

DONKEY SANCTUARY BONAIRE **NEWSLETTER** *June 2026*



***Dear sponsors, adoptive parents, and
followers of our Sanctuary***

Ed and I, together with my regular helpers Genaro and Suuz, would once again like to thank you for all the support we have received, which enables us to continue our work. We would also like to thank the volunteers, interns, Bianca for all their help over the past six months, Suuz for creating this newsletter, and Deviate Creative Studio for the layout and design of this newsletter.

Many of you follow us on Instagram and Facebook and are therefore well informed about everything happening in and around the Sanctuary and about the well-being of the donkeys. You also know how many donkeys continue to live with us permanently.

Unfortunately, even the National Ombudsman, who is helping us obtain answers to our letters, has still not received a response to the many letters we, as Donkeys Help, have sent to the OLB. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful and determined for the sake of all the donkeys.

Thank you all so much, and please continue to support us. Greetings from all of us, and enjoy reading this newsletter.



***Love,
Marina & Ed***

EXPECTING!

Over the past year, several mares have been brought to us, each with their own story. We have now discovered that five of these ladies are pregnant! Marjo, Lif, Nela, Katniss, and Nunka are all expecting their foals within approximately the next six months. To give them peace, quiet, and extra care, these ladies will soon be moved from the care pasture to our special maternity pastures, where they can safely await the arrival of their little ones.



Of course, we will keep you updated on all the baby news through our social media channels and in the next newsletter!



Follow us on
social media



ORPHANS

In the previous newsletter, you could already read about little Bea. She really had to get used to us at first, but after quite a struggle, we thankfully managed to get her drinking milk properly. She has since grown into a beautiful young lady!

A month later, we received another report about a lonely foal. This little boy was named Finnick and was immediately lovingly taken in by Bea.

After that, unfortunately, things did not stay quiet... One foal after another lost its mother and ended up with us. In January we welcomed Ralph, in February Sammy, and in March Oro.

On May 10th, our newest orphan arrived. On Mother's Day, his mother was sadly hit and killed by a car. The foal was lying asleep beside her when concerned passersby called us. Fortunately, we were able to pick him up quickly. He too was immediately welcomed with love by the other orphans and is now drinking his milk well. We named him Maron.

And Bea? In the meantime, she blossomed into a true big sister and made sure all her new "little brothers" immediately felt at home.

Finnick, Oro, Ralph, Sammy en Bea



RECENTLY RESCUED

Gorda & Chiquita

Recently, we received a report about a mare that had been attacked by dogs. She was wandering around together with her foal. Thanks to the alertness of the woman who called us, we were able to safely bring mother and daughter to the sanctuary.

Mama donkey, who we named Gorda, has severe injuries on her hindquarters and is currently being intensively treated by the veterinarian. Her recovery will still take weeks to months, but with lots of love, rest, and proper care, we expect that she will make a full recovery.

Of course, daughter Chiquita remains safely by her side. Together, they will now be able to live the rest of their lives safely with us at the sanctuary!



Gorda & Chiquita

Domingo

On Sunday, May 17th, we received a report about a donkey that had been hit by a car. Despite an extensive search, we were unable to find him that afternoon because he had fled into the bushes.

The following morning, we received a call from a lady saying the donkey was standing in her garden! We immediately went there and were able to catch this sweet young boy, who is about one and a half years old. Fortunately, the veterinarian determined that nothing was broken, but he had suffered a heavy blow to his knee and had several abrasions.

He is now safely staying in our stable because he needs several weeks of stall rest. With a sturdy bandage around his knee and lots of love and attention, he is now receiving all the care he needs to recover well. We have named him Domingo.



