

SUE PIKE EQUINE & ANIMAL RESCUE
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1053351

ANNUAL REPORT

2008/2009



Directors and Trustees:

Professor D.C. Knottenbelt O.B.E., BVM&S, DVM&S, MRCVS; J.T. Waters Esq. BVMS, MRCVS;
Mrs G.L. Charles; Mrs J.A. Gaynor, Cert.Ed., dipHM; Mrs S.M.Pike, BEM.

Annual Report July 09

The Annual Report is a resume of SPEAR's work throughout the year. The Directors and Trustees extend their most sincere and grateful thanks to all those Charitable Trusts and their Administrators, to all our generous donors and to the many people who support our work. It is due only to their kindness and generosity that we can fulfil the aims and objectives of this Charity.

To try to counteract the fall in charitable donations caused by the current and ongoing financial crisis, the Trustees have decided this year to change the format of our Annual Report to save printing costs as we would rather spend our funds directly upon the needs of all our animals in care. We have for the last 3 years had our Annual Reports kindly printed and donated by the Cashmore family of Printeq Ltd whose daughter, Phoebe, rode Jasper of SPEAR. (see Jasper report page 5)

ADMISSIONS

August 2008 No admissions

September 2008

LUCY 13 hh Bay Pony Mare approximately 17+ years old.

Private funding was obtained by SPEAR for all Lucy's Veterinary fees when she suffered an accident in the field having just moved to a new foster home. Neither her owner nor foster owner would help fund the most necessary Veterinary costs to enable a diagnosis to be made. Expert opinion on her X rays which were sent to Bristol University, confirmed a fractured hock with another two smaller fractures suspected. SPEAR agreed to assist with Lucy's livery fees, as on Veterinary advice, it was decided to immobilise her hind leg in a Robert Jones splint for the next nine weeks with the proviso that she was signed over to SPEAR. Check X rays showed that the main fracture was healing sufficiently for the splint to be removed and she was travelled to SPEAR by ambulance. Following 6 months box rest and being walked out in hand twice daily, Lucy's leg had healed sufficiently to allow her to be sedated to have the most necessary work done on her neglected teeth, enabling her at last to chew properly. She is now completely sound in all paces and her bodily condition greatly improved.

October 2008

34 ex-Battery chickens. SPEAR admitted these chickens and successfully rehomed 26 of them, retaining 8 which have laid eggs consistently throughout the year. They settled in well, adapting quickly to their new free range lifestyle which was reflected by their greatly improved bodily condition. Just recently we have lost 3 put to sleep because of liver tumours.

November 2008

Large Ram of unknown breed. Admitted as an emergency following removal by the RSPCA from a shed where he had been tethered, standing in wet bedding underneath a leaking roof. He was stabled for the next few days until the weather improved and his unshorn fleece dried out. As his condition improved through proper feeding we began to experience difficulties because of his aggression and his ability to climb or smash his way out of any enclosure, followed by charging to butt, knocking over anyone in his path. This situation could not continue, so sadly the decision had to be made and he was put down at home.

December 2008

4 Donkey geldings. At the request of the Coventry Police and RSPCA, SPEAR was asked to collect and impound four donkeys that were found wandering in a built-up area and had been contained in a car park at the rear of factory premises. On our arrival, dark was falling but fortunately all were used to travelling and loaded well. The owner came forward next day and collected the donkeys having paid SPEAR our impounding fees for collection and overnight stabling.

January 2009

4 lambs (1 male, 3 females). The four lambs were purchased privately as a rescue case on the understanding that SPEAR would accept ownership. They were stunted in their growth, thin and weak through lack of food and all had diarrhoea. One of the females, Joy, was lame due to a split in her right front hoof. The lambs needed Veterinary treatment. All were given injections of multivite, vitamin B12 and anabolic steroid; a programme of worming was started. Small feeds were given three times daily and ad lib hay introduced. Gradually they became stronger; they were vaccinated against sheep diseases and Blue Tongue virus when they were shorn. The lambs made a full recovery from their very poor start in life; they are permanent residents and are proving popular having become part of our 'Adopt an Animal' programme.

February 2009 no admissions

March 2009

16.3 hh gelding. Case pending prosecution by the RSPCA.

