

PRESS RELEASE

GENTLE BEN RECOVERS AT REDWINGS FOLLOWING DRAMATIC RESCUE

A two-day old foal is now in the care of Redwings after his mum became stuck in a ditch in Essex on Tuesday morning.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and a vet from House and Jackson attended the incident at Tilbury Fort in Essex on the morning of 3rd May after a member of the public had reported that a mare had become stuck in a ditch after giving birth to a foal.

Three fire crews including the new Specialist Animal Rescue Unit from South Woodham Ferrers attended the scene but were sadly unable to save the mare, who had become trapped in deep water following a difficult birth.

No owner could be located for the mare and her now orphaned foal, so the attending vet Louisa Smith contacted Redwings Horse Sanctuary for help. The charity's staff are now giving round the clock care to the foal at their Ada Cole Rescue Centre in Essex, including regular bottle feeds and lots of TLC. The youngster, who is said to be doing well, has been named Ben after the Fire Service Officer who looked after him throughout the rescue efforts.

Redwings Field Officer Jo Franklin said: "It was such a sad story, but we are so grateful to the Fire Service and vet Louisa who were absolutely amazing. They all seemed very taken with little Ben! He is recovering well after his ordeal and the staff here at Redwings are taken with him too. We are just glad we were able to help; and hope we will be able to give him the happy life he deserves after such a sad start in life."

Anyone with any information as to the owner of the mare and foal should contact the Redwings Welfare Team in 01508 481008 or email welfare@redwings.co.uk. Find out more about Redwings Horse Sanctuary by visiting www.redwings.co.uk.