

ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

UK Registered charity 1124154. www.AWOLEgypt.org

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Dear Supporter,

As mentioned in my earlier email this month's newsletter has been delayed by computer problems on my return from Luxor. Thank you for bearing with me and for the kind messages I received from some people.

I am very happy to be able to report that the AWOL centre is running smoothly, as I expected, and my thanks and appreciation go to our AWOL Luxor trustee Nasser Hussein and our vet Dr Mohamed Ayman for ensuring this is the case. I would also like to thank Nasser, Dr Mohamed and the rest of the staff - Ahmed, Gergis, Nouby and Boghdady - for making my visit such a pleasure. Although I am in contact with the Luxor team every day it is always nice to see them in person and also to be able to interact with the animals and their owners. Working in the UK, managing AWOL and trying to encourage support for our work, can sometimes seem far removed from the poor animals in Luxor but is nevertheless essential for their well-being. It is wonderful to see how these animals are being helped and how much difference our work in Luxor, and here in the UK, is making to them.

We had some very productive meetings in Luxor and are busy making plans for AWOL's future. We hope to continue to improve and equip the centre and also to continue our visits far out into the rural west bank and into the desert areas. For this of course we depend on you, our supporters, to help raise funds for our work and to spread the AWOL word. Many thanks to those who regularly donate; perhaps if more people visited Luxor and saw the need for AWOL's care more people would help our cause.



Tourist numbers are still very low and the area just seems to keep getting poorer. The central bank of Egypt has issued figures showing the rate of inflation in Egypt now running at over 30% year on year for March and 39% for the more volatile sector of fresh fruit and vegetable. This is an increase on the previous two months but even during January and February the inflation rate was close to 30%. Everything is expensive for the locals to buy in Luxor now. With the devaluing of the Egyptian pound it is a great time for tourists to visit Luxor as you can now get over 20LE (Egyptian pounds) to one pound sterling; over double the exchange rate a year ago! Hotels are still generally charging the same local prices so it is very good value for money but for the locals trying to buy food and essentials it is a very difficult time and there is no money left for the animals care. Our supplies are also rising in price so we continue to budget very carefully.

The pharmacy is looking reasonably well-stocked and we would like to thank everyone who donated items to take over and especially Bev, John and Vicki, and David for their extra monetary donations to enable me to take out an entire suitcase full of things which are sometimes difficult to get or can be expensive in Luxor.



We were also pleased to see supporter Pieter at the AWOL centre and very grateful for the large amount of supplies he brought with him – especially the yellow plastic duck!

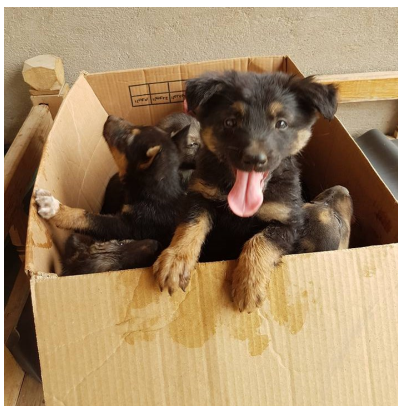
We use a lot of Sudocrem at the centre for various wounds, cuts, burns and other skin problems so we are always happy to receive donations of that at the centre. As well as treating the animals at the centre we also show the owners how to apply the cream to the animals themselves and give them a small tub or tube to use themselves at home.



Sudocrem helps with mange as well as cuts and abrasions but it is expensive to buy in Luxor so the local owners would not be able to buy it themselves. Most of the animals we see would get no treatment if the owners had to pay for goods or treatment themselves.



Out of all the animals treated during my visit these puppies and their mother must be my favourites!



A box full of puppies! I could not resist these gorgeous little pups brought into the centre for their second check up and treatment. There were seven of these little beauties in this box.



The pups were all in good health; Dr Mohamed had treated them earlier in the month when they were tiny. They were making good progress and doing well. The mother was a little nervous about her puppies and also had a very upset stomach from eating bad raw meat but she was a lovely sweet little dog and will make a full recovery from her tummy upset.



First visit of puppies



It was great to see the AWOL centre so busy! Every day there were animals and their owners queueing up to receive advice and treatment. There is certainly no shortage of patients on the west bank!



Lots of lovely dogs came to the centre as usual for treatment for mange, worms, fleas and ticks. In addition many of them were in need of new collars to replace the old rope or chain many of them were wearing.



