

This Annual Report is a résumé of SPEAR's work throughout the year. The Directors and Trustees extend their most sincere and grateful thanks to the Charitable Trusts and their Administrators, to all our generous Donors and to the many kind people who support our work not only in monetary terms but in gifts of useful items for our animals which saves expenditure in these difficult times. It is due only to their kindness and generosity that we can fulfil the aims and objectives of this Charity. Every gift, no matter how small is appreciated.

SPEAR has experienced another busy year with the emphasis on fundraising. Since the vote to leave the EU and the drop in the value of the pound it may well be that people have less disposable income to give to Charities. We keep overheads to a minimum, including all administrative work, allowing the funds raised by our loyal volunteers to do the maximum good by directly benefiting our animals in care. We employ one full-time and two part-time members of staff whose duties are primarily animal care but also include all aspects of our fundraising projects. With so many unwanted horses and ponies throughout the country, we have again had to make difficult decisions regarding admissions. With increasing annual costs we can only admit as many as we can support financially as we remain committed to maintaining a high standard supported by essential Veterinary, farriery and nursing care.

#### **UPDATE FROM 2014**

##### **EVE 13hh Piebald Cob Mare, born 2009**

Eve was found wandering on a busy road in Worcestershire. Fortunately, the person who found her removed her from the road and contacted the Police, expressing concern about her very poor bodily condition. SPEAR was contacted and agreed to admit her as a nursing case. She was transported safely by horse ambulance because she was so thin and weak. On arrival Eve was the picture of long-term neglect. Her ribs were clearly visible under her thick, louse-infested winter coat as was each notch of her spine and hip bones. Her matted mane and tail were encrusted with mud and droppings. She was scouring badly and dragged her hind feet as she walked.

Eve underwent a veterinary examination. Her bodily condition score was assessed as 1 on the Veterinary scale 0-5. Blood and dung samples were taken and she was scanned to check for a microchip but none was found. Investigations showed that Eve was anaemic and carried a heavy louse and worm burden. These conditions were successfully dealt with and during the following weeks she slowly began to regain her health and strength. Thankfully the pregnancy blood sample taken on admission tested negative.

Eve began her education to become a riding pony 4 months later. To build muscle she was lightly lunged, long-reined and walked out in hand in the village, proving to be good in traffic. As she gradually built up muscle she was backed and ridden away. Eve enjoyed her work, readily accepting all new situations and was easy to deal with from every point of view being a kind and uncomplicated pony. By Autumn, Eve was in regular work having been shod in front because she was doing road work and her belly clipped to keep her cool as she was fast growing a thick winter coat.

Eve was successfully rehomed in June, 18 months from admission, as a family pony suitable for small children to ride.

#### **ADMISSIONS 2015/16**

##### **August 2015**

No admissions

## **September 2015**

### **2 Cob colts, Lemon and White, Grey Roan**

SPEAR was contacted very early one morning and asked to assist in removing two ponies that had been found loose and straying on the main road through the village. With the Police in attendance, the ponies were walked to SPEAR and held safely in a small secure paddock. Fortunately local knowledge enabled us to find the owner who collected them later that day.

### **6 Pekin Bantam Chickens**

Admitted c/o RSPCA in need of rehoming. All were in good condition and within two weeks had been rehomed in two small groups.

## **October 2015**

### **18 yr old Welsh Pony Mare**

This very sick pony was referred to us by the 608 Veterinary Practice. She was suffering from laminitis and had developed hyperlypaemia. Despite intensive veterinary and 24 hour nursing care, the pony failed to respond and was sadly euthanised. She was privately funded whilst in our care.

### **Miniature Pony Mare**

This tiny neglected pony was found in a field of pigs in the Shipston-on-Stour area and was reported to SPEAR through Horsecatch. As sufficient time had elapsed to try to find her owner but without success, the pony, under the new fly-grazing legislation, could be rehomed. Fortunately, SPEAR had an enquiry on their books for just such a pony to be a companion. The little mare was collected and taken to her new home where she is happily settled and is receiving the care and attention she deserves.

