

Meet Billy and Rosie



'PROMOTING HUMAN BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS ANIMALS BY PROVIDING CARE, PROTECTION, TREATMENT AND SECURITY'

Fleecehaven News

At the beginning of June, Billy and Rosie joined us. Their elderly owner had called his vet out to put them both to sleep as he could no longer look after them. Thankfully the vet knew of Fleecehaven and suggested that he contact us before taking such drastic action and we agreed to take them in. On arrival, we initially housed

the foot. It is usually caused by severe cases of foot rot that have not been treated promptly. Our vet gave them both anti-inflammatory and antibiotics to help eradicate infection.

Rosie and Billy were reviewed regularly by our vet, but by the beginning of July we were really concerned that Rosie in particular was not responding to treatment and we were beginning to question whether or not it was fair for her to be in such visible pain. However, knowing that we would give her the best possible after care, our vet decided to operate and removed the granuloma that was growing in her toe. Our vet also trimmed Billy's feet back in the hopes that it would bring about the necessary improvement. After a great deal of perseverance and care from Emma, Anne and our vet, both Rosie and Billy's feet started to slowly improve and we are delighted to report that they have both made a full recovery and are no longer lame or in discomfort.

The pair of them are absolutely delightful and are now fully integrated with the main Fleecehaven flock.



Billy and Rosie arriving

them in our red barn during the normal period of quarantine that all new sheep undergo. We immediately noticed that they both had dreadful feet; Rosie's were particularly bad and she was walking on her knees and was obviously in considerable discomfort. When our vet came out to check them over and give them their first vaccination he too was very concerned about the condition of their feet. Rosie had evidence of a granuloma forming on the sole of her left toe. A granuloma is fleshy tissue that can grow out of the sole of the toe; it is very sensitive and bleeds easily, stopping a sheep from being able to bear weight on

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Rosie and Billy with Henry

The Tale of Timid Timmy

Towards the end of June one very clever little soul joined the Fleecehaven flock. His story would not be out of place in a Beatrix Potter book! Anne and Henry were in the back garden when they heard a lamb bleating. The bleat kept getting closer and closer and they knew that it wasn't a Fleecehaven lamb as, at the time, we only had Lily and Smudge, who were both stretched out fast asleep in the garden. Eventually the bleat was traced to the lane that runs parallel to the Fleecehaven fields and after a while the lamb worked its way down the track and into the garden of our neighbours. Emma, Anne and Henry went round to their garden, concerned that the lamb might get out onto the road and, with their neighbours help, they managed to corner him, picked him up and popped him over the fence and into the safety of the Fleecehaven fields.

The lamb had no ear tag so there was no means of identifying where he had come from. We asked around but no one appeared to be missing a lamb. He was a tiny little thing and extremely timid. However, it wasn't long before he found his way towards the house where he teamed up with the lambs, Smudge and Lily, who had joined us earlier in the year. He quickly took to suckling from a bottle of ewe replacement milk and made himself at home.

It was at this point that Lily and Smudge finally moved out of the house and into the ark in the garden, as having three relatively mature lambs in the utility room was not very practical! They didn't seem particularly

bothered by this move as they had quickly



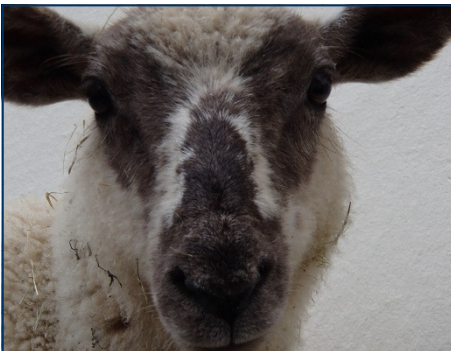
Timmy settling into Fleecehaven life

bonded with their new friend. By now the little timid lamb had been named Timmy, primarily because Emma found it very difficult to pronounce timid because of her hearing impairment and her attempts kept coming out as Timmy, so timid Timmy he became!

After Timmy had been with us for approximately four weeks his rightful owner came forward to claim him. As you can imagine we were devastated as his fate would ultimately be slaughter. With much relief we were able to negotiate to keep him and, thanks to his initial ingenuity to escape, he will now live out the rest of his natural life at Fleecehaven.

“Saving a sheep won't save the world. But for that sheep the world changes forever.”

