



*mare & foal*  
**SANCTUARY**  
*Kindness, Care and Knowledge*

## **Press Release**

**Tuesday, February 14**

### **HORSE RIDERS FALL IN LOVE WITH VALENTINE'S EVENT**

THE Mare & Foal Sanctuary is celebrating the great success of this year's Valentine's Day Fun Ride in which a total of 97 riders took part, despite the chill factor.

In temperatures at times only a few degrees above zero, they set out on an eight-mile ride across the Berry Pomeroy Estate having been granted kind permission to do so by The Duke of Somerset.

Their start and finish point was the charity's Visitor Centre at Coombe Park, near Littlehempston, Totnes, where volunteers in the Café served hot food and drinks to participants and other volunteers and made up packed lunches for the course marshals.

The total money raised on the day was £1,099, to be used towards the Mare & Foal Sanctuary's continuing horse and pony rescue work across the South West, including Dartmoor Hill Ponies.

The Devon-based charity's Executive Director Simon Avery said: "Despite a very cold start and lots of calls from competitors concerned that it may have been cancelled, the early frost soon gave way to a much pleasanter morning and we could hardly believe the number of horse boxes arriving.

"Every rider I spoke to afterwards said that they'd really enjoyed the day and the beautiful setting. We would like to thank The Duke of Somerset for allowing us onto his land again this year and all those who took part, as well as all our staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the day so enjoyable."

**ENDS**

**EDITOR'S NOTES:** *For further information, please contact Publicity Officer Tamzin Hindmarch on: 01626 355969. Mare & Foal Sanctuary is a Registered Charity in England No. 1141831 in England and Wales. Ltd Co. No. 7584914.*