

SPRING NEWS 2025



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

As Easter approaches, many of us are reminded of the image of Christ riding into Jerusalem upon a little donkey, and with the situation as it is in the Holy Land, verse 6 of Psalm 122 comes to mind, 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem'.

With the continuation of war, naturally we all feel concerned for the sanctuary but because of the generosity of our supporters, our rescued animals continue to receive all the love and care they need, and are therefore thankfully oblivious to the unsettling reality surrounding them.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support and the interest in the work of the sanctuary. We are aware so much of the increased cost of living and how it impacts us all, and so thank you for the sacrifice you are making. We are especially grateful for the recent substantial donation from one particular loyal supporter.

Our special thanks to Lucy and Adi for their

continued efforts to help the donkeys and cats in unprecedented circumstances. We know how deeply committed they are to helping the poor overworked creatures in the West Bank and they're concerned that the level of suffering will be ever greater. It is heart wrenching not being able to resume the outreach project but we can only pray that somehow things may change soon.

The following quote is so appropriate for us all at this moment in time:

"The soul can have no rainbows unless the eyes have shed some tears."

Our commitment to care extends beyond our premises in Israel – it's about creating meaningful connections with our supporters and ensuring we can reach more people who care about these remarkable animals. This spring brings an exciting digital transformation that will help us better share our mission and stories.

Rhona, James, and Erika have been diligently working to develop a refreshed

online presence that will make it easier for supporters like you to engage with us. The new website — due to launch in May — will offer improved navigation, more intuitive information access, and enhanced ways to learn about our donkeys' lives and the critical work we do.

This update will allow us to showcase our rescue stories more effectively, provide smoother donation processes, and create a more welcoming virtual space for our community. By enhancing our digital platform, we're opening new channels of communication and making it simpler for animal lovers to connect with our sanctuary, support our mission, and understand the profound impact of their kindness.

With heartfelt thanks and love to each and every one of you who makes our work possible,

James, John, Sian and Rhona
Trustees Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation





Our warm Spring and Easter greetings to our dearest Supporters...

Once again, I first need to say the **biggest, heartfelt thank you to you true Angels**, who steadfastly continue to support us so generously. I firmly believe this is one of God's great miracles because your ongoing support is definitely defying the odds and enabling our little sanctuary to continue to thrive, and our little donkeys and other precious creatures to continue to live in comfort, happiness and safety.

We cannot even sufficiently express just how deeply grateful and humbled we all feel for this, it is an answer to our endless, fervent prayers for our sanctuary, and we thank you all so very much.

Thanks to your ongoing support and generosity we have just been able to **rescue a little 10 week old horse, whom we've named Danny**.



Little Danny

'I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, and I tell you, 'Don't be afraid. I will help you'...'

Isaiah 41:13 NCV

The poor soul was really not in a good way. He came from a West Bank Palestinian village near Bethlehem, where he had been abused, injured and neglected. He had even had cigarettes stubbed out on him.

Even though he is, at least in part, of the Arabian breed, which should incidentally make him 'valuable', he had sustained a significant injury to his lower, right back leg which was left untreated, resulting in him being forced to walk on his fetlock.



Danny's injured leg

At first we were unsure whether he may have been born with a deformity, or whether it was an injury, but our vet confirmed that it was a result of severed ligaments that had likely happened at least a month previously. He prescribed anti inflammatory medicine along with some physiotherapy, and of course rest. We also tried making a splint to help encourage the lower leg to be in the right position, but our farrier has since told us that he will come by next week to check Danny and see about making him a special horse shoe to help him.

Danny was extremely fortunate that he was seen by a very kind volunteer who helps at an animal shelter in Bethlehem, which is run by a wonderful Christian Arab lady. The volunteer had to pay money to the men in order to be able to take that little horse away from them which is obviously not ideal as it literally tells them, 'abuse your animals, we'll give you money for them.' There are cases sometimes though, when you find you are faced with no alternative, because it's just not possible to continue to witness the torture and abuse. We worry very much about the mother of this little foal as we could get no information about her or her whereabouts, I can't bear to think of the anguish she must be going through without her foal by her side.

Danny is extremely sweet and is busy making friends with the donkeys, but isn't so sure about the two big boy horses, as they're not quite so friendly towards him.



Danny making new friends

This leads me on to tell you about the fact that **it is still not possible to resume our outreach work**. We can no longer seem to communicate with our previous vet, Dr Nour. We can see he is active on his social media accounts but we have no success in trying to organise even the most basic of clinics.

Much of the West Bank is completely a no entry area but we have recently talked with an old acquaintance of ours, Khaled, in Qalqilya, which is right on the border with central Israel.

Khaled told us about a vet there who might be willing to help, but naturally it means we need to go to meet Khaled and the vet, even if only briefly, and also give them some supplies to do the work. The problem is **we are not allowed to enter the West Bank and they would not be permitted to come very far out of Qalqilya.**

We would need to stay as close to the main checkpoint as possible, but they aren't allowed too near the checkpoint due to the risk of ambushes and attacks. It is a very difficult situation and is not helped by the fact that last week there were counter terrorist operations by the IDF in Qalqilya, resulting in the elimination of two terrorists.

