

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.

The recession continues to affect our Charity. Unfortunately it has also affected other people's ability to care for their horses and ponies. Consequently we found ourselves in the position last winter of having to give emergency help to horses and ponies not owned by SPEAR. For weeks we travelled daily through the snow to carry water and hay to those left to fend for themselves in the worst of winter. Although this had a detrimental effect upon our store of hay, we felt as a Charity, that the welfare of other people's horses in these circumstances was very important.

UPDATE FROM 2009

Big Horse 16.2 hh Skewbald Gelding

Big Horse was an emergency admission in March 2009, his case pending prosecution by the Worcestershire RSPCA. This big, kind and gentle horse was severely lame in his off hind leg having suffered a puncture wound to the sole of his foot which had been left untreated for two months. Big Horse was in poor bodily condition having lived out in mud during the worst of the winter with his badly infected foot. On admission, sepsis was well established within the whole of the hoof and lower leg. Despite intensive Veterinary and nursing care consisting of pain relief, antibiotics, hot tubbing and poulticing little progress was made. X-rays taken and referred to Newmarket for expert opinion confirmed destabilisation of the internal structures of the hoof for which there was no hope of treatment. To alleviate further unnecessary suffering, Big Horse was humanely destroyed. He had been in our care for 4 days. The RSPCA obtained a successful prosecution when his case was heard at Redditch Magistrates Court. His owner pleaded guilty to causing Big Horse unnecessary suffering and received a 4 months prison sentence suspended for 2 years, 200 hours community service, £500 costs and a life time ban from keeping all animals not to be appealed for 10 years. All animals currently owned were to be handed over to the RSPCA.

ADMISSIONS 2009/10

August 2009

4 donkeys: Rosie, Humphrey, Henry and Daisy-Mai

These 4 donkeys spent a week with us for security reasons when their owner who lives locally, went on holiday. We certainly knew we had them, especially Henry. He entertained himself by taking washing off the line, chewing all the outside tables and benches on the back paddock, digging up one of the all-weather foot areas and so on. Nothing escaped his attention but it was impossible to be cross with him! All the donkeys were charming and very easy to look after though at times somewhat noisy!

4 chickens 3 Ex-Battery chickens, one with only one eye and 1 meat chicken, all privately rescued and rehomed with SPEAR. All three battery chickens survived but sadly the meat chicken died suddenly three months later.

Ex-Battery chicken: Admitted c/o RSPCA when found wandering in Nuneaton. For a while this chicken was kept on her own until she had settled and met the rest of our flock outside the safe confines of her run. By introducing her in this way she was accepted when she joined them to begin her free range way of life.

September 2009 - No admissions.

October 2009

Ewe – age unknown.

SPEAR discovered this ewe early one morning sitting on the edge of a grass verge on a nearby narrow country lane oblivious to the fast moving traffic. She appeared to have been hit by a car, suffering abrasions to all 4 legs, nose

and ears and during examination she made no move to resist or try to get up. With assistance from a passing farmer who contacted the owner of a nearby flock of sheep, she was lifted into the Land Rover, and brought to the yard. Her owner came to collect her immediately but sadly it appeared that her back was broken so she was humanely destroyed.

Tilly 16.2 hh Bay Thoroughbred mare, born 1997

Tilly with her companion Adder (who is privately owned), returned to us when her foster owner could no longer keep both horses. They stopped at SPEAR to rest for 3 days en route to their new local foster home; because neither travelled well the decision was made to walk them in stages from Lapworth to Snitterfield. All went well because we had a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable people to lead the horses and supervise the traffic on a quiet cross country route. Tilly was an emergency admission in March 2004 having been seized by the Police on the advice of the Veterinary Surgeon on duty at Henley-in Arden horse sale. She was deemed unfit for sale due to lameness caused by a large, infected, gaping wound on the front of her near fore fetlock joint. Tilly was in poor bodily condition, she was traumatised, in shock and unsteady on her feet, with recent small lesions due to trauma on all four legs and rain scald on her face and back; when she drank the water occasionally re-appeared through both nostrils. It took a year of Veterinary and nursing care to restore Tilly to health and following a successful prosecution by the RSPCA, Tilly was signed over to SPEAR. Although passed fit to bring in to work by our Veterinary Surgeon, Tilly's objections to being ridden were extremely positive, in total contrast to her kind and gentle nature. We decided then that no more could be asked of her in view of what she had previously suffered. Fortunately she was soon found a home as a companion horse.

