

### A Lucky Escape in The Lizard

The helicopter hovered towards the cliff edge. Lower and lower it slowly came until it was too close to the sheer rock face. Back up and away it pulled in the blinding rain that seeped through the waterproofing of your coat and in the seams of your trousers. Back in again and again they go, each time closer and closer to what they have come here for, until success, they swoop out with their precious cargo. Amazingly in the driving wind and rain, the helicopter has managed to get in the tiny cove and come out without touching or faltering.

One week earlier a little red Dexter calf was grazing peacefully on the cliff. This calf was one of the Dexter cattle that we bought to graze the cliffs around the farm. The cliffs are special, so special there are biodiversity action plans preserving some of the rare plants, not beautiful flowering plants but incredibly rare clovers, wound worts and asparagus, all looking insignificant but all super special and the cows help in the preservation of them. The dexter cattle are small and very sure footed so hopefully won't fall.

So the little calf was enjoying lush, tasty grazing and was edging towards the sea. Closer and closer, until there was a slight rumbling sound, the calf looked up, failing to see the drop in front of her. Just a little bit further, she went further, and further. Suddenly the ground slid under her hooves and away she went over the edge and down into the small beach below. She looked up trying vainly to get back to her mum and the rest of the herd, but however, hard she tried there was no way up, she was stuck.

In the morning the farmer came out to see his cattle. When he arrived there was one certain calf that he couldn't find on the cliff in the field or anywhere. After searching for hours and hours he heard a small bellow from below, there was the little calf just in front of the lighthouse standing on a shingle beach.

Not quite knowing what to do, he called the lifeboat, but after a lot of discussion they decided they couldn't get in that close. So he next tried the ropes team from the fire service. They say sorry, but we can't get it back up but you could try using the 771 Search And Rescue squadron from Culdrose. In the meantime, the farmer was feeding the calf by throwing down hay soaked in water to keep her strong and happy.

So about a week after the calf had fallen down the vet, RSPCA officer and 2 people from the navy base at Culdrose abseiled down the cliff on the ropes to try and sedate the calf so it could be winched under the helicopter. After a mad dash round and round the tiny cove the calf was caught and sedated. They soon had the calf ready to winch, but with this came the weather. A strong wind and torrential rain made it bitterly cold and so wet not even the best coat could keep it out. Eventually the helicopter arrived and after many tries the calf was lifted in its net. Quickly they flew up and deposited her in the field next to the lighthouse. The vet ran up to make sure the calf was okay. But it was already up and wandered off to find its mum to get a drink. After such a close escape, the calf was named Lucky. Nowadays you can see Lucky with her own calf in the fields next to the cliff that she fell off, keeping well back from the edge.

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