



The Flicka Foundation Donkey Sanctuary is a registered charity based in South Cornwall, providing lifelong care for donkeys and ponies who have been rescued from situations of neglect, abuse and abandonment. Set within peaceful countryside near Penryn, the sanctuary offers a safe home for life to equines with complex needs, so that they can finally recover, relax and live out their days.

The charity was founded by Mary Berryman in 1995, following the rescues of an elderly



pony named Mickey and a neglected pony named Flicka. Flicka was a small strawberry-roan, abandoned in the middle of an industrial estate among high-rise buildings and billowing smoke. What began as the care of a couple of ponies soon grew into a lifelong commitment to equine welfare. Mary loved all animals with a passion and couldn't bear to hear of any suffering and it was her compassion and determination that shaped the values that still guide the charity today. Mary's daughter, Judy Giles, and long-standing colleague, Laurie Stephenson, now continue Mary's legacy in the role of Directors.

Today, The Flicka Foundation is home to over 100 donkeys and ponies with almost 100 more living in carefully selected foster homes. Each animal has their own harrowing story, but many arrive having suffered long-term neglect and require extensive veterinary treatment on arrival, while others need time, patience and routine to rebuild trust. Since its inception, the charity has rescued and rehabilitated well over 1,000 animals, offering specialist care tailored to individual needs.



The sanctuary operates with a small, experienced team who understand the specific requirements of older, disabled or traumatised equines. Residents are not worked or exploited in any way and are free to live out their days as they choose – grazing in a choice of paddocks, relaxing in one of the cosy indoor barns, forming friendship bonds within stable herds and enjoying a calm, predictable environment that allows them to flourish.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the sanctuary free of charge, year-round, from Thursday to Sunday between 11am and 4pm. Visitors can walk around the site, meet the donkeys and learn more about their individual histories. The sanctuary aims to be accessible and welcoming, offering a peaceful place for animals and people alike. In addition, The Flicka Foundation offers donkey therapy sessions and supported visits for individuals and groups. Donkeys are highly sensitive animals and respond strongly to kindness and calm interaction. Many people find time spent with the donkeys grounding and restorative, whether they are managing stress, anxiety, isolation or simply seeking meaningful connection.

Like many animal welfare charities, The Flicka Foundation relies entirely on public support to continue its work. In recent years, the number of rescue requests has increased significantly, alongside rising costs for veterinary treatment, dentistry, farriery and specialist care. The initial transport and medical care for a single new arrival can easily exceed £5,000, particularly when animals arrive in very poor condition. Ongoing costs are substantial, with the charity spending around £65,000 each year on feed alone.

There are many ways to support the sanctuary's work. Donations help fund daily care and emergency rescues, while the charity's Adopt a Donkey scheme allows supporters to contribute regularly while forming a personal connection with one of the residents. Visitors can also support the charity simply by spending time at the sanctuary, sharing its work with others and attending fundraising events held throughout the year.

#### To find out more about

The Flicka Foundation, plan a visit or learn how to support its work, visit [www.flickafoundation.org.uk](http://www.flickafoundation.org.uk).



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