



Safe Haven
for Donkeys

Autumn 2024

NEWSLETTER



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Dear Friends,

Here we are, two thirds of the way through 2024 already and as usual, we have so much to tell you about our work in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt and of course Gaza.

Here in the UK, we are always working to raise the funds needed to keep helping donkeys. We have the next of our ever-popular quiz nights coming up in October – if you are in Sussex you might like to join us? See back page for more information.

If you would like to hold a stall at your local fair in aid of Safe Haven, do let us know. These events not only raise funds but also spread the word about our work. We can supply collection boxes and Safe Haven newsletters and leaflets – please contact us on 01444 470136 if you would like to help.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading our updates in this newsletter and that you like the front cover which features a photo of Dr Rakan's beautiful little girl.

Thank you all so very much for your generosity. Next year is the charity's 25th birthday and thanks to you, we have transformed the lives of thousands of donkeys and will continue to work tirelessly to do so.

Warmest regards,



Melanie



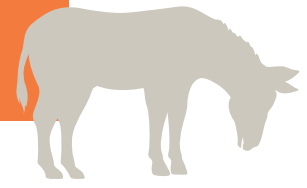
Fiona



Wendy



Diary from Israel



It has been a very busy few months at our sanctuary in Israel.



Jack



Charlie Brown



Primrose

Goodbye old friends

We have been very sad since the last newsletter to have to say goodbye to a few of our donkey friends – inevitable as the herd ages but still heartbreaking for those who love and care for them.

Charlie Brown, Jack and Primrose had all been with us for some time but had various health conditions and it had come to the stage where it was kindest to put them peacefully to sleep.

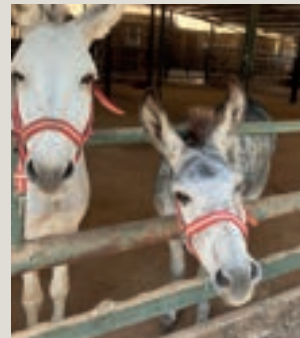
Welcome to the family

We were however very pleased to welcome three new donkeys to the sanctuary, all about 13 or 14 years of age.

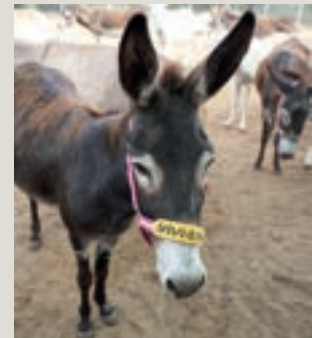
Vivian was found as a stray in the Israeli town of Harish. She had been tied up and left in the blazing sun without any food or water.

Sam and Oren were both found by a kind gentleman in a town called Malkia near the border with Lebanon. He took them in and paid for veterinary treatment but soon realised that he would not be able to keep them.

Thankfully, all three are now safely at our sanctuary. Vivian and Oren are healthy – Sam has a condition called laminitis in all four hooves but he is receiving pain medication and is being closely monitored by the team.



Sam and Oren



Vivian

Safe and secure thanks to you

Thanks to your donations to our refurbishment appeal, we have been able to entirely replace the gates and fencing around the sanctuary – we moved to Gan Yoshiyya in 2002 and the fencing had been there ever since. It was very rusty and some sharp edges could have caused injury to the donkeys so we are extremely grateful to everyone who donated to make sure the donkeys are safe and secure. We have also been able to carry out more drainage work to try and alleviate the flooding that tends to affect the rather flat site in the winter. Thank you all from the donkeys!

It is thanks to you that we can give donkeys in Israel a home for life and we are so very grateful for your support.



Visit to Egypt

Dr Anna Harrison, our volunteer veterinary advisor writes...



My first visit to our brick kilns project so you can imagine my excitement. And particularly as Andy and I were accompanied by Andrew Gouldstone, Professor in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department at Northeastern University, Massachusetts. Nutty professor he isn't, brilliantly enthusiastic and a true advocate for animals he is, describing himself as 'a proud freak of compassion'. He had learned of the plight of the brick kiln donkeys toiling in extreme conditions with impossibly heavy loads and, until Safe Haven stepped in, with nobody to provide veterinary care. (One has to wonder why, in 2017, one of the largest equine charities in the world chose to stop funding the vital welfare work in these brick kilns). Andrew learned of our dream to provide an economically viable non-animal alternative to the donkeys and wanted to bring his enormous passion and expertise to the task. Already e-rickshaws are replacing over-worked and under-loved carriage horses in Delhi and those transporting tourists in Petra, Jordan. However, the particular conditions in the brick kilns and the enormously heavy loads (around

1.5 tons) the donkeys are expected to pull mean there are technical challenges unlike any other.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to meet Dr Shabaan and his farrier colleagues Ahmed and Moharram together with project leader Eslam, and what a team they are! Not only providing expert veterinary and hoof care but encouraging the donkey handlers to treat the donkeys with respect and to value the enormous contribution the donkeys make to the industry. I could see that Dr Shabaan, who was made redundant in 2017 when charity support for his work ceased, was so happy to be back at work doing what he loves with such enormous skill and compassion.

