

Shelto has proved himself to be quite a character and possesses a vast talent for developing the most amusing traits. Sweeping the yard is a speciality and moving objects are a constant source of delight. What's more, Shelto has a painful obsession with groom Tracy Dobb's backside! Painful being the operative word. Having spent a long period of time standing, pressed against the roof of his stable on a enormous pile of muck, Shelto has developed some physical abnormalities. Efforts to improve these defects have been rewarded and Shelto is now wearing corrective shoes which should, eventually, restore his feet to their natural shape.

You may remember that the former owner of these two emaciated animals also owned a donkey who was in a similar condition. She was fined just £500 with £500 costs and a five year ban from the keeping of equines - a small price to pay for the amount of suffering caused.

DONOVAN

If one tale in particular ever caught the attention of the HAPPA membership, it was that of **Donovan**. The woebegone pony with the large sad eyes and dreadful physical appearance who was featured in the Spring Newsletter. After being rescued from a dealer and taken to Gregory Farm, Donovan was the subject of a most alarming court case. In short, the owner was prosecuted, fined £200 and banned from keeping equines for two years. Then came a most extraordinary decision from the Bench; 'that HAPPA should sell Donovan, £200 from the proceeds go to the RSPCA and the remainder split between HAPPA and the just found guilty owner'. The fact that HAPPA's costs amounted to more than £900 on Donovan's account was totally ignored.

It is not HAPPA's policy to buy or sell, for obvious reasons. If word were to circulate of such goings-on,

unscrupulous dealers would beat a path to the Rescue Centres with offerings of equine dejection, knowing that we could not overlook such misery and suffering.

We had to buy Donovan but we had to secure help in the process. That help came in abundance! The generosity of HAPPA members amassed to more than £11,600, all collected in the form of £10 shares. When the Donovan appeal was launched, we hoped to mail out both 'before' and 'after' pictures to shareholders. Unfortunately, the after photographs have taken a long time to produce. We felt it was most important to do this poor horse justice. Donovan's suffering was such that his convalescence has been slow with severe worm damage and extensive loss of weight. The patience of the Gregory Farm staff has now transformed this ugly duckling into a handsome swan, and we are overwhelmed by the letters of encouragement we have received following this miraculous recovery.

Donovan now looks a picture of health and before too long, he will be able to find a suitable home.

From Donovan and all at HAPPA, a very special 'Thank you' to all who contributed to his welfare.

HAPPA FUN HORSE SHOW

NOVICE AND
NOVELTY CLASSES

Sunday 20th September
1992

FULWOOD RIDING
CENTRE, PRESTON

For schedule and further
details contact HAPPA
House, 64 Station Road,
Padiham, Nr Burnley,
Lancashire, BB12 8EF

By Kind permission of Mrs
Pauline Cronkshaw

It was apparent that **Amy** might possibly have a very bleak future even before she was born. Her mother, Pollyanna, came to HAPPA as a rescue case; she had not yet reached her second birthday and was already heavily in-foal. Obviously, this poor filly had been covered by a stallion when she was just one year old. Far too young and undergrown to produce healthy offspring and certainly an advocate for the deplorable practice of indiscriminate breeding.



Amy was brought into this world with a severe problem. When she first stood up to suckle, the farm staff noticed that her hind legs were badly deformed and that she could only walk on the very back of her heels. Within days the vet came to attend the situation and decided that the only solution was to put plaster casts on the pony's limbs which would, hopefully, encourage them to grow straight.

The casts were removed at the end of July but the results are not good. It is highly unlikely that Amy will ever be able to walk normally, let alone trot or gallop like her fellow companions. In fact, we might be faced with the worst decision available.

There is a message to this story. Please think deeply before you decide to breed from your mare. It is essential that you consider not only the mare's age and physical health but also whether or not she is a good specimen and of a suitable character for breeding purposes. The choice of stallion is important and should be investigated thoroughly.

Furthermore it is essential to think of the foal's future. Will he or she be suitable for riding purposes or are you merely subsidising the meat market.

It is worth bearing in mind that there is already a surplus of equines in this country. Is it not more sensible to buy from the excess than create your own wasteful contribution?

HAPPA has been in existence for 55 years and during that time, a large amount of our work has stemmed from the surplus production of useless ponies. When native ponies come under the hammer at the annual sales, it is an unavoidable fact that a large percentage will be sold for slaughter. These animals are the product of indiscriminate breeding. Many of them are faulty either physically or mentally, the majority are unhandled. Their only destiny is the butcher's slab. If you buy these animals to save them from this morbid ending, you are only encouraging the horse flesh farmers to saturate the market. These animals are neither safe nor suitable for children's pets until they have been handled by professional people who know what they are doing and can assess the pony's likelihood of deserving a place in human society. Every year, hundreds of kind, well-meaning people buy these ponies without the knowledge or facilities to handle them. This is when HAPPA has to step in and pluck each and every animal from a fate far worse and more enduring than slaughter.

If you want advice on buying or breeding a horse or pony we will only be too pleased to help.

**REMEMBER -
DO NOT SURRENDER TO THE MEAT MAN.
PRACTICALITY NOT SENTIMENTALITY
WILL SEE LONG TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN
EQUINE WELFARE.**