



**Safe Haven
for Donkeys**

Summer 2025

NEWSLETTER



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www.safehaven4donkeys.org
www.x.com/safehaven4donks
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Jan Leeming



Dear Friends.

Welcome to the second newsletter of our 25th anniversary year. It is incredible to look back and see how many donkeys we have been able to save and treat with your help, right from the time the first donkey was rescued in Israel, to the sanctuary we have now, the smaller sanctuary in the West Bank and our mobile clinics in the West Bank, Gaza and Egypt. Together, we truly are transforming donkeys' lives.

Now that summer is upon us (hopefully with sunny and warm weather), would you consider having a stall at your local summer fete to raise funds for Safe Haven's work? You could sell bric-a-brac or run a tombola – there are so many possibilities. We could supply collection boxes, leaflets and fundraising ideas. Just contact Wendy on 01444 470136 or wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading all about our work in Israel, Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza. None of this could happen without you and we are so grateful.

Times in the Middle East continue to be very uncertain and we hope you will join us in keeping our colleagues and the donkeys they care for in your thoughts and prayers.

We hope you all have a lovely summer,



Melanie



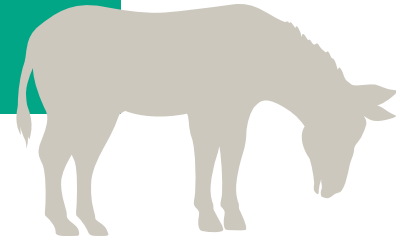
Fiona



Wendy



Update from Gaza



Dr Saif writes...

While treating animals in Al-Qarah, we received a heartbreaking, urgent call. A donkey's owner – a young man named Khalid – called us in despair. He and friends had been traveling by donkey cart when they were directly targeted. Everyone was killed except for Khalid and his donkey.

Khalid was trembling, his voice shaking with sorrow and oppression. He sobbed,

"I've lost my all best friends. Only my donkey and I are left. He's all I have now, and he's in terrible pain. Please... they told me you help animals for free. I don't know where to go. All the clinics are gone. If you don't come, he will die. I can't lose him too. Please help me..."

We were treating seven animals already, all suffering and waiting for aid, but how could we ignore such a cry for help? We gathered what strength we had left and rushed toward Khalid. We cycled part of the 10km journey, walked the rest – our legs weak and trembling, our bodies frail from hunger and months without proper food or rest, but our hearts were determined.

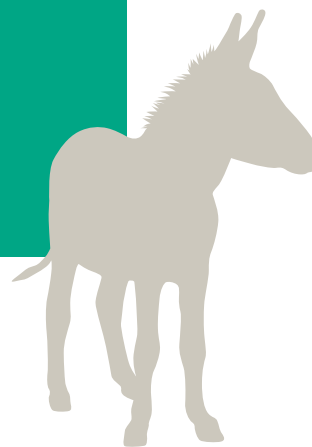
When we arrived, what we saw broke us. The donkey – Khalid's only remaining companion – was in visible agony, with shrapnel lodged deep above his eyes. Blood trickled down its face, its body shivering from pain, fear, and exhaustion. Yet somehow, even through the suffering, the donkey leaned into Khalid gently, as if trying to comfort him. We treated the donkey. We cleaned the wounds, eased the pain, and fought back our own tears as we worked. In that moment – in a place that had every reason to give up on hope – we became a flicker of mercy. And in that flicker, Khalid smiled for the first time in days. He wept, and he thanked us. He thanked Safe-Haven. And he said something we will never forget:



"I thought I was forgotten... but you proved otherwise."

I hope the whole world hear our message that we are working with nothing – no food, no fuel, no shelter – just love, faith, and the will not to give up!! We are physically collapsing. But we choose to rise each morning to be the voice and the hands for the helpless – for the animals, and for the people who still believe that mercy is not dead.

News from Israel



Our volunteer Veterinary Advisor, Dr Anna Harrison, writes...

The conflict still rages and as so often happens, animals become the victims. Many donkeys have been abandoned since the war began and thank goodness we are there for them. Seven new donkeys in the last few months and – guess what – every one is a stunner! I visited in late April so am happy to introduce you to...



