

Policy Document



Stichting Salba Nos Burico
(Donkey Sanctuary Aruba)

	Page
Policy Document	
1. Introduction	2
2. Objectives, explanation and elaboration	3
3. Future projects and their importance	8
4. Financing projects, gaining income and fundraisings	9
5. Management and capital expenditure	11
Other information	12

1. Introduction

Stichting Salba Nos Burico, also known as 'Donkey Sanctuary Aruba' (DSA), was founded on April 14, 1997.

The main reason for establishing this foundation was to create a safe habitat for donkeys, where they would receive good care (nutrition as well as medical care) and attention. Before, roaming donkeys were often found badly hurt or even dead along the side of the road due to traffic accidents; they posed a danger for humans as well as for themselves. Now and then there were also cases of badly abused and mistreated donkeys; a fate that no animal should befall. The immediate cause for establishing the foundation was a specific case where children poured boiling water onto a foal. In 1994 the foundation took this foal in; he is still with us, enjoying life at the sanctuary. His name is Ban Ban.

The foundation is a non-profit organization and daily chores are mainly done by volunteers. The manager and one employee are on the foundation's payroll.

The daily chores consist of:

Feeding the donkeys, cats, chickens and peacocks.

Cleaning and filling the water troughs in the stables, the main area and the paddocks.

Cleaning out the stables.

Clearing the main area of donkey poop.

If necessary, cleaning wounds and/or administering medication as well as assisting the vet.

Checking whether all the donkeys are healthy; when they are not eating they are sick. Putting sick or lame donkeys in separate enclosures (which can be locked) and report this to the manager.

Walking around the entire area to check all the donkeys.

Cleaning (dusting and sweeping) the visitors' center.

When a tour with tourists comes in, welcome them and show them around. Also provide information about the history of donkeys on the island and about the donkeys themselves.

Inform the guests in which ways they could support/help fund the sanctuary.

Selling souvenirs or drinks and recording these transactions in the cash register.

Cleaning the store, bar, bathrooms and garbage cans.

Stocking the store and bar.

2. Objectives, explanation and elaboration

The objectives of the foundation are:

1. Create awareness within the Aruban population of the role that donkeys have played in the history of the island and about its roaming donkeys nowadays.
2. Admission of and care for sick and weak donkeys as a result of wounds, illnesses, negligence and abuse. Also to make traffic safer.
3. Prevention of inbreeding through castration of all Aruban stallions and introduction of a restricted breeding program to preserve the Aruban donkeys. Initiate a breeding program with 'new blood' from neighboring islands/countries.
4. Prevent the extinction of the Aruban donkey and create a safe and healthy environment for them, where they may enjoy a good and dignified existence.

Explanation and elaboration of the objectives:

Objective 1

The history of the donkey on Aruba:

More than 500 years ago, the Spaniards introduced the Nubian Donkey, *Equus Asinus*, to Aruba and its surrounding islands from the Mediterranean. About 2000 years ago donkeys were first used as beasts of burden. They were used along the Silk Route, which ran from China to the Mediterranean.

Donkeys carried silk for traders, who exchanged this for other goods. It was a long and tough journey, which was 6400 kilometers long. Such a journey would take several years. That was the reason why a donkey could not complete the full route. Along the way unplanned couplings led to cross-breeding and that was the start of the diversity in donkey specimens that we still know today. The journey finished in the harbors of the Mediterranean in Greece, Italy, the Middle East and the Egyptian city Alexandria.

Donkeys are desert animals – they can survive without water for four days, if necessary. The big ears serve as radiators and prevent their body temperature from rising too high.

They are clever and faithful animals, who have adapted well to the climate and flora on Aruba.

On Aruba donkeys have been used as beasts of burden and means of transportation for many years; thus they used to play an important role in the Aruban economy until they became superfluous when the automobile was introduced. Then donkeys were set free; in the beginning they could take care of themselves very well indeed.

2. Objectives, explanation and elaboration

There are still several small groups of roaming donkeys, known to the foundation, that still live in the wild. They can be found in the neighborhoods Seroe Colorado, Savaneta/Seroe Alejandro and Jamanota. Among them are two donkeys that escaped from the sanctuary a few years back. They continually roam between Bringamosa and Alto Vista. When these wild donkeys are hurt or sick, they are caught and treated. Our intention is to catch all wild donkeys, as inbreeding and the disappearance of their ultimate piece of habitat, are posing problems. At this time a hotel resort is being built at Seroe Colorado and more projects for hotels are in the planning. All of the above will have a negative impact on the donkeys that are still living in this area.

