

SUMMER 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
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Dear Valued Supporters

During these challenging times, with the ongoing situation in Israel weighing heavily on all our hearts, we are deeply grateful for your continued concern and support for our sanctuary and the precious animals in our care.

As you may recall from our previous newsletter, we've been working toward launching our refreshed website. While progress continues, James and Rhona have encountered some unexpected personal circumstances that have required their attention. We're committed to delivering the best possible platform for our supporters, so we're allowing the necessary time for this important project to be completed properly. However, we'll be ready to 'go live' very soon!



Our philosophy has always been that the wellbeing of everyone in our sanctuary family – both human and animal – comes first. We believe in supporting each other through life's challenges, and this principle guides every decision we make as trustees.

Adi and our 'cat man' Erez have been hard at work to improve the cattery area, where our little stray cats spend some time to get acclimatised before being allowed to check out the sanctuary. They have lined the entire cattery floor area with PVC in order to make it easier to keep clean and more hygienic. The picture to the right shows this wonderful improvement.

Adi and Lucy take great strength from your kind words during what is a very turbulent time in Israel. Your compassion and dedication to our mission reminds us of the healing power that comes from caring for our four-legged friends. As always, thank you!

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





A warm hello to our very dear Supporters from us and all our little animals here in Israel...

The most important thing for me is to start by saying such a heartfelt thank you to every one of you. Thank you for your amazing continued support, thank you for your love and for caring, thank you that we are still here, managing to keep our little sanctuary going, able to care for all our wonderful rescued souls - our donkeys, horses, cats and dogs.

We really are so eternally grateful to you for this.

Many of you ask me how we are coping here under the circumstances, and so kindly say that your thoughts are with us, thank you... I will be honest, it takes a conscious daily effort to keep going, keep sane and control anxiety levels. There are just too many things happening that we have to live through and endure that are simply not being reported by the mainstream media. The truth about what is really happening, how it's happening and why, seems irrelevant to journalists as it doesn't fit the narrative. The sole goal seems to be to amplify Hamas's constant stream of lies instead of reporting the facts, reality and the truth. And tragically it is clear that many people are believing and accepting what they are being told which, concerning, is generating an unprecedented level of hatred towards Israel and the Jewish people in general.

To me it's as though we are living in prophetic times where everything is inverted, where good is considered evil, and evil is considered good... I feel prayer can be the only answer.

Some of you may have already read how, since our last newsletter, **we have so tragically lost our little horse foal, Danny, due to tetanus, and also two of our darling donkeys, our dearest old Thomas and most recently our precious Zachariah.**

You can read more on these tragic losses on pages 4 and 5.

After appealing through an Israeli organisation, we were very happy to have had **the help of some lovely volunteers here in Israel** recently and although we sadly had to stop it during the '12 Day War' with Iran in June, due to the fact that we have no protective bomb shelter at the sanctuary, we do hope that in time, we will be able to resume accepting volunteers. A major dilemma we face is the fact that **we do not have funds to pay a full time person to work at the sanctuary**; someone who would be able to dedicate the time necessary to receive and give minimal basic training to people who want to come to help voluntarily. Of course different volunteers want to come at all sorts of various times, on different days so it's very problematic to try to coordinate without having a full time helper present every day of the week. I pray with all my heart for this to be something we will be able to have some day very soon, it would help more than I can

*I lift up my eyes to the hills,
But where shall I find help?
My help comes from the Lord
Who has made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer your foot to stumble
And He who watches over you will not sleep.
Be sure He who has charge over Israel,
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

From Psalm 121

even begin to explain and could resolve so many issues into the future too.

Over the years we have occasionally brought the vet to check and rasp the teeth of some of our more elderly donkeys, but course inevitably we reach the stage where a considerable number of our donkeys are getting older. We have known for a little while that despite the heavy financial cost, we would need eventually to bring a qualified equine dentist with the proper electrical equipment, to give our donkeys the dentistry treatment needed to enable them to chew and digest their feed efficiently. And a major task that we have literally accomplished this week has been what we had started referring to as, **'Operation Teeth and Tetanus'**, you can read all about it on page 6.

