

CHRISTMAS NEWS 2025



Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

Supporting the
Rescue & Care of
Donkeys in the Holy Land



Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation
7 Richardson Cl, Greenhithe, DA9 9QG, UK
UK registered charity No. 1174959

webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk
www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk
Tel: +44 7380 549 487 (pls leave msg)

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

Dear Valued Supporters

Christmas will soon be upon us and our focus will turn briefly towards Bethlehem.

*'A cry in the night and a child is born.
A child in a stable,
there isn't any room
A cry in the night
and God has made,
Our homelessness His own.'
Author unknown*

Knowing how hard and difficult circumstances still are in that region we are **deeply grateful** for your continued concern and support for our little sanctuary and the precious animals in our care.

The trustees would like to give our continued sincere **thanks to Lucy, Adi and all the volunteers** in the sanctuary who are working hard, despite the restrictions, to continue to rescue animals in the area, as the suffering now goes on largely unseen by the outside world.

Lucy has pointed out to us 3 areas

where they need extra finance. **New corrugated roofing material** which has been given to the sanctuary needs to be professionally fitted to **replace torn material**. There is a desperate need to start the **outreach work** in a limited way which will cost £300 per session. There is a real need for **another paid worker** for the sanctuary to cover 16 to 20 hours per week over four days at an extra cost of £150 per week.

We would like to thank so very much **Lyndon Pugh**, our outgoing treasurer, for the work he has done over many years, as now he hands over to our **new treasurer Colin Duck** (James's father).

We have a **new website** which has been developed thanks to James and Rhona. You will be able to find out more information from an article on page 11 in this newsletter.

It is always good to **hear from supporters**. It makes a trustee's job so much more interesting and rewarding. So, we have been reminded that in this modern age some people still like to **donate by cheque**. If you would like to send us a cheque please do so, sending

it to the foundation address on page 11. A **gift aid form** is also printed at the end of the newsletter as gift aiding does contribute enormously to the funds of the sanctuary.

As for other means of contacting us, the mobile phone now has a better welcome message on it, and you can also contact our 'webgirl' Erika by email who will then forward any messages.

We thought that, because we have so many things to include in the newsletter that as a one off, we would expand it with 4 extra pages. We all like to see pictures of the animals and to be encouraged, so here it is. The printing costs are, as always, paid for privately by our trustees. Also, at this point a big thank you to those who have donated stamps, they are always needed!

Finally, we would like to wish you all, wherever you are, a meaningful Christmas.

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!





Warmest greetings to our very dear Supporters,

First things first, I want to start by saying 'thank you' – two little words but I am saying them with such a deeply grateful heart.

It never ceases to amaze me what a true miracle it is that our wonderful little sanctuary is still going...

We have recently **rescued a beautiful horse, Brownie, and another dear donkey, Charlie**, you can read their stories on pages 8 and 9.

With these new additions we now have 49 rescued donkeys (32 male, 17 female), 3 rescued horses (all male), plus a significant number of little rescued cats and 2 dogs, all depending upon us to make sure they will always have their safe, happy sanctuary to live in, here in Israel.

There really are no words to sufficiently express how grateful we feel to you for ensuring that so far, month after month, year after year, by a miracle we continue to be here for them all.

We have tried so hard to enlist **help from other organisations**, looked to others to join forces but sadly each time, it seems to come to nothing. There is only so much chasing after people one can do and so, ultimately, we find ourselves with no choice but to continue to stand alone for as long as will be possible.

We have had to contend with increased costs due to the country having been engaged in war for the past two years and in addition there's the fact that the VAT in Israel has increased to 18%.

We also need to deal with exchange rates, and despite the war, the Israeli shekel and the Israeli economy in general remains strong, so our budget ends up requiring more pounds, dollars or euros to equate to the costs that need to be paid in shekels.

Our sanctuary costs approximately 42,500 Israeli shekels to sustain each month, inclusive of absolutely everything, from the land rent, bedding and feed, to veterinary and farrier fees, supplier and maintenance bills, and of course everything else in between.

By the current exchange rate that equates to **approximately £10,000, or \$13,200, or €11,400 every month** – a very tall order indeed!

In addition we would give anything to be able to restart some form of our outreach clinics although the timing is still problematic. Yet how, when we need to raise the equivalent of 42,500 shekels a month to keep our rescued donkeys and their sanctuary maintained, can we expect to raise still more for other projects? You can read an update I have written about **our hopes to hold an outreach clinic** on page 10.

Yet, even as we need to raise a hefty monthly budget, we are so fortunate in many ways as we have Adi who often saves a fortune by carrying out repairs and other maintenance work that he's capable of doing, without us having to call in a professional.

