



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

Fleecehaven News

Meet Stanley, Willow and Pru

Stanley was the first of the three Class of 2020 lambs to join the flock this Spring. On the 19th January, Stanley arrived at Fleecehaven as a small lamb of around two weeks old. Stanley was brought to Fleecehaven by Michelle and Dougie, who had noticed a lamb entangled in a thicket whilst they were out walking. The lamb was weak, cold and all alone with no way of getting himself out of the brambles wrapped around him which were preventing him from moving. After freeing him from the thicket, they realised there were no other sheep around. Dusk was approaching and the lamb was not making any attempts to bound away to find his mother so they decided to take the lamb home as they knew he wouldn't last the night all alone if they didn't. They named the lamb Stanley and, after being warmed up and persuaded to take some lamb milk from a bottle, he began to perk up.

Attempts to trace Stanley's mother or owner were met with dead ends; no one seemed to know who owned the field where he had been found. The field contained the bodies of several dead and decaying lambs and was full of hazards and returning Stanley to the field would have resulted in him perishing. Stanley stayed with Michelle and Dougie whilst they continued, unsuccessfully, to find out who owned the field. During this time, they found out about Fleecehaven and arrangements were made for Stanley to join the flock. Stanley was somewhat pampered during his time with Michelle and Dougie, even sleeping in their bed so he didn't bleat and wake all their neighbours and get them reported to their landlord!

When Stanley arrived at Fleecehaven, he was in very good condition and it was clear that his mother had done a great job in raising him up until they were separated; it is very sad that we'll never know what happened to her. Stanley quickly settled into life at Fleecehaven, sleeping all through the night after his last bottle of milk. However, as a single lamb, there were concerns about how well he would do in the longer term without other lambs for company as single lambs, especially boys, can become quite aggressive. Luckily for Stanley, two new playmates (Willow and Pru) joined him on the 16th February.

Inside this Issue

Meet Stanley, Pru & Willow ...	2
Hello Bramble	3
2 + 2 = 5!	3 & 6
Gallery	4 & 5
Newsbleat	6 & 7
Fleecehaven Fundraising Group	8
Visiting Fleecehaven	8

Stanley arrives at Fleecehaven



Willow and Pru were two tiny lambs who were born to different, older mothers who both had twins but were unable to produce enough milk to feed two lambs. As the weaker of both sets of twins, Willow and Pru were taken away from their mothers and put into a stable to be bottle fed. However, their farmer decided hand rearing them would be too much effort and so decided to take them to market to sell as orphan lambs. A lady who stabled her horse at the farm saw the lambs, who often seemed to be forgotten about and fed irregularly, and mentioned them to her friends, Michelle and Dougie, who had rescued Stanley. They contacted Fleecehaven again to see if Stanley would like some friends and it was agreed that the two girls could come and join Stanley and be spared the ordeal of going to market.



On their arrival at Fleecehaven, it was immediately spotted that Willow had problems with one of her eyes, which she struggled to open and was very red and weepy. Our vet visited and diagnosed a genetic eye condition which had caused her eyelid to become inverted and her eyelashes to rub against her eyeball. This had caused infection and lots of discomfort for poor Willow as it had not been treated on the farm she'd come from. Luckily, our vet was able to correct the position of Willow's eyelid without surgery and she recovered very quickly indeed. Willow was by far the most confident of the two girls and gave a lot of

support and comfort to Pru who seemed very timid and scared of humans. Unlike Stanely, both were in a fairly pitiful condition and they required a great deal of care and attention to slowly build them up. Pru in particular suffered from dreadful scour and was slow to respond to the appropriate treatment. Because of their fragility, they lived in our kitchen for a while. However, once they were sufficiently robust, they were properly introduced to Stanley, who up until this point had only seen them from afar as they were so frail. The three lambs quickly bonded whilst living together in our utility room. As the weather gradually improved they moved into to the animal ark in our garden and, once they had completed their vaccination programme, began to explore the Fleecehaven fields. They still return to the ark around tea time, enjoying a bottle of milk before snuggling down together for the night! The three of them are now inseparable, especially when out in the fields, although Stanley still prefers human company when given the opportunity! All three have grown into beautiful young sheep. Stanley in particular loves his cuddles and the companionship of people and has clearly never forgotten the kindness shown to him by Michelle and Dougie who initially rescued him. They are some of this year's luckiest lambs and hopefully they will all enjoy long and happy lives with the rest of the Fleecehaven flock.



Hello Bramble

Bramble arrived at Fleecehaven on 6th January. He had been found by a member of the public, entangled in a hedge along the roadside. He was not tagged and nor were there any fields of sheep within the vicinity in which he was found. Concerned for his welfare the lady who had spotted him cut him free from the brambles. He was extremely emaciated and had clearly been without food or water for some considerable time. The lady was aware of Fleecehaven and brought him straight to us in the hopes that we would be able to save him.