I hope you enjoy seeing the wonderful photographs of our beautiful animals enjoying their days living peacefully at their sanctuary.

As you know, their lives were not always like this, nearly every one of our rescued animals came from a living hell in the West Bank, forced to endure endless days of abuse and even torture, where they were overworked and deprived of sufficient water and food. We know only too well how our incredible existing supporters consistently do all they can to support and help us keep going. Please if you can, help spread the word about our sanctuary because **we still desperately need to gain more support if it is to survive.**

Our animals look to us for the assurance that their lives now will continue this way - safe, contented and in peace... And of course we look to you, to help us make sure that happens. Please help us, in whatever way at that you can, to always be here for them.

Every donation, no matter the amount, will help towards ensuring our sanctuary and vital work can continue.

God bless you all and thank you so much,

*Lucy and
all our Animals*

Some of our volunteers with our animals



RIP...



Danny

Little Danny was the horse foal we had rescued from a West Bank village near Bethlehem where he had been abused, tortured with lit cigarettes and forcefully separated from his mother. He'd also sustained a significant open wound to his right, lower back leg which had been left untreated for some time. We'd had such hope for him as we cared for him... We worked hard to treat his injury, feed him his special horse milk formula a few times a day, which he whinnied for every morning. But after just a few short weeks with us, he suddenly went downhill and collapsed.

The vet was concerned about the wounds he had sustained on his body when he was still living in the Palestinian West Bank, being subjected to such cruelty and no mother's milk to help build his immunity and help protect him.

She said that because he'd been so abused, injured and kept in such filthy and insalubrious conditions, bacteria had entered his system and had spread and suddenly taken hold; tetanus had been lying dormant in his system.

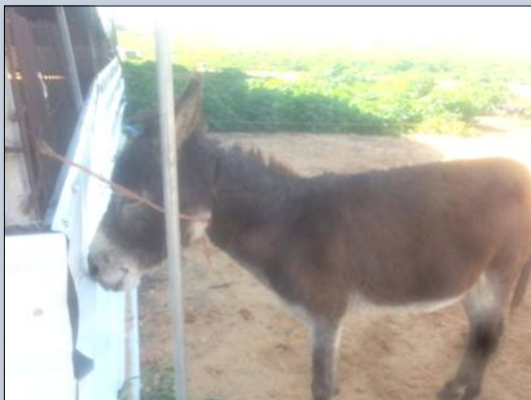
We didn't know how long he'd had the injury or how long he'd been without a mother there, but we do know how he must have pined for her and she for him. We had considered the possibility of transporting him to the veterinary hospital south of Tel Aviv where he could receive emergency treatment and as we were about to start setting off to do that, our little Danny passed away.



We were still reeling from the loss of little Danny when the next heartbreak arrived... In early May, we had to put out dear old Thomas down, after he collapsed. Thomas was very old, over 30 we believe, so he did have a 'good innings' as they say and he absolutely loved his life at our sanctuary with his companions. Tragically one morning we found him lying down unable to get up; the vet said his whole system had shut down and the kindest thing to do for Thomas was to let him go. We had rescued him from his terribly sad life in March 2016 when we had our temporary little sanctuary on the outskirts of the Arab town of Qalansuwa in Israel. It was clear to see he was an old boy then as well as being partially blind, and when we found him abandoned on a road in Qalansuwa, not far from our sanctuary, he

had thin string tied so tightly around his neck it had started to be embedded in his flesh. Luckily we reached him just in time before it could possibly have ended up strangling him completely. It took us quite a while but with great effort and care we removed the string which was deep and really hurt him. He was so happy to be rescued and we take comfort in the fact that at least he had a wonderful, safe, happy final 9 years of his little life with us.