In our worship, Lord most holy,
Hallowed be Thy Name;
In our work, however lowly,
Hallowed be Thy Name;
In each heart's imagination,
In the church's adoration,
In the conscience of the nation,
Hallowed be Thy Name.'
*Last verse of a hymn by
Timothy Rees 1874-1939*

We also have Eyal and Elias living on site, and although they live rent free and we cover the cost of electricity and water, they do so in exchange for their invaluable daily help working with our animals. Not to mention that just by them being there, it is like having nighttime security which is in itself the greatest blessing, as it helps give us peace of mind regarding the safety and protection of all our animals.

I feel I have to mention the fact that there are about four or five people, I won't mention names out of respect for their privacy, whose particularly incredible generosity has saved our little sanctuary more than once. They have so kindly given one-off or occasional substantial donations which enabled us to keep going and **we feel forever indebted to these donors**.

Absolutely every donation, whatever the amount, is crucial and each one means everything to us and to the life of every animal in our care.

Without your love, kindness and compassion, we would not be here, it is as simple as that.

We send you all Christmas blessings and wishes for a prosperous, healthy, peaceful New Year...

Thank you and God bless,

*Lucy, the animals
and everyone
at the sanctuary*





The sanctuary's own Romeo and Juliet: Fiona and Fresco



Carrots



Best buds Bear and Alan





SPOTLIGHT

on ... *Shanaya*

We rescued our little Shanaya back in July 2020. She had been left tethered with chains and ropes around her neck, under the sun in the boiling July temperatures, without water and although she was only young, it was clear to see she had already led a hard life.

Thankfully the police stayed with her to guard her until we

could arrange for her to be safely brought back to our sanctuary. Once there she immediately seemed to feel comfortable as she had a long drink of water and a lovely munch of plentiful hay for what was probably the first time in her life.

Dear Shanaya suffers with irritated skin which needs oint-

ment at certain times of the year. She's a very timid little donkey, sometimes a little bit of a loner but also occasionally enjoys just hanging around the other donkeys.

Thank you for making it possible for us to provide Shanaya with a safe, comfortable and happy home for the past five years.



Shanaya as she was when we first rescued her



Shanaya now, with her little tail in mid flick, next to Cicely

giftaid it
(UK only)

Please forgive us for keeping on about this, but giftaiding is such a great way to help make your donations stretch further.

As a UK tax payer all you have to do is **fill in a simple form only once**. We as a UK registered charity can then claim 25p for every £1 from the government on any donation you make, effectively **making a £10 donation worth £12.50**.

The money we can claim through Gift Aid is an enormous help to the charity. If you do pay tax in the UK and haven't yet done so, **please fill in the Gift Aid Form on the last page**, cut it out and send it to our new Treasurer Colin Duck at the address at the bottom of the form or scan it and email it to **webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk**.

