

Horse's Mouth

March/April 2011



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Welcome...

to the March/ April edition of Horse's Mouth.

It's been a roller coaster of news and a very stressful few weeks here at the rescue centre, starting with the devastating news of Faith needing her leg amputating to save her life, to now; as we learn that pioneering surgery may be able to save her leg. The cost of her treatment is a real stretch on our resources and we can't thank all of our wonderful supporters and fundraisers enough for all their efforts, so far they have raised a fabulous 4200 euro of the 8000 needed to pay for her operation and ongoing treatment.

A plea for help in rescuing abused animals in Burriana, a town close to Valencia is causing us a great deal of worry as we try to find a solution to end seven horses endless suffering as a battle over ownership drags on through the courts.

We have an urgent need for major sponsorship, the fight to save the lives of so many horses needing our help is dependent upon the expansion of our centre and the development of our educational programme. We are currently the only place in Spain with the facilities and trained people who can offer the specialist care needed for the majority of rescue cases we deal with.

Sue and Rod Weeding



"Keeping Faith"

Full story of her Barcelona journey

Since the last newsletter there have been major developments for one of our smallest residents Faith.

At the beginning of February, following x-rays to her injured canon bone vet Dorothea sadly discovered that some of the bone had died. This came as a real shock to us all here at the centre, everything had seemed to be going so well for Faith over the last few months. The amazing stem cell treatment that Dorothea had been applying to Faith's leg each day was closing up the gaping wound and she had been allowed out of her stable to begin a little physiotherapy.

Faith's story certainly has more

than a few twists and turns.

Having spent a few frantic days researching if there was any possibility of saving Faith's life, Dorothea, leg and hoof specialist vet Gasper Castelijn along with Rod and Sue concluded that the only hope of a future for Faith lay with a pioneering amputation operation exactly like the one performed on "Molly the pony" a miniature horse who had undergone the successful amputation of her front leg five years ago. Rod got in touch with Molly's owners Kaye and Glenn Haris in America and was given a great deal of support and encouragement.

Read Molly's story at www.mollythepony.com
All systems go!

With the brilliant news that Faith stood an excellent chance of recovery, the next challenge was to find the money we needed to pay for the treatment, even though Gasper will be giving his time freely the cost is still likely to be around 8000 euro.

The news that Faith, our much loved little horse could have a life saving operation was welcomed by everyone. We quickly launched the "Faith Appeal".

Volunteers and supporters joined together to begin a series of fund raising efforts. The local press, radio station TKO and TV production company SOL TV joined our campaign along with actress Georgie May.

Gasper and his colleagues in Barcelona spent many hours

discussing the procedure in great detail with the vets in America who had performed the surgery on Molly along with the specialists who will make the prosthetic limbs she needs. Once confident that he and his team would be able to perform the first surgery of its kind here in Spain he immediately gave us the go ahead to take Faith to the clinic in Barcelona, Emotional farewell,

On Tuesday 22nd February, Faith was prepared for the long journey to Barcelona by Dorothea, who carefully bandaged all her legs to protect them throughout the overnight journey she would undertake with Rod. She was then made comfortable in the back of the trailer before an emotional farewell was said by all of us at the centre along with Georgie May who had come along to wish Faith good luck.

Gina, from SOL Productions, who are making a documentary for SOL TV about Faith and her incredible pioneering story, came along with her camera crew to film her departure for Barcelona.

Exciting news

Happy at the news that Faith had arrived safely after a comfortable journey we waited for the results of the x-rays, scans and tests Gasper and his team were performing.

When Sue received an emotional phone call from Rod she feared the worst, thankfully his emotion was a result of Gasper having given him the fantastic news that they thought they could save Faith's leg. He told Rod that in the last few weeks he had been in discussion with surgeons who were performing a ground breaking new crystal bone healing treatment that had originally been developed to try and save the limbs of the human victims of bomb blasts and land mine explosions. They saw no reason why he could not use this same life changing technology on Faith and they dispatched the necessary titanium plates, screws and operating tools to Gasper in Barcelona. Not wanting to raise our hopes before he and his team had been able to conclude their research and do the necessary tests on Faith, he had kept this exciting possibility to himself.

