



ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

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Dear Supporter,

It has been a very busy couple of months in Luxor for AWOL. We were delighted to welcome the team from the Animal Medical Centre in Cairo to the AWOL centre in September who came with 100 free rabies vaccinations donated by Pfizer. A team of two vets and two assistants stayed in Luxor for 4 days and were made very welcome by the team in Luxor.

Over the course of their visit over 100 dogs were vaccinated against rabies both at the centre and out in the villages. In the 40 degree heat this was a big job for all concerned—the AWOL team are used to the heat but the Cairo team found working in such intense heat rather a challenge! The team also recommended additional equipment and suggested improved procedures for the AWOL centre. We are very grateful for their help and much appreciate their cooperation and efforts. We have asked them to return next year and we are very pleased to be able to say that they have kindly agreed.



In addition to vaccinating hundreds of dogs the AMC team also helped with spaying and neutering at the AWOL centre. It is very difficult to get local dog owners to agree to have their dogs neutered as they see it as unnatural and they like them to have puppies - although unfortunately they often do not know how to care for them and tend to think of them as toys and handle them roughly.

AWOL vets Dr Mohamed and Dr Lamiaa assisted the AMC team with the neutering surgery and gained valuable information and experience in the procedure.



After the surgery the dogs rested for a while in our recovery cages before they went home to their owners. We keep trying to persuade people that spaying and neutering is preferable in Luxor to avoid unwanted puppies who end up as street dogs at risk of poisoning and injury. In the last photo you can see we have had the floor of the kennels laid with brick pavers which makes it much easier to keep the dirt and dust down.





These are just a few of the 100+ dogs we vaccinated against rabies with the AMC team.

Local dog owners are usually happy to have their dogs vaccinated as they are afraid of catching the disease themselves – unfortunately this can sometimes lead to people shooting or poisoning street dogs especially if they show any aggression.



Occasionally we get requests for rabies vaccinations from dog owners who think they might have seen a rabid dog in their area—or who have seen a wolf in the vicinity and are worried about their own animals contracting the disease. We do our best to encourage vaccinations and would ideally like to be able to afford to vaccinate on a routine basis. Unfortunately local government is not above poisoning street dogs and using the threat of rabies as an excuse so if Luxor can become rabies-free this excuse will not be open for them to use.



As many of you know we have two guards at the AWOL centre who both work 12 hour shifts to keep our resident animals and inpatients safe. Our guard Gaballah recently sustained an injury to his shoulder following a fall at home which resulted in torn ligaments in his shoulder. He has been unable to use his arm since the accident and the specialist treatment he needed was not available in Luxor.

With the help of Dr Mohamed I have been able to raise funds for Gaballah to have treatment in Cairo and Dr Mohamed made arrangements with the hospital in Cairo for surgery which was carried out last month. Gaballah is now back at home recovering and undergoing physiotherapy. He is still unable to return to work but we really hope he will be back very soon. Dr Mohamed and Ahmed have been to visit Gaballah and his recovery is so far going to plan.



Whilst Gaballah was initially off work and undergoing surgery our other guard Boghdady (below) had been covering his shifts at the AWOL centre and working 24/7. Unfortunately he received some very bad news during this time when his wife suddenly passed away at home. Boghdady is not an old man and his wife was only in her forties so it was unexpected and a huge shock to the family. We are sure our supporters will be as sad as we are at such bad news and we all offer our deepest condolences to Boghdady and his family.

Boghdady took a few days off for his wife's funeral which, in Luxor, is held within 24 hours and lasts three days. During this time assistant Ahmed stood in for both the guards and spent every day and night at the centre looking after the animals and security.

Boghdady is now back at work and Gaballah's shifts are being covered by his son who has been a great help.

We are all very grateful for the team in Luxor pulling together during what has been a difficult time. Our thoughts have very much been with Boghdady and Gaballah over the past few weeks.



We have seen some lovely little cats and kittens at the centre recently. Most of them came in for check-ups and fleas/worming treatment and were well looked-after.

We don't see many cat carriers on Luxor's west bank. Many cats come to us in boxes or bags but these two little ones came in a smart proper cat carrier. Both the kittens were in good condition and just needed flea and tick treatment and worming. We don't have any concerns about these little ones—cats are generally treated better than dogs and most other animals in Luxor and these are obviously going to be cared for.



The tiny little cat below came to the centre in a more usual carrier in the form of a cardboard box. The poor little thing had got lost amongst some dense farm crops and had been missing for a few days. The owner brought it to AWOL for treatment and although we wanted to keep her in for a while the owner wanted to take her back home and promised he would take good care of her. The little one didn't have any injuries so she was treated with vitamins and should recover with some food and rest.



One of many donkeys we have treated at the AWOL centre for injuries and wounds. We have been unable to find out what exactly happened to this poor donkey to cause such a horrible wound but it was not a new injury when his owner brought him to the centre.

After cleaning the wound and removing a large amount of dead skin it was possible to see the extent of the injury.



The wound needed cleaning and sterilising then it was dressed and covered with bandaging and a fly veil to keep flies from irritating the donkey and spreading disease. Flies can be a big problem in Luxor and a fly strike can seriously hamper healing and result in infections and maggot infestation so it is important to keep open wounds covered wherever possible.

Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatment was given along with an anti-tetanus injection and the donkey has been made comfortable in his own stable at the AWOL centre. He will be well cared-for and be well fed whilst he recovers from this horrible injury. We are already seeing some improvement after one week at the AWOL centre.




We are pleased to see supporter and local resident Melinda back at the centre after spending the summer in the UK. Melinda and her daughter Amira love spending time with the animals at the centre and resident dogs Dobby and Peggy enjoy the special attention they get when Melinda treats them to a grooming session!



Dr Mohamed is currently taking exams in Microbiology for a post-graduate diploma. He already holds a Masters degree in a bovine related subject and this course covers microbiology in small animals. Most veterinary training in Egypt covers predominantly farm animals but includes very little about small animals such as dogs and cats. Dr Mohamed has already taken some courses in small animal medicine at the university of Cairo and continues to expand his skill and knowledge base. At the time of writing he has passed his first exam and has more over the coming two weeks—we congratulate him on his success and wish all the best for remaining exams.

We are still in need of items for our Christmas Facebook auction. If you can send photos to us and post out your items to the winning bidders that is all you need to do—supporter Lorraine and I will do the rest! Email AngelaAwol@gmail.com or Lainey.stocks@yahoo.com with your photos or for more information.

Many thanks for reading our newsletter. Wishing all our supporters a happy and safe festive season and many thanks for your support throughout the year, *Angela* and the AWOL team . 



Remember, all our help and care for the animals in Luxor is possible only with your help; 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



Easyfundraising 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.