

Moorfarm China Doll - MRC horse of the year award in memory of Nick Linfield

In 2020 Dave and I went to Moorfarm Stud to view the foals, there were so many lovely foals but there was one little girl that just would not leave Dave alone. She was besotted by him and followed Dave everywhere. We knew then that this was the filly we were going to choose. Her name is Moorfarm China Doll aka Ella. The moment Ella arrived with us the bond continued between her and Dave.

In March 2022 Dave became seriously ill and was hospitalised for months. It was touch and go whether Dave would survive this illness and if he did, how much damage there was to the brain with memory loss etc. Dave did pull through but on leaving hospital he couldn't remember his dogs' names or the ponies' names, but he kept saying Ella!!

When Dave was well enough to visit the stables, it was unbelievable as he remembered Ella and could not believe the extremely loud whinny from Ella when she saw Dave. I got a chair and placed it in the stable for Dave to sit on and Ella stood by his side and nuzzled into him. It was like they were inseparable.

I strongly believe without Ella Dave would not have gone anywhere but just sit at home all day every day. She gave him a reason to get up and get out. I could not get Dave to go anywhere apart from seeing Ella!!, she gave him reason to keep going.

People have probably seen Dave and Ella together at shows as she will just stand with him next to his wheelchair. I can't thank this pony enough as she has helped Dave with his recovery no end and will always have a special place in our hearts

It's incredible how one little pony has saved us both, even Dave's consultant wants to come and meet Ella one day!!