



First of all our best wishes for a wonderful year for all our friends.

Our Donkey Calendar presentation

The first Donkey Calendar 2020 was presented to columnist and publisher Rona Coster by well-known journalist Nico van der Zee. This festive happening took place at the sanctuary and of course there was coffee and cake. Rona had been



selected for this honor because she was instrumental in finding the sponsors who have put a roof on our visitors' center. Her boundless enthusiasm and drive were wonderful. Normally the annual presentation of the calendar is organized by Desiree Eldering, but she was unable to attend, due to illness. Fortunately she found a great stand-in in Nico van der Zee. But not only Desiree, but also the regular photographer of the previous 10 calendars was unavailable. So it was up to various driven amateur- and professional photographers to take pictures of the donkeys and send them in. In the

end 13 fabulous photos, shot by 8 photographers, were selected. A cover and 12 colorful months have captured the essence of our sanctuary. It is an out-and-out Aruban calendar and definitely worth buying. Of course, the calendars are for sale at the sanctuary in Bringamosa, but also at SuperFood supermarket. The entire proceeds go towards the sanctuary, as the publishing cost was covered by the twelve sponsors, mentioned on the calendar. Treat yourself or a friend and support the good work of all our volunteers for the donkeys of Aruba. For just 25 florin you will get a lot of viewing pleasure, so please buy! Don't wait too long, as our stock is getting lower and lower...

Great pictures

Sometimes we receive photos from visitors and friends. And we love to show these to other donkey lovers. This photo was taken by the Aymond family from the USA. Their truck sports a donkey sanctuary number plate. Do you have a great photo? Please send it to us!



Kamino



Last August we received notice about an injured donkey. The stallion had been hit by a car in front of Kamini’s Kitchen restaurant in San Nicolas. We could not find him at first, but the next day, during daylight hours, we found him. Our mission had been successful. One of his legs was badly hurt and an operation was necessary. After the operation, he needed to stay put in his stable, but he healed insufficiently and the vet had to make the difficult decision to amputate. Putting him to sleep was not an option, as Kamino is a sweet, beautiful stallion, whom we would like to stay at the sanctuary for many more years. And fortunately, Kamino is doing well. His name refers to the place where we found him: on the road.

Juanito

Although donkeys are normally nice, friendly animals, there are some exceptions. One of those exceptions was Juanito. His problem is that he bites. No love bites, but serious bites. And why? We would not know. We put Juanito to the left of the parking area at the sanctuary. That area has especially been created for donkeys whom we cannot trust to be nice to the public. But even there Juanito was misbehaving. So he was moved to Desiree’s house, where there are other donkeys with behavioral problems. It took a few weeks before Juanito tried to join the small herd, but nowadays you can spot him eating together with the others. He is still a bit of a loner, but there is definitely improvement compared to the first few weeks, when even a banana could not seduce him to come closer.



Brush street

When searching for items for optimal care for our donkeys we came upon fully automated brushes, a new gimmick from Germany. We bought them and now our donkeys may enjoy an automatic brushing and they will emerge nice and clean. We ourselves had to get used to this phenomenon, but the result is fantastic and a clean donkey is much nicer than a dirty one. So the brush street might become the hottest place to be for the donkeys. We’ll keep you posted. And if you fancy a good brushing: be our guest!





SuperFood

One of our most faithful sponsors has been SuperFood, a fantastic supermarket. Its fundraising for us amounted to thousands of florins, with which we could close off the area of the donkeys' feed. The many peacocks and chickens that were roaming the sanctuary had the unpleasant habit to use our hay as a toilet. That contaminated the hay and that was unhealthy for the donkeys. But that is in the



past now. And where do the peacocks and chickens now do their business, you may ask? We don't care...

Bed without breakfast

One of these days we will start building two apartments on top of the Visitors' Center. This to make life easier for our international volunteers. For them, it is difficult to find reasonably cheap housing on the island. But when the apartments are finished, there will be space for four volunteers. We are going to try and get volunteers via European Solidarity Corps (Erasmus+) as well as via a tour operator that organizes vacations for volunteers. Everyone who wishes to come and work at the sanctuary for a longer period of time, will be able to stay with us free of charge. Volunteers will need to pay their ticket, meals and transportation. Would you know anyone who would be interested? Please call Desiree at +297-5932933. The apartments will be ready in March.



Sad notice

Our dear volunteer Ilonka van Veghel died on December 19. She fought courageously, but had to concede defeat in the end. For eleven years she helped us lovingly at the sanctuary. Ilonka called the sanctuary her Happy Place. She and her colleague Anneke used to come in on Wednesday afternoons, laden with bags filled with donkey treats. Her favorite donkeys were Thunder, Diva and Santa. They, and all of us, will miss her greatly.

