

## In Spring the Lambs!



On the 18th March, Fleecehaven welcomed the first two lambs of the season; Larry and Snowie. Larry was almost a month old, whereas Snowie was just four days old.

Larry had been previously rescued from a farm by a lady called Charlene. When she first saw Larry, he was extremely tiny compared to the other lambs and the farmer thought it unlikely that he would survive. Charlene took him home, nursed him and, after a couple of weeks, he was fighting fit, incredibly bouncy and playing with her dogs. He was living in her kitchen and going to work with her everyday; fortunately she had a job that meant that she was outside in the woods for much of the day. Having bonded with Larry and experienced first hand how tame a lamb can become, Charlene and her family couldn't bare the thought of sending him back to the farm knowing that he would ultimately be slaughtered. She realised that keeping him was not a realistic option, which is when she contacted Fleecehaven to see if he would be able to join our flock.

Fleecehaven agreed to take him on the condition that Charlene rescued a companion lamb from the farm. Single tame lambs, especially wethers (castrated boys), can become extremely humanised and ultimately quite possessive of their main carer, resulting in aggression towards anyone (or anything) that they see as a threat. Charlene returned to the farm and chose a tiny orphaned lamb, who we subsequently named Snowie, and arrangements were made for them both to join us.



Larry and Snowie shortly after they arrived

When they arrived Larry weighed in at 6kg, with little Snowie being just 2.5kg.



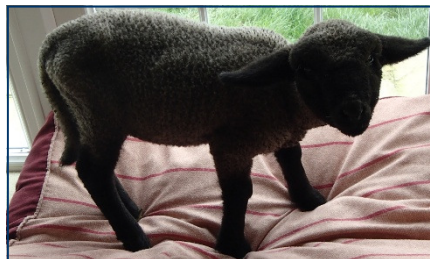
Best of Friends

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Larry looked to be in really good condition and fairly unphased by his new surroundings, but we were a little concerned about Snowie, who seemed so incredibly frail. Our vet was scheduled to visit them the following morning, so we left them to quietly settle in their cosy bed and both had a peaceful night. However, by morning Larry had developed a temperature and when our vet visited to give the lambs a thorough health-check, he decided to give both Larry and Snowie antibiotics to cover them for possible infection and within a few days Larry was fully recovered and Snowie was becoming increasingly stronger.

Just a day after Larry and Snowie joined us, we were brought a lamb which was clearly close to death. The poor little mite was unable to stand or even hold up her head. She was dehydrated and very hypothermic with a temperature of just 33 degrees. We immediately called our vet out for the second visit of the day and, whilst waiting for him to arrive, we placed her in a basket with a heated pad in an attempt to try and warm her up. When our vet arrived he injected a warm glucose solution directly into her tummy to help revive her and also gave her antibiotic and anti-inflammatory cover. Our vet left instructions for us to keep her warm and to offer her fluids little and often as and when she showed signs of wishing to feed. It wasn't long before she raised her head and attempted to climb out of her basket, albeit a little wobbly on her legs. We were just



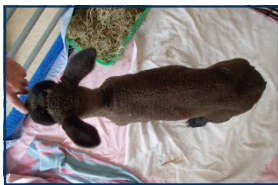
Eboni exploring the house

amazed at how quickly she had responded to treatment and so grateful to our wonderful vet. During the course of the evening her temperature slowly started to increase and she started to take small amounts of fluid. However we remained extremely concerned about her, especially as she was standing up in such a hunched position and looked most uncomfortable. Suddenly she experienced the most awful diarrhoea that we have ever seen in a lamb. Our vet came out yet again and was very suspicious, given the severity of the diarrhoea, that she had the coccidiosis parasite which attacks the intestinal tract. She was treated with the appropriate drench and sure enough the dung sample, which was tested the next day, confirmed an enormous coccidiosis egg count. She was extremely poorly and her future really was in the lap of the gods as we did not know how severe, or permanent, any potential gut damage would be as a result of parasite infestation. Nor did we know, given how weak she was, whether or not she would have the strength to fight for survival. Over the next few days our vet visited Eboni (the name we decided to give her) almost daily and little by little the diarrhoea subsided - she showed such strength of character and clearly wanted to live. We had to keep her separated from Larry and Snowie for a couple of weeks because of the risk of cross-infection but during this time she bonded with the dogs and enjoyed lots of human cuddles.



