STABLE SQUAD

ISSUE 7 | JULY 26

The club for junior supporters of **WorldHorseWelfare**

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COBS!

Get to know these fab friends!

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SQUAD FACT FILE

NAME: Kirsty (and Clover!)

SQUAD JOB: Senior Groom at Belwade Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre

SQUAD SUPERPOWER: Hard work and dedication

Hi Squad,

Welcome to your latest issue of Stable Squad Magazine.

My name's Kirsty and I've been working with amazing horses like Clover for over ten years at Belwade Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre in Scotland!

Have you ever wondered how someone gets their dream job with horses? Well, when I was at school, I had a job at my local riding school (I've always been NUTS about horses!). When I got older, I wanted to study Equine Business Management at college, but at the very same time I was offered a job working here at Belwade Farm. I couldn't believe it! Which should I choose?

In the end, something brilliant happened - I was able to study and take my dream job. It was busy and sometimes tricky, but I loved it so much that I kept going. And guess what?

All the hard work and late nights paid off. I passed my course and now I work full-time with the horses who need me most.

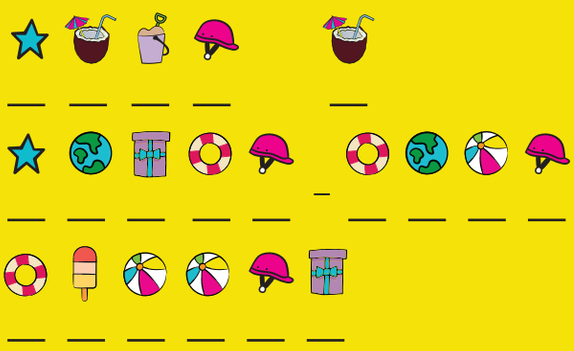
The best part of my job is helping nervous or frightened horses feel safe again. It takes time, patience and lots of kindness. Sometimes I just sit quietly with a horse so they can get used to me. And when a horse finally shows they trust you... it feels like magic!

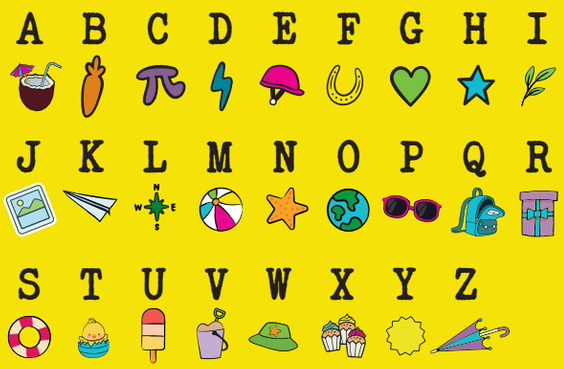
Every horse is different, so I never compare them. Some learn quickly, others take a little longer - and that's okay! Oh, and a tasty treat often helps (for them...not me!).

My top tip for becoming a World Horse Welfare groom? Well, everything I learnt about horses and ponies from the age of 10 gave me the very best foundation for becoming a groom. So don't delay!

Kirsty

Crack the code!





Answer on back cover

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Tiny Tinker Bell's

JOURNEY TO RECOVERY



Have you ever heard of a real-life story that feels just like a fairy tale? Well, this is one of them - the magical journey of a tiny pony named Tinker Bell.

Inspired by the adventures of Peter Pan, a group of ponies arrived at our rescue centre, each named after characters from the story.

But unlike the happy tales you might know, these ponies had a very sad beginning. They had been left out in the cold with no food or water and they were in a very poor condition when they were found.

The smallest of them all was Tinker Bell and she needed the most help.



Tinker Bell was just a foal and she had been without her mum for far too long. Foals need their mother's milk to grow strong and healthy for up to eight months. Without it, Tinker Bell became very, very thin and weak. When she arrived with us in Norfolk with her friends Mary Darling, Tiger Lily, and Wendy, it was clear she needed urgent care to survive.