Bramble when he first arrived

Our vet assessed our new arrival and was concerned about how malnourished Bramble was. He thought that the young

sheep might have a problem with his oesophagus because initially he was having

difficulty in eating. Thankfully this proved not to be the case and over a period of time we were able to gradually build him up, following a carefully



Bramble losing his fleece

planned feeding programme.

As the spring progressed he suffered from wool slip, a clear indicator of the poor health and

stress that he had suffered prior to joining us and by the time we got to shearing in the summer he had pretty much lost his fleece altogether. Hopefully as his new fleece grows his dramatically improved condition will ensure that he does not suffer from wool slip again.

Although very wild when first brought to us, Bramble has tamed down considerably and is such a sweet boy. He really was extremely lucky to have been found and we hope that he will enjoy many happy and healthy years at Fleecehaven.

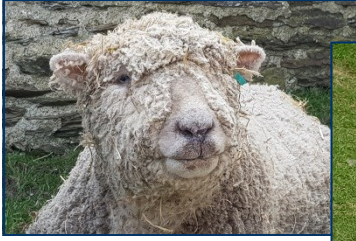
2 + 2 = 5!

On 17th June, five new sheep arrived at Fleecehaven. We had initially been contacted by a lady, Lesley, in May regarding a blind lamb that was causing her great concern. The lamb was part of a group of sheep that were being grazed by a farmer on her land. The lamb was constantly being left behind when the sheep moved, bleating pitifully. Its mother would wait for her but the lamb didn't seem able to follow her calls and Lesley wondered if it may also have a hearing loss. The lambs were due to go to market at the end of June and Lesley couldn't bear to think of the fear, distress and ultimate panic that this little lamb

would face. A recommendation on 'Sheep as Pets' led Lesley to Fleecehaven and she asked if we would be willing to take the lamb on which, of course, we agreed to do. However, we felt that it would be better for the lamb if it could also come with its mother and, if possible, a second lamb. We suggested that Lesley try to negotiate with the farmer to secure their release. The farmer initially agreed to part with the ewe and her lamb and the tricky task of getting close enough to both of them to mark them with spray to ensure they didn't go to market began. The ewe in particular was quite wild but, with the farmers as-

Gallery

Charlie Brown



Leo



Brian



Puzzle



Juliet



Buster



Jean



Stevie



Granny



Harvey



Lamborghini & Henry



Flora



Haven



Maisy



Eby



Martha

Otis



Henry



Breeze

Patch



Gracie



Sooty

2 + 2 = 5! continued



Mila, Tegan, Molly, Jodie and Griff

sistance, both were marked. By this time the farmer had also agreed to release a second lamb as a companion. Remarkably when he selected a lamb at random it too turned out to be blind! We couldn't bear the thought of this lamb being separated from its mum and, after much tooting and froing with the farmer, it was agreed that both lambs and ewes should come to Fleecehaven. We then discovered that the second ewe had another lamb who we couldn't possibly leave

behind to go to market, so our 2 + 2 quickly became 5!

John, our shearer, agreed to transport the sheep to Fleecehaven where, on arrival, they were housed in our red barn. They are currently undergoing a programme of vaccination, after which they will be able to freely roam the Fleecehaven fields. All five have quickly settled and seem fit and healthy. The ewes are incredibly protective of their lambs and it is lovely to think that their strong maternal bond will, for once, be able to extend to the rest of their natural life. Lesley named the ewes and their blind lambs prior to them arriving at Fleecehaven and the little sighted boy has subsequently been named Griff by one of our wonderful supporters, Sue.

We very much look forward to seeing this mini-flock flourish over the coming years. We are so grateful to Lesley for initially caring about Tegan, the little blind lamb, who inadvertently saved their lives of 4 other sheep too!

Newsbleat

To say that the last few months have been strange would be an understatement. Who would have thought, as we welcomed in the new year, that the whole world would enter a period of virtual lock-down.

Prior to this strange time, one of our biggest worries was brought about by Snoopy. You may remember reading about Snoopy in our last newsletter, a Greyfaced Dartmoor lamb who joined us in July, together with his half-brother, Charlie Brown. Just before Christmas he became poorly and we noticed that he was having difficulty in passing urine. He was admitted to our veterinary hospital with suspected calculi (stones or crystals) in the urinary tract. This proved to



Snoopy enjoying a visit

be the case and unfortunately Snoopy failed to respond to initial treatment. We were left with just two options; saying goodbye to him or allowing our vets to

perform a perineal urethrostomy. This is a surgical procedure to create a permanent opening into the urethra, allowing urine to exit freely from the bladder. It is performed quite regularly on cats and dogs, but is inevitably less common in farm animals. In consultation with our vets we made the decision to allow them to proceed with surgery. For some time it was touch and go as to whether or not



