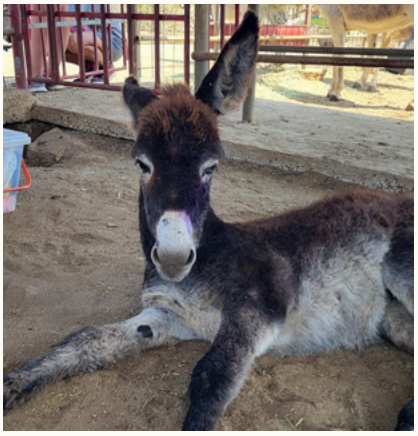
NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Welcome to the first edition of our bi-annual newsletter, where we look back on the past months at Donkey Sanctuary Aruba. While we sadly said goodbye to some beloved donkeys, we also celebrate many positive developments made possible by your support.

IN LOVING MEMORIES



REMEMBERING NESQUIK

On April 16, we were notified about a baby donkey that had been found alone and was possibly injured. Our volunteer team immediately sprang into action to rescue him.

When we arrived, we discovered that the young donkey was unable to move on his own. He was carefully carried into the vehicle and brought to the sanctuary. Since his condition was unknown, our veterinarian was called to perform a full medical examination.

Initial blood tests showed elevated white blood cell counts, indicating an infection or inflammation, and revealed that he was also suffering from anemia. He received the appropriate medication and was, of course, spoiled with plenty of apples and carrots.

Because he showed very little movement, we began physical therapy. Despite everyone's efforts, walking remained very difficult for him. Further examinations, including X-rays, failed to identify the cause of his condition.
Sadly, as his health continued to decline, we had to make the heartbreaking decision to let him go. On May 2, we said goodbye to Nesquik in the most humane way possible.

A necropsy later revealed that he had extensive polyarthritis, with severely swollen joints and significant cartilage damage. Although he was only with us for a short time, we will always remember his gentle, sweet, and calm personality.

DIVA'S BABY

On the morning of March 3, one of our volunteers noticed that Diva was behaving differently. Shortly afterward, it became clear that she was in labor. Because Diva was in the main field, she was brought into the stables for the safety of both mother and foal. Unfortunately, the labor lasted much longer than expected, so our veterinarians, Ricardo and Tim, were called to assist.

They soon discovered that the foal was in an incorrect position for a natural birth, with one front leg folded back. Thanks to the efforts of our veterinarians, the foal was delivered, but sadly it was stillborn. The umbilical cord had also become wrapped around the foal's neck and shoulder.

It was a beautiful baby boy and would have been Diva's first son.
Following this difficult experience, Diva received plenty of extra love and attention while recovering from a prolapse. We are happy to report that she has made a full recovery and is doing well again.



FAREWELL TO SASSY

This year we sadly said goodbye to one of the sanctuary's very first residents, Sassy.

Sassy had been with us since the very beginning and reached the remarkable age of nearly 40 years. She was one of the original ten donkeys rescued after being lured into the garden of one of our founders. She died of old age.

Although she is no longer with us, her legacy continues through her family at the sanctuary. She arrived together with her adult daughter, Sasha, who is still with us today. Sassy was also the mother of Eva, One Eye (†), and Sunday Dream; grandmother of Boem Boem, Negrita, Luna Midushi (†), Sparkle, Primrose, Andrew, Jolly Jumper, and Sky; and great-grandmother of Thunder, Bono, and Roulette.
She will always hold a special place in our hearts.

KAMINO: FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



Kamino arrived at Donkey Sanctuary Aruba in August 2019 after being hit by a car. He suffered a severe fracture to his right front leg, and despite surgery, the injury became infected. Together with our veterinarian, we made the difficult decision to amputate his leg. Kamino adapted remarkably well to life on three legs and spent several happy years at the sanctuary, inspiring everyone with his resilience and gentle spirit.

Known for his love of cuddles, treats, and attention from volunteers and visitors, Kamino quickly became a favorite.

Over the past few months, however, his health declined significantly. After careful consultation with our veterinarian, we made the heartbreaking but compassionate decision to let him go peacefully, preventing further pain and suffering.

Although we miss him deeply, we are grateful that Kamino spent his final years surrounded by love, care, and kindness. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who adopted and supported Kamino throughout his journey. Your generosity gave him the medical care, comfort, and loving home he deserved.