As the summer drew to a close, two further



Timmy on the day that he joined us



Timmy, Lily and Smudge exploring the fields

lambs joined the Fleecehaven flock. One of the lambs had initially been seen by a lady

Arthur and Merlin - An Epic Story

visiting a country fayre. She was extremely worried about the welfare of the lamb - it was in the back of a truck and had no access to shade, food or water. The lamb was there as an 'exhibit' with people paying to guess its weight in order to win a meat voucher from a local butcher. She was horrified and left the fayre worrying terribly about the lamb and its fate.

Following some detective work she managed to establish that the lamb had been one of two at the fair, the other one having escaped early in the day and not recaptured until the event had finished. She also established which farm they had come from and that both of the lambs were destined for slaughter, something that played heavily upon her mind having looked into the eyes of one of them. Initially she contacted Fleecehaven for advice and we agreed to take in the lambs if she was able to acquire them. A period of negotiation was entered into between the lady and the farmer and eventually she acquired them. We prepared our last remaining emergency space to take them in, whilst arrangements were made for them to be transported to Fleecehaven.

When they first arrived at Fleecehaven they

were completely wild and clearly quite scared. However, little by little we have managed to gain their trust and they now realise that not all humans are to be feared. It



Arthur and Merlin settling into one of our stables

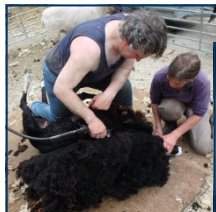
is remarkable how tame they have become and it is so rewarding to see them thriving knowing that under normal circumstances they would now no longer be alive.

Short Back-and-Sides All Round

At the beginning of July the Fleecehaven flock were paid a visit by our shearer, John. Over three days he carefully removed their woolly jumpers, preparing them for the warmth of the summer sun.

Many people ask us if shearing is necessary and it most certainly is and to not shear them would put their welfare at risk. Over millennia man has bred the ability to self-shed out of all but a few rare breeds and without an annual hair cut the flock would run the risk of over-heating during the summer months; a thick fleece also impedes mobility and, most importantly, leaves a sheep susceptible to fly strike as their fleeces become increasingly soiled with urine and faeces. If done properly and carefully, shearing can be carried out with minimal stress being placed upon the sheep. Although they are all a little unsettled

at first, they quickly get used to their new hair cuts and it's amazing how quickly their fleeces start to re-grow. In the meantime, being Fleecehaven sheep, they always have access to our big barn and stables if they are feeling a little chilly!



Berrie's turn

Freddie's teddy bear fleece being shorn for the first time



Fleecehaven Gallery



May Blossom

Freddie



Henry



Smudge and Lily



Eby



Mary, Maisy and Tansy



Alfie



Hansel



Woolly



Murphy



Jakey and Peggy II



Peggy

Ellie



Ned



Granny



Woody



Dora and Roo



Cynthia



Basil



Buster



A glorious summers' day



Freshly shorn Gracie!

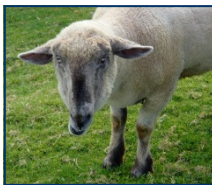
Newsbleat

The spring and summer months at Fleecehaven have been as busy as ever. Mid-way through May the lower section of our fields were fertilised and the sheep moved back into the fields that had been fertilised earlier in April. It was really clear to see how the fertiliser had boosted the grass growth and the flock were certainly pleased with their rejuvenated grazing, heading out earlier in the morning and staying out later in the evening to maximise their munching time!



The flock enjoying their rejuvenated grazing

A number of the Fleecehaven flock have required veterinary treatment. Peggy II experienced another flare up of her on-going stomach problem. Further blood tests were taken, including a test for Johnne's disease, but again nothing sinister was detected and our vet is confident that the periodic scour is due to neglect in the past which has caused gut damage. Thankfully her stomach seems to have settled again but we'll continue to monitor her carefully. Several of the sheep have required antibiotic treatment for coughs including Speckles, Snow White, Breeze, Charlie, Sandy and Murphy. All responded well with the exception of Charlie who continued to cough, especially when he came in at night and laid down. Following a further examination by our vet, he was diagnosed with a heart condition. We are now monitoring him carefully and our vet listens to his heart on a regular basis. He seems well in himself and further treatment is not necessary at the moment.



