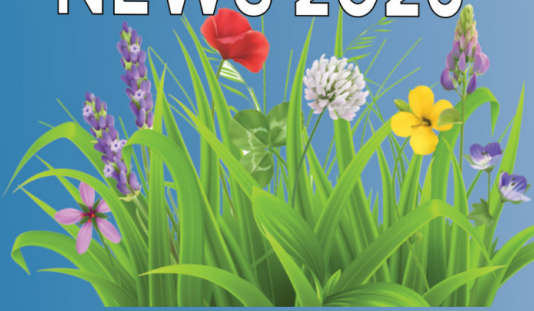


SUMMER NEWS 2026



Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

Supporting the
Rescue & Care of
Donkeys in the Holy Land

Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation
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Dear Valued Supporters

We would like to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to every one of you who continues to support the sanctuary and share our belief that, even in a dangerous and unpredictable world, we can still create moments of hope through the rescue and care of innocent donkeys and other animals who so desperately need our help. Your kindness and generosity are the reason this very special place can continue its vital work.

Lucy's update in this newsletter reminds us that life at the sanctuary continues against a backdrop of day-to-day uncertainty and challenges that are difficult for many of us to imagine. Sadly, we also reflect on the heartbreaking loss of three of our beloved elderly donkeys, some taken from us so suddenly that their passing came as a profound shock to everyone. It was a shock but, unfortunately, when working to help animals, particularly rescued animals whose past traumatic history we know extremely little about, we have to accept that this is a very upsetting part of our work, and we take comfort in knowing that we were able to provide safety, love and compassion for them at our sanctuary.

As trustees, one of our greatest responsibilities is to do everything we can to support Lucy, Adi and the volunteers,

while helping to secure the sanctuary's long-term future. Despite everyone's tireless efforts, **our financial position remains incredibly difficult, with our monthly expenditure continuing to exceed our regular income.** Increasing our reliable, regular financial support is essential to secure the sanctuary's future, and while we are deeply grateful to everyone who already stands alongside us, we know we must reach more people if our important work is to continue.

Despite these many challenges, there have also been encouraging moments. We hope you enjoy reading Lucy's account of the wonderful volunteers whose kindness and generosity brought both practical support and renewed encouragement to everyone at the sanctuary. You may also have noticed the growing number of photographs and videos on our Facebook and Instagram pages, thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Nina. If you've been enjoying these glimpses into sanctuary life, we'd be grateful if you would consider sharing them with others to help raise awareness of our work and reach new supporters.

With our heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

James, John, Stan and Rhona

Angelo and Raphael





Another warm hello to our
dearest Supporters,

Welcome to our Summer 2026 newsletter which must, as always, start with a deeply heartfelt thank you for your steadfast support for our beloved little donkeys and their sanctuary. Of course, also not forgetting our three horses, two dogs and many, many little cats!

As you will know the general situation in this region has gone from the more chaotic to relative calm, and now it seems it's fast on its way to becoming somewhat more chaotic yet again, although so far no further missiles have been launched towards Israel so we have to feel thankful for that.

Of course whatever the war situation, in any case our work to keep our sanctuary going has to continue on...

We recently had to say **goodbye and heartfelt thank yous to Elias** who had to leave due to his father's illness, **and a little while later, to Eyal**, who left to go travelling. Thankfully we have now welcomed two new young men who have come to live on site at the sanctuary, Eliav and Elly (Elly is actually from London), and we



are immensely grateful for all their hard work and help.

We have also been so incredibly fortunate to have had an absolutely wonderful group of volunteers, a mix of Ukrainians and Russians, who have started coming most Saturdays to help with everything and anything. They are an absolute blessing and you can read more about them on page 6.

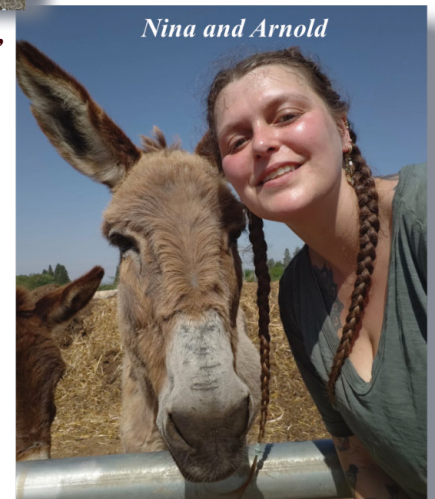
One volunteer who contacted us a few months ago is a wonderful English lady living in Israel, Nina.

