

ACE newsletter

News of how your support is helping animals in Luxor



We are very pleased to tell you that the total number of animals that we treated here at ACE during 2018 was:



Following the revolution in 2011, tourists stopped visiting Luxor

In the following years many people here have been desperately scraping a living because so many local people were employed in the hotels and other aspects of the tourist industry.

It has been heart lifting to see tourism starting to improve and benefiting the local people. We have also seen an upturn in the number of visitors to our hospital. During this current season we have been fortunate to show many people the work that we do, including people from the UK, France, Spain, Australia, USA, New Zealand, Portugal, Germany, Canada, Denmark and the list goes on. We have welcomed visitors from 19 different countries in total and hope this is a sign of things to come.

Billy Fehin & Sam Feighery Visit ACE

Rossdales stud vet Billy Fehin and vet nurse Sam Feighery recently returned from visiting Animal Care in Luxor, Egypt.

Rossdales, the pre-eminent equine practice in Europe, forged an association with ACE in 2010 and each year since has sponsored a vet and a vet nurse to visit the clinic for 10 days to work alongside the ACE vets and staff.



Sam Feighery (above)

Billy Fehin (left)

continued inside.....

Billy and Sam recount their ACE experience here:

ACE vets love to host visiting veterinary professionals and enjoy exchanging knowledge and discussing new ways of treatment. Additionally, Rosssdales' staff and clients have raised over £20,000 to date for ACE through various fundraising events, used tack sales and donations.

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“Coming from Rosssdales with a comprehensive range of modern equipment and facilities at our disposal, I felt apprehensive about the level of care that we could provide at the ACE clinic, but I was pleasantly surprised!” said Billy. “The clinic has radiography, an ultrasound machine and an endoscope, which were all used while we were there. Often, drugs and bandaging are in short supply in Luxor, but the team copes really well with limited resources. The ACE vets are very experienced, especially in the routine problems that working horses and donkeys suffer from.

We saw some interesting cases that that we would never see in the UK, including a clinical case of babesiosis (a blood parasite) and donkeys that had been attacked by wolves. Donkeys are used to work in the sugar cane fields. As harvest season becomes busier, the donkeys work later and start earlier in the morning - this is when there are more wolf attacks. Sadly, a donkey with a wolf bite has to be euthanised as there is a high risk of rabies, which then poses a risk to people.

The majority of wounds treated result from ill-fitting tack or falls on the road. On our first day, the poor body condition score of the horses and donkeys, some of the thinnest we had ever seen - shocked us. These animals were still working every day pulling carts or traps. We were also really shocked by the number of horses that were hobbled (usually the front two legs tied together with rope, twine or chain to stop them straying too far). Some

horses had been hobbled too tight overnight, damaging the blood supply to the foot and in one case causing the tissues of the foot to slough off. This horse needed to be euthanised, but this in itself can involve much discussion, as the local culture is anti-euthanasia. Other cases were the result of becoming tangled or trapped in the ropes, causing panic and fractures to limbs. Hobbling causes many unnecessary sores, which was really frustrating.”

Sam said, “Travelling around the city you notice that there are horses and donkeys everywhere. They are usually tethered and have no paddocks so they lie on the concrete. Some of the carriage horses are left with their tack on and carriage attached all night. One of the saddest sights I saw was of horses foraging through rubbish for food.

The ACE's stables and paddocks were almost always full. There were many horses in the hospital that needed daily bandage changes due to wounds caused by road traffic collisions or from becoming trapped under their carts. They generally have deep, painful wounds on their withers, shoulders and over the bridge of the nose from ill-fitting tack or makeshift headcollars made of chain and rope - completely avoidable. The vets advised the owners to rest their animal and we cleaned and dressed the wounds, administered painkillers and gave the owner a doughnut-shaped cushion to try to relieve the pressure on the wound. These wounds need time and rest to heal but in most cases this is impossible, as owners need their animals to work every day.”

Billy summed up their experience...



“Without the expert vets, the facilities and generous donations, none of these working animals would receive the medical care they need. The worst case of neglect we saw was a horse with severe tongue injuries caused by inappropriate biting. The tongue was bleeding from large sores that had been there for a long time. The horse had the worst body condition we witnessed and horrific wounds from ill-fitting tack. The vets explained to us that this horse was not from Luxor. This comment really highlighted the difference that ACE has made to the lives of horses in Luxor and these changes can only continue with the support of locals and donations.”



Sam concluded...

“I would like to thank all the team at ACE for being so welcoming. With limited resources, they do amazing work trying to improve the quality of life for Luxor's working equids and educating the local people on animal husbandry.”

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*We value your support and would like to keep you informed about our
If you do NOT wish to receive further information from ACE, please*



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Over The Stable Door

Just a few of the working horses and donkeys that have received care at our hospital thanks to YOU, our wonderful supporters...



Robyn, a young mare, had a terrible wound to her hock. After daily medication and attention to the wound she is making a good recovery.