Thomas



When Thomas still had the string embedded in his neck

Zachariah



Amid the devastation and war besieging our region, as Israel struggles to fight on multiple fronts for its survival, and during the 12 Day War with Iran, the daily situation was particularly stressful to say the least.

And one morning we found that on top of everything, we had another great tragedy to try to come to terms with - the passing of our dearly beloved, precious boy Zachariah, due to acute kidney failure.

During those harrowing nights and days of rockets and ballistic missile barrages 'adorned' with one ton MIRV warheads, from Iran and Yemen, we had been desperately trying to help our darling Zachariah to gain strength and recover after he had suddenly collapsed and stayed down. Despite staying down, his appetite was very good and he seemed to be responding to the treatment and medicines that our vet had told us to administer. The

advice was not to add any stress by trying to make him get up, first let him regain the strength he needs and start to recover, then see about helping him up. In the meantime of course we made him as comfortable as we possibly could, ensured he drank water and kept up the medicines. His initial blood test from when we first noticed he seemed to be losing a little bit of weight had not shown anything significant except a slight iron deficiency which we took care of. However the last test result from blood taken showed us that he had severely impaired kidney function which inevitably led to his kidney failure. The vet had warned that we may need to

look at euthanasia if he wouldn't respond to the treatment but he had seemed to be improving... We felt bereft and in complete shock to have lost this dear, majestic soul who had endured such indescribable suffering.

In his last days with Gingy the cat keeping him company



When we first rescued Zach in 2017, from the northern Syrian border in Israel, we knew nothing about where he had actually originated from or who could have done what they had to him. For all we knew he could have somehow made his way across the border into Israel from Syria.

We couldn't even begin to imagine the level of his suffering and how he must have felt. One moment you can see all the world around you and then the next, you fall into the wrong, evil hands and that's it; you are left without eyes, no longer able to make sense of anything, just left in an isolated, painful, lost, fearful world where nobody can ever be trusted. It took years of perseverance and profound love to reassure and encourage him to understand that he could trust us and he made very great progress given his tragic circumstances.

We felt his loss deeply and couldn't quite comprehend it as he had always been such a fine, robust, healthy donkey, and it truly is unbearable, still now, to have to see his little empty stable.

Thank you to our supporters and donors for having made it possible for us to have been here for the past 8 years of Zachariah's life. Thank you that, with your support, we were able to have had the honour of taking care of him, Thomas and of course little foal Danny.

Following these tragic losses, we now have our 48 adorable donkeys left and our 2 lovely horses, who all share their lives with 4 dear dogs and many wonderful, purry pussycats. Thanks to you, our treasured supporters, our beloved sanctuary continues and all the daily work to look after our precious, rescued animals has to be done whatever situation we find ourselves facing.

Operation Teeth & Tetanus



Two excellent vets arrived early morning in an attempt to try to beat the intolerable heat and immediately embarked upon some seriously challenging work. They **first vaccinated every donkey and horse against tetanus**, and then started **checking every donkey over a certain age** – of course the little youngsters do not need any dental work done. Each donkey requiring treatment had to have their mouths

held open with what is known as a mouth gag, then the difficult task would begin of feeling, electrically filing or removing (if necessary) any offending molars. Some of the donkeys, and our very dear old Stormcat horse, who is now about 18, desperately needed the treatment and this is something that will now really need to be repeated yearly.

The good news, though, is now that

the big job has been done, the annual maintenance will be easier and somewhat cheaper... The less good news is that **the grand total for all this essential work came to 14,150 shekels**, that is approximately **£3,125 / \$4,150 / €3,580** and **we really need help to try to raise the funds** necessary to help cover this extra, yet crucial cost...

Thank you!



