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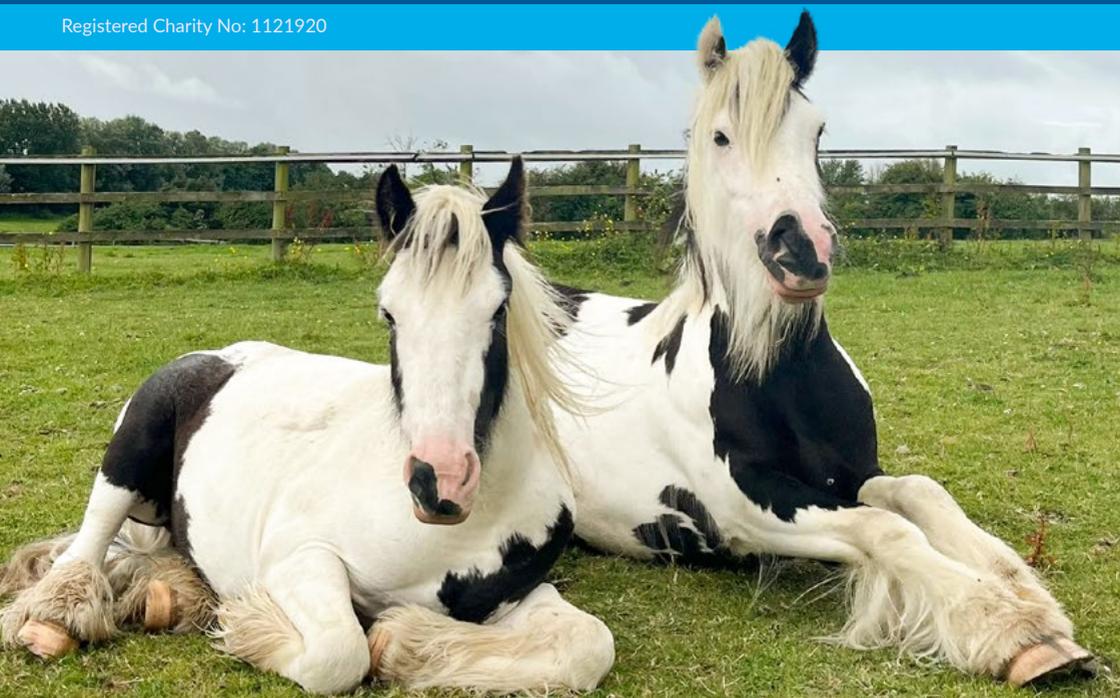
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HorseWorld

Autumn / Winter News 2024

Registered Charity No: 1121920



**Saving Soul,
the little pony saved
by his friend. Page 4**

Hello

This newsletter is all about meeting new additions to the HorseWorld family. Firstly, it's hello from me; I'm Jo the new CEO of HorseWorld, mum of two SEN children, owner of two horses and a farmer's daughter. You can read more about me and why I'm so excited to join the team on page 8. But it's also goodbye and thank you to Petra, our CEO for the last four years, you can see Petra's final farewell on page 6.



On page 14 meet Charlie, one of our young Discovery students. Read how Archie the pony is helping him return to school. Next meet Aura and Coco. Aura is one of our rescued ponies who we rehabilitated and then rehomed with Coco. Aura's turn-around story and the partnership Aura and Coco formed saw the pair compete at The Royal Bath West show this summer. Retraining is so important to our rescued ponies, giving them a new purpose in life, which every horse deserves.

The real star of the show is Soul. A brave little pony who survived because the death of his friend alerted authorities. For me Soul is a symbol of hope this Christmas and we hope that you'll join with us to remember beloved friends and family with our Stable of Stars appeal. You may want to have your own little Soul by sponsoring him either for yourself or as a gift. If you're moved by Soul's story and would like to be a saviour beyond your own life please consider Legacy gifting and our free will service.

The final note from me is a huge Thank You. We can't do any of this without you. I look forward to getting to know more of you as we continue to work together to make HorseWorld the life-saving & life-changing place it is for horses and young people.

I wish you a warm winter.

A stylized, handwritten signature of the name 'Jo' in a light blue color.