Our team worked around the clock to help her. She received special treatments, including plasma infusions to boost her immune system and protect her from serious illnesses. At first, every small improvement was a big victory. Sue, Hall Farm's Centre Manager, said: "For Tinker Bell to have come this far and the fact that she's still with us and fighting, gave me confidence that she'd make it."

And she did! Day by day, Tinker Bell grew stronger. With lots of love, care and attention, including help from her very own groom, Megan, she began to feel like a healthy pony – maybe for the first time in her little life. Soon, she was well enough to spend time outside in the field.

Now, Tinker Bell is full of life and energy. She may be small, but she is incredibly brave - a true little fighter. You can often spot her bounding around the field with her friend Tiger Lily, always ready for their next adventure.



Tinker Bell and her friends are cobs – you can read all about how wonderful cobs are on page 8.

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Pennies for Ponies



Summer CHALLENGE

The long summer holidays are here! No school, lazy sunny days, grass between your toes and... yes, that's right... the perfect chance to do something HORSEsome for the animals we love!

It's time for our Squad to saddle up and take on a super summer fundraising adventure.

Here's your step-by-step guide to becoming a pony hero:

1. Set your fundraising target

Decide how much money you'd like to raise. Every penny helps ponies in need!

2. Put your thinking cap on

How will you raise your money? You could host a cake sale, do a sponsored silence (tricky!), wash cars or even run your own pony-themed games day!

3. Tell everyone about your event

Spread the word! Tell your friends, family, neighbours - and don't forget to ask a grown-up to help you share it online.

4. Collect your donations

Keep your pennies safe (there's a downloadable Pennies for Ponies collection box on the Stable Squad Fun page!). Watch it fill up as you get closer to your goal!

5. Pay in your donation

Ask a grown-up to help you send your amazing total to help care for horses and ponies who need it most. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

6. Tell us what you've done!

We LOVE hearing your stories! Send us photos and tell us all about your challenge.

Download the Pennies for Ponies Fundraising Pack on our website for more ideas and advice to help with your summer challenge!

Scan the QR code or visit: **worldhorsewelfare.org.uk/fundraise-for-us**

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Pocket change to help Polly Pocket

Poor little Polly Pocket is only about a year old, but she has already had a very tough start in life.

When our Field Officer, Rebecca, first met her, Polly didn't look too unusual at first glance. But when Rebecca gently ran her hands along Polly's back, she felt something worrying under her thick coat - Polly's spine and hip bones were sticking out. Instead of being soft and rounded like a healthy young horse, Polly was far too thin.

Polly also seemed very tired. She had little energy and her eyes looked dull. These are signs that a horse is not well. Rebecca knew right away that Polly needed help fast.

A vet was called and confirmed that Polly was in danger. The police tried to find her owner, but no one came forward. In the meantime, Polly was taken to safety, where she could get the care she needed. Soon after, Polly officially became part of World Horse Welfare's big, loving family (and thankfully now she'll be part of our family forever – that's a promise we make to every horse, pony, donkey or mule we rescue).

So, what happens when a horse doesn't get enough food? Imagine a horse's body like a machine that needs fuel to grow, run and play (just like you!). Food is that fuel. Without it, the body first uses up stored energy like fat. But when that runs out, the body has to react to survive, so it starts breaking down its own muscles to use for fuel. That's why Polly became so thin and weak.

The good news is that Polly is now getting all the right care so she is becoming stronger every day! She has made new friends with Tulip, Dahlia, Mary Darling and Wendy and loves the people who care for her. They feed her, groom her and give her lots of fuss and attention.

Thanks to amazing fundraisers, Polly has a happy future ahead. Even small donations, like pocket change, can make a big difference for Polly and her friends.



POLLY'S FRIENDS



Dahlia



Mary Darling



Tulip



Wendy

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WHEN *Esme* CAME TO VISIT!