Ginger and Tinkerbell 2 Shetland ponies

Ginger - Skewbald Shetland gelding aged approx 13 yrs. Ginger, and his companion Tinkerbell were signed over to the RSPCA and brought to SPEAR for Veterinary and nursing care. Ginger's front feet were grossly overgrown. He was in a neglected state and relatively poor bodily condition compared to Tinkerbell. X rays and remedial Farriery followed, there being every possibility that over a period of time the long-term damage to his feet could have been repaired. However, blood samples taken showed both ponies to be suffering from a heavy tapeworm burden and anaemia. They were wormed accordingly. Ginger, since admission, did not eat well despite being given treatment to boost his appetite. He suffered a low grade colic which failed to respond to treatment despite several Vet's visits during that day. Sadly, a diagnosis of suspected peritonitis was confirmed and he was put to sleep at home. Post mortem showed that his gut had become irreparably damaged through long term tape worm damage.

Tinkerbell - Chestnut Shetland mare, aged approx 23 yrs. Tinkerbell thrived in our care but had to remain with us until her heavy tapeworm burden had completely cleared and she had been fully vaccinated. She is now happily settled in her foster home as a companion pony.

April 2009

17 hh Bay Thoroughbred Gelding and 16.2 hh Chestnut Gelding, both aged approx 20+ yrs old

These two aged unsound horses were signed over to the Warwickshire RSPCA because of their extremely poor bodily condition. Companions of many years, they were found to be suffering from many untreated health problems. All we could do was to give them a period of terminal care providing what had been denied for so long, prior to both being put to sleep at home.

May 2009

Wessex cockerel

SPEAR agreed to admit this cockerel because of his past history. He had been found on the M42 in a cardboard box which had been hit by passing traffic. Miraculously he survived uninjured. He behaved well with our chickens but not with humans, attacking anyone in his path and as our poultry are free range there was no area that was safe for us! Fortunately we were able to rehome him to a large enclosed area to be with plenty of females where his aggression could be properly and safely managed.

Harold – Buff Orpington Cockerel

Harold was unwanted and due to be destroyed. He is a magnificent bird and we were very grateful to have him following our unpleasant experience with the Wessex cockerel.

June 2009 No admissions

July 2009

ZAC 12 yr old 15hh Arab gelding

Zac is privately owned and was admitted for Veterinary and nursing care following an accident in which he injured both hind legs, but fortunately did not affect any underlying bone or tendons. The large area of abrasions on the front of his legs was treated with sterile dressings. The wounds are healing well and he is making good progress.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Raffles 12 hh 14 yr old Grey Welsh Mountain Pony Gelding

Raffles has remained in good health receiving daily treatment for Equine Metabolic Syndrome.

Teddy 11 hh 9 yr old Leopard Spotted Pony Gelding

Teddy is extremely well. He is a happy, healthy pony and a popular member of our Adopt an Animal programme.

Nettles 11.2 hh 2 yr old Black Pony Gelding

Nettles is growing into a lovely pony. Although he was orphaned at 24 hrs old and bottle fed until 6 months old, this very poor start in life has not hindered normal development. His manners are good, he loads and travels well with his companions Teddy and Raffles

and enjoys walks round the village learning about traffic and coping well with all the new sights and sounds he meets en route. He has a happy, confident outlook on life. In time we hope he will become a safe, child's pony.

Pansy 27 yr old Jenny Donkey

Pansy is well and happily settled at home living with Brian, Buttons and Lucy. She has cataracts in both eyes causing a degree of loss of vision; she copes well with her disability. Pansy is popular on our adoption programme.

Brian 31 yr old Black Shetland Gelding

Brian has liver failure but despite this and his sweet itch he is doing well, devotedly cared for by Manda, our part-time groom. He is fed three times a day to maintain his condition having lost several molars due to old age.

Buttons 11 hh 40 yr old Grey Pony Mare

Buttons celebrated her 40th birthday in July on Open Day. Like Brian, she too has a degree of liver failure and receives Veterinary treatment when the need arises. She is fed soft food at least five times a day as she has no molars left. Her bodily condition is good as is her general health.

