



Riding and driving provide a unique activity for people with disabilities or special needs, improving both physical and mental wellbeing whilst having fun, learning a skill and making friends.

Gaining knowledge about the ponies' welfare boosts confidence and independence for people with challenging lives. For many, their weekly session with us is their only form of regular exercise. It makes physio fun.

A self-funded charity, we set our fees to cover approximately 35% of the cost, making it affordable for as many as possible, currently 128 a week. The balance comes from fund-raising, donations, legacies and grants.

£12,000 would provide a year's keep and care for two of our ponies, who between them provide 25 rides and drives a week - over 1000 sessions a year:

Starra's specialty is working with children with very complex needs. Starra likes people, essential for a pony entrusted with vulnerable riders who need maximum help to keep them safe. He is very good off lead and has helped countless children to learn independent control, increasing confidence and self-esteem.

Recently he has been meeting people at "Tea with a Pony" sessions, a new initiative by which people with dementia meet and interact with ponies and enjoy tea and cake.

Penny is a versatile riding and driving pony. She is hoist trained, making her accessible to riders unable to mount. Safe off lead, she is currently helping a rider learn to canter and negotiate small jumps.

Please vote for us, help Penny and Starra continue their amazing work

From feedback like this, we know we are making a difference!

"As a child I had difficulty keeping up with other children, joining in games and even keeping my balance standing still. By seven years old I was tired and frustrated with rigid physiotherapy - riding completely replaced physio for me. It improved my balance, co-ordination and self-confidence and gave me a new lease of life."

"Nothing replaces the joy of carriage driving, the interaction with the pony, with the instructors and the freedom to be in the country. As a wheelchair user my access to fields and woods is restricted."

"I have found no other activity to provide both the stimulation for and improvements to my suppleness and strength that I gain from riding"

"Riding makes me happy. Mum said that Wednesday is the only day I wake up smiling. I like that people talk to me and I can talk about horses. I like to learn about horses and riding and can remember all the information. The horses like me and if I am feeling sad they know and will cuddle me."

"I thoroughly enjoy carriage driving and always feel lucky that I made contact with Barrow Farm. I became disabled later in life, without a lot of riding experience and none of driving. Barrow Farm has given me access to ponies, pony care, independence and just sheer enjoyment!"

Call 01708 850000

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