Jake 15hh part thoroughbred dark bay gelding, born 1996

Jake was signed over to SPEAR as a 2 year old. He was given away by his owner and breeder because of old untreated injuries to his off foreleg which included a deep wound in the bulb of his heel. Over time, the tendons and ligaments had contracted, causing lameness. The infected wounds were treated and x-rays taken which fortunately showed no signs of bone damage. Remedial farriery with a weighted shoe was the only option left, the aim being to try to stretch the tendons and ligaments of the injured leg so that he would become sound, which he did over time. During the next year, at 4 years old Jake began his education because being so highly bred it was important to channel his natural enthusiasm and energy into giving him something to do. He worked well, broken, backed and ridden away and was taught to load and travel. At 7 years old we decided that to prolong his life, we would retire him as a companion. He had remained sound throughout and still is despite the changes to his off foreleg. Jake was rehomed as a companion to a large chestnut thoroughbred gelding and returned to us this year when his aged companion was put to sleep for health reasons. We are very grateful to have him back because he is now Sergeant Lemon's field companion replacing Bodie who we sadly lost in May this year.

November 2009

Ex- Battery type chicken: This chicken was collected by the RSPCA having been found wandering in an inner city area. She was very tired, hungry and thirsty on admission but recovered after a week's rest when she happily joined the rest of our flock.

Amos and Annie, Muscovy ducks

Amos and Annie came to us temporarily when Amos could no longer be cared for in his long term foster home. Annie had been purchased privately as a companion for him. We looked after them for 3 months until they were rehomed locally to a family with a private lake and safe island where they settled very well into a much more natural way of life.

Chloe aged Part Bred Arabian Mare

Chloe is privately owned and whilst in our care, funded by her owners. Chloe stopped with us for most of the winter because she was admitted with a painful foot abscess in one of her hind feet and with Cushings Syndrome; it was important to keep her foot poulticed, clean and dry to prevent infection reoccurring. She recovered well following a course of antibiotics, but in view of the weather and her age she remained at SPEAR until the ground conditions dried sufficiently for her to return home.

December 2009 - No admissions

January 2010

20 Ex- Battery chickens: all the chickens were in good condition and successfully rehomed in small groups within 10 days.

February 2010

Grey Pony - case subject to prosecution by the RSPCA

2 young Sharma type chickens and 1 young cockerel: These chickens were removed from premises following a raid by the RSPCA dealing with an illegal dog fighting ring. The male breed of this type of poultry is used for cock fighting, banned in this country. All 3 chickens were signed over to SPEAR. Unfortunately the cockerel was found to have a dislocated hip and was put to sleep. The other two females, though nervous, settled down eventually and were able to join the rest of our flock. Unfortunately one decided not to be shut in at night preferring to roost in a nearby tree, defying attempts to capture her and shut her in with the others. On the second night she was taken by a fox that vigilantly patrols our premises every night. The remaining chicken however has survived and is much wiser!

March 2010

Sammy, 14hh Chestnut Cob Mare

Sammy had been privately purchased out of pity from Derby market. She was presented for sale with 4 different market stickers on her rump suggesting Derby horse sales was the fourth time she had been through a market. Unhappy, unsettled and in poor condition, Sammy was taken in on behalf of the purchaser by knowledgeable people who cared for her and did all that was necessary to restore her to health. Unfortunately when serious ill health within the family occurred, SPEAR offered to admit Sammy and give her charitable status. We know little of her past but the consensus of opinion is that at some time she had been well looked after and her basic education completed.