Way beyond day-to-day treatment of harness wounds, lameness, eye disease, colic, dehydration, parasitism and beating wounds, the team run education workshops including donkey husbandry and nutrition and are in the process of compiling a manual for all donkey keepers. Dr Shabaan has provided an in-depth report on his work which shows that in a little over a year the incidence of serious pathologies has decreased significantly and the body condition of many donkeys has improved together with improved housing and nutrition. There is little in the way of deliberate cruelty but a lack of knowledge about animal care produces the same amount of suffering as if there were. Education is having a really positive effect and makes the improvement sustainable which is so important for the future of donkey welfare. Dr Shabaan is encouraging some competitiveness in the welfare stakes by grading each of the 150 kilns he works in as Red (awful), Amber (not so awful) Green (really quite good). The kiln managers strive to stay out of the Red!

Andrew was in his element! He spent several hours gathering data – cart dynamics, terrain gradients, substate characteristics and other technical stuff that was way beyond my understanding. And all this in 40-degree heat and no common language.

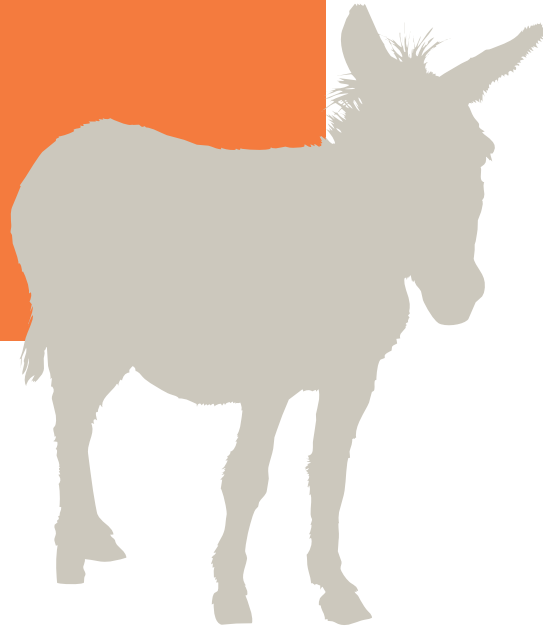
So now we wait. Can the Professor come up with a pioneering design? The dream is that no donkeys have to work in the brick kilns. The reality is that we have to come up with an alternative that is cheap to produce and run, requires little maintenance, small enough to get into the narrow kiln entrances yet strong enough to pull loads of 1.5 tons and acceptable to the kiln owners. It has to be better than a donkey in their eyes.*

Maybe this is the start of the miracle. And, as supporters, you are very much part of this project – so thank you.

*Just so you know there is NOTHING better than a donkey!



Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



Dr Rakan, the vet in charge of our services in the West Bank, tells us about some of the animals whose lives have been changed thanks to your donations.

Firstly, on behalf of Wael, Nour and myself in Nablus, our teams in Hebron and Tubas and the dedicated staff looking after the donkeys at our rescue centre in Arrana, thank you so much for your support. It is only thanks to you that we can help the donkeys of the West Bank and it is wonderful to know that so many of you care so deeply.

You may remember that the 34 donkeys that were living at our clinic in Nablus were earlier in the year transferred to our new rescue centre in the village of Arrana. They have a huge area in which to roam and

play and their own dedicated team to look after them. I truly believe they are the happiest donkeys in the whole of the West Bank and when I visit them to check up on them, I am always delighted to see how healthy they look. They are always pleased to see me as well – we formed a strong bond when they were in Nablus.

Of course, our Nablus clinic is still running and is very busy with owners bringing their donkeys, mules or horses to be treated, especially on Thursdays when the local donkey market takes place right outside.





A few weeks ago, a donkey was brought to the clinic from the nearby Balata refugee clinic. He was clearly very unwell and had collapsed while pulling a cart in what was even hotter weather than usual. The donkey's owner was very concerned about him and called me to come and visit. When I saw the donkey, I realised that he would need to be brought to our clinic and so I arranged transport. The owner's young son travelled to the clinic and helped me treat the donkey who I nicknamed William – we put William on a fluid drip and he also had vitamins, painkillers and antibiotics to help the wounds which he had suffered when he hit the ground after collapsing. William was with us for 10 days and was returned home to his grateful owner. I check up on William regularly and am pleased to say he has totally recovered.

