



### Our donkey sanctuary during the corona crisis

It was a hard time for us as well during the terrible corona lock-down period. It started on March 20th when we had to close the gates to the public. Our employees and volunteers were able to come in with a special permit, so the daily chores of feeding and cleaning could continue, just as the medical care for the donkeys. Despite corona, everything had to go on: there were more than 120 donkeys waiting for the well-known faces of the volunteers and the accompanying food. We were lucky to have more volunteers than normal: people

without jobs came to help us out and to feel useful. At first we hoarded quite a bit of feed. We were afraid that after the closing of the airspace, the boats would stop coming in as well. Containers are not allowed in when the borders are closed. But we were fortunate that things did not turn out so badly, so feeding our donkeys was not a



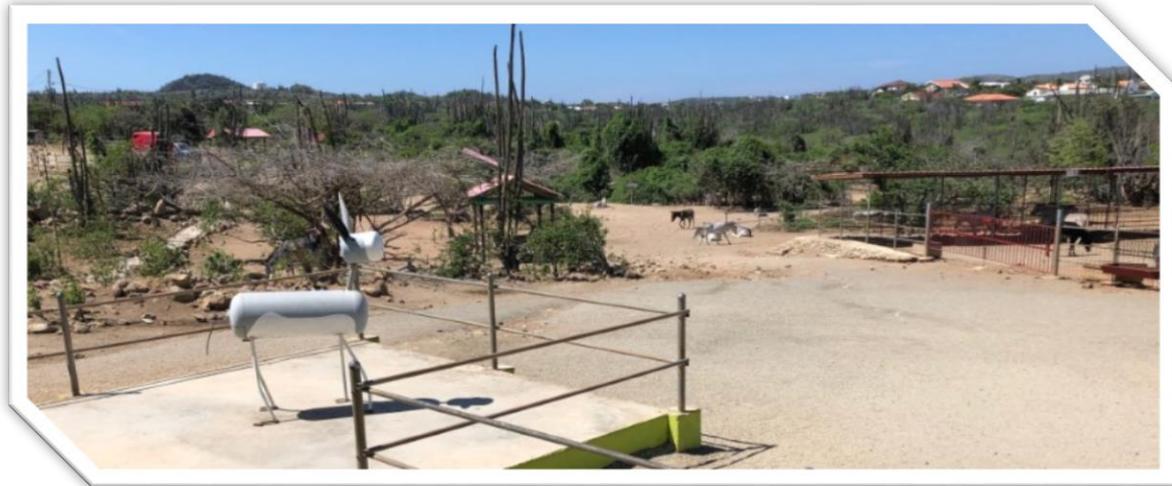
problem at all. The vets could come to the sanctuary with their permits, so their medical health was guaranteed as well. But we noticed that the donkeys started missing their daily visitors a lot. Financially the lock-down proved to be a less succesful story. No visitors means

no donations, no adoptions and no sales. It became very clear that we are counting on this bit of extra income, now more than ever. The government has sponsored us with a once-only amount of about \$ 2200 and a monthly wage compensation. On May 4th we were allowed to open our gates again. But the island was closed for tourists and they form a large part of our visitors and sponsors, so the numbers were not what we were used to.





The organized tours with their financial support did not come either. But up until now we are getting by – the situation is not yet critical, but this situation should not last too long. We have



postponed a number of projects – we needed the money to survive. The projects for which the materials had already been bought, have been finished. All in all we have eaten quite a big bite into our capital and we are happy that we had created an emergency fund during the past few years. We have made a clip in which showcases our problems (<https://youtu.be/6XFuHn6OuWA>). We got quite a lot of response in the form of donations from companies as well as private persons. And that has kept us afloat. In the meantime things are getting a tiny bit back to normal. The hotels on Aruba have an occupancy rate of 15% and our number of visitors is more or less the same.

### **A lot of rain caused a lot of damage**



As soon as we felt that we were getting back on track, a giant downpour surprised us. The roof of the visitor center could not withstand so much pressure and it succumbed. The roofs of the store, the bathrooms and the office need to be replaced. We shall need to build a roof on top of the verandah to prevent leaks in the future. We already knew this was coming, but because of the corona crisis we had postponed the project. We needed the \$ 7.000 to buy donkey feed. Yes, this came at a terribly bad moment. We would like to ask for your help so that we may be able to tackle this project in the near future. Please use the donation button on our website or help us out with any amount on our bank accounts in the Netherlands or on Aruba.

You can find all the necessary information on our website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org). Please....



### How strange life can be...

During the lockdown a sudden demand for donkey manure had us stumped. We did not understand it at all, but money is money, certainly in these difficult times. What was the case? Most people had a lot of spare time and they wanted to start vegetable and fruit tree patches. Donkey manure is the best there is, so we were very happy to supply it! Business is business!



