



Ex-bats Nando and Heidi making a swift spring getaway!

The joys of spring

More news from Jane Howorth, founder of the charity that re-homes ex-battery chickens

I think May is one of the most gorgeous months of the year, spring in full flow with summer just around the corner, and it's so nice to be spending more time in the garden with the girls, and watching them be, well, spring chickens...

MORE TREATMENTS PLEASE

Marcella Palmer, from West Ridge Veterinary Group, just one in a growing number of hen-friendly vets listed on our website www.bhwt.org.uk

Wouldn't it be good to be able to take your hen to the vet, when needed, and know that you will have access to treatments as you do for any other family pet? Right now we think there is a woeful lack of treatments licensed for poultry – eight to be precise – and vets have to be inventive in how they offer solutions to problems. For example, egg peritonitis is treated with Suprelorin – an implant originally developed to chemically castrate dogs. We would like

to see much more available for our feathered friends, and with that in mind have been writing articles within the veterinary press asking for consideration to be given to just this.

THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Facebook page was buzzing earlier in the year with the arrival of Dee, our 500,000th hen, and there's always a flurry of activity when we share a tip or amusing henny photo, but above all else it is our appeals for caring homes that touch our supporters the most and get them all spinning down the metaphorical fireman's pole and leaping into Thunderbirds-to-the-Rescue mode, and how grateful we are!

We can re-home hundreds of hens in a matter of hours, and did so recently with the swift action of our supporters seeing our social media campaign reach over 36,000 people. A repeat appeal saved the lives of an extra 1,000 hens at a Cornwall farm too. If you are social



media savvy, join the BHWT sites so you can join in the news, views and all important calls to action. Follow us on Twitter @BHWTOfficial

Find us on [facebook.com/BritishHenWelfareTrust](https://www.facebook.com/BritishHenWelfareTrust)

Follow us on LinkedIn too, search: British Hen Welfare Trust

WIN A GREAT PRIZE!

The latest issue of our in-house charity magazine, *Chicken & Egg*, is jam packed with lots of fantastic competitions including this one offering the chance to win a fabulous £250 Seasalt clothing shopping voucher!

So whether you need some new wellies and a coat for these sunny, but fresh spring days in the garden or fancy treating yourself to a beautiful summer dress, all this and more could be yours!

To enter the competition, and any of our other *Chicken & Egg* competitions, visit our website at www.bhwt.co.uk today.



HIDDEN EGGS

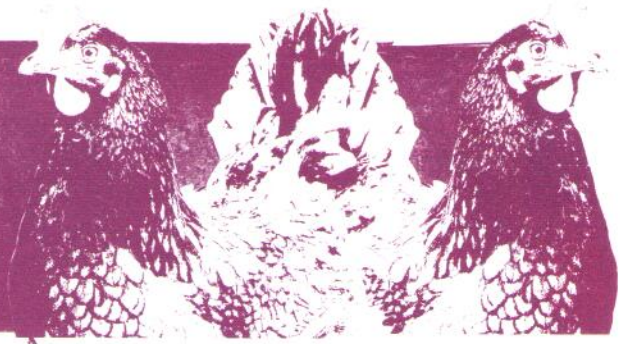
Our Free Range Friday campaign helps to make people aware of the use of eggs in processed products as well as being a fundraising opportunity for the charity. It's English Wine Week from May 28 – June 5, and it's a little known fact that egg whites are used as a fining agent to clarify wine. Be honest, did you know that? Look at the label on wine bottles; some wines are vegan and don't use eggs in the clarification process, but many do.

This English Wine Week, why not think about having a get together over a glass of wine, or three, with friends or family and ask for a charity donation per glass. It offers a great opportunity to raise awareness of where eggs appear in our everyday foodstuffs, whilst raising funds and having fun. Choosing products that use British free range eggs supports our great British farmers, and makes a difference to thousands, nay millions of commercial laying hens each year. Get that wine tasting date in the diary and start planning your event!

We can help you with our Free Range Friday fundraising pack. Call Xiomara ('Shamara') on 01884 860084 or email Xiomara.pattison@bhwt.co.uk. Packs include all the materials you need to get cracking: invitation cards, posters, stickers and a handy guide full of ideas on how to make your event a success!



Our writers choose their Perfect Flock



particular attention should be given to their legs and feet when undertaking routine health checks.

BRAHAM BANTAMS

It would be hard not to choose a miniaturised version of 'The King of Chickens,' the Brahma. Just like their large fowl counterparts, Brahma bantams are extremely docile, seeing everything as a friend. Their calm temperament make them ideal pets, especially if you have young children. Although not prolific layers, you'll find that their lightly tinted eggs aren't much smaller than you would expect from a large fowl pullet. The downside is that Brahmas are known for their broodiness which could be seen as an inconvenience if you're just after eggs. They do, however, make excellent mothers if they are allowed to sit.

SABLEPOOTS OR BOOTED BANTAMS

With their profuse feathering around their hocks, these are a true breed of bantam, i.e. they have no large fowl counterpart. With so much feathering

around their feet, they cause very little damage in the garden.

These charming, sweet-natured small friendly birds make ideal pets and are the perfect breed for small children. They're easy to tame and don't mind being picked up to have their feet inspected. They're reasonably good layers too.

If you're considering keeping a cockerel in your flock, you'll be hard pushed to find a more stunning sight than a Sablepoot cockerel strutting around your garden. As with the hens, the cockerels have a calm nature and tend to be a 'big hit' with all the hens!

PEKIN BANTAM

To complete the trio, I've chosen this very rotund and dumpy bantam. These comical little birds are another true bantam.

Pekins are shorter than other bantams, reaching just 20 – 30 cms in height. Being so endowed with feathers, they look much larger than they actually are. They're often referred to as walking tea cosies or fluffy footballs!

Pekins walk with a slightly



forward tilt, their heads a little closer to the ground than their beautiful bustle like tails. They're stunning to look at and I'll guarantee that you'll be smitten by their charm.

Pekins are a very friendly, docile and sociable breed — they love company. Being easy to tame, the hens are easy for young children to pick up and cuddle. They are truly fantastic pets.

Pekins are a great gardener's ally, enthusiastically eating undesirable bugs and grubs. Their digging and dustbathing activities are unlikely to cause any destruction to lawns and established planting, but they will find young seedling irresistible to peck!

They are good layers of small white / cream eggs with an extremely high yolk to white ratio.

CONCLUSION

These three breeds are all extremely docile and friendly and should live in harmony together. Although the bantams will not lay as many eggs as hybrids, this isn't a bad thing – there are only so many eggs you can eat! Together, the breeds are visually stunning and are the perfect additions to any back garden.

These three breeds are all extremely docile and friendly and should live in harmony together



TOP RIGHT: Just like their large fowl counterparts, Brahma bantams see everything as a friend.
LEFT: With their feathered feet, Brahma bantams are not so destructive in the garden.