



## NEWS AT THE FARM

Even at this time of year rescue cases are coming up (see Recent Rescue Stories section) and our Equine Centre is still caring for over 75 equines. We are urgently looking for short term foster homes in the East coast area so anyone who can offer temporary grazing please contact us.

Over the past few months the IHWT has focused again on our Education programmes and projects. Through working with horse owners in the unregulated equine sector in Education Programmes, Equine ID clinics and Horse Projects we are seeing significant improvements in the care and welfare of equines in some areas.

The IHWT will run another Microchipping clinic in the Wicklow area for horse owners this spring. If interested please contact us for details of dates and venues. This scheme is a cost effective way for owners to have their equines identified and microchipped so that a passport can be obtained which is all required under legislation. Equine Premises number is required for owners to take part in the clinic. Please note that it is now a legal requirement for all premises where horses/ponies are kept to be registered with the Department of Agriculture and have an Equine Premises number. Further information available at [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

# NEW WEBSITE

A brand new IHWT website has been developed by our new Digital Partner - Halcyon Days PR / Horseplay.ie further information at [www.horseplay.ie](http://www.horseplay.ie) and [www.halcyondays.ie](http://www.halcyondays.ie). The new website boasts a complete new re-homing section, on-line renewal of annual supporter subscription and news sections along with many new features. We are very grateful to Jenny Doran of Halcyon Days / Horseplay.ie for all the time and effort she has put in to develop our great new site which will be a valuable resource for everyone. The website address remains the same so check it out now at [www.ihwt.ie](http://www.ihwt.ie)

# NEW SPONSORS & PARTNERS

We were delighted to receive a delivery of top quality hay from our official hay sponsor Maplehurst Farm - suppliers of hay for horses throughout Ireland who have committed to supporting the IHWT for the next few years which is an enormous help considering the huge quantities of hay that our horses and ponies consume annually.

We are also very pleased to announce new partnerships with both The Irish Field and TRI Equestrian Superstore. The Irish Field now features a monthly IHWT News Feature in the Horse World Section of the publications. TRI Equestrian Store are suppliers of supplies for the Farm/Yard and general tack or equipment under a new partnership.

We are grateful for the assistance of Horse Racing Ireland and the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association in helping the IHWT to upgrade its main vehicle. Our old jeep was almost 17 years old and unreliable for long haul trips with horses and ponies. Our new jeep is a 2007 Toyota Land cruiser and is essential for our daily operations.



# MAPLEHURST FARM



IHWT TB Club sponsor



# EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

**EQUINE HOOF CARE COURSES** (right)  
Two Equine Hoof Care courses have been run with funding from the Department of Agriculture & Food. One course ran at the IHWT Farm and the other with a group at the Dunsink Horse Club in Dublin. Participants learned about the structures and general care of the hoof including dressing of hooves and the course was delivered by master farrier Conal Gallagher.

## DUNSINK HORSE CLUB

The Dunsink Horse Club continues to operate well and our welfare officer attends weekly. Fingal Co. Council have now given the use of a tractor to the club which is very useful as club members can be trained to put out large bales instead of needing a council operative to do so weekly.



## EQUINE ID CLINICS

We ran ten Equine ID Clinics in counties Wicklow, Tipperary, Cork and Offaly. The aim of the Equine ID clinics is to microchip and passport equines in the unregulated equine sector at a reduced rate. Funding for this project was received through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The clinics also provided an opportunity for horse owners to be educated on all Equine ID legislation and the importance to comply. For many horse owners this was the first time they would have been aware of the requirement to have their equines microchipped and passported.

# RECENT RESCUE STORIES

The latest rescue to come into the IHWT is this beautiful thoroughbred mare (right). She was found abandoned in the Dublin area. She has a wonderful temperament and is very sweet natured. Thanks to the help of the foster home, who looked after her until we had room to take her into our equine centre. She is now settled in her stable and doing well.

## Rescue of “Jo Jo”

Our office was notified about an abandoned filly that hill walkers had come across while walking through a forest in the Wicklow area. The photos that we received indicated that she was in very poor body condition



and need to be picked up urgently. She had moved from the site and it took us over an hour to find her and then get her loaded to bring back to our Equine Centre.

Jo Jo was seen by our vet on arrival (right) and was in good health but was suffering from severe starvation. She had a good fighting chance and everything was done to save her. Sadly she died a few weeks later. The lack of access to feed and water had left her too weak and she lost her life.