Around the sanctuary



Little Fresco



Big Storm & Jane



Moses

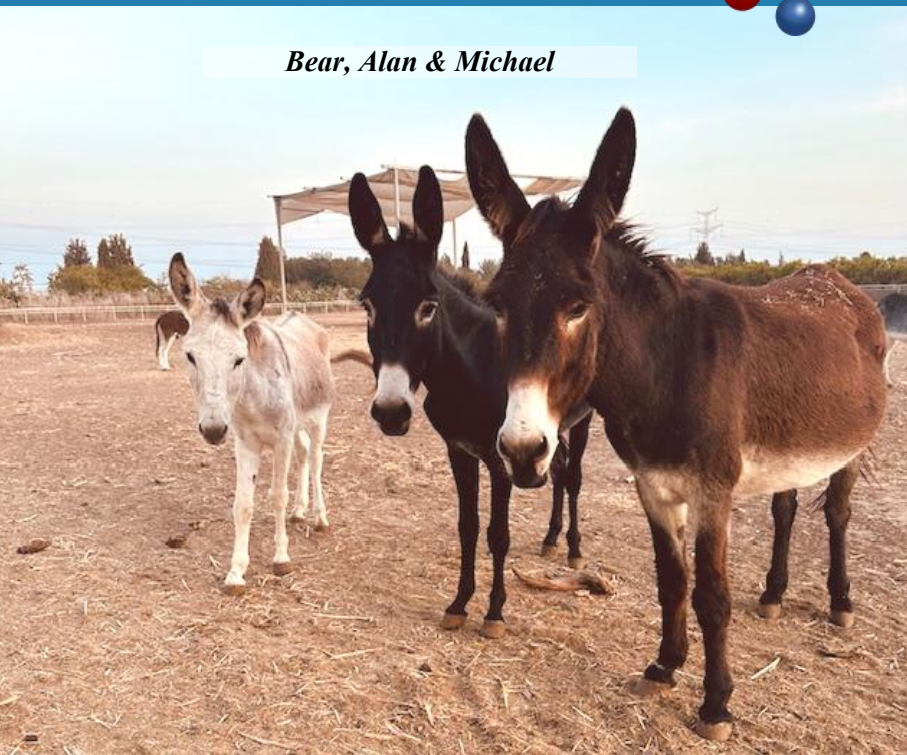


Cicely and Mickey the cat





Bear, Alan & Michael



Fresco & Alan



Fledermaus



Georgie



Storm & little Roni



Li'l Pup



Shayne





Li'l Pup and his feline entourage



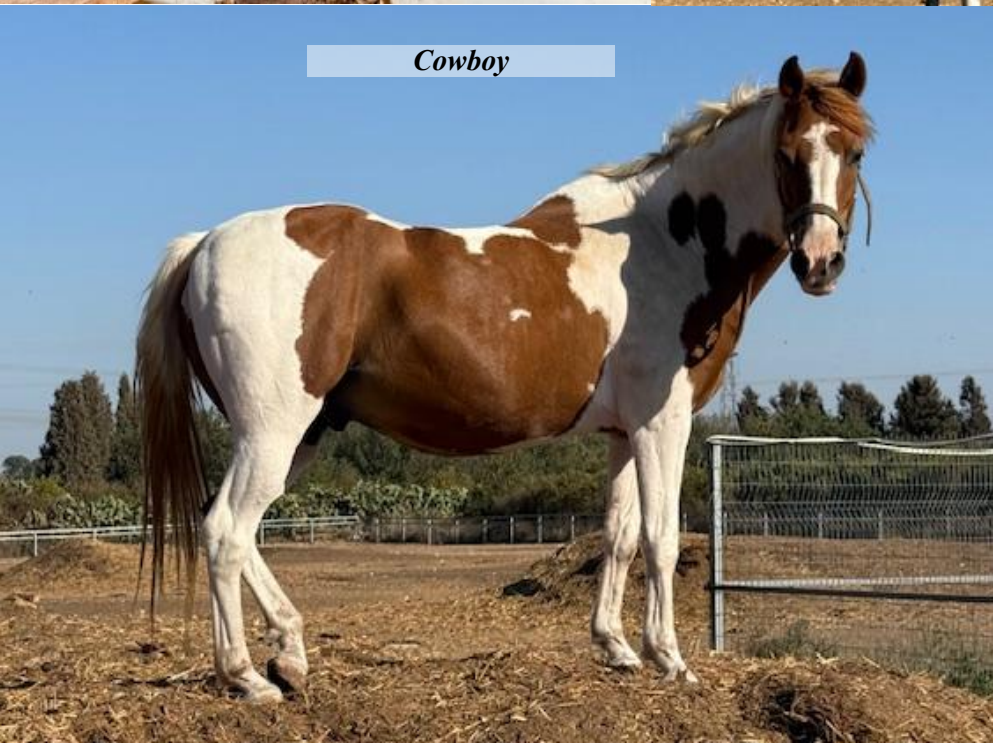
Bru, Arnold & Sam



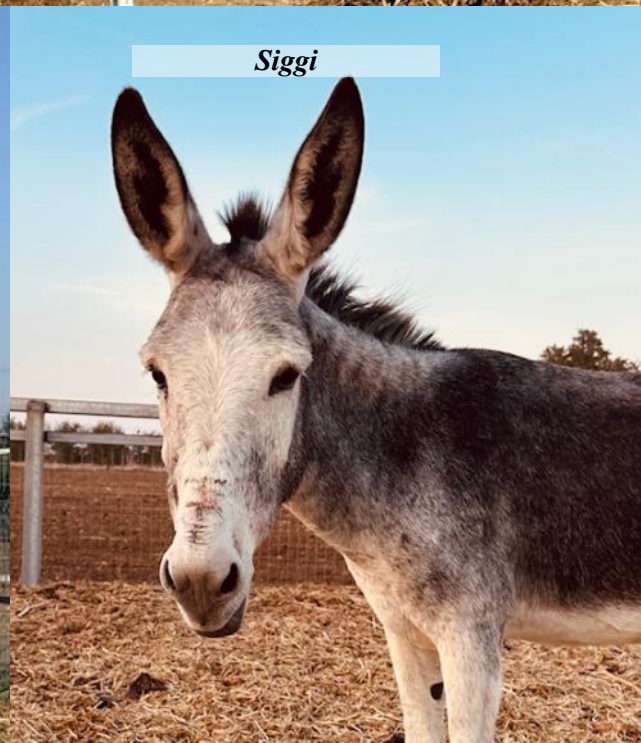
Roni



Taylor



Cowboy



Siggi

Welcome to the fold!