Jo Coombs
HorseWorld CEO



HorseWorld Lottery Weekly

**Help change the luck
of rescued animals and
you could WIN up to
£25,000!**

Each chance to win costs just £1 a week, with at least 50p going directly to HorseWorld and if you win the jackpot of £25,000 HorseWorld will receive £2,500!

For more information, go to horseworld.org.uk/lottery

Follow us

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horseworld.org.uk



Newsletter printed locally by
Taylor Brothers Bristol Ltd

Over 2,000 supporters enjoyed our annual Open Day



A record-breaking crowd enjoyed a day of HorseWorld demonstrations, hobby horse activities and lots of horsey chats and cuddles during our annual Open Day. The event attracted over 2,000 people and raised over £14,000 to support the care of the 100 rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules living at HorseWorld.

The day offered many behind-the-scenes glimpses of the charity's work, including tours of our 180 acre site, talks and insights from the HorseWorld welfare team, guess the weight of resident mule Tilly and the opportunity to meet the horses on the Sponsorship scheme.

There were also demonstrations from Wessex Working Horses who have rehomed one of our rescued Shire horses plus a demonstration of a horse rescue by Avon Fire and Rescue Service.

We are so grateful to everyone who came to make the day a huge success. We were delighted to be able to welcome so many people this year. We would like to thank all our supporters, volunteers and stallholders, they are crucial to the continuation of our work here at HorseWorld.

HorseWorld Sponsors enjoy the chance to visit their chosen friends

On 29th June HorseWorld sponsors were invited on site to have a couple of hours fun on the farm as a very special thank you for all their support. The horses enjoyed the attention and our sponsors enjoyed the demonstrations, up close contact with their chosen friends and the chance to talk to the grooms who care for them.

We will be running these events again in the future and all who have an active sponsorship will be invited. If you haven't sponsored a HorseWorld horse, pony, or donkey yet and would like to, please visit www.horseworld.org.uk/sponsor



Saving Soul

**Soul is
our new
Sponsorship Star**

Turn to page 18
to find out more



A rescue account by our Head of Equine Welfare, Sarah Hollister

“It was a soaking wet, grey day in December when I received an urgent call from our colleagues at the RSPCA. A concerned member of the public had reported a dead pony lying next to a fence in a field, but he wasn't alone.

I called for my colleague, Meg to come and help. We rushed to the location where nothing could have prepared us for what we saw. The field was waterlogged and bare, and the dead pony's body was covered by a tarpaulin. One small hoof was visible;

it was obvious the pony who had died was just a youngster – barely old enough to have been away from his mum.

In the mud-filled field shelter there was a small, thin, bedraggled pony named Soul who was tucking into a pile of hay with the urgency and desperation of an animal who hadn't had a good meal for a very long time.

This lonely and unloved little pony seemed to immediately know I was there to help. Carefully, my boots squelching in the stinking mud, I slipped a headcollar on him. Was he injured, or simply starving and exhausted? I ran my hands over his cold thin body; he needed a vet, and soon.

I had to get him back to the warmth and safety of HorseWorld as quickly as possible.

I readied the trailer and Meg gently clicked her tongue at him. At her reassurance, he quietly followed her lead. For a moment he paused at the bottom of the ramp – lifted his head and called out to his fallen friend at the top of the field.

Of course, no call came back.



With the rain beating down heavily on the roof of the trailer, the little pony bravely walked in and once again started tucking into the fresh, sweet hay that was in there for him, and we began the short journey back to HorseWorld where he would never again know loneliness or hunger.

Once he'd settled our vet gave him a thorough check and our team set about slowly building up his strength and helping him to recover from his experiences and the impact of his neglect.

The pony that passed away was named Denz. A post-mortem examination revealed the horrific extent of his suffering. He had starved to death – a tragic consequence of the neglect of the person responsible for their care. The owner of the ponies was prosecuted for their suffering.

If Denz hadn't taken his final sleep where he did, Soul could have suffered a similar fate. Denz saved Soul's life. Even though humans had caused Soul nothing but suffering, he is a little pony who today loves being around people.