Nina is a true, hard working gem and we are so thankful to



*Elly's little kitten,
Tikashi*

have found her. She has been phenomenal not only with volunteering to care for our animals, but also volunteering to take on the task of keeping our social media accounts, such as Instagram and Facebook, up-



Nina and Arnold

*'Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe
displayed....'*

**First Verse:
How Great Thou Art - Carl Boberg 1885**

dated with little videos and reels of the 'shenanigans' at the sanctuary, which of course always feature our adorable animals. And Nina's latest wonderful idea? Making little crocheted donkeys in different shades to represent the colours of our little sanctuary donkeys! Thank you dear Nina....

Nina's crochet donkey



Tragically, we have recently lost three of our precious elderly donkeys, **Jane, Cicely and Leah**. You can read their little stories on page 4 and 5.

A little while after the loss of Jane and Cicely, we **rescued two more dear donkeys, a couple, Leo and Luna**. They were found wandering the streets abandoned. They look remarkably alike and we wondered whether they may well be mother and son, and Luna was heavily pregnant so we presumed Leo must be the father, but of course without knowing any of their past history, we have no real way of knowing.

A few weeks after being rescued and settling in at our sanctuary, tragically **Luna gave birth to a little stillborn foal**, a little girl whom we named Lia. It was, as you will imagine, utterly heart-breaking and I've written a little account of what happened on page 7.

We are **once again in a very desperate situation with our funds** which I have written about separately below.

Only God knows what the future holds for our now 48 donkeys, 3 horses, cats and dogs, and I know we can only trust and leave it in His capable hands...

We want you to know that your support means absolutely everything to us.

Your love, support and generosity has helped keep our donkeys safely in their home and their little tummies full of hay.

Thank you all so much, we are forever grateful...

With our love,

God bless...

Lucy, the Donkeys and everyone at the Sanctuary



Urgent Appeal

Once again, I am so sad and disappointed to have to tell you that despite your support, we are close to running out of funds to keep the sanctuary open.

Our monthly income is dangerously low and we are desperately seeking help to secure the future for our donkeys and horses. To try to continue from month to month in this situation is just not a viable solution and we somehow need to make every effort put a contingency plan in place. We need donations just to survive from one month to the next, to pay for the sanctuary rent, our hay bales and grain to feed our 53 animals, farriery and medical care, utilities etc...

We have never quite recovered from the loss of support during the ongoing conflict and our ultimate survival has had to rely almost solely on the few supporters who

so very generously give one off, larger donations but we know that is just not sustainable.

We have taken some steps to attempt to reach out further to a wider audience in order to try to increase our core supporter base, but we know the world is in financial turmoil and the events unfolding in our region have tragically lead to a decrease in support.

We need urgent and substantial financial help, otherwise we will be left with no other option than to plead with another sanctuary to accept all our animals and permanently close our sanctuary down.

We have approached other sanctuaries in Israel but they are also struggling, although we feel hopeful that one of them, a larger sanctuary, would step up to take in our animals, but only in the event of an emergency. They actually rescue not only donkeys, horses, cats and dogs, but all sorts of farm animals such as cows, sheep, goats, pigs, fowl, other birds and even camels.

LUCY



RIP...

It has been a difficult and sad time over the last few months, as we have had to say goodbye to three of our beloved residents...

Jane

Our first heartbreak happened when we lost our darling Jane. She had been absolutely fine and enjoying her carrots one minute, then lay down to rest and just slipped away. She wasn't a

Jane and her baby Sam



young donkey, so we can only presume this was due to her age and her former hard life when she was younger, as she had shown no signs of illness or not feeling well.

Jane first came into our care back in November 2016, elderly, blind, with twisted, broken, overgrown hooves and around six months pregnant. From what we were told, she had belonged to a woman who neglected and then abandoned her, at which point a neighbour then tried to sell her to somebody who wanted a donkey for children's rides. Thankfully someone stepped in and Jane ended up coming to our safe, peaceful sanc-

tuary where we could take care of her and give her the love she so deserved. Our farrier of course trimmed down her poor hooves and she soon learnt to find her way around without any problems whatsoever. She then went on to give birth to her adorable little Sam in May 2017 and was such a wonderful, caring and attentive mummy.