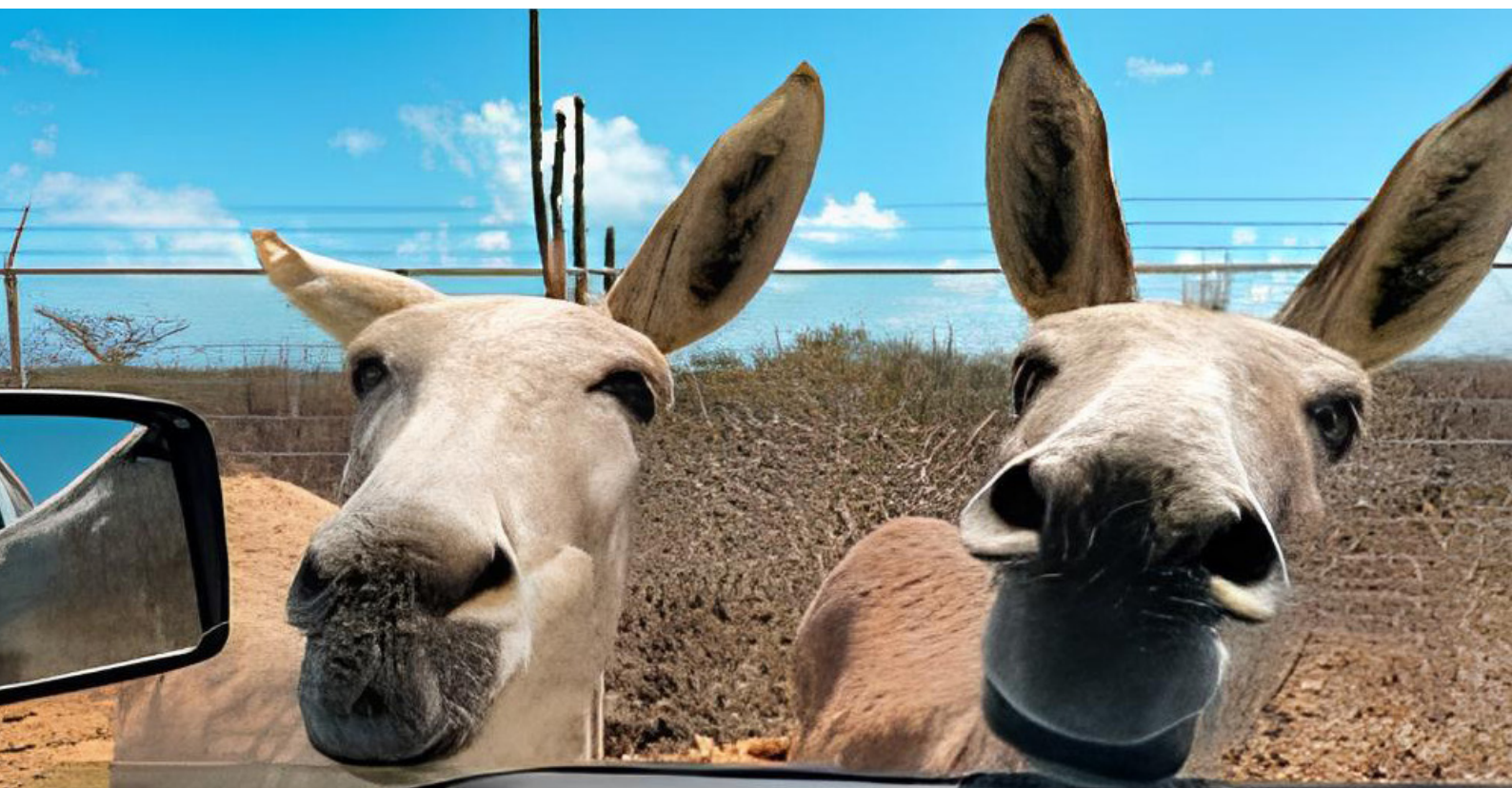
Domingo

RECENTLY RESCUED

Nunka

On Tuesday, May 26th, we received a report about an injured mare. She was most likely hit by a car, which caused a serious wound in her armpit area. Fortunately, we were able to lure her into a garden and catch her safely. She was immediately examined by the veterinarian and received a tetanus shot and antibiotics.

Attentive readers may already have seen her name mentioned in the "Expecting!" section, because this lady is also heavily pregnant. That is why we immediately placed her in the maternity pasture, where she can recover peacefully while awaiting the arrival of her foal.



DID YOU KNOW...



We are currently caring for no fewer than 839

We have fed 126,000 kilos of donkey pellets and 128,000 kilos of hay over the past six months?

We called the veterinarian 32 times in six months?

5 new shade roofs and 10 new hay feeders have been installed?

No foals were born in the past six months, but 5 orphan foals were taken in and 6 mares with foals were rescued from the streets?



