

ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

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Dear Supporter,

Since our last newsletter most of the world has been affected one way or another by the Covid19 virus. We hope all our supporters are keeping safe and well at this difficult time. Luxor has, of course, not escaped the effects of the virus but has so far not been affected as badly as some countries. We can only hope that the situation does not escalate to the extent seen in other countries such as China or Italy and that it improves soon.

In Luxor gatherings of people are banned due to the current crisis and there is a 7pm– 6am curfew when people should be staying at home and not going out in the streets. Not everyone is keeping to this curfew



and we are hoping this will not result in a complete daytime lockdown of the town and surrounding area which would seriously hamper our work. We had some difficulty controlling the number of owners waiting outside the AWOL centre with their animals last month and we have been in discussion with the local police department regarding this. This issue has resolved itself for now as more people stay at home so we have been a little quieter than usual; we are though expecting an influx of patients when the Coronavirus situation improves.

We would like to thank our two guards, Boghdady and Gaballah, for their wonderful commitment to the animals at the centre and for ensuring they are looked after 24/7. Our guards are more than just guards—they also feed and help care for the animals and make sure that anyone with an out-of-hours emergency is able to contact Dr Mohamed.

Due to the coronavirus all the supporters lunches which have been planned for the coming months have been cancelled. We thank everyone who has come to these lunches and hope we will be able to arrange some fundraising and social events before too long. We will obviously miss the funds raised by our wonderful supporters at these lunches as well as the opportunity to catch up with some of our friends of AWOL.

The AWOL centre is regularly sprayed and treated with disinfectant and we have increased the disinfection process so that it is sprayed every morning and evening. Ahmed has been carrying out most of the spraying with a little help from Boghdady.

We have recently been able to purchase new crates for sick and injured dogs and cats who may need to be kept quiet and still - these will be located in one of the indoor areas for animals in need of special care.



Our lovely resident dogs are blissfully unaware of any virus problems! Happy as usual running around the yard when the centre is closed and catching up on all the wonderful smells that have built up over the day. Dobby is 11 years old this year and still well and healthy. Despite his lifelong disability he scoots around without any worries. Peggy is still a little whirlwind and such a happy little dog—her wobbly back legs don't slow her down at all! We also have a number of temporary residents at the moment—the little black dog is one of a pair rescued off the side of the road. Hopefully we will be able to find a new home for both of the pups in the not-too-distant future.



Some more lovely temporary residents at the AWOL centre. These four beautiful puppies were dumped at the centre a few weeks ago at only a few days old. Initially cared for by local resident and helper Melinda at home they are now weaned and living at the centre until they are old enough to be rehomed. They are quite a handful and so very, very, cuddly!



This dog has been resident at the centre for three weeks after he was brought in with a very nasty wound to his leg sustained in a fall. No bones were broken but the damage to the skin and the muscles was severe and needed extensive stitching and aftercare.



Dr Lamiaa assisted Dr Mohamed with the necessary surgery and the dog stayed at the centre for daily care and treatment which included antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication.



After he recovered from surgery he needed rest and gentle exercise to help him regain his strength. When he was fully recovered his concerned owner came to collect him and he happily went home.

Despite being such a lovely looking dog he was not in the least bit friendly! He made every possible attempt to bite the staff and needed to be muzzled for medication administration and check-ups. Nevertheless we were pleased to see him make a full recovery and he seemed happy to see his owner so we took that as a sign he was well treated at home.





Two of our donkey patients treated recently at the centre for injuries. The first donkey had a very nasty injury to his muzzle with a deep cut and a small fractured bone in his nose. The wound was cleaned and stitched and the donkey received antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. The small bone should heal and fuse together given time. On his return check-up we were very pleased to see the wound had healed nicely and he was looking very well.



The donkey below had sustained an injury to his leg at work. This injury was not so deep and just needed cleaning and dressing. Given the conditions the animals are kept in we usually administer antibiotics to ensure no infection sets in and also give the animal anti-inflammatory medicine to reduce swelling and give some pain relief. He went home with a bright pink bandage and a nice new warm donkey coat made by Gergis at the centre.



