

Donkey welfare in Ethiopia

Working donkeys in Ethiopia often receive poor treatment and, consequently, their lives are unnecessarily hard and short. This children's book is an imaginative way of addressing the problem of inadequate owner education.

The story follows the antics of Dusty, a young donkey in Ethiopia, who becomes separated from her owner, suffers painful mistreatment, manages to escape and returns home to receive the free veterinary care provided by local Ethiopian and UK vets. However predictable this children's tale may sound, it is a story with a clear welfare message and important basic facts about donkeys' needs which the author hopes will reach young donkey owners in Ethiopia. For every copy of the book sold in the UK a free copy will be sent in both English and Amharic to a school in Ethiopia. It is a simple idea which, if successful, could start to raise the level of awareness of welfare issues for donkeys in Ethiopia, at least amongst the youngest generation.

The Story of Dusty the Little Ethiopian Donkey. Elisabeth D Svendsen (1996). Whittet Books Ltd: London. 32pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 18 Anley Road, London W14 0BY, UK. Price £5.50.