Esme's no stranger to getting her hands dirty around horses! So when she agreed to roll up her sleeves and try her hand at being a groom for the day at our Hall Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre, we jumped at the chance to welcome her. Afterall, with 120 to horses to care for, another pair of hands is always welcome!

Working alongside Senior Groom Megan Jarvis, Esme helped to bring ponies in to see the vet and farrier, including youngster Joy - the miracle foal born at the farm after her mum was rescued from being smuggled out of the country.

"Getting the chance to be a groom for a day at Hall Farm was a fascinating insight into what goes into rehabilitating horses and ponies once they've been rescued. Megan explained how the team have been caring for some recent arrivals, Tinker Bell, Tiger Lily, Wendy and Mary Darling, who arrived critically ill.

"It was heart-warming to see how they've transformed already with compassionate, expert care, taking their first steps on the long journey to recovery. It was also lovely to see Joy again, as I met her last year soon after she was born – she really has blossomed!"

Esme x



Esme got stuck in with the grooms



Esme and Joy



Trotting up for the vet

Watch Esme's film about her day on the yard here

WIN!

She's worn them, she's signed them and now they could be yours!

That's right – Esme has given us three signed ThisEsme tops to give away. You could be wearing a top that Esme herself has worn on her many adventures.

For your chance to win, scan here or visit:
worldhorsewelfare.org/competitions-and-letters

Will you be one of our THREE lucky winners?
For full terms and conditions visit our website



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How to...

Have you visited your online Stable Squad Fun page recently? If you have, you may have noticed that there are now some HORSE-tastic videos to watch sharing information about how to look after horses.

There are more to come – so keep an eye on the page to stay informed!

There's also loads of other fun things to keep you busy, like downloadable colouring sheets, quizzes, past issues of Stable Squad Magazine and your FUNdraising inspiration!

DON'T FORGET!

Not everyone has access to the Stable Squad Fun page – it's just for YOU! It will always be easy to find if you pin this link to your favourites bar: worldhorsewelfare.org/stable-squad-fun

How to fill a hay net



Watch here

How to groom a horse



Watch here

How to pick out a horse's hoof



Watch here



Have you got an idea for a 'How to...' video? Let us know by writing to us or emailing stablesquad@worldhorsewelfare.org



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All about...

COBS!

Welcome to our new series. In each issue we're going to focus on a subject you might be interested in.

Our first *All about* feature is focusing on the wonderful world of cobs. This was a suggestion by one of our brilliant Stable Squad in the survey we shared with you in the last issue – we loved it, SO HERE IT IS!



What is a cob?

A "cob" isn't a single breed, but a type of horse. Cobs usually have strong legs, a broad body and a kind face.

A powerful horse with a heart to match

Cobs are known for being strong. Even though they're not very tall, many of them can carry adults and are often used for riding as well as driving carriages.

We love to celebrate cobs because they have wonderful characteristics. They are often kind, gentle, loyal and make wonderfully patient mums! Just like Moose.

Moose was very poorly when she arrived in our care, and she was also heavily pregnant. She gave birth to tiny foal Goose within a few days of being at our Hall Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre in Norfolk. She was such a brilliant, loving mum that when Cancan's mum sadly died, Moose stepped in and adopted him. She gave her own foal and her adopted foal all the love and guidance they needed to turn into happy, healthy horses. All three have been successfully rehomed with families who shower them with the love and fuss that every horse deserves! Happy endings for three superstar cobs!



Moose being a great mum to Goose and Cancan

You may want to watch this short film with a grown up.

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Big appetite!

Because they're so good at using their food for energy, cobs can sometimes gain weight quickly. Owners, carers and rehomers have to be careful not to overfeed them! At our rescue and rehoming centres you may spot some of the ways that we encourage cobs to work for their food, such as putting them in large herds and installing track systems to encourage them move more to burn energy.

Clever and calm

Cobs are famous for their gentle and sensible nature. This makes them great for people learning to ride or riders who are looking for a loyal friend.