Here are currently 5 pregnant donkeys staying in our care pasture?

Another 16 donkeys have already moved to the large park?



We now post a Donkey Tinder on our social media channels every week?

DONKEYS MOVING TO THE LARGE PARK

As you could already read above, another 16 donkeys have moved from the care pasture to the large park. Donkeys that are healthy, strong, and independent enough are allowed to enjoy even more space and freedom there.

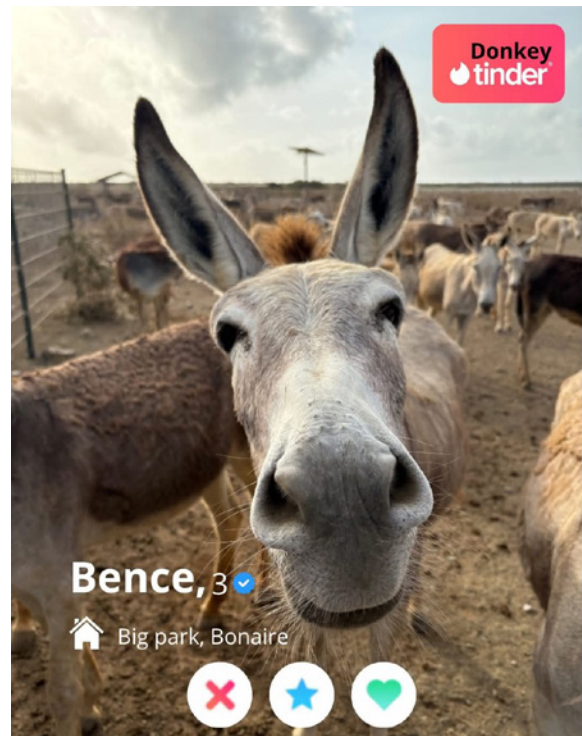
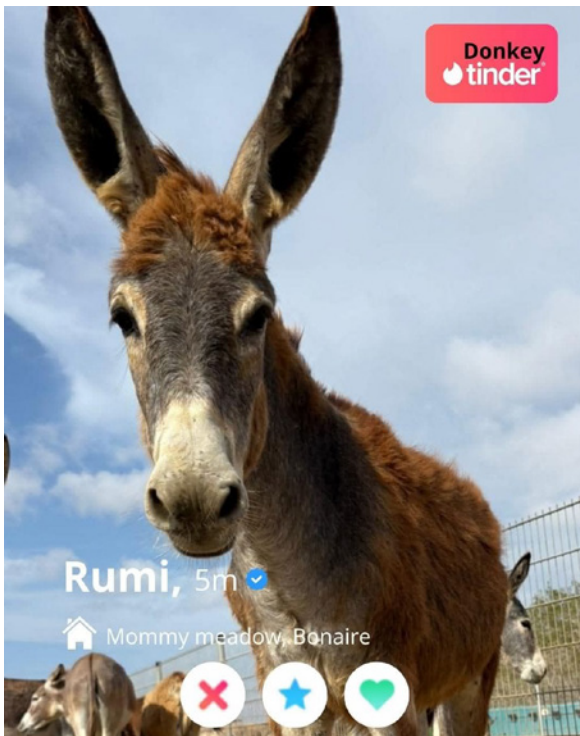
Among them are Amor, Lux, Elaine, Ethan, Sanna, Zayn, Priya, Adya, Eros, Nani, Linja, and Sira, who have already discovered their new home.

DONKEY TINDER

For the past several weeks, we have been posting a real Donkey Tinder every week! With a funny "dating profile," we put one donkey in the spotlight each week. This allows us to show just how unique our donkeys are. After all, they each have their own story and personality, ranging from insecure and cautious to cuddly and wonderfully mischievous.

The goal? To find someone who will "swipe right" on a donkey and choose to adopt one of our lovely donkeys from a distance.

Have you been following along every week already? And perhaps you've already "matched" with one or more of our donkeys?



FEEDING HAY FROM YOUR PICKUP

Do you drive a pickup truck? Then for only \$25 you can buy a bale of hay and feed the donkeys yourself! In the park, we have created 8 special parking spots where you can park and feed the donkeys directly from the back of your truck. A wonderful experience for young and old!



