

Your Exclusive **2025 Reflection**



BRANSBY
— HORSES —

BRANSBY

— HORSES —

Dear Friend

Welcome to your exclusive copy of Annual Reflections 2025, created especially for those who play such an important role in supporting Bransby Horses. Here you can delve deeper into the latest updates from the charity, featuring never shared before stories and invites to events only you have access to.

We'll be introducing you family trio Augustus, Spike and Cindy, who arrived at Bransby Horses as part of a collaborative effort with our Welfare Team, sharing the rehoming updates of Shetland pony Remus and the Valentine's Trio, and much more.

We've also included a special feature with one of our equine dentists, taking a look into the world of dental care. Through a Q&A, you'll discover how our equine dentist helps keep our equines happy and healthy at Bransby Horses.

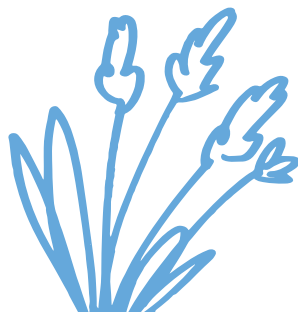
Once again, thank you for the endless support you provide. We hope you enjoy Annual Reflections 2025.

Best wishes from,

To Snell

and the team at Bransby Horses

It's thanks to supporters like you that we can continue our mission. Your generosity helps us rescue, rehabilitate and care for equines both on-site and in foster homes, while also supporting more than 4,000 equines in the community when they need us most.



A Year of Challenges

A Year of Impact

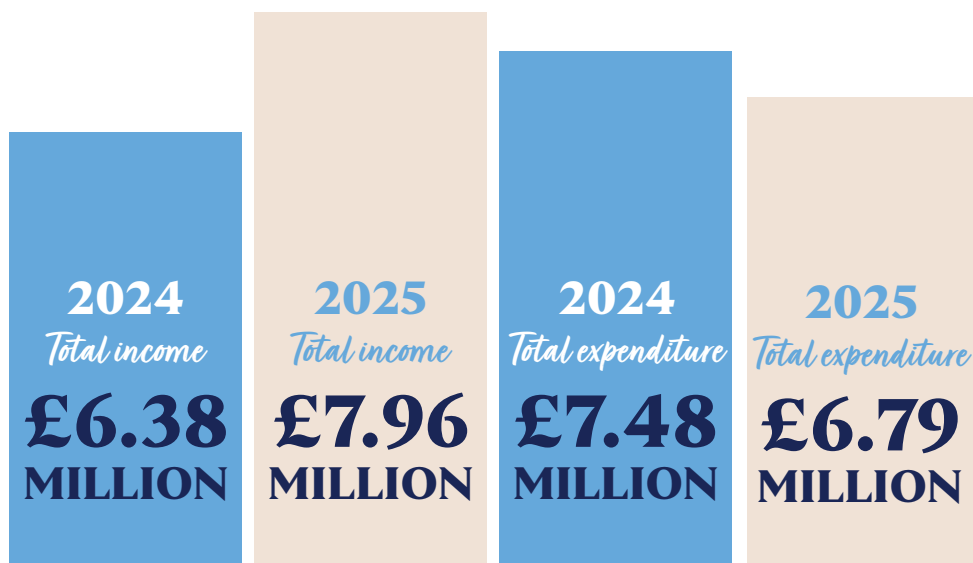
Throughout 2025, Bransby Horses continued its work in a challenging financial climate, with rising costs across many areas of the charity. Increases in inflation, employer National Insurance contributions and a higher national minimum wage cost created additional pressures that we needed to carefully manage.

These challenges have also been felt far beyond the charity itself. Many horse owners have faced difficult and uncertain circumstances, often having to make tough decisions about their horses' futures. As a result, more people than ever turned to us for help. Advice calls increased by 39%, and reports of welfare concerns rose by 20%—a clear reflection of the growing need for support.

Thanks to your continued support, we were able to respond. Together with the dedication of our team here at Bransby Horses, we have continued to meet this rising demand while carefully managing our resources, ensuring that the welfare of every equine matters. resources, ensuring that the welfare of every equine in our care remains our priority.

In 2025, Bransby Horses received a total income of £7.96 million, compared to £6.38 million in 2024, with legacy gifts playing a significant role in this. Our total expenditure was £6.79 million, a 9% reduction from the previous year. This reflects the steps we have taken in prior years, with on-going efficiencies to manage costs responsibly whilst also maintaining high standards of care and support.