Sam and Oren

These two strapping boys are very good looking but so different in character. They had been 'rescued' by a gentleman who kept them in a barn and fed them horse food so no wonder they both became obese and developed laminitis. We were particularly worried about Sam as he was very uncomfortable on his hooves when he arrived. However, some enforced rest in our quarantine area after castration and clever farriery, means he is now sound on the sandy surface he lives

on and he will never have to face a hard concrete surface again. And he is gradually losing weight. Sam is pure white and definitely prefers donkeys to humans (and who can blame him!).

Oren is so different, a really stocky roan donkey with characteristic ears that are trying to meet in the middle and he is best described as an 'in your face' donkey. He too is very comfortable now but is still waiting to achieve his perfect figure!

Fabian

Why is Be'eri dominating the picture of Fabian you may ask? Well, they are never apart – Be'eri always a little bit ahead, Fabian faithfully following. It's a real love match as both are young boys, both have the same dental abnormality known as parrot mouth where their top teeth overshoot the bottom ones, and both are beyond adorable. The once shy, nervous Be'eri is now a confident leader for little Fabian and they will even have their regular dental checks together. A true match made in (Safe) Haven!

Sally



Sally

So pretty, a bit shy, but learning every day that she is safe and loved. She has a perfect set of baby teeth and the most fabulous soft ears. She will grow in stature and confidence every day and let's hope she finds her forever buddy soon.

Alison



Alison

Wow – if you've ever wondered what limpid pools are just take a look at Alison's fabulous dark eyes. She's a real beauty despite the noseband scars on her nose. She is gentle, a bit shy but very content to mingle with her new friends. We were so delighted when she decided to visit our little cabins one evening where we sit outside and just watch the unfolding beauty of a group of donkeys at peace.

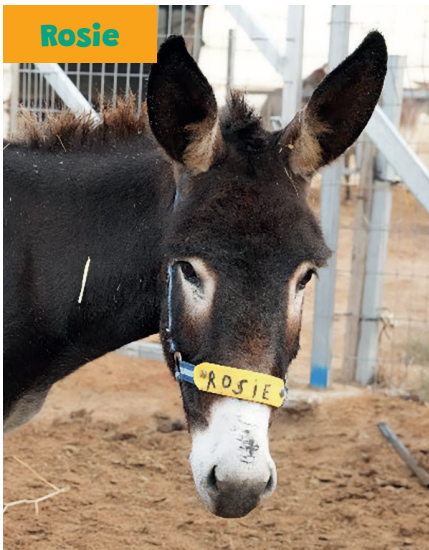
Carmi



Carmi

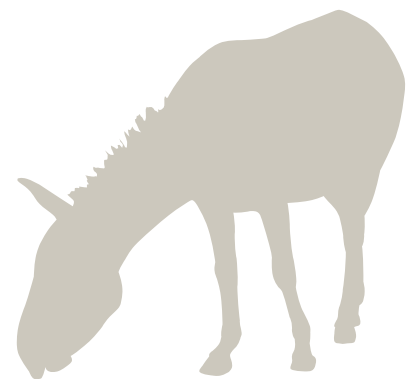
Another roan donkey and beyond handsome. He is quite a poser and very happy to be watched and admired. He was totally fascinated by the large, fruit-laden ice blocks we prepared for the donkeys – first staring then licking then pawing the ground and then a full-blown bite. Respect to any donkey who can bite into a block of ice!

Rosie



Rosie

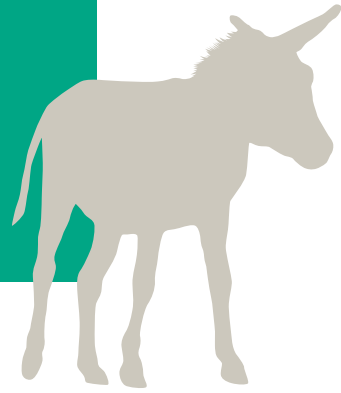
is a stunning brown girl with dramatic eye rings but bearing the legacy scars of a cruel noseband and hobbles. She is a quiet, friendly donkey who just loves to have a bit of one-to-one time. Which makes it challenging to get a good photo – I step back, she steps forward! Such forgiveness after what was obviously a hard life is humbling. She came in with a young male donkey – Fabian – maybe he is her foal as it's clear she has foaled in the past.



So that's it – 7 very different donkeys with one thing in common – cruelly abandoned to an unknown fate but now safe in their forever home – now in their Safe Haven.

