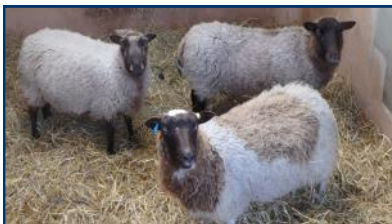




Hello to Dot, Holly and Mouse

Dot, Holly and Mouse, three delightful Shetland girls, joined Fleecehaven on 4th November having first being brought to our attention in July.



Dot, Holly and Mouse shortly after they joined us

They had all initially been rescued from a farm where animal welfare is far from ideal. All three of them were found in a very poor condition. They were weak, emaciated and struggling to walk, so were taken in and given the TLC that they needed and deserved. Holly was in a particularly bad way - she was too weak to even stand up voluntarily. It took several weeks of nursing to enable her to stand by herself but thanks to the dedication of the person who rescued them, she was eventually able to do so, albeit showing signs of a previous injury to her left leg. Little by little all three began to regain their condition, although Dot and Mouse, who are both elderly and have very few teeth, struggled to gain weight as quickly as Holly.



The girls enjoying some winter sunshine in the yard

Once all three were well on the way to recovery, we were approached and asked if we could accommodate them before the onset of winter. Although we were more than full to capacity, we knew that all three were extremely deserving cases that had come from appalling conditions and, as we were given sufficient notice, we were able to plan ahead to accommodate them. All three have very quickly settled into life at Fleecehaven. They are currently housed in one of our stables and enjoy pottering in the yard with some of our older residents.

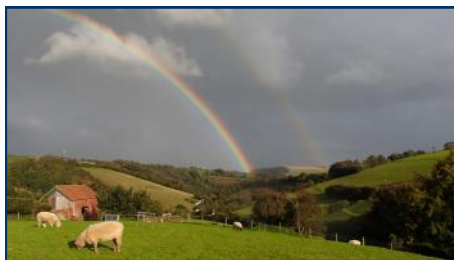


We hope that they will all enjoy a long and happy life at Fleecehaven.

Happy and contented girls

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A beautiful double rainbow over Fleecehaven

A Fairy Tale

Four adorable lambs arrived at Fleecehaven on 5th November 2016 following a lucky turn of fate. They were all found by the same lady who had previously rescued Arthur and Merlin who joined us in the summer of 2016 (see previous newsletter). When she went to see Arthur and Merlin, prior to them being moved to Fleecehaven, she saw a pen of four orphaned lambs, all destined for slaughter and she was desperate to rescue them too. Unfortunately, we were already more than full to capacity and really couldn't take on any more with Arthur and Merlin due to take our last remaining emergency space. We put her in touch with a number of other rescue centres in the hopes that they might be able to help, but none of them were able to do so. Their plight played on our minds and eventually we managed to reorganise some of our existing flock and agreed to take them on.



The arrival of Jessabelle, Titania, Monica-Pandora and Tinkerbelle

When the group arrived we put them straight into our red barn which is usually left open for the rest of the flock during the winter months as it provides them with additional shelter during the day if the weather is poor. However, we had no alternative but to use the barn as all new arrivals need to have a period of quarantine whilst they are treated for parasites and

undergo a programme of vaccination. This is for their own protection as much as it is for the rest of the Fleecehaven flock. They quickly made themselves at home and enjoyed exploring their new surroundings. They had been named after fairies by the lady who rescued them - Jessabelle, Titania, Pandora and Tinkerbell. However, the arrival of the lambs was being much awaited by a gentleman who wished to name and adopt one of them for his wife, Monica, as a birthday gift, so it was agreed that Pandora would become known as Monica-Pandora!

Since joining us the four girls have settled remarkably well. Their period of quarantine is now over and they have been released into the fields where they are beginning to mix with the rest of the flock. Interestingly they have teamed up with Arthur and Merlin so we are convinced that they recognise each other from their initial flock. We are hopeful that now they have their freedom they will start to join the rest of the flock at night in the main barn. However, experience tells us that sheep who join us and initially stay in the red barn tend to view this as their base for some time, often only leaving if we close it off or once the warmer weather comes and the flock choose to sleep outside. All of the girls are already looking in much better condition than when they joined us. They have tamed down a great deal and are really beginning to enjoy human company and realise that not all humans are intent upon hurting them. It is so rewarding to see them thriving, especially knowing that under normal circumstances none of them would now be alive.



