

# WINTER 2022 NEWS



## Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

Supporting the  
Rescue & Care of  
Donkeys in the Holy Land

### Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

31 Brangwyn Ave, Brighton, BN1 8XH, UK  
UK registered charity No. 1174959

webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk  
www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk  
Tel: 07956 40 77 33 (pls leave msg)

facebook.com/LucysDonkeys  
twitter.com/LucysDonkeys  
instagram.com/lucysdonkeyfoundation

## Dear Friends and Supporters

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. As you will see, it is never plain sailing when running an animal sanctuary in a Middle Eastern region.

Caring for so many animals is not just about undertaking their immediate needs but also about ensuring a safe environment for both animals and workers. Sanctuary maintenance is proving to be very costly at the moment as you will see on pages 6 and 7. Any shortfall on these essential works will inevitably have to come out of already stretched budget funds. It would be remiss of the charity to ignore unsafe areas at the sanctuary.

As occasionally happens, the last bi-monthly budget was particularly large, £14,500 (\$19,666/€17,327\*). This was with the

addition of the farrier's visit £1,048 (\$1,427/€1,252) coinciding with the tractor insurance of £446 (\$606/€532). The bills are a very large expenditure for our small charity and the income, month on month, is not covering the layout.

We are asking supporters not just for donations, you are all so generous enough already, but to spread the word – through social media, by sharing our video story of Alan ([www.bit.ly/AlansRescue](http://www.bit.ly/AlansRescue)) if you're able and by passing on our Newsletters, both digital and paper. More supporters will mean more donations to cover the financial difference we are experiencing.

We consider ourselves very lucky and are grateful for all your support. Thank you so much!

Charity Trustees and Volunteers

*\*All exchange rates correct at time of print.*

## ! TRUSTEES WANTED

As our dear Lily Beasley and her husband Alan, after serving as Trustees for over 3 years, are sadly having to step down in May due to their overwhelming family commitments, we find ourselves needing to appeal again for **one or two kind people willing to step up and act as Trustees for our UK charity**. A Trustees' job is to see that donations are used in the way supporters intended, that is, to ensure that the care and welfare of the donkeys is paramount. Only a very small portion of the donations, 5.5%, is used to enable the charity to operate, without which the sanctuary would not be able to survive. The remainder 94.5% is sent direct to cover sanctuary overheads. **The decisions as to the way funds are allocated rests with the Trustees.**

If you think you could assist the current Trustees with this important work or would like more information, **please contact us on the email address given on the last page.**

Can you help secure our future?





***"I am weak but Thou art Mighty  
Hold me with Thy Powerful Hand"***

***From 'Guide me  
O Thou Great Redeemer'***

*Warm and ever grateful  
greetings to our cherished  
supporters.*

I really want to say such a big, heartfelt thank you to you all for your deeply valued, continued support. There are no words that can adequately convey how deeply I appreciate your kindness and generosity. Thank you so much!

As you will read, there are issues I would like to mention in our Winter edition, but firstly I would like to say something about the geographical details of this region, the problems that donkeys face, the challenges we try to tackle and the reasons why we do that, since I am aware that not everybody realises just how differently situations are handled in this part of the world.

Israel and Palestine are separated only by a border wall and checkpoints. The Palestinian West Bank is a piece of land running alongside much of Israel's eastern side and it is home to nearly three million Palestinian people. Then there is Gaza, a much smaller piece of land that lies off to the south-western end of Israel with a population of nearly two million.

Israel is a fairly affluent, generally modern and technologically advanced Mediterranean country. The West Bank and Gaza are home to predominantly Palestinian Muslim Arabs but also Palestinian Christian Arabs. Israel meanwhile is home to predominantly Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs (Muslim), and a mix of Is-

raeli Arab Christians, Druze and Bedouins.

Hebrew and Arabic are Israel's main languages but English is widely spoken with some Russian and French due to immigrants. While some Palestinians do speak excellent English, it is generally non-existent. Although a few may be seen in outlying areas, Israelis do not have working donkeys. By comparison, within the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza, donkeys are still used heavily for work. Owners often take them into Israel to sell produce or scrap metal from their carts and can leave the donkeys overnight tied to a post while the owner goes back across the border. Occasionally, if the Israeli police or Israeli soldiers or sometimes just a good-hearted person see an abandoned donkey, they will take the donkey away from the Palestinian owner.