Another negative influence is the food that these donkeys are given. People may be well-meaning, but this food is not what donkeys should be eating – sometimes they get chicken nuggets and sweets.

Two disadvantages of this are:

1. The donkeys are too chubby. That is why many mares have died during giving birth. The foal or filly will die too then. The last case of this (in 2019) was when the foal weighed 22 kilos at birth. Normally the weight is around 15 kilos. This foal was stuck in the birth canal and the mother suffered severe internal injuries – she could not get up any more and died eventually.
2. The donkeys have become domesticated and stray towards the middle of the road, posing a threat to traffic.

Catching a wild donkey is not an easy task, because they roam in places where they are hard to catch.

During a visit to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba, our visitors (local as well as international) are told about the history and survival of the donkey on the island. Donkey Sanctuary Aruba is open 7 days a week, 364 days a year, from 9 am until 4 pm; annually we welcome 28,000 people, according to our records of 2019. Most visitors are foreigners - many locals come to take a peek during the weekends or holidays.

Starting March 2020 our numbers have dropped drastically due to the decline in the number of visitors to Aruba because of the Covid-19 measures.

The foundation also visits schools, teaching children about the history of donkeys on the island and their survival. Schools come and visit the sanctuary around World Animal Day, helping us clean and feed the donkeys. After that they are told ins and outs about the donkey in general, what kind of animal it is, which specifics it has, what it eats and what its habits are. We also tell them about the donkeys' roots.

2. Objectives, explanation and elaboration

Objective 2

The foundation started off with 10 donkeys, of whom 5 are still alive in 2020. From 1997 on a total of 171 donkeys have found shelter with us; 121 are alive at this time. Fifty donkeys have died from old age, illnesses or from the results of car accidents. Our youngest donkey is around 4 years old and the oldest more or less 35.

The first care facility/sanctuary was built at Santa Lucia in 1997 (on an area of 15,000 m²) – small-scale and built with wood.

In 2000 the sanctuary moved to its new location at Bringamosa (22,500 m²), at first just to give the donkeys more space to roam. In 2006 it was decided to make Bringamosa our main location and an official request was sent in to get the terrain registered in the name of the foundation. It took ten years before everything was in order and the move to Bringamosa could take place. The size of the terrain was enlarged to 40,000 m².

Bringamosa is a lot larger than the sanctuary in Santa Lucia. The visitors' center is 280 m², while the visitors' center in Santa Lucia was just 60 m².

At the start of 2020 the outside of the visitors' center got pimped with a wonderful mural after the walls had been painted during the annual volunteering project 'Aruba Doet'.

At Bringamosa the animals have enough space to run around, which is beneficial for their digestion. The stables are more spacious and a feeding corridor has been built. There are separate areas for donkeys who need more food and for those who need less. Everything has been built with galvanized steel: more expensive but it lasts a lot longer and does not need to be replaced every year like wood.

In its first few years of existence, the foundation only accepted wounded and sick donkeys, but as more and more people came to live on the island, more accidents with donkeys occurred. That is why a more rigorous program for sheltering donkeys was decided upon.

All sick or hurt donkeys that come in receive quality care from our veterinarian, who is associated with the sanctuary. Moreover, every donkey gets micro chipped, gets an annual shot against tetanus and they are dewormed. If necessary, they also get nutritional supplements.

The micro chip corresponds with the name of the donkey in our data base and with its medical history, registered in the vet's system. Thus the donkey may be 'read' by everyone with a micro chip reader, should the manager (who knows every donkey by name) not be present. This is important for medical reasons and the breeding program, for instance.

2. Objectives, explanation and elaboration

Objectives 3 and 4

From the start it was decided to castrate every stallion that comes in, as there had been just a very small genetic pool of 20 donkeys in the 1970's. That is the reason why there is so much inbreeding among the donkeys. This translates into a chronic infection inside the ears, joint problems (infections) and an under- or overbite of the teeth.

