



The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Fighting Poverty – Feeding Families

Registered Charity No: 1096814



Spring Newsletter 2018



It is just over one year since we opened our doors at Makasutu and what a year it has been! So many wonderful developments have taken place. We have had more volunteer vets, nurses, equine dentists, physiotherapists and farriers than ever before and the training they have provided for both our staff, the apprentices and the students who visit us regularly has been highly appreciated. The lengths they have gone to with our patients has been truly heart-warming. We have witnessed vets and nurses staying up all night with a colicking horse and pulling her through and spending hours with sick or injured donkeys, all in a voluntary capacity, and it is wonderful to think that our humble little animals are getting top class treatment from top class vets who really do care about them.



Thanks to two of these vets, our X-ray machine is now up and running so we are able to improve our treatments and we have now purchased a truck to transport patients and are just waiting for it to be fitted out.



We now have far more visitors to see the new centre and the animals. They love to come and meet the patients and hear their stories. We welcome visitors and we feel that anyone who contributes to our work in whatever way is entitled to come and see what we do and how we do it.

The centre has been brought to life by the many students who have benefitted from it (525 at the last count) It is a real pleasure to have them making use of the facility. The Animal Welfare Advocates have gone from strength to strength and as I write are travelling the country on a nationwide sensitization tour. They are passionate and enthusiastic young people and they pass on their messages to the rural population through dramas which appear to be very popular and this enables them to get their messages across extremely effectively.



We have achieved many minor miracles with treatments, some of which you can read about in the following pages. However all this success means that we need your help more than ever before. The heightened awareness for animal welfare means that there are far more demands on our resources but it is important for us to maintain momentum and respond when we are called on if at all possible. We presently have 67 animals in our care which is a huge drain on our resources in just feed alone.

We could not have achieved so much without the help of everyone who has supported us. YOU really are making good things happen for the animals of The Gambia and their owners we ask you to spread the word and to help in any way that you can. **Thank you all so much!**

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NEWS IN BRIEF



We would like to extend a warm welcome to Katana Ashby, our new long term volunteer.

X-ray Machine

In February we were pleased to welcome two vets, Karen Pickering and Markus Wilke, who had been kindly sponsored by the British Equine Veterinary Trust (BEVA). They kindly installed the X-ray machine and provided some training for us in its use. It is just amazing that we now have this machine up and running and it has already been directly responsible for saving the lives of several animals. Thank you so much BCF Technology and Vets with Horsepower who provided this equipment.



Little Maurice who arrived as a surprise package to one of our patients one day.

University of Glasgow

We are immensely grateful to Dr. David Sutton and his team for their continuing research into the neurological form of trypanosomiasis which continues to take its toll and cause big losses for the farmers and working animals of The Gambia. It has also taken an emotional toll on our staff who find it so difficult to be unable to help affected animals. The researchers are making progress and learning more and more, which we hope will bring us closer to a cure. We are also trying to do our bit to protect the animals and if we find what we do is effective, we will replicate it throughout the country. We are setting tsetse targets which are insecticide soaked cloth flags in the colours preferred by the tsetse. The idea is that the fly is attracted to the colour and the scent and will then poison itself and die without damaging any other species. We are also working to find a spray that we can make locally to protect the animals themselves from the flies. In the meantime **Audevard**, a French company, heard of our plight and have donated a large amount of tick and fly spray for which we are very grateful. We will have to wait to the rainy season to see how effective it is in the most challenging environment, but the staff are already reporting a decrease in flies.



University of Liverpool



We are excited at the prospect of assisting with the logistics of new research project into the nasty equine disease Epizootic Lymphangitis. This project is led by Claire Scantlebury of the University of Liverpool and is funded by the Wellcome Trust. We hope to learn a great deal from Claire and her staff which we can then pass on to the livestock owners of The Gambia.



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Apprenticeship Scheme.

Our Apprentices are coming to the end of their year's training and we would like to thank all the wonderful people who sponsored them. They have been a lovely group and indeed there have been some real stars amongst them. Of the group of 10 students, five have found employment as a result of their training, one built up his confidence sufficiently to apply for University and he was accepted! He still lives with us and helps us in his spare time and attends our lectures but we are delighted that he has embraced this opportunity. His University costs are being sponsored by our sister charity, Stella's School Scheme (SSS)

They have been hardworking, enthusiastic and keen to learn. At the end of April we hope to be starting a new

batch of apprentices if we can find sufficient support. We will have to increase the cost slightly to £500 per student as we discovered some costs we hadn't anticipated.

If you would like to give a young person the opportunity of an apprenticeship and a better future, and at the same time improve animal welfare, please do consider sponsoring someone. Our apprentices receive a year's training in all aspects of animal care and management and our curriculum covers wildlife and conservation as well. There is high unemployment in The Gambia and this provides young people with an opportunity to learn and earn at the same time. You will be given details of your apprentice and a progress report and if you should come to The Gambia you are more than welcome to meet them and observe progress. There are not many ways that you can have such a direct beneficial impact on someone's life opportunities for £500!