It does happen that donkeys will unknowingly cross the border into Israel, if abandoned or abused, searching for food or shelter. Here they can end up on busy highways or in certain neighbourhoods where they can fall into the wrong hands. With nowhere else to go, sanctuaries are vital.

### *Our Outreach .....*

*It is imperative that our sanctuary runs parallel to our outreach work. We have to reach out to the owners and teach them as much as we can in the hope that we can bring some sort of change for the better.*

*The need to try to be positive, when everything seems so negative, is crucial. Being such a small entity with inadequate resources for the massive task we face, what we are able to offer these dear animals who deserve so very much is not enough. So what do we do... stop and just not bother to continue? No. We know we cannot stop and that even if it is only a few animals who get a few moments of basic help and their owners see what we're trying to achieve, surely that's got to be better than doing nothing.*

*At our latest Outreach clinic, the little donkeys, plus one mule and one horse, who were waiting for us on this rainy*

*day in the Palestinian village of Ras Attiya, were standing in an old, empty, partially erected, concrete building to take shelter from the rain. They had a variety of ailments, including many eye problems such as blocked tear ducts, conjunctivitis, arthritis, joint inflammation, harness wounds, scabies and flea infestation, overgrown hooves and a few rotting teeth that needed treatment and removal.*

*We use the services of vet, Dr Nour, to try to help us achieve as much as possible and make a difference for these animals, but he too faces his own time constraints. He'll often be treating a donkey at our clinics when his mobile phone rings because a dog owner is calling for emergency help for their pet. He also now faces personal problems after his brother was diagnosed with Leukaemia and transferred across the border to a hospital in Tel Aviv for treatment, requiring Dr Nour to frequently travel between Israel and the West Bank to support his brother.*

*We also need the regular services of a reliable, committed Palestinian farrier because many donkeys and mules, and occasionally horses too, have overgrown hooves that require trimming. We have an excellent farrier in Israel who would do the work for us and has once or twice been in to the West Bank to help at some of our clinics. But he, as any Israeli citizen, is actually forbidden by law, to enter cities, towns and villages that are under full Palestinian control, also known as Area 'A'.*





We did manage to find a Palestinian farrier recently but, sadly, the desire for money seems to get the better of people. The hourly rate of pay in Palestine is very low compared to Israel, yet although we offered the farrier 300 Israeli shekels (approx. £70, \$92, €80) for a couple of hours work, at the end of it he wanted 400 shekels. Dr Nour explained that he had been told in advance that it would be 300 shekels and that was that. However, the next time Dr Nour asked him to work at our clinic, he refused unless it would be increased to 500 shekels. Another farrier demanded to be paid 600 shekels, while another said he would do it for 200 shekels per animal.

Even our highly trained and skilled Israeli farrier would not take that amount of money and in Palestine, the farriers are mostly self-taught and have not had any in-depth training or experience. We do not even know in advance if any, or how much, farriery work will be required at our clinics, so it means we need to be in a position to pay a farrier that amount of money for possibly not even having to do much work.

I've said many times that we really do need a bigger, more financially secure organisation to come on board and help, but most bigger organisations already have their share of problems to keep on top of and nobody seems able to take on more at the moment.

Although so crucial, our outreach work is not easy, as no-

body will do anything without being paid – and even then, there's still a lack of drive and commitment. The culture and beliefs are so very different from our own; most people cannot understand why an animal should even be treated, it's a case of 'what about the people?'. And worse still, animals are often just treated with deliberate cruelty.

What we do as a tiny organization with insufficient funds, is nowhere near as much as we want and need to be able to do, but for the sake of those poor little creatures, we know we have somehow got to try to continue on.

I thank you all for your love and support, it means everything to all of us and of course particularly for the donkeys because without you, they would not have their wonderful sanctuary where they are so cherished, loved and cared for.