Super smooth ride

Many cobs have a very comfortable, steady way of moving, which makes riding them feel smooth – it's almost like sitting in a rocking chair!

Lots of colours

Their coats come in many different colours and patterns. Some even have beautiful and interesting patches, like piebald (black and white) or skewbald. Did you know that the term skewbald actually refers to patches of white and any colour other than black? So, whilst the most common might be brown (either bay skewbald or chestnut skewbald), you can also get lots of other types, such as dun skewbald and blue roan skewbald.



Frodo when he was found

We discovered tiny foal Frodo collapsed on the freezing ground in the midst of winter. Alone and afraid, we didn't know whether he would survive.

Fast forward a few years and his life couldn't be more different. His devoted groom, Nicolle, took this brave little cob to Equifest...AND WON! He then went on to Royal Windsor Horse Show and left with yet more rosettes! Then it was time to find Frodo a home – step forward Sam and Cara. Cara says: "I can't believe how lucky I am and can't imagine life without him now. He's such an honest pony, never lets me down and tries his best at everything we do."



Frodo showing off all his amazing rosettes!

Watch this video all about Frodo's story.

Three cheers for cobs everywhere!!



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STABLE SQUAD
WorldHorseWelfare
LeMieux
LeMieux

2026

Your Best Summer Ever!

This summer, keep your very own special diary of all your fave moments!

STABLE SQUAD BINGO

Tick off each activity as you complete them!

Visited a World Horse Welfare farm	Read a horsey book	Tried something new
Shared Stable Squad Magazine with a friend	Learnt a new horsey fact	Watched a Stable Squad 'how to' video (which one?)
Spotted five different breeds of horses (can you name them?)	Drew a picture of a horse, pony, donkey, mule or foal	Came up with a great fundraising idea to help horses in need

BEST SUMMER MEMORY

I'm proud of myself because I...

By next summer I want to...

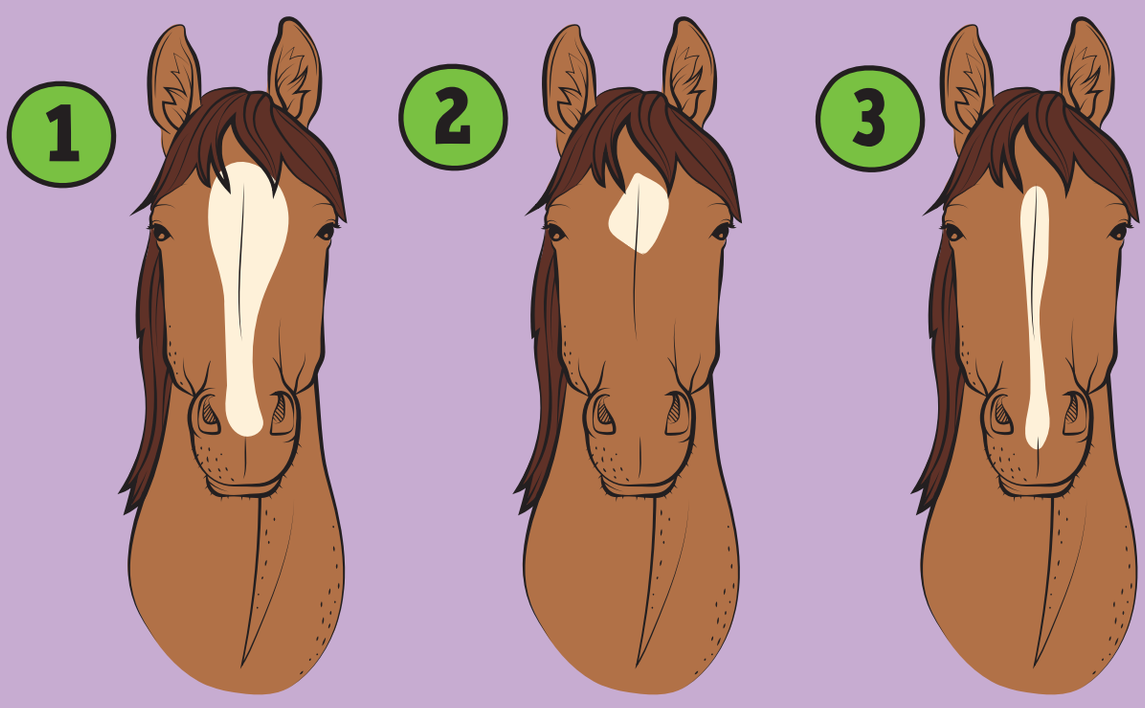
Stick your favourite summer pic here...

