



Hillside is home to hundreds of rescued animals and campaigns on behalf of the millions who suffer everyday within the factory farming industry.



News and Gifts Winter 2006 . . .



Please consider a gift
by Standing Order
to Hillside . . .

Just **£3** a month will help provide us
with regular funding to ensure continuous care for
the animals in our Sanctuary, as well as helping us to
campaign for animals in need.

If you would like to make a regular donation please
fill in this form and *return to us*.

To adopt an animal by Standing Order, please fill in
both the **Adoption Form** on page 11 and the
Standing Order Form below,
and *return both forms to us*.

Thank you for caring . . .



Standing Order Form

Bank Name _____

Bank Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please pay Hillside Animal Sanctuary Ltd
A/C No 70560088 Sort Code 08-90-14

The Co-operative Bank, 69 London Street, Norwich NR2 1HL

£ _____ on the _____ day of _____ 200__

and afterwards on the same day each

MONTH/QUARTER/YEAR until further notice
(please delete as appropriate)

My Name _____

My Address _____

_____ My Postcode _____

My Account No. _____ Sort Code

My Sanctuary No:
 5

This Standing Order is for: **Donation**
(please tick as appropriate) **Adoption**
Both

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send to:
Hillside Animal Sanctuary, Hall Lane, Frettenham, Norwich NR12 7LT





Hillside Animal Sanctuary

Hill Top Farm
Hall Lane Frettenham
Norwich NR12 7LT
☎ 01603 736200
Fax 01603 738520

e-mail: contact@hillside.org.uk
website: www.hillside.org.uk
Founder: Wendy Valentine
Patron: Martin Shaw



Hillside's webcam is up and running!

You can now visit our animals LIVE during daylight hours on our webcam via the home page of our website at www.hillside.org.uk. The webcam is focused on the field behind our Information Centre where, until the end of October, you will be able to see our adoption cow Bluebell with Pixie and Lucky. During November you can have a bird's eye view of Striker, Malcolm the mule and Whisky along with their companions, adoption horses Katy, and all being well, William the Shire horse (see below). In the adjacent field are some of our rescued ex-racehorses including La Vizelle and Sonique who both have ancestry relating back to Mill Reef! Sharing their field is a flock of rescued sheep, including Starlight.



Popular times to view the animals are at feedtimes which are 7.30am - 8am and 2.30pm - 3pm in the afternoon.



Television shows feature Hillside

During this Autumn and Winter, three television shows are to feature the Sanctuary as part of their programmes. These are BBC2's 'Escape to the Country', Channel 4's 'It's Me or the Dog' and BBC3's 'Teen Town'. Hillside was chosen as a location for one episode of 'It's Me or the Dog', scheduled to be shown on the 21st November. (The series runs weekly until 28th November.) The viewing times and dates for 'Escape to the Country' and 'Teen Town' are yet to be announced. If you would like us to contact you with these details, please let us know with your email address. As is usual with TV companies, we ourselves, are often only informed of final viewing details at short notice!



'It's Me or the Dog'
on location at Hillside.

Piglet Collection Box

If you are able to place one of our new piglet collection boxes which are suitable for public display such as shop counters, please order on the back page. We request £3 deposit which you may deduct from your first collected donation.



William is recovering



In August, William developed serious intestinal complications and was rushed to Newmarket for a life-saving operation. At the time of writing we are relieved to report that our vets are extremely pleased with his progress and expect him to quickly return to his former good health.



William is pictured here recovering in our veterinary unit with some of his many get-well cards from well-wishers.

A Legacy for Life

If you would like to secure Hillside's future, helping and campaigning for animals in need, please consider a legacy to Hillside Animal Sanctuary, so that your ideals may continue to live on through our work.

Thank you
for caring



Janet and John

A man out walking his dog had the presence of mind to investigate a cardboard box that had been dumped in a hedge. Inside he was shocked to find these two adorable rabbits in a very poor condition. He brought them to the Sanctuary where they have received veterinary treatment and are now being cared for by our small-animal staff.

Janet, pictured on the left, is believed to be pregnant so we are now awaiting the 'happy event'. However, John has now had a necessary little 'op' so he can play safely with our other bunnies without adding to their numbers!



Polly

We were pleased to give a home to Polly, a twenty-eight year old mare, after her loving owner could no longer look after her due to his own serious illness. Polly is sixteen hands high with an extremely kind and gentle nature. At the time of writing she is spending time in our quarantine area. When we have assessed her needs she will join her new companions, two other elderly horses, in their special-care paddock. Older horses often need extra attention to ensure their well-being.

Our fact sheet 'Care of the Elderly Horse' is available on request.

Rescued Deer

This Summer we took in two young fawns both no more than a week old. One of them, Lovebaby, was spotted staggering beside a busy road and Squiggly, was found injured in a dyke, caught up in brambles. His rescuers cut him free and brought him to Hillside. They were bottle-fed by Wendy, our founder, who nursed them back to health. Although Lovebaby is a roe deer and Squiggles is a muntjac they have become firm friends and live together in Wendy's garden. They are sometimes joined by Bambi, a red deer who jumps

over the garden fence to say 'hello' on his way to helping himself from the apple tree! Bambi appears on our Christmas cards this year and Lovebaby is featured in our 2007 calendar.

We would like to mention that if anyone comes across a young fawn curled up in the undergrowth, he shouldn't be moved (unless he's injured or in danger) as the mother will often be grazing nearby and will come back to him.

Squiggly in the garden



Cuthbert

When the Ross family moved from the town into the house next to Cuthbert's field in the Cornish countryside it was certainly his lucky day. He lived with a herd of other cattle, most destined for an untimely end in October! The Rosses fell in love with this friendly bullock who would come to their fence to take apples from their hands. They couldn't bear the thought of his fate and contacted Hillside to see if we could help to save him by offering him a permanent home. At the time of writing arrangements are being made to bring Cuthbert to the Sanctuary to live out his natural years with our other rescued cattle. Although the Rosses

would have liked to help all their neighbouring cattle they know that any life they have been able to save is precious.