Love and God bless  
you,  
Lucy & the Donkeys



# NEW RESCUE NEW RESCUE NEW RESCUE NEW RESCUE

## *Welcome to the herd,* *little* **Joey**

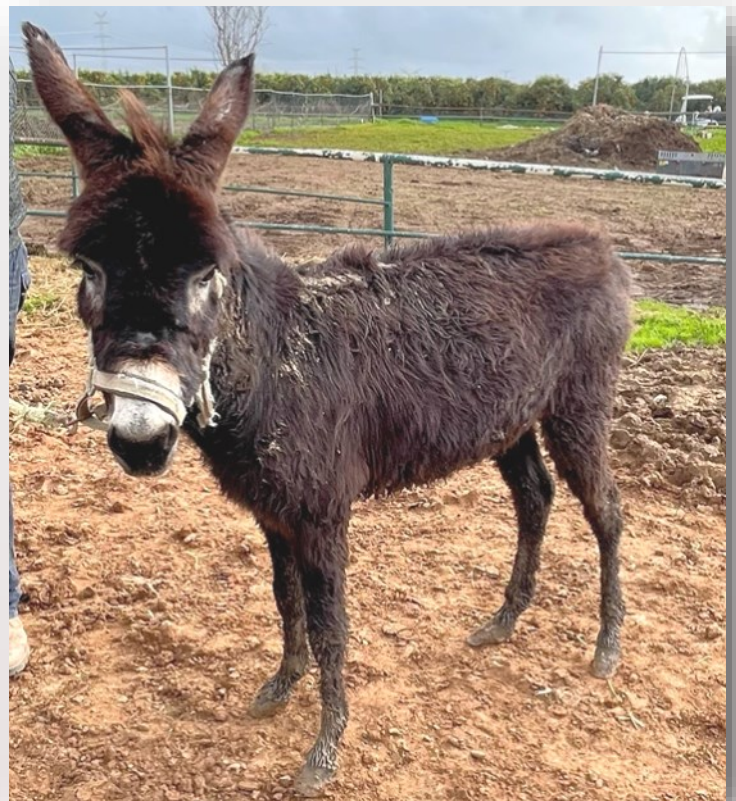
We have just rescued another little, young donkey and we've called him Joey.

All we know about him is that he came from the Palestinian West Bank, across the border and he'd apparently been used to running alongside his mother as she pulled a cart. Tragically about four months ago he'd been struck by a car injuring his right back leg leaving him with a limp, meaning he was no longer able to keep up running along by his mother's side..

His mother must have felt distraught because in the end the owner just left him by the way-side to try to fend for himself.



*...and after a bit of a grooming!*



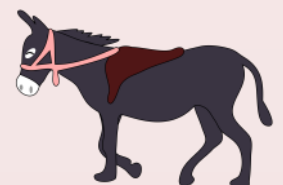
*Joey when he arrived at the sanctuary...*

A man who knew all this thankfully ended up taking him and simply kept him, without care, in an old yard area until he couldn't cope any longer and we were called for help.

Little Joey came to us in a bit of a dirty state but due to the rainy weather and cold we don't want to bath him yet.

He just needs peace time now to settle in, come to terms with seeing so many other donkeys around him and soon our vet, Dr Jaber, will come to check him. He also needs our farrier, Hagai, to come to trim his little feet. We think his poor leg has pretty much reset itself so there might be very little we can really do now, but our vet will tell us.

***As with all the sanctuary animals, Joey's rescue and his future care is only possible due to your kind donations. On behalf of Joey - 'Thank You!'***



# APPEAL FOR INSTALLING AN ALARM SYSTEM AT OUR SANCTUARY TO PROTECT OUR VULNERABLE DONKEYS

It is truly a miracle that we just about manage to scrape by each month with our budget. But now we need even more miracles.

We need extra help not only for flood prevention at the sanctuary but we also feel **it is imperative that we install an alarm system.**

Some of you may already be aware and some may not, but in the wake of what is happening to donkeys world-wide due to the horrific hide trade, we must take steps to ensure their safety.

**Donkeys are now highly sought after for their skin and they are in jeopardy.**

Donkey numbers around the world are declining as a result and welfare issues are being completely disregarded because the only target is to get their skin.

Tragically there have been recent signs showing us that this trade is starting to affect our region and we need to do all we can to safeguard our donkeys by improving security at our sanctuary.

