

Autumn 2025

NEWSLETTER



Update from Gaza

Donkey stories

25 miles for 25 years

Follow us on





News from Israel

As summer draws to a close, our team is gearing up for what looks to be a cold and wet winter.

To ensure our donkeys stay warm and dry, we've already started preparing for the season ahead. Our winter plans include adding extra sand to the paddocks to help absorb moisture and improve drainage ditches around the farm. The land here is quite flat, and without this work, flooding can quickly become a problem. Last winter, heavy flooding ruined some of the donkeys' food, so we've made sure to store their supplies off the ground this year.

We're also focusing on repairing the poly tunnels that provide shelter for the donkeys, replacing the plastic sheeting to ensure they stay protected from the elements. Daily life at the sanctuary continues with the usual care and attention. With nearly 200 donkeys, there's always cleaning to be done! Our farrier has also visited to trim hooves – a task we undertake every 10 weeks to keep the donkeys comfortable and healthy.

While the situation in the region has been challenging, the Israeli government recently lifted stay-at-home restrictions, and the donkeys are thrilled to welcome visitors back. Humans mean cuddles and extra treats, after all!



Thank you for your ongoing support – it makes all the difference in providing our donkeys with a safe and loving home for life.

Update from Gaza

A special letter from Dr Saif

Dear kind-hearted friends,

Beneath the collapsing skies of Gaza, where screams are swallowed by dust and silence, animals – especially donkeys – walk where no ambulance can reach. They carry not just water and food; they carry wounded souls, shattered dreams, and the unbearable weight of human suffering. They are the forgotten frontline heroes. While the world turns away, they stay – pulling carts through rubble, standing beside grieving children, enduring terror and fear with no shelter, no medicine, no voice.

At Safe Haven's Gaza Mobile Clinic, we do not watch from afar – we live in the fire. We are here, every single day – not just working, but sacrificing: our time, our safety, our breath, and potentially, even our very lives. We walk into the smoke where no one else dares, because the voiceless are waiting. The forgotten, the wounded, the terrified – those who cannot speak for themselves.

We don't just rescue animals. We rescue dignity, rebuild trust, and restore hope where everything else has been reduced to ash.

But we don't do this alone. Every dose of medicine retrieved. Every donkey treated. Every bleeding paw bandaged. Every trembling creature comforted... It's all because someone, somewhere, chose to care.

So thank you for standing with us! And being part of the voice that breaks the silence. Being the reason we can keep walking into the fire. Because when the world looks away, we run toward the broken. And together, we can make sure they are never forgotten.





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Dr Shaaban writes...

It has now been two years since we began our work with the donkeys in the El Saf brick kilns of Egypt, and in that short time, thanks to your support, we have seen remarkable progress in improving animal welfare. Alongside this, our team continues to work towards lasting change for working donkeys, mules, and horses throughout the region.

Recently, we hosted a one-day training programme for newly qualified local vets, helping them build vital skills to better care for these animals. We have also been engaging with children in local schools, teaching the next generation the importance of compassion and animal welfare.



Thanks to a generous donation from one of our wonderful supporters, we are piloting a groundbreaking initiative: replacing donkeys with a tractor in one of the kilns. While the first two kilns withdrew from the trial, a third has stepped forward, and the pilot is now underway. Changing long-held practices takes time, but we remain hopeful that one day no donkey will have to endure this gruelling work.

Many of you will already have seen actor and animal advocate Peter Egan's films *Broken* and *Bricks*, which highlight our work in the kilns. We are thrilled that Peter will return to Egypt later this year to begin filming a third piece.

None of this would be possible without your generosity and belief in our mission. Thank you for helping us give these animals and their communities a brighter future.

Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories

Here in the West Bank, our teams are out in the field almost every day, travelling hundreds of miles to reach remote communities. The journey is not always easy, with roadblocks and barriers, but what

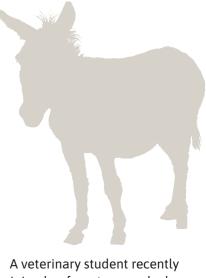


keeps us going is the real and lasting difference we see for animals and their owners.

Thanks to your support, all three of our veterinary teams are making remarkable progress. Donkeys, mules, and horses, once suffering in silence, are now receiving the care they urgently need. And we are reaching even further, caring for animals of every kind.

Recently, with the help of the Palestinian Agricultural Ministry, we organised a free rabies vaccination campaign at our Nablus clinic, where dozens of animals received protection that could save their lives.

We are also helping to build a brighter future for animal welfare.



A veterinary student recently joined us for a two-week placement, gaining hands-on experience in equine care. He shared: "During my training at the clinic, I learned safe and proper animal handling, and gained experience in diagnosing different medical cases in donkeys and horses. Many thanks to the whole team, especially Dr Rakan, for his great support during the training."

Each step forward, whether saving a life, training a future vet, or strengthening communities, is only possible because of you. Your generosity provides the medicine, equipment, and tools that allow us to bring hope and healing where it is needed most.



Together, we are creating lasting change.

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Ways you can help...

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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.



We already have over 1,000 supporters who give to us regularly and these payments are vital in helping us to plan for the future of the charity. If you can spare a regular amount each month, quarter or even year, please visit www.safehaven4donkeys.org/fundraising/how-you-can-help/ or call 01444 470136. You can now also set up a regular gift via your credit/debit card or Paypal by visiting the donate page on our website.



Recycle

We are very sorry 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.

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Giveacar

Turn your unwanted cars into cash – Giveacar will take them away free of charge and sell or scrap them with proceeds helping the donkeys.

Call Giveacar on 020 7736 4242 or visit www.giveacar.co.uk for more information.



The Donkey Breed Society, the UK's national charity for donkey owners, is dedicated to safeguarding welfare, raising standards and promoting public understanding of these remarkable animals.

We are thrilled that the Society's Northern Region is helping Safe Haven mark our 25th anniversary by inspiring everyone – donkey owners or not – to get moving in support of donkeys in desperate need across Israel, Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza.

DONKEY BREED SOCIETY

Wherever you are in the UK, walk (with or without a donkey), run or cycle 25 miles between 25 September and 31 October. Complete the challenge your way: all at once, a few miles at a time or a mile a day – it's entirely up to you!

Want to join in with an existing event? Check out our

social media pages or call us to find out the location of your nearest walk/run/cycle.

Anyone raising over £50 will receive a free medal and there will be an opportunity to buy an event t-shirt.

To sign up to the event online, visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/25milesfor25years – you will then have the opportunity to set up your own fundraising page, which you can share with your family and friends.

For a paper sponsorship form, call Wendy on **01444 470136** or e-mail **wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org**

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Our thanks go to our friends at the Donkey Breed Society Northern Region for their support!

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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.safehaven4donkeys.org/legacies/ or call 020 8191 0587. Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land Unit 23 More House Farm Business Centre, Ditchling Road, Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 7RE

Tel 01444 470136 or 01444 470132 E-mail: info@safehaven4donkeys.org Registered charity: 1083468

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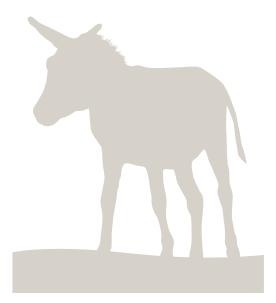
For a copy of our Data Protection Policy, please see our website or call us on 01444 470136.

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