

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust



Fighting Poverty – Feeding Families

Registered Charity No: 1096814

Autumn Newsletter 2013



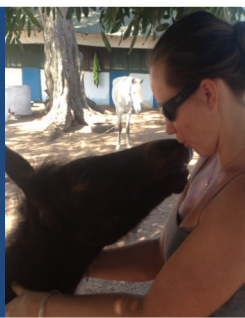
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The dream of a new centre is almost ready to become reality!



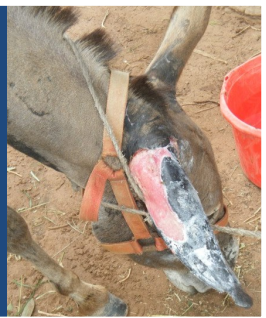
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Exciting Job Opportunity & Volunteer Vacancies



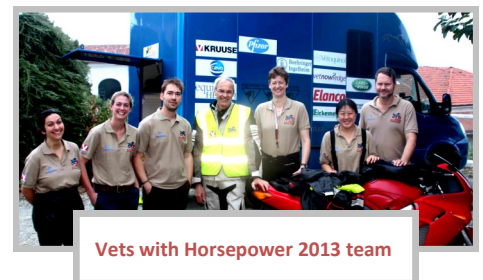
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Find out what our staff are now calling the 'Miracle White Cream'!



We are delighted to tell you that 'Vets with Horsepower' have chosen the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust as one of their charities to raise funds for in 2014.

Vets with Horsepower are a team of 15 of the most prestigious senior academic and practicing specialist veterinary surgeons in the country, who will travel on motorbikes through 10 countries to deliver CPD to hundreds of vets at veterinary schools throughout Europe. Headed by the infamous Professor Knottenbelt from the Philip Leverhulme Equine Hospital, University of Liverpool the team will be holding 9 separate CPD events, raising money for us and The Smile Train (www.smiletrain.org.uk). This will be the fourth time that Vets with Horsepower have held this event, and to date they have already raised a phenomenal £280,000 for their chosen charities, making a huge difference to the lives of many working equines and their owners in some of the poorest countries in the world.



Vets with Horsepower 2013 team

The money raised for us will be used for building the new centre near Brikama and we are extremely excited that what once was merely a dream is now getting much, much closer to becoming a reality. We cannot express enough gratitude to the Vets with Horsepower team and we hope that you will enjoy following their progress too. We wish the Vets with Horsepower team every success with their event.

If you would also like to help us to raise the funds for our new centre, don't forget that you still have time to become a member of 'The 333 Club'. Simply raise £333 for us and you will receive a certificate of thanks and your name will be displayed at our new centre to demonstrate our thanks.

If you would like to support the Vets with Horsepower through providing sponsorship for them, please visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/vetswithhorsepower

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So many little mouths to feed!



This year we have had a huge influx of orphaned foals to take care of. Life is hard enough in The Gambia, but when you lose your mother at a very young age, chances of survival are slim. We do everything we can to provide the orphans with the best possible start in life. They are fed day and night by our fantastic volunteers who have probably forgotten what a full night's sleep feels like! The foals are able to roam freely in our paddocks and mix together with the other horses and donkeys which certainly helps to prevent the problems of them becoming difficult to manage when they are older, as is often seen in the UK.



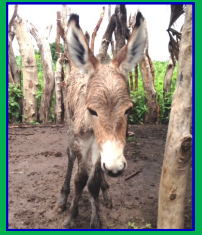
Yannick

Yannick was fortunate to be fostered for 6 months by a mare who lost her own foal, until Maggie arrived at just two weeks old. Yannick was then carefully weaned, and the same mare fostered Maggie. The mare later had to return to her owners

for work, but we were able to arrange for Maggie to go along with her so that she could continue to suckle. Snowdrop's dam sadly ate lots of caustic soda, and despite our best efforts to save her, the internal damage was too severe and we lost her. Snowdrop is an unfortunate colour, as she is completely white and has very pink skin which easily burns, but she is progressing well. Both Raf and Rascal have been hand reared since they arrived, meaning many sleepless nights for our volunteers! We are glad that we are able to offer these orphan foals a better chance at life, thanks to your support.

