

ANIMAL WELFARE OF LUXOR

UK reg charity 1124154

Barnhaven, 12 Twyford Lane, Foulsham, Dereham, Norfolk NR205SE

Email; AngelaAwol@gmail.com Tel; 07880314764 www.AWOL-Egypt.org



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Dear Supporter,

Welcome to our April newsletter. Spring is well and truly under way in the UK and also in Luxor; albeit with a difference in temperature of around 20 degrees centigrade! It is starting to hot up in Luxor so now it is a good time to visit before the searing heat of the summer. If you do have plans to visit Luxor and would like to take out any items for the AWOL centre it may be possible for me to arrange an extra luggage allowance for charity items if you are flying with Thomson airlines so please do contact me in advance.

We have had a few deliveries at the AWOL centre this last couple of weeks. Firstly a new waterproof mattress has arrived to replace our old one. A hydraulic operating table is out of our budget so this does the job adequately instead. It comes with a spare cover which can be hosed down and scrubbed. Here Gergis and Ahmed help the supplier fit the cover.



We have also had a delivery of materials to make the soft cushions which go on the donkey's backs to protect them from injury caused by the wooden bridges often used and the heavy loads they carry. Our supply of these was becoming rather sporadic so we are now able to make these in-house. AWOL always tries to produce the items we need ourselves or to source them or the raw materials locally to help the local economy as well as ensure a readily-available supply.

Gergis is looking rather warily at the large pile of material he has to sew...



Donkeys like this one will appreciate his efforts though!

We are excitedly looking forward to the end of this month so we can start on a program of improvement at the centre. We have received specific funding for the fitting out of the treatment area and the re-modelling of the kennel area but before we can do this work there is some essential repair work required.



The centre was constructed on a built-up platform of land with the main structure being completed in 2012. Due to the political unrest it was thought expedient to finish the structure as soon as possible as there was the possibility that building permission would be rescinded following the removal of Hosni Mubarak from power.

It would have been preferable to allow the land to settle for some time before construction began but this was not considered to be an option at the time. Possibly due

to this a number of large cracks have appeared in 3 places on the main external walls of the centre. One has already been repaired when the shower area was fitted and the other two are now planned for repair as soon as we can get onto the land at the side of the centre. We had hoped to carry out this work in February but we have to wait for the farmer whose land adjoins the centre planted a second his crop so we



must wait for him to harvest this before we can start work. There are two large cracks located at either end of the main wall where the bricks join the concrete upright pillars. The section of wall between the affected area and the next pillar will be taken down and rebuilt using metal ties to fix the rebuilt wall to the adjoining pillars.

When this essential work has been completed we will then be able to fit out the treatment area and the kennels, both of which are located on this wall.





This poor donkey came into the centre suffering from a very nasty facial injury sustained at work. Donkeys often have to pull very heavy , and often unstable, loads and this can sometimes cause the cart they are pulling to collapse leading to very serious injuries at times; this was the case for this poor animal.

The donkey underwent extensive stitching under anaesthetic and also received antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatment. He was allowed home after treatment as he lives nearby and can come to the centre every few days for check-ups.

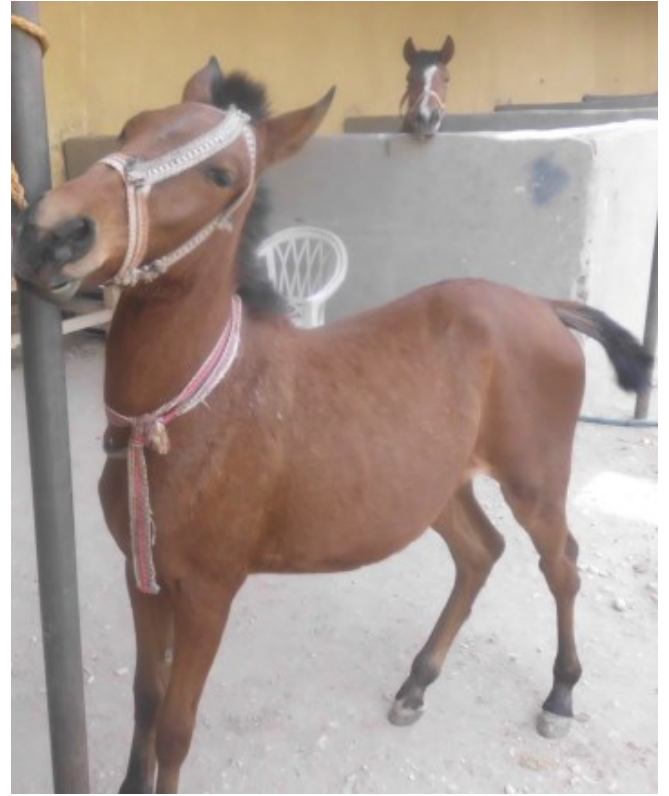


This last photo was taken just a couple of days ago on one of his check-ups. The wound is healing well and we are very pleased with his progress. He will continue to come in for further follow up treatment and checks until he is fully healed.





