



BTRC Winter Newsletter 2021

Merry Christmas



A Warm Welcome Back...

It's been a while since we have communicated with you through the means of a newsletter, mainly due to the global pandemic we have all had to endure. However, Covid didn't stop our work at the Centre rehabilitating, retraining and caring for more Thoroughbreds than ever. In fact, as a result of the pandemic we saw an increase in horses requiring our help, hence the [BTRC Vulnerable Horse Programme](#) was under even more demand as it provides a safety net for unfortunate horses that may need assistance by offering a safe haven and safeguarded future. Since the start of Covid19 BTRC have assisted more than 85 Thoroughbreds by offering expert care, knowledge and training. Alongside helping as many horses as possible we have been lucky enough to receive two grants to assist with the development of the Centre. A grant from the Elise Pilkington Trust enabled the build of a new lunge pen and thanks to support from ROR, stabling capacity has been increased to almost 50 stables! Thank you also needs to go to our supporters, new and old, who have so kindly continued their donations throughout the toughest of years, without your help our work would not be possible. As we celebrate 30 years of BTRC we now look forward to what the future may hold!

BTRC MALINGERING & LISA

#LOANERSUCCESS

Ginger arrived with us 4.5 years ago. It was a strange time for me. I'd ridden and competed all my life but had a bad accident 2yrs before this and my confidence had been shattered.

We didn't click instantly, but slowly as time went on we became a team. He has built my confidence back up and also reminded me that I can ride, because he's not perfect and there are highs and lows with every horse. I even started jumping again, which I hadn't done for years.

He has the most incredible temperament and has become more and more cuddly over the years. He is a great family horse and now that Holly is 14 she is able to ride him sometimes as well. He has always been great with her, and she was quite small when we got him. He also adores all the kids in the country park that like to say hello and pat him.

I'm 49 now and I really don't feel the need to compete anymore, but that doesn't mean I want to plod about on something boring. He is the perfect family horse and he has taught me how to build myself back up again. Can't quite put into words how much we love him, but I'll always be grateful to the BTRC for finding him!



BTRC PETER TCHAIKOVSKY & SUE

#LOANERSUCCESS

I have had Pip on loan since September 2020. In the 14 months I have had him we have got to know each other very well. He is a gentle, trusting horse with bags of character.

We hack out around four times a week, nothing too strenuous, just happy hacks.

He wasn't a fan of sheep when I brought him home but he's kind of got used to them now. Although if we hack out and there's some in a field, he will take a wide berth!

All the family adore him and he's definitely got an in built clock... he knows when I'm due home - he tries to whinny and then nods his head when he sees me.

I can't imagine not having Pip to look after, he loves his little companion, a little Falabella named Jack. They play for hours and follow each other around all day. They often even share their feed together too.

Thank you to the team at BTRC for allowing me to look after this magnificent animal.



Recent Arrivals to the BTRC Vulnerable Horse Programme



BTRC Jeannie



BTRC Mo



BTRC Eric



BTRC Dexter



BTRC Amber



BTRC Enzo



BTRC Remus



BTRC Harry



BTRC Lily



BTRC Enya



BTRC Red



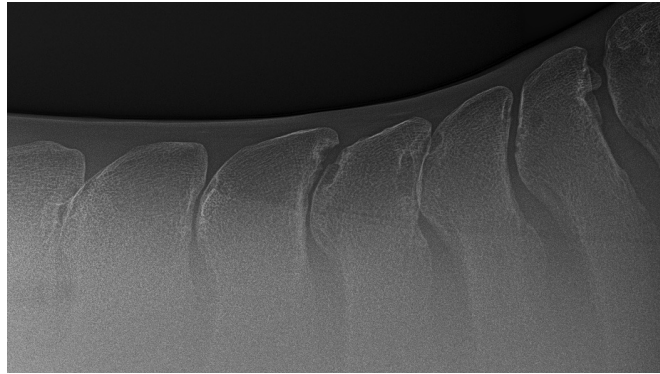
BTRC Diva

Buywer Beware... Ceto's Story

Earlier this year Cece arrived at BTRC through the Vulnerable Horse Programme. This beautiful 14 year old mare had been owned by her equestrian owner for just 5 weeks! Cece had been advertised as a novice ride and sold unseen based on videos alone - within a few days of arriving in her new home it became obvious that Cece was not a novice ride and after her owners seeking advice they were told that she was likely suffering from back pain and should not be ridden. The owners approached the vendor requesting to return the horse however their request was refused. As they did not want Cece to suffer or indeed run the risk of someone getting injured they contacted the BTRC and we fast-tracked Cece into the Centre to ensure her welfare and the safety of her owners.