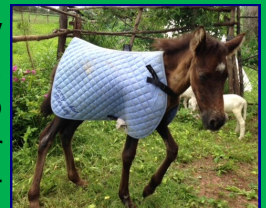


Snowdrop



Rascal

Below Top: Maggie meets Yannick
Below bottom: Raf



New Beginnings!

We are excited to tell you that we are now in the position to be able to make a start on the building preparations for our new centre, based near Brikama, The Gambia. We are now waiting for the rains to completely finish, so that we can begin the arduous task of completely clearing the land allocated to us so that the area can be fully fenced before the building work commences. This really is a dream come true and we wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who have helped to raise funds to make this new centre possible.



What will be the entrance to the new centre



Urban working animals
will receive our help

Whilst we have enough money to begin the work, we have not yet reached our grand total and we are extremely grateful that the Vets with Horsepower will be helping us to reach this. We also hope that some more of you will take on the challenge to join 'The 333 Club', which is the fundraising initiative that has made this project possible.

The new centre will provide a place for educating local people and professionals about correct equine care and welfare. Local students studying veterinary science and agriculture will be able to spend time at our centre to expand their knowledge and we will welcome international visiting vets to share knowledge and to gain valuable experience in tropical diseases. As well as providing education we will also be able to provide first class veterinary care to animals in need.

Don't forget that you can be a part of making our new centre happen by joining 'The 333 Club'.
See overleaf for details on how to become a member.

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The 333 Club

To help us to reach our fundraising target of £100,000 for our new centre we are seeking 300 individuals, groups or organisations to each raise £333. We already have numerous members of The 333 club, but we are still seeking new members.

Could YOU raise just £333? If this sounds like too much for you to raise individually, why not contact your local school, college, work place Pony Club or riding club and see if they will club together with you in your efforts? We believe that many hands make light work, so the more people you can get involved the better!

In return for your efforts you will receive a certificate of thanks, and your name or the name of your group or organisation will be displayed at the new centre. And on top of that of course you will have peace of mind from the knowledge that you have helped us.

If you would like one of our fundraising packs to help you to come up with an exciting fundraising idea, please email anna_ghdt@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank You!



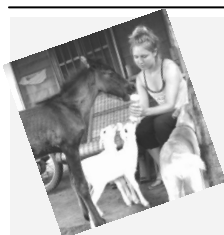
Proudly wearing their donated high-vis vests. These donations save lives.

Saving Lives With High-Vis

We continue to always be on the look-out for reflective jackets, waist coats or equine equipment. With road traffic accidents involving equines seeming to be on the increase, this campaign remains as important as ever. Whilst we are extremely glad that the roads in Gambia have now been beautifully rebuilt, they bring with them faster, more dangerous traffic. We would like to say a special thanks to Equisafety (www.highvisibility.uk.com) for their recent donations of high-vis items for us to send out for Gambian equines and their owners. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the lovely people who give us regular donations of high-vis jackets – we are very grateful for them.



Equine casualties are becoming more common as a result of increased traffic on the newly tarmacked roads.



WANTED!

We are currently seeking a new long term volunteer to join our team in The Gambia in 2014.

If you are:

- Qualified to minimum of degree level
- Able to volunteer one year of your time
- Have excellent communication and organisational skills
- Have experience managing people
- 100% dedicated to the cause
- Able to work on own initiative
- Outgoing, enjoy spending time with people and have a good sense of humour

Then please email a copy of your CV and covering letter to

ghdt@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

A fantastic opportunity for the right person!