## **November 2015**

No admissions

## **December 2015**

### **Little Poppy – in foal Black Shetland Mare, born 2008**

### **Toby – Piebald Colt, born 2014**

Little Poppy and Toby's owners were asked to remove them from the livery yard where they were kept and with nowhere else to go they ended up in the owners' small garden in a noisy inner city area. Despite every effort made by their owners to care for them as best they could, the ponies became the cause for concern to local residents and the RSPCA. SPEAR agreed to admit both ponies because of their circumstances. On arrival and unlike most of our new admissions, Little Poppy was considerably overweight. She settled very quickly into her new surroundings and laid down to rest in her stable many times during the next few days. We can only assume that she was able to relax with somewhere safe and dry to lie down out of the mud and noise. A few days later she received a full veterinary examination. She was wormed, de-loused, given her first anti-tetanus vaccination and a blood sample was taken as it was suspected she could be in foal. Little Poppy tested positive and from February until May she was checked every night during the night because we had no foaling date. She was huge, possibly in foal to the large coloured cob colt, Toby that she came in with. Being so small, it was possible that foaling could be difficult. Poppy eventually produced a large, strong, coloured colt foal on the night of May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Post foaling Poppy was in pain, rejecting her foal. She received veterinary attention, was treated for pain and given a light sedative. The afterbirth was checked to make sure none had been retained. Her foal was examined and his navel sprayed with antibiotic spray, then he was given an enema. As Poppy became more comfortable she allowed him to suckle. Poppy is a good mother. This may not be her first foal but it is certainly her last.

### **Marble, Poppy's Piebald Colt foal born 8 May 2016**

Marble is a large foal out of a small mare, the product of indiscriminate breeding. Shortly after he was born, a blood sample was taken to check his antibody level which fortunately was within normal limits. Marble needed to straighten up on his hind legs which we hoped would happen naturally in time. As time passed, he did straighten but began to present with hind leg lameness. A noticeable swelling began to appear on both stifle joints, the right joint being the worst; a blood sample was taken to determine if the swelling was due to infection. Marble was then heavily sedated in order to aspirate the joint. Fortunately there was no evidence of infection. Marble's stifle joints were then x-rayed and abnormalities were seen. Expert advice was sought from Matt Smith, the orthopaedic surgeon at Newmarket Equine Hospital. His opinion was that the x-ray of the right stifle showed it was dislocating due to an abnormality within the joint.

Sadly, this means that Marble has been given a poor prognosis. We were advised that it is a rare condition and very few cases have been recorded. It is occasionally seen in Shetland ponies, cobs and sometimes in thoroughbreds and miniature horses. Surgery has little chance of success and is hugely expensive. So far, Marble behaves as a normal foal should. He can trot, canter, gallop and play enjoying his daily mad half-hour in the paddock. For the time being he has a good quality of life.

Marble and Poppy's Vet fees to date are £852 excluding Farrier, wormers, de-lousing treatments, feed, bedding and staff time.

### **Toby 18 month old Coloured Cob Colt, born 2014 (most likely Marble's father)**

Toby, as with Poppy was exhausted on arrival. He presented as an underweight, relatively poor youngster but with a very kind temperament. He too laid down to rest in his stable for long intervals for many days following admission, able at last to relax in a dry, safe place out of a stressful, noisy and muddy environment. Toby underwent a full veterinary examination during which he was wormed, de-loused and given his first anti-tetanus vaccination. We were advised it would be beneficial for him to gain weight before he was gelded. Two months later he was gelded under general anaesthetic and has since made a full recovery. Toby has an exceptionally kind temperament and very little troubles him. He is, for a youngster, very easy to do. He should make someone a lovely, kind riding pony when he is old enough to bring into work.

Toby's Vet fees to date are £615.25 excluding Farrier, wormers, de-lousing treatments, feed, bedding and staff time.

### **January 2016: Rosy, Posy and Peter returned to us after 13 happy years in their foster home.**

#### **Rosy Dark Bay Shetland Mare born 1986**

#### **Posy (her daughter) Chestnut Miniature Shetland Mare born 1997**

Rosy and Posy were two of eight miniature Shetland ponies signed over to Birmingham RSPCA. All eight were admitted to SPEAR for veterinary nursing and care because of long-term neglect. Indiscriminate breeding had taken place between the ponies in previous years and Posy was one of the results. Three stallions and one colt, all unhandled, were put to sleep after a period of terminal care. All four were in extremely poor condition and were suffering from many serious and irreversible problems. Fortunately we were able to help the four mares. One, heavy in foal, was transferred to the RSPCA Animal Home but Rosy, Posy and Marjory remained in SPEAR's care.

