



## Anniversary Newsletter – april 2022

### A very special Newsletter for a very special anniversary

Normally you would not receive a Newsletter on this date, but we have a very special reason



for sending you this. We are going to dive into the history, present and future of the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. And why, you may ask? Well, there is a good reason: on April 24 we are celebrating our 25th anniversary. A momentous occasion, worthy of a super party. It's going to be a great party, no doubt about it. On April 24 there will be a spectacular Fair at the sanctuary. In the week prior to that there will be a festive night out with our founders and volunteers. And especially for the occasion of our anniversary a painting will be auctioned off, so keep your eyes peeled in the social media! <https://www.ebay.com/itm/284747214421> .

We are going to use a special anniversary

'logo' during all our activities surrounding the 25th anniversary. We have made a photo of our first donkey Ban Ban and have decorated him/it. At first we tried to take a picture of Ban Ban in a party hat, but we had to abandon this project after many attempts. But don't worry: the computer helped us out and it is looking good!

### But first a snippet of history

The first donkeys came to Aruba from Spain at the end of the 1400's. They were imported because there was a need for means of transportation for people and goods. Early in the 20th century there were some 1400 donkeys on the island.

Everything was fine until the first cars hit the roads; in the 1950's the number of cars had increased a lot and donkeys became redundant. They were released in Aruba's countryside and that was not always a good idea: the Aruban donkey became almost extinct; this was due to measures of the government as well as to car accidents.





In the '70s there were only 20 donkeys left, but then things started to improve. In the '90s there were around 100 donkeys, and one of them was Ban Ban. Ban Ban was injured after children had thrown boiling water onto him. Ramon Boekhoudt took pity on him in 1994 and sheltered him beneath a tree – it was the start of the donkey sanctuary. Money was collected and there were campaigns; a number of volunteers started to get the Santa Lucia terrain ready. In 1997 everything was ready and the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba was officially registered at the Chamber of Commerce. The first 10 roaming donkeys were picked up at Pos Chiquito and slowly but surely the number of donkeys that were caught, grew. At first it was mostly sick and injured donkeys, but later it was also healthy donkeys that were taken to Santa Lucia. Traffic on the island was ever-increasing and it became too dangerous for the animals to roam freely. In 1998 volunteer Desiree started at the sanctuary, which was normally closed to the public. In 2004 things changed and visitors were allowed entry; at first only in the mornings, but from 2010 in the afternoons as well. Nowadays we annually receive some 30,000 visitors. From, 2006 on, we (board members and volunteers) started getting our new venue at Bringamosa ready for donkey occupation, because Santa Lucia became too



crowded. In 2016 we moved at last!

At this point there are 127 donkeys with us – 6 of those live at Desiree's. They are the problem 'children' who need some extra care and attention. Sometimes they don't get along with humans or other donkeys.

Our first and eldest lodger is still with us: Ban Ban! At Bringamosa we have a few apartments with 4 beds for volunteers. Besides our local volunteers (around 30), we receive volunteers from all over the world, working for several

organizations. These mostly stay for 2 to 12 months and they help us out on a daily basis. So we are happy to be able to house them at the sanctuary.

We guess that there are still about 40 roaming donkeys on the island – it remains our aim to house them at the sanctuary in the future. There, all the males have been castrated to prevent inbreeding. Our goal is to introduce a breeding program with stallions from the other islands. Our plans are on hold due to Covid, but we hope to get back on track this year. It would be so great to have baby donkeys frolicking at Bringamosa!



## Donkey Fair

**25 Year Anniversary**

**Donkey Sanctuary Aruba**

**Visit our Donkey Fair**

**4/24/2022**  
10 am-3 pm

**With Food, Drinks, Art, Donkey Merchandise, Self made items, a silent auction, lots of fun stuff to do for the kids and much more!!**

Especially for our anniversary we have organized a festive Donkey Fair at the sanctuary. On Sunday, April 24 we hold the fair from 10 am until 3 pm. Expect more than 30 booths and a whole lot of noise. Emco, for instance, will print T-shirts on the spot and companies such as Kooyman, Shrek and Flora Market and many others will be there, as will local artists, selling their works of art. And of course there will be lots of stands with food and drink.

There will be great games for kids, there is an auction with amazing items and the animal rescue foundations will also be present. Local celebrity Angela Tiemens of radio Fresh FM will be MC-ing the Fair. All in all, so many reasons for you to keep your diary open for a fun day at the sanctuary.



### T-shirt design competition

The T-shirt design competition for our 25th anniversary resulted in wonderful, super great drawings. The members of the jury chose Samantha Benschop's design (children's category) and Anita Otilia (adults' design) as the winners. These two designs will be printed on T-shirts, for sale in our store and during the Donkey Fair.



Local company Emco, which regularly prints our shirts, will be present to show visitors how the printing of a T-shirt is done.

### Would you like to support us with a donation?

This is easily done with the donation button on our website: [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org)

Or via a bank transaction:

Aruba: Aruba Bank 40.03.025 Swift code: ARUBAWAX

Nederland: Ing Bank BIC/SWIFT Code INGBNL2A

IBAN NL50INGB0665468202 (Stichting Red Onze Ezel Aruba)

Want to surprise us with an anniversary present?

We'd be thrilled with your donation of 25 dollars, euros or florins...

**From all our donkeys and volunteers: masha danki!**