She was always a very dear, sweet soul and her trusting, loving nature surely passed on to her Sam. God bless you darling girl, we are so sad. May you rest in Heavenly peace...



Cicely

We hadn't quite recovered from the shock of suddenly losing Jane, when we also lost our sweet Cicely. Like Jane, she was not so young - well over 20 we believe - but it wasn't her age that cut her life short. We are almost

certain that she was lethally bitten by a venomous snake as two bloodied holes were clearly visible on her leg, and May is the snake season.

Our dear Cicely came to us back in August 2016. She belonged to a group of Bedouin children who abused her terribly - two or three riding her at a time, beating her relentlessly on her wounds with a long, thick chunk of wood. Sadly, all attempts to teach the children compassion proved to be futile.

Cicely had a very sweet character which was surprising considering how she had suffered at the hands of humans but she was a wise, knowing soul. She was such a really easy going, tolerant little donkey and got along with everybody but she was also quite a girl's girl and was usually seen contentedly hanging around in an all female group.

She was everybody's friend and it was deeply moving to watch all the other donkeys come to say their goodbyes to her... Losing her so needlessly really deeply saddened us. Of course this is true when we lose any of our precious donkeys, but it feels slightly different when it's a loss due to a health reason and age, to when it's because of a fatal snake bite. One moment she's there, enjoying her life, next moment, she's just gone.

Unfortunately, there is not much we can do to totally prevent snakes from entering the donkey's areas as everything is very open; possibly put up some chicken wire fencing in some areas to give a little more protection, but there are gated areas where the ground is lower than the bottom of the gates, and like all creatures really, snakes, will always find a way in.



Leah



Our beautiful Leah

Our latest little donkey to recently leave us was Leah...

Leah had not been right for some time, a very old donkey who had suffered unimaginably before being rescued by us in September 2020. When she first came to us from a Bedouin camp in the Judean desert near to Bethlehem, she had a hole in her head caused by being bludgeoned with what our vet thought was a hard metal object. We treated the open wound but the trauma it had caused to her head, had either damaged her left eye or something else was done to cause injury to her left eye and she had no sight.

She also had an old, internal fracture injury to her left front leg. It wasn't the first time we'd come across a case like that and when a fracture goes untreated for any length of time, it can often literally reset itself. The donkey adjusts and learns to live with it and accept the new way that she or he has to move.

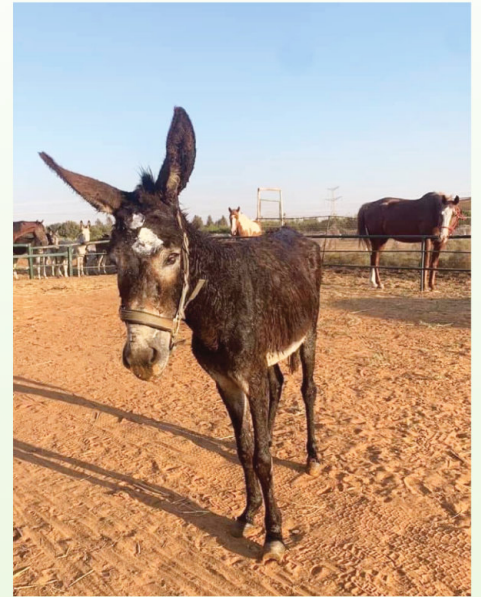
Leah's age and her stiff, arthritic joints,

plus her limited vision had led to her spending an ever increasing amount of time just lying down. Despite us doing all we could to promote healing, her poor little legs were really getting into an awful state and no matter what we did in our efforts to protect her legs from flies, even bandaging them and putting on special fly protection 'boots', they were eating their way through. We were administering a daily painkilling injection and helping her to stand and move about and she still enjoyed her food, but the time came that we could evidently see it was no longer right to leave her lying there with no quality of life.

Our new vet, Dr Ido Lifnik (a good friend of our farrier, Hagai Ohana), came to see Leah and immediately said the kindest thing we could do for her would be to let her go peacefully. So as we fed her apple and carrots, Ido first gave her a tranquiliser before administering the euthanasia, and she did indeed slip away very peacefully.

Ido was so moved that when he was about to leave and we asked what we owed him, he said he would not charge us anything... This is truly remarkable and so extremely kind and caring. In all our years of helping animals and working with a number of good vets, we have never known one do such an act of genuine kindness. Thank you so much Dr Ido...

