



January Update: JOY.

Birth date: 7th May 2010



Little Swallow is still in the cot "Joy", and just as sweet as ever. She's eating well, and enjoys tofu, rice, eggs and vegetables. All that healthy food is definitely being put to good use – she is getting stronger all the time. She is having physiotherapy daily now and we can see great improvements in her posture. Her right leg does have some movement, so we are working with her to build up strength in these muscles so that she can maximise her use of the limb.

In the middle of December, Swallow did give us a scare, as she developed the early signs of an infection in her shunt. The shunt takes excess fluid from the ventricles of her brain down to her abdomen. It is only visible externally as a bump behind her ear. Normally the bump is barely noticeable now that her hair is regrowing. However, when the area becomes red, swollen or painful, it's a warning sign that needs to be heeded. A shunt infection can lead to serious complications if not treated quickly.

Thankfully the doctors with Baobei in Shanghai, who surgically placed the shunt, were very supportive. Pictures of the site were emailed to them and they responded immediately with a treatment plan. We were very happy that Swallow improved quickly and we didn't have to return with her to Shanghai, but it is wonderful to know that such quality care is available to her if she needs it.

In the next months we look forward to seeing Swallow grow even stronger. We know she will spread a lot of joy with her lovely sense of humour – she really is a dear little girl. It is our hope for her that she will soon have a file made ready for adoption, and we will see her embraced by her very own family.

Thank you for your support – your compassion helps us to keep this cot available and gives Swallow a chance to thrive.