Sammy needs to have confidence in what she is asked to do and confidence in the person who is dealing with her. So far in Dawn's care, having taken her slowly and quietly back to basics, she is working well under saddle. Sammy is a kind pony, easy to do and in time we hope to be able to rehome her. She already has the prospect of a suitable foster home where she will be in knowledgeable, caring hands.

April 2010 - No admissions

May 2010

Holly 10hh Dun Shetland type mare, approx 20 yrs old
Freddie 10hh Skewbald Shetland gelding, age late 30s

Freddie, with his companion Holly came to us for special care whilst their owner went on holiday. Freddie was very old and had only 4 molars left leaving him unable to eat grass or hay. To maintain his body weight he was fed small feeds 5/6 times a day and did well on this feeding programme. He was a sprightly, happy old pony. Whilst in our care he was found to have a tumour on his sheath. He had an irregular heart beat which prevented any form of sedation or indeed anaesthetic to surgically remove the growth. It was essential to keep this area clean to prevent fly strike and as Freddie could be difficult when it came to bathing this area, his owner decided that he should remain in SPEAR's care so daily treatment could continue. When Holly returned home, Freddie settled happily with our two very old ponies, Buttons and Brian. Freddie was funded by his owner.

June 2010 - No admissions

July 2010

Bryony 12 yrs old, 16.2 hh Skewbald mare

Bryony was born after her mother Bella was admitted to SPEAR when found wandering on a road in Worcestershire. Bella was suffering from many painful sarcoids which had eroded one side of her udder. When Bryony was born

Bella fortunately managed to feed her from the one teat that was left. On weaning her foal, she began treatment for the sarcoids with ointment made at Liverpool University Equine Unit. Bryony began her working life at 3 years old and progressed to having a successful life competing in all Riding Club events. She has returned to us for nursing care having developed a large sarcoid on the side of her belly which now needs to be removed and treated by our Veterinary Surgeon over a period of time. We hope this treatment will be successful so she can begin work again in the autumn.

Freddie, Ollie and Bertie

Due to their Foster owners' illness this group of three small ponies were returned to SPEAR after 13 happy years in their foster home. It was a heartbreaking decision because these ponies had been dearly loved. We sent all 3 ponies together recovering from trauma and received kind, quiet and trusting ones in return.

Ollie 18 yr old 9hh Appaloosa pony. Ollie was purchased out of pity from Henley-in-Arden Horse Sales in 1997. He was admitted to SPEAR for nursing care suffering from genetic problems not helped by never having been handled. Ollie underwent investigation and has since lived perfectly happily for 18 yrs without recourse to Veterinary treatment.

Freddie 17 yr old 9hh Skewbald Shetland gelding. Freddie was admitted in 1996 as an emergency admission c/o the Worcestershire RSPCA. Freddie was living with a herd of cattle and was completely unhandled; he was turned out with them wearing a nylon head collar which had been left on and not adjusted as he grew. The head piece had become embedded in his flesh, causing a long, deep, infected wound behind his right ear which had fallen forwards exposing his skull. The head collar had left its imprint on his face, causing more wounds which were infected and contaminated with cow dung. Twelve weeks of successful, intensive Veterinary and nursing care followed and with consistent kindness he gradually began to overcome his terror of human contact.

Bertie 16 yr old 9.2 hh Bay Shetland gelding. Bertie was purchased privately out of pity from Henley-in-Arden Horse Sales in 1996 as an unhandled 2 yr old colt and brought to SPEAR because his owner's horse would not accept him as a companion, trying to attack him at every opportunity. Bertie was nervous of Ollie and Freddie at first but in time became happily settled as part of the group. They were very fortunate to be offered a foster home together. All 3 ponies will now remain as permanent residents.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Raffles 12 hh 15 yr old Grey Welsh Mountain Pony Gelding

Raffles has remained in good health all year and continues to receive daily medication for Equine Metabolic Syndrome.

