

# 2025

## Impact report



Safe Haven  
for Donkeys



# You're making a world of difference in the areas where we work.

Across the Middle East, your support is saving lives, easing pain and bringing about meaningful change in the lives of donkeys and horses. You're giving rescued donkeys the forever homes they deserve, and supporting the families and communities who rely on their working animals for transport.



In **Egypt**, your support has made a significant difference to the lives of working donkeys in the brick kilns of El Saf – helping treat painful wounds, educate owners on better care, train more farriers and work with the next generation of equine vets.

## EGYPT

Cairo

El Saf





Thanks to you, we've made essential improvements to the surgical room at our Nablus hospital in the **West Bank**, and given all the new arrivals at our Arrana rescue centre the medical care and nutritious diet they need to thrive.



You've stood by the mobile team in **Gaza**, who've delivered life-saving medical care in the most dangerous of circumstances. With the ceasefire in place, it's facing a deluge of requests from owners returning to their animals. Your support is more vital than ever.



In **Israel**, your support has helped us perform essential repairs to the sanctuary, making it a robust and comfortable home for the herd. Your generosity has also ensured a warm welcome for new arrivals, and all the medical care and love they deserve.





# Essential repairs and a new home for fresh arrivals in Israel

Thanks to your support, the 173 donkeys who live at the sanctuary continue to receive the very best care and attention, while significant improvements have been made to their special home.

## A sanctuary fit for the future

We've made a number of improvements at the sanctuary this year. The new polytunnel cover is now complete, providing shelter in the wet winter months. An additional water stand has also been installed, improving access for the herd. Improvements to the fencing mean that the donkeys are safely contained by a robust barrier. An area of shade has been provided in a corner of the paddock, essential in the fierce summer heat.



## New arrivals at the sanctuary

New residents continued to arrive throughout 2025. In November, a male (named Arbel) and female (Anat) were brought to the sanctuary after being found in the street in northern Israel. Aged around one-and-a-half-years old and in good condition, they are sweet, gentle donkeys who are sure to settle once their time in isolation is over. In late November, the sanctuary welcomed Dennis, a four-year-old donkey found roaming near Bet Shemesh. Dennis has been given his vaccinations, and is enjoying carrot treats and plenty of gentle attention from the team.



Improvements have been made to the winter shelter, fencing and water stations, ensuring the herd have a safe place to thrive.



**Your gift could help us buy hay for the herd, a high-fibre snack that's perfect for donkeys.**

New-arrival Dennis, who was brought to the sanctuary in November, is settling in well. He's enjoying hand-fed carrot treats and plenty of gentle attention from the team.



# Overcoming hurdles to save lives in the West bank

In the West Bank, your support has proved vital in ensuring the continued work of our three mobile teams as well as improvements at our hospital in Nablus and rescue centre in Arrana.

## Challenging times for the mobile teams

With an increase in roadblocks causing delays, it's been a difficult year for our three mobile teams. On one occasion, an inventive approach was necessary. In November, Dr Rakan was alerted to the plight of a horse with a severe wound, but checkpoints prevented him reaching the animal. Remarkably, he managed to advise the owner over the phone, recommending a daily wash of the wound with antiseptic, the application of ointment before bandaging, and antibiotic and pain-relief injections. The horse has since made a complete recovery.



Despite an increase in roadblocks, the Tubas mobile team has been out on the road throughout 2025, treating donkeys wherever needed.

## Improvements to the hospital and a thriving herd at the sanctuary

At the Nablus hospital, a spacious surgical room is now complete and laboratory underway. In the coming weeks, the laboratory floor will be tiled and a specialist rubber floor fitted in the surgical room to make sure it's hygienic and easy to clean. In Arrana, the resident donkeys are steadily gaining weight after arriving malnourished. Most now have ideal body scores, with bright coats, playful energy and good appetites.



In Arrana, the small herd of rescued donkeys is thriving thanks to a nutritious diet, exemplary medical care and a lot of love.



**Your gift could help fund medicine for the working donkeys we treat on the road and at our hospital and rescue centre.**



In Nablus, Dr Rakan spreads the word among the community about the importance of caring for working donkeys.



In Hebron, the team has overcome an increase in checkpoints to bring vital medical care to working donkeys.





# Saving lives and changing attitudes in Egypt

The two teams now in place in El Saf have brought about huge change in 2025, treating donkeys and working proactively with brick kiln owners to reduce life-threatening injuries and illnesses in their animals.

## Treating and training to help working donkeys

This year, the brick kiln mobile teams treated a staggering 2,191 animals. They have also trained brick-kiln stockmen in wound dressing, as well as how to detect lameness in donkeys early. Local farriers have also been supported. With overgrown, misshapen hooves a leading cause of agonising lameness, training more farriers with the skills needed to trim and look after hooves means unnecessary suffering can be avoided.



The team treating agonising wounds from ill-fitting harnesses and the heavy loads donkeys carry, bringing instant pain relief.

## Supporting the next generation of equine vets

The team is also helping to shape the next generation of vets in Egypt, giving students at a local university real-life experience with working equines to improve animal welfare in years to come.

## A new community team in the works...

Need has also been identified in the communities around the kilns, where working donkeys transport families and carry goods. In the coming year, we have plans to establish a community team to support owners and their animals.



Our farriers perform an essential role – trimming overgrown hooves, easing lameness and relieving pain.



**Your gift could help us keep the mobile veterinary teams on the road – bringing pain relief and life-saving treatment to working donkeys.**



# Saving lives in the midst of the conflict in Gaza

It's been a horrific and hugely challenging year for our team in Gaza, with the threat of air strikes, infrastructure in tatters and supplies hard to come by. While the fighting has now stopped, the situation remains incredibly testing.

## A ceasefire bringing new challenges

Our team's achievement in Gaza, providing life-saving treatment to donkeys and horses in the midst of a conflict zone, is nothing short of heroic. With the ceasefire in place, the challenge has shifted. Gazans are returning home to find their animals in terrible condition, and the mobile clinic has been receiving an overwhelming number of requests, placing a heavy responsibility on our small team, the only one in Gaza.



*With the ceasefire in place, many families have returned to find their working animals in a pitiful state, creating a surge in demand for the mobile team.*

## Floods bring further hardship

Autumn and winter have been harsh. The war has wrought terrible destruction, and now a natural disaster has made matters worse. Heavy rains have battered Gaza, washing away already fragile homes and tents, and leaving families exposed and vulnerable. For many, donkeys are the only means of transport – ferrying them to food and essential medical supplies. In this way, our team continues to save animals and the people on whom they rely.



*The winter has brought fresh challenges, with flooding in Gaza washing away homes and tents. Donkeys are more important than ever – providing essential transport to families hit hard.*



**Your gift could help us fund the essential medicines and supplies the team needs to treat wounds, ease pain and save lives in Gaza.**





Thanks to you, working donkeys and horses in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt and Gaza have received the medical treatment and care they so desperately need. If you can, please consider a gift today and help us continue our life-saving work in 2026.

**[www.safehaven4donkeys.org](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org)**



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Registered charity: 1083468