Following her arrival, as with all horses, Cece was assessed by BTRC's Consultant Vet, Gordon Sidlow BVMS MRCVS. Gordon immediately had concerns and after examining Cece he found she had problems in 3 out of 4 legs. Furthermore, radiographs of Cece's spine, hocks and fetlocks showed severe changes throughout her back and a previous Condylar fracture in her left fore metacarpus and extensive arthritis in her left fore fetlock. Overall these factors meant Cece was not suitable for ridden equestrian work and should not have been sold for such use.



As a result of the findings we were left with two options for Cece, if suitable find her a companion loan home, however if not suitable for paddock retirement she would be put to sleep at the Centre. We turned Cece out and it soon became clear her temperament made her a suitable companion, as we are not a sanctuary the hunt was on to find her a loving companion loan home. As fate would have it Cece's first registered owner out of racing recognised her through one of our Facebook posts and contacted us. They had rehomed Cece as a companion horse in 2019 and were heartbroken to find out that she had had 5 owners since then with BTRC being the 6th! They had a stable available and offered Cece the forever retirement loan home she deserved. We are delighted that Cece's story had a happy ending and Cece will remain under the ownership of BTRC.



This scenario is not uncommon with BTRC receiving daily enquiries to our 'BTRC Helpline' from people who have bought a retired racehorse and are struggling to cope. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 a few unscrupulous people have taken advantage and sold unsuitable horses via videos without the buyer even riding the animal. Our advice would be to not buy a horse without seeing and riding it as well as having it vetted, especially when some of these horses are being sold for significant amounts of money. Ultimately, rider safety and horse welfare is of the utmost importance and worth the cost of a basic vetting.

BTA - Promoting and Providing Aftercare for Thoroughbreds



BTRC believes caring for Thoroughbreds that are bred, trained and raced is a corporate social responsibility of the racing industry and for this reason BTRC is of the opinion that no one group is responsible for the well-being of racehorses upon retirement. The Charity instead acknowledges that a united industry approach in communication, engagement, education and funding is required. The newly created British Thoroughbred Aftercare page on Facebook is for anyone interested in the welfare of Thoroughbreds and a centralised place to share news, research and educate the public on Aftercare. If you are on Facebook, please like the page to show your support for Thoroughbred Aftercare.

How Can You Help?

BTRC SHOP

A variety of BTRC Christmas cards clothing and gifts available with all proceeds towards helping TBs Visit www.thebtrc.co.uk/shop



Pack of 5 Christmas Cards: **£5**



BTRC Jute Bag: **£4.99**



BTRC Polo Shirt: **£20.00**

Click here to visit the website for more items

SUPPORT OUR APPEAL



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BTRCxmas2021>

Many of the horses that arrive through our Vulnerable Horse Programme have poor hoof quality and lameness issues. A significant number require remedial farriery but we also love to see our horses enjoying a run around the fields!! However, this enjoyment often results in lost shoes so over reach boots are an absolute necessity! Please help by donating your spare pairs or follow the link to the left to donate just £5 for us to purchase a new pair.

DONATE

Donations are our most important source of income. Since 1991 your donations have enabled the Charity to assist hundreds of horses and to grow from helping just 8 horses at a time, to today being able to provide a future and safe haven for up to 45 thoroughbreds at any one time.

ONE OFF DONATION

To donate to our work with Thoroughbreds please click the icon below. JustGiving is a safe and secure gifting platform.

MONTHLY DONATION

Just a small monthly donation can make a huge difference to the horses in our care. Sign up today through our secure online platform.

DONATE FOR FREE

Register with Easyfundraising & AmazonSmile and when you shop online they will donate to BTRC for free.

DONATE YOUR TIME

If you want to give something back and have the skills and knowledge we could use then why not get in touch as there are so many volunteering opportunities at BTRC. You could help out with yard work, farm and grounds maintenance, fundraising and events organisation etc.

If you are interested in a volunteer position please call 01524 812649 or email enquiries@thebtrc.co.uk.

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amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Thank you!