



PRESS RELEASE

**30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **Sponsor a pony to look after Cornwall's nature**

Can you help a pony look after a Lizard?

Natural England are asking the public to sponsor the native ponies which live and graze on their Lizard and Goss Moor National Nature Reserves in Cornwall.

Ponies have lived on the Lizard and Goss Moor since ancient times. Their grazing helps maintain the amazing habitats of heath and coastal areas on the reserves, which are two of the country's top wildlife sites. The Lizard is known and protected for its stunning displays of spring flowers, summer visitors include the Dartford warbler and nightjar and the reserve is one of England's only strongholds for rare coughts. Species found on Goss Moor include the lesser butterfly-orchid, double line moth, small red and variable damselfly.

The free roaming ponies are hardy traditional breeds including Dartmoor, Exmoor & Shetland and are well suited to the difficult terrain found on our reserves where they thrive. The money raised will help to pay for veterinary care and supplementary feeds, especially over winter.

National Nature Reserve Senior Adviser Phil Bowler said

*"The pony herd is really important and helps us care for the wonderful wildlife on our reserves. Through their grazing, the ponies help control the vigorous species of plants. This enables some of our rarest wild flowers to flourish and support other species of animals, insects and birds – which are enjoyed by local people and visitors.*

*"We are delighted to be able to offer the opportunity to sponsor our ponies, they are quite an attraction on our reserves. The Gossies, as they are traditionally called on Goss Moor, include many adorable characters including Sebastian, who at 20 years old is a veteran of the reserve and a little deaf."*

There are three levels of sponsorship: Bronze (£20), Silver (£50) and Gold (£500). All sponsors will receive a certificate, and information about the herd. Silver and Gold sponsors also get guided visits and an opportunity to meet some ponies.

Support the pony herd by making a donation on line at [www.easydonate.org/NENG002](http://www.easydonate.org/NENG002) and follow us on twitter @NE\_DCloS #MyCornishPony

**ENDS**

### **For further information contact:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

### **Notes for editors:**

#### **About Donate**

DONATE is provided by the National Funding Scheme (a registered charity in England, Wales and Scotland). DONATE provides a platform for immediate text and web giving via mobile phones and other digital devices.

#### **About Natural England**



Established in 2006, Natural England is the government's independent adviser on the natural environment. Our work is focused on enhancing England's wildlife and landscapes and maximising the benefits they bring to the public.

### **About National Nature Reserves (NNRs)**

There are 224 NNRs in England, 143 of which are managed entirely or in part by Natural England and cover some 66,000ha. The NNRs include some of England's most important and rich sites for wildlife and geology. Almost all NNRs are accessible, and provide great opportunities for people to experience nature close up.

- **Lizard NNR:** On the most southerly tip of Britain sits The Lizard peninsula; a place of special beauty where land and sea meet in a landscape of spectacular cliffs, rolling heathland and hidden coves – one of the most stunning places in the country to enjoy the outdoors. The Lizard National Nature Reserve stretches across nearly 2,000 hectares of this beautiful place. An amazing diversity of wildlife thrives here, including especially rare and unusual plants. The heathland, coastal cliff vegetation and temporary ponds are of international importance. See the site [visitor leaflet](#) or the partnership website at [www.the-lizard.org](http://www.the-lizard.org) for more details.
- **Goss Moor NNR** is situated in a broad relatively flat, valley basin which forms the headwaters of the River Fal. It contains areas of the country's rarest habitats such as dry and wet heath, mire, fen and open water. In turn these are home to some of the country's rarest species, resulted in Goss Moor being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation. See the [Goss Moor trail information guide](#) and [welcome map](#) for more information.

### **Sponsorship levels:**

- For £20 a year **Bronze sponsors** can sponsor an individual pony for a year and receive a sponsorship certificate, the story of our herd, regular herd newsletters providing information about our ponies and the species they help conserve and email updates about their chosen pony.
- For £50 a year **Silver sponsors** will get the same as Bronze sponsors, but in addition, as a Silver sponsor, we will invite you to attend a guided group walk to visit our ponies at either The Lizard or Goss Moor. You will be able to see the ponies in their natural environment and our wardens will explain the Reserve's wildlife and history. We will try to introduce you to your pony however; this is not always possible due to the variable locations of each herd.
- For £500 a year **Gold sponsors** will get the same as Bronze sponsors, but in addition, Gold sponsors will enjoy an exclusive half day 4x4 truck safari across Goss Moor or The Lizard for up to 4 people. You will be able to see the ponies in their natural environment. Our Wardens will explain the Reserve's wildlife and history and how the ponies help us look after these special places. We will try to introduce you to your pony however; this is not always possible due to the variable locations of each herd.