Having befriended Cuthbert and saving his life, beef on the menu for the Ross family is now definitely a thing of the past. We are looking forward to welcoming Cuthbert, who was named by the family, into Hillside.



Living next door to Alice

We were pleased to give a home to Inti and Lupi, two alpacas who were nearly put to sleep when their owner, who had experienced domestic difficulties, couldn't find anyone to take them on. We were happy not just to have saved them, but also to provide Alice with new friends, closer to her own kind, after she had lost her companion of eight years, Topsy the camel, to cancer. Apparently when alpacas get worried they lie down and this is exactly what they did at the first sight of Alice. However, they soon realised this gentle giant was affable and they've now become friends.



Freda

Freda, a Mediterranean tortoise, was brought to the Sanctuary after her caring owner sadly died. We do not know her real age but know that she is at least sixty four as she was originally discovered under a pile of rubbish on a bomb site during the Second World War!

She is looked after by our veterinary manager, Tracy, who has a keen interest in these intriguing reptiles and has now a growing collection of twelve to care for. *A 'Tortoise Care' fact sheet is available on request.*





Our Pets' Memorial Garden



If you would like to place a plaque by a rose bush in memory of a dear departed pet in our Pet Memorial Garden please send us your requested wording in BLOCK CAPITALS (maximum 15 words including dates). The garden is situated next to the Sanctuary office at the entrance to Hillside and close to our rescued animals. We ask for a minimum donation of £50 to help cover costs and contribute to feeding and caring for our ever-growing family of rescued animals. Details about placing plaques in other parts of the Sanctuary are available on request.

Hillside Leaflets

Please help us create awareness and support by distributing our leaflets (which include details of our farm animal investigations and Open Days) to your friends, family or neighbours. If you are able to distribute these to your local shop, at work, in waiting rooms or door to door etc., please request the amount you require on the back page.



Friends' Newsletter

To increase awareness and support of Hillside Animal Sanctuary you may have friends who would like to receive details of our work. If you send us their name and address, including their postcode, we will send them our latest newsletter. We will not add them to our regular mailing list unless they request us to do so.



Open Days in 2007

Visitors are welcome to meet our rescued animals **1-5pm EVERY SUNDAY** from Easter until the end of October Also Bank Holiday Mondays and every Monday during June, July, August also Easter Friday, Sat, Sun & Mon



Holidays at Hillside

If you would like to take a self-catering holiday in the summer (or winter) adjacent to the Sanctuary, close to our rescued animals, please contact us for further information.



Winter Feed Draw

Please find enclosed a book of tickets for our **Winter Feed Draw**.

We hope you will be able to support this and help us continue our important work. Extra books are available to sell to your friends - please see the order form on the back page. The Draw takes place on Wednesday 14th Feb 2007. **Good Luck!**



The Winners of our Grand Summer Draw 2006:

(Drawn 28th August 2006)

1st Prize £1000: 0432155 Mr T W Jones, Swansea
2nd Prize £500: 0394192 Miss S Brocklebank, Liverpool
3rd Prize £250: 1721672 Mrs J Cook, Orpington
4th Prize £100: 0780484 Miss J Knowles, Gt. Yarmouth

5th - 10 Prizes of £50 Hillside Gift Vouchers:

0814625 Mrs M J Bartram, Norwich
0333540 Mrs P Lane, London
0538205 V Pomfrey, Launceston, Cornwall
1795164 Gloria, St Austell
0335400 Mr J Gibbs, London
1701105 Mrs L M Brill, Ilford
0844470 Mrs K Cass, Eye, Suffolk
0259985 Mr F D Harper, Birkenhead
0123980 Mrs P Arter, Romney Marsh, Kent
1506475 Mrs S Pinchbeck, Derby

Thank you to everyone who supported this Draw

Hillside Gold and Foreign Coin Appeal

To raise funds we are always very grateful to receive items of scrap or broken gold jewellery. If you have just come back from a foreign holiday with a pocketful of loose change or notes you don't know what to do with, these too can help us to feed and care for our rescued animals. We would also be grateful to receive **clean sheets and towelling** to use with our animals. Please send us your **used printer cartridges with a copper strip** as these can be recycled to raise **£1 each** for Hillside!



Bernard Matthews' workers walk free after we filmed them beating and kicking turkeys for fun . . .



"You throw them and I'll hit them," shouts the worker.

. . . they each received 200 hours community service and ordered to pay £350 towards costs.

In our last newsletter we reported how our investigator filmed turkeys being sadistically attacked with a wooden pole and then kicked on a Bernard Matthews' farm.

He shot the damning evidence while filming the general rough handling of turkeys as they were being caught for slaughter. The footage appeared on Sky and BBC news programmes all around the country and sparked outrage from an indignant public. In response the RSPCA brought a prosecution against Daniel Palmer, 27, and Neil Allen, 30, both from Dereham in Norfolk (*pictured right*). Their case was heard on 7th September 2006 when they pleaded guilty to charges of causing unnecessary cruelty to animals.

In court their solicitor, Simon Nicholls, blamed their cruel outburst on 'peer pressure' and the 'culture' at the farm.

He said the footage, which was shown in court, revealed the 'appalling' conditions at the plant. "You can imagine working in that kind of environment on a long-term basis. It must be really quite awful." He went on to explain "In this type of environment the one thing you cannot do is step outside what everyone else is doing." Our footage showed at least four other workers around at the time of the offence, none of whom seemed to object to the abuse or attempt to stop it and certainly didn't report the incident to the management afterwards! The offenders obviously knew they could carry out such an atrocity without any risk of

recrimination from their co-workers. They certainly hadn't bargained for Hillside's investigator to be on the scene!! The footage can be viewed on our website at www.hillside.org.uk.