Leah with our vet, Dr Ido Lifnik

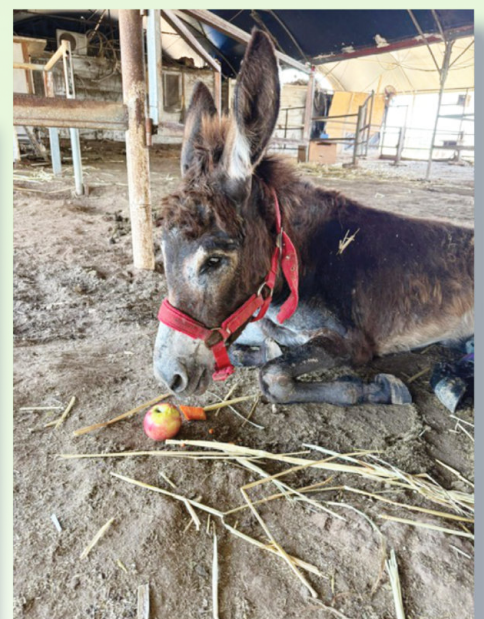


Leah when she first came to us

Tragic as it has been to lose dear Leah, Jane and Cicely, it has also been a wonderful blessing to have been in a position to rescue them and give them permanent love and safety at our sanctuary, and a somewhat dignified end to their lives, as opposed to what would have happened to them had they not ended up in our care; most certainly fates far worse than death.

We are always, always immensely grateful to our supporters for having made it possible for us to help these precious souls...

Leah enjoying her last carrot pieces and apples



THE ANGEL VOLUNTEERS



In mid-May 2026, a wonderful group of Angels descended upon our sanctuary: Families and people of all ages and nationalities, mostly Ukrainians and Russians, came to help us for a day!

They all worked so incredibly hard, grooming, feeding, cleaning, washing, building, treating, caring, loving... They also came armed with a huge amount of vegetable treats, cat and dog food, even medicines and they also made donations!

We are so deeply grateful to all these amazing, kind people, it truly means EVERYTHING to us to have physical, hands on help for our beloved donkeys and other animals, and vital help with building and maintenance work at the sanctuary.

Since that first visit, quite a few of them still come almost every week which really is an absolute blessing.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to every one of those special Angels and as long as we are here, please, please keep coming...



Lead volunteer Mikhael preparing a barrow full of veggie goodies



LEO, LUNA AND THEIR LITTLE LIA, MAY SHE REST IN PEACE



In early June, we were made aware of two beautiful white donkeys that were found abandoned and afraid on the streets of a town in Central Israel. We named the two precious donkey souls Leo and Luna; whether they are a couple or possibly mother and son, we don't know, but they do look very similar and are very attached to each other.

When we rescued them, Luna was pregnant and we were really looking forward to having a fluffy donkey baby running around and being able to tell her wonderful story, but sadly, it wasn't to be. Only about a month after we rescued them, Luna gave birth to a stillborn female foal who we named Lia. Poor Luna was heartbroken and bereft. We gave her some time with the little one to come to terms with her loss to help her find her own way to accept it. Donkeys, like all animals can accept death, as long as they can understand that their companion, or their foal, has gone.

Luna and Leo have really been remarkable in how they have helped console each other. Luna, despite such a loss, is doing very well. We were so concerned that her stress level would cause illness particularly as we had only just rescued her and Leo, and we have no way of knowing what they may have endured before they came to our sanctuary. So many changes for her to try to cope with and then losing her little foal... But thankfully she is recovering extremely well.

May your little soul rest in peace tiny Lia, God bless...



Around the Sanctuary

Our lovely Shmouf



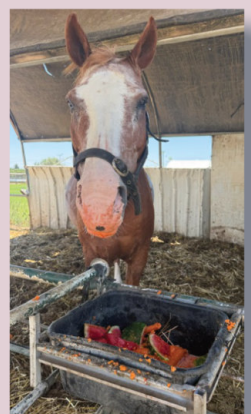
*The love between
Adi & Fresco*



*A vegetable feast
for our donkey residents!*



*Storm, enjoying carrots
& watermelon on a
boiling hot, humid day*



Hagai, the farrier, working on Brownie



Lunch time!

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