Teddy 11 hh 10 yr old Leopard Spotted Pony Gelding - see Adoption Report

Nettles 11.2 hh 3 yr old Black Pony Gelding

Although orphaned at 24 hrs old and bottle fed until 6 months old, his poor start has not hindered normal development. Nettles has begun 3 year old work and is being taught to lunge and hopefully he will be backed before being turned away for the winter. He thoroughly enjoys walks round the village with his companion Raffles – he insists on being in front, unafraid of new sights and sounds he may encounter en route.

Pansy 28 yr old Jenny Donkey – see Adoption Report

Brian 32 yr old Black Shetland Gelding

Brian, despite a degree of liver failure wintered extremely well, cared for by Manda our part-time groom. He has lost several molars but can still manage to eat grass and soft hay and is still fed three times daily. Brian suffered from chronic laminitis and sweet itch prior to admission and although we cannot repair the damage this caused through pedal bone rotation, we are able to keep him comfortable by padding both front feet when the ground conditions are hard or frozen and with careful management control his sweet itch.

Buttons 11 hh 41 yr old Grey Pony Mare

Buttons coped well despite the long cold winter and increasing great old age. She continues to be fed soft food at least five times daily and when necessary receives Veterinary treatment to boost her liver function.

Sergeant Lemon 21 yr old 16.2 hh Thoroughbred Chestnut Gelding - see Adoption Report.

Poppy 16 yr old Welsh Section D Cob Mare

Although slightly stiff in her knees and hocks, Poppy did well wintering out, only coming in over the worst of the winter. She can still be difficult at times with strangers but with those she knows she is easy to handle and has gained in confidence over time.

Pied Piper 14 yr old 13 hh Skewbald Gelding

Pie is fostered by Dawn, our Yard Manager and is ridden out regularly escorting Charlie as Charlie's work progresses. Both ponies enjoyed being at Claverdon, making the most use of the miles of lovely bridle paths in that area.

Charlie 8 yr old 14 hh Chestnut Gelding

Charlie is ridden and worked by Manda, our part-time groom. He has made good progress in all respects. The slight front leg lameness which occurred in Autumn last year was due to his very poor start in life, having been kept in a stable for 4 years preventing normal development. His front feet and fetlock joints were x rayed followed by surgical shoeing with egg bar shoes which corrected his weight bearing allowing him to become sound very quickly and back into full work, remaining now as a permanent resident.

Lucy 18+ yr old 13 hh Bay Pony Mare

Lucy has remained sound having completely recovered from her fractured hock. Her weight is good and she has at last found a suitable companion in Pansy donkey. Lucy is difficult with others and is always at risk of injury because of her behaviour. She is quiet, settled and happy as long as she can be near Pansy.

Sheep – see Adoption Report

Goats

Barney (see Adoption Report)

Harry and Henry continue to give us occasional grief in that Henry can be aggressive and Harry is an escapologist! They are both in rude health.

Poultry

Heidi, Buff Orpington chicken and Harold, Buff Orpington X cockerel.

We lost Hattie suddenly in June, possibly from heart failure. Fortunately, Heidi and Harold had by then been joined by Tweedledee. All our chickens are free range, only being shut in at night so there is always plenty of company when we lose one of our chickens.

Bill Mark II and Joyce (Geese)

The geese have become a happy pair over the last year. Bill in particular becomes upset if he can't see his companion and although he tries to be fierce, it doesn't really work! Joyce is old now and rather stiff in one leg. She's given up laying eggs which is a relief as all of our ex-battery hens have been consistently productive.

ANIMALS NO LONGER WITH US

August 2009

Pipkin 14 yr old black miniature Shetland mare.

Pipkin suffered from Cushings Syndrome which was diagnosed when she was 8 years old. She received medication which alleviated the symptoms of low grade laminitis together with an appropriate diet and very careful management at grass. Despite this care, she suffered several serious, painful foot infections that latterly did not respond well to repeated courses of antibiotics due to her depressed immune system. Pipkin's quality of life was severely compromised so the sad decision was made to put her to sleep at home.