Bernard Matthews Ltd's response - a whole page advert in the 'Eastern Daily Press' which read . . .

MESSAGE: 'You may have recently read press reports about two men found guilty of cruelty to some of our turkeys earlier this year. It is important to stress that these two men were not our employees but those of a sub-contractor whose reputation we had no reason to doubt. Bernard Matthews Limited feels very strongly that the community sentence imposed was derisory and, given the circumstances, feels a custodial sentence was far more appropriate. In court, the solicitor representing the two men attempted to excuse his clients' actions by claiming there is a culture of peer pressure at our company and that our staff work in appalling conditions. Everyone here knows that this is not true but, regrettably, the Company was not requested to be in court to refute these allegations. Many recognise that there is a small minority of individuals who are determined, by whatever

means possible, to discredit the production of livestock for human consumption. Clearly it is in their interest to paint a biased picture of production techniques. As many readers will know, we are a major employer in the region and the success of our business is absolutely dependent upon ensuring that we maintain high standards of animal welfare. These standards are regularly assessed by third parties, including vets. Most importantly, and in support of all our agricultural staff and employees across East Anglia, we completely refute the allegations made. Our employees are conscientious people who work in co-operation with our retail customers, local and national government authorities and various welfare organisations, including the RSPCA. They are trained in animal husbandry and do not abuse turkeys. We will not and do not tolerate cruelty to any of our turkeys.'

This advert started another media frenzy with newspapers and television channels queuing up at Hillside for interviews. The media broadcast our response and the BBC showed scenes of turkeys suffering on yet another Matthews' farm. Although we have filmed similar welfare issues many times before, this evidence was not taken by OUR investigators but by one of Bernard Matthews' own workers who gave us the footage. We were also contacted by a lorry driver who drove trailers, loaded with turkeys, to the slaughterhouse. He'd witnessed Bernard Matthews' catchers brutally kicking turkeys as they held them upside down. When he tried to intervene he was told in no uncertain terms that it was none of his business!!

Avian Flu and Bio-security - what *they* tell you . . .



Extracts from Evening News 27th April 2006:

"Don't panic" was the message to the Norfolk public today after bird flu was found in a flock of chickens in the county. DEFRA confirmed the first

case of bird flu in a farmed flock in Britain had been discovered at a farm at North Tuddenham.

The virus tested positive for the H7 strain – not the deadly type of H5N1 responsible for causing the deaths of more than 100 people around the world. Health bosses today stressed there was no risk to public health, but farmers fear if the virus spreads it could be disastrous for the county's poultry industry. But officials at Defra said the entire flock of 35,000 chickens at Whitford Lodge Farm will have to be slaughtered to stop the disease spreading. Police were today guarding the breeder farm, owned by Banham Poultry, while they waited for Defra to arrive.

Dennis Foreman, director of Banham Poultry, said: "We have done everything that we can to work with the powers that be and I am proud of the way staff have reacted to this situation. There is no danger to staff or people and certainly not to customers so long as the chicken is cooked. Of course, to kill thousands of birds that look healthy in the shed is soul-destroying.

Bio-security in this country is second to none and the sooner people realise that the better. We are certainly not panicking."

Norwich's director of public health Dr Peter Brambleby urged people not to panic. "Avian influenza is a disease of birds and for it to have an effect on humans it would need an extremely close contact with infected birds, particularly their droppings. At this stage there is still no definite confirmation that this is a virus that has human health implications. As a precaution, those who may have been exposed are being offered the appropriate treatment and protection today.

The rumour is that the bird flu could have arrived in a recent new batch of chickens coming to the

farm. A massive disinfectant lorry arrived at the farm at 9am today."

The last major outbreak of the H7 strain devastated the Dutch poultry industry in 2003, when 32 million birds were slaughtered as part of the control measures.

A spokesman for Bernard Matthews said: "Bernard Matthews is continuing to maintain the very highest standards of bio-security, which means making sure bugs don't get in and out of poultry."

Butchers said they hoped the public would realise the strain found was not the potentially lethal H5N1 strain and would not stop buying poultry. Defra officials were due to return to the farm today and an exclusion zone of up to 3km could be imposed on the farm. Everyone going in or out of the farm had to be disinfected and no domestic animals were allowed to leave without inspection."

Coping with a bird flu pandemic

Health chiefs in Norfolk are considering banning football matches and large-scale gatherings in the event of a flu pandemic.

The move is part of a series of measures looking at slowing the spread of any virus, including household quarantines and encouraging the public to make fewer trips to the supermarket.

People with mild symptoms would initially be encouraged to go to their chemist to seek treatment.

More serious cases would either require a home visit or an admission to a specially set up community hospital.

Those most severely affected and in need of ventilation treatment would be admitted to acute hospitals such as the Norfolk and Norwich and James Paget.

Most experts agree a pandemic is more a case of 'if' not 'when', with predictions that up to 50,000 people in this country could die.

But no one yet knows what form the virus will take or whether the condition will be a new strain of H5N1 bird flu able to spread from human to human.

Extracts from Evening News 12th July 2006:

"Norfolk's farming community has reacted angrily to a statement from a government department linking the spread of **bird flu** to farmers feeding dead chickens to foxes.

The final report by Defra into the spring outbreak of H7N3 strain at three farms in North Tuddenham, blames foxes for spreading the disease and says poultry farmers should stop feeding carcasses to foxes.

