

# ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

UK Registered charity 1124154. [www.AWOLEgypt.org](http://www.AWOLEgypt.org)

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Dear Supporter,

As this is the first newsletter of 2020 we would like to send all of supporters our best wishes for the new year and the new decade. Thanks to your support and generosity we treated 7825 animals at the AWOL centre in 2019 and hundreds more in our mobile clinics. We are constantly surprised at how far some owners will travel to bring animals for treatment whilst others come from the surrounding villages and rural communities. With no other charity based on Luxor's west bank it is so important to be able to offer free treatment and care to the animals and their owners.

Please don't think that a small donation will not help these animals—it ALL helps and we are very cost effective at AWOL! Without high overheads and highly-paid trustees or directors we can ensure that the animals in Luxor benefit as much as possible from your donations. This is not always the case for all charities as there is no law governing how much of a charities income can be used on overheads and how much must go directly to the cause at grass roots level. Generally a good charity is considered to be doing well to have costs of 25% or less of it's income so that 75% goes directly to charitable cause.

It is shocking to read in a 2015 report that one in five of the UK's biggest charities are spending less than half of their income on good causes. Gina Miller, founder of the True and Fair Foundation (and more recently known for her involvement in the Brexit issue) said in a statement: 'It is an utter disgrace that so much of the money people generously give is going to feed large charity machines, which are often characterised by obscene overheads and salaries, aggressive fundraising, and bloated marketing and publicity departments; resulting in questionable levels of charitable spending.' There is NO risk of this at AWOL; we pay only reasonable local salaries in Luxor and keep outgoings to a minimum so our admin and other costs usually account for only 5-10% of our funding this means as much money as possible goes to help the animals in Luxor.

To ensure we maximise the donations we receive from our wonderful supporters could all supporters who donate and pay UK tax ensure they have authorised AWOL to claim GiftAid on their donations. As long as your income tax paid is more than your annual donations (in any one year) we can claim this back from HMRC at no cost or inconvenience to yourself. Please contact us using the details on page one if you have any queries.

We are very pleased to be able to start the new decade with some excellent news! After interviews held in Luxor in December last year we have now taken on a second vet at the AWOL centre. Dr Lamiaa graduated as a vet from university in Qena in 2018 and has had some training at Brooke equine charity. She started in mid-December and is currently getting to grips with her new role. We are looking for further training opportunities for her and looking forward to her future involvement with AWOL. With your help AWOL can continue to evolve and expand for the benefit of the animals in the poor rural areas of Luxor.



During 2020 we hope to be able to increase the frequency of our mobile clinics as they are of enormous benefit to the animals. We can treat animals with mild symptoms, which the owners might not have noticed, before they get more serious and also reach animals that might not otherwise have been brought to the centre for treatment.



Whilst we hope to increase our mobile clinics this does mean extra cost so we need all the help we can get from our supporters. Each village visit costs around £75-£100 to carry out but we know it is worth it to reach as many animals as possible. With no transport, other than their donkey, it is not easy for some owners to get the animal to the AWOL centre for treatment.

We supply soft tack, head collars, winter coats, back cushions, dog collars and food as well as medicines and treatment in our mobile clinics—all given free of charge to any animal in need. If you cannot donate please help spread the word about our work to help us reach more people who care about the animals as much as we do.





It is always busy at the AWOL centre first thing in the morning; dogs, donkeys, horses, goats, cats, sheep and the occasional camel, rabbit or bird all turn up for free treatment and advice from Dr Mohamed and Dr Lamiaa. We hope that the children who come in will learn a little from our team and grow up to understand how to treat their animals kindly.



These little goats were only a couple of days old when they were brought to the AWOL centre. One of them had a congenital urinary blockage which was cleared with a small surgical procedure and treated with antibiotics to prevent infection along with anti-inflammatory medicine to reduce inflammation and control pain. The others were not suckling very well and a little weak due to cold-like symptoms so were given multi-vitamin treatment and anti-inflammatories. After treatment they are all looking in good health and very, very, cute!



In addition to treating as many animals as possible and making and supplying tack and dog collars, we have also been busy furnishing the centre over the last few weeks. A new cupboard has been purchased for the staff's use after a special donation from some wonderful loyal supporters and new shelving bought and fitted for the stock room. More fabric for donkey coats, back cushions and dog beds has arrived all bought and paid for by our supporters for the benefit of the animals in Luxor.





Almost every day we continue to see donkeys with injuries sustained whilst working. This donkey had an injury to his rump which needed stitching and treating with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. He left the centre with a soft cover over his nose chain and when he returns for a check-up he can be fitted with a new soft head collar.



The donkey below had nasty bruising and sores on his back following a fall. He also had a haematoma on his rump which needed attention from Dr Mohamed. A haematoma is a build-up of blood outside of normal blood vessels—rather like a large blood blister. In some cases it can be left to re-absorb into the body but larger ones may need draining which is what Dr Mohamed is doing here. The poor donkey's other wounds were also treated and he should make a full recovery. This donkey also left with a soft noseband cover.





It's a particularly busy time both at the AWOL centre and in the villages at this time of year. Harvest season is well underway and the donkeys are working hard carrying loads to the small sugar-cane railway that runs from some of the larger villages to Luxor train station. They work very hard in the daytime and despite the fact it's winter temperatures are still in the mid-high twenties degrees Celsius so it's hot hard work. At night the temperature can drop dramatically to 4 or 5 degrees (sometimes less) so it's a difficult life for these poor working donkeys.

