

ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

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February 2016

There has been much excitement in Luxor over the past week as the Egyptian president Abdel Fattah al Sisi visited the town along with the president of China. Unfortunately his itinerary didn't include the AWOL centre! There are reports that the Chinese government are considering funding the construction of a new opera house in Luxor and we can but hope that this will encourage tourists to return to Luxor and help bring employment and prosperity back to Luxor in the long run.

We have had plenty of animal visitors in January though; it has been a very busy month at the centre. In contrast this time of the year is a quiet time for fund-raising and also for donations as many people recover from the extra expense of Christmas; we are very grateful, therefore, for the donations we have received in January.

The AWOL medical centre has now been open for three years and thousands of animals have passed through the gates for free medical care and treatment since the opening. Founding trustees Graham and Pauline Warren donated over £30,000 of their own money to enable the centre to be constructed and to build upon the foundations of the charity set up in 2007 by Graham and Pauline in Luxor and Jan Bennell and Dawn Wallace in the UK. Trustees have changed over the years but the work of AWOL continues in Luxor and the animals continue to benefit from AWOL's presence.

Some of our long-term supporters might remember that Pauline used to go out into the villages with Dr Mohamed before the centre was built. Pauline returned to the UK in May 2013, nearly 3 years ago, and has now decided to retire from her position as trustee. She will, no doubt, continue to support and follow the charity she helped found and she wishes for AWOL "to carry on the valuable work that was started in 2007 to help the poorest people keep their animals well, and educate the children in the care of their animals, for the future generations". The AWOL team wish Pauline well in the future and thank her, on behalf of the animals in Luxor, for helping to establish such a valuable charity.

We are sorry to hear that supporter Mary who runs fund-raising Facebook auctions for AWOL is still unwell. Mary raised around £2,000 for AWOL during 2015 which is an amazing achievement and for a small charity like AWOL these funds have been invaluable. We hope she will soon be well again; I have been asked by our Centre Manager and Luxor trustee Nasser to pass on best wishes for a speedy recovery from the Luxor team. We rely on supporters like Mary to fund our work in Luxor so if you think you can help fund-raise, even just a little, do please get in touch.

Angela



This donkey was brought to the centre suffering with a condition called 'patella fixation'. With this condition the donkey is unable to bend his stifle (knee joint) and cannot walk properly. In the photos above you can see how he is unable to bend his leg correctly and compensates by bending his foot under in an attempt to walk. Patella fixation can be due to poor muscle tone and poor condition, poor co-ordination between stifle flexor and extensor muscles, hereditary factors or trauma to the stifle.

The donkey underwent a surgical procedure called 'medial patellar ligament desmotomy' which involves cutting the medial patellar ligament through a small incision. This disrupts the patellar locking mechanism - stopping the patella locking in place and allowing the leg to bend at the stifle. In the photos below you can see how the donkey is now able to bend his leg at the stifle and put his hoof firmly on the ground.





We don't see a lot of cats at the medical centre but this beautiful cat was brought in by its young owner suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea. After treatment the cat returned home and we are pleased to say the young owner contacted AWOL to let us know the cat has fully recovered.

We often see this man on the right at the AWOL centre and he has featured in the newsletter before. He takes good care of his animals and regularly brings his dogs in for worming and flea and tick treatment. This time it was a family occasion as members of his family arrived with two dogs for treatment. It's very satisfying to know that the local people feel comfortable enough at the centre to bring in their daughters and other family members.

We have continued to see many underweight dogs at the centre and thanks to our supporters we are still able to provide free dog food where necessary.





Unfortunately not everyone cares for their animals as well as the family on page 3. This poor little dog was literally dragged in by its young owner. The poor dog has been tied up using completely unsuitable material which has caused nasty neck wounds. She also is suffering from a very bad case of mange. This has obviously gone untreated for some time and as a result the little dog is thin, emaciated and suffering from anaemia with barely any fur remaining.

Dr Mohamed cut the material from around the dog's neck and cleaned and dressed the wound. The little dog was given some food and treated for anaemia and mange.



It is cold at night in Luxor at this time of year and the poor little dog had very little fur to keep her warm so she has been provided with a little knitted jacket. The little dog is staying at the centre until she has improved. The decision about her long-term future is not yet decided; the owner has been given advice on how to care for his dog but it remains to be seen if that advice is heeded and this will determine whether the dog can be returned to the owner in future or not.



The decision whether to return the dog to its owner might seem like an easy one to make when a dog is as badly treated as this. We have to consider, though, that if we remove the dog from its owner due to mistreatment they will simply get another dog and the same fate may befall it. The owner would then not be willing to bring that dog or any other animals they might own to the centre if they think they will be taken from them.





You might remember this little dog who was brought to the centre by Sari, an ex-pat living on the west bank. The little dog belonged to someone in the village who had gone away for a while. The owner's mother was left to care for the dog but tethered it using a large iron clasp round the dogs neck causing very nasty wounds. We are happy to have received photos of the dog from Sari who looked after the dog for a while until she had recovered. The dog's owner has now returned but Sari will be visiting and keeping an eye on this sweet little dog.



AWOL UK events

There will be afternoon tea and cake along with a small raffle at the home of supporter Ros on Wednesday 24th February, 2.30pm-3pm. Anyone wishing to attend must contact Ros prior to the event as this is held in her own home in Epsom, Surrey. You can contact Ros at Ros.barrow@hotmail.com or call her on 07788 563701

Our next supporters lunch will be on March 15th at 12.30pm at Woodies Freehouse, New Malden, Surrey, please let Ros or myself know if you would like to attend.

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[Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) is an easy way for you to raise funds; just register online and remember to log in to your easyfundraising account when you shop online. By shopping online at over 2,700 top retailers you can raise funds for AWOL at no extra cost to you! It's very easy; you just need to open an account with Easyfundraising and log into their website before you shop online.

Payment and donation methods; AWOL accepts payments and donations by cheque, standing order, direct bank payments and via [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com) and [Virgin Money Giving](https://www.virginmoneygiving.com). Click on the links or go to our website www.Awol-Egypt.org.