Enjoying a mineral lick as they make themselves at home



Tucking into a tasty bale of hay - such dear little girls

Newsbleat

Throughout the Autumn and early Winter, life at Fleecehaven has been as busy as ever. Mucking out of the stables where our elderly and poorly sheep are housed, and 'poo picking' in the big shed where the main flock reside, are endless tasks. Emma can often be seen empty-

ing out bags of soiled bedding into our large trailer which is emptied at least once a month. I dread to think how many tonnes of dung Emma has loaded into bags, lifted into the trailer and emptied out over the years - no wonder her muscles are as big as they are!



Another bag of soiled bedding goes into the trailer!

As soiled bedding is removed, regular deliveries of straw are required to replenish the stables and shed.

By the middle of November the 220 bales delivered straight from the field at the end of the summer were almost depleted and a further 180 bales were delivered; another heavy task for Emma as she unloaded each bale of straw from the trailer, passing them down to the delivery driver who stacked them in the hay barn for her.



Hay delivery!

hay racks filled can be a challenge! For the elderly and poorly members of the flock there are also special dietary requirements to be met on a daily basis. Additionally, they all enjoy receiving daily treats of weetabix, digestives, hob-nobs and fruity shortcake biscuits!!



Treat time!

Other regular tasks have also kept us busy. The warm Autumn meant that we were still crovecting the sheep in September. This is always a challenging task and particularly hard work for Emma but it is necessary to ensure that the sheep remain free from fly-strike.

Thankfully the process will not need to be repeated now until the spring.



Jessie, Jakey, Daisy and Lamborghini over-see the straw delivery!



Spraying the sheep with Crovect

In amongst keeping the stables and shed clean, feeding is the main priority through the winter months. The hay racks need filling constantly, especially when the weather is poor and the

Fleecehaven Gallery

Leo



Lucy



Smudge



Blackie



Titania & Tinkerbell explore the fields



Snowflake



Meals on Wheels for Peggy II



Percy



Sandy



Stevie



Brian



Rosie



Murphy



Bissy



Daisy

Morgan



Lucky



Martha



Alfie



Jakey



Wizard



Freddie

Newsbleat Continued



Sunny being a model patient

Drenching the sheep for parasites was also on the agenda. Now that we have a set of sheep weighing scales this entails running the sheep into a short race and then weighing them before calculating the quantity of drench that they require.

Sunny proved to be an absolute star, not only patiently waiting for his weigh in but also deciding that he likes the taste of the drench and willingly taking it. If only all of the sheep were so obliging!

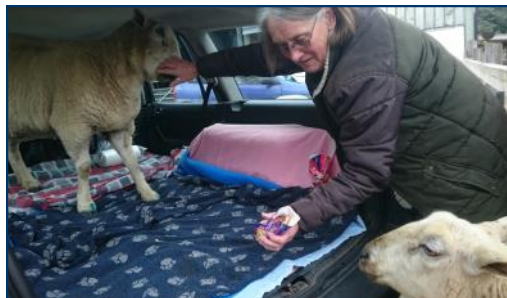
Unfortunately, as is always the case, we have had a number of sheep that have required veterinary treatment. Willoughby Oak had a repeat flare up of the kidney problem that he first experienced two years ago. He was treated with a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and both an abdominal scan and two blood tests showed nothing particularly remarkable. Although he now appears to have recovered quite well, our vet is concerned that there may be an underlying problem that is causing these periodic episodes and, therefore, we keep a very close eye on him at all times.



Willoughby enjoying an afternoon snooze

Snow White and Rosie both paid a visit to our Veterinary Hospital for dental treatment. We were concerned that both of them appeared to be having difficulty eating their coarse mix. Getting them into the back of the car proved a

little tricky but thankfully coaxing with biscuits eventually did the trick. Once at the veterinary hospital their teeth were filed down and both returned home later the same day, none the worse for wear, and now seem more able to cope with their food.