We are always giving it our consideration and if things will, by a miracle, become more calm then we will do all we can to try to seize the moment. It is unbearable to think of those very poor animals needing us and the little bit of temporary respite we had been able to give to some of them, when we are powerless to do anything to help them.

Back at our sanctuary our little donkey herd is flourishing and our rescued war cat family continues to grow! Goodness they are lovely, there's a sea of ginger, tabby, black, white, torties...every different colour of pusscat you can imagine, all purring and meowing, all wanting constant attention and love (*see page 5 for some pictures of our cats and donkeys, living in perfect harmony*).

Of course you'll remember all the **anti-flood precautions** we took in time for this past winter, and the usual dread we have in anticipation of the heavy rains, sometimes for days at a time... well, they didn't come! There has been some rain obviously but nothing compared to the usual winters here, so no floods and very little mud. This is good and not good. Lovely to not have any floods and no deep muddy field for the donkeys and horses, but seriously not good when it comes to the crops for this year, the

country's water shortage and **the cost of the hay we need; it will be extra expensive and in shorter supply.**

The costs of living, I know, are increasing everywhere, and in Israel ever more so because of the war situation and country's economy. **There are price hikes for absolutely everything, including rent and utility bills.**

I was of course already working in order to help Adi to pay towards our home rent and bills, but I'm now having to work between three different jobs: house cleaning, childcare and dog walking. This inevitably not only leaves me quite exhausted now that I'm nearly 55, but it also leaves me with very little spare time.

We just would not manage without Adi, Issa, Eyal and Elias, and I'm deeply grateful for all of them. Issa, Eyal and Elias all live on site at the sanctuary, so their accommodation is free in return for helping to do the daily work looking after the donkeys and our other little animals, ensuring they are all cared for and to keep everything constantly replenished, clean and fresh. Only Issa is paid an additional, nominal amount as he does most of the daily, heavy mucking out work.

So far, there is **nothing new to report regarding our hopes to be able to join forces with another organisation in Israel or abroad**, but we continue to try to find help. Representatives from the Israeli organisation with whom we have been in touch did come recently to ask about the possibility of renting some land adjacent to our sanctuary since they have over 1000 donkeys at their rescue centre, along with many other species of animals, and are running out of space. We left it that enquiries would be made with the relevant landlords etc and that we would reconvene in due course, however so far, attempts to make contact again haven't been successful.

I know there are some supporters who follow our pages on social media such as Facebook etc, so some of you will already know that on 8th December 2024, **we very suddenly lost our cherished, beloved, precious soul, Simon Cat.** He

suffered sudden onset of severe kidney failure.

There was really no hope since during scans and tests, it was discovered that he actually only had one kidney, so despite our desperate attempts to try to save his life, it was not to be.



Our beloved Simon

We brought him home from the veterinary hospital and he was euthanised with us by his side. **He came into our lives as a little Angel when we rescued him in 2016, and he left our lives as a little Angel that tragic day.**

His loss left us utterly devastated but we thank God for having brought him into our lives just when we needed such a profoundly loving soul, for giving us such a very beautiful and unique blessing, we will always be deeply grateful for him.

Thank you all so very much for everything you do for our precious animals, their sanctuary and our little charity, we are eternally grateful for your ongoing help, love and generosity. You enable our vital work to continue and we cannot ask for more than that.

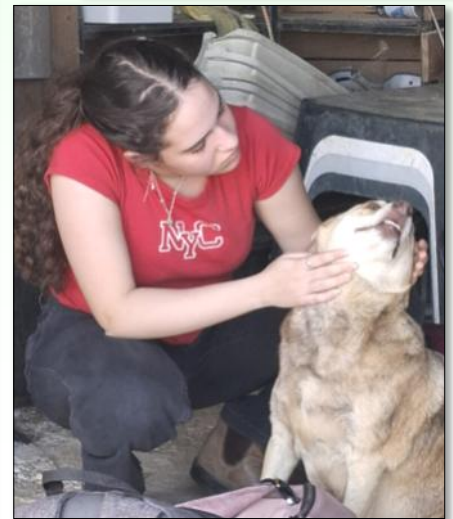
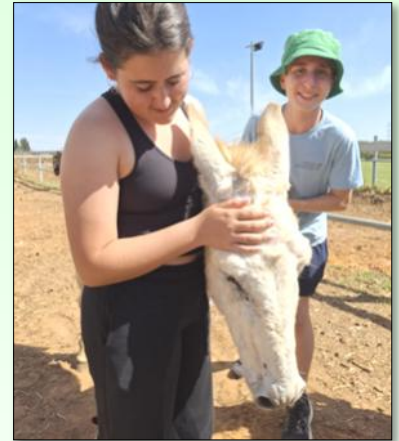
Happy Easter and God bless,