We are incredibly grateful for your support. It is because of you that we can continue to be there for equines in need, especially at times when they need us most.



A New Beginning *For A Remarkable Family*



Augustus

At Bransby Horses, collaboration sits at the heart of everything we do. Working alongside local authorities, landowners, emergency services, fellow charities and equine owners, we step into complex, real-world situations to ensure no equine is left without care, compassion or a future.

In March 2025, this collaborative approach was brought sharply into focus when we joined a multi-agency effort to support the residents of Tettenhall Horse Sanctuary, following its heartbreaking decision to close.

Like many charities, Tettenhall had faced mounting pressures. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has placed extraordinary strain on the sector, with rising operational costs, reduced donations and increasing demand for services. As a result, 20 equines, 10

Cindy and Spike



donkeys, one mule, and nine ponies and horses suddenly needed new homes and long-term security.

Moments like this remind us just how vital our community of supporters is. Because of your continued generosity, Bransby Horses can act when it matters most, stepping forward not alone, but as part of a wider network united by a shared commitment to equine welfare.

Equine charities from across the UK came together, pooling expertise, resources and compassion to secure the best possible outcomes for every animal. Many of the equines had complex, ongoing health needs. Each required careful assessment and tailored plans to ensure their long-term wellbeing.

Bransby Horses was asked to take on a particularly complex group: Cindy, a mare, her mule son Spike, and father Augustus (pictured on the cover), a donkey, an unusual, closely bonded family. Keeping them together was crucial, and thanks to our specialist facilities and experienced teams, we were able to provide the continuity and care they needed.

Their journey with us reflects the diverse and

often unseen work we do. While bonded as a family, each equine has required an individual pathway of rehabilitation, behavioural support and training, helping them have the best possible chance of a more secure and comfortable future.

Our teams have worked tirelessly to balance their emotional connection with their distinct needs, minimising stress and giving them the best chance of a secure future.

This work is only possible because of you. Your support enables us to respond to urgent situations, collaborate with others, and take on complex cases that many cannot.

Together, we are not just providing care, we are creating the chance for a better future, even in the most complex and challenging circumstances.

We look forward to sharing more of their journey with you soon.



**Mia, Equine Welfare
Deputy Team Leader
with Spike**



**Cindy during her health
check with Veterinary
Surgeon, Emma**



Left to right:
Valentino,
Cupid and
Rouge

From Abandoned to Adored: **Three Colts Thrive One Year On**



Rouge enjoying
some dandelion

It's been over a year since five young colts were abandoned just before Valentine's Day on a farm in Leicestershire.

Upon arrival, the young cobs, aptly named Eros, Casanova, Rouge, Valentino and Cupid, were nervous, afraid and unhandled. They were underweight with high worm burdens, all had lice, which is usually a sign of poor health, and one had burrs matted in their tail.

Four of them were estimated to be under eight months old, barely old enough to be weaned from their mothers,

while the fifth one was thought to be slightly older. All were very poorly, weak and lethargic, but Casanova and Eros especially so. Despite a lot of treatment and care and a spell in an equine hospital, their health status was too complex, and the sad decision was made to put both ponies to sleep.

The team then focused on the three remaining youngsters, Rouge, Valentino and Cupid, who were being introduced to routine care and handling for the first time. The team kept a close eye on them, looking for any sign of deterioration. Fortunately, Rouge, Valentino, and Cupid soon started to improve, and it wasn't long before they were leaving the Animal Reception Centre, ready to start a new journey at a different yard.

Now over year on since their arrival, Rouge, Valentino and Cupid have grown into lovely young ponies who have started further education to prepare them for life away from Bransby Horses. All three have successfully passed their rehoming assessment, allowing the team to see how suitable they are for rehoming.

Both Rouge and Valentino are being considered for a ridden career, whereas Cupid's confirmation means he's better suited to the companion life. Rouge has also been introduced to a new herd and is making friends with three young colts who arrived at Bransby Horses earlier in 2026.



Cupid

Because of wonderful supporters like you, Rouge, Valentino and Cupid are now forever safe under the care of Bransby Horses. We hope to update you on the next stage of their journey very soon.



Valentino

say hello to...

Florence

Meet the brand-new star who will be joining the squad very soon!



Introducing our young newcomer, Florence, is already capturing hearts and is sure to have plenty of fans in the future.

At just four months old, baby Florence was discovered abandoned in a field, tethered with a seatbelt. She was extremely underweight, covered in lice and suffering from a painful eye ulcer. With no owner coming forward, Florence was signed over into our care, where she

immediately found safety and the chance to begin her recovery here at Bransby Horses.