Charlie

Charlie is a lovely but poor boy who was found wandering terrified on a main road through the nearby Arab village of Qalansuwa, at night.

He must have been fairly well taken care of up until recently as he has already been gelded and his general body condition is good but he is extremely afraid of people and tends to cower when approached.

He is also very stubborn, possibly due to the fact that he has some blindness which may be a reason why he was unwanted and so left abandoned on the streets.

Because of his fear and uncertainty we wanted to give him some time to settle down a bit before we would start trying to hold his head and examine his teeth to guess his approximate age, however we have gently attempted this and he accepted graciously. We believe him to be around 12/13 old.



Settling down and feeling content

Charlie after he was rescued at night



Getting used to his new home under the watchful eye of Storm



Brownie

Beautiful Brownie was able to start a new wonderful, safe and quiet life in our care. Brownie came from a local Arab village, Qalansuwa, where he was being abused. He has one front leg (the left), shorter than the other which is a disability for him, of course, but despite this, an acquaintance of ours who lives in Qalansuwa, witnessed some cruel youths riding

the horse and beating him, making him gallop despite this disability... Thankfully our acquaintance is well known in that area and managed to take the horse away from the youths and seek our help.

Brownie started out well with our other two horses, Storm and Cowboy, until we noticed Storm wasn't allowing him to get near the hay bale freely so we fenced off a separate area for him, hoping in time the other horses would accept him.

He is such a dear, gentle soul and after just a few weeks in our care is already looking stunning. Our farrier came to look at him and decided to shorten the right hoof slightly to enable him to walk at least a little more evenly.

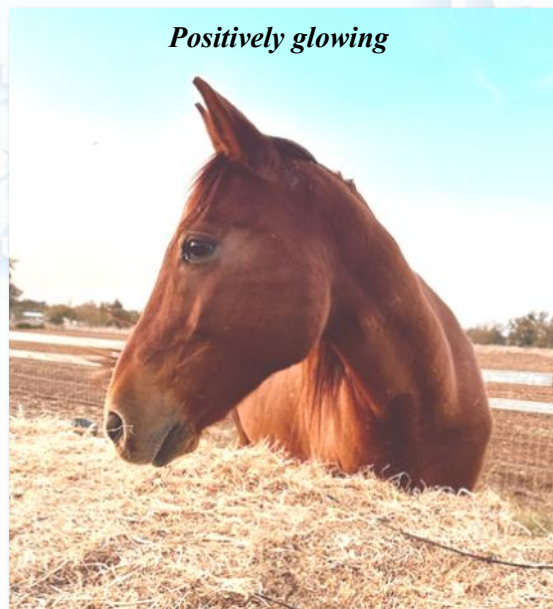
He is doing so well but unfortunately although we tried to integrate him again with the

horses, it was alright for short time but then our old Storm soon decided to 'pull rank' again! On seeing that, Cowboy thought it would be a good idea to join in and they both did their best to annoy Brownie and stop him from getting near the hay bale! So, overnight Brownie stays in his own little area but during the day he spends his time out with all our donkeys whom he loves, and the feeling is mutual.

Only with desperately needed financial support were we able to take Brownie in and look after him.

Thank you to all our supporters for making it possible for us to help this dear boy, we are so grateful to you. The relief, joy and appreciation we feel in our hearts when we are able to take a desperate soul like Brownie in to our sanctuary, gives us the greatest satisfaction. Thanks to your support and donations, we do not have to turn them away.

Positively glowing



Below: Brownie as he was when we had just rescued him—note the shorter left leg



Below: Now, just a month later



A note about our Outreach work



Unfortunately it is still considered unsafe and too much of a risk to restart our Outreach work in the West Bank.

Just last week in the news we heard how the IDF are having to carry out drills in anticipation of a mass terror attack in or from the West Bank; that can only be due to something the undercover/Intelligence teams have discovered.

A vet we worked with in the past hasn't been contactable for some time and has been posting anti Israeli content on social

rounding villages as movement in and around the West Bank - Judea and Samaria, is restricted.

The concern also is the fact that we need to meet Khaled in order to give him some equipment and supplies; but due to previous Palestinian terror attacks at or near checkpoints, Qalqilya residents are not able to get too close to the main checkpoint, and we can't go much beyond that checkpoint.