Some of the dogs were a little wary to start with and needed soft muzzles to be on the safe side but they were quite friendly after they settled down a little. They should be more comfortable now they have new soft collars which will not cause them any pain or discomfort.



This dog had a heavy knotted rope round his neck which had the potential to cause a nasty wound so we removed that and replaced it with a new collar made at the centre by Gergis.





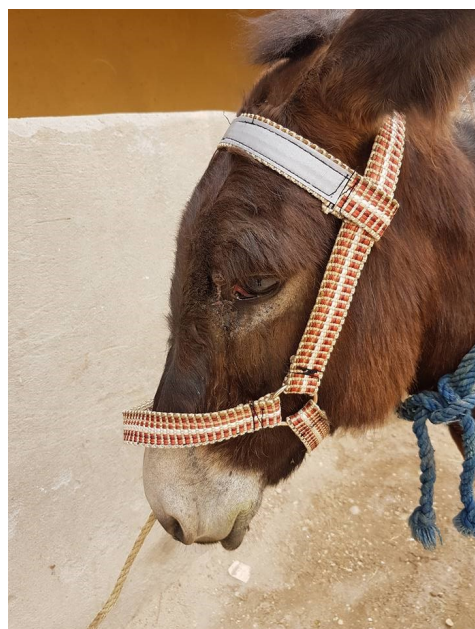
As usual there are plenty of donkeys in need of new tack on the west bank of Luxor. Gergis is the expert in making new tack and he, along with Dr Mohamed and Ahmed, fits new head collars and tack to the many donkeys we see at the centre.



Old, worn and unsuitable tack can cause nasty cuts and sores like the one pictured below. This donkey had a nasty sore caused by a worn and rough yoke. The wound was cleaned and disinfected and a soft wrap put round the yoke to stop any further injury.



It was lovely to catch up with our lovely residents again! Peggy is an absolute whirlwind of wagging, bonkers activity! A little wobbly when she is over-excited but she can run and play with no pain or discomfort. It's unlikely that she will now gain full strength in her back legs but she is very mobile and clearly very happy. Dobby, Tufty and Lucky are all happy little dogs as well. Our resident donkey Hector is content and often shares his stable with a patient where they have an abundant supply of fresh greens to eat. Hector seems happy to share this but doesn't always have the patience to wait for the food to be put into his stable!



I met this lovely donkey during my visit; as first glance it was difficult to see what his problem was. Dr Mohamed explained that this donkey came in earlier in the month with a nasty eye tumour. This was removed and the wound stitched under local anaesthetic. This was his third visit to the AWOL centre; he had made a great improvement on his second visit and on this his third visit it was



hard to tell that he had previously had any problem or had undergone surgery at all. An excellent result thanks to Dr Mohamed's skilful surgery.



We have been back out in the villages again! We treated 41 donkeys and 20 dogs in one day. Mostly we saw donkeys with tack injuries and mange, and dogs with ticks, fleas, mange and in need of worming treatment. We were very pleased to see one of the donkeys we met in the villages come to the centre the following week for treatment.



We took new tack and new soft dog collars with us out to the villages and fitted them to many dogs and donkeys.



So many animals in Luxor suffer from mange; it affects dogs, donkeys and even horses. These are a couple of the donkeys we treated for mange.



This poor donkey had been in a fight with another donkey. He had sustained an injury to his top lip which had been ripped in half by a nasty bite. This needed stitching both inside and outside the mouth so was a substantial procedure. The wound came together nicely though so we expect him to make a full recovery.



Upcoming events.

Saturday 29th April, 11am-3pm, 'Colour me' day at Merland Rise church, Tadworth, Surrey. Find out what colours suit you best and enjoy a light lunch with some lovely ladies! £30 per ticket. Please contact Ros on 07788563701 as soon as possible for a ticket. Ros will be donating her commission from this event to AWOL, for which we thank her.

Monday May 8th, 12.30, Supporters lunch at Court Farm Garden Centre café, Worcester Park, Surrey (near Tolworth tower) with raffle. Come along and meet other AWOL supporters. Please let Ros know, on the number above, if you would like to attend or email Angela at AngelaAWOL@gmail.com so we have some idea of numbers.



Thank you for reading this month's newsletter. As it is now late in April the next newsletter will be published at the beginning of June. Many thanks for your support, *Angela*.



[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.