Latest rescue to come into our equine centre is IHWT Keane (below) who was found straying on the road by member of the public. He was in poor body condition and very weak due to starvation. So far he is doing ok but it is difficult to know how much internal damage has been done due to lack of proper feeding and also risk of parasite infestation.



Caring for equines can be a huge responsibility and sometimes owners can find that they are unable to cope. Ricky was surrendered to the IHWT after his owner had struggled to treat a serious hoof infection. Ricky is a lovely Cob type (below) with a great temperament. His infection is now being treated and he should make a full recovery. He is likely to be re-homed easily.



## CHANGES TO OUR RE-HOMING POLICY

We have introduced a new re-homing policy for our rescued horses and ponies which it hopes will boost the number of people who volunteer to take on rescue animals.

The new policy now allows for re-homing of horses and ponies to approved riding centres. We regularly have cobs and ponies for re-homing that would be suitable for riding schools and trekking centres but this was not permitted under the old IHWT policy.

Young and unbroken stock require serious time and financial commitment from a loan owner. It is hoped that this change in the policy will encourage more people to consider taking on a young horse or pony that just needs some time and training.

The second major change is that the IHWT will now allow people who loan rescue horses to apply for full ownership of the animal after nine months. Each case will be considered on its own merit.

The same strict criteria will be required to re-home any equine in all cases and stringent home checks will still apply.

## RE-HOMING

Re-homing depends on the generosity of those that give our horses and ponies a second chance by providing a caring home. We are very grateful to all those who have taken on one of our equines and with the current numbers of unwanted horses and ponies we encourage anyone who is in a position to take on an IHWT horse or pony to get in touch. We have OVER 75 equines in our care and suitable homes are urgently needed. Some are suitable for riding whilst others are young or unbroken and others are suitable as companions. Young and unbroken stock requires a serious time and financial commitment from a loan owner.



It is hoped that this change in the policy will encourage more people to consider taking on a young horse or pony that just needs some training. The new website has a great re-homing section with photos and details of all equines available.

IHWT Wrenn was recently re-homed as a riding horse. He has settled in very well at a lovely new home and his loan owner is delighted with him.



Horses looking for kind new homes include Linus an 8yo sport horse gelding (left) and this lovely selection of ponies (above).

## IHWT THOROUGHBRED CLUB

The Thoroughbred Club is a new initiative of the IHWT. The function of the Club is to support loaners, owners and riders of ex-racehorses and through sponsorship of events encourage experienced riders to consider taking on an ex-racehorse.

We hope that everyone with an ex-racehorse will register and Registration is FREE. To Join the TB Club simply email: [events@ihwt.ie](mailto:events@ihwt.ie) for application form. TB Club Members will receive their membership card and number for use in competitions sponsored by the TB Club throughout the year and for special promotional discounts/vouchers from some of our sponsor partners including Gain Horse Feeds. Gain have also provided a feeding and nutritional advice pack for members of the TB Club.

Thanks to support of one of our major donors, the TB Club will sponsor annual prizes for leading riders of ex-racehorses in various disciplines and host a number of events throughout the year including shows and training clinics. The TB Club is delighted to have partnered with Eastern Region Dressage to introduce a class for shows especially for ex-racehorses. The 'Welcome to Dressage Ex-Racehorse class' runs under the same rules as the existing Welcome to Dressage class and competitors registered with the TB Club will also be eligible for special league prizes at the end of the year.



Once again this year the IHWT will sponsor special prizes in the Racehorse to Riding Horse competitions at the AIRC National Festival in Stradbally, Co Laois on June 11th & 12th whilst a showing class for ex-racehorses will be sponsored

at Castlewellan and Tullow Agricultural Shows in July and August.

To further support those taking on and competing ex-racehorses we have also partnered with Wexford Equestrian Centre to sponsor a TB Class in the Stepping Stones to Success League for potential eventers.

Details of all upcoming events for ex-racehorses including is available on our website: [www.ihwt.ie/TBclub](http://www.ihwt.ie/TBclub)

## TRAINING CLINIC WITH SCOTT BRODIE

The TB Club hosted a Re-training Retired Racehorses Clinic with international Trainer Scott Brodie in February by kind permission at Balcultry Stables. Scott is the author of “Horses from Courses” which can be purchased on Amazon. He has a unique but structured approach to re-training ex-racehorses. His approach is based on fundamental ground work before commencing any ridden work. He demonstrated the most effective methods of schooling from the ground. Scott has trained all breeds of horses during time spent training police horses in Australia and the basis for all his advice stems from safety and control of the horse in any and every circumstance. We took along one of our own ex-racehorses “Bluegrass Bid” for demonstration purposes and Catherina Cullen from Co Dublin also brought along her lovely gelding “Notoriously” which she took on several months ago.