Scan me →

Help us save more horses like Soul by taking part in **Soul's Stable of Stars**
horseworld.org.uk/soul





Goodbye and thank you to Petra

Chief Executive, Petra Ingram decides to stand down after four years of service



We welcomed Petra as HorseWorld's new CEO in 2020 and she led HorseWorld through a transformational period over the past four years. This year, Petra decided it's the right time to prioritise her family and horses.

Since joining HorseWorld, we have restructured the organisation and embedded a new culture which has helped our amazing team here. I am confident the charity will go from strength to strength as I step back from full-time work to spend important time with my husband, my parents and my four Haflinger horses. My commitment to HorseWorld will continue through a gift in my will, and perhaps as a volunteer in the future, maybe even a rehomer!

Petra Ingram

Before joining HorseWorld, Petra was Chief Executive of Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys. Her decision to join HorseWorld after 11 years at Brooke was driven by the opportunity to focus on helping horses in the UK and to develop HorseWorld's Discovery programme which is now recognised as a leader in equine assisted services and learning activities for children and young people with special educational needs. The programme has seen significant growth in recent years.

During Petra's time at HorseWorld we have further developed our Discovery courses and continued to find new ways that relationships with horses can support the young people in all aspects of their lives.

Together with Bournemouth University, we're discovering the incredible effects of interactions between horses, young people, and facilitators.

In recent years and largely due to Petra's hard work and enthusiasm for equine welfare, HorseWorld has become widely recognised as a reputable partner in equine rescue cases. We have continued to develop our horse welfare work with interventions to improve the lives of rescued horses through horse centred rehabilitation and training. One such intervention is the introduction of several track grazing systems and in collaboration with Hartpury University we have strengthened the evidence base of how this delivers positive benefits to the welfare of our herd.

We send our huge thanks and very best wishes to Petra, and are excited to step into HorseWorld's next chapter with our new CEO Jo Coombs at the reins!

We are indebted to Petra who, in the space of four years, has transformed our charity from one of the best kept secrets to a recognised national leader in horse welfare and lifelong learning. She will be greatly missed by the Trustees and her team, but she leaves us with a robust strategy and structure to continue our exceptional work in helping horses and helping people.

Desi Dillingham MBE,
Chair of Trustees

You can read more about Jo on page 8.

Welcome to Jo!

**We are delighted to welcome our new
Chief Executive Officer Jo Coombs**

Jo says:

"It is an absolute privilege to be taking on the role of CEO at one of the most respected equine charities in the country.

"My passion for horses and first-hand experience of the social, emotional and learning benefits they bring, coupled with my professional background in raising awareness and support for organisations and their services and products, is a great foundation for leading the charity through its next exciting chapter.

"As children, my sisters and I thrived as a result of our involvement with horses. Now that I've moved back to Bristol, not only am I able to share my passion with my own two children, I have the opportunity to continue to grow the great work of HorseWorld's Discovery programme - an equine assisted learning programme which has helped many hundreds of young people in the city."

Jo also brings charity experience to HorseWorld, having been a charity trustee of the Wooden Spoon Charity for seven years - a children's charity supported by the rugby community.

We are truly grateful for her knowledge and expertise, which will greatly benefit HorseWorld. Jo is excited to meet our wonderful supporters and lead us toward a fantastic future for the charity.



Meet HorseWorld's latest arrivals



We are excited to welcome four new donkeys into our herd. Popsy and Jemima have returned from a long-term loan home and brought along their adorable bonded companion Brian with them who was very kindly signed over to us from another equine charity so he wasn't left on his own.

We then agreed to take in Megan. She had spent her 16 years of life living beside her mother who suddenly become very ill and was put to sleep.

On top of losing her mother, Megan was then forced to move homes as her previous owner unfortunately lost her land. Due to the stress, Megan became very overweight which can be dangerous for a donkey. The team have done an amazing job of nursing her through the stress and upheaval and helping her gradually reduce her weight.

Popsy, Brian and Jemima have been wonderful with her, as have residents, Cowslip, Barnaby and Tilly and the whole group are now living together as a very happy little herd.

Congratulations to Sarah

At the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) AGM earlier this year, our very own Head of Equine Welfare Sarah Hollister won the individual award for **Outstanding Contribution to Equine Welfare**.