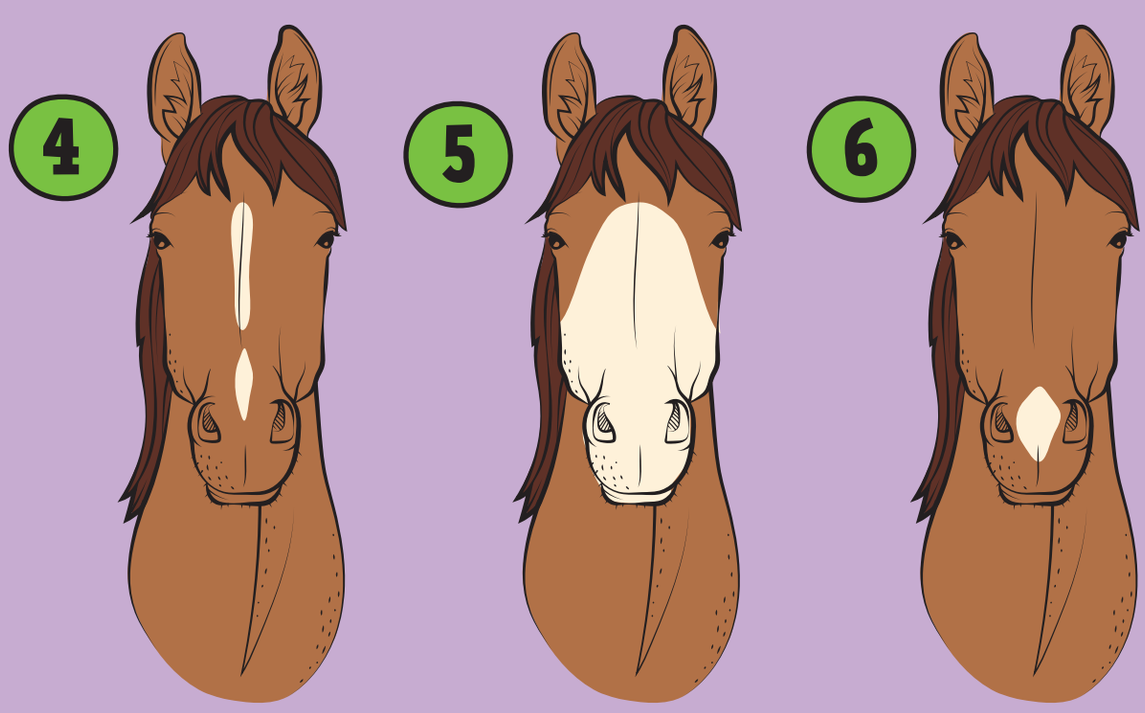
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Guess the face markings

Every horse is special and unique, but some share similar markings. See if you can guess which name matches which marking.