Its report states: "The results of this investigation, together with those from a recent survey of poultry keepers, indicate that bio-security measures should include preventing the predation of dead birds by free-living species such as foxes and advocate not practising the deliberate feeding of foxes with poultry carcasses." After hearing of the report's conclusion, Stuart Agnew, a leading Norfolk farmer and former county representative on the National Farmer's Union, condemned the suggestion that farmers would intentionally feed foxes as 'stupid' and said it was impossible for farmers to do more to stop dead birds being taken by predators.

A Defra spokesman later denied it was linking farmers feeding foxes with the spread of the disease in Norfolk but rather reinforcing good bio-security advice.

Mr Agnew said: "That's stupid; no poultry farmer in his right mind would throw out poultry carcasses hoping that a fox would eat it. It is a sure fire way of drawing them to their premises."

The report states that wild birds were the most likely source of the first outbreak at Mowles Manor Farm, owned by Geoffrey and Simon Dann, around March 17, and that the spread of the disease to Pound Farm, also belonging to the Dannels, on about April 2, was probably due to contaminated workers.

It goes on to blame foxes living on Whitford Lodge Farm as the most likely cause of the disease spreading to the site on about April 15, claiming they probably fed on infected carcasses from Pound Farm.

Geoffrey Dann confirmed that dead birds were taken away by a registered disposal company and that the farm did not lose much poultry to foxes as chickens were shut away at night."

Great Vigilance Over Bird Flu

Ben Bradshaw MP (Minister for Animal Health) Smith Square, London.

I would like to thank poultry keepers for their vigilance and co-operation during the recent avian flu cases in Fife and Norfolk.

The manner in which these incidents were dealt with was a shining example of what can be achieved when we are well prepared and when good relationships have been built up over a long period involving all who have an interest in a particular animal health threat. I would also like to thank the staff of the State Veterinary Service, my own department and all of those who have been working extremely hard around the clock on avian influenza.

The British public is also to be congratulated for ignoring some of the more lurid media headlines and continuing to support British poultry and eggs.

Finally, the new poultry register, set up in record time, has already proved invaluable for disease control in both the Fife and Norfolk cases. I do urge anyone who has not yet signed up to do so, for their own sake and the sake of their fellow poultry keepers.



BANHAM POULTRY BIO-SECURITY/HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE – YOU MUST READ ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED BELOW BEFORE ENTRY TO THIS POULTRY SITE:

1. Wheels on all vehicles are to be disinfected when entering and leaving the site.
2. You must report to the site office and sign in when arriving/leaving.
3. Observe any site-specific restrictions and ensure that you adhere to these.
4. Clean overalls and footwear must be worn. Leave any protective clothing used at any other sites in your vehicle.
5. Ensure that you follow all P.P.E. requirements on site.
6. All standard hygiene procedures such as foot dips must be adhered to as instructed by the farm manager.
7. Only essential tools to be used in sheds. These should then be thoroughly cleaned after use on exiting the site. This will include spanners; screwdrivers; ladders.
8. Ensure that you maintain a good standard of personal hygiene whilst on site. Washing facilities are available. Hand sanitiser should be applied when entering live bird areas.

The Company will take action against any individual not complying with these bio-security requirements.

If you have any issues whilst visiting this site, you must report them in the first instance to the Site Manager.

Avian Flu - what they *don't* tell you . . .

While DEFRA and the farming industry try to reassure us that everything is under control, Hillside has damning evidence to show that irresponsible practices by the poultry industry are putting the whole country at risk. Whilst, at the front doors of the poultry farms, awareness of bio-security has been heightened, from their backdoors, flies, which can travel up to two miles, are leaving the farms in their millions!!!

Luckily (for people), this time, the virus isolated was the lesser H7, but should it have been the deadly H5N1 strain, the outcome could have been very different. Scientific research in Japan, where an outbreak in 2004 of H5N1 resulted in human fatalities, has shown that **flies can carry the virus in their intestines.** *(Please write to us for the full report.)* During 2003 and 2004 we filmed on farms where chickens and turkeys were being reared for three major producers, Banham Poultry, Grampian Foods and Cherryridge Poultry. Our footage shows their 'dead skips' (where dead birds are left awaiting disposal) full of decomposing carcasses in 'seas' of maggots. Our main issue then was to expose these farms' serious welfare issues where birds were existing in squalid conditions.

To expose the suffering and to show nearby residents why they were being invaded by thousands of flies we sent videos to every household in three separate villages. Many people were grateful to us, especially as some had already contacted their local Environmental Health Officer and were told in every case that the nearby farm **wasn't** to blame! We received typical comments such as 'you can't take a loaf of bread out the cupboard without a fly landing on it'. Subsequently our footage from the Cherryridge Poultry and Grampian sites, including the maggots, have been shown on BBC's 'Food Police' and C4's 'Dispatches' *(available to order below)*.

We also have filmed evidence from 2003, 2005 and 2006 of conditions at a different site also belonging to Banham Poultry, showing maggot infested dead skips. This site at Swannington in Norfolk, is situated only about three miles, as the crow flies, from the North Tuddenham site where H7 was identified. During this Summer we were still able to film their skips heaving with millions of maggots and flies, showing that even after the H7 bird flu scare, Banham Poultry were still operating such irresponsible procedures on their farms. Remember the statement from Dennis Foreman, director of Banham Poultry who said: **"Bio-security in this country is second to none and the sooner people realise that the better. We are certainly not panicking."**

Could it have been flies that spread the disease from one farm to another in the same village, as chickens naturally eat insects and flies as part of their diet? Our guess is, in view of the scientific evidence from Japan, that this is a more credible explanation than DEFRA's theory that it was spread by foxes. Even if this theory were correct,

the poultry industry still didn't seem to take heed. Only a few days after DEFRA released their 'foxes spreading virus' report, we were able to film dead turkeys left for days on a muck heap on a farm rearing turkeys for Traditional Norfolk Poultry. Our view is that the poultry industry's sloppy practices are not only endangering **all** bird life but **human** as well. Bird 'flu at Tuddenham was apparently only discovered several days after an unusual amount of birds had died. This means that if the dangerous virus had been confirmed there and the farms were using the usual dead skips, as at least two of them reportedly were, hundreds of nearby villagers could have been at risk from flies hatching out in decaying carcasses. To demonstrate this, in addition to filming at Swannington (population 300), during this summer, we obtained evidence of other skips full of dead poultry with the accompanying maggots on Norfolk farms. These included another Banham Poultry site near Long Stratton (population 4350) and a Kerry Foods' site at Bawburgh (population

The unnatural way in which poultry is intensively reared, results in a high number of casualties and the irresponsible way in which these are disposed of could present a high risk to the public.

