

Horsing Around



IT'S been one of those crazy weeks, where you're not quite sure when one day ends and the next begins.

An unplanned outing to help some dogs took us past a horse sales.

Witnessing the way in which the horses were handled outside, led us to enter the sales and find out more.

As someone who has lived and breathed horses for 25 years, it was a difficult insight.

Observing the normal treatment of the horses, ponies and donkeys left me breathless.

I knew that I was snowed under with work, but also knowing that we had an empty pony sized stable at the yard meant it was impossible to leave alone.

So we now have three new special little members of the family.

I would like to introduce Peggy. Peggy was a brood mare.

Her job in life was to breed constantly, until she could no longer manage more.

Peggy is thought to be seven years old. A horse's gestation period is 11

Many Tears animal rescue co-worker **KATY KEAR** shares the latest news from the centre.



months, meaning that it is quite likely that she has spent a greater portion of her life pregnant than not.

She is very scared, her feet are long and teeth are so sharp that I sliced my thumb on them, while checking. If you approach Peggy she backs off. If you place your hand on her leg, chest or barrel she shakes.

Our beliefs in how horses should be cared for means that Peggy's life will now drastically change. She will be handled daily and will grow to trust.

She will be wormed regularly and receive her tetanus vaccine. She will be visited by the farrier every six weeks, will receive nutritious feed and will have

a thick bed to sleep on. Although Peggy is still sure that the world is a dangerous and scary place, we are going to teach her that life can instead be a wonderful blessing.

If anyone is considering selling a horse, I'd urge you to learn as much as you can about the different sales and the various reasons that people purchase from sales, before making any decisions.

● If you're interested in finding out more about the yard and horses at Many Tears check out our website www.manytearsrescue.org and search under courses for horse lovers or find us on Facebook Many Tears Animal Rescue Equestrian Centre.