She was nominated as someone who had demonstrated an exceptional commitment to equine welfare, with her hard work and dedication having a significant impact. The results were announced by Dr David Marlin, President of NEWC, who read her nomination so everyone could hear about her outstanding work at HorseWorld looking after our special rescued horses, donkeys and mules for the last 24 years.

Congratulations Sarah; a well-deserved award. We're lucky to have you!



A long road for Perry

How HorseWorld helps horses
throughout every stage of their life



In February 2001 HorseWorld assisted the RSPCA with a truly horrific case. On arrival at the site it was clear this was a very tragic situation that had gone on too long before being discovered. There was a large variety of livestock and horses but unfortunately most had already perished and after assessment by vets many of the animals still alive had to be put to sleep due to the extent of their neglect. HorseWorld took two ponies from the site in an attempt to give them a chance but unfortunately one didn't recover. The other mare did survive and regained full health. The owner of the animals was successfully prosecuted and received a prison sentence.

In 2015, the worst happened, HorseWorld received a call from the RSPCA again requesting assistance at the same site. Six horses were found dead and the situation appeared to be heading for a repeat of the first time around. Many of the mares were pregnant and there were stallions running in the herd. Over sixty horses were rescued from the shocking conditions with thirteen of them coming to HorseWorld. This became fifteen when two of the mares gave birth in Spring 2016.

As soon as our welfare team started to try and work with the group, we knew these were exceptionally traumatised animals. In some cases, it has taken years to help them feel that being around humans is a good place to be.

One of the most feral of the herd was Sierra. She arrived pregnant with a foal still suckling and a yearling we believe to be her foal from the year before! She gave birth to a foal who we named Perry (after a police officer that had helped with this and other rescues). When Perry was old enough to be weaned from her mother, the team worked on a gentle training programme that would give her the best chance of leading a normal life.



Now, Perry is at the stage where she is so happy to be around humans, she is currently in training to become a Discovery pony, working with vulnerable children to also give them a better chance in life.

Others from the group have been able to be rehomed with carefully selected loaners. Finding homes for them has been especially challenging because they will likely be affected by their experiences for the rest of their lives. Pairing them with people who have the necessary patience and experience has been essential, thus highlighting the complexity of finding suitable homes for such profoundly traumatised animals.

Neighs & News Discovery



HorseWorld Discovery Programme is a registered part-time alternative learning provider.

We create a welcoming space where young people thrive with the help of our gentle horses and nature-rich activities.

Since 2023, we've embraced the Thrive Approach, a method grounded in the latest neuroscience and child development research, to foster emotional resilience and enhance learning engagement.

Our carefully selected horses naturally help students focus and communicate better, making a positive difference in their educational journey.

We would like to wish all the students new and returners a very warm welcome to Discovery.

The term has started and we have lots of new students to Discovery enjoying the beautiful weather which certainly makes transition to alternative learning so much easier.

An update from Head of Discovery, Graham Hilliard

“Team Discovery, both human and equine have had a busy summer with training. The facilitators have been working through their Level 3 diploma in Equine Assisted Learning as well as equine training with a British Horse Society trainer. While the horses in training for Discovery have been working with their grooms getting used to the different activities and practicing the large list of skills needed to provide support for the young people.



We welcomed two new members of staff to the team. Lorraine joined as Discovery Operations Co-ordinator and Jess as a Facilitator. They have added so much to the team in a matter of weeks.”

Fighting Chance



Staff from Bristol-based charity, Empire Fighting Chance came to visit us to work with the horses and experience what the young people do that attend a Discovery course. Empire Fighting Chance are dedicated to transforming the lives of young people affected by inequality through the power of boxing. The next day the Discovery team went to the gym and the Facilitators enjoyed a training session. The stories from some of the young people who are ambassadors were incredibly moving and it was great to explore ways the two charities can work together in the future.

Charlie's Discovery Journey



Every year, HorseWorld's Discovery Programme works with around 300 young people who are at risk of exclusion or who are experiencing life challenges due to their social, emotional, mental health and learning needs.

Students work together with gentle rescued horses to build confidence, improve communication skills, and work together to explore a love of learning.

One such student is 12 year old Charlie. He started attending Discovery sessions in January 2024 after being out of school for three years due to not being able to cope in the environment as a result of his autism and ADHD.