500 plus 10,000 at nearby Costessey). We also filmed a trailer load of dead turkeys covered in flies at Bernard Matthews' site at Briston where another 1600 people reside within the 'two-mile fly zone'. From these four farms alone we

have shown how so many people could be at risk from direct contact with virus-carrying flies.

We investigate the fly problem in Wiltshire. . .

'Millions of flies descended on the peaceful villages of Burbage, Grafton, Collingbourne Ducis and Kingston on the edge of Salisbury Plain, causing massive inconvenience to locals and puzzlement to environmental health inspectors. Residents say they have had to sweep away piles of dead flies every morning since late July 2006. Local shops have sold out of insect repellents. The villages also suffered invasions of house flies in 2001 and 2003, but this summer's is said to be the worst, according to The Times newspaper'. *(Extract from Wiltshire newspaper)*

You may also have seen the 'light-hearted' coverage of this invasion on GMTV and 'Richard and Judy'. Well, Mr Rob Draper, Kennet District Council environmental health officer, 'The lady doth protest too much' came to mind so we sent our 'team' to the Wiltshire villages to investigate. True to form, *(top right)*, Mr Draper denied any connection of the issue to the farming industry, but our investigators found a very different story. We now have footage of chicken houses, containing thousands of battery hens, absolutely teeming with flies. Underneath the cages, we filmed piles of chicken droppings several feet high, alive with all sorts of bugs and as anticipated, more flies. **An important point to note is that our footage was *not* taken during the height of summer but in the cooler months of autumn.**

This farm, which is situated in Burbage, is within easy reach (especially for flies) of all the affected villages (total population 3500)!!

Reported in a Wiltshire local paper . . .

3rd August 2006

Millions of flies have descended on East and West Grafton and Burbage.

Kennet District Council environmental health officer Rob Draper said that after a lengthy investigation he was no nearer establishing the cause of the problem. However, Mr Draper said it was more than likely that the plague was linked to the weather because, he said, there had been a similar one three years ago in Collingbourne Ducis. Mr Draper said: "In 2003 it was really bad in the Collingbournes and the weather was very similar." He said the problem appeared to occur when a period of wet weather was followed by abnormally hot weather. Mr Draper said his research had shown there was a fly problem in the Collingbourne area historically. He had found one newspaper cutting from 1862 in which a horse rider complained about the flies when riding through the Collingbourne Valley. Mr Draper said he had ruled out any connection with any local farms or the chicken rearing industry in the area. If we knew there was a particular link with agriculture we would work with the farmers to make sure everything was as good as it should be," he said. "When they spread manure we always ask them to make sure it is ploughed in within 24 hours. There is no evidence that farmers are responsible for it," he said. "If it's a natural phenomenon then there is little anybody can do about it."

Baron Phillips, who lives on the edge of East Grafton, said: "We have had to use fly papers to catch some of them at least. We must have gone through dozens and they have all been absolutely covered. We have six in the kitchen now and they are covered with flies." A local landscape gardener claimed he had been told the flies had probably come from chicken sheds that had been demolished. Mr Draper said he had checked on all the local farms and none had demolished any sheds or had spread manure in recent weeks. He advised families to either keep windows and doors closed in the day or to cover them with fly screens.



Underneath view of battery cages (with flies)



Piles of accumulated chicken droppings

We are compiling a DVD (and video) of our evidence of the above farming practices entitled 'Flying the Coop'. You are invited to request a free copy.

RSPCA's Freedom Food Scheme

You may remember our investigation in 2003 into an RSPCA monitored Freedom Food duck farm where conditions were so appalling that the RSPCA was forced to bring a prosecution against poultry producers, Kerry Foods. Although we had hours of footage as evidence showing the real suffering, the RSPCA refused to use it in court. Instead they showed the judge footage that **they** had taken after all the sick, injured and dying ducks had been culled, resulting in Kerry Foods being acquitted. We believe that it wasn't in the RSPCA's interests, for a farm they were promoting through their scheme and supposedly monitoring, to be successfully prosecuted. We therefore found it interesting that they were able to have **our** footage shown in court, in the case of the Bernard Matthews'

workers, but had told us that they hadn't been allowed to show our footage of **their** Freedom Food promoted farm.

Since this case, the RSPCA are on record as saying (on C4 Dispatches' programme) that they no longer had ducks in their Freedom



Food scheme, but within months, they had re-awarded Kerrys their Freedom Food accreditation.

We find it incredible that despite all our efforts in bringing all this suffering to the RSPCA's attention, that we are *again*, this year, able to film ducks in distress in the Freedom Food scheme, again on a farm producing ducks for Kerrys.

***To see our footage that the judge wasn't shown, please request our free DVD (or video) 'Hillside Investigations' which includes 'Ducks in Despair'.**

The miserable existence of a Freedom Food duck (taken from footage filmed March 2006)

A pig investigation

During the Summer two new members of Hillside's staff viewed footage of an ongoing pig farm investigation. Although the film showed conditions that, unfortunately, we now routinely find on such farms, our two new recruits were horrified at what they saw and said that surely something must be done about it. We told them that this would be unlikely and to prove the point, contacted the RSPCA in June, with details of the investigation. Despite several requests for a report, we are still waiting to hear from the RSPCA the outcome of their visit to this farm which we filmed displaying a BQP (British Quality Pigs) notice.