As well as the Nablus clinic, myself and our other two teams are out and about regularly with our mobile clinic vehicles. It is not always easy – often there is a roadblock and we cannot reach the town or village where we had intended to go and so we have to change our plans at the last minute. There are always more animals for us to help however, so we always find somewhere that needs us.

Education is always a vital part of our work – in the long run, we can only transform the lives of working donkeys, mules and horses by changing the attitudes of the humans who rely on them. Not only do we run education sessions for owners and children and give out information booklets, I also host veterinary students from the nearby university. They value the opportunity to learn more about donkeys and I am very grateful for their help. A win-win for the animals!



It is only thanks to your generous support that we are able to run our Arrana rescue centre, clinic in Nablus and three mobile clinics covering the whole of the West Bank. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



News from Gaza

We would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who have donated towards our new project for donkeys, mules and horses in Gaza. Our small team are providing desperately-needed first aid to animals suffering in awful conditions.

Dr Saif, who heads up our project in Gaza, explains here why donkeys are more vital than ever.

“Firstly it’s important to say that fuel is currently very rare in Gaza, and very, very expensive. This means donkeys are now our main means of transportation. They help us so much going from one place to another. We don’t have cars or motorcycles like before. So now, donkeys are used to help move people and their possessions.

Without donkeys, it would be so much harder for us to survive, in terms of the injured, in terms of water, in terms of evacuating people with only a few hours’ notice. If these people didn’t have donkeys, they would die.

The people try their best to look after their donkeys. There is no food getting into Gaza, and people have at times maybe one meal a day. It is similar for the animals but people with donkeys try their best to provide food, even when it is so expensive.

Just a few weeks ago, there was a house bombarded by air, and the donkey was just crossing the road, and it was hit by very sharp shrapnel. The donkey’s owner came to

our clinic so we could treat the donkey and he is now in a good condition.

Donkeys are our hope now. And of so much help to us. We all appreciate Safe Haven for Donkeys so much, because they are enabling us to do our job to save donkeys. And when donkeys are saved, they save us. They save my people.”



Adopt a donkey

Adopt a donkey today and we will send you an adoption certificate, record card and photo of your chosen friend, complete with a small cuddly donkey* to remind you of your new friend.

Adoption is from just £36 a year (or £3 a month) and you can adopt for yourself or a friend – donkey adoptions make the ideal gift for birthdays, anniversaries or any other special occasion.

Your gift will help pay for the food and medical care of your chosen donkey, as well as support all the donkeys we help at the sanctuary, Nablus clinic and our mobile clinic. Below are just three of our donkeys – but you can choose from our wider donkey family by visiting our website at www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt.

We care for around 200 donkeys at our sanctuary in Israel and rescue centre in Arrana. We will update you with news about a selection of our donkeys in every newsletter but sadly we're not currently able to send individual updates.

Thank you for your support.

* The cuddly donkey can be sent to UK addresses only due to Customs regulations.

Adopt me!



Name: **Miriam**
Age: **5 years**
Rescued: **October 2019**

Miriam was only a couple of months old when she was brought to our rescue centre in the Palestinian city of Nablus. A farmer had found her wandering his fields but sadly couldn't find her mother. Miriam is now safe with the other donkeys living under Dr Rakan's care.

Adopt me!



Name: **Mistletoe**
Age: **14 years**
Rescued: **December 2011**

Mistletoe – age 14, rescued December 2011
Mistletoe was found abandoned at the donkey market in the Palestinian city of Nablus, along with her foal Jingles and another orphan foal, Baubles. Mistletoe adopted Baubles and fed him alongside her own foal.

Adopt me!



Name: **Noelle**
Age: **7 years**
Rescued: **September 2019**

Noelle was found as a stray in the West Bank – she had been shot but luckily went on to make a complete recovery at our Nablus clinic.

Adopt a donkey today by visiting www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt or give us a call on 01444 470136 or 01444 470132 and give a donkey the love and care they deserve.

Ways you can help...

giftaid it

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme allows charities to reclaim tax on donations received from supporters who have paid sufficient income or capital gains tax during the year to cover the amount we would be reclaiming from HMRC. If you are a taxpayer and have not already completed a Gift Aid declaration, please complete the form with this newsletter so we can reclaim even more to help the donkeys!

If you would like more information on the Gift Aid scheme before signing up, just call Wendy on 01444 470136.

Remember, if you are no longer a tax payer, please let Wendy know.