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

Are you looking for a part time, office based job in Surrey? We are seeking an office assistant to help with the administration of the charity. Must be reliable, hard working and computer literate. Salary dependent on experience. The successful applicant will be based in Ockley, Surrey. For more information about the role please contact Heather on 01306 627568 or email ghdt@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

To apply for the position please send CV and contact details

OUR FUNDS DO REACH THOSE IN NEED

In light of recent articles in the press discussing the huge salaries being received by some charity CEOs, we wanted to let you know that we are not one of those charities. Heather Armstrong, our Charity Director, works on an entirely voluntary basis. We currently have one paid part time member of staff in the UK and the rest of our team are either paid Gambian staff or volunteers. We know that people donate to help the plight of working animals and their owners, so we make sure that your money goes straight to them.

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Walk or Trot Around the World



We have big plans for an extraordinary fundraising event in 2014, but we will need your involvement and support to make it happen. In association with Voice for the Horse (www.voiceforthehorse.com) we hope to participate in the 'Walk or Trot Around the World' by organising a sponsored relay ride to go from one end of the country to the other. However, as we only have one paid member of UK staff, we would need a dedicated team of volunteers to help to organise it. Could that be you?

We are encouraging everyone to get involved, and would like to give people the opportunity to raise funds for their own chosen charity rather than GHDT if they prefer. There would however, be a sign-up fee of £50 which must be paid to the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust. We hope that this will be a fantastic opportunity for people to get out and

have fun with their horses and ponies, and also to raise funds not only for us but for as many other equine charities as possible too.

If you think this is something you would be able to help us to organise, please email ghdt@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk with your contact details. Please help us to spread the word so that together we can help horses and donkeys all around the world.

Donkeys Rock!

Have you always wished it was possible to get a Rocking Donkey, rather than a Rocking Horse? Well your wish has now been granted thanks to Debbie Hinton Of Jolly Rockers. Not only has Debbie created a beautiful Rocking Donkey, but she has also kindly agreed to give us a percentage of the money that each Rocking Donkey is sold for, so when you buy your very own Rocking Donkey you will be helping to improve the lives of working donkeys too. Debbie will even customise your Rocking Donkey to look like your own much loved donkeys! To find out more, please visit

www.jollyrockers.co.uk or contact Debbie on **01306 621418**.



Aniwell Make Animals Well



Donkey with a badly burnt ear who came to GHDT for treatment



Aniwell are a New Zealand based company who make wound care products, such as **Filtabac**. Aniwell have been incredibly generous to us, and have probably given us the largest donation of cream that we have ever received! Filtabac is a wound cream that also contains sun cream, so is very useful in the heat of The Gambia. Our team in Gambia have nick named **Filtabac** the 'Miracle White Cream' because they have had such good results with it. The donkey seen here was brought to one of our mobile veterinary clinics with a very badly burnt ear from a stable fire. With such large, mobile ears this was not the easiest of patients to treat and was very difficult to keep the wounds covered. Our staff were delighted to be able to use Filtabac on the wounds, which had quick, fantastic results. We have recently received another huge donation from Aniwell and we simply cannot thank them enough for their kind support. To find out more about the 'Miracle White Cream' and where you can purchase Filtabac, please visit **www.anowell-uk.com**



After just a short treatment, the ear was well on the way to healing

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Financing Our Daily Running Costs

Whilst we understand that people often prefer to donate money to a specific project, we would like to draw your attention to our daily running costs, which are also funded entirely by donations.

Our existing centre has stabling for more than 30 horses and donkeys at any one time. Some of these animals will remain with us for the long term due to injuries or illnesses that prevent them from being able to return to a working life. The remainder are either in-patients receiving specialist veterinary care from our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, or youngsters who are not yet old enough to be trained for working.



All of these animals require daily care from our staff and between them they eat their way through a rather large quantity of groundnut hay, rice bran and cous. Our typical monthly running costs are approximately £7,500 per month to cover all the general running costs of our activities. This does include the costs of our regular mobile veterinary clinics and our educational programmes, as well as the care of the animals but as we are sure you will understand, this is a large amount of money for us to raise each and every month.

