

DECEMBER 2021

DONKEY SANCTUARY

BONAIRE NIEUWSBRIEF



To all our Sponsors, adoptive parents, donors and friends of the Sanctuary

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the help we have received this year! My special thanks go to Ann Sterling and our friends Bert and Laura and Wessel for their great support during this time.

I'm sure you've all had a difficult year too, so let's try to make 2022 better for all of us. For the well-being and future of the donkeys, we have introduced a rule that all our employees and volunteers must be vaccinated, and be very careful with whom they interact. We cannot afford to have our staff and other helpers out for several weeks due to illness when 770+ donkeys rely on us every day.

We face challenges in 2022 because we want to continue to give all Bonaire donkeys a better life:

1. Start a campaign to eliminate the import duties we pay for donkey food
2. Hire additional permanent staff
3. Continue our planting program to enhance the property with cheerful trees and shrubs

So in short, we will not give up. We will go for it together with our team and supporters like you, just as we do every year! Best wishes to you all for happy holidays, and above all, a healthy, prosperous 2022, and who knows, SEE YOU SOON?

Please everyone, stay healthy



Liefs. Marina





The costs are skyrocketing!

The border with Venezuela is still closed so we continue to import hay and grass pellets from the Netherlands which is so much more expensive than Venezuela. A 40ft container costs **E6,500.-** for sea freight, then the hay is **E6,845.-** In addition we have to pay the import duty of **\$2,200** per container and we buy a container every month! Huge amounts of money. It is easy to underestimate how much food is required for our 770+ donkeys.

We are particularly frustrated by the imposition of an import duty, which appears to be arbitrarily levied upon us. The Bonaire farmers, the local Agricultural Association and even the Flamingo Shelter do not pay import duty on animal and bird feed. We have made several requests for an exemption, but have been

turned down each time. According to the Customs people we do not fall under livestock farming, nor does it count that we are a bona-fide non-profit organization! Try to figure that one out. Even the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Carola Schouten, who visited the Island some time ago was unwilling to consider our request. We are still wondering whose department we fall under!!

We plan to start a petition to reverse this unfair and seemingly discriminatory levy and will be in touch with you again soon to explain how you can help us bring the situation into the spotlight. Will you help us?





15 fun facts about donkeys:

1. A donkey is stronger than a horse of the same size
2. Donkeys can see all four of their feet at the same time
3. Donkeys can vary hugely in size, from 26 inches to 68 inches tall
4. A donkey's bray can carry up to 60 miles in the desert
5. Donkeys have incredibly efficient digestive systems, utilising 95% of what they eat
6. Donkeys don't like being in the rain for long periods as their fur is not waterproof
7. Donkeys have been used as working animals for at least 5,000 years and they are still a lifeline to families in parts of Europe, Asia, Africa and South America
8. Healthy donkeys can live well into their 50s
9. A blind donkey will often bond with a seeing donkey who will act as their guide
10. Donkeys can be a calming influence on other animals
11. Donkeys are very clever with a keen sense of curiosity
12. Donkeys are not stubborn but can be reluctant to do anything that might be unsafe - they consider situations before deciding what to do
13. Donkeys are extremely nimble and can cross tricky terrain
14. Donkeys are very sociable and form strong bonds - you will often see pairs of best friends within a herd
15. Donkeys are different to horses in their physiology, communication, thinking and behaviour - they do their best with other donkeys as companions





Little Max & Lewis

Little Max came in as an orphan on October 4 (World Animal Day). He was found on the street, very weak and with foam around his mouth. We had to tube feed him immediately until we could take him to the vet the following day where he received vitamins and a fluid infusion. Marina couldn't get him to take the bottle, and she was puzzled because we had raised 350 foals with bottle feeding. Nothing was found even after an x-ray of his head, but we did discover a wound under his lower jaw. When we cleaned it out, a hole was discovered near his throat, so he was unable to suck properly. After 5 days of Marina tube feeding him, day and night, he became stronger, and eventually started to drink from a bottle.

Every day, under supervision, he is allowed to run around our special care meadow, and in the afternoon we walk him on a leash to meet the other donkeys so that he can soon integrate with the herd. Max is a brave little man and he'll have a nice and happy life in our Sanctuary.

A couple of weeks after we rescued Max, we were called to help a beautiful little donkey who had been hit by a car.

We had been to this accident site a few days earlier to try and catch a mom and her baby who were being chased by a large group of stallions. We were unsuccessful in catching them, so we were really upset to be called back because her foal had been injured. Lewis was about four weeks old and had injuries to his shoulder and leg from the accident.

Despite spending 5 hours trying and 5 men helping, we were still unable to catch mom, so we had no option but to bring little Lewis to the Sanctuary without her, as he was weak and in a lot of pain, so we couldn't leave him behind. We hate to do this, but he is receiving a lot of love from us and we are happy to report that he is doing well. His wounds are healing and he is drinking from the bottle. We hope he will soon be able to play with Max.



This is little Max now!



Lewis





HELP! Our Fence is broken

After 11 years, the fencing around the Sanctuary is breaking down from the effects of the sun and the nitric acid in the air. This is plastic coated wire mesh, and it is disintegrating and rusting. We desperately need new fencing to keep the donkeys in and dogs, goats and other animals out. Donkeys are territorial and do not tolerate intruders on their property. It is a critical situation and we would like to take care of it ASAP.

We are now experts in fencing, and have had a good experience with LESTA fencing around our special care meadow, senior's meadow and the feeding area. This is a solid, sturdy, galvanized product that is expected to last at least 20 years. The plan is to install it inside the existing fence throughout the park to provide an extra strong buffer. Our recent appeal has allowed us to purchase 3750 meters of material which is now on its way to Bonaire, and we have a commitment from the military to help us in December with installation. But, we still need another 750 meters to finish the job!