All were treated for malnutrition, worm and lice infestations, overgrown feet badly infected with thrush. A farrier had not played a large part in their lives but fortunately they accepted this new experience. Rosy was found to have a degree of lung disease which responded to her being kept in a dust-free environment. Dental treatment followed and once vaccinated against tetanus and parasite-free, Rosy and Posy were ready to be rehomed. Marjory was retained by SPEAR because of

ongoing health problems. Fortunately a suitable long-term foster home was offered to Rosy and Posy. They left us, along with Peter, returning to SPEAR after 13 happy years when their foster carer's circumstances changed. It was quite exceptional for a foster carer to adopt not one, but three ponies and to have kept them for that length of time. We are most grateful for the individual and devoted care they received and have obviously benefited from. The ponies will remain with us in their small group and are not for rehoming.

**Peter Black Shetland Gelding, born 1996**

Peter and his companion Pipkin were emergency admissions in 2002, care of the Police and RSPCA. They were found wandering on a dual-carriageway not far from a permanent travellers' site. When found, Peter was still attached to and dragging a length of domestic electric cable which had been tied in his mouth with baler twine causing deep lacerations to both sides of his tongue and chin groove. Peter's wounds took many weeks to heal. Despite the physical abuse he had suffered, Peter was a kind pony and with gentle and sympathetic handling he gradually became more confident of human approach. He responded well to treatment and when fully recovered, a suitable long-term foster home was found for him with Rosy and Posy.

The three ponies returned to SPEAR after 13 happy years with their foster carer who is able to visit them regularly.

**February 2016**

No admissions

**March 2016**

Pony admitted c/o RSPCA. Case pending investigation.

**April 2016**

No admissions

**May 2016**

**Mystery 14.3 hh Thoroughbred X Bay Mare, age approx 17 yrs**

Mystery was discovered in a local farmers' field. She was taken in, stabled and cared for at the farm. Two days later SPEAR was contacted by the farmers who were advised that they should inform the Police and obtain an incident number. There was no report with the Police of a horse fitting her description reported as lost or stolen, or with relevant agencies and social media. At SPEAR's request, our Vet visited Mystery to scan her for a microchip but none was found. She had a brief clinical examination to determine if there were any obvious welfare problems that needed to be addressed. Other than slightly overgrown feet and a rubbed top of her tail, she appeared to be in good condition. However it was noted that a readily visible section of her tail hair had been deliberately cut off half way down her tail perhaps as a possible means of identification or memento. SPEAR agreed to admit Mystery as a case of abandonment after a blood sample was taken to exclude the possibility of Mystery carrying the highly contagious disease, Strangles. Fortunately she tested negative.

On admission a dung sample was taken, she was wormed and de-loused. Her feet were trimmed and once parasite-free she was allowed out to grass. During the next 2 months Mystery's back was checked. She was microchipped, passported and had her first anti-tetanus vaccination. Sufficient time had elapsed under the fly-grazing legislation and as no one had come forward to claim her we were able to take ownership. Mystery's teeth were rasped and it was found that the sharp edges of her molars had caused ulcers on the inside of her mouth. Fortunately she came into season excluding the likelihood of her being in foal.

Extensive searching continued through the Police, Horsecatch, Missing and Stolen Horse registers. We found no information linked to her. Unexpectedly and within a month of admission at an Open Day, Mystery was offered a permanent home with one of our supporters to be a companion to another rescued horse. Throughout the time that Mystery was in our care we found her to be a kind, very quiet, well-mannered horse that had obviously been well treated in her life, if not loved by someone.

### **June 2016**

#### **Pepper 13hh Black Cob Gelding, born 1999**

Pepper returned to us after thirteen happy years in his first foster home where he and his young rider achieved success in every aspect of equitation. He is a true family pony and as such was fostered again very soon after admission as a reliable riding pony for small children. Pepper had a poor start in his first year of life. He was admitted in September 2000 having been let out of his field onto a main road where he was in collision with a truck. He was eventually caught, exhausted in a shopping centre by security guards. The impact had caused his chest muscles to be torn away from his sternum. Happily, Pepper made a full recovery and after he was gelded he was transferred to Karen Gray's yard where he was broken and backed and ridden away. Pepper soon found a foster home and his working life began, making him the pony he is today.

### **July 2016**

#### **6 chickens**

**5 ex-battery hens** that had been rescued earlier in the year and rehomed with us in good condition. We had gradually lost most of our ex-battery chickens during the year. Some had been with us for 3 years or more, sadly they are not known for longevity.

**A Vorwerk hen**, admitted with the ex-battery chickens. This very pretty chicken was rehomed from the same source. She is happily settled, living with her 5 chicken companions.

