



**Phoenix**  
Children's Foundation  
Charity No: 1117115

Dear Committee Members,

### The Phoenix Children's Foundation Ponies

This letter will give you a little more information about our ponies; how they fit into our organisation, and how well we care for them.

We are a local registered children's charity; our miniature Shetland ponies are used as fundraising mascots and as therapeutic petting ponies when we visit care homes schools or hospices. They are loved by everyone who meets them and help us enormously in all areas of our charitable work so, understandably, their welfare is paramount to us.

When visiting Swadlincote, we would bring between two and four miniature Shetland ponies, each accompanied by one of our trained volunteer handlers (all of whom have a minimum of four years' experience) and on lead rope at all times.

Our ponies are very used to having the public around them, and are selected for their temperament. They are almost exclusively bred at the well-respected Moor Joy Stud which specialises in breeding the finest quality animals. The Stud very kindly donates the majority of our ponies. The other ponies come from excellent homes and are also selected for their temperament.

When not working, our ponies live in their own stables in Packington. We are confident that they are amongst the best looked-after ponies in this country; indeed anyone is welcome to visit our stables to see them.

We travel to all venues in modern, well equipped horseboxes that ensure the animals have minimum stress and arrive ready for a gentle walk to their collection area.

During a collection, we always have water and food available for the animals. All handlers carry antiseptic wipes and hand gel for use by themselves and the public. We also always clean up after the ponies.

We have in place an Animal Welfare Policy which is overseen by our Honorary Vet; Kit Heawood BSc (Hons). Several of our Trustees are involved with horses (one is an owner, another was a farrier). The Charity also employs a lady who has over twenty years' experience of working with horses and a retired mounted policeman (with over 20 years' service) who is also heavily involved with Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA).

The Phoenix Children's Foundation is a charity registered in England (Charity No. 1117115)

The Stables, Babelake Street, Packington, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1WD  
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The Charity was set up in 2006. Since then we have continued to grow and to support children throughout England and Wales with resounding success. We do this with the help of our miniature Shetland ponies, and a huge amount of support from the public.

We are invited to numerous events throughout the year, and a large part of the charitable work we are able to do is based around the goodwill that our ponies help to generate.

We feel it is very beneficial for children to interact with an animal, particularly those who may not otherwise have the chance to. We do a lot of work around inner-city Birmingham for this very reason.

Within Swadlincote we have a fantastic working relationship with a large number of people and places. In the last twelve months, we have been invited to:

- Just for Pets
- TW Wholesale
- Morrisons Swadlincote
- Nether Hall Care Home
- Sainsburys Swadlincote

We've visited a variety of children's groups and receive annual invites to local shows. Our Foundation has been chosen as Charity of the year by M&S Ashby, Just for Pets Swadlincote amongst others.

We receive tremendous support from members of the public and organisations alike. For example, Next, Amazon, DHL, UPS, M&S and West Bromwich Building Society have conferred sponsorships.

A large portion of our volunteers are drawn from Swadlincote. Without these people we simply couldn't exist. Without our miniature Shetland ponies we would not be able to do nearly as much worth as we do in the City and County.

Our collections are only ever undertaken when we have received the relevant permissions and paperwork, and liaised with the relevant officials. The rest of this information pack contains more information on our ponies, more information on who as a charity we have helped, and some official paperwork for you.

We feel that, with even one visit to Swadlincote a year, we would be able to make a massive impact on the children of Swadlincote, the people of Swadlincote, and the positive image of the Charity.

I trust that this answers any queries you may have about our ponies. If you require any more information please feel free to contact us.

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