The little cob spent three months at our Animal Reception Centre (ARC), where she made remarkable progress, almost doubling her weight.

As she grew stronger, her cheeky and playful personality began to shine through, showing just how much her early experiences had not diminished her spirit.

Florence's journey is a powerful example of the work we do every day at Bransby Horses, stepping in when equines need us most and giving them the care, time and support they deserve to move forward.

We're delighted to share that Florence will be joining our Sponsorship Stars in Bransby Life Autumn/Winter 2026. This is a special moment in her journey, and we can't wait for you to get to know her even more and be part of her future.

Since arriving into our care in October 2025, Florence has shown incredible resilience and a real zest for life.



Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates as Florence continues to grow in confidence and enjoy her new life.

Gavin & Stacey Group

Where are they now?

For three years, Bransby Horses, alongside various other equine welfare charities, has been involved in a collaborative effort to improve the lives of herds at the Gelligaer and Merthyr common in Wales. This ongoing project relieves the pressure on available resources, before the cold winter months arrive, creating a more sustainable environment for the remaining equines.

In November 2023, we saw the arrival of 11 equines, named the 'Gavin & Stacey' group after the hit BBC sit-com. Gavin, Stacey, Smithy, Nessa, Pamela, Budgie, Doris, Mick, Billy, Neil 'the baby' and Barry were all unhandled and had little experience of humans, leaving the team at Bransby Horses to introduce them to all aspects of equine life.

Despite all arriving from the same environment and under the same circumstances, each equine required an individual handling and training programme, tailored to their needs. This is because every equine has a unique personality that affects the pace of their progression, and not all end up on the path to rehoming.

Three years later, and we're catching up on the group to see how they've adapted to life away from the Welsh mountains.

Gavin, Pamela, Nessa and Smithy are currently living on our Peter Hunt Yard, where they are still working on their rehabilitation with their handlers. The team are helping to build their confidence

Three-year-old Stacey has blossomed since her arrival. She's been weaned from her mum Pamela and made some new friends on the farm. Stacey is currently ready to find her Perfect Partner, and we are hoping she'll soon be starting a new adventure away from Bransby Horses.

Budgie, Doris, Mick and Billy have all successfully found new foster homes, with Billy finding his through the British Horse Society Second Chance Programme. Through this scheme, the BHS works with trusted charities to identify horses ready for rehoming, before matching them with BHS Approved Centres, where they can recover, be cared for safely and enjoy a better quality of life.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Neil and Barry, who struggled with unmanageable lameness issues and colic, respectively.

The journey this group has taken, is a stark reminder of the impact that dedicated care can have on an equine's life. While their individual paths differ from each other, each story highlights the challenges and rewards of the work we do. We aim to continue this collaborative effort in the future, further improving the lives of equines on the Gelligaer and Merthyr common.



Photograph courtesy of RSPCA



Billy



Budgie



Mick



Doris



Stacey



Nessa



Pamela



Smithy



Gavin



Join us for our exclusive **Friends VIP Days This September**

We are delighted to welcome our valued Friends members back to our annual VIP Days, taking place on the 17th and 18th of September 2026. These special days are a wonderful opportunity for us to share more about the work we do, while also giving something back to our valued supporters. Whether you are a familiar face or new to supporting us, we always look forward to welcoming you and introducing you to some of the equines whose stories you may already know and love.

In 2025, we took a closer look at some well-known stories, with firsthand insights from our Field Officers, Kate and Kris, and explored the importance of caring for our older equines. Guests enjoyed an equine meet and greet, spending time with our four-legged residents, offering them some well-deserved attention while learning more about their individual journeys. If you'd like to revisit these moments, previous VIP Day round-ups are available in the Friends area of our website.

We're delighted to be hosting our VIP Days again this year, with brand new case studies and exclusive behind-the-scenes tours created especially for you. If you would like to join us, we would love to welcome you. To book your place, please contact our friendly Supporter Relations team at mail@bransbyhorses.co.uk or call **01427 788 464** (9am–3pm, Monday to Friday). Please note that places are limited and do fill quickly—we'd encourage you to book early to avoid missing out.

The Shakespeare Group

A Rescue Story That Began 25 Years Ago

Some of our long-standing supporters may remember this story from 2001, where 10 donkeys, a horse, five goats and a duck were removed from an elderly owner by the RSPCA, as their needs were no longer being met. The 10 donkeys and one horse were signed over into the care of Bransby Horses and named after characters from Shakespeare's plays. Gertrude, Cleo, Titania, Othelia, Juliet, Othello, Hamlet, Puck, Romeo and Bottom all showed signs of neglect, with some of the older donkeys in a desperate condition.