One way or another though we really hope to get something started.

media so sadly we feel we can no longer rely on him.

We are attempting to see if we can organise some sort of a plan with a former colleague of ours, Khaled, in Qalqilya, he is a farrier who is keen to help and work with us.

If we do manage to proceed with something it would only be on a minor scale within the local area and sur-

However minimal it may need to be due to the geopolitical limitations, as well as the obvious extra funds this work would necessitate, doing something has got to be better than nothing at all.

We estimate that **to hold an outreach clinic** at the moment would be in the region of 1200/1300 Israeli shekels, that's **£280/£305, or \$370/\$400, or €320/€345, per clinic** held.

This would be to cover the cost of paying a local vet and our farrier/assistant, Khaled, plus a payment for the fuel they'd need to get between local villages etc, in addition to the cost of some basic veterinary medicines and equipment.

It is truly heartbreaking to think of all the poor animals out there, like this little Qalqilya donkey on the left, who so desperately need even just a little help from us...

Tragically it's beyond our control to change their lives, but to give some of them just a brief moment of care would be something. We want to bring that crucial awareness again to their owners, to demonstrate to them that their animals' lives do matter, even if the majority of them won't agree.

Adopt a donkey for Christmas!



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

UK post **£22** email **£20** RoW (email only) **£20 / \$30 / €22**

Name

Address

..... Post Code

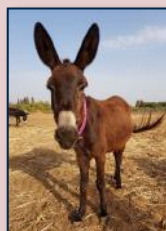
Chosen Donkey

Name on Certificate

☐ Postal ☐ E-mail (E-mail address:

Payment by *Payment/contact details on last page*

Erika



David



Fiona



Raphael



Cut-off dates:

By post
(UK only):
15th December

By email:
23rd December



Our New Website is Finally Here!

We're absolutely thrilled to announce that our shiny new website has officially launched – and we couldn't be more excited to share it with you all!

After several months of hard work, countless cups of tea, and a few technical difficulties along the way, Rhona and James have finally completed the job of bringing our online home into 2025. They've been working behind the scenes to update content and carefully migrate everything across to make sure nothing important got left behind.

So what's different? Well, quite a lot actually! We've given the whole site a proper makeover with a much cleaner, easier-to-navigate interface. Whether you're browsing on your phone during your morning commute or settling in with your laptop and a biscuit, everything should feel smoother and more intuitive. No more clicking around trying to find what you're looking for – it's all there, and we hope you agree!

But here's the really important bit: while we've modernised the look and feel, we've been absolutely determined to keep what makes us, well... 'us'. Lucy's warmth and personal touch are still woven throughout every page. You'll still find all those heart-



warming stories about our residents – the triumphs, the silly moments, the updates on how everyone's getting on. Because at the end of the day, it's these stories that connect us all and remind us why we do what we do.

As before, each donkey has their own space where you can follow their journey, see recent photos, and read about their personalities and progress. It's like popping by for a visit, just without the muddy boots!

The goal with all of this was simple: to make it easier for more people to discover us, learn about our work, and feel part of

what we're trying to do. We want the website to be a place where you can genuinely connect with the animals and understand the difference your support makes.

We'd love for you to have a browse and let us know what you think. Explore the new features, catch up on the latest animal updates, and feel free to share it with anyone who loves donkeys as much as we do. Here's to new beginnings and many more stories to share!

We're also reigniting our social media output to ensure relevant updates are accessible on multiple platforms!

Payment & Contact

Lloyds Bank

Acc. Name:

Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

Acc. Number: 25432768

Sort Code: 30-96-83

PayPal

shop@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk

Go Fund Me

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.

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

Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation
7 Richardson Close
Greenhithe, DA9 9QG
United Kingdom

webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk

Tel: 07380 549 487 (if no response, please leave a message on James's answerphone and we will call you back)

This Newsletter is compiled free of charge by a volunteer and the printing costs are privately paid by volunteers and trustees.

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. However, if you no longer wish to receive it, you can let us know at any time by writing to our address (see above), emailing Erika at webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk or – if you receive it by email – by clicking 'unsubscribe' in the footer of the email you received with this newsletter.



Charity Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation, you must tick the relevant box below:

- ☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to:
- ☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

LUCY'S UK DONKEY FOUNDATION (Reg. charity No. 1174959)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____

Date _____ Signature: _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please send the completed form to:

Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation
Colin Duck (Treasurer)
38 Squires Way
DARTFORD
Kent
DA2 7NW