The two vets at work



Our Adi assisting with the dental work





SPOTLIGHT *on ...* Arnold



Arnold the night he arrived



Our special Arnold came to our sanctuary back in March 2020. He arrived at night with his shaggy, unkempt coat and his poor body full of wounds and scabs. He had been terribly abused at a market after being left abandoned in torrential rain – he was found by youngsters who, rather than helping him, had decided it would be ‘fun’ to torment him and throw stones at him. When

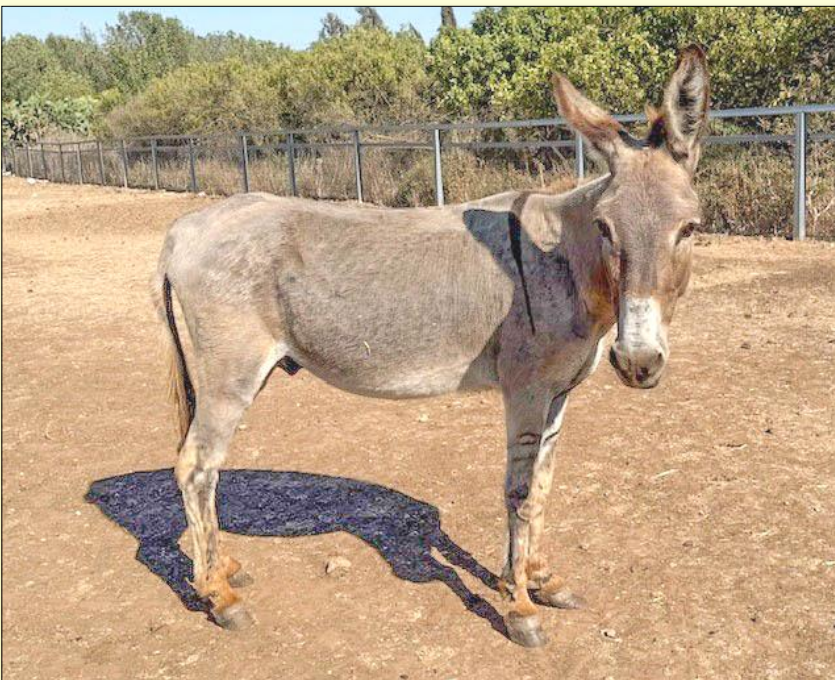
we were alerted, despite the complexities of trying to secure his rescue, we were determined and would stop at nothing to get him to safety. It took a week or so but finally he came safely ‘home’ to us.

He was and still is so grateful to be here, and despite the abuse he’d suffered and the discomfort of his wounds and scars, he turned into a

very quiet, calm gentleman who immediately found his place within our herd. One outstanding feature that Arnold has is a double line of his back cross, down his left side, it splits into two, making him very recognisable, particularly in summer with his shorter coat.

He shares a cosy night time stable with his special friend, Shayne.

Arnold now, with his lovely, shorter summer coat



Showing his wonderful cross feature





Our postal address

It has come to our attention that some searches on the internet still show our old address in Brighton, which has led to some confusion. We have tried, unsuccessfully, and are continuing to try to have this changed, but Google are proving to be impossible – they apparently cannot deal with the fact we are run fully by volunteers and don't have a physical office in order to not use your precious donations on the unnecessary expense of a physical office. Google have so far failed to accept the official address in Greenhithe, despite it being clearly shown in our Annual Reports, on our website and in our letterheads. So just to clarify, if you *do* need to send us correspondence by post, **please do NOT use any Brighton address you might find on the internet**, please use the address in Greenhithe below.



The Perfect Gift: A Donkey Adoption

Our adoption certificates now 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

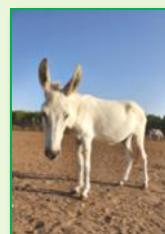
Chosen Donkey

Name on Certificate

☐ Postal ☐ E-mail (E-mail address:)

Payment by **Payment/contact details below**

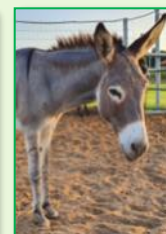
Angelo



Bear



Joan



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

Online adoption form:
www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/adoption-form

Cicely



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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

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)

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