## **PERMANENT RESIDENTS**

**Raffles, Teddy, Pie, Jilly, Joy, Jelly Bean, Dillon, Peppa** – see Adoption Report

**Rosy, Posy, Peter, Toby** – see Admissions

**Hewey**, 23 yr old Bay Welsh Section B gelding

Hewey remains in good health. He is given daily medication for Cushings Syndrome which is adjusted should the need arise according to his blood test results. His last dental check showed deterioration consistent with increasing old age. Happily however this means that Hewey does not have to be on such restricted grazing to control his weight as in previous years.

**Riki** 12hh 23 yr old Grey Pony gelding

Riki can be aggressive when turned out with other horses and ponies but fortunately in Hewey he has found a suitable friend. Both suffer from the same health problems and can be kept together as their daily routine and treatment is the same.

**Harry** aged horned neutered pygmy goat

Harry lost his brother in November 2015. Understandably he missed him but fortunately he continued to eat throughout this traumatic time. He has gradually re-adjusted to being on his own and as a consequence has become friendlier and a lot more cooperative. He enjoys the extra attention and seems to be happy and settled without Henry.

### **Two Ganders Bill and Samuel**

Joyce Goose died suddenly and unexpectedly in her sleep in December 2015. We had cared for her for 16 years and when admitted Joyce was not young so we can only think that her death was due to old age. Bill, her companion of many years, was understandably upset, continuously calling for her although we left her body with him for 48 hours. Fortunately an associate of SPEAR found Samuel Goose two days later. Bill's distress lessened considerably as soon as he had his new companion and both geese are now happily settled together.

### **Poultry**

Our numbers have shrunk during the year. The chickens that we have lost have been the ex-battery hens which we have replaced with more that are still laying eggs, bringing our total flock number to 14 not including our magnificent Buff Orpington X Cochin cockerel called **Francis**.

### **ANIMALS NO LONGER WITH US**

#### **November 2015 – Henry, pygmy goat**

Henry developed a distended abdomen in May last year. During the year he was seen many times by veterinary surgeons who diagnosed a problem in his rumen which was failing to empty properly, causing his bloated appearance. Sadly, shortly after November Open Day Henry became acutely ill. As no further treatment was possible he was put to sleep.

#### **December 2015 – Poppy, Bay Welsh Section D mare, 22 yrs old**

Poppy was diagnosed with an irregular heart beat in 2011. A year later she underwent an ECG and heart scan when the equine specialist, Mark Bowen from Nottingham University, visited the yard to investigate a serious heart problem in another of our ponies and kindly included Poppy in his visit.

At the time we were relieved to hear that Poppy could live a normal life with her condition and would be unlikely to suffer a crisis because of it. Two years later in 2014, Poppy underwent the same investigation with the same result. In Autumn 2015 when she seemed slightly lethargic and not quite herself, her Vet advised she should be seen again by Mark Bowen. Whilst undergoing the ECG and scan, Poppy went into acute heart failure. The condition was irreversible and sadly there was no other option but to put her to sleep immediately following diagnosis of right-sided heart failure. We had cared for Poppy for 10 years. She was a successful RSPCA prosecution cruelty case, admitted to SPEAR in 2005 acutely lame through severe long-term foot neglect.

#### **April 2016 – Buffy and Alfie**

**Buffy**, approx 26 yr old 11hh grey pony mare, admitted 2011

Buffy was diagnosed with Cushings Syndrome and Equine Metabolic Syndrome in 2011. Apart from the very occasional bout of mild laminitis, she was sound and comfortable. Unfortunately it became increasingly difficult to get Buffy to eat her daily medication to control her blood insulin levels. Every possible appropriate feed combination was tried without success and as a consequence she became increasingly lame through laminitis. Her diminished quality of life became unacceptable, sadly leaving us with no other option but to put her to sleep at home.

**Alfie**, approx 20+ yr old Miniature Palomino pony gelding, admitted 2012

On admission, Alfie was diagnosed with Cushings Syndrome and latterly Equine Metabolic Syndrome. Both conditions required daily medication. Like Buffy, we had great difficulty in persuading him to eat the drugs needed to control his insulin levels. He was equally difficult with any form of oral medicine; this did not help the situation concerning the arthritis in his lower front legs caused by previous long-term foot neglect. In addition, Alfie had developed considerable dental

problems. Alfie was devoted to Buffy. We felt that the kindest thing to do was to put them to sleep together rather than let them suffer from deteriorating health and the deep distress of being parted from each other.