Through introducing a healthy stallion on Aruba, we can start a new blood line with the female donkeys who are still fertile and declared healthy by the vet. It takes ten generations before a healthy donkey may be born. A female donkey is ready for reproduction when she is 4 years old. The gestation period is 11 to 14 months, so this might result in new foals and fillies every 5 years. In 2016 a first start was made for a limited breeding program with a stallion from Curaçao, but unfortunately he proved infertile.

The plan to import two healthy stallions from Bonaire to start up a limited breeding problem is scheduled for 2020/2021 – depending on corona restrictions, of course. We hope that in a few years' time new stallions will be able to procreate.

In the coming months we shall work on the steps that need to be taken for this and what this might cost, how it might be financed out of our own funds or via an extra fundraising. It will involve travel and accommodation of the attendants, transportation fees from Bonaire to Aruba - when there is no direct journey possible, via Curaçao, so these fees there should also be included in the cost. Veterinary services, extra visits during the gestation period and much more should be included as well. We also should take into account that we might lose donkeys to old age.

2. Objectives, explanation and elaboration

Another objective, just as important

Beside the main objectives mentioned above, the foundation is also involved in the project 'European Solidarity Corps'. The 'European Solidarity Corps' is the new initiative of the European Union, which allows young people to work as volunteers abroad or at home, doing projects which are beneficial to communities and people in Europe.

The Donkey Sanctuary Aruba has been accredited for the European Solidarity Corps and it has been financed by the European Union. The organization works together with Erasmus+, another youth program of the European Union. With this organization the foundation allows young adults to better themselves and get a second chance in life as well as a chance to get experience and learn about other cultures, sometimes in the form of an internship. This way they may get insight in who they are what they would like to do in life.

The foundation has already seen fantastic results. Before the foundation was accredited, Donkey Sanctuary Aruba has had more than 6 years of experience working together with the English organization 'Everything is Possible', a similar project. Because a limited subsidy was available, the foundation built two apartments with four beds, a bathroom and kitchen on the premises, on top of the visitors' center, with a donation of CEDE Aruba early 2020. Now all volunteers for Donkey Sanctuary Aruba, not only the volunteers and students mentioned above, can come to Aruba on their own initiative, where they will be accommodated. The volunteer/student will need to pay his/her own flight, pay for food and drink out of the available budget, but accommodation and transportation will be taken care of by Donkey Sanctuary Aruba. In 2020 the foundation bought a car for these volunteers/students – accommodation as well as transportation will thus need to be shared by a maximum of four persons. For more information about this, please view our website:

<http://main.arubandonkey.org/portal/index.php/volunteers/volunteers-and-apartments>

The above is a win-win situation for the foundation. In this way the foundation gives young people a chance in life and they help the foundation by caring for the 120+ donkeys. It is always a struggle to get volunteers and keep them. Many volunteers are on the island for a limited period of time and they leave for home after a few years.

3. Future projects and their importance

On the foundation's wish list is the construction of a concrete slab surrounding the visitors' center – this will prevent the donkeys taking in too much sand when eating.

The foundation sells buckets with feed for US \$1 and for US\$ 3 instead of an entry fee. The revenue of this was AWG. 21,434 in 2019. When visitors feed the donkeys, food is spilled. The pellets fall into the sand and together with the pellet, the donkey takes in sand. In 2019 a donkey died - he had a ball of sand in his intestines. At first the polished ball looked like a coconut, but it appeared to be sand at a closer look. The ball had blocked his intestines.

There is a high priority for the construction of the concrete slab. It was on the list for 2020, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the obligatory closing of the sanctuary, the foundation has had to postpone its plans. A special fundraising will have to be set up for this project.

For the breeding program a DNA examination is important – one will be able to find out the family ties among the donkeys. A plan will be developed.

When the visitors' center was built in 2016, the foundation furnished a temporary kitchen and store. The plan, still to be developed, is to make these more efficient, keeping the cost and financing in mind. At this time there is no priority for this project.

4. Financing projects, gaining income and fundraisings

The building of the visitors' center could be realized after a special fundraising had been held – this entailed selling Delft Blue tiles with the name of the sponsor. These tiles were fixed onto the inside walls of the visitors' center. The roof could be built after a special donation of 'De Palm Tours' on Aruba.

