

EXMOOR PONY STAR WINNERS



OVERALL WINNER AND WINNER OF THE NORTHERN STAR

VIBURNUM A/266 BOWS OUT 1982 to 2016

'Vibe' to her friends, and there are many, has been a wonderful child's pony, a great ambassador for Exmoor ponies and a very special family pony. Coming to us from the Anchor herd as an unhandled foal she took just a couple of weeks to handle with her super temperament already evident. Within a week, and despite our lack of experience in handling wild foals at the time, Vibe was easily caught in a large barn, was being led around outside and was comfortable with all those who came to see her.

Vibe's promotional work for the breed lasted over 30 years at Bath & West, Devon County, Exmoor National Park events, Rare Breeds Survival Trust events and much more in and around Exmoor to be followed in later years by events in the North East the last being the Glendale Children's Day in 2014 which welcomes over 1500 children to learn about farming and the countryside. Climbing up steep steps out of the rear entrance of a marquee at Devon County, being taken into the centre of a large marquee surrounded by tables and chairs where a celebratory meal was in progress for over a hundred people, going through a stonemason's marquee as the only entrance to her stable at Bath & West and having hundreds of children running towards her and climbing on the pen at the Children's day never phased her.

As a youngster Vibe won several championships and went on to have a successful in hand show career as an adult but she much preferred her ridden career away from the ring. Vibe could be trusted with the tiniest child on her back even before she was broken to ride. When she was some seven years old my niece decided she wanted to ride when the ridden ponies were turned out. We had no plans to have Vibe as a ridden pony but we just put my niece gently on her back. Vibe looked round as if to say "oh I have to do this now" and never looked back. We did have her professionally schooled and she went on to enjoy many ridden activities with various young people. We were astounded one day to find my young and totally inexperienced nephew riding Vibe out on the moor in only a halter when he was supposed to just be holding her for a film crew. It is a measure of her temperament that, despite the miles of open moorland that had been her home, Vibe was wandering quietly around and my nephew was thoroughly enjoying himself. Vibe has been a great mother to her own foals and the orphan Haddon Lucky who she looked after as though she were her own. Her last year had been spent as 'nanny' to her great granddaughter Pinkery Maytime who adored her and only spent time with her mother when she needed a drink!!



THRESHIRES TORFRIDA 187/3 'Daisy' 1992 - 2016

Threshires Torfrida was the third foal bred by Liz Barker , and was born in a field of buttercups . It was felt that the name 'Buttercup' would more suit a cow than a pony so the stable name 'Daisy' was chosen . With her black legs – rather than fluffy buff coloured- Liz described her as her little thoroughbred .

Daisy was bought in foal to Knightoncombe Goldcrest as a 4 year old by Fiona Macnee , and subsequently produced Cosmic Doris who herself went on to have foals – her three fillies Helix , Izar and Juno have enjoyed success in the showring and various disciplines .

Once broken Daisy proved to be a very sweet pony with children , and even drank coke from the can. Her sweet nature was evident when she went on loan to a tiny Sarah McCormack , who rode her initially with her arm in plaster .

Once back with Fiona , Daisy bred another two foals before coming to me as my riding pony . By then I had bought Helix with plans to breed from her , but as she was too

young to breed or ride I needed a pony to fill the gap . Daisy was a lovely forward going feisty pony despite her slight build and I took her on two of Sarah Burnley's long distance (Intrepid) rides . She was always enthusiastic, when riding over the moors the only way to negotiate ditches was to jump them whatever the size , quite a shock when my plan was to ride in and out of them ! I also bred two foals from her and she was an excellent mother .

Daisy was an amazingly sweet pony , she was always very vocal , nickering softly to you whenever you were near . We had quite some conversations . Once Daisy got a leg stuck in an iron grid when with Fiona . The grid was removed by use of an angle grinder , Daisy didn't bat an eyelid at the flying sparks .

A few years ago Daisy went on loan to Anne Farley as companion to her Arab and as first mount for her granddaughter Chloe . She filled both roles admirably , both Zebedee and Chloe were besotted with her . Always a very friendly pony , she loved her humans . When I took Daisy to Anne's I didn't think she was concerned about being somewhere different initially , she just took her time to walk round the field and discover her new lovely home . A couple of hours later when I was leaving , she called to me and followed the horsebox's progress along the drive .

In May this year the decision was made to say goodbye to Daisy as she was becoming increasingly uncomfortable due to arthritis . Just a month before – after a number of unsuccessful attempts – her daughter Helix gave birth to a lovely filly foal . Very noticeable in baby was her black legs , just like Grandma's .
The circle of life.