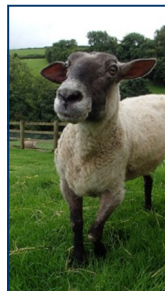
Charlie

Several of the flock have also had foot problems over the summer months. Eby, Mindy, Marmalade, Peggy, Murphy and Stevie have all required treatment. Mindy was diagnosed

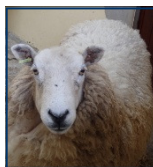
with a granuloma that needed to be removed and Stevie had an abscess that required draining. Treating Stevie is always difficult because of his blindness - he quickly panics if anything different is happening to him, and it took three of us to calm him and hold him whilst the abscess was attended to. Thankfully all are now fully recovered, although Mindy's toe took a long while to heal.

Ned and Lucy have both experienced a flare up of arthritis over the summer. They were initially treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory but are now both on a low, maintenance dose of steroid to keep them comfortable and mobile.

Roma visited our veterinary hospital for dental treatment as we were concerned that she was having trouble eating. She had a large back tooth removed and whilst there her jaw was x-rayed to try and



Lucy



Roma

establish the reason for the swelling on the side of her face. The x-ray showed a deformity to the jaw which was probably caused by a previously untreated abscess prior to her joining us. She is now fully recovered and eating well

again.

Throughout the summer the sheep were croveted on a regular basis to keep them free from blowfly strike. Other regular jobs were also undertaken such as collecting monthly dung samples from the flock to ensure the correct management of parasites.



Blue Rinse Time!



As the summer progressed, the grass growth in our lower field was so prolific that we needed to have the longer blades ‘topped’ as the sheep

will not graze the grass if it is too long. We did toy with the idea of making hay but decided against it as this would have meant closing the field off to the sheep for the remainder of the summer.

On the 22nd August the largest job of the year was started with our big shed being cleared out. This is an annual job and is always a rush against time as the weather is usually against us and we want to get the flock back into the shed as quickly as possible. It took a day for our agricultural contractor to remove a years worth of compacted wood shavings and straw from the shed. They used a skid steer loader to dig out and empty the contents into large trailers that were then taken to a nearby farm where the straw and dung would eventually be used for fertiliser. Once emptied, Anne and Emma started the long task of thoroughly cleaning

and disinfecting the shed. On the 24th August, three pallets of wood shavings were delivered and then used to create a thick bed of shavings across the shed to absorb moisture throughout the coming year. Once these were laid, 60 bales of straw were used to create a thick, warm and cosy bed for the sheep. Thankfully the weather was reasonably kind to us and it was the beginning of September before the sheep were finally let back in to the shed. They certainly seemed pleased to be back in and enjoyed snuggling down into a lovely deep bed of clean, fresh straw.



Sad Goodbyes



Tinkerbell, Aged 5



Florence, Aged 14



Ruby, Aged 15



Gloria, Aged 18

Losing a member of the Fleecehaven flock is like losing part of the family and, no matter how many times we experience the heart-ache, it never seems to get any easier. Over the summer months we sadly had to say goodbye to Ruby and Gloria who had both been poorly for a short while. We also lost Tinkerbell and Florence who both became ill quite suddenly and despite the very best efforts of our vet we had no alternative but to say goodbye. All of them were such gentle souls and we miss them terribly - sleep tight precious ones.



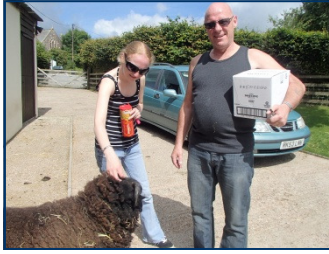
'Promoting humane behaviour towards animals by providing care, protection, treatment and security'

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Visitors



As always, it has been lovely to welcome so many visitors to Fleecehaven over the spring and summer months. The sheep always enjoy having guests as it usually means extra biscuit treats and lots of tickles!! Thank you to everyone who has visited, we always enjoy sharing the flock with you. However, I'd like to say a very special thank you to Ralph and Becky who visited at an extremely difficult and sad time - their support was very much appreciated by us all and we look forward to welcoming you back again in happier times.



Calendars, Christmas Cards and Gifts



Following the success of our previous calendars, we've put together another one for 2017. The calendar features many of your favourite sheep. We have also put together a pack of five assorted Fleecehaven Christmas Cards. The calendar (£10) and card packs (£6) are available to buy on-line. Postage and packing charges apply. We also have a range of sheepy gifts available on our website including scarves and the very popular range of Vanessa Bee home wares - the perfect Christmas gift for any sheep lover. Please visit our website for further details.

