



NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2006

WELCOME!

Phew – what a year! Life is never dull at Rainbow Valley, and 2006 was no exception. There are too many stories to tell and wonderful pictures to show you to fit into one small Newsletter, but hopefully we can share with you just a few of the memories that we will take with from this year into 2007.

Before we go any further, let me just say how grateful we are for the continued support that we get from our sponsors, and to take this opportunity to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all of you who are supporting a Rainbow animal. Every single penny is spent on ensuring that the animals are kept fed, warm, and safe, and that they receive the care that they need when they are ill. Of course, the very nature of the sanctuary means that some of our animals arrive here elderly and sick, and that Rainbow Valley is their final home. But while they are with us we make sure that they have everything they need for a happy and healthy life, including plenty of TLC!

NEW ARRIVALS & FOND FAREWELLS



Arthur – died July 2006 and sadly missed.

There have been lots of new four-legged friends arriving at Rainbow Valley over the past year, but some very sad departures too. We've had to say goodbye to six of our Rainbow goats over the course of the year, and also to Mystic, a very wise and gentle mare who left us in the spring. It's always a time of sadness when a Rainbow animal passes away, and no matter how great or how small they are all dearly, dearly missed. So farewell to Lucy, Tufty, Arthur, Fleur, Rosie, Katie, and Mystic – we miss you all.



Milo and Charlie Brown in the summertime!

We were joined at the beginning of the year by Willy Wonka, a lovely natured billy goat from Essex who would have been better named 'Houdini'! Because of his constant escape antics Willy was on the verge of being put down, but luckily his previous owners discovered Rainbow Valley and Willy is now part of our happy animal family!

When Charlie Brown came to the sanctuary he was only a few weeks old and needed bottle feeding four times a day. He also needed some company, and luckily we managed to find him a companion billy goat called Milo. They have now grown into two strapping young boys and can be a bit of a handful to say the least, but their naughty antics and boisterous games keep us all well entertained! Also welcome to our newest goat Merry, who has wasted no time in making herself at home – both at the sanctuary and with the neighbours!

As well as the goats we've been joined by three horses who have been a pleasure from the moment they arrived. We have two lovely grey mares, Demelza and Wednesday, and most recently we welcomed Spike, an ex-Coldstream Guards horse and a real 'gentleman'. Spike is a 'respite' horse which means that the sanctuary cares for him while his owner recovers from an illness, after which he will return to his original home.

Thankfully not all of our 'goodbyes' were sad ones. Two of our ponies, Pippin and Jake, went to a lovely new home in nearby Littlehempston where they are thoroughly enjoying their new life! Jo Green, their new 'mummy', is also thinking of giving a home to Charlie Brown and Milo.....she must be mad!! But it's wonderful people like Jo that make our work here at Rainbow so worthwhile by offering an animal that's been unloved, rejected, and abandoned the chance of a happy new life.



Good luck in your new home Jake!

FUNDRAISING

We're always looking for new fund-raising opportunities, and earlier this year we were approached by Stevie & Jenny of Fast Rabbit Farm (near Dartmouth) who offered to donate the proceeds of their May Bank Holiday 'open gardens' weekend to Rainbow Valley. Despite some typically 'British' weather the weekend was a great success, and we managed to recruit some much-needed sponsors for the Rainbow animals.

As ever Sarah Trezise has been busy organising a whole host of fund-raising activities, including a very successful programme of natural horsemanship demonstrations which were held at Coombe Park Equestrian Centre near Totnes. The four sessions held over the course of the year were all very well attended and extremely interesting, and featured demonstrations by local experts Heather Seems and Tom Widdicombe.

As well as the demonstrations Sarah worked very hard to organise our Horsey Car Boot Sales, which are usually held in the summer months at Fishacre Barton near Newton Abbot, and also three Rainbow Fun Rides which were enjoyed by over 100 riders in total! The latest ride was held on 10th December and included a ride through woodland owned by the Duke of Somerset. Despite the wet weather the event was thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part! We are always looking for new routes for our rides, so if anyone has ideas (in the Devon area of course!) please let us know.

UNTIL THE NEXT TIME.....

Well I think that's all we have room for, for now.....and still so many stories to tell! Thank you all again for your interest and support during 2006 – I hope that you are able to continue your support during 2007. Although the sanctuary is not open to the public, if you are sponsoring one of our animals we would be more than happy for you to pay us a visit (but beware, stay too long and you might be given a job to do!!). If you would like to do this please contact me on 01626 203938 (eves) or email me at info@rainbowvalleysanctuary.org.uk.

On behalf of all of the animals at Rainbow Valley sanctuary, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2007.

*Best wishes,
Linny xxx*

Don't forget to visit our website!

www.rainbowvalleysanctuary.org