Compared to the working donkeys we see so many of at the AWOL centre our resident donkeys Hector and Zazooa have lovely lives. They have their own stables most of the time but like to socialise a bit after the centre closes to the public and they can stroll around the yard. They have a diet of dry food and fresh green food and are both content and healthy despite their deformed foot problems.



Zazooa, pictured with Dr Mohamed, has a deformed foot and hoof which cannot be cured. Saved from the streets of Dahab and brought to Luxor by Horse Aid Dahab a couple of years ago he was in danger of being put to sleep when AWOL responded to a plea to save him.

Hector has been with AWOL since he was abandoned outside the centre 6 years ago. He has a missing foot, probably due to be tethered by a piece of wire which completely severed his foot.

Luckily as both Hector and Zazooa are small lightweight donkeys they manage with their foot deformities very well and are in no pain or discomfort.



The working donkeys out in the villages and rural communities are not so lucky as our residents. They are working hard to bring in the harvest and continue to suffer with bad tack, minor wounds and sores as well as more serious injuries sustained in their work.

We treat donkeys for injuries, mange, worms and vitamin deficiencies in every village visit. Just this basic care can make such a difference to the comfort of these hard-working and often neglected animals.





A small gallery of some of our recent beautiful canine patients. It's amazing to think that before AWOL there was nowhere for miles around to take these dogs for treatment, check-ups or advice. Most of these owners have no way of transporting their dogs for treatment and they often arrive on foot as well as in tuk-tuks and on motorbikes. Only the well cared for little white dog below came in with a proper collar; all the others had wire and rope removed from around their necks and new soft collars fitted.





You might remember the two puppies who came in following a wolf attack in December. One of the puppies was only slightly injured and returned home but the other one was badly mauled and it was necessary to amputate one leg. The pup did really well after the operation, which was completely successful, and was eating and getting around so we were very happy. Unfortunately a week later the pup suddenly started showing signs of rabies and after monitoring him for 48 hours Dr Mohamed had to make the difficult decision to put the pup to sleep. We have all been devastated by this turn of events but with no cure for rabies it was the only choice to make. Such a shame after he made such a fantastic recovery from his injuries - as those of you who follow

AWOL on Facebook will have seen from the videos of him pottering around at the AWOL centre.

It is very sad but the threat of rabies from wolves and wild dogs is always present to some extent out in the west bank in Luxor, particularly in the rural areas. Rabies is often the reason the local authorities give for putting out poison, especially if local residents have complained about a street dog they suspect to have rabies. All our resident dogs and inpatients are vaccinated against rabies but it was too late for this little one. We offer free rabies vaccinations at the AWOL centre when the budget allows but they are expensive so we will continue to vaccinate when we can.

The little pup pictured below also had severe injuries but had a happier outcome. This little one had run out into the street and been hit by a car. He had injuries to 3 legs with extensive skin loss and deep wounds to one of his front legs but miraculously no broken bones.



This pup needed intensive treatment for many weeks. His dressings needed checking and changing constantly but he slowly began to improve and enjoyed lying in the sun at the centre.





After many weeks of care at the AWOL centre we are so happy to be able to report that this pup has made a full recovery and recently left the centre to go back home to his owner. It's hard to believe that his wounds have healed so well and he will suffer no lasting damage from his ordeal. Hopefully he has learnt to keep away from cars now!



We are very pleased to report that Dr Mohamed has updated and expanded his small animal knowledge by completing some small animal and pet courses at university in Cairo. The courses in 'Surgical Operation of Pet Animals' and 'Medicine and Infectious Diseases in Pet Animals' will be of great benefit to our work in Luxor. Congratulations to Dr Mohamed on this achievement and many thanks also to Dr Lamiaa for holding the fort and continuing to treat animals back at the AWOL centre whilst Dr Mohamed was in Cairo.

Many thanks to our supporters who continue to support us through this difficult time. We are doing our best to keep our service in Luxor operating as usual and will continue to do so whilst working around any government restrictions.

Please note that due to Covid19 there may be a delay before we can pay cheques into the AWOL bank account, apologies if this causes any inconvenience—rest assured we are still in need of funding and will deposit your cheque as soon as it is safe and practicable.

We hope all our supporters are keeping safe and well and all come through this situation unscathed. Do take care and stay safe!



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), 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.