According to Charlie's Mum, he's found more than just a sanctuary at HorseWorld; he found a family and a best friend in Archie, the horse. The unconditional support and kindness from the facilitators have reignited his hope and restored his faith in human kindness.

He has got a big personality. He has really helped me because he's another friend; like a human. He understands people quite a lot, I think. And he loves hugs! I love animals but I was a bit scared of horses at first, but then I found a love for horses by coming here.

Charlie talking about Archie, the horse who has become his best friend.



Each week, Charlie looks forward to his Discovery session, which has become a vital part of his healing and happiness. The programme has been instrumental in transforming his life, providing him with confidence and a purpose in life.

Equipped with the essential skills he'll need, Charlie's next step is moving to a specialist school with a farm. His preparation includes weekly one-hour visits where he engages with animals and assists in caring for donkeys.

We'll miss seeing him at HorseWorld but know that he's ready for the next step and are proud to see his amazing progress.

Could *you* be a HorseWorld Volunteer?



We have a range of fun volunteer roles, from caring for horses to helping students on our Discovery Courses. Plus, we could always use a hand during our Open Day and other events, or even in our office and with fundraising activities. Interested in joining our friendly team?

Check out www.horseworld.org.uk/volunteer and get involved!

Community Fundraising

We have been busy this summer meeting so many lovely supporters in the local community. From school fayres at Bridge Farm, Castle Primary, Meadowbrook and St John's Primary, the fantastic Keynsham Music Festival, to bucket collections at Cribbs Causeway and Bristol Temple Meads Station, there isn't a person left without a HorseWorld sticker!

Why not come and say hello to us at an event near you this winter:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 30 th November | Cabot Circus |
| 30 th November | Keynsham Winter Festival |
| 14 th December | Picton Street Fayre |

We will also be delivering a HorseWorld talk for local Rainbow and Brownie groups, as well as Bishopsworth women's group.

If you'd like HorseWorld to attend your community event or book a talk for your school or group, please get in contact with our Community Partnership Officer Leah Dunn Adams on **01275 893020** or email Leah.dunnadams@horseworld.org.uk





Aura 

Rescued HorseWorld pony shines at the Bath & West Show

You may remember Aura from our Spring/Summer 2023 Newsletter where we told you she had come a long way and was ready to look for a foster home. Well she's reached for the stars since then and has even taken part in The Royal Bath & West Show!

In 2020 Aura was part of one of the biggest animal welfare operations ever in the UK. She was found with a group of 130 neglected and suffering horses living in appalling conditions. HorseWorld, along with other equine charities collaborated with the RSPCA to rehome the horses.

When she was rescued she was very nervous, severely underweight and suffering from worms and a lice infestation. Thankfully, the expert care from our HorseWorld team meant that Aura was able to make a full recovery.



During her rehabilitation programme the HorseWorld team quickly identified that the sweet natured Aura could be suited to join the Discovery equine team helping vulnerable young people cope with their social, mental and emotional challenges. Part of the equine training process for some of the younger Discovery equines is to spend time in a foster home where they receive vital handling and some basic training.

Aura found a fantastic foster home with Elizabeth Hembrow who was looking for a pony for her daughter Coco.

We love seeing our horses and ponies thriving in their new homes. We're thrilled that Aura has found her perfect home with Coco and that the pair are so successfully flying the flag for HorseWorld rescued horses and others around the UK. We feel an enormous amount of pride in the work we do at HorseWorld and seeing these horses, who often have a very sad past, flourish in their new home is very rewarding.

Inspired to rehome by Aura and Coco's story? HorseWorld have lots of horses and ponies who are ready to find new homes.

Visit www.horseworld.org.uk/rehome to find out more.



Since she came to live with us, Aura and Coco have formed a beautiful bond and an everlasting friendship. Coco suffers from OCD and ADHD and struggles with mainstream education. Aura helps her cope and face life's challenges. Together they have been out and about competing, joined The Pony Club and attend rallies. They have competed in a dressage series, fun rides and galloped across the Mendips, where they love unwinding together.

Going to The Royal Bath and West show was a big step up for Coco and Aura. The show had a real buzz about it and I was very nervous for them both but every time I checked in with Coco to see how she was feeling she just said "I'm fine Mum, I know Aura is the best pony here and I trust her 100%." She was incredible and I am so proud of them both. Aura has stolen our hearts. She is simply perfect.

