



Purpose Built Donkey Barn



Redwings Horse Sanctuary is the UK's largest equine sanctuary and has extensive experience of looking after rescued donkeys, with 85 currently in our care, 7 of whom live at our centre in Warwickshire, Redwings Oxhill.

Donkeys are sensitive souls with complex care needs, and many of our resident donkeys also have lifelong health conditions due to neglect or ill treatment they experienced prior to rescue. They need to live in surroundings which support their health and welfare needs, and facilitate any special care they may require.

Purpose built donkey barn

We urgently need to build a new donkey barn at Redwings Oxhill to replace the existing building which, after 30 years of continual use, has been condemned to demolition. We have created alternative temporary accommodation for the donkeys in an old stable block however, as these buildings are also due for development in 2020, building a new donkey barn at the sanctuary has become time critical.

A grant from SEIB would enable us to construct a large, purpose built donkey barn to support the health and welfare needs of rescued donkeys living at Redwings Oxhill now and in the future, by providing:

- space to live with companions: donkeys form close, lifelong bonds so separation from friends can cause severe distress and health problems;
- dry, warm conditions: donkeys' coats are not waterproof and they have absorbent hooves which are susceptible to bacterial infections when damp, so they need to retreat inside together during wet weather;
- environmental enrichment: donkeys are curious so they enjoy toys and the ability to choose where and how they interact with their environment;
- specific areas to carry out regular health treatments and cater for individual dietary requirements without removing donkeys from the herd.

This urgent building project will make a genuine and lasting difference to rescued donkeys living at Redwings Oxhill - now and for many years to come - by ensuring they have a warm, dry space to play and rest with their herd, and to receive the special care they need to live the happy, healthy lives we believe they deserve.

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