Pipkin 13 yr old Black Miniature Shetland Mare

Pipkin suffers from Cushings Syndrome, diagnosed at the age of 8. She has remained extremely well throughout the year but has to be managed carefully to avoid laminitis.

Charlie 7 yr old 14 hh Chestnut Gelding

Charlie is making slow but steady progress, lunged and ridden out regularly by Manda. He is coping much better this year and is safe to ride in traffic and good to handle in every way. We may rehome him when we feel he is ready.

Bodie 30 yr old 15 hh Grey Gelding

The large inoperable melanomas under Bodie's tail and sheath have increased in size and more are developing in the corners of his mouth. So far he remains comfortable and looks well. He celebrated his 30th birthday at our July Adopters' and Open Day along with Buttons and Sergeant Lemon. He is a very popular member of our Adoption Programme.

Sergeant Lemon 20 yr old 16.2 hh Thoroughbred Chestnut Gelding

Lemon wintered well. He and Bodie are firm friends, stabled next to one another and sharing their paddocks when out at grass. Lemon's general health is good but his stringhalt can prove difficult at times, especially when he has his hind feet trimmed. We keep him well rugged in wet and cold weather which seems to help ease this condition. Like Bodie, Lemon is a very popular member of our Adoption programme.

Pied Piper 13 yr old 13 hh Skewbald Gelding

Pie is fostered by Dawn, our Yard Manager. They are devoted to each other. Pie is a complex character and needs a one-to-one partnership. He suffered a field accident in April, pulling a tendon on his off foreleg which necessitated a month's box rest. He is now in full work and has remained sound.

Poppy 15 yr old Bay Welsh Section D Cob Mare

Poppy suffers from intermittent stiffness in her front legs especially during cold weather and is given medication to ease the problem. Her temperament has steadily improved, coping much better with strangers. With those she knows, she is a delight to handle, easy to do in every way. The last hurdle is to teach her to load into a trailer. She has little confidence due to her bad past history, but we have the time to take things slowly and quietly to hopefully succeed.

Goats

Barney, Harry and Henry are in excellent condition. Wallace however has suffered from a skin problem requiring several courses of treatment. He is very old now and needs extra feed to maintain his weight. Wallace finds the summer heat difficult to cope with as it affects his breathing, so during hot days he is stabled along with the others as they become distressed when separated. Harry still manages to jump from field to field when it suits him. Henry's aggression is manageable and Barney is still as greedy as ever! He is a very popular member of our Adoption Programme and has experienced fame in that his photograph was taken by a little girl who adopted him and sent the photograph to a local paper that was holding a photographic competition. Barney's photo won and from there was used by the 'One Show' on BBC TV complete with Barney wearing spectacles!

Sheep (see Admissions)

Poultry

Olive Turkey now 9 yrs old. Olive is showing signs of great old age but perks up when our handyman, Harry comes to work. She finds him and then happily sits by him all day whilst he works. Olive has suffered one or two small fits from which she quickly recovers. She eats well and we make sure she lives as quiet a life as possible.

Heidi and Hattie Buff Orpington Hens

These lovely ginger chickens lay eggs every other day and were so pleased to have Harold as their new companion. All three free range together, never far apart. There is no aggression with any of our poultry, including the geese.

Bill Mark II and Joyce (Geese)

When Bill was put to sleep because of the problems due to old age and loss of vision, we quickly found another companion for Joyce and to our great relief she accepted him immediately. Joyce knows her name so the new goose had to be called Bill to lessen her confusion! They have bonded well together which again was a happy situation because Bill II had been living with four other geese on private property but not in a domestic situation and there was concern that he might not settle but fortunately as soon as he met Joyce he wanted to be with her.

ANIMALS THAT ARE NO LONGER WITH US

August 2008

Pod II (sheep) was put to sleep at home when we could no longer keep him comfortable as his arthritis worsened causing him to be very stiff in all four limbs.

December 2008

Whisker 40 year old Shetland Pony Mare

Whisker had been in good health for most of the year. The sudden and unexpected crisis of a pulmonary thrombosis was dealt with as it occurred, by our Veterinary Surgeon who was visiting his patients here at the time. As there was no response to treatment, Whisker was put to sleep that morning.