A donkey's skin when processed produces a gelatinous substance which is believed by many to have medicinal benefits; this is called *Ejiao*. The reason it is causing a huge and ever increasing threat to the welfare of donkeys, as well as a decline in donkey numbers all over the world is because it is such a vast and lucrative business.

There are even certain countries discussing deals with China to farm donkeys specifically for their meat and hides.

In the words of Donkey Welfare Advocate in the USA, David C Duncan back

***Donkey hides for sale in India***



***In China - Poor donkeys ear-tagged for the Chinese donkey hide industry***



*of millions of individual animals, and fuel the already epidemic cases of donkey thefts and illegal slaughter currently plaguing nations on every continent.*

*It is now time, past time, for Donkey Welfare Orgs, and all Animal Welfare Orgs, to step-up and take real,*

*in 2017: "I have called upon the large International Donkey Welfare Organizations for a very long time to make some attempt to address this issue on the world stage. Evidence suggests it may now be too late to stop or curtail the head-long rush into domestic donkey extinction in any case, but it will surely be impossible if world Governments take an active role in supporting the hide-trade.*

*'Breeding Programs' for hides such as the one proposed in South Africa, or the coming Chinese-owned 'Donkey Farms' in Australia will not save the species, but only prolong the inevitable, if Ejiao consumption and production continues on its exponential upward curve.*

*In any case, government approval and assistance in the global donkey-hide trade for Ejiao can and will only increase the needless suffering and death*

*concrete steps to begin to deal with this issue. The first step, of course, is to recognize that this crisis IS occurring, publicise the extent of the crisis, and engage world governments for real solutions."*

It is an ever worsening problem now and **we have been told that there are increasing donkey thefts across Israel and the Palestinian West Bank.** It is believed that the donkeys are being transported to Gaza, taken across the border and then on into Egypt, destined for China.

There are animal welfare experts in Israel trying to investigate this at the moment.

We feel it is absolutely imperative that we take steps at our sanctuary to increase security by way of installing **an alarm system and CCTV.** We do have our dear helpers, Issa and Chevy living on site but that's not always enough to deter or disturb determined thieves.

We have received four different quotes and the cheapest one has quoted us 9000 shekels to install CCTV cameras and an alarm system to cover all around the perimeter of our sanctuary. **ILS 9000** is approximately **£2105** or **\$2820** or **€2528.**

Please, please if you are able to, do whatever you can to help and also encourage others to help us to raise these vital funds so we can install an alarm and give our sanctuary the extra security needed to ensure our donkey's safety.

***Thank you!***

# Flood Issues AT THE SANCTUARY



The deluge of ongoing heavy rainfall and flooding has really taken its toll on our little sanctuary this winter and as a result, we find ourselves having to appeal for extra funds just to be able to tackle the problems we're encountering.

It's a miracle that we manage to just about raise the amount needed for our sanctuary to function and keep all our animals fed and comfortable each month (approx. £6000-£7000 per month) but trying to find extra funds to cover prevention and

repair costs, we needed another miracle... fortunately we found this with our wonderfully generous supporters.

Entirely thanks to your donations after the appeal, £1980 or \$2670 or €2365 was raised. We are now able to proceed with digging the trenches for a low concrete wall, cement for the wall, sand to raise the level in the shelters and also extending the little roofing area for our two horses to give them a little added protection from the ele-

ments. This will make the sanctuary much drier, safer and more comfortable for both workers and animals. **Our heartfelt thanks to all contributors.**

The work to try to get the water out with wheelbarrows and buckets is endless, some of the water can be taken out using the scoop of our little tractor, but as can happen with machinery, one of the tractor's oil pipes started leaking which unfortunately meant we had to stop using it until it could be repaired, yet another cost.

Thankfully, following Lucy's Facebook appeal, the tractor repair has been paid for privately, one less thing to worry about!

However, the amount of excessive rain has meant so much water has come in at ground level that caused the flooding that it has left us with yet another problem. In what should be the donkey's cosy night time barn and stables, **the water has resulted in electrical**



**problems which for the reasons of safety, leaves us in need of repairing and replacing some electric cables.** This is not going to be cheap to fix. Our existing cables are very old and although due to current weather conditions, nothing can be properly assessed or quoted for at this moment, we have been warned that if nothing can be saved (which we are praying it can be..) we may be looking at having to pay **up to 6000 shekels, that's £1395 or \$1886 or €1670.** We need to start raising money for this in readiness for commencing this vital work.

