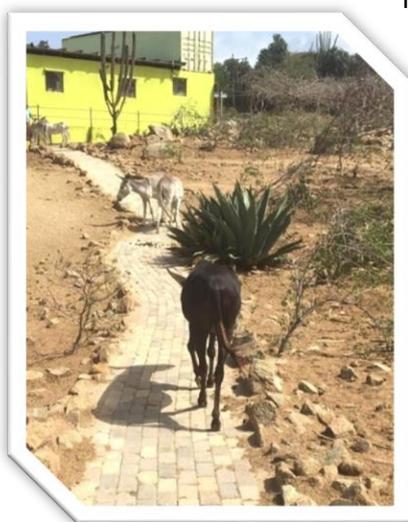




At the finale of the year...

A new path to avoid droppings



In our ongoing urge to build, we have been able to construct a beautiful path from the entrance of the sanctuary to the visitors center. For our visitors it is a great improvement, because where there are donkeys there are droppings. We are cleaning the path regularly, so everyone is happy. Especially for those who have difficulties walking, this path is wonderful. But not only the path is a new addition, also the small houses of our former location have found a new home at our Bringamosa sanctuary. There are now five of these houses for the donkeys

to use whenever it rains or when they are looking for shade.



SuperFood was super!

Our local supermarket SuperFood has initiated a great way to donate to a worthy charity. This charity may showcase itself to the customers during one month and everyone is asked whether they want to make a donation to the charity that has been chosen. Well, we did it! Anneke, Ilonka, Linda, Maritza, Wianne and Annelie have done their utmost, flyering and initiating talks, to get people to donate a bit of money (or more than a bit!). That went really well: even our super donkey Diva was happily cooperating. The efforts have not been in vain: more than AWG. 25.000 (\$ 14,000) was raised.

We are going to use the money to improve our hay supply storage. We need to do that because there are quite a lot of chicken and peacocks, who love to do their sanitary business in our hay.





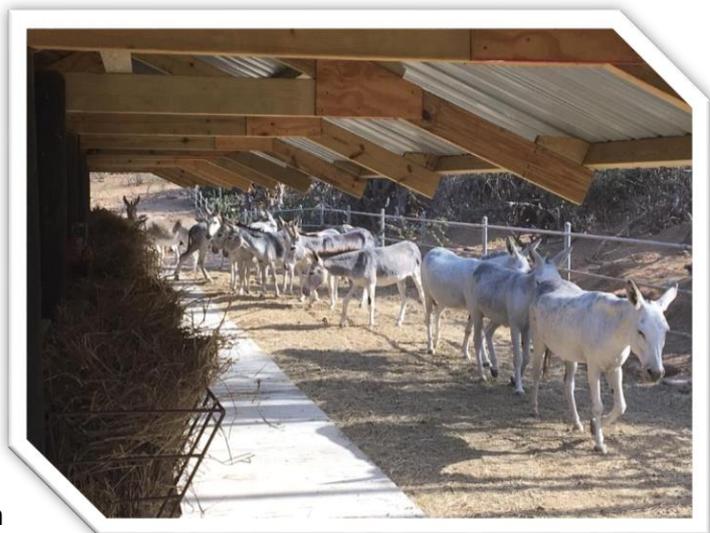
Hi, hi, hay!



That even world politics could be of influence on our donkey sanctuary was new for us. But it did. Political hotshots were fighting and that is why the frontier between Aruba and Venezuela got shut. And Venezuela is the place where our hay has been coming from since decades. We were forced to order hay somewhere else and that cost us dearly. Not only that the hay was more expensive, it proved to be a totally different kind: it was more like Bermuda grass. With exactly the right amount of proteins needed for donkeys. In normal hay there are too many proteins, which may cause problems with their hooves – about ten donkeys were suffering from this. Fortunately, the hotshots became friends again and the frontier opened up again. At the end of August hay from Venezuela arrived on Aruba again. We were so happy to be back to normal, and so were the donkeys!

The new feeding alley

In July we started building a covered feeding alley. First we needed a big bulldozer to level our terrain and after that we could start for real. It took two months and many drops of sweat, but on September 1st we could raise our glasses together. For us there were snacks and drinks, for the donkeys lovely dry hay and kibble. For our volunteers the new alley is perfect, because their job has become a lot easier. And the donkeys can enjoy their dry feed now, protected from rain and shine. We have been able to



realize our dream of a feeding alley thanks to the legacy of Walter and Marijke de Vet-Smeekens and a donation of Stichting Dierenlot. Thank you!



Illness

We know that a number of roaming donkeys are still around on Aruba. It is not a big problem, as they are perfectly capable of surviving in the wild. But things are getting a lot more perilous in the dry season. While searching for water, the donkeys might stray to the inhabited parts of the island, where fierce dogs and busy traffic are very dangerous.

Two visitors of the sanctuary, Anneloes and David, got inspired by our tales about roaming donkeys, and they went to look for them at the end of September. They found a herd near Baby Beach and Seroe Colorado and treated them to carrots, for donkeys a super treat.