Without our supporters life could have been very different for them – thank you for your unswerving help – without you there would be no Safe Haven.

News from Egypt



Dr Shaaban writes...

We now have two teams working in the El Saf brick kilns, enabling us to provide care to even more donkeys.

In this issue, I would like to tell you a special story about one such donkey.

This is the story of an 11-year-old male donkey who works in one of the kilns. Like so many donkeys in this harsh environment, his life was already full of struggle. But one day tragedy struck – he was involved in a severe cart accident which left him with a deep, lacerated wound at the top of one of his hooves. By the time our team arrived the donkey was lying on the ground, bleeding heavily. Our team acted fast, sedating the donkey, stopping the bleeding and cleaning the wound. Over the next few days we gave him antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and daily hoof baths but ended up having to remove part of the infected hoof. Every day

was a fight against infection, pain and despair but we didn't give up and neither did the people around him. The driver of the cart that had been involved in the accident helped us to care for the donkey daily and so did the other staff and kiln owners. They all rallied around this injured donkey.

Over six months of treatment, careful trimming and unrelenting care, something incredible happened – the hoof grew back! Fully. Properly aligned. The donkey began to walk again, free of pain.

Not long ago, before our teams began working in the kilns, donkeys like this one would have been sent to the zoo or circus – as live food for lions. You can imagine the pain and terror they would have experienced in those final days. This donkey survived because someone made a call. Because a team showed up. Because



people like you care enough to support this charity. And now he walks again.

Now that we have two teams working in Egypt, we're now able to expand our efforts beyond helping donkeys in the brick kilns. Recently, we conducted a training and veterinary campaign at the teaching hospital at Benha University in the north of Egypt, in an area where there is a high population of working animals. During the campaign, we treated 13 horses and 31 donkeys including deworming, hoof trimming, teeth rasping, management of colic and eye problems. Six veterinary students took part in shadowing training. They all showed interest in working with donkeys and actively engaged in all activities. By working in this way, we hope that the next generation of vets will be far more expert at giving donkeys the care they need.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned our "Alternatives to Donkeys Project" where we were hoping to run a pilot project to replace donkeys in one of the kilns with mechanised transport. I am pleased to be able to tell you that thanks to a substantial donation from a Safe Haven supporter, we have been able to buy a special tractor for one of the kilns. We will be monitoring its use and effectiveness over the next few months and if successful, we hope that more kiln owners will consider replacing their donkeys and mules with machinery. We will keep you informed of progress.

I also mentioned in the last issue that we were looking



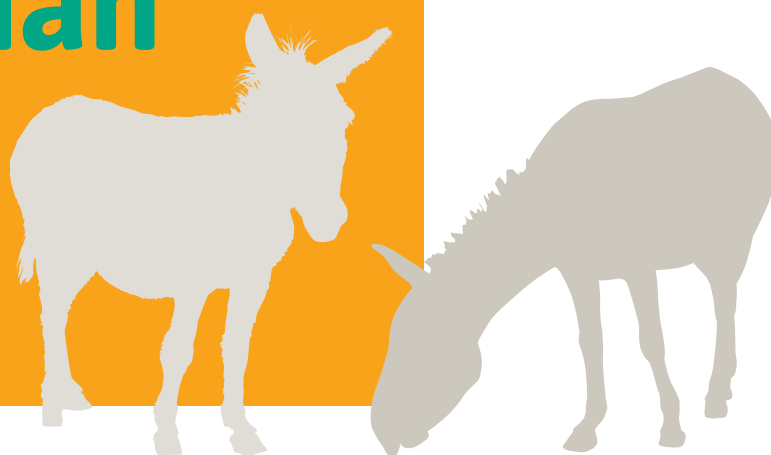
forward to welcoming Safe Haven Patron Peter Egan and film-maker Andrew Telling of Orange Planet Pictures back to the brick kilns to make a follow up to their award-winning film "Broken". I am delighted to say that the new 30-minute film "Bricks" is now available to watch on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLWFrTZOVdY>



Scan the QR code to watch the new film "Bricks"

Thank you to each and every one of you – it is only because of your kindness and generosity that we are able to care for donkeys in Egypt and we are truly grateful.

Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



Dr Rakan, our head vet in the West Bank, shares the latest news...

The situation in the Middle East continues to be extremely volatile and my team (myself, Wael and Nour) and our other mobile clinics run by Dr Omran (pictured on the front cover) and Ali in the centre of the country and Dr Eyed and Ahmad in the Hebron area are experiencing difficulties travelling to some of the areas we need to reach due to roadblocks. Often, we end up sitting in traffic for hours or cannot travel that way at all. We end up having to change our plans at the last minute, sometimes more than once a day, and instead travel to areas that we are able to reach and where there are donkeys needing our help. Of course, we travel to the original destination as soon as we can.

Thankfully, our rescue centre in the village of Arrana is far away from these busy areas and so, the 34 donkeys at the centre are living peaceful, happy lives. They have their own team looking after them and I visit regularly to check on them all.

An important part of our work is educating children about animal welfare. We talk to them simply, giving them body brushes and hoof picks as gifts and some of our education booklets, which contain text and photos about donkeys, mules and horses and their care. We hope that they will grow up to be a kinder generation of donkey owners.



It is only thanks to your generosity that we are able to run our clinic in Nablus, three mobile clinics covering the West Bank and our Arrana rescue centre. Thank you from each and every one of us!

Adopt a donkey

Adopt a donkey today and we will send you an adoption certificate, record card and photo of your chosen friend, complete with a small cuddly donkey to remind you of your new friend.

Adoption is from just £36 a year (or £3 a month) and you can adopt for yourself or a friend – donkey adoptions make the ideal gift for birthdays, anniversaries or any other special occasion.

Your gift will help pay for the food and medical care of your chosen donkey, as well as support all the donkeys we help at the sanctuary, Nablus clinic and our mobile clinic. Below are just three of our donkeys – but you can choose from our wider donkey family by visiting our website at www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt.

We care for around 200 donkeys at our sanctuary in Israel and rescue centre in Arrana in the West Bank. We will update you with news about a selection of our donkeys in every newsletter but sadly we're not currently able to send individual updates.

Thank you for your support.

* Cuddly donkey can be sent to UK addresses only due to customs regulations

Adopt me!



Name: **Dusty**

Age: **12 years**

Rescued: **October 2013**

Dusty was only about 4 weeks old when he was found wandering the streets of the Palestinian city of Qalqilya, calling for his mother. He was brought back to our sanctuary in Israel where he had to be bottle fed but is of course now a healthy donkey who has a home for life with us.

Adopt me!



Name: **Jan**

Age: **5 years**

Rescued: **August 2023**

Jan is named after our wonderful Patron Jan Leeming, was brought to our clinic in the Palestinian city of Nablus, underweight and wounded. Dr Rakan gave her extensive medical treatment and eventually, her owner decided he didn't want her and she could stay at Safe Haven.

Adopt me!



Name: **Miriam**

Age: **6 years**

Rescued: **October 2019**

Miriam was only a couple of months old when she was brought to our rescue centre in the Palestinian city of Nablus. A farmer had found her wandering his fields but sadly couldn't find her mother. Miriam is now safe with the other donkeys living under Dr Rakan's care.

Adopt a donkey today by visiting www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt or give us a call on 01444 470136 or 01444 470132 and give a donkey the love and care they deserve.

Ways you can help...

giftaid it

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme allows charities to reclaim tax on donations received from supporters who have paid sufficient income or capital gains tax during the year to cover the amount we would be reclaiming from HMRC. If you are a taxpayer and have not already completed a Gift Aid declaration, please complete the form with this newsletter so we can reclaim even more to help the donkeys!

If you would like more information on the Gift Aid scheme before signing up, just call Wendy on 01444 470136.

Remember, if you are no longer a tax payer, please let Wendy know.



Regular Donations

We already have over 2,000 supporters who give to us regularly and these payments are vital in helping us plan for the future of the charity.

If you can spare a regular amount each month, please visit <https://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/donate/> to set up a regular gift via direct debit, Paypal or credit/debit card. You can also set up a direct debit over the phone by calling 01444 470136.



Recycle

We are very sad to say that the owner of Stamps N All has now retired. Please do not send any more stamps or other items to the Stamps N All address in Plymouth. If we can find anyone else to take this over, we will let you know in a future issue.



Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations with Easy Fundraising? Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to sign up, choose us as your favourite cause and get shopping!



Ebay

Sell an item via popular online bidding site Ebay and you can donate the profit (or a percentage) towards our work.



Home Collection Boxes

Ask us for one of our home collection boxes. Collect up all your loose change for the donkeys! Just call Melanie on 01444 470132 or e-mail melanie@safehaven4donkeys.org



Thinking of making your Will?

Gifts in Wills are vital in helping to secure the future of the donkeys at our sanctuary. If you are thinking of leaving Safe Haven a legacy after you have taken care of your loved ones, why not ask us for a copy of our will writing worksheet to help you plan what to include before visiting your solicitor.

Just call Wendy on **01444 470136**
or e-mail wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org

Free Will

If you are having difficulty getting out to see a solicitor, we are now partnered with Bequeathed, who offer free Wills and valuable advice. Their simple and convenient service allows you to make the right Will for you in the way that best suits you – online, face to face or over the phone. You will be asked if you would like to leave a legacy to Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land but there is absolutely no obligation to do so.

To find out more:
visit www.bequeathed.org/p/safehaven4donkeys
or call **020 8191 0587**.

DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

In carrying out our day to day activities Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land processes and stores personal information relating to our supporters and we are therefore required to adhere to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant Acts and Regulations. We take our responsibilities very seriously and we ensure the personal information we obtain is held, used, transferred and otherwise processed in accordance with that Regulation and all other applicable data protection laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Personal information we might collect includes your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date of birth, whether you are a tax payer (for Gift Aid purposes), bank account details if you set up a regular payment, donations you have made or events in which you have participated. On occasion, we may need to look up your telephone number in the phone book to contact you regarding a donation you have made - we would then store this data in our database in case it is needed for the same purpose in the future.

We collect this data for purposes including the processing of any donation made by you, to provide you with any products or information you have requested or for internal record keeping/accounting/administration. Having supported us, under the "legitimate interest" condition for processing data we believe that you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter and occasional additional appeals or updates on our work and so we will also use your details for this purpose.

If you use your credit or debit card to donate to us, buy something or pay online or over the phone, we will ensure that this is done securely and in accordance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. All card details and validation codes are securely destroyed once the payment or donation has been processed. Other information will be held as long as is reasonably necessary to allow us to continue to communicate with you or to comply with relevant legislation. For example, the HMRC require Gift Aid declarations to be retained indefinitely.

We will not sell, share or swap your information with any third parties unless required to do so for legal reasons (for example to the police). We do send the names and addresses of our supporters to the printers who produce our quarterly newsletter. They also comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and use your details solely for the purpose of mailing the newsletter. They do not retain the data or use it for any other purpose.

It is your choice on the type of communications and information you receive about our charity and the ways in which you can get involved. You can change your mind at any time by contacting us by post, e-mail or phone using the contact details on page two of this newsletter. If you have a complaint about how your data is processed, please contact us in the first instance. If we cannot resolve the situation, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. You also have the right to request copies of any data held about you and to request rectification of any inaccuracies.

Thank you

We are so grateful to each and every one of you for your support, whether you have joined us recently or whether you have been part of our Safe Haven family for the last 25 years. Together, we are transforming donkeys' lives. We would especially like to thank:



Margaret Jennings for raising £580 from the sale of plants and **Paul Oswick of Clockhouse Nurseries** for donating a number of plants to swell the coffers

Dr Anna Harrison our volunteer Veterinary Advisor for all her support

Justine Crookall for organising an online auction which has raised around £1,000

Pat Yeo for raising £65 from the sale of hand-made cards

The Woolpack in Burgess Hill, West Sussex for allowing us to hold another quiz at the pub which raised over £600 and our **Mid Sussex Volunteer Fundraising Group** who helped run the quiz

Janet Parsons for raising £300 from a raffle on her birthday



Our Patron Peter Egan and **Andrew Telling of Orange Planet Pictures** for attending the online premiere of "Bricks", the new 30-minute film about our work in Egypt

And finally...

A huge thank you to everyone who donated towards our emergency appeal to replace the equipment and medication which our Gaza team lost in an airstrike in the spring and towards our Easter "fill a vet kit" appeal. We have been so touched and humbled by your outstanding generosity which will enable our vets to keep treating so many animals in desperate need!