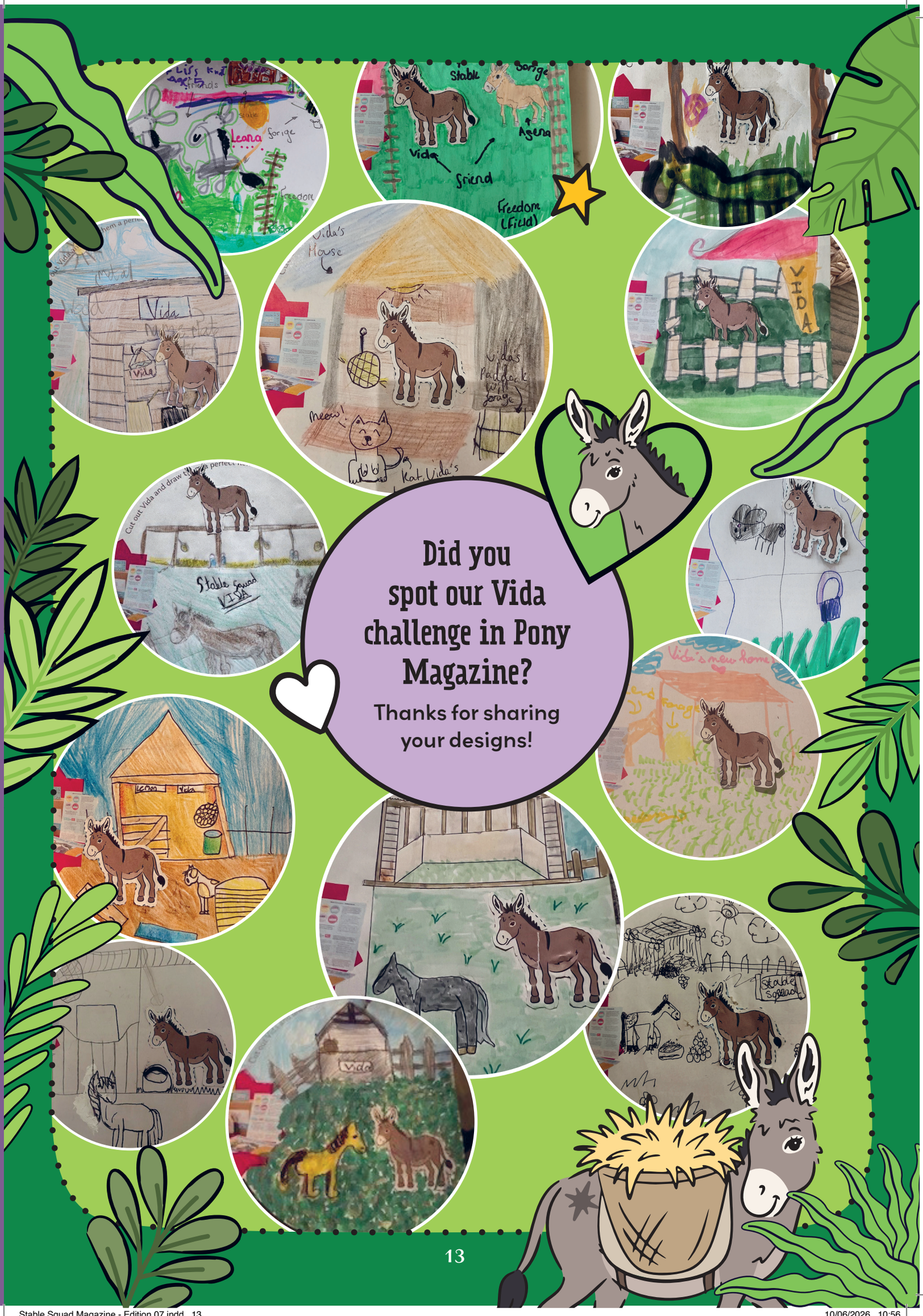
Snip **Star** **Broken Stripe** **Stripe** **Blaze** **Bald Face**





Answers: 1 - Blaze, 2 - Star, 3 - Stripe, 4 - Broken Stripe, 5 - Bald Face, 6 - Snip

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Did you spot our Vida challenge in Pony Magazine?

Thanks for sharing your designs!

