

Welcome to Fleecehaven



2019 started off with the arrival of five beautiful, three year old sheep: Daisy, a Texel cross; Lady and Otis, both Suffolk/Masham cross; Oreo, unknown cross; and Monty, a pure Kerry Hill. They were all much loved family pets and had been together as a small flock since they were just two days old. Sadly their owners were no longer able to keep them due to a necessary relocation. Initially we housed the new group in our red barn, but after they had completed their programme of vaccinations we were able to introduce them to the main flock and it wasn't long before they chose to move out of the red barn and into our main shed. The five are just adorable and incredibly tame; all of them love to have tickles, especially Monty who likes to have his chin rubbed! Their owners were clearly very upset to have to part with them, but they call in to visit whenever they return to the area and, without fail, the five always remember them and are delighted to see them.



Just a couple of weeks later, two further pet sheep arrived; Mini and Droopy. They were both 12 and their owner had sadly been given just two weeks notice that she was to lose her grazing. Despite attempts to find alternative grazing, she was unable to find anywhere suitable for her two aged sheep, one of whom was quite arthritic. When Mini and Droopy arrived their owner explained that not only was Droopy arthritic but that he recently started to struggle with his breathing. We were immediately quite concerned and a visit from our vet confirmed a heart and lung condition. Despite our very best efforts Droopy sadly passed away. Poor Mini was beside herself at not only moving to a new home but also losing her lifelong companion; we too

Inside this Issue

Welcome to Fleecehaven	2, 3 & 6
Gallery	4 & 5
So Dearly Missed	7
Fund Raising	7
Congrat'ewe'lations	8
Sorry!	8
Welcome Visitors	8



Mini and Droopy

Welcome to Fleecehaven continued

were heart-broken; Droopy was such a dear sweet boy and we had so wanted him to enjoy his twilight years at Fleecehaven, but it wasn't to be. Fortunately Mini quickly teamed up with some of our older girls and now lives happily in our stables, alongside our other more senior residents.

On 9th March, Fleecehaven had the great privilege of welcoming a brand new life to the flock; Haven. You may remember that at the end of last year we took Lilly in and initially had no idea that she was in lamb. However, we were alerted to the fact that she may have been in contact with a ram shortly before joining us and, sure enough, our vet confirmed that she was indeed pregnant. Thankfully Lilly was in good condition and had received all of the TLC that a ewe in lamb deserves. We monitored her closely and prepared a stable for her to lamb in.

When Lilly went into labour we became concerned that all was not well and called our vet. The lamb was breach and Lilly required assistance. Once delivered the little lamb needed to be revived and it was touch-and-go as to whether or not she would survive. Thankfully she did, but her battle had not yet been won. She was very small and frail and it took a great deal of patience and persistence to encourage her to take milk, especially as Lilly would not allow her to suckle. Ini-



tially she had to be fed by a stomach tube but eventually she got the hang of suckling and started to take milk from both Lilly and the bottle. It was also a number of days before she was able to stand by herself and we were concerned that her traumatic birth had possibly resulted in minor brain damage. Thankfully this proved not to be the case and day-by-day she became a little stronger and, as she turns nine months, she has grown into the most beautiful young lady. She and Lilly are completely inseparable and it is lovely to know that mother and daughter will be able to live out their natural lives together; a right so rarely bestowed on farmed animals.



On 15th April, another arrival found its way to our gate. A dear little lamb was brought to us, close to death. He was unable to stand up, his eyes had sunken in and he was riddled with parasites, including ticks. He was admitted to our veterinary hospital where he was immediately placed on a drip due to life-threatening dehydration. On numerous occasions it looked as though he wasn't going to make it, but the little chap was clearly a fighter and we were overjoyed when we were able to bring him home on 26th April. He still wasn't out of the woods though and required round the clock nursing. On many an occasion we thought that we



might be losing him. At one point he was passing blood in his urine; tests showed that his red blood cell count was low. There were also concerns that he may have permanent gut damage,

due to the incredibly high parasite burden he had when first brought to us, which manifested itself in dreadful scour. On 20th May, Patch was readmitted to our veterinary hospital with severe scour, abdominal discomfort and the passing of blood. Our vets were marvellous and managed to stabilise him and on the 24th he was able to return home. Once again, he appeared comfortable and happy and steadily he started putting on weight and gaining strength. There were further instances of dreadful scour but these were manageable and periodic blood tests showed that his red blood count had climbed and was being maintained. During the long, patient road to recovery we kept hoping and praying that he would continue to make steady progress and, thankfully, this proved to be the case. However, we can never lose sight of how ill he was; we are forever mindful of how such a poor start in life can often have an impact later on; but for the moment Patch lives life to the full. He is absolutely adorable and incredibly tame having spent the first few months of his life living in the house.



May saw another poor little soul, Daisy-May, arrive at our gate; a tiny, terribly emaciated lamb with dreadful scour. She was assessed by our vet and admitted to the veterinary hospital where she was immediately put onto a drip. As she started to rehydrate the focus turned to encouraging her to feed, but she seemed unable to suckle. Initially she was given sustenance via a stomach tube but eventually, with lots of encouragement by the veterinary nurses, she slowly started to take a bottle. However, we were all still very concerned about her prognosis but little-by-little she started to gain strength and we were all hopeful that the future had started to look more promising for her. Unfortunately this was not to be and on the 20th May she sadly passed away. Our veterinary team had all become extremely fond of her and, like us, were greatly saddened by her passing.



