

ACE newsletter

News of how your support is helping animals in Luxor



The Working Ass: Egypt's Backbone



By Jess Martin RVN

Australian Veterinary Nurse currently working in the UK and a previous volunteer at ACE.

There are many different images our minds conjure when we think of Egypt; The Great Pyramids, The Nile, and bustling streets with souks full of treasures. The people are amongst the friendliest you'll meet and at the centre of their world are the equines that run the entire show. The horses and donkeys of Egypt work tirelessly, pulling carts with tourists between attractions and transporting essential goods and food all over the city. They are still used as a main mode of transport and are a vital part of everyday life.

However, in times of poor economy and insecurity both the people and animals in Luxor are finding it tough. Veterinary care is expensive and often unobtainable for people who are already struggling especially as tourism, their main income source, has declined so rapidly in recent years. This is where Animal Care Egypt (ACE) comes in. Run by a passionate veterinary team and many volunteers, ACE is a charity that relies solely on donations to provide free veterinary care to Luxor's animals.

Last September, I was one of three veterinary professionals who embarked on a two-week volunteer trip to give ACE a hand. I wasn't entirely sure what to expect, but I can testify that it was a humbling and gratifying experience that I will always treasure. We received the warmest of welcomes and experienced Egyptian hospitality at its finest. At no point did I feel unsafe and wouldn't hesitate to return to Luxor in the future.

As we know, donkeys are amongst the most stoic of all creatures and my time at ACE only cemented this mindset. They are hardy, uncomplaining workers and it is easy to see why they have been used for

centuries in the same way that they are today. However, we must be careful not to abuse their generous spirits and as people are becoming more educated surrounding the issues of animal welfare, we are able to provide a better quality of life for the species of which we are so fond.

This non-for-profit organisation doesn't limit itself to hospital work, though. An integral part of ACE's work involves visiting the working animals on the streets, applying cream to wounds and refitting harnesses and head collars. Many of the cart horses in Luxor proudly wear the nosebands supplied by ACE, fitted over nose chains to relieve pain and pressure.

ACE is always looking for volunteers and anyone is welcome to apply. Day visits to the hospital are also possible. There are many items essential to ACE's work that can't be obtained in Egypt, so visitors are also encouraged to keep supplies of hard-to-source items in stock. Equally, monetary donations keep ACE running. Without donations, ACE could not continue their vital work. Every little bit helps, especially in the current economy!



Stable Refurb

During the summer, we had to replace 23 stable doors with purpose built metal ones that we hope will last a lot longer than the previous wooden ones. They had been constantly repaired as some of our equine inpatients like to chew and kick their doors - especially once they are on the road to recovery! Our new doors come in two designs to accommodate both horses and donkeys. The lower ones are for the donkeys to allow them to look over the door at the activity outside.

Each door has cost us 2000 Egyptian pounds which is about £85, so our total outlay has been approximately £1,950. We would be very grateful if any of our kind supporters would like to make a donation towards this cost.



Small Animal Clinic

The number of dogs and cats arriving at our small animal clinic continues to increase which is a great success story as a few years ago we struggled to get people to bring dogs and cats for treatment and flea and tick medication. It's also an important opportunity to give their owners general advice about their wellbeing and grooming.



A very sad story

Life here in Egypt is very hard for street dogs as they roam around, sometimes in small packs trying to find food and water. And this is not their only challenge as they are considered 'dirty' by the local people and chased away, or stones are thrown at them. If only the people here realised what wonderful companions these baladi 'local' dogs can be. We have found them to be so much more intelligent than many other breeds of dog and they learn quickly.

Another challenge that these dogs face is the fast-moving traffic and this poor dog was obviously hit by a car a few days ago. Somehow this street dog appeared at the foot of the stairs in the apartment building where Kim, our Manager, lives. Luckily she had to pop back home during a trip to the medical supplies shop as she had forgotten something. Kim offered the poor dog some food and water but he was just not interested, probably because he was in such a bad way. One of the team stayed with the dog to ensure no one would scare him away whilst Kim returned to our hospital to bring Dr Assma back to see if there was any way that we could help him.