We are always extremely grateful for everyone holding fundraising events for us, and everyone who has done this has been a great help in ensuring the continuation of our projects. However, it would be a great benefit to us for us to know that we have a steady income each month, through regular giving either by standing order or direct debits. Regular givers help us to budget more effectively and make the running of the charity much more efficient. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our regular donors – you really are our life blood and you have enabled us to survive these troubled times.

If there is any way that you are able to become a regular donor, we would be very grateful for any amount that you can give each month.



What Your Donation Could Pay For

However small or large your monthly donation might be, it will be put to good use on essentials for the running of GHDT.

£2 can buy 1 sack of Rice Bran to feed the horses and donkeys

£5 can buy wormers to treat three animals

£10 can cover the cost of fuel for one day of our school education programme

£25 can buy hay to feed our equine in-patients

£50 can cover the costs of one days mobile veterinary clinic

£100 can cover the on going costs of fencing paddocks for our long term residents

Standing Order Forms

If you are able to give a regular monthly donation to help with our general running costs, please contact us for a standing order form. You can do this by email (ghdt@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk) or telephone (01306 627568).

Alternatively, please feel free to download the form from our website, on the 'How You Can Help' page. *Thank You!*



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!



Request a bag

Book a collection of the phone or via our homepage

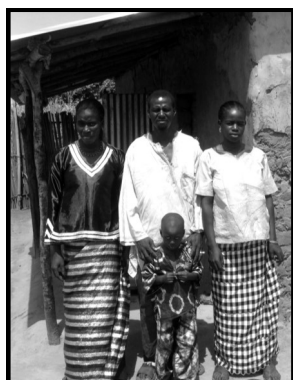
CHARITY ECOSYSTEM

Donate unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories and you'll make a difference to Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust!

www.charity-ecosystem.org

STAFF FOCUS — Ebrima Barry

Ebrima Barry began working for the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust in 2005, and he was promoted to the position of **Yard Manager** in 2011. As Yard Manager Ebrima works closely with the long term volunteers to ensure smooth running of the project. He is responsible for overseeing the day to day running of the yard and organising the staff. Ebrima is also one of our trained **harness makers** and is often found making harnesses from donated materials, which are then sold at the local markets during our mobile veterinary clinics. He is an excellent horse trainer and



Ebrima and his family in special clothes to celebrate Tobaski Day

enjoys helping to train the young horses and donkeys when they reach maturity. As one of our harness experts Ebrima also excels at educating owners on the benefits of correct harnessing practices and has led many of our harnessing workshops for Gambian donkey owners as well as the training sessions for recipients of Donkey Project donkeys.

Ebrima lives very close to the GHDT centre with his two wives (pictured), Kumba and Maimonah. Ebrima has three young children, two sons and one daughter—Mambala, Ousman and Penda. Ebrima is such a hard worker that it is very rare to find him anywhere other than the GHDT yard, but if he is anywhere else he is likely to be busy weeding his pumpkin and corn farm by hand, or busy working down at the rice fields.

Ebrima is a dedicated staff member who knows how to lead a team by example—he can always be found at the head of the team during any physically demanding activities and is a great motivator, keeping everyone going with his enthusiasm and sense of fun.

In Loving Memory

We were very sad to hear the news that one of our very generous supporters, **Dr. John Raeside**, had



passed away after a short illness. We are very grateful to his family and to John himself for asking that donations in lieu of flowers should come to us. It is an outstanding testimony to John, that between donations at the funeral and money raised in support of Eric Avenier who ran a half marathon the total raised was almost £8,000! This money will go towards a building at our new centre which will named after Dr. Raeside. Our thoughts are with his friends and family during this difficult time.



IT'S SHOW TIME!