Carol Concert

Just before Christmas we held a magical concert near Dorking to celebrate the role played by donkeys in the Christmas story. It was called "A Tribute to the Donkey". A group of wonderful musicians, consisting of Helen Hardwicke, a soprano, Philip Robinson, a tenor and Warren Shattles a pianist, joined by Jules Date an amateur actor gave their talents for free to enable us to raise funds for our work. Jules recited extracts from "The Lion, The Unicorn and Me" The Reverend Barbara Steadman-Allen kindly allowed us to use the beautiful St. Mary Magdalene Church in South Holmwood and the service was graced by Ambassadors Smokey and Blue, two gorgeous donkeys who fundraise for us together with their "mum" Victoria Edmondson, who is a vet, and their back up team who were armed with ginger nut biscuits and a shovel and bucket! The music was superb, the readings were captivating and the donkeys were just perfect and so well behaved. This concert captured the true meaning of Christmas in such a lovely way with such love and giving. I feel sure that the rosy glow it left us with was not all due to the mince pies and mulled wine! Our very sincere thanks go out to all involved.





Letter from Heather

It is a Saturday morning and the yard at Makasutu is buzzing with activity. Thirty five students, along with their lecturer Dr. Kebba Daffeh, have joined us from The University of The Gambia and The Gambia College. They have come to learn about animal management and welfare. Many of them are Animal Advocates keen to learn more and then share their knowledge to improve the lot of Gambia's animals. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn is a delight to see. They have been divided into three groups, each taught by an expert volunteer from overseas and they will rotate throughout the day. One group is learning about harnessing and balancing carts to ease the burden for the animal. This group is taught by an expert with a life time of experience in driving and teaching called Ann Varley. Another is being taught clinical examination and observation of sick animals by an equine veterinary surgeon called Markus Wilke and a third group is being taught by equine vet and donkey specialist Karen Pickering about equine teeth and the problems that they can cause. Markus and Karen have been sponsored to come to us by the British Equine Veterinary Association Trust. When the groups rotate there is a buzz of chatter and then it becomes quiet again as they listen to their trainers and ask individual questions. Break time comes and the laughter and chatter resume. After lunch the students perform some dramas incorporating what they have learned and the context in which they will pass it on to the owners of the working animals in such a way that it will effect behaviour change. In true Gambian style they politely thank each of the volunteer veterinary instructors and the GHDT staff.

After many years in the dreaming, planning and building, it is wonderful to hear the Derek Knottenbelt Veterinary Hospital come to life with activity, laughter, learning and healing. So many very special and wonderful people have been a part of it and have enabled it to happen and I often wonder if it is not all a dream. This is the way forward and the Animal Advocates are creating ever growing animal welfare ripples throughout the country. This is everything I ever dreamed of for The Gambia and its animals and to each and every person and organisation who made this dream come true, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Heather

Curly's little miracle.

Curly was a little donkey who was found by volunteer vet Karen Pickering with a severe club foot. He is a young donkey and Karen and orthopaedic vet Markus Wilke, felt they could help him. He is still under treatment, but you can see the improvement after just a couple of weeks. We have every hope that Curly will make a complete recovery.



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THE SHOW 2017



Thanks to the Gambia Livestock Marketing Association, we held a very successful first show at the National Livestock Showground in December.



The Hon. Minister, O.J. Jallow

We were delighted to have a number of supporters, a vet and a nurse kindly sponsored by the **British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA)** Trust, a farrier Mike Girling and three equine Dental Technicians sponsored by **The British Association of Equine Dental Technicians**. It was a busy but happy time.

Everyone worked hard and the show ground looked beautiful, all decorated with ribbon and balloons, even the volunteers were decorated with ribbon!

We were honoured to have the Minister of Agriculture attend the event. He went around to watch the vets hard at work and was fascinated by the dentists and farriers. The Animal Advocates were there in force and the Minister was impressed by what was being done for animal welfare in the country by these young people and suggested that there should be an animal welfare section within the Government's Department of Livestock Services.



Every animal that came was offered a vet check, a foot trim and dental check as well as being given a head collar bit, bridle and reflective vest for the owner. Our staff were able to offer help and advice and areas where more education and training was required were identified. None

of this would have been possible without all the wonderful equipment that you have donated and we thank you sincerely for the contributions that you have made. They really are making a big difference to the animals who receive them. It was a happy, positive show, we had a lovely group of volunteers who worked so hard to make it work. They are a formidable team and have identified where we can improve so the next show, which will be on **Saturday 8th December 2018** should be amazing.