Kamino's story will always remind us of the power of resilience, second chances, and unconditional love. He will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE





NEW ROOF

From time to time, major repairs are necessary to keep the sanctuary in good condition. Our Visitor Center received a much-needed new roof before the rainy season begins. Now we'll all be able to stay dry during those tropical showers!

NEW ROADSIGNS

Our road signs were in need of some much-deserved TLC, so they were taken down for repairs.

After a week of work, we're happy to announce that brand-new signs are now in place to help guide visitors to the Donkey Sanctuary.





NEW PADDOCKS







After a long wait, our stallions finally have paddocks of their own!

The former Donkia area has now been divided into two paddocks:

- Curry's Paddock, home to Curry, Sir Lancelot, and Big Momma.
- Zumba's Paddock, home to Zumba, Merlin, and Princessa.

Rudy's Paddock has also been split into two:

- Riff Raff's Paddock, home to Riff Raff, Governess, and Baccha
- Pluto's Paddock, home to Pluto, Xena, and Woods.

An additional paddock was also built: Music's Paddock, originally intended for Music, Diva, Gypsy, and Lady Taco. However, Music quickly outsmarted us by jumping the fence! As a result, we moved our elderly donkeys into the new paddock, while Music and his harem settled into the paddock previously occupied by the seniors.

Riff Raff and Music are our newest additions to our Controlled Breeding Program. They arrived from Curaçao in September last year. After completing their adjustment period at the sanctuary, they have now joined their respective harems in their new paddocks.

ART WITH PURPOSE

NEW DONKEY ARTWORK BY QUIANA CRONIE



Our third life-sized donkey sculpture is now complete!
The artwork was created by Quiana Cronie, a local multidisciplinary designer and the daughter of our director, Desiree Eldering. The sculpture was crafted from old license plates generously donated by the Aruban community and our volunteers.

The project is inspired by three key elements: storytelling, upcycling, and object-based design.

The sculpture symbolizes the very reason the Donkey Sanctuary was founded in 1997. In the past, donkeys were widely used as a means of transportation throughout Aruba. With the arrival of motor vehicles in the early twentieth century, they were no longer needed and were left to roam freely, often in dangerous conditions.

Today, the sanctuary provides these wonderful animals with a safe haven where they can live peacefully and receive the care and protection they deserve.

ARUBA DOET 2026

Each year, Aruba celebrates a national weekend of volunteering known as Aruba Doet.

This past May, we were once again fortunate to participate. Around 50 volunteers from three different companies —JetBlue For Good, Integrated Security Services, and Divi Resort— joined us at the sanctuary to lend a helping hand.

This year's projects included repainting all of our red entrance gates and giving the Visitor Center a fresh new coat of paint. We are incredibly grateful for everyone's hard work and enthusiasm.






GENOUROUS HAY DONATION

HAY DONATION FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Last May, we received a generous donation of hay from the Netherlands.

After a horse owner sadly lost her beloved horse, she chose to donate an existing hay order from Louis Venhorst Fourage to the Donkey Sanctuary instead.

We are incredibly grateful for this wonderful contribution. Thank you so much to everyone involved in making this donation possible!



DONKEY HEALTH CHECK

YEARLY VACCINATION

In April, all of our donkeys received their annual vaccinations. To make the process as smooth as possible, the vaccinations take place after visiting hours.

The donkeys are guided to the parking area and then guided through the chute, where they receive their vaccinations and deworming treatments.

DENTAL CHECK UP

In addition to their yearly vaccinations, our donkeys also receive regular dental check-ups. While this isn't exactly their favorite activity, these examinations are essential to keeping them healthy and comfortable.



Thanks to the generous donations we receive from our supporters, we have been able to purchase a new dental machine. As more of our donkeys reach an advanced age, the need for specialized dental care continues to grow. The machine we used until recently had been generously donated to us many years ago and served us exceptionally well throughout its lifetime.

If you would like to help us continue providing our donkeys with the best possible medical care and enable us to purchase and maintain essential veterinary equipment like this, please consider making a donation.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Are you willing to spend some time with our lovely donkeys and help out where needed? Please come by and become one of our valued volunteers. We can always use your skills!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Would you like to help us with a donation? That is very easily done via the **donation** button on our website: www.arubandonkey.org

Or by bank:

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

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a real difference in the lives of our donkeys. Thank you for your continued support.

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