Juliet, Gertrude, Cleo and Othelia had very overgrown and twisted feet that needed immediate farrier attention, and all were very malnourished. Juliet and Gertrude were both nursing two sets of foals and expected to foal again very soon, which was affecting their recovery. The team weaned the older boys, Puck and Bottom, first before later weaning Othello and Hamlet, giving the mums a better chance at rehabilitation.

The expected foals, named William and Cobweb, were born to Gertrude and Juliet in June 2002 and August 2002, respectively, bringing the total number of Shakespeare donkeys up to 12.

Their rehabilitation journey took time, given the severity of neglect. It took months of hard work by both the Veterinary team and the farrier just to get their feet back to normal. Romeo, the stallion, also needed to be castrated before becoming available for rehoming, and William and Cobweb needed to be weaned.

Over the following years, Juliet wasn't the only one to find a new home. Puck, Bottom, Othello and Hamlet were all rehomed together, Gertrude was fostered by Bransby Horses volunteer Sandra, and William and Cobweb found their Perfect Partner as a bonded pair. Just Cleo, Titania and Othelia remained on site at Bransby Horses, as their hooves required too much work and ongoing care.



From Rescue to Rehoming: **Remus' Transformation Made Possible by Supporters**



Photograph courtesy of
Happy Hooves Lincs CIC

At just seven-months-old, Shetland pony Remus had already experienced more than most equines do in their lifetime. Alongside his mum Miriam, Remus arrived at Bransby Horses in April 2025 after being signed over when concerns were raised about their welfare. Both were very emaciated, with overgrown hooves, a lice infestation and a high worm burden. Their health was at a dangerously low level and with further concerns raised by Veterinary Surgeon Emma Tune, Miriam and Remus were transferred to Oakham Veterinary Hospital for specialist treatment.

This referral turned out to be a lifesaving one for Miriam and her unborn foal, who was delivered less than 24 hours later. But with the arrival of Tonks, weighing just 7.6kg, the team had no choice but to separate Remus and his mum, preventing

him from going through the natural weaning process.

From then on, Remus would undergo the rest of his journey without his mum by his side. He returned to Bransby Horses earlier on his own and was placed on a feeding plan to help increase his weight. He was also introduced to fellow Shetland pony Turnip, who had just returned from his foster home.

Remus spent just under a year at Bransby Horses, overcoming issues with his breathing, an episode of colitis and a corneal ulcer. He lived with Sponsorship Stars Pecan and Pika, along with a few other Shetlands, before he was ready for the next chapter of his life, rehoming. Happy Hooves Lincs CIC is a not-for-profit community project dedicated to

supporting individuals with additional needs and those facing mental health challenges, through the therapeutic presence of animals.

While their vast array of species did already include equines, founder Louise was looking for some smaller ponies to add to the farm. "The people we work with have all different needs and some people find the bigger horses quite intimidating. Medium-sized ponies are great, but they're not necessarily the most patient for going out on walks and things like that. And especially when we've got young children as well. But these guys have just been perfect, they've been so good.

"They've just fitted in like they've always been here. Settled a lot quicker than I expected them to."

As Remus needed a similar sized companion, fellow Bransby resident Charlie, who was also up for rehoming, was another perfect fit for Happy Hooves.

"Charlie's really nice. Especially when we've got wheelchair users because he likes walking quite steady. He'll just go a nice, steady pace with people, which is lovely. Whereas Remus is just speedy, so for people that like going a

little bit faster, Remus is nice to walk."

Remus and Charlie have been taking part in grooming sessions and in-hand walks around the village, meeting lots of new people and receiving plenty of fuss and attention.

Remus' start in life was one filled with pain and suffering, but thanks to amazing supporters like you, he was given a second chance. He's now experiencing a life full of love, from his new fosterer to all the people he interacts with.



Say hello to the Supporter Relations Team

If you've ever called us, made a donation, placed an order, purchased a membership or reached out via email, chances are you've spoken to a member of our Supporter Relations Team.

They are often the first point of contact for many of our supporters, and we'd love to tell you a little more about how this dedicated team plays a vital role in keeping the charity running smoothly.

The People Behind Your Experience

Our Supporter Relations Team is here to help, offering friendly support and guidance whenever our supporters need it. Alongside this, they ensure our systems are kept up to date and often take the time to

personally thank supporters for their generosity.

