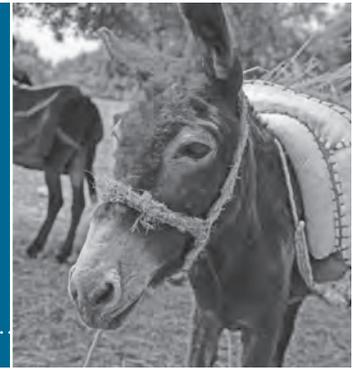


compassion

a newsletter of american fondouk



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From the desk of *Dr. Gigi Kay...*

As a fellow humanitarian who is shocked by the needless suffering of animals, you are at the very heart of American Fondouk. Your kindness is a lasting testimony to the millions of lives we've saved and all the work we've accomplished since our founding in 1927.

Most of all, it's your willingness to take a stand and get involved – to put your compassion into action – that makes a life-saving difference. That is true today, just as it was in 1927.

When I look over American Fondouk materials from the past 92 years, I am struck by the similarities in terms of our mission, and in terms of the energy of our staff and supporters. It's uncanny. For instance, an MSPCA newsletter article from March 1930 entitled "The Year in Fez" captured the essence of our three-year-old endeavor.

Committee Member Charles A. Williams, who would go on to become our Secretary, said "My first visit of five days in November 1928, found the Fondouk very crowded ... an average of 90 animals a day being kept. The high price of supplies, grain, bedding, hay and medicine also meant more of an expenditure than our treasury warranted."

"My first visit ... found the Fondouk very crowded."

– Mr. Charles A. Williams, Committee Member, 1928

Wow, does that sound familiar! So much remains true. When humans rely on animals for their sustenance, there will be injuries. There will be sickness. You can't avoid it, and that makes our mission as vibrant today as it ever was.

I wonder if Mr. Williams could have imagined this fledgling endeavor would go on to treat 3 million animals by 1977? Mr. David Claflin, American Fondouk President, encapsulated our success with his 50-year anniversary theme of "Fifty Years of Caring and Compassion."

"How marvelous it would be if all our friends could see ... the heartening work that goes on daily."

– David S. Claflin, American Fondouk President, 1977

Then, as now, we all understand just how important you are to our mission. The free veterinary care and humane education we provide daily depends 100 percent on the donations of caring individuals like you. Just as it has from the beginning.

So please allow me to thank you with all of my heart for the progress we've made in the past. That we are making today. And that will make for years to come!

– Dr. Gigi Kay, Director

Thoughts from a recent visit to American Fondouk

Submitted by Fred and Anne Henders

First impressions

Upon arriving at the American Fondouk, we were impressed with the white walls forming the outside of the complex and the old gates leading to the inside.

We noticed a small truck in the parking area that was obviously used to transport animals to the hospital. We had not previously been aware that they were able to pick up animals in need of immediate attention. I thought this was a nice service to offer if someone could not get their animal to the clinic.

Meeting Dr. Kay

After going through the gate, we were warmly greeted by Gigi (Dr. Gigi Kay), the Director, and she was happy to meet American donors who had come to visit. She asked Will, one of the veterinarian externs from Scotland, to show us around and tell us about the current animals that were being treated.



Patient one

The first animal (that had just come in) was being examined for a leg wound. As we had seen on our drive through Morocco, many farm animals are tied by one of their legs as they are grazing, so they don't stray onto the road and get hit by a car (a practice known as "hobbling").

Dr. Kay explained that the young donkeys try to pull at the rope tied around their leg, and it cuts into the skin and creates a large sore.



This constant pulling can cause an infection, and sometimes, it can tear the ligaments down to the bone. The first thing they do is an ultrasound and x-ray to determine the extent of the damage. If it is infected, they will treat the animal with the appropriate medicine and if necessary, keep it until it has healed. If the animal needs surgery, they let the owners know what they can and cannot do to help their animal.

“We were very impressed with the level of care offered at the American Fondouk and the dedication of the staff to each of the animals.”

Humane education

We were shown all of the animals in the stalls and two had respiratory infections for the second time in a few weeks. They questioned the owners to try to figure out why these animals kept getting the same infection and they determined that it was caused by having the feed bag tied to their heads. In this case, they treated the animals and educated the owners at the same time by telling them to put the feed on the ground.

One animal had been very ill and they had to do surgery (tracheotomy) to enable it to breathe. All of the 20+ stalls were filled and each animal was being cared for by the staff.

Key to survival

We mostly noticed individuals accompanying their animals. The ones we saw seemed anxious and distraught as they waited to find out how badly their animals were injured.

We were very impressed with the level of care offered at the American Fondouk and the dedication of the staff to each of the animals. If the Fondouk could be expanded, they could help even more animals in the future.



The farming people in Morocco are poor and they need a place like this to educate them and treat their animals. The animals are the key to their survival.



Down the road

We can safely assume that the Fondouk may be in need of diagnostic equipment. In one of the stalls, they were using a portable x-ray machine to see if an animal had a broken bone. The one thing that we were told during our visit is that skilled veterinarians are in short supply in Morocco.



There are more ways than ever to help care for the animals!

American Fondouk can now provide you with a number of creative new ways to help you care for the working animals of Fez for generations to come. Here are just a few choices to help you make the most of your charitable giving. For more options or to learn more, please call Raffaella Torchia at 617 541.5011.

Employer Matching Gift

It's easy to double or even triple your support! Your company may even have a matching gift form on its website. Just submit it with your next gift. We'll do the rest.

Car Donation

Now you can use your old car to help the animals of Fez! It's an easy way to keep us rolling.

RoundUp

It's the modern way to donate your spare change. The App rounds up your debit or credit card purchases and donates them online. Smart!

Coleman Circle

In the spirit of our founding, the Coleman Circle is a special alliance of passionate animal lovers who provide a leadership role with an annual commitment of \$1,000 or more.

Q&A with Dr. Kay

This article is based on "Fez's American Fondouk Promotes Equine Welfare," by Alexandra Gritta, Morocco World News.

With the number of working equids estimated at about 1.7 million in Morocco, improving the welfare of these animals and the people who rely on them is no small task.

Moreover, the families who own these donkeys, mules, and horses tend to be poorer. So, the health of these animals has a direct impact on the lives of their owners.

American Fondouk treats 60 patients a day. Some are outpatients, whose injuries and illness can be treated quickly and efficiently. Others require long-term care up to six months. Dr. Gigi Kay answers some questions about the injuries they see at the Fondouk.

What is a common preventable injury you often see?

"One issue is that owners will sometimes tie up their animals' legs with rope to prevent them from wandering off. This practice is known as "hobbling" and can cause tendon damage or lacerations."

What is a common surgery you might perform?

"Sarcoid tumors, which are common amongst equids and thought to be spread by flies, are a big issue and may require surgical removal."

What other preventable injuries do you encounter?

"In Fez, some owners still use old "Roman-style" bits that tear up the mouths of equids. We offer a straight-across trade for these archaic bits, giving owners new snaffle bits, which are more modern and less damaging to the horse's mouths."

What problems do you see with equid nutrition?

"Many horses are underfed, lacking nutrition, and subject to eating things that are not natural to them. Plastic bags, rope, and other garbage on which they scavenge, can easily get stuck in the gastrointestinal tract and cause fatal colic."

Did You Know?

"Fondouk" is the Arabic word for "shelter."



Providing Charitable Veterinary Care
in Morocco Since 1927™

The American Fondouk c/o MSPCA
350 S. Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130
www.fondouk.org 617 522.7400

The working animals in Fez, Medina will always need our help. We've been helping them, with the support of friends like you, since 1927. If you would like more information about including the American Fondouk in your estate plan, please contact Raffaella Torchia at 617 541.5011.