In July, we welcomed Charlie Brown and Snoopy to Fleecehaven. We had been looking for a companion for Patch and had become aware of Charlie Brown needing a home. He was a Greyface Dartmoor Cross and absolutely gorgeous. A day or so before we due to collect Charlie Brown, we were asked if we would also take on Snoopy, a pedigree Greyface Dartmoor, as the person due to collect him had changed their mind. He too was just adorable, so how could we refuse? Their fleeces were incredibly thick, despite being just a few months old, and with a heat wave upon us, Snoopy in particular appeared to be struggling. Although we'd already had our main flock



Gallery



Sooty



Stevie



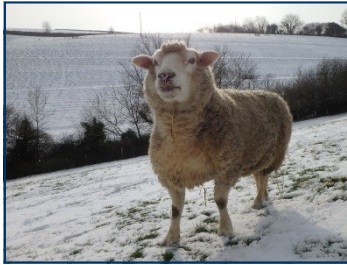
Sunny



Juliet



Gracie



Skittles



Valentine & Puzzle



The Two Henrys



Dougal



Angel

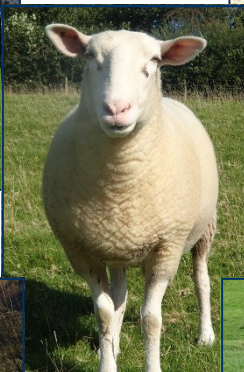


Frosty



Myra

Mossie?



Eboni



Leo



Holly



Granny



Somewhere over the Rainbow



Freddie



Hansel & Daisy



Lamborghini

Welcome to Fleecehaven continued

shorn, we knew that our shearer was due to visit a neighbour who has a flock of pet sheep, so we arranged to take Charlie Brown and Snoopy out for a hair-cut! This seemed to improve Snoopy's breathing, although not entirely, and on examination our vet thought that he possibly had a respiratory problem. Treatment was not deemed necessary but we were advised to keep a close eye on him. Once settled, we gradually introduced Charlie Brown and Snoopy to Patch. Initially Patch was not terribly interested in his new playmates; after all, he thought that he was more like a dog than a sheep! However, little-by-little their friendship grew, and at the end of September the three of them moved into a stable together, cementing their partnership.



It was September before we welcomed any more new arrivals to Fleecehaven. A young ram lamb, Sammy, had been bought at market by a local small holder for breeding purposes, but she had discovered that he was blind. She was concerned that he would not be safe when she moved her sheep to a new field bordered by a river. She had been advised to have him put-to-sleep but did not wish to do this as he was such a sweet and gentle boy. We agreed to take him in but between then and his arrival, he was subjected to a bad case of fly strike. He was

fairly pitiful when he arrived, with live maggots still burrowing into his flesh, a heavy parasite burden and clearly undernourished. Thankfully, plenty of TLC and gradual building up, through feeding little and often, rapidly improved his condition. At the end of September he was successfully castrated at our veterinary hospital and is now fully settled into life at Fleecehaven. He copes remarkably well with his blindness and has teamed up with our final arrival of the year, another blind sheep called Bella.

Bella had been found on the moor by one of our regular supporters. She was clearly in distress and attempts to find her owner had failed as she had no form of identification. She was examined by our vet shortly after her arrival and we discovered that her eyes had not properly formed due to microphthalmia, a genetic condition that requires both the ram and the ewe to carry a defective gene. She is coping remarkably well and is growing in confidence daily and will hopefully lead a long and happy life at Fleecehaven.



So Dearly Missed

2019 brought with it more than its fair share of heartache as we said goodbye to some of our dearest friends. The loss of a sheep is always heart-breaking and a pain that we will never get used to. If we didn't care the way that we do, we wouldn't do what we do and, sadly, grieving is the price that we have to pay for sharing our lives with such wonderful, sentient beings. We miss each and every one of them dearly, but take solace in knowing that they knew nothing other than love and comfort once arriving at our gate.



CoCo



Percy



Blackie

Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day ...
unseen, unheard
but always near,
still loved, still missed
and very dear.



Peggy



Alfie



Domini

Fund Raising

Throughout the year we have attended as many events as possible to help raise much needed funds. We would like to say a special thank you to Sue and Cathy who have hand-made the most beautiful hats and sheep for us to sell, and also to Debbie for donating some beautiful jewellery; it is very much appreciated.





Congrat'ewe'lations

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

Fleecehaven
Howley Park, East Buckland
North Devon, EX32 0TD

01598 760454

admin@fleecehaven.org.uk
www.fleecehaven.org.uk

Registered Charity No
1111004



This year, as a new fundraising venture, we held two raffles to win an exquisite signed and framed print by the internationally renowned artist,



Lucy Pittaway. Thank ewe to everyone who supported both raffles and many congrat'ewe'lations to our two lucky and very happy winners!! Watch this space for more raffles coming in 2020. We will also be selling a range of notebooks and gift cards featuring Lucy's artwork on our website and at our forthcoming events.

Sorry!

My sincere apologies for how terribly late this newsletter is - thank you so much for bearing with me. Trying to keep on top of Fleecehaven admin whilst also having a rather demanding full-time job (and bringing up an exuberant 7 year old) can be challenging at times. Thank you so much for your understanding - I will try better next time!



Welcome Visitors

It is always an absolute privilege to welcome our supporters to Fleecehaven, many of whom return year-on-year. We've not been terribly good at taking photographs this year, so please accept our apologies if we've not captured your visit but, hopefully, you will have taken home with you some sheepy memories to cherish. Unlike larger sanctuaries, all we can offer is our time, the opportunity to mingle with the flock, to possibly bottle feed a lamb or feed the sheep some treats whilst giving you a brief insight into the work of a small, family run charity. We really are so appreciative of your interest and support - thank ewe.

