

# PERRY

Perry was bought by the late Olwen Allonby in 1971 when he was just a year old. He travelled all the way from Scotland and when he arrived at Stanford almost fell out of the horse box he was so tired! He became Olwen's personal horse and she used to hunt regularly on him. He was a lively horse and if she could stay on him for the first field (he did his best to get his rider to fall off!) then she knew she would have a good ride. He excelled at jumping – able to clear huge fences with ease. He was a hunter for many years before becoming part of the team of riding school horses and ponies at the Meadow School of Riding, where he also became an RDA horse. Like Rhondda, he has a long service medal for completing 5 years with the RDA. His role at the stables has been taken on by Lucky and Guinness.

Perry can now be found standing in the stalls next to the indoor school. He is 30 years old, the oldest horse on the yard, and is enjoying his well earned semi-retirement. Perry does not work during the winter months as his joints are a little stiff and he is not up to the rigours of Dawn's lessons but he will hopefully resume light work during the summer. His coat has grown long which is a sign of an older horse. Don't feel that he is being ignored and that he should be out in the fields however – he wants to be with his friends – the other ponies and if he is put in the field without them he pines for their company and will try to come back in – resorting to breaking into the garden if necessary! He has always been a strong minded and determined chap and if he is being led up the yard but he spies a bucket of something interesting or a juicy patch of grass there is little anyone can do to stop him from eating it.

He has also always craved the company of other ponies. Olwen used to take him to hunting meets in a horse box with his best friend Mersham. When he competed at RDA shows it was usually arranged that another riding school pony should stand at the side to watch him. On one occasion one of the girls stood at the side with Mersham. Perry started his dressage test well. The girl was then asked to do a job and she took Mersham away from the ringside in order to do it. Perry suddenly noticed that Mersham had gone and about turned, climbing across flower beds, his rider unable to stop him, in pursuit of her.

Such was his love for Mersham and his dislike of being alone in a stable, that when he was being stabled in temporary stables at Abbey park in Leicester in 1988 for the RDA Special Olympics, he pushed over his stable door in order to follow her out. Unfortunately, as they were just temporary stables, the doors were joined in blocks of four so three other doors crashed down with his which meant that three other horses got out as well!

Perry has been a bit of a ladies man in his time! Everyone used to joke about the harem of mares, including Dancer, that would gather round him down in the meadows. He also seemed to think that every foal which was born, had been sired by him even though he was in fact a gelding! He used to love to play with the foals – chasing them round and round.

So, although Perry may look a little sad, especially when all the other ponies have been taken out for a ride, he is in fact quite happy to still be part of the team. However, he wouldn't say no to a bit of attention now and again - when you're passing by!