

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 trustees we would like to really thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful response to our Special Bulletin. We were facing having only £21K in the bank and expenditure that was month by month exceeding our income.

Because of your generosity we now have £41K in the bank which gives us a buffer and will enable us to carry out the flood defence work in August, which is so desperately needed.

We have been absolutely staggered at the generosity of supporters, and also the response from you all with suggestions to raise money, or names of charities that we might possibly contact.

As trustees it is wonderful to have direct contact with supporters and to realise your love for, and dedication to the donkeys in the sanctuary as well as your personal support for Lucy and Adi.

All this makes Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation a very special organisation.

Naturally, due to the concerns of ensuring the sanctuary will always have sufficient funding to enable it to continue, as you know, we have contacted various other organisations in our effort to try and secure help for the future. Sadly, the usual response is that most organisations will only support projects as opposed to sanctuaries.

We have however, recently made contact with a larger animal sanctuary based in Israel, to discuss the possibility of establishing closer links. The discussions are ongoing and a little sporadic, but ultimately it seems probable that should we find ourselves in real difficulties in the future, then they would step in and help.

This would mean, in the worst scenario, we could rest assured that our donkeys would continue to be well cared for and safe, which is what we all, especially Lucy, pray for.

It may be that closer links can be developed with this sanctuary to our mutual benefit. We will let you know of any developments, because we know how concerned you all are.

James, John, Sian and Rhona

Trustees Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation





"Your path through this world has many ups and downs. Your down times are difficult, but they serve an important purpose. Pain and struggle help you change and grow stronger when you trust Me in the midst of adversity."

Jesus Always by Sarah Young (page 181)

Hello to our dear, treasured Supporters…

Once again it's time for an update from Israel and as always we just cannot thank you enough for all that you do for our donkeys… We thank you for the miracle of your continued generosity and support despite the ongoing, harrowing situation in this region. The fact that you continue to stand with us and help us in whatever way you can, is what makes it possible for our little donkey sanctuary to survive through this immensely difficult time, and for that, we are eternally grateful. Your dedication and determination to keep helping us really does restore our faith in humanity.

It has been an unsettling and turbulent few months in Israel, requiring much energy in an effort to keep grounded and remain calm in the face of constant conflict on all fronts. In addition we are suffering from extreme heat and humidity, even the news channels here have reported that this year, so far, has been the hottest and most humid summer for decades.

Luckily for our little donkeys they don't seem to do too badly in extreme heat – that's going by the fact that they choose to rest and relax all day out in the full sun, only occasionally seeking their shade areas. By comparison, the two horses only want to be in the shade, as do the cats and the dogs.

Naturally, this tolerance of being under the sun doesn't apply to the working donkeys in the West Bank and elsewhere – having to work hard in such heat, with no shade or water, as opposed to resting in it, with shade and water within easy reach, are obviously very different things.

In such intense, relentless heat, it's strange to think we will soon need to start preparing for the winter flood prevention work to take place, but it's vital to have it done in time. We are determined to do all we can to try to prevent a repetition of the damaging floods we suffered last winter.

Thankfully our donkeys are completely oblivious to the troubles and war, although lately there has been serious fighting between the IDF and Palestinian terrorists in Tulkarem, located a few kilometres from us - so far, our sanctuary remains unaffected.

After recent failed attempts by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad to launch rockets at Israel from Tulkarem, the IDF and special intelligence units uncovered hundreds of rockets and IED's being stored under roads in Tulkarem.

And so it seems inevitable – the battle to protect and defend this country must go on.

Tragically, the worsening events unfolding in the West Bank have also meant that it has not been possible to resume our outreach work.

We are continuously monitoring the situation and the moment we

feel we can take action again, we will surely do so.

Very sadly I have to tell you that we recently lost our beautiful, young and feisty little donkey, **Joey**, due to a venomous snake bite. You can read more about this tragic event on page 5.

There was absolutely nothing that we could have done to even try to save him as he was bitten during the night, when nobody was in the barn at the time to have witnessed it. Snakes are most active at night and the following morning our vet confirmed the bite marks on Joey's back leg. We think he must have been resting or sleeping and that perhaps he felt the snake near him and when he attempted to move, the snake felt threatened and struck. It was a tragic loss of a young life and we just pray so much that it was quick, and that our Joey did not suffer.

At the end of May, we also had to take the very hard decision to say goodbye to our wonderful, cherished **Alby dog**, whom we'd shared our lives with for the past 16 years. Alby had developed a tumour on his back leg which, although slowly increasing in size, was at first considered to be benign. A few months ago at a check up, the vet said he believed it had turned cancerous and our poor, dear Alby's health seemed to go downhill quite rapidly from that point.

He was a precious dog soul and it hurt deeply to let him go… It was the right thing though, not to allow him to suffer further and let him go peacefully to rest with his best friend, our darling Cadbury, whom we also lost to cancer in 2018.

Our little Alby dog





We recently welcomed a new, young man named Elias to the sanctuary. Elias came to live on site in place of May, who regretfully had to leave us due to a change in her personal circumstances.

So living at our sanctuary with our donkeys, we now have **Issa**, **Eyal** and **Elias**.

Issa has been with us for eight years and Eyal, with his little donkey Chips, joined us approximately eighteen months ago and it truly is such a relief having them there, we feel very grateful for the help they are able to give.

Knowing they are there at the sanctuary and knowing we also have our rock solid, sturdy new fencing in place all around our perimeter, means we can definitely sleep a little easier at night.