By Friday Faith was being operated on, during a 3 hour operation they cut away the dead and infected canon bone and flesh. Then they inserted special hollow titanium screws into the bone marrow so that powerful antibiotics can be injected directly in the area that needs them. The canon bone was then

covered by a titanium plate and the whole site covered by a chemical crystal rug that has been developed to stimulate bone growth.

Faith's leg has been placed in a plaster cast that has windows along it that open so that the antibiotics can be injected directly into the screws.

We are very happy that the operation went well, Gasper and his team are optimistic after the first inspection since the operation proved positive.

Equine surgeons around the world are following Faith's progress. This ground breaking surgery, the first on any equine in the world could lead the way in saving the lives of many horses in the future who have suffered the same horrific injuries to their legs.

STOP PRESS!

Just as we were about to send out this edition of Horse's Mouth we received the latest news and photo's from Barcelona. Gasper told us that he won't need to remove the cast for another couple of weeks because he can see through its windows that Faith's leg is looking good. This is great news for Faith. Now pain free she is putting weight on her leg, this in turn will stimulate healing. She has also been allowed to go out into the grounds of the clinic to graze, and she looks very happy having a munch on some real grass for a change.



Horse abuse in Burriana

Last month we received some shocking photos of seven horses locked in an ownership battle in Burriana, along with a request for help in rescuing them from the living hell they are enduring every day. It is proving to be a red tape legal nightmare, not only is the issue of ownership unclear, but the police and official departments we are approaching are telling us there is little they can do to help at the moment due to the court judgment currently in place denying anyone access to the horses. Read the story here.....



Ground breaking documentary

The TV production company SOL TV have been supporters of the rescue centre for the last 2 years. Gina, who made the Easy Horse Care documentary last year, is a regular visitor to the centre. She has been involved in many of our fund raising events, and although she is an incredibly busy lady when she heard about the "Keeping Faith" appeal and Faith's amazing story she immediately offered to help. With only one days notice she got her camera crew together and came along to film Faith's departure to Barcelona. This will form the first part of a new documentary, Faith's Story. The story of a little horse that suffered a terrible injury through neglect and has battled bravely for life for nearly a year. It will follow her through the coming months and document the ground breaking techniques that hopefully will save her life and that of many more equines with life threatening injuries.



Follow Faith on SOL TV www.solproductions.tv where you can see the documentary or on our website here.

Actress Georgie May sponsors Faith

After reading the "Keeping Faith" appeal in a local newspaper actress Georgie May came down to the centre to sponsor Faith and see if there was any way in which she could help during her stay in Spain. Although only 19 years old Georgie, who has recently acted in the last two Harry Potter films is a keen charity fund raiser both here and in the UK and being a horse lover was extremely sad to read of Faith's plight. The news of her visit soon spread to the Pony Club who were busy



rehearsing for an upcoming production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (vertically challenged horses) and it was suggested that Georgie would be the ideal person to be the narrator.

The Pony Club team was really excited when she agreed and now can't wait for the big day! Postponed from February it is hoped that the show will take place soon.

Georgie has also found true love at the centre,with George! Who can blame her, this 15 hands red head, although toothless after his previous owners took an angle grinder to his teeth to prevent him crib biting, is gorgeous. After only 30 minutes in the saddle Georgie knew he was the one for her. What can we say but, Watch this space!

Above: Georgie May with Faith
Left: Georgie May on George

Bronson's first taste of freedom



When called out to rescue a beautiful, young, daple grey stallion last October we were shocked to see he had a huge whole above his eye caused by what we suspected to be a hammer. The levels of cruelty many of the residents here at the Rescue Centre have endured is often unbelievable and heart breaking to see. We thought he had little chance of survival as we watched him stagger out of the trailer hardly managing to walk. Suffering brain damage he spent several days in the stable double tied to prevent him from falling over and suffering a brain haemorrhage or dislodging the drips providing the medications that were keeping him alive.