Even during our busiest campaign periods, their dedication never wavers. When our Bransby Life newsletter lands on doormats, it inspires thousands of responses from our loyal supporters, each one carefully handled by the team.

They spend countless hours opening envelopes, sorting mail, processing new memberships, orders, raffle tickets and donations of all sizes. Throughout it all, they make sure that every interaction is handled with care, adding a personal touch to each supporter's experience.

Here to Help

An important part of the

team's role is being there for our supporters, making sure they feel comfortable reaching out and know they can rely on us whenever they need our help. Our supporters are essential in enabling us to continue our life-changing welfare work, and the team is passionate about giving back to that dedication through every interaction.

Whether it's helping you choose a gift for a loved one, booking onto one of our Talks & Tours, or simply answering a question, they understand that every conversation is an opportunity to strengthen your connection with Bransby Horses. They work hard to ensure your experience is always a positive one, so whatever your query, they're here to help.

If you need to contact the Supporter Relations Team for any reason, you can call between the hours of 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday, on 01427 788 464, or email mail@bransbyhorses.co.uk

Left to right: Olivia, Jo, Lucy and Sally



Did you know?

Jo is our longest-serving member of staff, celebrating an incredible 37 years with Bransby Horses this year!



Across the Bransby Life Spring/Summer period, our team opened **4,500 letters and parcels**, each one helping us continue our work for equines in need.

During our Bransby Life Spring/Summer period, our team answered around **1,350 calls**, that's like chatting non-stop for nearly three weeks of working days!



Our supporters can be found all over the world, from the UK to Australia, Bahrain, and Jordan. Our supporters span an amazing 8,659 miles, from New Zealand to St Lucia!



Healthy Teeth, Happy Equines:
Why Regular Dental Care Matters

Keeping an equine's teeth healthy is a vital part of their routine care. We spoke with equine dentist Lucy to give our supporters a detailed insight into routine dental care and why it's so important.

What does a standard dental appointment look like?

We sedate them first. We do all our dentistry [at Bransby Horses] sedated so we can have a good look at the back of the mouth, and so the tongue is nice and relaxed which lets you look at the surface of each tooth properly. We then check everything all around the head, from the ears to the muzzle, before looking at the incisors, which are at the front of their mouth. Sometimes they get food packing between the incisors, so we'll pick that out right at the beginning. Then we put the gag on so we can access the back of the mouth and flush any food material out that's in the way. Once the mouth is clean, we look at the surfaces of every single tooth in the head, checking for any issues. We'll then have a feel for sharp points and anything you might miss on initial looking, before flushing any feed packing and move on to the rasp, which is where we take down the sharp points.

Why is dental care so important to an equine's overall health?

Equines live a lot longer now, so we're trying to preserve the mouth for the long term. The earlier we start and make sure we're on top of everything, the longer we can preserve their teeth for.

What is the best and the most challenging part of your job?

I think the best part is getting an instant result. You can go in and see an equine's mouth that has a lot going on and do your remedial work and make a good difference to that equine in that first treatment, which is really satisfying. There are not many aspects of the job where you can go in and make an instant treatment.

The hardest part is making quality of life decisions based on their mouth, but it's so so important. Because they're prey animals, they hide pain and it can be hard when you've got a relatively happy looking pony that actually has a lot of issues in the mouth.

Why did you become an equine dentist?

I really like that sort of instant gratification of being able to help an equine there and then, and I just wanted to know more about teeth. You obviously learn plenty about teeth at vet school, and then when you start as a vet in your career, but becoming an equine dentist opens up a whole new realm of different pathologies and things like that to learn about.

Is there any difference between treating horses at a charity and treating horses privately?

We come [to Bransby Horses] really regularly, so it's a lot more reasonable to put horses on a three-monthly schedule if you need to, whereas a lot of private homes might not want the expense and the commitment of doing regular dental care like that. It allows us to manage an equine a lot more effectively being here at the charity because they will get seen from the very start and we're staying on top of their dental health from day one.

Did you know?

The average cost for an equine dental appointment is £75. Please consider donating towards the cost of dental care by filling in the enclosed form or calling our Supporter Relations Team on 01427 788 464.

Your Legacy *Their Tomorrow*



Your legacy can provide urgent care, lifelong sanctuary,
and a future filled with safety and compassion.
It's a tomorrow they wouldn't have without you.

3 in 4 equines owe their lives to gifts in Wills

Contact us on 01427 788 464 or visit
BransbyHorses.co.uk/legacies



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