

ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

UK reg. charity 1124154 in association with Egyptian reg. charity no. 7.

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Spring has well and truly sprung both in the UK and Luxor. The temperatures in Luxor have reached 42 degrees already and this has brought with it the usual summer problems for the animals in Luxor.

We are now seeing animals coming in with summer sores; these are caused by the flies which constantly bother the horses and donkeys in Egypt. House and stable flies infected with the Habronema worm larvae deposit it in fresh wounds and moist areas of horses and donkeys such as the mucous membrane of which the corners of eyes are a favourite. The larvae then move down and block the lacrimal (tear) duct which runs from the eye to the nose. Indications on other parts of the body are ulcerated or raised skin lesions that progressively enlarge and bleed easily.

Another current problem is mange which is caused by a mite which spreads very easily when an animal is in poor condition, has poor nutrition or lives in an overcrowded environment. Usually the first signs of a mite infestation are areas of baldness that appear on the back of the donkeys front legs but if not treated quickly it can spread all over the body. Mange is very uncomfortable for the animals; they cause extreme itching which means the animals does not get much sleep and is too tired to work effectively. Unfortunately if a donkey cannot work the owner has no means of making a living so the poor animals is often forced to work by whatever method the owner thinks necessary. The donkey becomes more tired and run down and is unable to fight off other infections or intestinal worms.

It costs AWOL around £5 to treat a donkey with a severe case of mange but this treatment can avoid further problems for the donkey. If the donkey becomes so weak it is unable to work, without help from AWOL it could be discarded and left to die if it is of no use to the owner.



Mange often starts in the legs of the donkey and is easier to treat if it is caught early.



Donkeys frequently arrive at the AWOL centre looking a bit of a mess with bad or ill-fitted tack, mange and sores. They leave looking far better after Dr Mohamed and Ahmed have treated them and fitted them with new tack. Educating the owners and the children in how to correctly fit tack is of utmost importance as it will help to encourage them to care for the animals themselves and avoid many of the problems we see at the centre.



A Tale of Two Donkeys



Two donkeys were brought into the centre two weeks ago with some very nasty wounds. They are stable-mates but had a bit of a falling out. When I tell you that one is a girl and the other a boy you can perhaps understand why! This little girl did not appreciate the attentions of her companion who was obviously very determined!

The little donkey suffered some very nasty injuries to her face and neck as a result of the attack.



Dr Mohamed and the team treated the little donkey with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medicine and because she was so badly injured she stayed at the AWOL centre for 10 days until she was sufficiently recovered to go home.



It cost around 150le (approx. £14) to treat this little donkey. That covers all her medical treatment and care; so you can see that every pound our supporters send is of enormous value to AWOL and the animals.

After 10 days of treatment at the centre you can see how well her wounds have healed and she was allowed to go home.

And this is the culprit! He didn't get off scott-free as his victim took a chunk out of his ear in retaliation.

The new railings and path system at the centre worked extremely well in keeping these 2 apart whilst they were treated. Dr Mohamed can now treat an animal without other animals or people milling around which is much safer and better for all concerned, both human and animal; and in this case the little donkey was able to be led out through the lower gate whilst the other was led in through the top gates.

Let's hope the owner of these two donkey's keeps them a little more separate in future!



This donkey was brought in with a nasty injury to his eye. We treat hundreds of injured donkey's each month and with most of them requiring antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatment the cost soon adds up. The donkey was allowed to go home with his new pink dressing and returned later for a check-up and further treatment.



Although the eye looks closed Dr Mohamed was pleased with its progress when the donkey returned a week later for a check up. The bandages were removed and a fly mask fitted to keep flies away from the healing wound.

We hope we can show you photos of the fully recovered donkey next month but owners do not always bring their animals in when they have recovered so if we don't see him again we can be fairly sure he has made a full recovery.



It's always nice to see children bringing in their puppies for check-ups and preventative treatment. The little chap on the left is nice and healthy and his worming and flea treatment will help to keep him that way. The two on the right were in need of worming and treatment for the beginnings of mange which can be seriously debilitating if left to develop and spread.

UK News

April saw some successful fundraising by some of our supporters.

Supporter Chris very bravely undertook a tandem parachute jump in Suffolk and raised significant funds for AWOL. We're pleased to say it went well and his feet are now firmly back on the ground.



Supporter Ros organised a supporters lunch at the Woolpack in Banstead, Surrey, which saw almost double the number of supporters attending in comparison to the last lunch. She has organised another lunch on June 2nd at which we hope to meet even more of you.

We are extremely pleased to have received a very generous donation from supporters John and Vicky for equipment at the AWOL centre. We have agreed with the team in Luxor what is needed and Dr Mohamed will be going shopping shortly to purchase the equipment. This will enable AWOL to offer improved care for the animals in the future; we hope by next month to be able to show you photographs of the equipment purchased along with a very smiley Dr Mohamed!

In addition to fundraising events and donations you can also raise money for AWOL by simply shopping! AWOL had for some time had an account with Easyfundraising. All you need to do is set up an account yourself which take minutes and then remember to log in before you shop on line. Many retailers such as Amazon, Marks and Spencer, and many more will then donate to AWOL for every pound you spend and it doesn't cost you a penny! You can find details through the Easyfundraising link on our website. Don't forget you can also donate using Virgin money giving or PayPal as well as the more traditional method of sending a cheque or paying directly into the AWOL bank account. All the details plus standing order and GiftAid forms are on our website www.Awol-Egypt.org.

Future Events.

We are really pleased that supporter Mary has launched our first Facebook auction. You can find details on the auction page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1429667187284781/>

If you have any items of jewellery, soft toys or anything that might be suitable for the auction please contact the Facebook page where auctioneer Olly will be pleased to answer any questions and put your items up for auction. If you don't use Facebook but would like to contribute please email details of your items to AngelaAwol@gmail.com. Please include a photo, a minimum reserve price (if you want to set a minimum), and whether postage needs to be paid or if you as a donator will cover the cost of postage. Have a spring clean and donate any new or nearly new items to AWOL to raise funds for the animals. In addition you might see something you would like to buy on the Facebook auction so why not take a look? All the funds will directly benefit the animals of Luxor's west bank who rely on AWOL for their medical care.

Other events

Friday 9th May; coffee morning organised by supporter Ros at 7 Downland Close, Epsom Downs, Surrey. Come along and meet other AWOL supporters. You can contact Ros on 07788563701.

Monday 3rd June, 12-12.30 start; supporters lunch at the Woolpack Inn, Banstead, Surrey. We would appreciate it if you would contact us if you are thinking of attending as it does get very busy there and we can then book a large enough area for us all to sit together. You can email AngelaAwol@gmail.com or Ros.Barrow@hotmail.com or phone 07880 314764 (Angela) or 07788563701 (Ros). We had a great turnout last time so we hope even more of you will come along to learn more about AWOL.

Supporter Claire will be doing a sponsored walk to raise funds for AWOL. She is walking 20km on the South Downs as part of the Just Walk 2014 event. You can go directly to Claire's Fundraising page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CIngram> and help her support AWOL. Claire has battled health problems over the years so it is an achievement for her to be doing this for AWOL.

Note

Would any supporters donating via Virgin Money Giving please note that unless you specifically type in your email address we are not made aware of it by Virgin so we are unable to contact you if you are not already on our mailing list. You might still receive an automated thank you message but AWOL is not passed your email address so will not be able to contact you. We have received a number of donations recently where we are unable to contact the donor so if you think you might be one of them please email AngelaAwol@gmail.com.

Wishing you a happy spring from all the trustees, staff and animals at AWOL.