Below is a report concerning the Dalehead

Foods' slaughterhouse near Cambridge where pigs from BQP farms 'end their days'. BQP have 250 farms throughout East Anglia, all of which rear pigs under the RSPCA's Freedom Food scheme.



Scenes from our investigation.

Pigs boiled alive at 'Freedom Food' slaughterhouse

A SLAUGHTERHOUSE is being investigated by the RSPCA after two pigs were boiled alive. The abattoir is run by Dalehead Foods. The RSPCA is investigating cruelty claims after a member of staff at the abattoir, who asked to remain anonymous, claimed two pigs had been put into a tank of scalding water while still alive. He said: "The pigs come to the abattoir and we stun them, then stick them (cut their throats) before they go into a tank of boiling water to get rid of the bristles. Twice last week they weren't stuck properly, and the pigs went into the tank alive, burning them. It's really cruel. The pigs went into a hot burning tank and it is no different from if you or me went into boiling water, it burned them and they went a funny colour." **A spokesman for Dalehead Foods confirmed pigs had been put into the water tank without being properly slaughtered on two occasions**

and said the member of staff involved had now been sacked. Further investigation confirmed that these incidents are isolated." He added: "Dalehead Foods is committed to the highest standards of animal welfare. The Linton site operates to the RSPCA Freedom Foods standard in addition to being independently audited by a number of other factory accreditation bodies. The procedures in place exceed minimum statutory requirements." A spokeswoman for the RSPCA confirmed a complaint had been lodged and said an inspector would be visiting the abattoir. Joan Court, a veteran animal rights campaigner said: "Pigs are extremely intelligent animals and they suffer enough being stunned - there is no such thing as humane slaughter. The fact that pigs have gone into the scalding water alive is a terrible atrocity." (Extracts from Cambridge News 12th July 2006)

'Hillside Investigations' on DVD (or Video)

*Some of the issues raised in these investigation pages are shown in this DVD including:

- *Ducks in Despair
- *Pigs in Purgatory
- *The Christmas Turkey
- *Chicken Supreme
- Factory Farming Today

These show the commonplace suffering of animals in the intensive factory farming industry

To order **FREE OF CHARGE** please use the back page stating either **DVD or Video**

*Also available for you to order *free of charge* on the back page is: **C4's Dispatches 'Supermarket Secrets' (with 'What's really in Your Christmas Dinner?')** which also feature issues from these investigation pages.



Rabbits confined to a hutch for their entire lives (usually to 'amuse' the children) are sentenced to a life of loneliness and misery.

Caring for Rabbits at Hillside

by Tracy Reeve

Housing

Contrary to popular belief, rabbits are sociable animals naturally living in groups. However, they are also very territorial so introducing new rabbits to each other has to be very carefully monitored to avoid injury from squabbles. They require spacious, draught-free and dry housing with access to the outdoors so they can exercise and graze. We always make their accommodation as interesting as possible by providing tubes (as substitute burrows) and safe rabbit toys for them to play with.

Winter care

During the cold, wet winter months our rabbits are housed in a well-ventilated barn with spacious exercise runs.

Feeding

Grass is always available for our rabbits during spring and summer with good quality hay available which they can enjoy all year round. Rabbit pellets provide all the nutrients needed for a healthy diet but must be fed along with hay. We also provide them with leafy greens and vegetables when available.

Teeth

As rabbits' teeth continue to grow they instinctively chew wood to keep them naturally 'filed'. To help them achieve this we provide our rabbits with safe branches (such as apple or any tree which produces edible fruit) for them to chew and strip the bark. We regularly check their teeth to detect any dental problems.

Vaccinations

Our rabbits are given a twice-yearly vaccine to protect them from myxomatosis.

Parasites

We routinely treat our rabbits for internal and external parasites as part of a preventative programme.

Flystrike

During warm weather, just like other animals, rabbits can suffer from the serious condition of flystrike. A daily check to ensure their tails and bottoms are clean and dry is vital as flies are attracted to dirty fur to lay their eggs. These, in turn, quickly hatch into maggots. We also use a special preparation to help prevent flystrike.

Rabbits and guinea pigs

When rabbits and guinea pigs come to the Sanctuary, having already been living together in harmony, we do not separate them. However, we never intentionally pair them together as guinea pigs can be harassed by the rabbit causing them injury or even worse! We find each is usually happier in the company of their own kind.

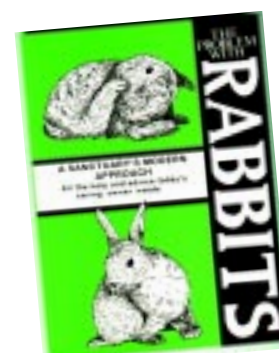
Castration

To avoid the patter of little paws we always have incoming male rabbits neutered.



Feet

Rabbits at Hillside have their nails regularly checked and trimmed with special clippers when necessary.



Caring for rabbits

We are offering this book, which gives more in depth information about the care of rabbits, at the special price of **£2.25**

Please use the back page to order.

We offer a special discounted price for purchases of ten books or more. Please contact us for details.