November 2009

Olive Turkey lived to be 9 yrs old. She suffered two small fits early in the year but recovered well only to become increasingly more frail and arthritic as time progressed. She was put to sleep at home, a wise decision in view of the long, cold winter we were about to experience.

April 2010

Wallace, aged large white neutered Billy Goat.

Wallace had been in declining health during the last year becoming thin despite good feeding and suffering from a skin condition that took weeks to clear up under treatment. He found it difficult to breathe in hot weather and had to be stabled during hot days which didn't help his arthritis. It was becoming obvious that there was little more we could do to keep him comfortable so sadly we had him put to sleep at home.

May 2010

Bodie – see Adoption Report

July 2010

Freddie 10 hh approx late 30s Skewbald Shetland Gelding (see Admissions)

Freddie suddenly and unexpectedly suffered a low grade colic. Despite immediate Veterinary treatment during the night he failed to respond, his condition slowly deteriorating. In view of his great age and medical history, the sad decision had to be made to put him to sleep because we could do no more for him.

FOSTERED HORSES AND PONIES

We give our most grateful thanks to all our long-term Foster Carers. Many of our ponies are in work and ridden regularly, some are companion animals. All benefit from the devoted care and attention they receive in their foster homes.

BLUEY	BRAMBLE	DOODLE	HENRY	JENNY BROWN
JIM	LADY DIANE	MOLLY	NUTMEG	PEPPER
PETER	POLLY	POSIE	PUMPKIN	RIKI
ROBIN	ROSIE	RUPERT	SPARKLE	SUSIE
TILLY	TINKERBELL	WILLIAM	WURZEL	

JASPER OF SPEAR UPDATE: August 2009 – July 2010, Karen Gray

Jasper is now fourteen years old and has been with me for ten years – how time flies! He seems to improve with age and this summer looks fantastic. His coat gleams in the summer sun and he looks a million dollars.

In September 2009, Jasper was invited to attend Johnson's Coaches Centenary celebrations where he spent a wonderful day "talking" to a great many people and generally showing-off. He enjoyed watching all that was going on around him especially the wellie-wanging which was rather too close for comfort as wellies kept flying past us in all directions! He really liked the train which was giving rides to people as it was in a dip in the ground and all he could see were the people's heads going along and he found this most fascinating!

Jasper has been to a few shows this year with Amber and they achieved a 1st and 2nd at Kings Heath and Area 6 Show at Solihull and 2nd at Kenilworth. In June this year, Jasper attended Snitterfield Fete where he paraded in the arena ridden by Amber and spent the remainder of the day doing what he does best – showing off to everyone who came to talk to him!

After many requests from Adopters, Jasper is now on the Adoption Programme and is looking forward to meeting his new Adopters and hoping they will bring him lots of ginger biscuits which are his favourites!

JASPER OF SPEAR FUND: August 2009 – July 2010, Karen Gray

The Jasper of SPEAR Fund has now completed its 8th year and has raised many thousands of pounds which helps SPEAR to fund horses and ponies which otherwise would not have had a future. The Fund was set up by Jasper as a thank-you to SPEAR for saving his life and giving him the future he would never have had. Thank you to EVERYONE who has helped raise money for Jasper's Fund this year, your time and generosity has been very much appreciated.

John and I attended several Christmas Fairs where we sold our Christmas cards and gifts to make money for Jasper's Fund and raise awareness of the work done by SPEAR. John is presently designing and painting the Christmas card for this year and we hope the cards will be on sale at September Open Day.

Thank you to Tesco for allowing us to collect for two consecutive days at each of their stores at Warwick and Solihull; many thanks to our collectors who took turns to stand and collect. We are still car-booting as often as possible so please think about us next time you have a 'clear-out' at home. We will come and collect if you give us a ring (01527 62198). Also, we are always in need of good quality, clean cuddly toys or anything else suitable to tombola!