*Lucy & The Donkeys
(and Horses, Dogs,
Cats...!)*



School Visit

We were so happy, and felt very lucky, to have a really lovely group of school children come to visit the sanctuary on 27th March! They came from En Iron school near Pardess Hanna, as part of a school volunteering project. They were brilliant, adored all the animals and made themselves very useful grooming donkeys, giving lots of love and cuddles to all our animals, and even walked all round the field picking up bits of litter etc that blow in on the wind, always a tedious task! We loved having them and they have vowed to return again next week. We really appreciated their visit and can't wait to welcome them back. ❤️❤️❤️



The Donkey

*Two meek brown eyes with hanging head,
A sad disheartened colt.
That men should tease and mock him so
Was really not his fault.
That men should beat him, whip him hard,
And weigh him down with loads,
And drive him through the crowded streets,
On dirty dusty roads.*

*That men should kick him, heartlessly,
And call him "stupid mule".
Oh why, he wondered, miserably,
Were men so harsh and cruel.
But he remembered with a sigh
That there had been just one
Who'd treated him with true respect
And not just mocking fun.*

*He's borne Him through the city streets,
His strong proud head held high,
And everyone had cheered and waved
As he'd walked slowly by.
They'd thrown Him branches from the trees
And strewn their cloaks around;
He felt a deep warm glow of love
For the Friend that he had found.*

By Philipa Reed aged 13 with permission from The Donkey Sanctuary Sidmouth

Donkeys and CATS

Donkeys and cats might seem like an unusual pair at first glance, but their compatibility often surprises people. These two animals share a surprising bond, rooted in complementary traits and behaviours that make them excellent companions—as witnessed at our sanctuary!

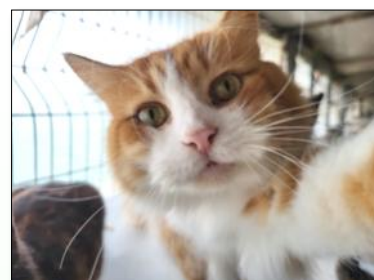
We now have approximately 30 rescued cats living around the site of the sanctuary in perfect harmony with the donkeys. Most of the cats we have were found within Gaza by IDF soldiers, and also the south of Israel in areas near military bases. A few have also come from the north of the country as well as other areas. As you may remember, we built a special, large enclosure where each cat spends the first month or so, before being released. They have a constant supply of dry food and fresh water at the sanctuary, and of course plenty of wonderful, comfortable places to sleep. We are in a countryside area and not near any main roads which means it's extremely safe for cats. All female cats are spayed and all males are neutered before they come to the sanctuary.

With all those new cats around, we have even talked about changing the name of the foundation to include the word 'cats'! But we decided this would not paint a truthful picture of where donations are going, because a local man called Erez helps us a lot: He himself does the collection of cats and delivers them to the sanctuary. He covers the costs of spay/neuter operations, any cat related veterinary needs, food and he also paid for the cat's en-



closure to be built. Lucy and Adi actually helped Erez over the years and at one point they temporarily worked at his little cat sanctuary in 2019/2020 to help when he was particularly overwhelmed. He was so grateful to them and in return tries to do what he can to help the sanctuary and deeply appreciates having the sanctuary as a safe place for the rescues.

The relationship between our donkeys and cats shows that sometimes the most unlikely pairs can form the strongest and most endearing bonds. It's a testament to the adaptability and acceptance inherent in animals—a quality we humans could learn from!



Springtime at the Sanctuary



*Shanaya (right): Smell my minty breath!
Bella (left): Poooh... it's not that minty!!*



Cicely (and Angelo)



Harry with dogs Mama and Pup



Handsome Shayne



Some of our relaxed, happy and safe little donkeys



Two Gingies together - little Micky cat and big Stormcat



John (in front), with Mum, Sigg



Bear



Molly (and part of David)



Cowboy with two cat friends



The Perfect Gift: A Donkey Adoption

Our adoption certificates include the backstory to the adopted donkey and are a perfect gift for a loved one or yourself.



UK post (A5) £22 / email (A4) £20 RoW (email only, A4) £20 / \$30 / €22



Name

Address

.....Post Code

Chosen Donkey

Name on Certificate

☐ Postal ☐ E-mail (E-mail address:)

Payment by **Payment/contact details below**

Chico



Shanaya



Shane



Siggi



Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation
Registered Charity (UK Reg. 1174959)
Supporting Lucy's Donkey Sanctuary in Burgata, Israel
www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk

ADOPTION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that
(RECIPIENT NAME)

has adopted

ARNOLD

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



Dear old Arnold was rescued in early 2020. He was terribly abused at a market after being left abandoned in torrential rain. He was found by youngsters who decided to torment him and stone him and it took a week or so to secure his rescue. He is so grateful to be at the sanctuary, despite the abuse he's suffered and the discomfort of his wounds and scars. He is a gentle and calm little donkey who has immediately found his place within our herd.

Renewal date: February 2024

Our donkeys and their stories can be found on
www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/donkey-gallery

We need more stamps!

We are running low on stamps for our newsletter. If you are UK based and can help the charity save costs by **sending us stamps or stamp booklets**, we would really appreciate it! Please send them to our UK address below. Thank you so much!



Payment & Contact

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Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

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

Full details on www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/donate

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