### Our three-legged Kamino



Last year in August a donkey was hit by a car in front of Kamini's Kitchen. We picked up the donkey and took him in. We called him Kamino and sent for the vet. He was operated on his leg and his recovery could start. At least, that is what we thought. Soon it appeared that the leg would not heal and the vet was very clear: either amputate or have Kamino put to sleep. We only take such a decision when everything else has failed, so we chose for amputation. Recently another donkey survived an amputation and he is doing okay. Kamino is a lovely animal, very interested in his surroundings. He eats and drinks well. We are happy that we have opted for amputation – he is already walking around in his enclosure, brays at certain times and he is even winking at the ladies!

### No donkey walk and no calendar



We have decided to cancel our traditional donkey walk, as we were getting fewer and fewer participants. When we started, there were hundreds of participants, but nowadays there are so many 'caminata's' on the island, that our event became too small to organize. It's not worth the effort and the presence of police, volunteers and the required ambulance does not make it a

profitable event. We have also scratched our donkey calendar 2021. We do not wish to knock on the doors of local businesses in these difficult times; we are also scared that there would be too few buyers of the calendars. Let's hope next year things will be different!



### A gorgeous trailer!

The Horses of Hope foundation (horseback riding for the handicapped) has folded. We have received its gorgeous trailer as a donation. The trailer has been painted and it is now sporting our information and logo. So you might spot our fantastic trailer on the Aruban roads – we are very, very happy with it!



### Donkey wash

In our previous newsletter we spoke about our `donkey wash`. We have made progress and the first few donkeys have already discovered the thrill of it. It has taken a while, but now they are enjoying it.

### Apartment for volunteers



In January we started building two apartments on top of the visitor center. These are for volunteers from abroad. They can stay here free of charge during the time that they are helping out at the



sanctuary. More information can be found on our website. The first volunteer has arrived in the meantime: Kerstin Turley from Germany. Welcome!

This project has come to fruition with the help of CEDE Aruba. We try to interest foreign volunteers for a stint on Aruba. It is worth your while to take a peek at our website – we are very proud of it.



### Sneaky becomes Sweetie

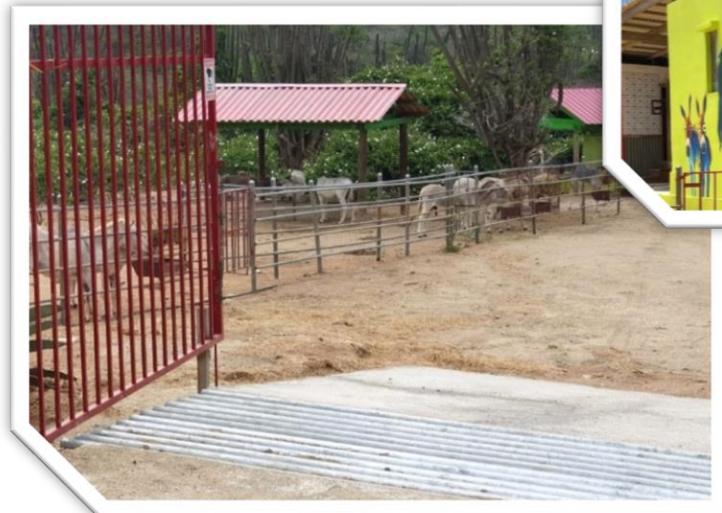


For a while now, a roaming cat has been trying to get into the sanctuary. Of course he is welcome, but he was too scared. We called him Sneaky because of the sneaky ways he tried to enter. But finally we could catch him – he was castrated right away, as is our policy. As soon as he was caught we renamed him Sweetie. And he truly deserves that name: affectionate and very socially adept, he is the perfect roommate. But there is one thing: he absolutely abhors our cat Socks. He really hates him and Sock panicks when he sees him. But clever as cats are, Socks has started sleeping on top of the container, where Sweetie can't reach him...



### Aruba Doet

Last March the activity 'Aruba Doet' was a success: volunteers came to paint and a wonderful floor was put in the visitor center. The walls have gotten a fresh coat of paint and Erika Moran made a fantastic mural after this upgrade. Now it is clear from



the parking lot that we have a visitor center. At the entrance a new sign has been installed, welcoming visitors. The parking lot has more spaces and with the money from SuperFood (super guys) a grid was installed, so when somebody has left the gates unlocked and open, the donkeys cannot escape



## Good news



After the recent months filled with nothing but bad news, we are happy to announce a bit of good news about our Delft Blue tiles. We have now an entire wall of them in the visitor center.



Visitors who bought one, could choose the text. But unfortunately the supplier could not be counted upon and it became a struggle to get them. We therefore had to discontinue this fundraising. So what might be the good news, you ask? Well, we shall be getting a large amount of previously ordered tiles and all the visitors who paid for them in advance will now be able to showcase their personal tile at last. Hurray!