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Stable Squad Supporter Gallery


ALICE


SERENA


KAYLIN


WALTER

AYANA


ISABELLE


CHARLOTTE


ELLA-MAE


LARA


SIENNA


FLORA


LOTTIE


MATILDA


OLIVE


MARGOT


DELILAH


OAKLEY


OLIVIA-GRACE

LEMON LEMIEUX


ROSIE


NIAMH


CHLOE


ARIA

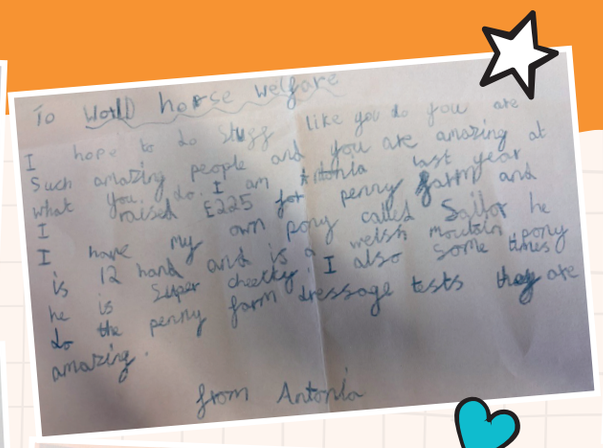
DARCEY

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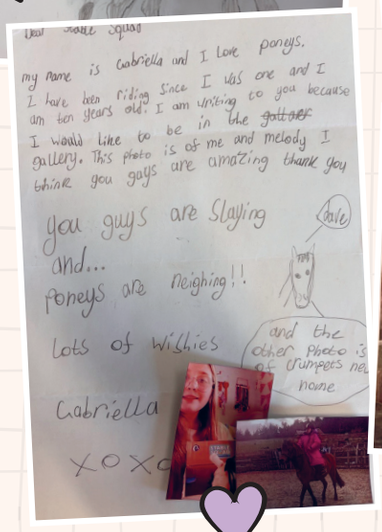
Thanks for getting in touch. Can you spot your letter?

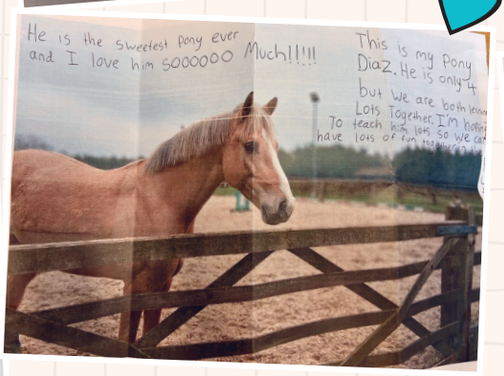
Can't see your letter here? Hop on to our Stable Squad Fun page and click on the Letters & Competitions button.













Inspiration from our Superstar Fundraisers!



Isla aged 12, and her two best friends Thalia and Jasmine, raised an impressive £145 for horses in need by selling handmade wooden animals and horse-shaped cookies at their local Christmas market. Crumpet and Sage went along to support the girls! Thank you so much to all three of you!



Erica aged 11 embraced the fundraising challenge to raise 'Pennies for Ponies' by decorating rocks and displayed them in the shop at Burrowhayes Farm Campsite and Riding Stables. She was hoping to raise at least £6 but in fact managed £122.77! WOW! Thank you so much, Erica



Abigail visited her favourite pony at Glenda Spooner Farm, Pam and handed over a whopping £157 that she'd raised since joining Stable Squad. What a FUNDRAISING SUPERSTAR!

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Design your own Stable Squad cover

Have some fun designing your own Stable Squad magazine cover!
Why not display it to enjoy alongside your other Stable Squad covers?

STABLE SQUAD

The club for junior supporters of **WorldHorseWelfare**





www.worldhorsewelfare.org
Registered charity no. 206658 and SC038384

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

WorldHorseWelfare

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