

2014

First of best wishes to you all for a very happy New Year. Maybe these good wishes come to you a bit late in the month, but nevertheless they are heartfelt.



This is the start of an exciting year. We were faced with choices for the future and have decided not to invest anymore in our Sta. Lucia site because of its sorry state of repairs. So now we are focusing on the building activities in Bringamosa, where our new donkey sanctuary will be located. That means that we need funding. In the meantime we can boast of a beautiful presentation for prospective sponsors and so we shall be busy visiting them in the

coming weeks and months. Through the much-appreciated support of Stichting Dierenlot we have been able to build a feed storage already; it has been painted by the English volunteers of Everything is Possible. And should there be kind people who would like to donate something or sponsor us in any way, please do so.



For now we are focusing on the stables, the coral and feeding troughs; after that the commercial buildings will be constructed.

Santa



The vet had his work cut out for us: quite a number of donkeys had to be spayed and neutered and Santa was operated on his broken leg: the tendons have been cut so now he can put his hoof down again. Three weeks in a plaster cast that had to be cleaned on a daily basis was all: nowadays Santa is using his leg, albeit carefully! He is going to be fine.

New donkeys

Last year we were happy to receive quite a number of new donkeys at the sanctuary. First of all there was a donkey at Jamanota that we picked up wounded in June. He had injured his bum and he was living near a building site. As he was easy to catch, we named him E.Z. Catch. But unfortunately, he escaped after we had nursed him back to health after six weeks, when the delivery man of fresh hay left the gate open:



sad, because this beautiful animal is almost blind. We shall keep our eyes peeled for E.Z. Catch.

Then there was the arrival of Fudge, whose hind leg was stuck in a PVC pipe. The vet removed it successfully. And Big Momma and her son Black Diamond came to live with us: they had been living elsewhere, but they had to move. Big Momma is Pepsi's mom, a donkey that was brought in with a broken hind leg.

Walkathon 2014

Our first activity for 2014 is coming up: our traditional annual Walkathon for the donkeys. On Saturday, January 18 registration is open from 4 pm at Ayo Rock Formation – at 5 pm the walk starts. Participants are accompanied by various donkeys and the 6.5 km route will take them through Aruba's gorgeous countryside: a healthy and energizing way of spending your Saturday afternoon.



Afterwards participants may win terrific prizes with their registration stub and of course Super Food takes care of reviving fruit at the finish.



The volunteers of the Donkey Sanctuary hope that many people will help make this Walkathon a success. Proceeds will entirely go towards the building of new stables for the donkeys at Bringamosa, the new site of the sanctuary. So please, get up from your easy chair and walk along to support the Aruban donkeys. Everyone, young and old, is welcome on the 18!

Tripadvisor

We are very proud of our TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2013: our efforts have not gone by unnoticed. A whopping 20,000 visitors came to the donkey sanctuary in 2013. Hurray!



Donkey calendar



Our final tip of this Newsletter: the 2014 donkey calendar is a beauty! Only a few are left, so come and buy yours before they're gone.