



## Newsletter August 2025

### It's a Boy!

We are so happy at the donkey sanctuary, as we now have two donkey babies for you to visit. On December 23, Nebula, son of Xena and father Pluto was born. Pluto is also the father of Kronos, who was born in January; his mom is Woods. Both babies are the proud results of our 'preservation' program, where we imported much-needed stallions from Bonaire.



A bit of background information: all Aruban stallions are castrated to prevent inbreeding when they come to live with us. This has a sad reason: on Aruba there are quite a lot of weak and sick donkeys, some with heart disease or very painful joint disease, chronic ear infections and dental deformities, all the results of inbreeding.

Our goal is to save the Aruban donkey from extinction and that is why we are introducing new genes through the Bonairean stallions and shortly also via two donkeys from Curaçao. Last month we received good news from our vet: one more baby donkey will be born in the coming months as Pearl is pregnant. Two other lady donkeys might be pregnant, but we are not sure yet. We've come a long way from the 1970's when there were just 20 donkeys left on the island.

### Pregnant ladies

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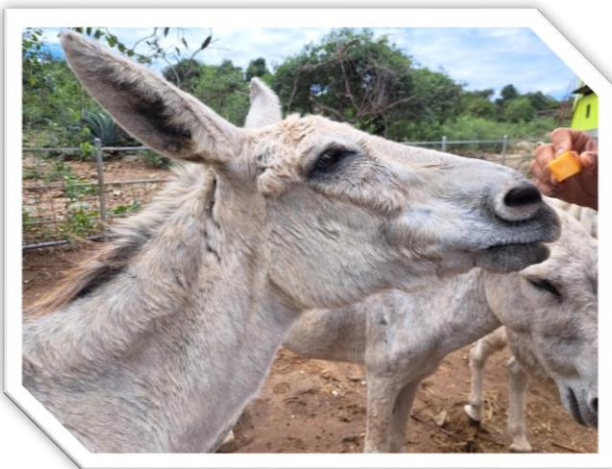
### Adopt-a-cat

We also have five cats living at the sanctuary, among them Smarties, who is crazy in love with all our donkeys. Our visitors love the cats, whom we socialize for the Criollo Trappers Foundation. We have found homes for quite a few of them, and we started an adoption program. For just \$20 one of our five cats can be adopted. The money goes to Criollo trappers and they spay and neuter stray cats and dogs with it. During our first year a whopping 357 cats have been operated. Thank you so much!



### Sad tidings

Last year in March we thought that Maud would have to be put to sleep as she was lying down all the time due to excruciating pain in her front legs. But one day she just got up, walked again and began to eat. We think it was the result of the glucosamine and painkillers that we had been giving her. But a few weeks ago she experienced pain again and she was lying down a lot. We had her hooves trimmed and increased her painkiller dose, but that did not help. So we had to decide to euthanize her.



Sweet Maud came to us in April 1997 - she was pregnant with Kleintje at the time. She was one of the first ten donkeys that we started the sanctuary with, almost 28 years ago. A year later it was Don Juan who got Maud pregnant: he just jumped our gate and fathered Juanito, who was born in 1999. After that Maud herself

jumped the fence at her foster home and delivered Twinkle a few months later in 2002. Her other babies were Kosh Kosh, and Baccha. Sweet Maud, who was 35 to 40 years old, has had a good life with us. We miss her a lot.



### **Unhealthy eating habits (take their toll)**

On a Sunday afternoon in the beginning of April we received a phone call about a mare having been in labor for the longest time. We went to the windmill area on the North Coast to catch her.



The poor donkey was totally exhausted. With two vets and lots of manpower we tried to pull the donkey out, but it proved impossible: the baby was upside down, backwards and with a bent back. It was dead already. We were so sad, but the mother had no chance to live and had to be euthanized. There were a lot of questions: among them whether the baby had been too big to turn inside the mother.

One thing was clear: the mom was fat. She had been fed with a lot of unhealthy food along the road. We would like to stress the following: please do not feed the donkeys that you might encounter. There is enough food out there for them. The tiny plants that grow in the area are very nutritious. Donkeys do not need more than that, and certainly no fast fast.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that came to help us, including Karen and Glenn and our vets Dr. Ricardo and Dr. Marja. This, however, was a battle that we could not win.



### **This smells fishy**

In May we got an early morning call that a donkey had fallen into a septic tank. The fire brigade helped us to get him out and nowadays he is happily strolling around in San Nicolas again. A few crusts of bread and a pallet did the trick.

In the same month Kamino retired; he is now living with the other oldies in Curry's Paddock. The good thing is that he does not fall so much anymore. Kamino is enjoying his well-deserved retirement.



### **Cheers, mates!**

Our fabulous sponsor SuperFood mailed us with the following: 'We are going to add a bottle of sparkling wine to our selection, donating one dollar of every sold bottle to the Donkey Sanctuary. SuperFood initiated its 'Wine with a Purpose' program, for the Aruba Birdlife Foundation and Turtugaruba. We're very grateful that our donkeys have been added to this support program, which will see its start this December.

A big thank you goes to you as well, of course.

Without you and your support there would not be a sanctuary.



### **Aruba did**

The Aruba Doet activity was a big hit once again. Twenty enthusiastic St. Regis Hotel's employees came to paint all our red fences and the floor in the visitors' center was neatly painted as well. Donkeys always want to nibble on everything, so a touch-up was sorely needed. We are always very glad of the extra help! The twenty St. Regis volunteers made a lot of difference. Truffles, who can open all gates, will have now a newly painted area to enjoy!

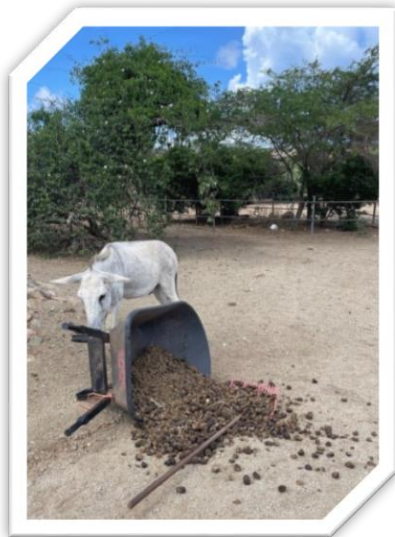
### **Would you like to help us with a donation?**

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

#### **Or by bank:**

Aruba: Aruba Bank 40.03.025 Swift code: ARUBAWAX Nederland  
Nederland: Ing Bank BIC/SWIFT Code INGBNL2A  
IBAN NL50INGB0665468202 (Stichting Red Onze Ezel Aruba)

**Hopi Danki!!**



### Helpful donkeys

When we are at the sanctuary and the donkeys have finished eating, they love to help us do our chores. When we don't watch carefully they try to do that by stealing our tools or by overthrowing the wheelbarrow (see picture). Very playful animals indeed, donkeys!

### Volunteers needed!

We'd like to finish with a request for volunteers. We need you! Please consider us when you have a few hours to spare on a regular basis: regular volunteers would be a godsend. We are also looking for a full-timer at the sanctuary as Tim will be leaving shortly. Please apply for this great, outdoorsy job via mail or in person. Thank you!

