amazing contestants including many of our own Mini stars with their Pony Clubber handlers the competition was extremely tough. All entrants were of a very high standard and the judges Margaret who is an registered show judge

over in the UK and Adam our friend and Horse Whisperer found it very difficult to choose the winners from such a magnificent turnout of competitors. The day was an exciting mixture of equine excellence and fun and raised 723 euros. Well done to all who took part, we can't wait for the next show planned for this Spring.



Seasonal Fundraisers.....

At this time of year there are fewer visitors to the centre who help bring in much needed funds. Our survival as a rescue centre depends solely upon our sponsors generosity, donations and fund raising events held both here and at outside venues. With 34 horses, ponies and donkeys relying on us for their care here we were starting to worry whether we were going to be able to keep our heads above water this month. Our feed bill alone is over 1000 euros each week, not to mention vet bills, bedding, medication.....the list goes on. Below are some of the wonderful fund raising events that have been taking place over the last couple of months. Thank you to All and Everyone involved.

The Looking Good Feel Good

Another fabulous fashion show held at The Looking Good Boutique in La Zenia raised the great sum of 500 euros. Louise Bradley who owns the boutique is one of our regular loyal fundraisers. She holds many events throughout the year that make a real difference to us here.

The event was attended by Taffeta, our fashionista mini who loves the attention that she receives from Louise and her customers.

That's why mums go to Iceland!

What an incredibly charitable lot of customers we met when our Pony Clubbers spent 3 days raising funds for the rescue centre at our local Iceland stores by packing bags for their customers in the weeks up to Christmas. A day at the San Fulgencio Iceland raised an amazing 647 euros, and two days at the Iceland store in Torrevieja raised a staggering 1666 euros! These much needed funds are greatly appreciated. We have to say a huge THANK YOU to the managers and staff at

both stores for making us so welcome and allowing us to take over their till points!

A special thank you also going to Kenny the manager of the Torrevieja store for his generous contribution of 10 boxes of mince pies for our Christmas Carol evening.

They went down very well with the mulled wine and helped us all get into the festive spirit.

DING DONG Merrily on High

The mention of the said mince pies leads us to thanking all who came along to our Christmas Carol evening on December 13th. The event held at the rescue centre was full of festive cheer, mulled wine and great food. We enjoyed listening to Cathy Carson and the TAABS choir singing a lovely selection of Christmas songs and carols. We would like to thank Cathy and the TAABS for all their support with our musical events throughout the last year and all those festive folk who came and enjoyed the evening with us and helped raise 420 much needed euros for the centre.

Santa came to The Caddyshack

A queue of excited children formed outside the Caddyshack in Quesada on 17th December, all waiting eagerly for their chance to see Santa and tell him what they hoped to find in their Christmas stockings.

They all had a chance to sit and have a chat with the great man himself. Thank you to Andy and Alison for their hospitality and of course to Santa for helping to raise 78 euros.

Charity for charities

We have to say a big thank you for the very generous donation of 1000 euros awarded to us from Charity for Charities. They raise money throughout the year for local charities and we are extremely grateful that for the second year running they considered us such a worthwhile cause to be awarded a donation from them.