Elizabeth Hembrow

Sponsorship updates

What an eventful summer our Sponsorship animals have had. Thank you all so much for visiting us and for your continued support.

We've said a sad goodbye to Odette this autumn and retired the lovely Lunar from our scheme due to her skin allergies. Demi has moved on to a loving new home, and Mowgli is progressing with his ridden training programme in the hope of finding a great home soon. We have also gained some new arrivals including the amazing Soul, who you can read all about on page 4 of this newsletter.

As the winter approaches, the donkeys and Tilly will enjoy their time in the barns with plenty of straw and enrichment activities. There will be lots of movement over the farm to ensure everyone has a comfortable winter. Wishing you all a safe winter, we're already looking forward to welcoming you onsite next year.

Don't forget, you can use this QR code to download a wallpaper of your favourite horse for your phone, if you're missing us already!

If you haven't sponsored one of our rescued animals yet, turn to page 22 to find out more.



Scan me

to receive your favourite horse wallpaper.



Odette

We were devastated to say a very sad goodbye to Odette – a little pony who brought a big smile to the face of everyone who met her. Odette arrived at HorseWorld in January 2023, with her friend Daisy as her owner could no longer care for them.

Soon after Odette arrived it was clear from her sweet personality she would make a wonderful addition to the Discovery team, helping local young people in need. Odette completed her Discovery training with a breeze. The grooms were so impressed with how focused she was on her training and how she loved new challenges and learning different skills.

Earlier this year, Odette became unwell. Veterinary examination revealed a heart condition. Despite treatment and careful monitoring, by September her quality of life was getting worse and the sad decision was made to let her go before her health deteriorated any further.

She may have been small in size, but she had a huge impact and will be very sadly missed.



SPONSORSHIP STAR

Hello, I'm Soul I'm new to the sponsorship scheme. You'll read a lot about me throughout this newsletter, which I hope will encourage you to be one of my best friends and sponsor me! I'm happy at HorseWorld and looking forward to my sponsorship journey with you!

Visit www.horseworld.org.uk/soul to find out about Soul's Stable of Stars



Destiny

Lunar

Lunar

Hello my lovelies, as you know, I haven't had the opportunity to see you this year, due to my skin condition, sweet itch. I live in a special paddock made to care for my condition

during warmer months. Due to this, the team have made the decision to retire me from the sponsorship scheme. You may still see me around the farm, so please do say hello! I am

still part of the Discovery team during winter, meaning I'm in for a busy few months. Thank you so much for your support over the years, I'm certain we'll bump noses again soon!

Apollo

Our amazing supporters fundraised for me to have laser treatment earlier in the year, to remove a harmful skin tumour by my ear. The vets and HorseWorld team did an amazing job making me comfortable, before, during and after the operation. Now fully healed and feeling amazing, I have restarted my ridden training with Madie, our Equine Training Co-ordinator. Hooves crossed I'll be an amazing ridden horse in the future!



Lolly

After veterinary investigation, I received the happy news that I don't have neurological problems! This amazing news means I can now go into training and have my own rehabilitation plan! I have spent time with Taff keeping her company, as we've both needed some extra TLC recently. Everyone keeps saying she is a mini-me -can you see the resemblance?