Large Ram – see admissions

March 2009

Ginger – see admissions

April 2009

Two old, large horses – see admissions

May 2009

Ginger (see Adoption Report)

Willow 11 year old Dapple Welsh Mare

Willow was admitted having been signed over to SPEAR by the RSPCA. She was suffering from laminitis and long term foot neglect. X rays of her front feet showed severe rotation and a compensatory lip of bone forming on the tip of one of her pedal bones. Despite consistent remedial farriery, we were unable to keep her comfortable despite the use of ever increasing drugs to alleviate her discomfort. Her past life had a direct influence on her prognosis and sadly after many months of trying to help her, she was put to sleep as there was no more we could do for her.

FOSTERED HORSES AND PONIES

We are deeply grateful to all our long term foster carers who provide so much for our horses and ponies, many of which are in work, ridden regularly by their foster owners. Some are competing, i.e. eventing, show jumping, showing, pony club activities and one pony is competing ridden side-saddle. Others are much loved companions, and a few have been fostered simply because of what they are, even though they are not in work. All benefit from the devoted care and attention they receive in their foster homes.

BLUEY	BRAMBLE	BRYONY	DOODLE	HENRY
HERCULES	HOVIS	JAKE	JENNY BROWN	JIM
LADY DIANE	MOLLY	NUTMEG	PEANUTS	PEPPER
PETER	ROSIE	POLLY	POSIE	RIKI
ROBIN	TINKERBELL	RUPERT	SPARKLE	SUSIE
TILLY	WEESEL			

JASPER UPDATE August 2008 – July 2009 by Karen Gray

Jasper has been with me for nine years – how quickly time passes! During this time he has achieved so much and is still the same happy little pony who enjoys jumping almost as much as eating!

Jasper and Phoebe finished the 2008 showing season in fine style by winning the 'Cefn Charmer' trophy at the British Show Pony Society championships in August. Jasper won the trophy for the 'Best Overall Cradle Stakes Pony'. He and Phoebe were invited to the evening indoor performance where they were presented with the trophy, sash and rosette in front of an audience (see photo on SPEAR website). He made the most of this prestigious occasion by cantering his lap of honour and galloping out of the arena like the true star that he is – I don't think Phoebe knew how fast he could travel! Phoebe is now too old to compete on Jasper and we wish her success for the future on her own ponies.

Jasper has a new rider, 7 year old Amber Jackson from Knowle. At present she and Jasper are getting to know one another so we have only been to a few local shows but nevertheless managed to get a rosette each time.

Jasper attended Norton Lindsey fete on July 11th where he made lots of new friends. He behaved very well considering he was surrounded by 5-a-side football competitions all day! He and Amber paraded in the main ring while Sue gave a commentary about Jasper's life. Again he just loved showing-off in front of an audience!

Late News: a lovely picture of Jasper and Amber at Norton Lindsey fete was published in the Stratford Herald newspaper (July 16th issue).

JASPER OF SPEAR FUND August 2008 – July 2009

The JASPER of SPEAR Fund has now completed its 7th year and with the help of individual people, the general public and Jasper himself we have raised over £25,000 for SPEAR which has paid for veterinary treatment, farrier etc for a large number of horses and ponies who otherwise wouldn't have had a future. This year we have funded Lucy, Ginger and Tinkerbell.

Special thanks must go to Dennis Finch and Danny Boy who have raised £852 by doing a 20 mile sponsored drive through the lanes of Beoley, Tanworth-in-Arden and Danzey Green. Thank you to everyone who supported them and donated. Well done and thank you Dennis and Danny.

Thank you to John Gray for designing and painting our Christmas card. Last year's 'donkey card' proved very popular and we sold almost 1500 copies, so thank you to everyone for supporting us and buying them. This year's new Christmas card is almost ready to go to the printers, so hopefully will be on sale at September Open Day, which leads me on to my next 'thank you' to Printeq Ltd (the Cashmore family) who printed and donated our Christmas cards. Very many thanks for your continued support. John has also designed and painted two new 'blank for any occasion' cards with are now on sale at Open Days so please come and support us by buying them.

Thank you to Tesco and Sainsbury's for allowing us to hold collections outside their stores at Warwick and Solihull.