Everyone is busy at GHDT, frantically preparing for the annual Horse and Donkey Show. This is a fun time, for all the locals to come and show off their well kept animals, and to be in with a chance of winning cash prizes. There will also be a Donkey Club demonstration of Donkey Ball, and the show will be televised across The Gambia. At this time of year, when the farming season finishes, the horses can be tired and weak, but the show gives equine owners the motivation to really give them the extra care that they need to rebuild their strength, and the competition is taken very seriously. It has been known for owners of stallions that they believe could win to hide their horse in someone's house the night before, to ensure there is no foul play!

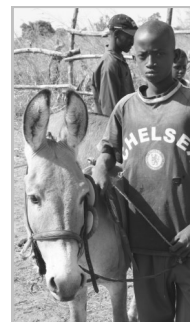
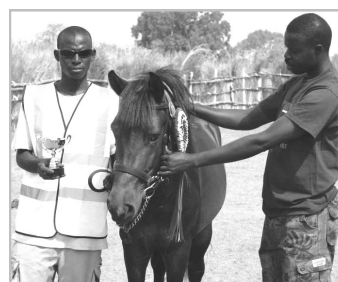
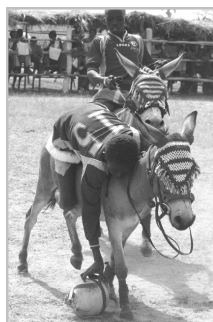
You can be part of making the show happen by sponsoring one of the classes. You can sponsor a class for just £70. If you would like to be a show sponsor, please contact Heather on 01306 627568. Thank you!

Huge Thanks To Our Existing Show Sponsors:

Jeanette Aron, Emma Higgins of The Horse Exchange (www.thehorseexchange.com),

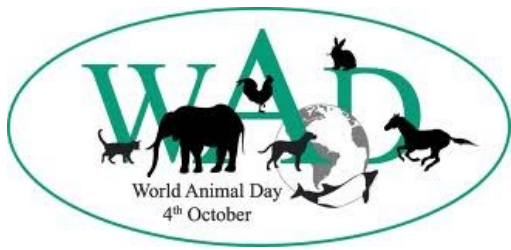
Bryony Barraclough of Saucy Mare Ltd (Saucymare.com), Virginia Heaton, Rachel Conwell, Stepahanie Gallo, Susie Vickery, Jill Devlin, Jill Tyler, Linda Jones and Judith Parks.

We are very grateful for your generous



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Celebrating World Animal Day and World Rabies Day in 2013



We are avid supporters of both World Rabies Day (28th September) and World Animal Day (4th October), which fall very close together. This year we combined our support for these very special days by hosting a radio programme in The Gambia covering important educational information about rabies and the importance of road safety where animals are concerned. Having attended increased numbers of equine road traffic accident victims this year we hoped to highlight

“Although rabies is thought to be rare in equines, we have seen a number of suspected cases. The disease is 100% fatal to all infected animals, including humans. “

the dangers of tethering animals close to the highways, and the importance of wearing reflective and high visibility clothing.

Rabies is a real and dangerous threat and it is essential to provide the Gambian people with as much information as possible about this disease so that they are well equipped to deal with possible threats. Through providing education to a wide audience we hope to instil the importance of urgently seeking medical assistance in the unfortunate instance of anyone being in contact with a rabid animal, and how to recognise when an animal has rabies.



Matilda on arrival at the GHDT centre



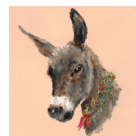
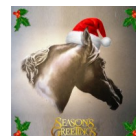
Just Two Weeks Old and Already Life Looked Bleak....

Whilst our team were heading out to a mobile veterinary clinic, they were stopped by a man at the side of the road who asked for their help. He showed the team this two week old foal who had a serious skin condition. In the belief that he was doing the right thing, the owner had put engine oil onto her already delicate skin which had only caused further and more extensive damage. We were glad that the owner stopped us, as we were able to transport little Matilda and her mother Ingrid back to our centre for veterinary treatment. It also gave us the opportunity to educate the owner about not putting engine oil onto wounds. Matilda is now well on the way to recovery and she will soon be back to full health.