Finally home

this dear little chap was going to pull through as he experienced a number of complications, but our vets were absolutely amazing with him, giving him every opportunity to survive. He stayed in our veterinary hospital for nearly 5 weeks during which time we would visit him on a regular basis and eventually, on the 20th January, he was able to return home. Initially he lived inside the house as we needed to ensure that the surgery site was kept as sterile as possible to avoid infection. He also needed to have regular blood tests and initially daily testing of the ph levels within his urine to monitor his recovery. Living in the house was no hardship for Snoopy at all as he is incredibly tame and just lapped up all of the attention. Thankfully he recovered fully from the surgery and now lives a normal sheepy life with the rest of the flock. He still has to have his ph levels checked on a regular basis which determines the daily dosage of ammonium chloride that we have to give him to stop further crystals forming. He will always remain susceptible to infection but we regularly clean the area around the surgery site to keep him as free from bacteria as much as practically possible. All we can do now



Snoopy now fully recovered

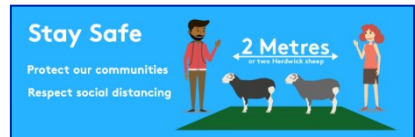
is hope that he keeps well and goes on to live the long and happy life which he deserves.

Throughout lockdown, daily life at Fleecehaven has carried on much as normal. The sheep have still needed feeding and tending to and the daily routine has been much the same. The big-

gest changes came from Anne and Emma shielding and being unable to go out and get supplies, both for themselves and the sheep, but regular deliveries ensured that both two and four legged Fleecehaven residents were adequately provided for!

Vet visits also had to change with our vet making a scheduled weekly visit to assess and/or treat sheep rather than being called as and when required, although this was obviously still possible in an emergency. Any sheep needing attention were brought together in the stable nearest our entrance gate and, after a socially distanced discussion, our vet would examine and treat the sheep as necessary. In order to maintain social distancing, if a sheep required a blood test or other procedures our vet would bring another vet with him to assist. Thankfully this was not a common occurrence with the most common ailments relating to seasonal coughs with Freddie, Eboni, Brian, Gracie, Mary, Berrie, Juliet, Haven, Girlie, Dottie and Puzzle all requiring antibiotic treatment at one time or another.

Regular hay and straw deliveries continued with nearly 500 bales of hay and 200 bales of straw topping up our 'off the field' deliveries at the end of last year. An exceptionally dry spring also saw the grass growth become almost non-existent and for a few weeks we were needing to supplement grazing with haylage. Thankfully the rain finally fell at the beginning of June and, with freshly fertilised fields, it wasn't long before the grass started to grow again. Little did we know then, that once it started, the rain would barely stop as the world continued to stand still and take a deep breath.





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

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Fleecehaven Fundraising Group

My name is Michelle and I have recently set up a fundraising group on Facebook, called Fleecehaven Fundraising, to help raise much-needed funds for Fleecehaven. I first found out about Fleecehaven in January 2020 when I was trying to find somewhere for a lamb I rescued, who I'd named Stanley, to live out his natural life in safety. I made contact with Fleecehaven who agreed to offer Stanley a lifetime home and I arranged to take him to there.

I was deeply impressed by what I saw at Fleecehaven and felt inspired by the level of care and love shown to each of the over 120 members of the flock. Each sheep had a name and a story and Anne and Emma at Fleecehaven knew them as friends – their likes, their dislikes and their individual needs and personalities. I immediately knew that Stanley really was the luckiest little lamb to be able to call Fleecehaven his new home. I continued to visit Fleecehaven regularly and I took two more rescued lambs, Willow and Pru, to live there too.

Each time I visited Fleecehaven, I fell more and more in love with the place, its ethos and all the amazing work being done there. As a small token of my appreciation for all the wonderful care being shown to Stanley, Willow and Pru (and the rest of the flock too), I decided to try to raise funds for Fleecehaven as I knew finding the time to do this could be difficult for them as they are such a small and busy team. I also worried about the effect of Covid-19 on restricting their planned fundraising activities and events. With Anne, Emma and Jayne's support and permission, I set up Fleecehaven Fundraising and began contacting different companies, artists and crafters to share my experiences of Fleecehaven and see if anyone would be willing to donate a raffle prize. The support and generosity of people has been truly incredible and the group has nearly two hundred members and has raised just over £1,500 since it was set up in May. I'd like to say a massive thank ewe to everyone who has joined the group and supported its fundraising efforts as well as all the companies and individuals who have donated raffle prizes.

If you would like to help raise funds for Fleecehaven, you can join Fleecehaven Fundraising on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2667871510099209>). We run regular raffles where you can win some lovely prizes and there are other fundraising activities run there too as well as lots of sheep pictures and stories! If you have a raffle prize or auction item you'd be willing to donate, please get in touch.

Visiting Fleecehaven

As the world comes to terms with living with Covid-19, Fleecehaven currently remains closed to visitors. Anne, Emma and Henry have all been shielding and their ongoing safety has to be paramount to ensure the care of the Fleecehaven flock. If you are wishing to visit your adopted sheep we apologise for any disappointment caused. We will, of course, extend the period of your adoption to enable you to visit as and when it is safe to do so and we thank you for your understanding.