Dr Assma checked him over and unfortunately the best option for the poor dog was to end his suffering. One of his hind legs had been completely smashed apart and he also was in terrible pain from this and his internal injuries. He would probably not have survived for more than a few hours as infection had also set in. It's such a shame that the only head scratch and kind words that he has probably ever received in his life was in his last 10 minutes but we are so glad that we were able to help him. Thank goodness we found him.



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Please follow us on Facebook and share our stories to help spread the word about the work that we do.



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OVER THE STABLE DOOR

Some of the many horses and donkeys that you have helped recently...



Sweetie
was hit
by a car

Sweetie

Sweetie was hit by a car and received a huge wound which we treated successfully during her stay at our hospital. She was with us for six weeks and was such a sweetheart, hence her name.

Loyali

Loyali the cart horse was admitted for over two months during which time our vets treated her many sores that were caused by ill-fitting tack. We also ensured that her overall body condition was vastly improved before we let her go home.

Omi Fifi & Little Fifi

Unfortunately, it's very rare that people name their horses and donkeys and these two were no exception. So, to encourage people to see animals as living creatures we always give them names and tell their owners. Om Fifi means mother of Fifi in Arabic and the donkeys' owners seemed quite taken with these names. Om Fifi was successfully treated for a gore wound in her stomach which was inflicted by a cow that she got too close to. As she was still nursing her young foal Little Fifi was admitted along with mum.

Hugo

the donkey received a bite from another male donkey and just loved mooching around in our shady paddocks during his recovery.



Loyali
had many sores
from ill-fitting
tack



Omi Fifi
had a stomach
wound inflicted by a cow



Hugo
had a nasty
bite from another
male donkey

Educating Egypt's new vets

Many of our supporters will be aware of our education programme for children, which is run during term time with the local schools here in Luxor, but did you know that we also help to educate Egyptian vet students too?

We are immensely proud that more and more young Egyptians see us as a great opportunity to learn about equines and small animals as the vet schools here in Egypt keep their curriculum focused on production animals only. Unfortunately, the vet schools still refer to animals as 'it' and see animals as objects rather than sentient beings, so Egypt still has some way to go in terms of animal welfare but change is happening...



Ways that YOU can help the animals...



Recycle 4 Charity

Recycle your empty inkjet cartridges to help protect the environment and raise money for ACE. It's so easy. All you have to do is register and nominate Animal Care in Egypt as the recipient. You will receive freepost recycling bags and can send back up to five cartridges at a time or desktop recycling boxes for larger volumes.



Ebay

You can sell your unwanted goods on eBay and donate part or all of the proceeds to ACE. We have an ebay shop that you can utilise to do so. www.ebay.co.uk/egw/ebay-for-charity/charity-profile/Animal-Care-in-Egypt



EveryClick

If you are buying rather than selling online, you can register with Everyclick.com. Then, any time you buy online from a huge list of retailers, a percentage of the price will go to ACE at no added cost to you.



Giveacar.co.uk

Say goodbye to your old car when it has reached the end of the road by donating it through Give a Car. Not only will you help ACE, but you will also be saved the problem of disposing of your car in an environmentally friendly way.



Thank YOU
Thank YOU
Thank YOU

To all of our wonderful supporters who help us to help the animals by way of donations, fundraising, making nose band covers and bringing us items from our 'Wish List'. We really do appreciate all of your help.



FOR MORE INFORMATION or for a fundraising pack (most information can be found on our website) please contact Helen on: +44(0)79 7986 5352 or: helen@ace-egypt.org.uk

DONATE though our website, using PayPal or Credit/debit card. Or you can post any donations to: Animal Care in Egypt, 10 Stretham Road, Wicken, Cambridge, CB7 5XH.



Visit our website www.ace-egypt.org.uk