THANK YOU NOTES

Play cones

On Valentine's Day we made a call to make the donkeys happy with play cones... and what a success it was! Piles of cones were ordered and we have already received many colourful cones that the donkeys can enjoy playing with.

On behalf of all the donkeys: a huge thank you to everyone who contributed!



Thank you to our sponsors

We would like to give special thanks to a few wonderful sponsors:

ZIINN:

ZIINN sponsors a large number of donkeys every year, and does so for the rest of their lives. Thanks to their structural support, we are able to provide medical care, ensure sufficient food, and create a safe environment for our donkeys. Through their involvement, they directly contribute to the welfare and future of the donkeys on Bonaire.



Dutch Farm International:

Thanks to the structural support of Dutch Farm International, we have access to essential medical supplies such as deworming medication, wound spray, and eye ointments. These products are indispensable for the daily care and recovery of our donkeys and directly contribute to their health and well-being. This allows us to act quickly and effectively in case of health issues and give our donkeys the care they deserve.



Rosa underwear

With Rosa Underwear we have a special and creative collaboration. They donated a wonderful special edition of beach towels, with two beautiful designs, made from recycled material and quick-drying. These towels are not only practical and sustainable, but also carry our story. The entire proceeds go to our donkeys, meaning every purchase directly contributes to their care.



Wall of fame

Would you also like to contribute to a safe future for all our donkeys? Become an annual sponsor for €2,500 per year and receive your own plaque on our Wall of Fame with your name or company name on it.

Thank you note

In addition, we would like to thank everyone who helps us in any way to provide the best possible care for our donkeys. Whether by visiting our park, sharing our posts, donating, or adopting a donkey from a distance—you all make an enormous difference together!



Make the donkeys happy, Donate!

INGB Bank (Netherlands)

IBAN: NL 82 INGB 0003921224

t.a.v. M.M. Melis – Inzake Donkeys Help

Bic: INGBNL2A

Maduro & Curiels Bank (Bonaire)

10878904 Stichting Donkeys Help

Bic/swift: MCBKBQBN

Pay Pal

hulpvoorezels@gmail.com

Geef Gratis

www.geef.nl/nl/doneer?charity=6211



Adopteer een ezel!

Voor \$175 per jaar kunt u ons helpen door een ezel te adopteren, u kiest de ezel (of de ezel kiest u!) dan kunnen de papieren ingevuld worden en ontvangt u uiteindelijk een certificaat, een mooie foto en een adoptie pasje van de gekozen ezel! Ook ontvangt u 2 keer per jaar de nieuwsbrief, en na dat jaar hopen we natuurlijk dat u "uw kind" nog een jaartje wilt adopteren maar u bent niks verplicht.



Once again, we'd like to thank all our sponsors, donors, and visitors for your support, donations, and visits to our donkeys!

We hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter once again.

Want to read more news?

You receive our newsletter twice a year – but of course, there's always much more happening at the donkey sanctuary!

Would you like to stay more regularly updated on the daily life and stories of the donkeys on Bonaire? Then follow us on Facebook: @DonkeySanctuary

Help the donkeys!

Caring for more than 800 donkeys at our sanctuary – and providing emergency medical help to those in need – requires funding. Stichting Donkeys Help is a non-profit organization that relies entirely on donations, gifts, and the incredible work of volunteers and interns.

By visiting us, you're already supporting the donkeys – 100% of your entrance fee goes directly toward their care. All other income, like drinks and souvenir sales, also goes entirely to benefit our hundreds of sweet donkeys.

You can also adopt a donkey! You'll receive a fun adoption certificate and a photo of the donkey you've chosen. You're welcome to visit your adopted donkey as often as you like – without paying an entrance fee. With each adoption, we're able to provide a donkey with a full year of water, food, and medical care.

Of course, any donation is greatly appreciated – or maybe your company would like to sponsor us or donate materials?

Are you interested in volunteering or doing an internship as part of an animal care study? Then please get in touch with us!

Any help for the donkeys is more than welcome!

We are incredibly proud of our sponsor, Dutch Farm.
Thanks to your support, our donkeys stay healthy and happy.
A heartfelt thank you for your generosity!

DutchFarm
INTERNATIONAL



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

For reporting donkeys in distress on Bonaire, we are of course available by phone 24 hours a day!
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