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Some statistics....

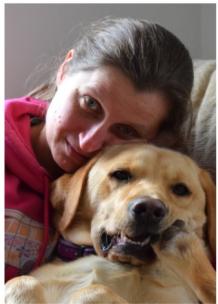
- ◆ The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust was founded in 2002 by 2 sisters and a horse called Lazarus.
- ◆ We employ 37 members of staff and we have an additional 10 apprentices.
- ◆ There are 22,000 horses and 66,000 donkeys in The Gambia
- ◆ We have two hospitals operated by paravets and education teams.
- ◆ With the exception of our Gambian staff and one part time employee in UK who are paid, all our teaching, veterinary care and professional advice we receive is carried out by volunteers.
- ◆ At any one time we can care for up to 60 patients, but at the moment we have 67!
- ◆ We treated 1,531 horses, 1,130 donkeys, 22 goats and one camel in the last year.
- ◆ We sadly had to euthanize 56 animals, mainly road traffic accidents.
- ◆ 525 students from college and University have benefitted from our training in one year.
- ◆ We (with your support) provide training for 10 apprentices
- ◆ We teach in 10 Schools
- ◆ It costs us approximately £32 per month to feed one donkey and £36 per month to feed a horse, animals in rehabilitation cost more as they require more feeds and supplements.
- ◆ We do charge a small fee for treatments, partly to ensure sustainability by making owners realise they have to budget for their animals, partly to defray costs, but mainly so that we do not undercut the local paravets for whom we provide training and who have to earn a living from carrying out their job.

OUR NEW TRUCK

Last year a donation was made by Vets with Horsepower to buy a horse box. We initially planned to buy one in Europe and ship it out to The Gambia, but despite looking at many different types of horsebox we could not find one with the suspension and ground clearance required to cover Gambian bush roads. All over Africa you can find little Mercedes trucks which happily cope with bush roads, and even no roads, and parts are readily available.



With the approval of Vets with Horsepower and a good friend who is a mechanic, we took the plunge and purchased one in The Gambia. As we write, it is being converted into a horsebox Africa style. They are cheap to run and when we are not using it as an ambulance, it will be useful for carrying hay, fence posts, feed and wood shavings. It will hopefully save us a great deal of money. The vehicle is affectionately known as "Freddie"



Note from Bea

I never thought I was ready for a charity....

At certain point in your life you suddenly think, I should do something for someone else, but your personal life is just so busy, you always leave it for “when you have more time...”

Surely, we all thought that when our career path comes to an end working for a charity sounds like something we should all do, but we tend to be too busy chasing that point in our life that often it never actually happens...

Almost a year ago I met an incredible woman, and if you ever wonder if everything in life happens for a reason, this surely was that kind of moment. To be very honest with you I’m not sure how it all happened but in August last year I “won my golden ticket” and was asked to join the GHDT team here in UK. Since then, I do what I can to help run the office. However when I first joined, and I admit this slightly shames me, I didn’t know who or what GHDT actually was or what they actually did, I also had to Google to see where The Gambia actually is. The first few months were off to a shaky start as its hard to understand how it all works when you have never seen it, and I’m sure Heather was getting slightly annoyed by almost constant questions (mostly the ones how far from A or B our centre is? etc) so we thought it was a good idea to go out and see, so off I went...

Falling in love with the country happened almost within seconds of landing, and I’m sure the amazing hot (and dry!) weather had nothing to do with it at all, or that’s what I keep telling myself. The friendliness of people is just very inspiring, and its incredibly hard to feel lonely in The Gambia as everyone is so welcoming and friendly. I arrived at our Makasutu centre and instantly started recognising our “little miracles”. There was Wassadu there waiting for hugs, a horse who went through so much yet still has so much to give. Jeffrey and GK rushed in to the yard, closely followed by Maurice and his mum Helen and caused havoc, I soon learnt that’s what they are best at. Eric the donkey was there too trying to show off his new wooden shoe, and Toubab, the albino donkey who is still very shy, was peeking from behind the tree interested too. Bundung, who is feeling rather well and happy, and Skinny Mike who actually isn’t as skinny any more yet still has a long way to go. Most of them really alive against all odds and are clear proof that the impossible is possible when you put your mind to it and are willing to give it a go.

I had the pleasure of meeting a team of dedicated people, who care for our patients each and every day. People who represent GHDT, who support local villagers with their knowledge and offer veterinary treatments when needed. People who are willing to change Gambia to safer and happier place for not just working equines but other animals too. I’m honoured to be part of the GHDT team.

I cannot recommend The Gambia enough as a holiday destination, and if you do go please make sure you visit GHDT and see it all for yourself. Our work sadly cannot continue without your support.

Thank you for making this possible...

I never thought I was ready.... until now! Don’t wait till tomorrow, do it today instead!