The improvements such as the feeding corridor, the shaded areas on the terrain, the grate and more have been financed through various fundraisings, such as the annual donkey walk, a bingo, open houses, an SMS action, the sale of the calendar and a raffle with prizes, donated to the foundation. Donations are gratefully received from abroad, especially large amounts from businesses and inheritances. Other donations are received from abroad from Stichting DierenLot in the Netherlands and Donkey Sanctuary United Kingdom.

Local supermarket 'SuperFood' has initiated a fundraising for a monthly changing charity of choice, where each client may donate at the cash register for a specific charity. Together with an added amount of money, the amount is donated to the charity. The Donkey Sanctuary has been fortunate to be a recipient as well.

Via social media, such as the Facebook page and Instagram, interested parties are informed and brought up to date about the daily happenings and state of affairs. The foundation has received several very positive ratings on Trip Advisor and Google.

Through a program of adoption, 'Friends of the Aruban donkeys', a sponsor- and supporter program, funds are raised, mainly to cover the daily cost of care for the donkeys. Inside the visitors' center there is a small souvenir shop - one may have a drink or eat an ice cream on the terrace.

A visit to the Donkey Sanctuary is also a tourist attraction, mainly for the American visitors, who take up 80 percent of the total of the island's total number of visitors. 54% of the revenue comes from these visitors, who pay for donations and adoptions, so that the foundation had sufficient funds to guarantee the care of the donkeys. Because of the outbreak of Covid-19 (corona) and the obligatory closing in March 2020, this revenue has ceased to come in at first. A promotion video has been made around April/May 2020, which was posted on social media – this gave us some leeway.

The manager is very active and until now very successful in finding persons and organizations willing to support the foundation.

The situation which has come about through corona poses an extra challenge during the pandemic. The more severe the economic recession will be during and after the pandemic, the more difficult it will be to raise funds for the donkeys.

Through special fundraisings, inheritances or large donations, special projects may be realized. The ANBI status plays an important role in this – that is why we are working on getting this status in 2020.

5. Management and capital expenditure

The Donkey Sanctuary Aruba foundation has an up to date financial administration which is kept by the foundation's treasurer. The American accounting software package 'Quickbooks online' is used for this. All financial transactions (income as well as expenditure) are recorded in this. All expenses, which kind and the raising of funds and management of the foundation – encompass all costs, what kind they are and the amount of income and foundation capital of the foundation. The members of the board of the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba do not receive payment or compensation for their activities.

The moneys received are used for the execution of the objectives of the foundation.

At the end of the financial year the treasurer closes the books. Then the financial statements are compiled, consisting of statement of financial position, statement of income and expenses, the notes to the financial statements and the report of the board. The report of the board itself is written together with the manager and the board members. The board weighs and checks the documents, approves the documents via a signature and decharges the treasurer. After the approval the annual report is published on the foundation's website.

Received moneys that have not been spent during a financial year, are added to the funding for future projects, which forms part of the foundation capital of the foundation. This funding not only serve to finance projects, but it also is a buffer for times when there is less income, as is the case during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other information

The Salba Nos Burico foundation (Donkey Sanctuary Aruba) is registered at the Chamber of Commerce of Aruba and the tax authorities. The Chamber of Commerce number is S365.0 and the tax number is PSN 5036094.

The address for visitors is Bringamosa 2-Z, Sta. Cruz, Aruba.
The postal address is Sero Alejandro 6, Savanera, Aruba.
Telephone: (also for emergencies) is +297 5932933

Website:

www.arubandonkey.org

The foundation can be found on Facebook en Instagram under the name of "Donkey Sanctuary Aruba".

The board has 7 board members.

Executive committee:

Jacqueline Boderie-Kik, President

Marina Jones, Secretary

Petra Berben-Roelofs, Treasurer

Other members:

Ricardo Contreras - Oduber (veterinarian)

Esther Melenhorst

Maritza Mottoa Libreros

Sheri Tieleman – Shtogrin

The board members do not receive a salary or compensation for their activities.

`Managing director' Desiree Eldering manages all operational activities of the foundation – she has been appointed by the board and is not a statutory director. The `managing director' receives a salary. Desiree is very active in the organization of fundraising activities and contacting persons and companies that may support the foundation. The foundation has one paid employee on the payroll besides Desiree and there are 25 volunteers.