### FOSTERED HORSES AND PONIES

<b>Beau</b>	<b>Bluey</b>	<b>Bryony</b>	<b>Custard</b>	<b>Eve</b>	<b>Little Jim</b>
<b>Minnie</b>	<b>Molly</b>	<b>Mystery</b>	<b>Nutmeg</b>	<b>Pepper</b>	<b>Polly</b>
<b>Pumpkin</b>	<b>Robin</b>	<b>Rupert</b>	<b>Sammy</b>	<b>Susie</b>	<b>Tilly</b>

We are deeply grateful to all our Foster Carers for providing long-term foster homes for all the horses and ponies named in this section. Most have been living in the same Foster home for many years. Only a very few have returned to us when either outgrown or due to a change in their Foster Carer's circumstances. All of them suffered considerably prior to admission. For us, rehoming successfully is part of the happier side of our work.

### FOSTERED HORSES AND PONIES NO LONGER WITH US

#### February 2016

**Wurzel** Chestnut Shetland X pony gelding, age 20 yrs

**Freddie** Piebald Shetland X pony gelding, age 21 yrs

**Bramble** 11hh Bay pony gelding, age 19 yrs

#### June 2016

**Henry** 17hh Bay Thoroughbred gelding, age 29 yrs

All the horses and ponies mentioned in this section had lived in their long-term foster homes for many years. We give our most sincere and grateful thanks to their Foster Owners and Carers for the devoted care and attention they gave them. We know that they are all very sadly missed.

### SPEAR ADOPTION SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

Little Pumpkin – We were delighted to see Little Pumpkin at Jasper's Open Day in May. Over winter he had suffered another setback becoming lame through laminitis due to unstable blood insulin levels despite intensive veterinary investigations and treatments and nursing care. Fortunately at the moment he is well and sound but is still closely monitored because of his unstable insulin levels. However, to confirm that he really did feel so much better he barged through the gate when it was being opened for wheelbarrow access, climbed to the very top of the muck heap and stopped there until it suited him to slide back down! With him being sound and becoming his usual naughty self Pumpkin accompanied Izzie as travelling companion when Izzie went to a Horse Show recently, thoroughly enjoying the experience. He was full of beans on his return home and it was lovely for his foster family to have him fit and well again after so many months of nursing care.

Peppa & Dillon – now we have dry weather Peppa and Dillon have moved to their Spring/Summer accommodation next to our largest foot area. There they have a large grass yard, in the corner of which is a shelter well bedded down with straw – Dillon loves making the bed! Given a fresh bale of straw, Dillon spends a lot of time making his bed which he shares with Peppa. He does a splendid and very tidy job building a large deep nest, grunting happily as he works – it takes him ages! All Peppa has to do is watch him and then go and lie down after Dillon has chosen his own place to lie. Traditionally, horses and pigs don't get on as horses and ponies can become very upset indeed by the sound, site and smell of pigs. We've been fortunate in that none of our new equine admissions

have been disturbed by their first pig encounter here which means that Peppa and Dillon can still have the freedom to graze the same fields as our horses and ponies.

Harry Goat – We lost Harry’s brother Henry in November last year. Henry developed a distended abdomen in May and during the year was seen and treated many times by our Vets having been diagnosed with a problem in his stomach which was failing to empty properly causing his bloated appearance. Shortly after November Open Day, Henry became acutely ill and was sadly put to sleep. Understandably Harry missed Henry at first but he continued to eat during this traumatic time. We did consider trying to find him a suitable companion but decided not to as he seemed to be settling down and as a consequence he has become much more friendly and co-operative because we spoil him! He, like Henry did, is developing dental problems associated with old age and will need to have his teeth checked when our ponies have theirs done

Teddy – Teddy wintered well. He was rugged and stabled with Raffles either in the Yard or the large foot area during the worst of the wet winter weather. At his last dental check and whilst he was under sedation his Vet took a blood sample to check for anaemia. Teddy was found to be slightly anaemic and was prescribed an iron supplement to be given daily in his feed. When this was finished, Teddy’s behaviour told us he felt very well indeed and therefore a second blood sample was completely out of the question! He is now out at grass in a large well grazed area in our field in the village which is sectioned off with very tall electric fence stakes and four strands of tape. Hewey, Raffles, Pie, Riki and Toby are his companions, all of which have a tendency to become too fat on grass and all managing well with more space to move and further to walk to find the grass. Teddy has so far behaved himself!

Pied Piper – Pie grew a massively thick winter coat which kept him warm despite this winter’s cold wet weather. He was stabled at night and in a foot area during the day when very wet but mostly lived out in the sheltered field behind the Yard. In early Spring he joined our small herd of ponies in the village field coming home for Open Days. In May, on Jasper’s Open Day, on arriving home Pie had spent barely two minutes in the top half of the back field which was divided with electric fence when he promptly took off and jumped into the lower half as we stood and watched! Everything had to be reorganised so that he wasn’t given too much grass because Pie still has daily medication for Cushings Syndrome which is under control. With the warmer weather Pie’s winter coat is at long last starting to shift with regular grooming. He now looks half the size!