Gergis makes donkey coats at the AWOL centre to help keep these donkeys warm at night. Some of the donkeys have shelter but many are kept outside in the cold like this donkey we saw recently. This donkey



had a young foal and they both needed a little help to keep warm and comfortable. Both donkeys had check-ups and Dr Mohamed and Gaballah fitted a nice new soft head collar for the mother—the foal is too small for a head collar at the moment but we will fit him with a collar and made-to-measure coat on a later visit.

At the AWOL centre Gergis custom-fits donkey coats to our visiting patients. These donkeys now have smart bespoke coats to keep them warm during the winter months!







Our lovely resident Peggy also has a very stylish warm coat for wear overnight when the nights are chilly. Resident Dobby is not so keen on the extra layers! He has a very thick fluffy coat which needs constant grooming. At 11 years old he is doing extremely well!



Our two resident donkeys Hector and Zazooa are doing well at the AWOL centre. They have separate stables most of the time but like to socialise with each other from time to time when they are out in the yard. With a ready supply of dry food and fresh green barseem they are two very lucky donkeys despite their foot deformities.



We have two more residents at the moment at the AWOL centre. These beautiful little puppies (below) were found on the side of the road by centre assistant Ahmed (pictured). Despite an extensive search for an owner or any information about the puppies nothing could be found so he brought them to the centre to keep them safe.

So far no owner has been found so they will stay at the centre until we can find a home for them. They are happy with their accommodation and a ready supply of food which they almost certainly wouldn't be getting outside the centre.





We have seen both donkeys and dogs coming in with wolf injuries recently. These two young dogs had both been attacked and suffered injuries to their legs. The female (far right photo) had a fractured leg and cuts and was obviously in pain but she was very concerned about her more seriously injured brother who could not even sit up or lift his head.

The little girl had her leg set under general anaesthetic and after she regained consciousness and was given antibiotics and anti-inflammatories she was allowed to go home to rest.

Unfortunately her brother wasn't so lucky. He had sustained severe injuries to his legs and his front left leg was very badly broken.



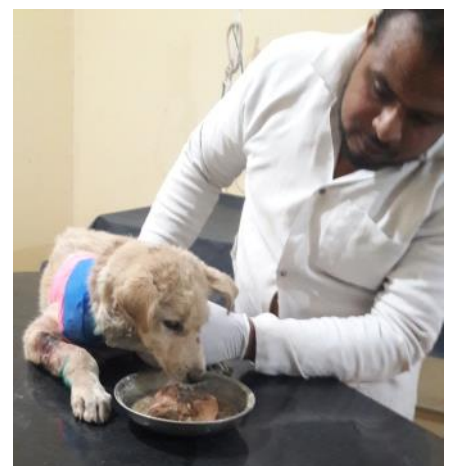
The little dog was in so much pain and was sedated very quickly after arrival at the centre. Dr Mohamed examined him carefully and it became clear that the bones in his leg were so badly crushed it would not be possible to reset and repair them.



Dr Mohamed made the decision to perform an emergency amputation. The pup was so badly injured and traumatised we were not sure if he would even survive the operation.

We were very happy later on in the day to find the pup had come round and was well enough to eat a little cooked liver. It is early days yet as this happened on February 13th but we hope he will make a good

recovery as he is doing well so far. We don't yet know if his owner will want him back; if he doesn't he may well become an AWOL resident as rehoming a disabled dog in Luxor would be almost impossible.



## UK News

The current AWOL Facebook auction runs until February 23rd. We are always looking for items suitable for the auctions so if you have any unwanted Christmas presents please contact Lorraine at [lainey.stocks@yahoo.com](mailto:lainey.stocks@yahoo.com). We run Facebook auctions fairly regularly so we are always happy to accept suitable donations.

Our Surrey supporters group enjoyed a lovely lunch earlier this month and along with funds from other fundraising raised £135 for AWOL. Many thanks to everyone who attended and especially Sue, Ros, Jan and Dee for helping with the organisation and for their other fundraising efforts.



The next supporters lunch is on Monday March 9th 12.30pm at The Mint, Park Road, Banstead SM7 3DS.

April's lunch will be on Monday 20th April 12.30pm at The Haywain, 2-4 St Margaret Drive, Dorking Road Epsom KT18 7LB .

Please contact Sue on [suecamber@virginmedia.com](mailto:suecamber@virginmedia.com) or by phone on 07932 948273 if you would like more details of these lunches. Please note the venues have been changed from the previous newsletter.

## FUNDRAISING CAN BE FUN!

Our supporters always tell us what a lovely time they have at fundraising events! It is a great way to meet new people or catch up with old friends. You can get involved by holding an afternoon tea for friends, taking a stall at a local sale or fete (often free for charities), selling plants at a plant sale, sponsored dog walking or horse riding etc. If you would like to organise your own event to raise funds for AWOL please let us know and we will support you as much as possible.

Remember, all our help and care for the animals in Luxor is possible only with your help and every bit helps. Donations to AWOL can be made in the following ways:

By cheque (made out to Animal Welfare of Luxor), standing order, money paid directly into the AWOL bank account at any branch of HSBC or online, via Paypal (using email [AngelaAWOL@gmail.com](mailto:AngelaAWOL@gmail.com)), by credit or debit card via Virgin Money Giving (click on the Virgin icon to take you to the site).



AWOL's bank detail are as follows: A/c name - Animal Welfare of Luxor, A/c number 51621076, Sort code 40 20 24. Cheques should be sent to the office address on page one.

AWOL's IBAN number for receiving international payments into the AWOL bank account is GB73HBUK40202451621076

Many thanks for reading our newsletter, *Angela* and the AWOL team.