Bea Milne

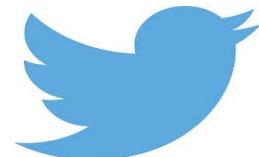
Office Admin UK, joined Aug 2017

We are delighted to welcome Bea , who is from Poland, to the GHDT family, she is an animal lover and works hard to keep things running smoothly. Bea is married, has 2 daughters, a very handsome yellow Labrador called Maxi and a horse called Tosser!



Need a scrap car removing from your drive, for FREE? Simply contact Giveacar at www.giveacar.co.uk or on 0207 7364242 to organise your free collection, and your scrap car will be transformed into a cash donation for GHDT!

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



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Thank you...

There are just too many people who we would like to thank, but space prevents us from naming them individually. Our thanks go to all the wonderful people who have donated bits, head collars and other equipment and to those who have made monetary donations to us. We would also like to thank everyone who has volunteered for us, especially as they always bring donations of equipment as well! Special thanks must go to The British Equine Veterinary Association, The British Equine Dental Association, Audevard, IMS , Aniwell and Kruuse for the support that they have given to us by sponsoring volunteers and by making donations of equipment or products. We simply could not do it without you.



We would like to thank Lynn Board , headmistress of Kniveton Primary School . They have purchased a total of 10 donkeys and carts for poor farmers. The last two were called Merle and Helen in memory of a lady who died recently and had close ties with Africa in her earlier life. The children raised the money from singing at a Christmas Concert and wanted it to be spent in memory of her. We think this is an incredibly kind thing to do and it will make a very big difference to the families who receive the donkeys.

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!

Unfortunately it would appear that we are the victims of our own success. With both the centres working well and more and more people calling us when they see a donkey in distress, we are being kept very busy. The cost of feed, fuel, medicines has all risen sharply and sadly, we are eating into our reserves. We have included a standing order / donation form with this newsletter and if you are able to help at all, we would really appreciate it as we don't ever want to reach a point where we have to turn away an animal in need. To the people who already donate on a monthly basis, we thank you.

If you are not in a position to donate, perhaps you could fundraise for us? Or even consider leaving us a gift in your will. We really have made a lot of progress with improving conditions for animals in The Gambia with your help, but we desperately need more funds if we are to continue our work. We appreciate that there are many demands on your pocket, but we really do make every penny count.

Some non equine patients that we helped along the way.



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Important

Please read!

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

In May 2018 the law is changing. We'd like to continue to keep you up to date with our work, the difference you're making and how else you can support us. And we need a 'Yes' from you today in order to stay in touch. Please see the attached form, we would appreciate if you could fill it in and either email back to ghdt@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk or send to our postal address
Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5TH

Without your form we will not be able to contact you after the 25th of May 2018, this include sending you our newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving it, please send the form in today. We only usually contact you twice a year to send newsletters or to thank you for donations. We do not send out unsolicited appeals but may update you on news or events via email between newsletters

Your personal data is for the use of GHDT only and will never be shared with 3rd party companies.

You can find more information on GDPR and how it affects you, at www.eugdpr.org

You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing the office.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Consent

YOUR DETAILS

(Mr/Mrs/Ms) Forename	Surname
Home Address	Postcode
Email Address	
Telephone Number	
Signature:	Date:

Please tick here to confirm that you happy for The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust to keep you updated on our work, marketing and fundraising using the details you have provided above. Without this consent GHDT will not be able to contact you under new General Data Protection Regulation.

Please tick here if you wish to be removed off The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust' database. You will not receive any future updates and your contact details will be permanently removed.

Donation form

A regular donation by Standing order really helps by creating a greater stability for the future of this vital charity. In return we will send you our newsletter to ensure you are kept up to date with our activities

To pay a regular amount by Standing Order, please complete this form in **BLOCK CAPITALS AND POST TO:**
GHDT, Brewery Arms, Stane Street, Ockley, RH5 5TH

To Manager of:

Bank name: _____

Bank address _____

Post code: _____

Please pay the following amount to:

Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Sort Code: 60-11-17

Account number: 19505043

I agree to pay the sum of £ monthly yearly One off donation

Please write amount in words here _____

Starting on (date) / /

(until cancelled with my bank)

Please debit my account:

Account No. _____ Sort code: / / _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____

Signed: _____ Date: / / _____

Gift Aid Declaration

The chancellor allows us to claim tax back you have already paid on the value of your donation – but only if you sign the form.

Please treat this donation and future donations (until I notify you otherwise) as a Gift Aid donation. I confirm I am a UK tax payer

Signed: _____ Date: / / _____

Please tick here to confirm that you happy for The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust to keep you updated on our work, marketing and fundraising using the details you have provided above. Without this consent GHDT will not be able to contact you under new General Data Protection Regulation.

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