Minnie – Minnie continues to enjoy life with her foster family where she has formed a strong bond with her two mare companions. She has wintered well having been stabled in a specially adapted “Minnie Stable” next to her friends. Her wound has healed well, although the hair has not all grown back and just requires antibacterial cream applying three times a week.

Minnie is a very friendly pony who enjoys fuss and being groomed. She has also gained confidence with the Farrier and now stands without wriggling during his visits. She can be quite exuberant with her human friends in the field resulting in games of football sometimes having to be abandoned due to over excitement! Following her success in the coloured class at the Stratford Show last year, it is hoped that she will be able to attend again in 2016. Minnie is full of character and continues to be a popular attraction on Open Days and on the Adoption Programme, where she takes everything in her “Minnie” stride!

Jilly, Jaz & Jelly Bean – Our three sheep are waiting to be shorn. With the warmer weather we’ve had to get them in recently to treat their fleeces with anti-blow fly lotion to prevent fly strike. At shearing they will be wormed and have their feet inspected. Earlier, in winter, the three sheep were housed during the worst of the very wet weather. Getting them to follow had become a slight problem until we realised that bread was not a good enough treat to persuade them. When we



changed to digestive biscuits and better still ginger biscuits there was full co-operation from coming to call to stabling! We did however notice that Jilly seemed a little stiff on getting up from lying down. They are all eight years old now and Jilly is becoming slightly arthritic. We will have her checked at shearing.

Raffles – Raffles wintered well with Teddy and as usual we have kept a close eye on his weight as we have with all our ponies. He is happily settled out at grass in our small herd. Pie is the boss of the field with Raffles second in command! At the moment he refuses to be caught unless it suits him because he dislikes having sun screen applied to his pink nose and his fly mask on, unlike the others that willingly co-operate. Shortly Raffles will have a blood sample taken because we've noticed that although he has cast his winter coat his summer coat seems more dense and coarse than usual and this may mean the start of Cushings Syndrome.

Update – Raffles has tested positive for Cushings Syndrome and is receiving daily medication.

Jasper – Jasper wintered very well and looks amazing now he has his summer coat. He has lived with me for sixteen years and has his own daily routine which he expects me to adhere to! He decides when and if he goes into his field and when he wants to go to bed and have his supper! I feel like his servant! He still has his friend Danny (pony) to talk to and is surrounded by our hens and lots and lots of wild rabbits when in his field.

Jasper enjoys coming to Open Days and happily goes on the trailer because he knows he will have many friends bringing him ginger biscuits and giving him lots of fuss when he arrives!

Jasper has again been invited to "Animals R Magic" held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July at Jinney Ring Craft Centre in aid of the Cinnamon Trust. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year he has attended and he loves all the attention given to him by the general public!

Dear Adopters

I hope you have enjoyed reading the updates on your adopted animals. They all have their own story to tell about the highs and lows of life at Cotswold House.

This year Jasper, Raffles and Pied Piper all celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Birthdays. At the same time SPEAR celebrates 20 years of becoming a registered Charity so we are planning a celebration on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September at our Open Day. Come along and join in the fun – you may even get some birthday cake if the greedy ponies don't eat it first!

We will also be organising a Fun Dog Show so bring your dogs along too!

Don't forget to bring treats for your special adopted animal!

Best Wishes and Many Thanks from Karen (Adoption Secretary) Little Pumpkin, Jasper, Raffles, Teddy, Minnie, Pied Piper, Harry, Peppa & Dillon, Jilly, Jaz & Jelly Bean xxx

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### JASPER OF SPEAR FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2015/16