Snow White and Rosie off to the vets

Freddie experienced another flare-up of his ongoing joint problem as a result of the joint-ill that he suffered as a lamb. Thankfully a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory quickly settled the inflammation and, for the time being, he is once again fit and well. Alfie was also troubled by his on-going brisket problem; but again a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory seems to have settled this down too. Larry developed a very deep rooted abscess in his foot which required veterinary treatment. He also had antibiotics and anti-inflammatory and needed to have his foot puliticed for a few days. Thankfully he has now made a full recovery.



Pic of Larry

We were also worried that Percy seemed to be struggling with his arthritis again and just didn't look his usual self. Our vet ran a set of bloods, from which nothing remarkable showed up. It was decided to slightly alter the treatment that he has for his arthritis and we are pleased to report that at the moment he seems much brighter and happier in himself.



Jessie

Jessie became lame on her back, right foot and also required a visit from our vet. We thought that she probably had an abscess in her foot but we hadn't been able to detect it and, on examination,

parasite and currently remains with Anni and we decided to call him Bungo. The second hedgehog that we rescued was found in our hay barn and was extremely small. We brought him in and Henry promptly named him Cloudy. He appeared well but was far too small to survive the winter, so he too is cur-



rently with Anni.



Henry with Cloudy

nor could our vet. However, our vet decided to give her some antibiotics just in case it was a deep-rooted abscess that had not yet come to the surface. A couple of weeks later she was much improved, although not completely recovered, so was given further antibiotics and now seems to be sound on her leg once again. In amongst looking after the sheep, we have also rescued a number of hedgehogs with the assistance of North Devon Hedgehog Rescue (NDHR). The mild winter weather has been confusing hedgehogs across the country and, as we are blessed with having a healthy hedgehog population living within our fields, we have frequently seen our hogs out and about. However, some of them have been extremely small or have been

We took in two further hedgehogs over the next few days, both of whom were found in the road. Like Cloudy, the first was tiny, so again Anni agreed to take him in. The other hedgehog was quite a bit bigger so Anni advised us to bring him in and monitor him. His behaviour was very odd as he would walk around during the day and despite being offered plenty of food he didn't really want to eat, so he was also admitted to the NDHR. All four hogs will stay with Anni until the spring, when they will return to Fleecehaven and be released back into our fields.



As always, fundraising has continued to be a major priority for us. In the months leading up to Christmas we attended the VegFest in Olympia and Animal Aid's Christmas Without



Sarah Pascoe

Cruelty Fayres in Exeter and Kensington. The comedian, Sarah Pascoe, spoke for a short while about being Vegan at the event in Exeter, which was a real treat. As always, it is lovely to meet with so many of our supporters at these events and we sincerely thank you for your generosity



Sheepy Gifts

If you are looking to buy gifts for a sheep fan, or as a treat for yourself, don't forget to visit our on-line shop. We have a wide range of Vanessa Bee products including shopping bags, tea-towels, note pads and fridge magnets. All of the items feature sheep designs that are great fun and all of the products are manufactured in the UK. We also sell a range of beautiful sheep-print scarves in an attractive range of colours. The scarves are very soft and light, making them the perfect accessory for summer or winter. Please visit

www.fleecehaven.org.uk/shop.shtml for further details.



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

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Registered Charity No
1111004

Thank Ewe

Thank you to the Dartmoor Chilli Farm who donated a proportion of their takings from the Animal Aid Christmas Without Cruelty Fayre to Fleecehaven. We are extremely grateful for their support and generosity. To find out more about the Chilli Farm

please visit www.dartmoorchillifarm.com - their products are amazing!

Visitors

During the Autumn and early months of Winter it has been lovely to welcome visitors to Fleecehaven, some from as far afield as America and Germany! Jakey was paid a very special visit by his original owner and he was clearly delighted to see her. The sheep always enjoy meeting

their adopters, especially when there are biscuits involved, and it is always lovely for us to be able to share the Fleecehaven flock with those who support us throughout the year and who have a genuine love of sheep. Here are just a few photographs of our visitors - apologies if you have been missed out; unfortunately we don't always have the camera to hand!!