Standing orders/direct debits

We already have over 1,000 supporters who give to us regularly and these payments are vital in helping us to plan for the future of the charity. If you can spare a regular amount each month, quarter or even year, please visit www.safehaven4donkeys.org/fundraising/how-you-can-help/ or call 01444 470136. You can now also set up a regular gift via your credit/debit card or Paypal by visiting the donate page on our website.



Recycle

Donate your used postage stamps, stamp collections, postcards, first day covers, old or foreign coins/bank notes, pre 1940s maps, watches, medals or badges. Simply send direct to Stamps N All, Dept SHADH, 32 Eastbury Avenue, Plymouth, PL5 2NB (please do not send donations or items for the donkeys to this address and please note that the company is unable to acknowledge receipt of packages due to volume of work).



Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations with Easy Fundraising? Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to sign up, choose us as your favourite cause and get shopping!



Ebay

Sell an item via popular online bidding site Ebay and you can donate the profit (or a percentage) towards our work.



Giveacar

Turn your unwanted cars into cash – Giveacar will take them away free of charge and sell or scrap them with proceeds helping the donkeys. Call Giveacar on 020 7736 4242 or visit www.giveacar.co.uk for more information.



Thinking of making your Will?

Gifts in Wills are vital in helping to secure the future of the donkeys at our sanctuary. If you are thinking of leaving Safe Haven a legacy after you have taken care of your loved ones, why not ask us for a copy of our will writing worksheet to help you plan what to include before visiting your solicitor.

Just call Wendy on **01444 470136**
or e-mail wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org

Free Will

If you are having difficulty getting out to see a solicitor, we are now partnered with Bequeathed, who offer free Wills and valuable advice. Their simple and convenient service allows you to make the right Will for you in the way that best suits you – online, face to face or over the phone. You will be asked if you would like to leave a legacy to Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land but there is absolutely no obligation to do so.

To find out more:
visit www.bequeathed.org/p/safehaven4donkeys
or call **020 8191 0587**.

DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

In carrying out our day to day activities Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land processes and stores personal information relating to our supporters and we are therefore required to adhere to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant Acts and Regulations. We take our responsibilities very seriously and we ensure the personal information we obtain is held, used, transferred and otherwise processed in accordance with that Regulation and all other applicable data protection laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Personal information we might collect includes your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date of birth, whether you are a tax payer (for Gift Aid purposes), bank account details if you set up a regular payment, donations you have made or events in which you have participated. On occasion, we may need to look up your telephone number in the phone book to contact you regarding a donation you have made – we would then store this data in our database in case it is needed for the same purpose in the future.

We collect this data for purposes including the processing of any donation made by you, to provide you with any products or information you have requested or for internal record keeping/accounting/administration. Having supported us, under the “legitimate interest” condition for processing data we believe that you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter and occasional additional appeals or updates on our work and so we will also use your details for this purpose.

If you use your credit or debit card to donate to us, buy something or pay online or over the phone, we will ensure that this is done securely and in accordance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. All card details and validation codes are securely destroyed once the payment or donation has been processed. Other information will be held as long as is reasonably necessary to allow us to continue to communicate with you or to comply with relevant legislation. For example, the HMRC require Gift Aid declarations to be retained indefinitely.

We will not sell, share or swap your information with any third parties unless required to do so for legal reasons (for example to the police). We do send the names and addresses of our supporters to the printers who produce our quarterly newsletter. They also comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and use your details solely for the purpose of mailing the newsletter. They do not retain the data or use it for any other purpose.

It is your choice on the type of communications and information you receive about our charity and the ways in which you can get involved. You can change your mind at any time by contacting us by post, e-mail or phone using the contact details on page two of this newsletter. If you have a complaint about how your data is processed, please contact us in the first instance. If we cannot resolve the situation, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office. You also have the right to request copies of any data held about you and to request rectification of any inaccuracies.

Thank you

We are grateful to each and every one of you for your support as without you there would be no Safe Haven. We would especially like to thank:

Nationwide Laboratories
(veterinary diagnostics) for their donation of items for the donkeys.



Janet Parsons and friends for organising a fantastic garden party which raised over £2,000.



George and Rose Russell for their continued dedication – not only is George a Trustee but both of them work so hard holding stalls to raise funds for the charity

Margaret Jennings who raised over £450 from the sale of produce and plants at her garden gate.

The Woolpack pub for allowing us to hold regular quiz nights at the pub to raise funds. The next is on October 3rd – see poster below and do reserve your place if you would like to come along as the event often sells out!

The Woolpack Public House
Burgess Hill presents...

quiz night

Thur 3rd Oct—8pm

Entry £5 per person (includes light snack) - teams of up to 6

Pay on the night but reserve your table in advance by calling the Woolpack on 01444 245178

All proceeds to

 Safe Haven for Donkeys
(charity 1083468)