

### Roaming donkeys

Notwithstanding our efforts, quite a number of donkeys are still roaming around on Aruba. Recently, Linda saw a few on the North coast. The picture shows several donkeys which we have chased before.



One of them has a red rope around its neck, how that came about is unknown to us. Although he is limping, we haven't been able to catch him. In the meantime he has gotten company from two other roaming donkeys. Probably two ladies, but they could very well be stallions. We hope that people will report their whereabouts so that we can go donkey hunting!

Should you encounter donkeys on the island, please don't hesitate to call our alarm numbers 5932933 - 5841063 or 5698232.

### Funny fence

Our volunteer Susannah spent her summer holiday in the Netherlands and she came across a really special fence. It stood at a building site and was colorfully decorated with all kinds of drawings. Nothing out of the ordinary, but there was one of a donkey among the other drawings! Susannah liked it so much that she took a picture of it. We, on our side, liked it so much that we wish to publish it in this newsletter!



### Sponsor visits Sanctuary



On Aruba, a start has been made on a windmill park. In fact this is not so special, because if there is one island most suitable for the stimulation of alternative and environmental friendly energy, it must be Aruba.



Day in day out the sun is shining and the wind is blowing – one could not wish for more. The job will be carried out by the Vestas company from Denmark. By now there are 10 enormous wind mills at the North coast, in an area locally known as "Father Piet". As a token of appreciation, Vestas gave quite a substantial donation to the Sanctuary: 5.000,-- florins.

Two employees visited our Sanctuary.

Let's hope that our pile of dung has given them some good ideas about the production of environmentally friendly energy as well!

### Glossy trailer

On Aruba, we regularly receive visiting family members. Desiree was visited by her



sister, together with husband Theo, who cannot sit still, so we put him to work at the Sanctuary and gave him a number of chores. When he finished those, he started - of his own accord - painting our trailer a new color. Should you come across a merrily decorated trailer; there is a big chance that this is our specimen! And should you get family members or friends to stay for Christmas: there is a lot more to do at the Sanctuary.

We shall gladly keep them busy!

### Multi functional donkeys

In the Gaza zoo in Palestine, two zebras have died recently. In fact this is a very sad story, because they died of starvation, like a lot of other animals in this zoo. Most animals lost their lives during or shortly after the latest Israeli attack. The zoo's director plans to make the Israelis liable for the death of the animals and wants to sue. On the other side, Israel states that most animals were stolen and eaten by the

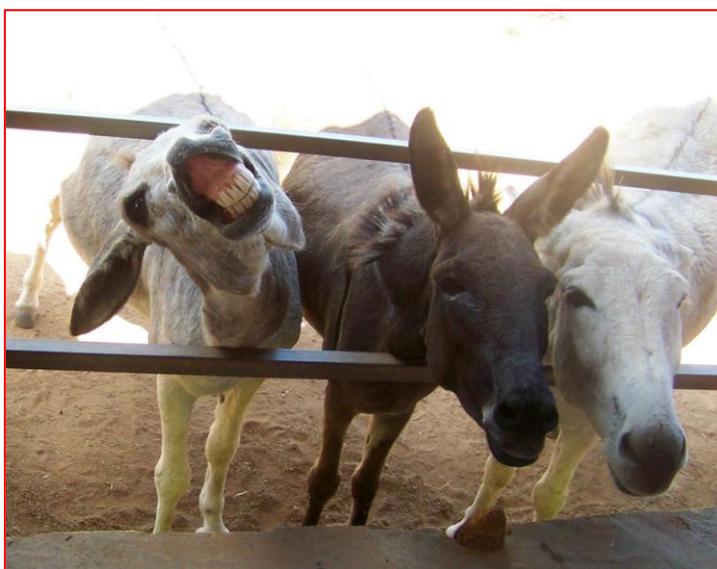


Palestinians. This is the result of a dreadful, lasting conflict, of which the animals know nothing. The zoo has now only a few donkeys, some pets and one real lioness called Sabrina. There is no money for food, let alone money to replace the zebras. So, one creative person painted stripes

on a few donkeys. Now the donkeys pass for zebras, hoping that the public will not notice the zebras' death. It shouldn't get any crazier than this!