August 2015	8 + 9 16	Evesham Country Park Afternoon Tea Party, Snitterfield
September 2015	13 13 21 26	Open Day, Cotswold House Tadmarton Charity Fun Ride Veterinary Lecture, Solihull Riding Club Black Country Night, Mappleborough Green Village Hall
October 2015	12 24 26	Veterinary Lecture, Solihull Riding Club Tanworth-in-Arden Christmas Fair Veterinary Lecture, Solihull Riding Club
November 2015	14 +15 22 27	Your Horse Live, NAC Stoneleigh Park, Coventry Open Day, Cotswold House Veterinary Lecture, Solihull Riding Club
December 2015	4 11	Studley Christmas Fair Veterinary Lecture, Solihull Riding Club
March 2016	20	Open Day, Cotswold House
April 2016	26 30	Alvechurch Tack Sale SPEAR Annual Quiz Night, Mappleborough Green
May 2016	2 15 21 28	Talk, Stoke Prior Ladies Group Open Day, Cotswold House Studley High School 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tame Valley Wetlands Fete
June 2016	12 19 26	Afternoon Tea Party, Snitterfield Snitterfield Village Fete Open Day and Adopters' Day, Cotswold House
July 2016	2 9 17 30	Hanbury Countryside Show Norton Lindsey Village Fete Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury (with Jasper) Whitacre and Shustoke Countryside Show

- **SPEAR at Car Boot Sales**

Many grateful thanks to everyone who so kindly donates the many and varied items for us to sell at car boot sales. We are dependent on the weather as most are held outdoors but we try to attend as many as possible. Unfortunately, there is no market for books or any damaged items as we have to dispose of them which is time consuming and costly to the charity – we do hope you understand that we would rather not receive these items for sale.

- **Bristol Textiles**

This year, Bristol Textiles took over from the 'Rag Bag' recycling scheme concerned with collecting used but wearable clothes, shoes etc. The collecting container is at Cotswold House and is emptied monthly by Bristol Textiles. This project has proved to be worthwhile and thanks to everyone who kindly contributes to SPEAR in this way.

- **SPEAR on eBay**

SPEAR is registered with eBay and receives gift aid on all sales. It is possible to gift SPEAR a percentage of any private sale made; go to 'Sell for Charity' on the eBay homepage to find out further details.

- Internet Giving

SPEAR is registered with Pay Pal, Mission-Fish, Just Giving and Virgin money giving, making it an easy on-line procedure for fundraising events.

### **100 CLUB**

The 100 club was set up to provide feed and bedding for all of the animals in our care. It provides a valuable and steady income stream throughout the year with all proceeds going directly towards the care of our animals. We would welcome new members so please take a look at our website ([www.spearcharity.org.uk](http://www.spearcharity.org.uk)) where you can find more information and download an application form.

It is never too late to join, new members can join the 100 Club at any time of the year and membership is £12.00 per year. Prizes are drawn monthly, 1st prize £20, 2nd prize £10 and 3rd prize £5, so you have 12 x 3 chances of winning throughout the year. Thank you to all who have continued to support SPEAR through membership of the 100 Club and a special thanks to all those who automatically donate their winnings back each time.

Good Luck in the draws!

### **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### **Website**

Please visit our website at [www.spearcharity.org.uk](http://www.spearcharity.org.uk), it gives you all the latest information about open days and other fund-raising events. If we had to cancel an event (e.g. bad weather), we would use the website to publicise the cancellation. We take the SPEAR stall to many places throughout the year, so please have a look at the list of venues at the end of the Events Diary page. The list of venues we have been to this year is shown above (Jasper of SPEAR fund-raising events). The current annual report is available on the site as are adoption forms and 100 club application forms.

Browsers can email us through the site or at [mail@spearcharity.org.uk](mailto:mail@spearcharity.org.uk). We would love to receive your ideas, comments, photos and news to include in the site to make it more current for you, our supporters.

#### **Facebook and Twitter**

Like our page on facebook! To find our page, search SPEAR:Sue Pike Equine and Animal Rescue or follow the link on our website. We regularly update with the latest news and pictures from the yard and with details of our upcoming fundraising events.

Pumpkin also now has a blog on Twitter, sharing all the goings on in his busy life at his foster home. To follow him, search for @pumpkinofspear.

### **HORSEWATCH**

SPEAR continues to support the good work of our local Warwickshire Horse Watch. The scheme helps horse owners to be aware of equine related crime in their area through regular updates via emails and text messages. This contact is two-way, it enables you to report anything you feel is suspicious directly to the Police so that a message can go out from them to other horse owners. Other benefits of the scheme include security products available for your horse and fields. It costs nothing to join the scheme; they have their own website or you can contact Julie Dale at [RELAY@WARWICKSHIRE.POLICE.UK](mailto:RELAY@WARWICKSHIRE.POLICE.UK)

## FARRIER

### Matthew Green Dip WCF

Matthew has our grateful thanks for regularly attending to all our horses', ponies' and goats' feet keeping them all sound and comfortable.

## YARD STAFF

### Steff Cobb, Dip HE Equine Studies, Yard Manager

Steff is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year with us. Her consistent reliable help coupled with her knowledge and enthusiasm for every aspect of her work in large animal welfare is greatly appreciated. Steff is primarily responsible for the smooth running of the yard on a daily basis, dealing with our sometimes difficult and complicated nursing cases and the welfare of all our other animals and poultry. In addition, Steff plays an active part in the preparation of fundraising events on social media etc and attends functions in aid of SPEAR away from home. We would find it hard to manage without her.

### Amelia 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc Equine and Human Sports Science

Amelia helped part-time throughout the year and having sat her finals at the Warwickshire College of Agriculture, left us in June. We thank her for all her hard work and give her our best wishes for success in her future career.

### Camille Hardwick-Garner 2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc Equine and Human Sports Science (Warwickshire College of Agriculture)

Camille is a valuable part of our small yard team showing a genuine interest in animal welfare. She has proved to be reliable and hard working and with Steff's help was responsible for breaking and backing Eve (see update 2014). We are very grateful for all she does to help the animals in our care.

## VOLUNTARY HELP

Angela is in her 19<sup>th</sup> year volunteering her help for SPEAR. She is a much valued and important member of our Fundraising Committee undertaking many duties namely preparing the Annual Report, helping with SPEAR's stall at functions away from home and car boot sales regularly throughout the year, no matter the weather she helps in the yard at weekends and on Open Days. Angela's help is invaluable and we greatly appreciate all she does for SPEAR.

### Josh - Level 3 Animal Care W.C.A.

Josh spent his first year with us and is now in his 2<sup>nd</sup> gaining practical experience in large animal care doing one day a week in term-time. Josh kindly helps on Open Days in the yard and has become a valuable member of our small team.

### Eleanor - Animal Welfare Student, W.C.A.

Eleanor spent a week with us on work placement as part of her college course. She worked hard and showed a keen interest in all aspects of work in animal welfare.

### Dina - 2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc Equine and Human Sports Science

Dina's competent and enthusiastic help in the yard on occasional days and Open Days was much appreciated.

OUR MOST SINCERE AND GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR OTHER IMPORTANT VOLUNTARY HELPERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OUR SMALL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE AND ALL THOSE WHO SO KINDLY

HELP AT FUNDRAISING EVENTS WITH OUR STALL AND ON OPEN DAYS. WE COULDN'T MANAGE WITHOUT YOU!

### **WIDER NETWORK**

SPEAR was directly involved along with other Equine Welfare organisations in dealing with cases of abandonment and neglect away from home. We co-operated, when asked, with the RSPCA and Police in assisting with emergency situations which may result in SPEAR providing specialist hospital care. SPEAR is a member of the National Equine Welfare Council and the National Foaling Bank.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>August 2016</b>	
Sat/Sun 13/14	SPEAR fund-raising stall and collection at Evesham Country Park for two days
<b>September 2016</b>	
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>Special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day at Cotswold House</b>
Sunday 18	Tadmarton Sponsored Ride
Sunday 18	SPEAR fund-raising stall at Halesowen and Hagley Farmers' Show
<b>October 2016</b>	
Saturday 1	Black Country Comedy Night with 'Dandy' (for details ring Karen Gray 01527 62198 or Sue Pike 01926 842129)
Friday 21	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Black Tie Ball
<b>November 2016</b>	
Sunday 27	Open Day at Cotswold House
<b>2017 Open Days</b>	Sunday 26 March 2017 Sunday 21 May 2017 Sunday 9 July 2017 Sunday 10 September 2017 Sunday 26 November 2017

## WISH LIST

We would be very grateful for the following donated items if possible please:

For horses, ponies, goat and sheep:	Any make of low protein nuts and herb mix Cotton wool and Vetwrap bandages for nursing cases. Fly masks with ears – Shetland and pony size
For poultry:	mixed corn
Treats:	Ginger biscuits are a very special treat for ALL! Digestive biscuits next, followed by polo mints, carrots and apples. Peppa and Dillon love pineapples, in fact any sort of fruit except citrus. The geese and chickens appreciate lettuce and apples.
For the yard:	Medium sized rubber gloves Brooms and rakes to keep the yard tidy Energizer Box plus 12 volt batteries for electric fences Electric fence tape Tub trugs Large wheelbarrow Rug waterproofing wax for outdoor rugs Dust-free shavings for bedding
For the office:	Printer ink for our HP Office Jet 7410 printer (Black 338 <u>or</u> 339, Colour 343 <u>or</u> 344) A4 laminating pouches

A huge thank you from us ALL! We really do appreciate everything that is so kindly given.