

FROM:  
DR RAKAN SALOUS  
SAFE HAVEN FOR DONKEYS  
NABLUS



**Safe Haven  
for Donkeys**

Dear <Supporter>,

I write this update to you from Nablus, where we have recently entered a second lockdown.

As I look out of the front gate, it's eerily quiet. The weekly horse and donkey market that takes place close by is cancelled today. It's a large gathering during which animals are traded. Afterwards, we often find abandoned donkeys - animals that are sick and injured and who therefore have no commercial value - and bring them back here for treatment.

Later today, we will be heading out with the mobile clinic. We are lucky because, along with doctors and other medical officers, we are allowed to get out on the road to carry on our work. But with check points set up throughout the West Bank, progress is significantly reduced, which in turn dramatically impedes our work.

For a start, it's become very difficult to provide our usual level of aftercare. So, while we may be able to dress a wound or administer medication to the donkeys we encounter, it's much harder to return later to check on their progress and discuss ongoing care with their owners, possibly resulting in a deterioration of the animal's condition.

To be honest, even if the aftercare is lacking, the donkeys we manage to reach are the lucky ones. There are now so many animals we haven't seen regularly that potentially fatal problems are building up.

I have become increasingly concerned about a group of working donkeys in Qalqilya. They belong to a group of very poor people who live in shipping containers on the edge of the city. They make their money by collecting and selling scrap metal, which is carried on the backs of their donkeys. They are strong animals but this kind of work inevitably leads to problems. The loads they carry are heavy and often contain sharp and jagged pieces of metal. The hours are long and the work is extremely arduous. The little food provided is lacking in nutrition, and the conditions in which they live are dirty and dangerous.

I have struggled to visit these animals as often as I'd like, so

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the next time I go to Qalqilya, I need to make as great an impact as possible. I'll need plenty of saline solution and sterile dressings to clean and dress wounds; vitamin and food supplements to help animals suffering from malnutrition, and de-worming tablets to administer to any donkeys who have picked up parasites that could lead to colic, weight loss or diarrhoea. In this way, I can make an immediate difference to these animals' lives, even if I cannot quickly return.

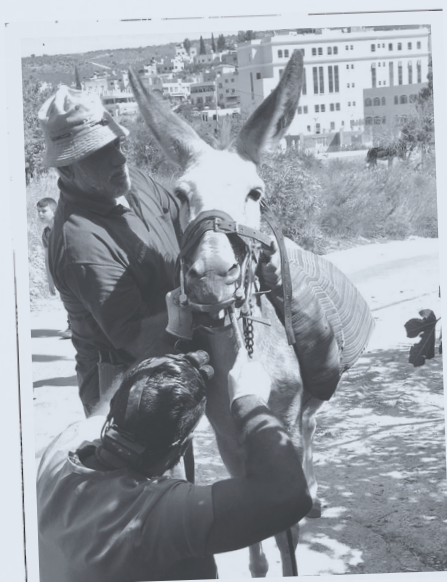
There are so many working donkeys out in the West Bank, working the land, in construction or simply toiling as pack animals, who need our help. It's thanks to you that we can provide it, even if conditions are far from satisfactory right now.

I send you my best wishes and thanks from the West Bank.

Rakan Salous

Dr Rakan Salous  
Safe Haven for Donkeys  
Nablus

The working donkeys of the West Bank suffer in so many ways, but it's often relentlessly hard work and a poor diet that hit them hardest, leaving these vulnerable animals malnourished and prone to disease.



The mobile team works with owners to educate them on the best way to care for their animals, teaching them about nutritious food, securing harnesses more comfortably and allowing enough breaks in the working day.



Injuries are common among the working donkeys of the West Bank, all too often due to harnesses being fitted incorrectly, which results in painful ulcers.