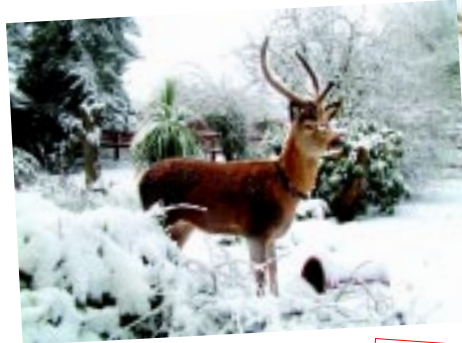


Hillside Cards and Gifts by post

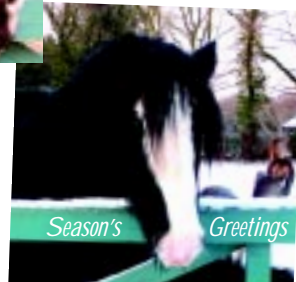
These and other gifts are available on our secure website
www.hillside.org.uk

XM6. Hillside Christmas Cards

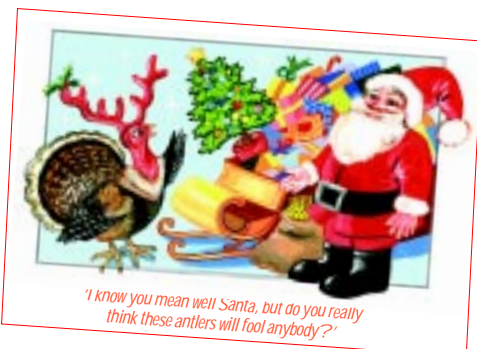
This year our cards feature Bambi, a rescued deer and Hillside ponies, Emma and Arizona.
 (8" x 6" with envelopes)
 8 cards in 2 designs £3.25
 or 2 packs for £5.95



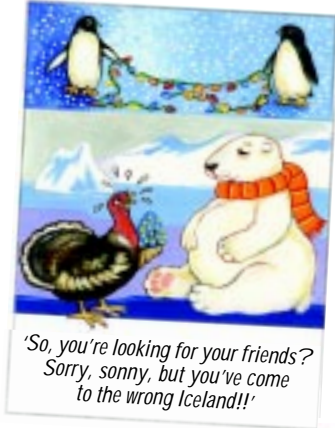
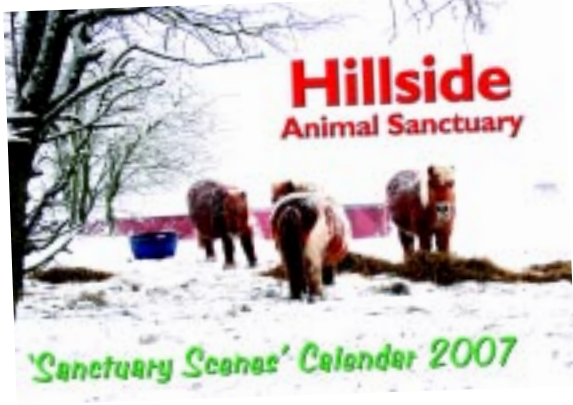
Prices include P&P



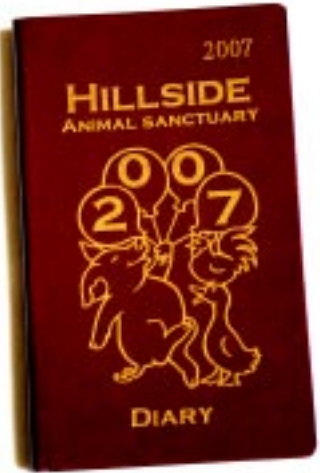
XS6. Christmas Cards
 featuring Neddy, now two years old, who was rescued as a three week old foal and Joseph the donkey (5" x 5" with envelopes)
 10 cards in 2 designs
 £2.75
 or 2 packs for £4.95



TC3. Hillside Christmas Cards
 Turkey cartoon design
 (8" x 6" with envelopes)
 4 cards in 4 designs
 £2.50
 or 2 packs for £4.50



CL7. Hillside 2007 Calendar
 12 Sanctuary Scenes
 (22"x16")
 £2.95 each or 2 for £4.95



D7. Hillside 2007 Pocket Diary
 Maroon, Black or Navy
 £2.50 each
 or 2 for £3.95



S20. Hillside Pen
 Animal design Fibre Tip blue ink
 £1.50 each
 or 2 for £2.75



LN1. Greetings Cards
 featuring rescued animals at Hillside (blank inside 8"x5" with envelopes)
 Pack of 4 £2.50



FB1. Children's Fun Bags

Choose from:
Elephant, Pig, Lion, Sheep,
Cow or Leopard
£4.25 each



Soft Toy Sheep

TS1. Large Sheep (12" long) £7.95
TS2. Small Sheep (8" long) £3.95



EB1. Elf Bedtime Stories

Delightful children's book with 18 charming little bedtime stories - with an educational wildlife theme - about two elves in their magic wood. Beautifully illustrated and suitable for all ages
£2.95



DM1. Donkey Magnet £2.95



V4. Value Assorted NOVELTY PACK

with soft toy, book, ornament, keyring, notepad & more . . . ideal stocking fillers for children over 3 years . . .

£16.00 ~~£10.95~~ (Typical pack illustrated)



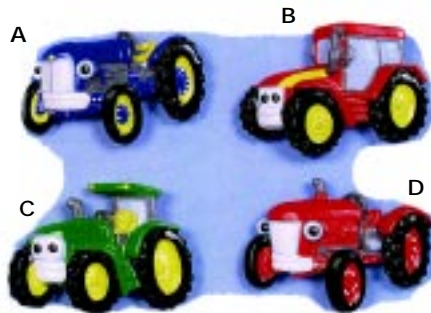
SN2. Snoring Dog

See him breathe and hear him snore!
Suitable for ages 3 and up (12" high - battery included)
£11.95



AP2. Animal Keyring Purse

Choose from:
Pig, Cow, Duck or Lamb
£2.95 each



IM4. Tractor Magnets

Choose A B C or D
£1.95 each
or set of 4 £6.95

Prices include P&P



CH1. Greetings Cards

'The only Lamb in the Fridge' design (blank inside 8"x 6" with envelopes) pack of 6 £2.95