Eboni shortly after she joined us

As we moved into April, we introduced Eboni to Larry and Snowie and although Larry was a little protective of Snowie to start with, it was not long before the three of them started to become a real team of 'scallywags' getting into all sorts of mischief!!



Sooty finally home from the vets but still terribly thin and weak



and drench to tackle a number of parasites, as it was thought this was probably the cause of his diarrhoea. Our vets were not terribly hopeful for his future given the pitiful condition that he was in and it was touch-and-go for 48 hours or so. Thankfully the dear little chap managed to hold his own and four days later was able to return home and we named him Sooty. As



And then there were four!! On 22nd April another dear little chap was brought to us, he too being close to death. He had been found by a lady the day before on a farm where the farmer's attitude is that 'a sick lamb is a dead lamb'. The little lamb was initially treated by the lady's vet, but as he was not feeding, had terrible diarrhoea and was declining rapidly she was desperate to seek further advice. She found the Fleecehaven website and brought him to us. Yet again our vets proved to be amazing. They assessed him shortly after he arrived with us and decided to immediately admit him to the veterinary hospital. He was extremely dehydrated so was put onto a drip for 24 hours. He was also treated with antibiotics

with Eboni, Sooty has gut damage and only time will tell how much of this will repair itself and whether or not he has any other underlying problems. He is going to need a lot of nursing but all being well he will start to slowly build up his weight and gain some strength as he is still a terribly thin and frail little chap. He will need to remain isolated from Larry, Snowie and Eboni for the time being but he is developing a bond with the dogs and hopefully it will not be too long before we are able to gradually introduce him to the 'three musketeers'. We are just hoping and praying that he will go on to live a long and happy life at Fleecehaven with Larry, Snowie and Eboni as his lifelong companions.



Sooty waiting to be assessed by our vet



Jasmine on Sooty duty!



# Spring Gallery

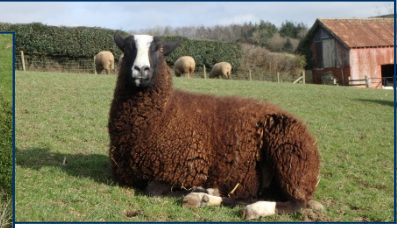


Blackie

Jessie



Percy



Geroge



The class of 2016 out and about!



Alfie



Woody



Charlie



Gracie



Leo



Lucky, Rose, Posh & Roma





Breakfast Time

Rustle



Buster



Woolly



Hansel



Cynthia



Off out for the day!!



Peggy II



Granny



Mitzu



Stevie

## Welcome to Juliet and Coco

On 25th March, the beautiful Juliet and Coco joined Fleecehaven. It was quite by coincidence that they both needed rehoming at the same time but they have bonded quickly and will hopefully enjoy their twilight years together.



Juliet

Juliet is a much loved pet who is greatly missed by her owner. She is approximately eight years of age and was born in the care of the RSPCA following the rescue of her mother. She was fostered with a small flock until she was

about three and then adopted by the lady who brought her to us, as a companion for Nellie, the last remaining ewe of her own small rescued flock. Sadly Nellie passed away last Autumn and Juliet grieved for her for several weeks, refusing to go into her stable which had been their shared shelter. Earlier this year a flock of commercial sheep were put into a field adjoining her owners field and Juliet kept calling out to them. This made her owner realise just how lonely and unhappy Juliet was and how she desperately needed the company of other sheep. Unfortunately Juliet's owner was no longer able to commit to the long term care of rescued animals and, therefore, was not in a position to take on any more sheep. With a heavy heart she contacted Fleecehaven and asked

if Juliet could join our flock, which we duly agreed to.

Quite by chance, having agreed to take in Juliet, the owner of Coco contacted us. Unfortunately a change in Coco's owners circumstances meant that she was looking to re-home her. Coco had been known to us for a number of



Coco

years as over the last few summers we have arranged for her to be shorn. We thought that Coco would make a perfect companion for Juliet and, with this in mind, we arranged for Juliet and Coco to join us on the same day.

