

Nieuwsletter May 2010



Successful first golf tournament Donkey Sanctuary

Recently, a major golf tournament took place at the Divi Golf Course with all the revenues going to the sanctuary. Over 50 golf players battled for honor and for prizes, donated by various sponsors. We had a sales outlet and a few donkeys were roaming around. All in all quite a lot of work for the eight volunteers present. But it was absolutely worthwhile, because we have never received such a large amount of money for one day's work. A large part came from the participation fee, but we also found 11 paying sponsors who

posted their banners on the course. A local car company even made a car available for a so-called 'hole in one'. The golf course management was so enthusiastic that they have already agreed to a 2011 version of the tournament!

We didn't report the crime



You arrive at the sanctuary in the early morning and you don't see any donkey around! Strange, because usually they are waiting for the volunteers as they equate to food. A bit further away, a herd of very guilty looking donkeys is staring at you. Rascal Tica had managed to open the (unlocked) door of the container and she has dragged out two bales of hay, so it was party time for all donkeys!

They damn well knew that they had done something naughty and Tica, with proof still hanging around her neck, walked around like she was innocence personified. The result was that we didn't need to feed them for the rest of the day because there was not a hungry donkey in sight.

An unwanted pregnancy?

Recently we received a phone call that our donkey Esmeralda had been seen hanging out with a male donkey. On the indicated location there appeared to be not one, but two male donkeys. We took them both on foot to Bringamosa and separated them until castration time. And we baptized them with appropriate names: Thistle and Espresso. To our surprise, our grown-up mare Tiny visited them in their stable, early one morning. We still don't know how she managed to get in. By now the two gentlemen have been castrated and we hope that this was in time. And if not, we can expect the next extension of our herd by mid May 2011!



With Desiree in bed...

This might sound like a hot romance, but the truth is different. We received yet another phone call about a roaming, limping donkey with a new-born baby. The baby could not walk as yet, so it was easily caught. With mom we had more problems, and eventually we did not succeed in catching her.



After much deliberation we decided not to leave the baby behind, as the rate for survival is minimal for such a young donkey. Heavy traffic and ferocious dogs are too dangerous. So the new-born came along with us to be brought up with a bottle. As it needs to be fed every two hours, Desiree is taking it along everywhere she goes and by now the baby donkey feels right at home on the back seat of her car. And thus we have had a volunteers' meeting with Truffles (her name) on the porch of our host. But the best thing is to come yet: Truffles needs her bottle every two hours at night as well. And so she was allowed to sleep in Desiree's

bedroom for the first few nights. That went fine, until night number four: then she got the trots! Not a good bed-time story after all...

New flyer of the shelter

As a foundation we are totally dependent on donations and volunteers. These donations mostly come from the visitors to the shelter. Therefore it is important that visitors keep coming. That is why we have designed and printed a new flyer. Photos and texts were made by one of our volunteers and we are happy to say that it all looks fabulous. The great new flyer has been distributed to bars, restaurants, car rentals and real estate agencies.

Should you know more addresses where we may put a stack of flyers: please let us know.



We have passed the magical 100



Indeed, we have passed the magical number of 100 in our shelter. The shelter has been divided into three locations: most of the donkeys are in the shelter, but quite a few are living in Bringamosa. At Desiree's home there are 16 donkeys braying for food. All these donkeys cost a lot of money. When we catch a roaming donkey, however, the cost is even higher as the bills for medical care might run sky high. All in all we can say that a donkey costs 150 florins each month. So you can calculate what our monthly budget should be. That is why getting funds is of major importance to the shelter.

Are we the main sponsor of the vet?

It looks like it, especially when we get new donkeys. A while ago we received a call from the police that a donkey had been hit by a car. After having caught the donkey, the mother disappeared. We called the little one Pepsi and we took her to the vet with a



broken leg. There he was operated and taken care of, because he was not doing too well. Actually, we had almost given up on him, but after an intensive treatment he is doing much better now and he is expected to live.

In the same way we got Diassa, who had been left behind by his mother. An echo has shown that he has heart problems, but that there is quite a good chance that he will survive with good care. And then we have our new, big, dark donkey,

whom we have baptized Mocca. We caught him at Palo Marga on a Friday evening, badly injured, weak, dehydrated and anemic; that was the vet's verdict. And he limped badly as well. By now, however, Mocca is totally okay. He needs to go to the vet one more time to be castrated, and after that he can go and enjoy life in the herd. But the story does not end here. In the past few weeks we have welcomed two more donkeys. First there was Kroket, whom we encountered in San Nicolas with serious wounds. These wounds have probably been caused by dog bites. And also in San Nicolas we found Muppet, who got his name from his weird gait due to a broken leg. Contrary to Kroket, who is wild and skittish, this is a delightful young and quiet donkey.



Easter Bunny at the donkeys



Especially for the kids we organized an egg run at Easter. More than 50 children got together to try and find the 300 hidden eggs at the shelter. Everybody received a prize, but three kids found golden eggs. These children received a spectacular plush toy. This was the first time that we organized an egg run, but we are surely doing it again next year after such a successful event. When? Indeed, at Easter.

The volunteer

*In this section we introduce a volunteer to you. This time it is
Mimi Medina*

*Date of Birth:
April 5, 1943 in New York, USA*

*Profession:
before I moved to Aruba I was a Senior Research Analyst
at NBC-TV in New York*

*Job:
Retired*

*Your hobbies:
photography, reading and traveling*

*Your motto:
take exceptionally good care of yourself*

*Your favorite spot on the island:
the North Coast*

*Your favorite moment on the island:
the day that I married my Aruban husband*

*Your biggest disappointment on the island:
finding reliable workmen to install machinery and maintain property*

*Volunteer since:
I believe since 2004*

*What is your job at the shelter:
I work at the shelter one or more days a week and I am a member of the board*

*What would you like to change at the shelter:
a larger store*

*What would you like to change on Aruba:
more efficiency in getting and processing business documents and government
papers*





Aruba Polesitting Championships

Annually Café the Plaza organizes an event, which is called the Aruba Polesitting Championships. Throughout the years this event has become a popular happening which is visited by thousands of people.

Two polesitters have broken the record this year: they sat on their poles for a whopping 87 hours and 15 minutes, with only 5 minutes of rest per hour. That means that they have spent a total of four days and three nights with no sleep and hardly any movement at all. The proceeds of this championship are donated to a charity, but this charity does not get the money for free.

This year the Donkey foundation was the benefitting charity, so together with scores of volunteers, we have organized raffles, sold items from our booth and we have monitored the polesitting throughout the event, including the nights. When the two champions stepped off their poles dead tired, our volunteers were almost just as wrung out. We all went to bed exhausted but very satisfied on Sunday night. Exhausted because of all the work we did, and satisfied because of the great financial result. With that we can provide our donkeys with lots of food and medical care and that was what this was all about.



The donkeys that we took to Café the Plaza looked at all the hoopla befuddled; we can understand that. But in the end we all agreed: it was grueling, but great!

onze sponsors:

