



FOUNDATION SAVE OUR DONKEY

**NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2007**

Dear friends of the Aruban donkey,

For our foundation, the year 2007 will be a most exceptional year, because we were founded on April 14, 10 years ago!

WALKATHON



The kick-off of the series of anniversary celebrations took place on 13 January, when 118 people walked along in a walkathon for the donkeys of Aruba. Of all the enthusiastic athletes, there was one the fastest: Rudy Dirks. He came first across the finishline in 36 minutes; Xavier Boekhoudt was first in the children's division.

WILD DONKEYS ON ARUBA

Our love for donkeys does not stop at the gates of the sanctuary: also the wild donkeys deserve our attention. During the past two months, two trainees from Holland have studied these donkeys and their behavior. We find it most important to know how many of these animals are still around in the wild, and whether there is inbreeding due to the fact that the herds are so small. Also we want to know whether certain measures should be taken to prevent resulting problems of this in the future.



Hay for the herd of donkeys at Vader Piet

ANIMAL DAY

Like every year, we celebrate Animal Day in the Sanctuary on October 4. Because of many visitors, the donkeys are not allowed to walk around freely that day, but they were surely not forgotten. There were enough apples and carrots to make their day very festive indeed.

Ban Ban was the only donkey who was allowed to mingle with the visitors, but only with children on his back. Because he had done this job quite a few times already in the week preceding Animal Day, he gave up real soon.



KOSH KOSH, THE GREEN DONKEY OF ARUBA



Animal Day was the day that the foundation presented its children's book 'Kosh Kosh, the green donkey of Aruba'. This book has been written by the vice-president of the foundation, Desiree Eldering. Also the great illustrations are Desiree's. In four entertaining stories it is told how Kosh Kosh is trying to get rid of his green color, and tries to become white, just as his family members.

The book has been published in three languages: Papiamentu, Dutch and English. It is for sale for AWG. 15,- (US \$9.-) in the Donkey Sanctuary at St. Lucia, Que Pasa Restaurant, Home & Nature and EnVogue Coiffures.

NEWCOMERS

Two newcomers have registered at the Donkey Sanctuary:



One-year old **Bambi**, who was found near the sanctuary at St. Lucia by Astrid Hagers. Astrid immediately called us. Although Bambi was still very young when he was discovered, his mother was nowhere to be found. Bambi's spine has a congenital defect, as the veterinarian concluded after taking x-rays. The donkey is still living in a separate corral, but will be introduced to the herd in a few months' time. First, however, he has to become a little bit bigger and stronger.

Mikey is also new at St. Lucia. He's a gorgeous, handsome devil of a donkey, who will be placed with the other donkeys this month. Because the gate of his separate corral had not been closed properly, Mikey already got a good taste of life with the others. But our rule is that he has to undergo his operation first, so he has to stay in his private quarters for a while.



PASSED AWAY

It was a truly sad moment when donkey Grandpa (a.k.a. Don Juan) was found dead on November 4. We estimate that Grandpa lived to become 40 years old, approximately. Grandpa was a favorite among the volunteers and visitors alike. He was always in for a hug and a pat, and if he had to wait too long for attention, he just asked for it by pushing his head against you.



Before Grandpa was taken in at the sanctuary, he regularly jumped the wall to chase the lady-donkeys. That is why his name was Don Juan. One time, however, he stood at the gate with 5 bullets in his leg, and we took him in right away, of course. Soon he lost his taste to sow his wild oats, and that's why he was nicknamed 'Grandpa'.

Grandpa lies buried in the sanctuary.

Grandpa gets a hug from a visitor

VOLUNTEERS

At this time, our foundation has about 35 volunteers; most of them work for us in the weekends. It is very difficult for us to find volunteers who want to spend weekday mornings with us. Please help us find volunteers who wish to help us out during weekdays. Are you willing to volunteer? Please call us at 584-1063 or 568-4091. Of course, more weekend assistance is more than welcome as well.