



Of course we want to start this newsletter with lots of good wishes for the New Year from all of us to all of you. We hope 2023 will be a successful, happy and healthy year for you without any conflicts or wars.

**Anniversary**

On April 14, the Sanctuary celebrated its 25th anniversary. Although we secretly raised our glasses on that date, the actual party took place on April 24. And how! On that date we closed off a long period of time with lots of difficulties and we looked towards the future. Local shopkeepers, artists and many others offered their wares during a fair. Desiree donated a painting to be auctioned



and during the fair there was a silent auction of three paintings and a donkey skull. The skull generated a whopping 500 florin. All volunteers were busy, making certain that the visitors had a wonderful day at the Sanctuary; they were assisted by a group of Rainbow Girls.

There was food and drinks for young and old and for the kids there were games. Angela Tiemens of Fresh FM and Dave Ribbink were the emcees at the fair. It was a super day during which we celebrated 25 years of caring for the donkeys on the island. And now we are ready for the next 25!



### A successful operation

Evan, one of our largest donkeys, started to show strange behavior. It looked like he was laughing, but proved to be a form of smelling with the donkey's mouth wide open. Thus we could clearly see that one of his front teeth was broken. The root was still in place, so an operation would be possible. As the operation would take place in the vet's clinic, Evan had to be transported inside the trailer. Well, easier said than done: Evan was not in the mood and refused point blank to cooperate. It was as if you had to cajole a toddler to go to the dentist. But in the end, Evan was carried onto the operating table by four able men – poor donkey. The



operation was successful and a cleaning session followed the surgery; this was done by dental hygienist Ricardo, who removed a loose wisdom tooth during the process. It all sounds very familiar. During the following weeks Evan suffered the indignity of taking painkillers and Listerine mouthwash cleaning sessions. He kept us busy for sure!

### Buki di Pret



Buki di Pret is a great initiative to entertain children during the summer holidays. They could register for three Thursdays of helping feed the donkeys and the, oh so popular, poop scooping. But that was not all: when all the chores were finished it was time to paint a



donkey. Everyone had a blast, but it was a pity that a number of previously registered children did not show. Most of all it was a pity for the children themselves, as they missed out.

### Escape from Savaneta (starring Juanito the Donkey)



We received a phone call from a neighbor that there was a small donkey on the side of the road near Desiree's house. She had just fed her donkeys and then they were all present, but just like in the movies, the villain had waited until the final check and then he had escaped. He had crept through a tiny opening on his knees and he was suddenly in the big, bad world. The chase could begin, but after an hour, the donkey was still missing, so hero Tim's help was needed. That was the deciding factor: the villain stood in the rooi. He

was just standing there, not even eating, as he had already done that at home. So yes, it was once again a thrilling afternoon with a happy ending.

**A toss-up**



In the fall we got a notification of an injured donkey. He or she had a big wound in the neck; such injuries are common in males. When donkeys are playing or fighting, they often bite each other on the neck, but also the heels of their hind legs are favorite spots for vigorous biting. So we jumped into action and we succeeded in catching her. Ricardo



stitched her up and now she is doing fine. After introduction into the group, she felt at home right away. In January we welcomed a mare with a dead baby donkey inside her, which we delivered. We suspect that our newcomer is the mare's daughter; we have named her Pearl.

**Tricked**

Our donkey Santa was limping badly. He was already walking with difficulty because of an accident in 2010. His broken leg had healed reasonably well after injections into the fracture, but Santa put too much weight on his good leg, which started giving him trouble. We were really worried about the poor thing. So we called Ricardo the vet and he came to X-ray the two front legs. We were relieved to hear that he only had an infection in the crown edge, just above his hoof. The following weeks Santa got painkillers and antibiotics and a daily footbath with baking soda. That should solve the problem.



**And proudly we present..**



As we mentioned earlier, the sanctuary's foreign volunteers and interns are welcome to use the apartments on top of the visitors' center. Coming mainly Europe and the US, these young people are thn staying for a good while. The apartments are now mostly occupied. The problem used to be that shopping had to be

done as well as beach- and bar visits: a problem when you are far away from public transport. But our Super Sponsor Garage Central came up with a wonderful solution: a fantastic car (automatic), so we now have a `fleet' with logos on the cars and the volunteers have, as they call it, their `Escape to Heaven'.





### Our commercial side



We have a great new item in our store: postcards with historical photos of donkeys on Aruba. Ten different cards, a must-have for collectors. And we also carry new t-shirts in baby and toddler sizes; we have them in stock. So, moms, aunts, grannies and fathers, don't hesitate and come by.



### The tripod

Kamino, the donkey which had his leg amputated, is doing great. Because of the frequent rainfall on the island, he stopped wearing his t-shirt. A wet shirt is not a good idea for him (for nobody) – he could get pneumonia. But because of the fresh air, the wound is closing rapidly. His stump is almost healed and Kamino is having a blast, interfering with everything and everyone around him. He is friends with the other donkeys, alert and always ready for a snack, which is a good sign!



### Fly allergy

Queeny is allergic to flies, which makes her life hell, especially during the rainy season. She now gets sprayed with disinfecting, purple spray, so we have a purple donkey in the herd. She gets medication, which she needs to take her entire life. So we have our fingers crossed for her.

### Our breeding program is coming....



We have been trying to set up a breeding program for a long, (too long) time. The stallions in the Sanctuary have all been castrated to prevent inbreeding, and the roaming donkeys all show this same problem. So we tried to get two stallions from our neighboring islands, but not every type of donkey is right for our type. A painstaking process is involved and of course the problem of transportation is looming on the horizon as well, as there is no direct transport by boat available. But now there is light at the end of the tunnel: artificial insemination might be the solution. We'll keep you posted!



### Aruba Doet!



On March 10 we are once again participating with Aruba Doet! On that day we shall paint the fencing and the visitors' center with a new coat of paint. It is always a fun day with a great end result. Of course you can join us, as locals as well as visitors are more than welcome for a day of messing with paint. You can register on the website of Aruba Doet!; [www.arubadoet.com](http://www.arubadoet.com).

### This smells like....

The poop scooping has become a local tradition by now. And all the shit has to be removed as well, so every two- to three weeks we have a full trailer with excellent fertilizer for your garden and plants. A trailer size is around 7 m3. Are you interested in top quality fertilizer, where our donkeys have worked for diligently? We deliver (that is the latest fashion) for only AWG. 150 per trailer.



### Support

Would you like to support us with a donation?

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

Or via banking:

Aruba: Aruba Bank 40.03.025 Swift code: ARUBAWAX

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**From all of our donkeys and volunteers: Hopi Danki!!**