Anyone who sponsors 10 meters or more will be honored with a name plaque attached to our Tree of Fame in a prominent spot on the grounds. 10 meters with mounting material costs E400 or \$480. Companies are also invited to participate and we are happy to provide an ANBI letter for tax deduction purposes.

All donations, however small, are very much appreciated and you will be mentioned on our website and Facebook page.

For more information, message us on Facebook or email us at donkeypalapa@gmail.com

Major sponsors who help us and have helped with our fencing deserve a spot in the spotlight!

Foundation Shelter the Donkey Society
Morning Hour Foundation
Abri for Animals Foundation
The Worthy Animal Foundation
SPCA International
Lisa & Richard Mann
Chuck & Lisa McKenna
Nijhof Human and Animal Foundation
FamFonds Jan Waal Foundation
Dinamo Fund
Saan Foundation

Thank you all!

**Please help us raise the money
for the final 500 meters!**





We have several ways you can donate:

Option 1: Go Fund Me

You can donate via the below Go Fund Me link.
You can pay via Paypal or credit card.

<http://gofund.me/20535dc1>

Option 2: PayPal

With PayPal you can transfer and receive money online quickly and easily.

Pay online

To transfer money, all you need is the recipient's e-mail address. For us, that is:

Hulpvoorezels@gmail.com.

Log in to your account at www.paypal.nl or on the PayPal mobile app and click Money Transfer and Payment Requests.

All you need to do is select an option and enter the recipient's email address and amount. The money is deposited into the recipient's account, who can transfer it to their bank account or use it for an online payment. Opening a PayPal account is free and there are no recurring fees.

Option 3: Donaties in dollars

You can donate dollars on our local bank account

Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire
rekeningnummer 10878904
t.n.v. Stichting Donkeys Help
Swift: MCBKBQBN

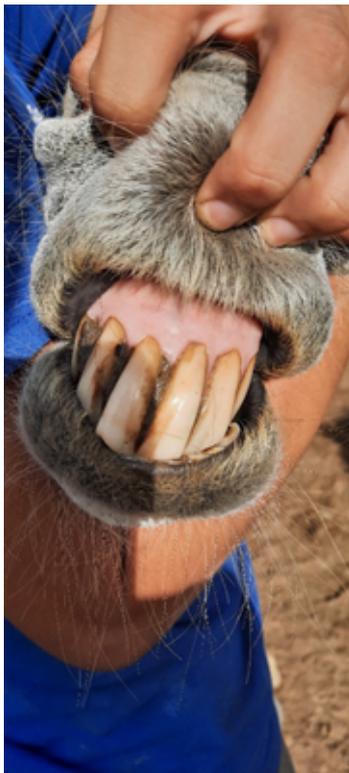




Show me your teeth!

You can tell the age of a donkey by his teeth. So we know we have some VERY old donkeys in our senior meadow. At least 10 are between 35-45 years old, and we recently lost dear Smokey who we believe was over 50.

Our elderly donkeys feel safe in their own quiet meadow, they are regularly fed and have ample drinking water. Medical care is available if necessary and the occasional brushing is always welcomed. We wish all elderly donkeys could live out their days in an environment like this.





New entrance sign!

Our new entrance sign is ready and this design is made by **Deviate Design** on Bonaire and printed with the help of Bert van Doren our friend in Holland and

the printing service done by TVE in Holland. Thank you very much to all who helped us with this beautiful entrance sign, we are very happy.





Donkey facts!

At the time of writing, we have 771 donkeys in our care. How do we know this? We recently micro-chipped everyone! It was an all-day job, but we finally got it done.



Donkeys are very curious creatures and they like to stick their cute heads into everything to see what is going on – especially when it comes to food!



The first feeding of the day is at 7.30 am. First, the special care meadow (moms, foals and those feeling under the weather), then the donkeys in the park and finally our seniors in their special place.



When you visit us by car at the Sanctuary, you will be followed around by several donkeys, all trying to put their heads into your car. Leave your windows open completely for lots of donkey kisses and great close-ups!





Help the donkeys!

To care for the hundreds of donkeys in the sanctuary and to provide medical care to donkeys in distress, obviously money is needed.

Donkey sanctuary Bonaire(Donkeys help)is a small, registered and non profit making organisation. The sanctuary is dependent entirely upon donations, gifts and the work of volunteers.

Are you willing to help us to go on caring for the donkeys on Bonaire? For instance, come and pay us a visit at the sanctuary.The entrancefee will completely benefit their care.

All other profits such as sales of drinks and souvenirs, will be used entirely for the care and upkeep of hundreds of these adorable donkeys.

However there are many more ways to support the sanctuary. For instance you can adopt a donkey. You will then receive an adoption certificate and a picture of the donkey of your choice. A one off donation is, ofcourse, very much appreciated.

Maybe your company is willing to sponsor us or to donate goods? And also if you have any other ideas as how to support these gentle creatures the Sanctuary will love to hear from you.

We need all the help we can get!



Read more news?

We send out a newsletter twice a year. But ofcourse a lot happens year round at our Donkey Sanctuary.

Would you like to keep up to date with The Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire?

Please follow us on Facebook: @DonkeySanctuary

For donations in US dollars:

Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire
Account number: 10878904 in the name of Stichting Donkeys Help
Swift: MCBKBQBN

For donations in Euros:

ING Bank Nederland
IBAN: NL 82 INGB 0003921224
t.n.v. Mevrouw M.M. Melis - inzake Donkeys Help
Swift: INGBNL2A

Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire

P.O. Box # 331,
Bonaire