Thank you to all those who have our collecting boxes especially Earlswood Equine; Hungry Horse; Rosebank Saddlery; Portway Restaurant; Gordon's Butchers Bidford; The Fold, Kings Norton; The Heron's Nest, Knowle.

Thank you to the Mill Garden Charity, Warwick; Royal Mail Charities Trust; Barbara Timmins; Radnall Farm Stables; Barbara Hadley for their generous donations and to all those who donated prizes for the auction and raffle at our Ball.

In addition, we raise money by car booting! So PLEASE next time you are having a clear-out at home think about us – we will always collect if you give us a ring (01527 62198).

We desperately need good quality clean soft cuddly toys and unwanted gifts suitable for our tombola. As well as our tombola on Open Days, we attend local fetes so please help by donating prizes – thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has supported Jasper's Fund especially Barbara Hadley, Thelma Fawdry, the Swift family and John (my husband). My rocks behind the scene!

Please keep supporting Jasper's Fund and help raise money for SPEAR. Many thanks in anticipation, Karen and Jasper.

ADOPTION PROGRAMME UPDATE - Anna Smith

This year has been a challenging year for many of us, but our adopters have continued to support us in a very generous way. We have been able to maintain our adoption fee at £12 for the year which includes a birthday card for children up to the age of 16, a photograph of their animal and the ability to see their adopted animal 5 times a year at the open days. We are now trying to encourage adopters to pay by standing order, if that is convenient, in order to save costs on postage. Any adopter who can also sign the gift aid form would also help in our fund-raising.

We have had three open days already this year and an excellent Adopters' Day, combined with the open day on 5th July. Unfortunately, our success was tinged with sadness at the news that little Ginger was put to sleep on 18th May.

Ginger came to SPEAR in 2000 aged approximately 3 yrs; she was in an appalling condition with grossly overgrown feet, she was also found to be in foal. It took many months of care to restore her to health and months of remedial farriery to correct the condition of her feet. She gave birth to her very large foal in May 2001. As we reported last year, she had been diagnosed with Cushings Syndrome, she was also suffering from arthritis in the lower parts of her legs as a consequence of the past long-term neglect of her feet. Sadly, in May, the point was reached when the maximum dose of her pain-killing drugs was having little effect and we could no longer keep her comfortable so the decision to end her suffering had to be taken. Ginger was put to sleep on 18 May. Ginger's gentle temperament has passed to her lovely foal Nutmeg (now 8 yrs old) who is living very happily in a foster-home where her young rider, Jessica, rides her side-saddle.

Since January this year we have a new addition to the adoption programme – a flock of sheep. Their names are Jilly, Jayn, Joy and Jelly Bean and they are proving to be very popular with the adopters, as are Sergeant Lemon, Bodie, Teddy, Barney and Pansy (please see permanent residents report).

Please come and see all the adopted animals at our next two open days at Cotswold House, Norton Lindsey on:

Sunday 13th September , 11 am – 4 pm and Sunday 29th November, 11 am – 3 pm

Any treats of apples, carrots, ginger biscuits and polos would be gratefully received by all!!

Please could any adopters give me their e-mail addresses. If you want to, e-mail me at gardenia.soft.furnishings@btinternet.com
A huge thank you for supporting us throughout the year, and love from Sergeant Lemon, Bodie, Teddy, Barney, Pansy and the flock of sheep. Many thanks from Anna Smith, SPEAR Adoptions Secretary (tel 01789 730039).

FUNDRAISING REPORT 2008-09 - Maxine Bonnell

Throughout this year we have increased our fund raising events to try to maintain our level of revenue during this difficult economic crisis. We have been invited to new venues to promote our charity and raise much needed funds. The Fund Raising Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of these events for inviting us to take part.