Jasper's Fund needs YOUR HELP to raise more money for SPEAR so may I suggest that, if possible, some of you could hold a Coffee Morning and Raffle and invite your friends and charge them a small fee! We will provide Jasper's Story leaflets and a collecting box if you get in touch (01527 62198). Many thanks in anticipation that someone will take up the challenge.

Again, many thanks to all our Jasper Fund Supporters. Regards Karen and Jasper.

ADOPTION PROGRAMME UPDATE, Karen Gray

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Anna Smith for running the Adoption Programme since she took over from Barbara Hadley. We wish Anna every success in her new project.

I have now taken over running the Adoptions and sadly my first task was to let Bodie's Adopters know that he had been put to sleep. The melanomas he had battled with for a long time finally caught up with him. We were very sorry to lose him as he was a lovely kind gentleman which made him a popular member of the Adoption programme.

Our Adopter's Day in July proved very enjoyable, not only was the weather good to us but it was lovely to see so many Adopters talking to their animals and bringing them treats. The animals enjoy the special attention given to them!

We have two new additions to the Programme this year namely Little Pumpkin, the naughty but loveable Shetland and Jasper, who needs no introduction as he has been with SPEAR for so long.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletters I have sent out at Christmas and Summer giving an update on all our adopted animals. We hope to make this a regular twice a year newsletter; also we are now sending a birthday card to anyone who lets us know their birth date. The adoption fee remains at £12 a year and new adopters can expect to get a photo of their adopted animal plus photos and history of all the other adopted animals and the chance to meet their animal at Open Days throughout the year.

On behalf of Sergeant Lemon, Barney, Teddy, Pansy, Jilly, Jaz, Joy, Jelly Bean, Little Pumpkin and Jasper may I take this opportunity to thank all our generous Adopters and we look forward to meeting you again at the next Open Day.

If you wish to get in touch with me regarding any aspect of the Adoption Programme please phone on 01527 62198 or email to karengg@fsmail.net or write to Karen Gray "Woodclose", Seafeld Lane, Beoley, Redditch B98 9DB. I would love to hear from you.

All the animals send their love and grateful thanks.

FUNDRAISING REPORT 2009 – 2010, Maxine Bonnell

Looking back over the last 12 months – what a year of extremes – SNOW – HEAT and the RECESSION – but as always our fundraising team – supporters and volunteers stepped up to the mark – THANK YOU.

SPEAR was invited to many outside events – I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers for inviting us to take our stall to promote our Charity and raise awareness and much needed funds.

13 Sept 09	Open Day at Cotswold House
18 Sept 09	'Comprehensive Guide to First Aid in the Horse' – Norton Lindsey Village Hall
27 Sept 09	Rowington Game Fair – SPEAR tombola
17 Oct 09	Dinner and Dance, Coleshill Hotel
14 Nov 09	Quiz Night at Mappleborough Green Village Hall
29 Nov 09	Open Day at Cotswold House
30 Jan 10	Bingo – cancelled because of poor weather
15 Feb 10	Veterinary Lecture at Stratford upon Avon Civic Hall 'Diseases and Conditions of the Geriatric Horse' – Professor D Knottenbelt OBE BVM&S DVM&S MRCVS 'Behaviour or Pain, Which is it?' – Alison Talbot MRCVS Fort Dodge Pharmaceutical Company 'A Storm is Coming' – a review of new viral conditions likely to be seen in this country in the near future
24/25 Feb 10	Two day collection at Tesco store, Leamington Spa
06 Mar 10	Annual Quiz at Mappleborough Green Village Hall
20 Mar 10	Jasper of SPEAR Open Day at Cotswold House
09 May 10	Open Day at Cotswold House
31 May 10	Kings Heath Horse Show – SPEAR tombola
19 June 10	Knowle Park – SPEAR tombola
20 June 10	Snitterfield fete – SPEAR tombola and Jasper of SPEAR parade
23/24 June 10	Two day collection at Tesco store, Solihull
04 July 10	Lapworth Cricket Club – SPEAR tombola
04 July 10	Open Day and Adopters' Day at Cotswold House
10 July 10	Norton Lindsey Village fete – SPEAR tombola and Pumpkin of SPEAR and Freddie parade

And car boot sales at Bidford and Stratford-upon-Avon throughout the year.