This sweet little horse had a abscess on his mandible which was pressing on his trachea and making breathing difficult. The abscess was drained and he felt much more comfortable afterwards. He has since been back for a check up and is doing well. One of the in-patients is watching with interest!



Another working accident, although thankfully not as serious as the previous one. This donkey had a fall resulting in a wound on his shoulder which needed stitching. He has almost fully recovered just a couple of weeks later.



This mother and her puppies came in for flea treatment as the owner noticed they were constantly scratching. They were too young for an injectable flea treatment so were treated with a safe spray instead and also received treatment for anaemia caused by the fleas.



This donkey was suffering from a large tumour on his leg. The tumour was large for the small size of the donkey and located around his knee area causing him some discomfort and difficulty in walking. The donkey was tranquillised and the tumour was removed under local anaesthetic. A course of antibiotics, anti-tetanus and anti-inflammatory was also prescribed.

After the operation he was able to stand and although his leg will be sore for a while he should make a full recovery and be much more comfortable now.

We have a couple of helpers in Luxor to say thanks to this month. First of all Rose, who visits the centre regularly to see the dog 'Sally' she rescued and to groom and help out with the other AWOL dogs. The AWOL dogs really appreciate her visits as she brings extra treats as well as lots of attention! She also had a story to tell about her trip to the centre a couple of weeks ago; I will let Rose tell it in her own words:



Well!..These two beautiful little donkeys made for a bit of drama, before! I got to the AWOL centre! I saw them as I was waiting for Ahmed to collect me on his motorbike, from the checkpoint. I was horrified, as it was obvious the baby donkey was struggling enormously to stay on his feet, he almost fell a few times & was being pulled & held by just a 'bag' tied around his neck & attached to his mom, whom the boy was beating. I was just about to give chase, when Ahmed arrived (poor Ahmed!, didn't quite know what 'hit' him)..as I jumped on his bike & said "follow that cart"! Whilst explaining to Ahmed on the way. Ahmed was so very good & together we persuaded the boy to follow us to the AWOL centre, so vet could check the donkeys over & give them both proper equipment for the donkeys headgear. Credit to the boy, who did follow & waited very patiently (with a little encouragement from me)! until the AWOL vet had finished all his operations. I talked to the boy & with careful advice also, from Dr Mohammed & his assistant Ahmed..& a LOT! of gentle persuasion, he gave-up the old, unsuitable headgear, in return for new, personally fitted equipment & a specially altered headpiece was fitted for the baby donkey. Thankfully..both mom & baby donkey..& the boy went happily on their way. Thank You & Bless You, AWOL



Many thanks to Rose for helping the poor donkeys and we would also like to say thank you to Dr Tayib who has been standing in at the AWOL centre for a couple of weeks whilst Dr Mohamed has been on pilgrimage to Mecca. Dr Mohamed is now back at the centre and we are very grateful to Dr Tayib for 'holding the fort'.

Upcoming events

Tuesday April 12th, 11am. 12.30pm. Coffee morning and small tombola at Lily's Coffee Shop, 5 Eastgate, Nork, Banstead. If you would like to attend please email Ros at Ros.barrow@hotmail.com, call her on 07788 563701 or contact Angela using the contact details on page one.

Our latest Facebook auction has 129 items for sale, pick up a bargain and raise funds for AWOL at the same time! You can find it by clicking [here](#). Many thanks to Mary (Olly Jone on Facebook) for running this auction for AWOL. Items for sale range from fashion jewellery, prints, DVD's and much more!



Many thanks to supporter Marion who raised a fabulous £160 for AWOL over Easter in Fife, Scotland.

Thanks to Ros for hosting last month's supporters lunch in Surrey. It was lovely to see so many new and old (or should I say 'established') faces there. The tombola raised £45 and Ron, Celia, Fred and Beverly contributed generous donations for which we thank them enormously. Thank you to all our supporters who have donated this month; special thanks to Wendy in Hampshire. Our regular standing order income is only 20% of the sum we need to run the centre every month so we appreciate all of your contributions. Every standing order enables us to set our budget and plan ahead so any small amount is welcome.

Thank you for reading this month's newsletter, *Angela*.

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