Why Would Anyone Put Engine Oil Onto Wounds?

There are traditional beliefs in The Gambia, and one of these is that used engine oil will help wounds to heal. Some people use battery acid instead of engine oil. We are not certain why people believe that this helps, but we do know that it makes wounds much, much worse and causes extreme discomfort for the animal. We work hard to provide education to help to bring these common practices to an end. People believe that they are helping the animal when doing this, so we help them to understand why it is not a good practice.



Christmas Time is Coming!

Christmas time is fast approaching once again so don't forget that you can purchase your cards from us. We have a selection of wonderful new designs this year, thanks to the entrants of our Christmas Card competition earlier in the year. We also still have some of the previous designs available. If you would like to order your cards, please go to our website, or telephone Heather on 01306 627568

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Immense Dedication!

This summer has seen quite a number of our amazing supporters take on extreme sporting challenges, and we are in awe of each and every one of them for the amazing effort and dedication they have shown to raising money for us.

Jen Jamieson swam the channel, Vicki Miller completed the Tough Mudder challenge, Sally and John have cycled literally thousands of miles,

Toby Fraser completed the Nuts Challenge (a 14km obstacle course) Hannah Ellis and Eric Avenier have both completed half marathons! Between them all thousands of miles have been covered and they have raised thousands of pounds which have gone a really long way towards keeping all of our projects running in The Gambia and will also contribute towards the building of our new centre. Next year looks set to continue with supporters taking on gruelling challenges, starting with Kerri Eccarius walking the Great Wall of China for us! We are grateful to everyone who raises money for us, but these guys have really pulled out all the stops to put themselves through arduous challenges in our name, and we cannot thank you all enough.



Very Special Thanks To...

Jill Devlin for raising over £1000 with clothes collections!

Kathy & Barbara Sharman for joining the 333 Club multiple times as a result of bric-a-brac sale!

Sue Ashton who is now well known in her area for holding brilliant sales!

Young **Lucy Witherington**, who at just 8 years old has raised us a great amount of money through hard work of helping to groom, muck out, feed & tack up ponies, poo pick fields & lead other riders!

Leo, Ella, Mia, Tallulah and Rocco—a young team of siblings who have done some brilliant fundraising!

Linda Jones for her fabulous constant support and fundraising!

Chloe Tucker for raising lots of money at her yard sale

Glasgow University Veterinary Dept and The Donkey Sanctuary for the research into the Neurological Disease

One In a Million

It saddens us to say that we will soon be losing our award winning volunteer, Jen White. Jen has been with us for over two years now and finally she has decided it is time to escape the Gambian bush!



Jen is an incredibly dedicated volunteer who works so hard that we often have to force her into taking a break! There is pretty much nothing that can stand between Jen and her work. She approaches life and work with an (almost!) permanent smile and her ability to network is second to none. Jen has repeatedly gone above and beyond in her duties, and if there is an animal or person in need she will move heaven and earth to help them.

Always eager to lead by example, she has been a first rate, hands on member of our Gambian team and is highly respected by our staff and local villagers. Not only has she run GHDT to a high standard, but she has also been responsible for successfully running both Stella's School Scheme and the Sambel Kunda Village Clinic in The Gambia too.

We genuinely cannot bear to imagine GHDT without Jen at the helm, leading the way with a smile, a joke and a filthy pair of feet! She will be desperately missed by us all and leaves a very big pair of shoes to fill.



Jen—THANK YOU so much for everything you have done for us. You are destined for great things, and you truly are a wearer of King Solomon's Ring.

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Don't forget that you can give flowers whilst also giving to us at the same time! Simply go to the Charity Flowers website or call them on 0870 5300600 to order your beautiful bouquet today, and don't forget to mention GHDT!

www.charityflowers.co.uk