We recently had an email from a loan home owner of an IHWT ex-racehorse which we would like to share with you.

*“Chapel and I did our first ever hunter trials yesterday. Enormously proud of my little star! We only had 2 hiccups of refusals on a very long course of 21 fences. Someone decided to be a race horse again and chase the fella in front of him! Chapel is an amazing horse. He’s come on so much in the time since he adopted me. I have had to put in the time to his ground work which has now paid off and he has become this beautiful, well mannered, brave and obedient stunner. My best friend. Together, we are larger than life! Thank you guys for trusting me with him.”*





**IHWT**  
IRISH HORSE WELFARE TRUST

## LEGACY DONATION FORM

Charity Number: CHY 14634

# THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME



Please consider helping Irish Horse Welfare Trust in their work with Ireland's most vulnerable horses and ponies.

If and when the time is right for you, perhaps you would kindly remember IHWT in your will.

To help make your life saving gift – the following is suggested;

'I give to Irish Horse Welfare Trust, all (or a fraction) of the residue of my estate whatsoever and wheresoever, and I direct that the receipt of the treasurer or other officer for the time

being of the said Organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of the same'

OR

'I give the sum of €/£\_\_\_\_\_ to Irish Horse Welfare Trust and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer for the time being of the said Organisation shall be proper and sufficient discharge for the same'

Please return completed form to:

**Irish Horse Welfare Trust**

Ballinamona, Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 0402 30773 • Email: [info@ihwt.ie](mailto:info@ihwt.ie) •

[www.ihwt.ie](http://www.ihwt.ie)

# PLEASE SUPPORT THE IHWT

It is now easy to support the IHWT through our website [www.ihwt.ie/supportus](http://www.ihwt.ie/supportus)

- **Become a subscriber** - for just €50 euro per year and receive our regular newsletter and updates
- **Make a One-Off Donation** (Via Paypal)
- **Set up a Regular Standing Order**
- **Organise a Fundraiser for IHWT** - Fundraising Packs are available to help you
- **Support our Fundraising Events**  
Art Exhibition on 23rd June  
Golf Classic - date to be confirmed in September
- **Take part in national events** such as the VHI Mini Marathon and raise funds for IHWT

## CAPITAL APPEAL

The IHWT will launch a Capital Appeal in September 2016 which will run until December to raise funds to reduce the farm mortgage. We will be seeking sponsorship and donations from companies and businesses and hope to run an internet auction in November. We will be accepting donations of items for the internet auction from 1st June so anyone who can help with vouchers, art, sculptures, hotel vouchers, health and beauty, equestrian items (new), equestrian coaching, collectables and racing memorabilia please get in touch.

## IHWT VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS WITH EQUINE KNOWLEDGE TO ASSIST WITH HOME CHECKS IN EAST COAST AREA

Following on the success of our training day last year the IHWT will be running a

Welfare Training Day in May 2016 (date to be confirmed) at our equine centre in Woodenbridge near Arklow in Co Wicklow. The aim of the training day is to sign up experienced horse people as volunteers to help with home checks for our Re-homing Program and also to assist with welfare. If you are interested in taking part in the training day then please contact our office. Phone 0402 30773 or email [info@ihwt.ie](mailto:info@ihwt.ie)

## EXHIBITION

‘AN EXHIBITION OF WORK BY LEADING IRISH EQUINE ARTISTS’ at the Irish National Stud, Kildare on Thursday 23rd June 2016 at 6.30pm.

Tony O’Connor will be among several of Ireland’s finest artists show casing their work providing the perfect opportunity to view and purchase a unique masterpiece.

VIP preview tickets cost €35 each or €60 for two. The evening will start with drinks and canapés and your ticket will be entered into our raffle for an exclusive prize.

Look out for more details of the event including other exhibitors on our website [www.ihwt.ie](http://www.ihwt.ie) and Facebook.

For more information and to book tickets please contact

Elish Foley: 087 298 8332

Heather Osborne: 086 086 4772

The exhibition will be open to the public throughout the Derby weekend.



Irish Horse Welfare Trust

Equine Welfare Centre, Ballinamona,  
Woodenbridge, Arklow, Co Wicklow

Tel: 0402 30773 • Mobile: 086 604 7840

Email: [info@ihwt.ie](mailto:info@ihwt.ie) • [www.ihwt.ie](http://www.ihwt.ie)