Our new helper Elias with little Stevie

Thank you, thank you, thank you for making all this possible, for ensuring our sanctuary keeps going, and for continuing to stand with us. Thank you all for making it possible for me to still be sitting here writing updates for you about our beloved little sanctuary and donkeys.

We have to believe that goodness and kindness will ultimately prevail in our world and your continued support, even in the midst of what can often seem like such despair, truly reaffirms that belief for us.

God bless and love,

Lucy & the Donkeys

SPOTLIGHT on ... Cicely



Our dear girl, 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, heavy chunk of wood.

We desperately wanted to try to reach out to the children and work on teaching them some kindness, but we were told that the family she belonged to were 'beyond teachable'. We did indeed try and thought we were possibly making an impression on a couple of the children, but sadly it proved to be futile.

Cicely has a very sweet character which is surprising considering how she had suffered at the hands of humans but she was, and still is, a wise, knowing little soul.

She's a really easy going, tolerant little donkey and gets along with everybody but she is also quite a girl's girl and can usually be seen contentedly hanging around in an all female group.

Cicely as she was when we rescued her in August 2016



With her wounds covered in ointment



Our beautiful girl now…. eight years older, happy, healthy and safe









RIP dearest Joey

Our hearts are truly broken following the sudden and unexpected loss of our Joey. Our beautiful boy originally came from the Palestinian West Bank, just across the border. He had been used to running alongside his mother as she pulled a cart until he was tragically 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 wayside to try to fend for himself.

A man who knew all this ended up taking him in, but he simply kept him, without care, in an old yard area for several months until he couldn't cope any longer. This was when we were called for help. Little Joey came to us in early 2022 in a bit of a dirty state. We gave him the peace and time he needed to settle in and come to terms with seeing so many other donkeys around him. When donkey Chips joined us later, the two - who look like twins - became best friends.

He had a happy couple of years at the sanctuary, but then tragedy struck: One morning in July 2024, Joey was found dead in the stables. It turned out that he had been bitten by a venomous snake. Although there are stories about mules taking on and killing snakes, and we have so far never had an incident on the rare occasion when a snake was found (and removed) in the sanctuary, we think that tragically for Joey, he was simply lying on the ground, probably sleeping or resting, when the snake struck. With nobody being there and witnessing this, there was absolutely nothing that could have been done to try to save Joey as immediate action would have been needed, and even then it would not have necessarily guaranteed survival.



It's very difficult to know what can be done to prevent this from happing in the future. We've tried looking for ways to deter snakes but for such a large area and limited funds it's very hard. Some people urge caution about deterring snakes from farm areas as they say they naturally ensure rodents and pests are kept under control, and unfortunately, we are now in the middle of the snake season.

But poor Joey was just a young and feisty little donkey whose life has tragically been ended prematurely. Sleep peacefully little Joey…



Summer in the Holy Land

Impressions from around the sanctuary



Our horses Storm and Cowboy with little old Thomas the donkey



Chips



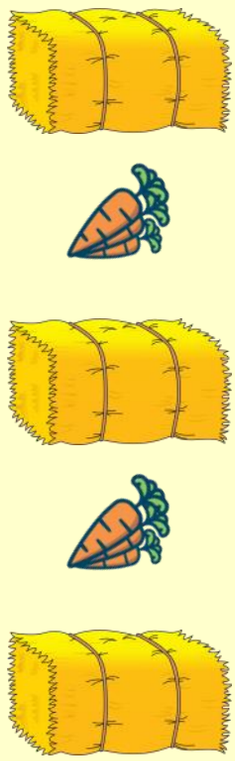
Moses



Handsome Harry

Lunch time at the sanctuary





Bear



Bear



Siggy (with her back to us) and to her right, little Erika



Barbara and Chips



Did you know? You can help our donkeys by leaving a **pecuniary gift (cash gift)** to the charity **in your will**.

There are online will-writers such as **Free Wills** (**www.freewills.co.uk**, **0800 612 8352**). There is no cost to either you or the charity to write a will. For a phone/postal will-writers, you may want to have a look at **Will Drafters Ltd.** (**www.willdrafters.com/wills** or telephone **0800 269 297**). You can, of course, use any other will-writer you wish.

Gifts that are 'unrestricted' (meaning the charity can use money where it is most needed) are invaluable and can make a real difference to vulnerable animals.

You will need the name and address of our charity (see page 8) and our registration number which is **1174959**.


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
ZACHARIAH
rescued and now cared for at Lucy's Donkey Sanctuary in Israel.

Zachariah was found in the Golan Heights area of Israel in April 2017. We know nothing about his history and for all we know he could even have somehow made his way across the border from Syria. He had both eyes gouged out in an act of unspeakable cruelty and has what look like old stab wounds on either side of his neck. It has taken months and months of patience and care, as, understandably, he was terrified of people at first. But now he enjoys cuddles from Lucy and others he knows and trusts – a massive step forward!

Renewal date: January 2024

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

Adopt a donkey and help the sanctuary

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 below***

Alfredo



Cicely



Jeremiah



Gretel



A heartfelt thank you to:

- **Jamie** from **The Shoo Fly People** for giving us a generous discount of 20% on their products!
  www.ebay.co.uk/str/theshooflypeople
- the wonderful **Cockburns Tea Room** and their generous customers, in Arundel, for holding our collection box and raising over £190 for us!



Remember: We really appreciate **new stamp donations** to help us reduce postage costs for the newsletter; please send them to our UK address below. Thank you!

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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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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.

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