

## Newsletter – September 2019

### A new car

After seven years of loyal service, our 'company car' has quit. It started with a stolen rear light which we duly replaced, but after that there came a never-ending list of small and large defects. In the end the garage let us know that it was not safe to drive anymore. That was quite a blow, as on this island



people are totally dependent on their cars. And we do not need just a car: for the donkey sanctuary we need a pick-up truck, which can transport building materials and such. We are even known for transporting donkeys in a pick-up truck.

The first few car-less days we tried car pooling, but that was not an ideal situation. But then we were so fortunate that Garage Centraal came up with a super solution: they

wished to start the New Year off well by donating a pick-up truck to the Donkey Sanctuary. So all our problems were solved! Thank you so much, dear Garage Centraal: we are ready for quite a few more years with this great car!

### Donkey Walk

As is tradition, we organized our annual walk in January. It was our 14<sup>th</sup> edition and we made 130 participants happy. We got together, drank something, took a walk and afterwards we enjoyed the tasty fruit that is an annual donation of SuperFood. But still, despite our efforts the number of participants is declining. One of the reasons for that is that there are quite a few 'caminatas' on the island, so that we are fishing in a big pond. Should the number of the participants keep declining, then it might be that 2020 would be our final Donkey Walk. We'll think of something new!



### International support

Regularly we host volunteers/students for a short or longer period of time; they come here through the English organization 'Everything is Possible'.



Sarah Donnellan and Sophie Scott are here now for 11 months and last March six other students and two guides have joined them. They came for two weeks and they have revamped the mural on the container. Of course they also joined in in all the daily chores, but the great thing about such a large group of people is, that several details can be tackled. Indeed, like the mural.

**Lost and Found**

What a stressful situation: early in March we received a phone call that a large number of donkeys was roaming the streets. Now we know that there are two donkeys, who have been going up and down between Bringamosa and Alto Vista. These have both been neutered, so they are ours. But twelve donkeys is too much, so they must have escaped. Desiree went to investigate, and she succeeded in luring all twelve donkeys inside in the pitch dark night. Afterwards she drove around to see whether there were more stray donkeys around, but she could not discover how they had escaped. Desiree had just got home when the phone rang again: the neighbors who saw roaming donkeys once again. It became too much for Desiree, so she called volunteers Anneke, Sophie, Sarah, Xander and Megan to help catch the donkeys. All the



fences were checked and finally the culprit was found: a broken fence on the hill. That fence, erected to evacuate donkeys in case of an emergency, had been demolished by very active donkeys. So first the gate was provisionally repaired and after that a good part of the evening and following night were used to catch the donkeys again. By morning all but two had been caught. These two have joined the other two donkeys that go up and down between Bringamosa and Alto Vista. We regularly try to catch them, but to no avail. Please let us know when you see them. Maybe you will be so kind as to lure them into your garden. We shall come and pick them up as soon as we get your call. Because we want to keep them safe and sound at the sanctuary.



**Burglars**



In January and in March we have been targeted by burglars. Both times were devastating, financially as well because of the loss of 20 years of photographic history. A computer is easily stolen. And although we have 130 security guards on our property, stealing stuff is easy here. Many people sent us sweet messages of compassion and donations, which really helped us cope with these blows. Thank you for that.

**Kaweta**



This gorgeous donkey was hit by a car six years ago. He broke his front leg, was operated, but he struggled to wake up after the operation and had a hard time coping with the anesthesia. He kept falling down and that was not good for his leg. We hoped that it would heal, but he started to favor the front of his hoof instead of his heel. But our new blacksmith has greatly helped Kaweta and now he can use his leg normally again. Sometimes you can even see him run. How wonderful!

**Aruba Doet!**

In March we were once again the recipients of the Aruba Doet project, an annual event during which volunteers help out wherever they are needed. This



time there were a whopping 90 volunteers at the sanctuary. They made great lamp shades of old Aruban number plates, which we sell in our store and on the second day they painted.



The color of the day was red, fire engine red. All the gates at the sanctuary are now fire engine red. It was a fantastic two days and we are very happy with the result. A lot of helping hands make a difference!

**Heartbreak**



Last year in August we discovered that Keto's stable door was open; that could be trouble brewing. It is not a good idea that our Aruban stallions are looking for ladies, as the chance of inbreeding will be too great. But Keto had a wonderful night with as a result a pregnant Big Momma. After 12 months a lovely filly was born. But the little one had no drinking reflexes, so she did not get any milk. Mom and us have tried our utmost to save her with tiny bottles of milk and extra care. But unfortunately we had to watch this tiny donkey, which we all loved so much, die. It was heartbreaking.



### It has pleased the King...

Aruba forms part of the Dutch kingdom. So April 27, the King's birthday, is a good reason for an official party. On that special day,



various people receive a recognition for their outstanding efforts in their specific fields. The Governor of Aruba hands out these awards and it is a solemn and elegant affair. Ladies in evening dress sporting wonderful hats and gentlemen in 'tenue de ville' make this an unforgettable happening. This year it was our own Desiree who was invited to stand in the spotlight to receive her 'lintje':

it was high time that she was recognized for the amazing job that she does for the donkeys and the sanctuary. Later that same day there was a small party for Desiree at the sanctuary. Desiree was all smiles, there were great snacks and enough drinks.... It was already dark, pitch dark, when everyone went home. The donkeys were quite befuddled: all those people making their way to the parking lot in the middle of the night! And Desiree in her gorgeous dress... They hardly recognized her!



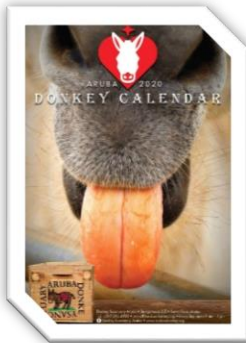
### Our tiles



Since a few years we are selling beautiful 'Delft blue' tiles with on it the name or names of the person who has bought the tile. These tiles are on a wall in the visitor center. It looks great, ties us to our visitors and helps with our expenses. However, the company that makes these tiles has moved and it might be a while before we can count on them again to produce these wonderful tiles again. So please be patient!



### The 2020 calendar will be out next month



As is our tradition, the new Donkey Calendar will be out on World Animal Day, October 4. This year will be the same: a gorgeous new calendar up for sale. Luc Peek has taken care of the production, while Joost Horward handled the graphic part. The photography was in the hands of a number of volunteers and fans of the sanctuary, something new and exciting! Beautiful pics accompany the twelve months of the year. Starting October 4 you can buy the 2020 calendars at the sanctuary and well-known locations. Don't wait too long; they sell out fast!

### A few facts:

- The sanctuary has celebrated its 22th anniversary
- We have 9100 likes on Facebook
- We are now active on Instagram

Ten donkeys have died this year – all because of different reasons. So now we have to continue without Snickers (who had a paralyzed tongue and could not eat or drink anymore), Kentucky (lung embolism), Frits (brain haemorrhage), Bastiaan (colon obstruction), Browney (old age), Diassa (inbreeding – a filly with weak health), Pegasso (colon closure) and Eenoog (stomach problems). Such sad news and too many dead donkeys in such a short period of time.