But there was one baby donkey that hid away beneath a prickly tree; she did not want any carrots at all., which is a dire sign. The visitors

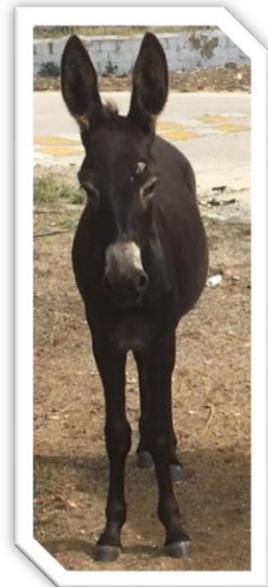
told us the story and we jumped into action, trying to catch her.

That proved to be a life saver, as the baby donkey appeared to be very sick indeed. Straight away we

went to veterinarian Dr. Contreras, where she was admitted. She was so sick that she had to stay in the animal hospital for a week, getting treatment. Vet Ricardo kept a close eye on her, and slowly but surely her health improved. It appeared that she had no

appetite at all because of severe constipation. She still needs lots of extra attention, but we cuddle her a lot and feed her apples and carrots. She is a trooper and a star.

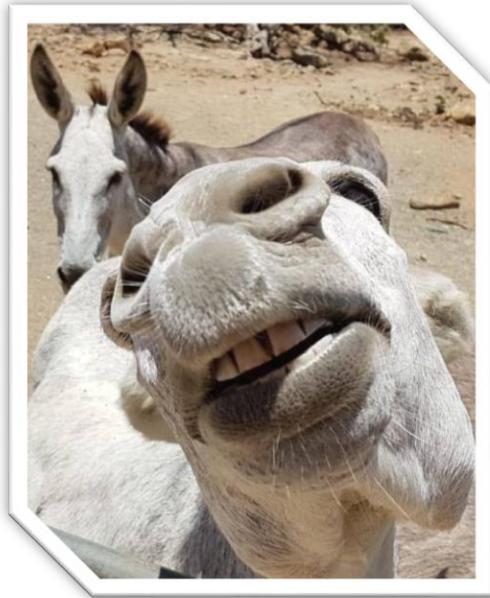
And Anneloes and David? They have adopted this lovely and dear donkey. They named her Gypsy – a fitting name for her, but her roaming days are now in the past.



Our Safe House

At first the area on the left of our parking lot was used to house naughty donkeys, but things went differently. Now it is the place for donkeys who need some extra attention or a bit of private space. They are the animals that are a bit shy and so they are last in line when it comes to feeding. The separate area is good for them – they improve rapidly, are less stressed and we see them gaining some weight again. So that is why we call this part of the sanctuary our Safe House.





Good shots

Isn't it great, this nice picture. Should you have an unusual photo of our donkeys, then we will be happy to put it on our Facebook page. Please give your photo a header and send it to us, then we can all enjoy it.

Flying donkeys

There has been a plan to adopt donkeys from St. Eustatius (just like Aruba part of the Dutch Kingdom). The care of the donkeys there has been suspended through lack of means and



volunteers. Because we are very interested in starting a new blood line, we have been trying to get them to Aruba. But the only way for them to get here was by plane and the cost was enormous. The cost of transportation for four donkeys was \$ 45,000. That is too much, a truly staggering amount of

money. So no donkeys in a plane, no new blood line. Such a pity for Keto, who was eagerly awaiting the arrival of four lovely dames from St. Eustatius.

We had to have him neutered and now he can enjoy the company of the other donkeys again. This may sound a bit cruel, but we need to neuter all Aruban stallions if we want them to live in the big herd. This to prevent inbreeding with its rather nasty results.

We are now going to talk to the people of the shelter in Bonaire (our sister island nearby) to see whether we can get a male donkey from them to start up a new blood line. As several rather large boats and container ships are sailing between the islands, we could ask them to take a nice young donkey along for us. We do need to take good care that the Aruban donkeys will not become extinct.

The 2019 calendar

We've done it again: the 2019 calendar is a success. Gorgeous photos in a terrific lay-out – we'll be professionals next!

There are still a few calendars available, but they are selling out fast. Support our sanctuary and buy one at the sanctuary, SuperFood, veterinarian Contreras, En Vogue Coiffures and Home & Nature! Don't forget!





Pippi Longstocking

We are regularly asked to assist when a sick or wounded donkey is spotted. In the middle of October we received such a distress call. In Savaneta a sick and pregnant donkey was roaming around. She was easy to catch, which pointed to her being in really bad shape. We tried everything possible, but medical assistance came too late. She appeared to carry a 9-month old stillborn baby; six hours after the delivery mother Pippi died as well. We had named her



Pippi Longstocking because of the stripes on her legs (like Somalian donkeys) and we were devastated. The vet did an autopsy, which showed that she could not have been saved: her kidneys did not function and her liver was shot as well. We tried our best, but we could not keep Pippi Longstocking alive.

And finally...

We would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone, young and old, big and small, for your interest and support. Not only in 2018 you were great, but many years before that as well. Without your help we would never have been able to get to where we are now: a large sanctuary, a home for all Aruban donkeys that need it.

We hope to meet you again in 2019

We are waiting for you, every day, from 9 to 4!



Heartfelt wishes for a wonderful and healthy 2019 for our volunteers, sponsors, adoptive parents, fans, friends, visitors and everyone who loves donkeys.