20/21 Sept 08	Rummage sale held at Cotswold House
14 Sept 08	Open Day – a fantastic day was had by all, with many foster owners bringing their horses back for our annual parade, well done and thank you.
18 Oct 08	Dinner and Dance at Coleshill Hotel – what a great night had by all and due to popular demand another is planned for 17 October 09
30 Nov 08	Christmas Open Day at Cotswold House
8/9 Dec 08	Two day collection at Sainsbury's, Warwick
12 Dec 08	Christmas quiz - Mappleborough Green
19/20 Jan 09	Two day collection at Tesco, Solihull
31 Jan 09	Bingo and burger bonanza – Mappleborough Green
7 March 09	Annual quiz night – Mappleborough Green

continued

22 March 09	Jasper's Open Day – Cotswold House
10 May 09	Open Day – Cotswold House
25 May 09	Kings Heath Horse Show – SPEAR tombola
18 June 09	Rug and Tack sale – Cotswold House
20 June 09	Race night – Mappleborough Green
21 June 09	Snitterfield fete – SPEAR tombola
June 09	Brian of SPEAR and Pansy of SPEAR – school visit
28 June 09	Lazy Acres, Princethorpe – SPEAR tombola
5 July 09	Adopters' Day and Open Day – Cotswold House
11 July 09	Norton Lindsey Village Fete – SPEAR tombola and Jasper of SPEAR ridden display
12 July 09	Lapworth Cricket – SPEAR tombola

A big thank you to Anne Marcantonio for hosting 3 Pampered Chef Evenings and a wine tasting evening in Stratford upon Avon with all proceeds going to SPEAR.

Our most sincere and grateful thanks go to ALL our volunteers and supporters who visit our Open Days, Adopt our Animals, who join our 100 Club and join us at our many evening events and who have donated their time and energy helping us to man stalls, erect gazebos, stand in the bitter cold collecting outside superstores, sweep yards, grow plants, make jam and beautiful cakes, donate their unwanted soft toys (for our many tombolas), bric-a-brac, raffle prizes, horse rugs and tack, and attend car boot sales to mention but a few – because without your constant support we could not continue.

Our work could not continue without the successful team effort of our small Fund Raising committee – thank you all so much.

100 CLUB

The 100 Club continues to thrive and we are pleased to report another year of successful operation. We are very pleased to say that the cost of membership has been maintained at just £12 per number for a full year's participation. Many thanks to the members of the Club who have supported us during the last year and congratulations to all the winners of the monthly draw. Winning numbers are now published on the website every month. All the proceeds from the Club go directly towards the care of our animals and provide a valuable and steady contribution to the charity's funds. If you are not a current member, you are very welcome to join the 100 Club at any time and if you would like more details or have any queries please contact Sue Kruze on 01926 859848 or visit the website for details and to download an application form.

WEBSITE

This year has seen the launch of our new website at www.spearcharity.org.uk. It contains lots of useful information about the SPEAR organisation and its aims and objectives. It has also helped to publicise our events and hot news and is regularly updated with the latest information and downloadable forms and documents. We have seen a steady increase in the number of visitors to the website and a growing number of contacts and queries from occasional and regular browsers who can now email us via the site and at mail@spearcharity.org.uk. We have plans to continue to expand the information displayed and welcome any ideas, photos, news or input to make the site more interesting and useful.

FARRIER

Ray Walker is SPEAR's Farrier. We are grateful for his interest and enthusiasm in dealing with the many foot problems we encounter especially with new admissions. Through Ray's consistent efforts, all our horses, ponies, donkey and goats have comfortable feet which greatly improves the quality of their lives. We give Ray our special thanks.

YARD STAFF

Dawn BA (Hons) Equine Studies

Dawn is our Yard Manager and with Manda's help ensures that the yard runs smoothly on a day to day basis. Her knowledge, enthusiasm and interest in Animal Welfare is of great benefit to the many creatures in our care especially our nursing cases, no matter how distressing they can be. In addition, we are extremely grateful for her consistent hard work in supporting all of the Charity's activities, especially our fundraising events during the year.

Manda BHSAI

Manda is our part-time groom who takes over the running of the yard in Dawn's absence. Her consistent hard work throughout the year reflects her commitment to Animal Welfare. Her daily care of our animals and her support for all the Charity's activities is greatly appreciated.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Tanith came from school to do her one week's work experience in large animal welfare.

Samantha is studying for her HND in Equine Studies at the Warwickshire College of Agriculture and is spending 12 weeks with us learning about equine and animal welfare and the many and different aspects of this work.

VOLUNTARY HELP

Jamie - we are grateful to have Jamie's reliable help in the yard at weekends. He has left school and has been accepted to start the Blacksmith's course at the Warwickshire College of Agriculture in September prior to the Farrier's course the following year. We wish Jamie every success in his chosen career.