Initially we housed them in our red barn and within a short space of time they were both getting on well with one another and looked extremely settled and contented with life. Juliet has enjoyed regular visits from her owner and both she and Coco are now mixing freely with the main flock and enjoying their new life.





# Newsbleat

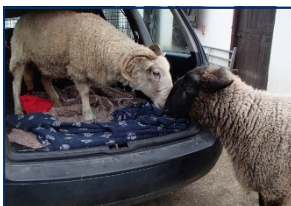
The new year started with the flock enjoying, or maybe tolerating, drenching, which is never a pleasant job but necessary to keep the flock free of



Sunny lines up for his treat!

internal parasites that can be quite unpleasant and cause ill-health. Because the weather was so dreadful we decided to drench the flock in the barn. It worked surprisingly well with some of the sheep queuing up to willingly taking their medicine!!

As always, a number of the flock have required specialist veterinary treatment. In particular we were concerned about Joan who ap-



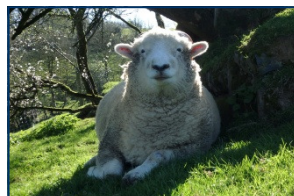
Joan being greeted home by Murphy

peared to be having difficulty in eating. It was felt that she would benefit from dental treatment so she was admitted to our veterinary hospital. After having several teeth filed down and one tooth extracted she returned home none the worse for wear and, I am pleased to report, she is now eating well again.

Charlie required further antibiotic cover due to his on-going cough caused by his underlying heart condition. Our vet also decided to prescribe him an on-going dose of frusecare in the hopes that this will minimise the build up of any fluid on his lungs. Thankfully he continues to enjoy life to the full and is currently showing no ill-effects of his heart condition.

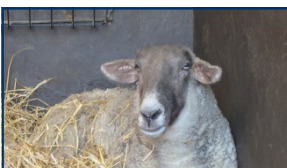
Murphy also needed further treatment for his eye condition with, under sedation, antibiotics being injected into both eyelids on a couple of occasions. At the moment his eyes seem to have settled down a little and hopefully with the better weather ahead they should be less effected by dust and fine debris being blown into them.

Dear Freddie experienced a further flare up of his joint problem and became quite lame again. Our vet pre-



Freddie

scribed him a strong course of antibiotics and once again this appears to have calmed the inflammation down for the time being. Unfortunately this is going to be an on-going problem for Freddie because of the severe joint-ill that he suffered as a lamb. Alfie also required a further coarse of antibiotics to address the persistent sore that he has on his brisket and again this treatment has been successful.



Snowflake

Snowflake was also visited by our vet. For a while we had noticed that his vision was becoming impaired.

Our vet confirmed that he is now virtually blind due to cataracts and that treatment is not possible. Thankfully Snowflake is coping remarkably well, although chooses to stay close to home where he is familiar with his surroundings.

As always, there has been a regular delivery of hay, straw and haylage to top up the supplies. Over 160 bales of hay, 190 bales



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of straw and 8 large bales of haylage have been delivered. With the exception of the haylage, each and every bale is unloaded into the hay barn by Emma and, once used or eaten and digested she has had to move it all again!! She really is remarkable, working tirelessly for the Fleecehaven flock.

Finally, the fields have required a little TLC over the spring months. Our 'first field' had become quite uneven following prolonged rain and the sheep walking backwards and forwards through the mud. As the ground started to dry out a little we had it rolled which has made a great difference to all four and two legged beings trying to negotiate their way through the field! The fields have also been fertilised to ensure that the sheep can gain maximum nutrition whilst grazing over the summer months.

## **Dearly Missed**



**Our dear Shaun, Aged 12**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our dear Shaun. He was such a beautiful boy and he leaves a huge void in all of our hearts. We take solace in knowing that he has had a wonderful life since joining Fleecehaven as one of our 'Famous Five' in March 2010.

## **Visitors**

It is always lovely to welcome visitors to Fleecehaven and to show our supporters first-hand just what we do. Here are a few pictures of those who have visited us in recent months. My apologies to anyone that we have missed out - we don't always have a camera to hand so one or two visitors escape the photo-shoot opportunity!



*"Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our own lives." – John Galsworthy*