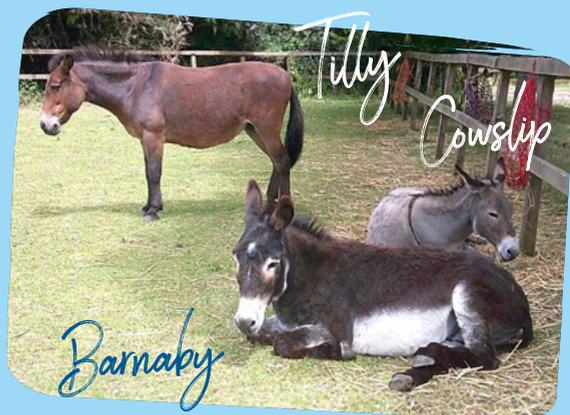
Charlie

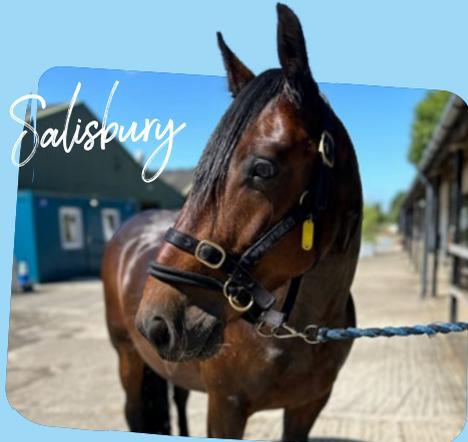
I've had a busy summer helping our students on the Discovery Programme. My job is so rewarding and I make some amazing friends on the way. The grooms recently gave me a carrot stuffed bird feeder, to provide some enrichment. It's a lot harder than it looks and kept me very busy whilst I was hanging out on the yard.



Barnaby, Cowslip & Tilly

Hey guys! We've had a lot going on this summer. We've gained new friends -Popsy, Jemima, Megan and Brian (who are also the stars of this year's Christmas cards!) It's so much fun in a big herd. We had a fantastic time meeting you all at the events- there's nothing better than an ear scratch and nuzzle. The grooms have been providing us with some great enrichment - from playing with rugby balls, training in the round pen, and sniffing out essential oils!





Salisbury

Hello, Salisbury here, it's been lovely seeing you all this year. I've been taking some time off from Discovery for a reset and recharge. During this time, I've continued my ridden training, having some amazing rides soaking up the beautiful scenery at HorseWorld. The team think I am great at offering young horses' confidence in training, so I've been taking the youngsters out and about, offering them a shoulder to lean on.



Jay

Meow! I've had an adventurous summer, meeting you all at the farm! Unfortunately, I had to visit the vet for an abscess – but after great care from the team, I'm all healed and feeling much better now. I have noticed a lack of ham sandwiches and staff sharing their lunches lately, the team said I was looking a little too round. I'm not sure if the office staff have heard the news, so I keep paying them regular visits in hope of a tasty treat!



Sox

I've been receiving lots of attention from the Discovery students this year! I absolutely love having my mane braided and ribbons in my hair and tail. This summer has been so much fun. I've loved helping on the Discovery courses and seeing all of you guys at our events! Thank you for continuing to love me, I can't wait to see what next year brings.

Kira

I've been busy this summer assisting the youngsters (human and horses) in training, whilst helping the Discovery programme and seeing you guys! Phew! I love to be busy, helping everyone gain confidence, and watching them blossom makes me so happy, whilst keeping my mind and body feeling young.



Christmas Cards



Order online from
shop.horseworld.org.uk



Sponsorships make great Christmas presents!

Sponsoring a HorseWorld animal is a great way to help the charity and make a new friend.

To find out more about sponsoring a HorseWorld animal, go to www.horseworld.org.uk/sponsor

Write your will and save horses lives

Two thirds of the horses at HorseWorld are thriving thanks to gifts in wills. These vital gifts fund our rescue work and ensure we can welcome more horses in need through our gates. After your loved ones are provided for in your will, just a small share of your estate can transform the lives of horses, ponies and donkeys for years to come.



Did you know that we offer two different services where you can write your will for free?

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Find out more at
www.horseworld.org.uk/free-wills

Every little bit allows us to do more

Our shop helps us to raise funds for horses, ponies and donkeys in need!



Apollo large teddy



Charlie large teddy



Palm Pal



To see the full range:
shop.horseworld.org.uk
or call **01275 893020**.

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HorseWorld

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Address: (of your Bank/Building society) _____
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Type of card (tick as appropriate): Visa Mastercard Switch/Delta Maestro

Card number: _____ Security No. _____

Start date/valid from: _____ Expiry date: _____ Issue No. _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

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Gifts in wills

If you would like further information about leaving a gift in your will please tick here

Thank you for your kindness. Please send this completed instruction to: HorseWorld Trust, Delmar Hall, Keynes Farm, Staunton Lane, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0QL

Privacy notice For further information about how we hold information about you on this form please visit horseworld.org.uk/support-us/privacy-policy/

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