A big thank you to Gill Spinks for joining us at our many tombolas. A big well done and thank you to the girls of 'Lapworth 1st Guides' who nominated SPEAR as their charity 2009/10. And not forgetting ALL our volunteers and supporters who visit our open days, make jams, grow plants, bake cakes, donate bric-a-brac, give their unwanted soft toys, knit gloves, cook sausages, man stalls, to mention but a few. Our work could not continue without you all – A SINCERE AND GRATEFUL THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.

As you can see we really appreciate all the help we receive so if you would like to arrange a fund-raising event local to you or perhaps a coffee morning, then please contact Maxine on 077 323 75521.

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 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

The number of visitors to our website at www.spearcharity.org.uk continues to grow. 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. New features have been added such as Pumpkin's Page and reports and photos from our events and Open Days. Occasional and regular browsers can now email us via the site and at mail@spearcharity.org.uk. We will 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 RSS (Hons) AFCL

Throughout the year we encounter many and varied problems with our animals' feet which are regularly dealt with by Ray through remedial farriery resulting in sound horses and ponies, donkey and goats. We give Ray our special thanks. His work is vital to our cause.

YARD STAFF

Dawn BA (Hons) Equine Studies – Yard Manager

Dawn is responsible for the smooth running of the yard on a day to day basis. Her consistent hard work in dealing with the many and varied nursing cases we encounter throughout the year is greatly appreciated as is her ability to bring Sammy back into work so that she can be rehomed as a riding horse. We thank Dawn for her knowledge and enthusiasm which has benefited all our animals in care and for her efforts in supporting all our fund raising activities.

Manda BHSAI – Part-time Groom

We are grateful for Manda's consistent hard work throughout the year which has helped so much in the smooth running of the yard to the benefit of all our animals, especially the nursing cases. Her support for our fund raising activities is much appreciated especially on Open Days.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Olivia is studying for her degree in Animal Science at the Warwickshire College of Agriculture. She is with us on a six week placement and we hope that the experience she gains with us will be of value in the future.

VOLUNTARY HELP

Angela is by now, well known, as she has helped in the yard at weekends for 13 years, always on arrival bearing treats for all the animals. We are so grateful for her reliable help, and also for typing our Annual Report for all those years.

WIDER NETWORK

247 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 and ponies suffering from health and behavioural problems. With those who want to rehome a well horse or pony privately, we are able to assist by putting them in touch with someone who has contacted us looking for a certain type of horse or pony that may be suitable.

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 2010/2011

Sun 12 September 2010	Open Day at Cotswold House, 11 am – 4 pm (including parade of rescued horses, stalls etc)
Sat 18 September 2010	Jasper of SPEAR Fund stall at St John's Church Hall, Kenilworth, 10 am – noon
Fri 15 October 2010	Black Country Night featuring comedy duo 'Dandy' at Mappleborough Green Village Hall - £15 inc hot supper. (concession for group booking of 6 or more people) Enquiries to: 01527 62198
Sun 28 November 2010	Open Day at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sun 27 March 2011	Jasper of SPEAR Open Day at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sun 8 th May 2011	Open Day at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sun 10 th July 2011	Adopters' Day and Open Day at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sun 11 th September 2011	Open Day at Cotswold House 11 am – 4 pm
Sun 27 th November 2011	Open Day at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm

WISH LISTS – please if possible

We would be very grateful to receive any of the following items:

For horses, ponies, donkey, goats and sheep: any make of low protein horse and pony feed; carrots and apples.

Treats are very special and greatly enjoyed by all our animals, every mouthful is hugely appreciated! They really love digestive or ginger biscuits and polo mints.

For poultry: mixed corn

For staff: rubber gloves (medium size)
washing-up bowls to be used as feed bowls
electric fence tape, stakes and electric energiser box.

A huge thank you to all who give so generously throughout the year.