Please, if you are able to help with a donation towards helping us achieve this and continue what we've started with these essential jobs and crucial work, or if you can share this appeal with others who may be able to help us, then we would be immensely grateful to you.



## Adoption Certificate



This is to  
certify that  
**Recipient's  
name**  
has adopted  
**Rolo**

rescued and now cared for at  
**Lucy's donkey sanctuary  
in Israel**

[www.lucydonkeyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lucydonkeyfoundation.org.uk)  
supporting the work of Lucy's sanctuary  
in the Holy Land  
reg. charity No. 1174959

renewal date:

## Adopt a donkey

Adoptions make wonderful gifts. Choose from one of the 53 beautiful donkeys currently at the sanctuary (see the **Donkey Gallery** on our website). Only **£20—\$30—€26**



Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Chosen Donkey .....

Name on Certificate .....

**Gift Card** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Payment by .....

**Payment and contact details  
on the last page**

**Gretel**



**Ben Hur**



**Bella**



**Alan**



**Includes Gift Card if required**



**Calling all our UK supporters!**

*giftaid it*  
MAKE YOUR DONATION  
GO EVEN FURTHER

We can't stress enough just how valuable GiftAid is! For every £1 donated, we can claim an additional 25p from HMRC—meaning, as an example, that for someone who has donated **£500** over the last 4 years, we can claim an additional **£125**! So if you are a UK tax payer and haven't yet sent us a completed Gift Aid form, or if you can't remember whether you did in the past, just type [bit.ly/DonkeyGiftAid](http://bit.ly/DonkeyGiftAid) in your browser, print out & complete the form and post it to us at the address given on the form or return by email. Alternatively, you can contact us by post or phone or via email (below) and we will send a form out to you.

*A message from Chuck W, one of our loyal USA supporters*

Life has more meaning when we help others. The more desperate their need, the more essential our help. In the Middle East, donkeys used as beasts of burden are horribly treated, overworked, underfed, routinely beaten, and suffer tremendous injuries that go untreated. When these gentle creatures no longer are able to work, many are simply abandoned to a slow painful death.

Thank God for Lucy's Sanctuary for Holy Land Donkeys. Because of its roadside rescues, monthly field clinics, and long-term comfort and care, these Biblical animals get a second chance to live in a loving professionally operated home.

I'm extremely careful with charitable giving but I know my monthly donations to help maintain the field clinics, and my occasional large donations to keep the Sanctuary operating, is money well spent.

I'm grateful to Lucy for the opportunity to help the donkeys, and so make my life more meaningful. In these hard times, she desperately needs our help to keep the Sanctuary open. **Chuck W., USA**



*We love to hear from our supporters wherever you may be, if you would like to send us a message, please contact us (see below).*

**Thank you!**

With only volunteers at the UK charity, it's difficult to find time to contact each and everyone of you, so we would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all our wonderful supporters for your donations, be it a one off, continuing with a bank standing order or a PayPal recurring, we are immensely grateful to everyone!

**Payment & Contact**

**Lloyds Bank**

Acc. Name:  
*Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation*  
Acc. Number: 25432768  
Sort Code: 30-96-83

**PayPal**

[shop@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk](mailto:shop@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk)

**Go Fund Me**

[www.gofundme.com/lucysdonkeys](http://www.gofundme.com/lucysdonkeys)

**Give As You Live**

Scan QR code →  
to donate through  
Give As You Live  
Donate website



*Monthly payments can be made through  
PayPal, Give as You Live, or UK bank transfer*

*The trustees reserve the right to use donations in the most effective way towards the charity's objectives.*

**Postal Address**

Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation  
31 Brangwyn Ave  
Brighton, BN1 8XH  
United Kingdom

**E-mail**

[webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk](mailto:webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk)

**Tel:** 07956 40 77 33 (please leave a message on the answerphone and we will call you back)

**Full details on [www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/donate](http://www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/donate)**

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