LT1. Lap Tray
In easy 'wipe clean' Melamine
Choose from:
Cat or Animal design
£10.95

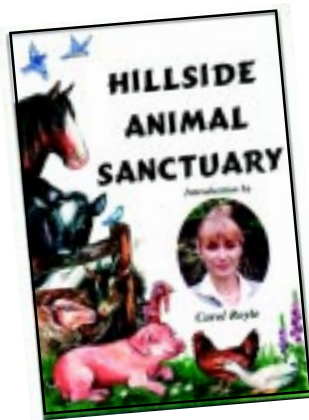


PC52. Playing Cards
Dog or Cat design
£2.50 pack
any two packs £3.95



S101.
Hillside
Writing Pad
Dog & Cat design
(8" x 6")
50 sheets
with 20 envelopes
£3.95

N2. Hillside
Notepads
Dog & Cat
design
50 sheets
(6" x 4")
£1.25 each
or
5 for £4.95



N4. Hillside Video
Sanctuary Scenes
showing our work (30 mins)
Reduced to £4.95

Gifts of your adopted animal . . .

TB1.
Tablemat of your
adopted animal
Laminated
Size 12"x8" £2.95



66. Adoption Mug
£6.95 each
or
2 for £12.95

53. Adoption
Fridge Magnet £2.50

55. Adoption
Glass Paperweight
(with stand)
£6.95

AB1. Adoption
Pocket Address
Book
£2.95

51.
Adoption
Badge 70p

52. Adoption T-Shirt/Nightshirt
Sizes:
Adults M L XL £10.95
Childs age 12/14 years £8.45

57. Adoption
Keyring £2.50

90. Frame to display
your latest
adoption Photograph
(7" x 5") £2.95

89. Shopping/Beach Bag
of your adopted animal
in Cotton 18"x18"
£5.95

When ordering Adoption Gifts please choose from:
Katy, Felicity, Rosemary, Starlight,
William, Bluebell, Dennis, Jessica, Henrietta,
Doris, La Vizelle, Pollyanna or Tessa

Prices
include
P&P



TC1.
Hillside Donkey Keyring
£1.50

Can be used as a supermarket
trolley token!
You need never be caught
without a £1 coin



HO1.
Mare and Foal
Ornament
(8" high)
£12.95



DN1. Dennis the Donkey at Hillside
DVD or Video format
(15 minutes)
£9.95



C98. 'If you love animals' Mug
£4.95 each or 2 for £8.95

Natural Supplement for your animals . . .



Organic Seaweed

A natural source of iodine, amino acids
minerals and vitamins, this pure seaweed is
suitable for dogs, cats and all other
animals from budgies to horses. Seaweed
naturally enhances health and wellbeing
by improving stamina and the structure
of teeth, beaks and bones. It also aids
digestion, helping to build muscles and
keeping coats, feathers and skin in
optimum condition.
(500gms) £3.95



SO2.
Hillside
Writing Paper
(size A4)
10 sheets
10 envelopes
£2.95

The Witness
£11.95
DVD or Video



'The Witness' is a
powerful
documentary
which shows a
tough building
contractor's
'change of perception'
through his unexpected association with
a cat. In the award winning documentary
'The Witness', Eddie Lama explains how
he feared and avoided animals for most of
his life, until the love of a kitten opened his
heart, inspiring him to rescue abandoned
animals and bring his message of
compassion to the streets of New York.
With humour and sincerity, Eddie tells
the story of his remarkable change in
consciousness.

Animal Friendly Cookbooks . . .

Cooking from Around the World
A Vegan Taste of . . .

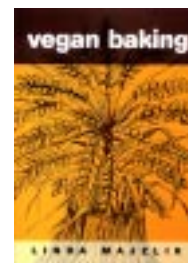
- CW1. Italy
- CW2. France
- CW3. The Caribbean
- CW4. Thailand
- CW5. The Middle East
- CW6. India
- CW7. Eastern Europe
- CW8. Greece
- CW9. North Africa
- CW10. Mexico
£6.50 each
or any two for £11.95



C1. Meals without Squeals £3.95
C2. More Meals without Squeals £3.95
or both books for £6.95



C6. Green Harvest
(vegan edition) £5.95



VB1. Vegan Baking
£6.50



S32.
Animal Free Shopper
(latest version)
for animal friendly products
£5.95



Season's Greetings to you
from all the animals
and staff at Hillside
and a big THANK YOU
for your continued support!

Hillside Order & Donation Form



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DVD	'Hillside Investigations' on DVD <input type="checkbox"/> or Video <input type="checkbox"/>	Free			
C4 Programmes	C4 Dispatches 'Supermarket Secrets' on DVD <input type="checkbox"/> or Video <input type="checkbox"/>	Free			
Draw Tickets	Extra books of Draw tickets to sell <input type="text"/>	Free			
Gift Total					
Animal Investigations Appeal					
Winter Feed <input type="checkbox"/> General Donation <input type="checkbox"/>					
Money Box <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle <input type="checkbox"/>					
Total					



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1. You have stated design/colour of gifts where you have a choice.
 2. All amounts add up correctly.
 3. You have written your 'Sanctuary Number' (above) on back of your cheque.
 4. Your cheque is signed, dated and made payable to Hillside Animal Sanctuary Ltd.
- THIS WILL ENSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF YOUR ORDER - Thank you**

or debit my Visa/MasterCard/Maestro No.

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All prices include P&P
Please allow 7 days for delivery - we always aim to send goods by return of post

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My Daytime Tel No.

Please send me a receipt
Yes Please No Thank You
 (Please tick your required request)

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 In case of query with your order

Thank You for Caring