

Margaret the 'HAPPA'y Shetland

Margaret, the Shetland pony, has been in HAPPA (Horse and Ponies Protection Association) care for the last eight years. Historically she had always been difficult to place in foster homes due to the fact that she was blighted with sweet itch, which had a major effect on her personality. However, she was taken in by a new foster home during the summer of 2009 and her carers were willing to invest the time and effort in trying to overcome the condition.

HAPPA commented: "Margaret was on all sorts of medication – she had a hogged mane and was kept in most of the time to stop the midges, which cause sweet itch, from biting her. In her new home she rubbed her mane constantly on the hay rack and the sweet itch became so bad that the vet injected steroids. During one such occasion Margaret was so uptight that she went up in the air and knocked her new foster carer over. This became a regular occurrence and she even put her front leg through the plastic window in her stable.

"The vet could see what a state she was in, so he recommended giving Cavalesse a go. She hasn't scratched since and Margaret is now a changed personality. When Margaret first arrived at the new foster home they couldn't go near her, but she now gets turned out with the other horses and she loves to be fussed over. She's turned into a real pony and is a much loved member of their family."

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