Safe Haven for Donkeys

Summer 2026

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# NEWSLETTER

**Thanks to you, we're continuing to help donkeys in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and Egypt.**

# *News* from Israel

**The biggest news from our sanctuary in Israel is of course the birth of our beautiful little foal Gervais!**

Gervais was born in April to Deborah, who was already several months pregnant when rescued as a stray. Since her arrival, Deborah had bonded with Theodora, another of our rescued donkeys, and the two had been spending time in our dedicated mother and foal unit in the run-up to the birth. The staff had been watching and waiting eagerly and were delighted to welcome a beautiful little jenny – a female foal.

Gervais is named after the comedian Ricky Gervais, who gave an incredibly generous donation to our charity a few months ago, a fitting tribute to a man whose kindness is now transforming donkeys' lives.

In spite of the troubled times in the Middle East, the day-to-day work of looking after the 200 donkeys at our sanctuary continues as normal – hoof trimming, tooth rasping and keeping the environment clean and healthy.

Recently, we had a delivery of the nutritious straw that our donkeys love to eat. This is one of our biggest expenses every year but of also of course one of the most important.

**Every year, the donkeys chomp their way through about 320 tonnes of straw and each ton is over £230 so the food bill for our donkeys is more than £74,000 a year!**

**Thank you for helping us feed and care for all the donkeys at our sanctuary.**

**We are currently treating around 800 animals a month of all shapes and sizes but can only do so thanks to your generosity.**

# *Update* from Gaza

**Although there is currently a ceasefire in Gaza, daily life remains far from normal, with many people and animals still facing significant hardships and ongoing challenges.**

Due to the harsh environment and the collapse of basic infrastructure, infectious diseases are spreading rapidly among animals, leading to the loss of many. In response, our team continues to operate on the ground, moving from one emergency to another and providing care wherever it is most needed.

Despite these conditions, our team remains remarkably resilient. Reaching some areas requires walking for hours to access remote locations, as transportation costs have become prohibitively high and are used only when absolutely necessary. Roads are severely damaged, fuel remains scarce, and movement is often unpredictable. In many ways, the situation on the ground remains as challenging as it was before the ceasefire.

Even so, our team continues to respond without hesitation, carrying out treatments, monitoring cases, and returning for follow-up visits to ensure recovery and prevent further spread of illness.

**Dr Saif Alden**

**Thank you for helping us save the voiceless.**

# News from Egypt

**Dr Shaaban writes...**

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated towards our appeal to set up a new community team in the Aswan area of Egypt. Many of the villages in this area had no veterinary support and Dr Ahmed and farrier Ali have been working hard to treat donkeys, mules and horses belonging to people whose lives depend on their animals.

We believe that building strong relationships with veterinary professionals and government authorities in Egypt is essential to achieving lasting improvements in animal welfare. To support this, our team continues to actively host and participate in training sessions and conferences, helping to strengthen partnerships and share vital knowledge.

Back in the brick kilns, thanks to your generosity we have been introducing new "first aid boxes" into the kilns to enable donkey handlers to treat minor wounds straight away, meaning more donkeys can be treated without having to wait for the arrival of one of our mobile veterinary teams.

**Last year, we began a ground-breaking pilot initiative to replace donkeys with machinery in one of the kilns.**

The tractor we purchased has already reduced the need for donkeys to pull heavy loads over long distances, but it cannot manoeuvre inside the confines of the kiln itself. With support from our supporter Mark Carbery and Quarterre Studio, we are now developing a machine small and robust enough to operate inside the kiln and handle heavy loads on soft, sandy ground. We will keep you updated on our progress.

**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

Over the past few months, Dr Eyed, Dr Omran, our farrier colleagues and I have continued our vital work across the West Bank, bringing care and hope to working animals and their owners. Each week, our three teams travel long distances to reach remote villages, offering free veterinary treatment to animals who would otherwise go without help. Despite the challenges of navigating numerous roadblocks, restrictions on movement and fuel shortages, we all remain determined to reach those in need.

Meanwhile, the sanctuary at Arrana continues to provide a safe and peaceful home for rescued donkeys, where they can recover and live free from hardship. They have plenty of room to graze, play and form friendships and bonds as they would in the wild.

Recently, I took my namesake Rakan the donkey back from Arrana to the Nablus clinic as I was concerned that he was losing weight. Thankfully, he is now looking healthy again – we think some of the other donkeys were pushing him away from the trough so he wasn't getting enough to eat so when he returns to Arrana, we will ensure he has the space to eat in peace.

Together, these efforts create a lifeline for working animals across the region. From emergency treatment in remote communities to ongoing care at Nablus and lifelong sanctuary at Arrana, the charity's work is making a lasting difference – bringing compassion, resilience and hope even in the face of daily challenges.

**At the clinic in Nablus, thanks to your donations, our new surgical space is helping us treat more complex cases, giving injured animals a far better chance of recovery and long-term health.**

**Thank you for helping us to transform donkeys' lives in the West Bank.**

# 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.

DIRECT Debit

## Standing orders/direct debits

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

## 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.

easyfundraising

## 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

## Ebay

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

GIVEACAR
CAR DONATION SERVICE

## 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.

# Thank you!

Firstly, we would like to say a huge "thank you" to **Harry Peel Yates** and **Nicola Bishop** who both took part in this year's London Marathon to raise funds for the donkeys. We are delighted to say that between them, they raised a staggering £13,000!

Thanks to all those who have taken the time and trouble to hold stalls, sell produce or run events for Safe Haven – your hard work is much appreciated.

Thank you to our wonderful Patron **Peter Egan** and film-maker **Andrew Telling** for the third film in the trilogy about our Egypt work, "Beyond". If you haven't had a chance to watch it yet, check out www.safehaven4donkeys.org/beyond/

*London Marathon runners, Harry Peel Yates and Nicola Bishop, raising £13,000 for our donkeys.*

**And finally, a huge thank you to all our donors, whether one-off or regular. Without you, we would not be able to transform the lives of donkeys in desperate need.**

# Adopt Gervais

**Adopt our new foal, Gervais, today and we will send you an adoption certificate, record card and photo (by post or e-mail), plus if you are in the UK a small cuddly donkey.** (apologies but we are unable to send these overseas due to Customs regulations).

from just £3 a month

Adoption is from just £36 a year or £3 a month and you can adopt for yourself or a friend – adoptions make ideal gifts for any occasion.

**Adopt Gervais today at www.safehaven4donkeys.org/gervais or scan the QR code and help give Gervais the life she deserves.**

# 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 MyIntent, 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.myintent.life/safehaven4donkeys**
or call **020 8191 0587.**

**Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land**
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www.safehaven4donkeys.org
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For a copy of our Data Protection Policy, please see our website or call us on 01444 470136.

**Royal Patron:**
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The Hon Lady Ogilvy KG GCVO

**Patrons:**
The Rt Hon the Earl of Stockton
The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG
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WORKING ANIMAL ALLIANCE

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Safe Haven for Donkeys