### The laughing donkey

Everybody knows them, those round, French cheeses called La Vache qui Rit, "the



laughing cow". Well, here on Aruba we have our own smiley, our donkey Bringamosa. Tonyia Miller and some of her friends visited the sanctuary. Rapidly a special contact developed between the visitors and our favorite donkey Bringamosa. Every time when Tonyia said "give me a smile", he started to laugh out loud. Indeed, our donkeys don't have any language problem: they are multi-lingual and understand anything and everything.

So now we have our "laughing donkey".



## The volunteer

*And here we introduce a volunteer to you. This time it's the turn of*

### Esther Melenhorst



***Born:***

March, 1967 in Zwolle, the Netherlands

***Profession:***

Hairdresser

***Where do you work?***

Since 2002 I have had my own salon at home. Before that I worked in salons in Zwolle and Oisterwijk and in a salon on Aruba

***Your hobbies:***

Many. First of all my husband and two children, of course. But besides those my animals: two horses, three dogs, two cats, one parrot, a hamster and lots of birds and turtles. I love gardening, doing handicrafts, making mosaics, drawing and painting. I am a busy bee indeed!

***Your motto:***

Live a relaxed life, but work hard and try to spend your time usefully

***Most beautiful spot on the island:***

The Frenchmen's Pass

***Your best moment on the island:***

My first holiday on Aruba in 1992

***Your biggest disappointment on the island:***

That nature is being demolished without a thought because of building projects

***Volunteer since:***

I believe since May 2003

***What is your job at the shelter:***

I work at Sta. Lucia on Sunday mornings: feeding the donkeys, cleaning, showing visitors around and I help sell merchandise in the shop. I also sell these items at my salon

***Which are the changes you would like to see at the shelter?***

That you would not need to walk among the donkeys carrying their feed

***What would you like to change on Aruba:***

That it would become just as quiet and nice as when I came to live here. But that won't happen, I think. The Caribbean atmosphere will disappear when we do not watch out. Aruba is getting too busy and too crowded.

### Animal Day, or was it Donkey Day?

By now our Donkey Day, celebrated on or around World Animal Day on 4 October, has become an annual tradition. This year it fell on a Sunday, which suited us fine.



First there was a busy time of preparations, getting everything ready on Saturday, and then the big day itself. It was a very successful and busy happening, with a good and very necessary

result for the sanctuary. Thanks to the work of a large number of volunteers, we reached a net result of over five thousand florins! With that amount we can continue our good work in taking care of the donkeys. Since pictures often tell more than thousand words, we'd like to show you the photos of that terrific day.



### Sad story

Sometimes you're lucky, sometimes you're not. All of us do our utmost to give the donkeys a good life. But sometimes it just is not meant to be. Within a short period of time, we had to say goodbye to 3 mature donkeys and one filly born prematurely. On



the other hand, there have been 4 new donkeys that joined us only a short while ago.

Unfortunately, their health wasn't too good and they were not accepted by the herd.

Someone let them out within the group, where they were mercilessly chased by the other donkeys.

Apart from that, two of the newcomers suffered from liver problems. The already weak Dusty surprised us with her premature filly.

While Ricardo milked the weak

Dusty, Desiree took the baby home and fed it with the bottle. Sadly, both Dusty and the baby didn't survive. Also Candy and Eeyore, two of the other newcomers, didn't make it. Only Azzy remained.

### Picasso has said goodbye



Although we tried very, very hard to save him, Picasso has also died. He had a growing tumor that couldn't be treated. At a certain moment he couldn't get up anymore, and in consultation with the vet, we had him put to sleep. It was very sad, because Picasso has been with us at the sanctuary for years and years. He was a smart donkey, who sometimes gave us the idea that he was laughing at us. In this year's calendar you will find his picture in August. A typical photo of this typical donkey: "don't worry, let me do my own thing" was his message. We have to accept that we are helpless against old age and incurable disease.