Tomjon, a male donkey, could barely walk due to a painful abscess in his hoof from treading on a nail. He had a few weeks off working in sugar cane fields whilst recovering.



Sugar was in our isolation block whilst recovering from an upper respiratory infection. Thankfully, this spring we have not seen a flu outbreak like that of last year.



Noel the donkey was a real favourite of Jenna's, who kindly volunteered with us for a month. Noel loved the attention that he received whilst being treated here for his shoulder trauma.



Justin had an abscess in his hoof and really benefited from having time off from pulling his cart.



Tammy the carriage horse received lots of tender loving care whilst she recovered from colic and an eye infection.



Thomas received a nasty kick to his shoulder from another horse whilst waiting in line for tourists to ride in his carriage. We are pleased that his owner brought him to us for treatment and some time to recover.



a great story from supporter Jenny Jackson

My son's accountancy business decided to cover part of the office floor with pennies, but unfortunately they had to dig some up as they didn't match. He gave us all the pennies, covered in thick glue, and said if we wanted to give them to a charity, please do so. It was very hard to get them clean, but eventually we put them in the bank to donate. We had £50, so gave half to ACE (which we had visited in Luxor and were very impressed with), and half to Hillside Animal Charity. We have some more to clean, so there will be a little more to come. Keep up the good work!

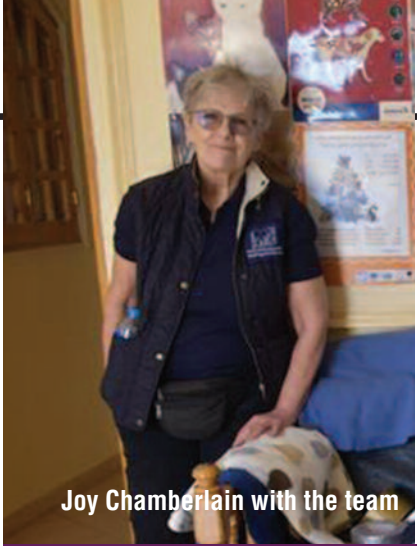
Jenny & Dave Xx



animal welfare work and fundraising activities either by post or via email.
email us at supporter@ace-egypt.org.uk or write to us at the address below.

Animal Care in Egypt, 10 Stretham Road, Wicken, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XH

Registered Charity no. 1082679 Registered in Egypt Society #2 Luxor



Joy Chamberlain with the team



(Left to right) Margaret Henderson, Louise Wilson, Adele Barker and Olympia O'Dea

Notes and memories of a visit to ACE in January 2019

“ I first visited ACE in March 2014 and again in the following two years. I was travelling with a group from the Healing Animals Organisation in the UK and we were there to help in any way we could. From resident or boarding dog walking to stray kitten feeding, by way of equine healing and assisting the redoubtable vets, we got stuck in. The experience was profound and increased our capacity for healing love under fire. These three groups all separately realised just how difficult it was to keep everyone on board and how hard the ‘back room staff’ had to work to achieve a competent, respected and effective organisation. But that was then in 2016.

When the offer was presented for another trip to ACE in January 2019 I jumped at the chance to be part of a team helping the hard-working animals of Egypt and to catch up with, by now, old friends and experience the magic of Luxor and the Nile again.

My first observation on visiting ACE recently was just how well the resident cats and dogs were and walking through the entrance area I became aware of an atmosphere of calm, peace and love. Calm was certainly in evidence in the newly created ‘tortoise courtyard’. Here, rescued Greek and Egyptian tortoises of varying sizes and ages can

bask on sun-warmed stones and enjoy freshly made meals of locally grown cucumbers and home-grown mint. They were even taken inside at night by staff to keep warm during unseasonably cold evenings.

The cattery has been rebuilt and is now able to board more visiting cats in comfort. Boarding for visiting dogs has had an upgrade with the inmates getting love, stimulating play and regular exercise.

Moving around the compound I was entranced by the garden! This garden was there when I last visited but it now boasts regular irrigation and husbandry to keep the exotic fruit trees alive. It has a ‘zen’ temple-like calm and is a favoured spot for lunch for the stable lads.

There are now more stable lads who work with an unhurried grace and efficiency keeping the ‘inpatients’ fed and their stalls well cleaned. One of ‘the boys’ sings as he works which provides a beautiful memory but also has the much more important role of calming the equids (horses, mules and donkeys) as they recover.

I was deeply impressed by the new store room. Everything has a place, and everything is in its place. Knowing where something is, is paramount to less stress and more efficiency which now affects and permeates every level at ACE.

Kim and her team of dedicated volunteers have transformed the ambiance of the hospital to a place of quiet efficiency. The dedicated vets continue to deserve every drop of respect they receive and the education programme has produced a very moving display of drawings depicting examples of ‘right and wrong’ husbandry. With some more land acquired, the future looks promising for ACE who will be celebrating their 20TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR... I sincerely hope to be there! ”

Joy Chamberlin

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