Although now physically strong the damage to his brain, eye and inner ear are permanent, but he is an amazing character and learning to cope with his disabilities brilliantly.

Less than 8 months since his arrival Bronson is almost unrecognisable, and has made such a great recovery that last week we decided that it was time



Bronson's big day!

to let him have a taste of freedom, probably for the first time in his life. Read about his first day out here.

Captain and Hope, a life they deserve

When rescued last July, Captain and Hope were skeletal. Starved of food and water and dying a slow painful death locked in an isolated barn. Captain, described by our vet as the thinnest living horse she had ever seen also had an infected puncture wound to his leg. The pain and suffering this poor horse must have been enduring is unimaginable. These horses were being tortured.

There was no excuse.

Even though the b..... who owned the horses was confronted by the Guardia Civil and ourselves he wouldn't hand them over to us.

The Guardia couldn't seize them; only issue a

denuncia until they had put together a case for cruelty. They wouldn't survive that long! In the end we had to buy them in order to save them or at least be able to put an end to their misery and pain.



They were named Captain and Hope by Sue, because even at death's door Captain held his head high and stood to attention. Hope, named because we all hoped they would recover.

Our hopes are coming true for these gentle horses. They are now unrecognisable from the two skeletons that we first saw eight months ago.

Hope is a fine, strong, intelligent mare and definitely the boss of their relationship and Captain, although he has a limp from the horrendous wound he suffered, he is now almost back to full weight and doing brilliantly.

They are both settled and happy in their new home and living a life they deserve.



Left: Hope now

Below: Captain now



Education is the key

One of the most important ways in which we can raise awareness and help to stop the abuse and neglect of all animals' not just equines is through education. At the rescue centre we are working hard to develop this through lessons, training and the Pony Club.

Teaching young and old alike we are teaching more than simply riding here, we encourage the learning of good horse care, nutrition and stable management.

We were very proud when as a result of all the dedication and hard work put into developing the riding school side of the centre by our instructors we were awarded the status of becoming an ABRs approved training and test centre.

One of only two in Spain, this is great news for the Rescue Centre as it gives us the chance to offer the training and qualifications needed for anyone wanting a career in the equine industry without having to travel back to the UK to take their exams.



Chloe with Rhaini

For more information on the ABRs, lessons and training please email riding@easyhorsecare.net

Fantastic "Faith Appeal" fundraisers

Grand Auction

Our events manager Lesley organised a Grand Auction here at the Rescue Centre.

The auction was hosted by Davy Jones from TKO FM who was also the auctioneer for the day.

Local businesses helped by generously donating lots including scuba diving, yacht charter, gift vouchers and meals out. We would like to thank Davy and everybody who donated the lots and those who bid on them, you have helped to raise over 1300 euro so far.

We still have a fantastic timeshare in Tenerife on offer with a reserve of only 500 euro. If you fancy making a bid for it please email the centre, and if you need someone to go with we have a long list of willing participants!

rescue@easyhorsecare.net



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Faith rocking for Faith

A great evening of live music held at the Rocajuana raised a massive 1268 euro for the Faith Appeal.

The evening was opened and compered by singer Dan The Man who is a friend and supporter of the Rescue Centre. This being the first of a series of musical fundraisers he is planning for the appeal, we can't wait for the next.

Local rock band The Faith performed some very entertaining (and loud) rock hits that had us all dancing till the early hours.

We would like to thank Dan and The Faith for freely giving their time for the evening and to all those who supported the event.



The Faith, Dan the Man and Georgie May



Georgie May and friends



Rescue Centre co-founder Sue with Georgie May and friends

Music, tea and tombolas

Butterflies, the English tea rooms in Los Altos organised a variety of fundraisers including quizzes, music and a tombola. Jeanette and Janet from Butterflies came to the rescue centre to deliver the 562.24 euro cheque to Sue, pictured with Jeanette, Janet, Charity the donkey and Chloe, Janet's daughter who is a working pupil here at the centre studying for her ABRs exams.

We would like to thank Jeanette and Janet and all their customers and friends for their generosity.