Steph - Steph's aim is to become a Veterinary Surgeon and is working hard at school to obtain the necessary qualifications to gain a place at a University Vet School. We are grateful to have her reliable help and hope the experience she gains with us will be of use in her career.

Julie - Julie has recently joined our team in the yard, she particularly likes doing the dirtiest jobs! Julie is an artist and has drawn, framed and donated many sketches of our animals which have sold well to raise much needed funds.

Angela - this is Angela's 12th year with us helping regularly throughout the year in the yard at weekends and on Open Days. We are so grateful to have such reliable help and thank her for all she does which includes typing our Annual Report.

ANIMALS' WISH LIST – please if possible

For Horses, Ponies, Donkeys, Goats and Sheep:

- Digestive and ginger biscuits, polo mints, carrots and apples.
- Any make of Horse and Pony herb mix feed.
- Washing up bowls that we use as feed bowls.
- Electric fence tape, stakes and electric energiser box.

For Poultry – mixed corn.

Treats are very special and greatly enjoyed by all our animals. A huge thank you to all who give so generously throughout the year. Every mouthful is hugely appreciated!

HUMANS' WISH LIST

- Rubber gloves, medium size if possible – a wonderful help.
- Scissors
- Kitchen knives for slicing carrots and apples
- Washing up bowls.

Thank you so much for all the many wonderful donations for our animals and humans so kindly and generously given throughout the year.

WIDER NETWORK

147 telephone calls were received by SPEAR during the year from horse owners seeking advice on welfare matters. These ranged from distressed owners unable to keep their horses because of their poor financial situation and other personal problems, to those who were experiencing great difficulty with horses or ponies suffering from health and behavioural problems.

SPEAR was directly involved, along with Equine Welfare organisations in attending and dealing with cases of neglect and abandonment away from home. We co-operate with the RSPCA assisting in emergency situations which may result in providing the specialist hospital care for equine and large animal cases admitted on their behalf.

SPEAR is a member of the National Equine Welfare Council and the National Foaling Bank.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2009

Sunday 13th September – Open Day , 11 am – 4 pm at Cotswold House, Norton Lindsey, Nr Warwick

Friday 18th September – Veterinary Lecture, Norton Lindsey Village Hall, Wolverton Road, Norton Lindsey, Warwick. Admission £5

‘Comprehensive Guide to First Aid for the Horse’ given by Mr J T Waters MRCVS, 608 Veterinary Group, Solihull

Saturday 17th October – Charity Ball at the Coleshill Hotel, Coleshill, Warwickshire. 3 course meal, disco, raffle and bottle tombola.

Saturday 14th November – quiz night at Mappleborough Green Village Hall. Tickets £10 – including supper.

Sunday 29th November – Open Day, 11 am – 3 pm at Cotswold House, Norton Lindsey, Nr Warwick

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2010

Saturday 30th January – Bingo night, Norton Lindsey Village Hall. Tickets £10 – including supper.

Monday 15th February – Veterinary Lecture, Stratford-upon-Avon Civic Hall, 7.30 pm

Professor Derek Knottenbelt OBE, BVM&S, DVM&S, MRCVS, speaking on ‘Diseases and Conditions of the Geriatric Horse’

Alison Talbot MRCVS, Cert Equine Practice, speaking on ‘Behaviour or Pain – which is it?’

‘A Storm is Coming’ – veterinary lecture from Fort Dodge Pharmaceutical Company on possible viral diseases that may well become apparent in the UK in the next few years.

Saturday 6th March – Annual quiz night for the ‘Nutkin Locris Trophy’, at Mappleborough Green Village Hall.
Tickets £12 – including fish and chip supper.

Saturday 20th March – Jasper of SPEAR’s Open Day, 11 am – 3 pm at Cotswold House, Norton Lindsey, Nr Warwick

Sunday 9th May – Open Day, 11 am – 3 pm at Cotswold House, Norton Lindsey, Nr Warwick

Saturday 19th June – Race Night – venue to be arranged

Sunday 4th July – Adopters’ Day and Open Day, 11 am – 3 pm at Cotswold House, Norton Lindsey, Nr Warwick