



# Winter Newsletter 2017/18

*Stay in touch!*



Detailed driving directions on our website!

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E-mail: donkeyrefuge@gmail.com

website: www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com

*A Very Merry Christmas*  
From Your Four-Legged and Two-Legged  
Friends at the Turtle Valley  
Donkey Refuge



Kiki



Hoss



Lillie

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Shirley Mainprize

Over the last 20 years of being in the Donkey Rescue World one of the most common questions we are asked is: "Why Do Donkeys Need Rescuing?". There are many different answers with the most common being the donkey's lengthy life span, the lack of proper care and respect by the owner, historical perception that donkeys are not worthy, and the actual understanding of the donkey as an equine.

Your generous support has made it possible here at the Donkey Refuge to provide a permanent home for the donkeys in need, regardless of circumstance. However in the last few years we have been seeing a different donkey in need arriving at our gate and that is the Senior Donkey. Just like the human population, donkeys are aging and becoming Senior Citizens in the Equine world.

Donkeys can live to be between 35 and 50 years of age. Our oldest donkey is Rooster who is 41 years old. At least 50 percent of our donkey residents are over 20 years of age. Then there are the donkeys who have lived a hard life and while their age isn't necessarily a factor for the extra special care they need, their body condition as a result of neglect and abuse is.

A Senior Donkey needs extra time and care just as humans do. This extra care means we need to provide specially trained staff to see to the senior donkey's dietary needs and treat their ailments.

The Senior Donkey also requires:

- warmer housing and blankets to keep them comfortable in our Canadian winters,
- special feed and nutritional supplements,
- increased farrier visits as their hoof health slowly deteriorates,
- greater veterinary care to deal with age related illness and aches and pains,
- specific medication to help them through their medical problems,
- thicker bedding on the ground for them to sleep on,
- more dental care as their aging teeth slowly become less efficient for chewing their food, and
- more staff and volunteer hours to monitor each Senior Donkey's day.

It is with much gratitude that we Thank You All for providing these Senior Donkeys with a safe and secure final home. A home where they can live out their senior years in comfort and love.....

Shirley Mainprize, Co-Founder



Rooster

*Did You Know You Can Sponsor  
The Christmas Donkeys And Their Friends?*



Jackson



Rooster



Sylk



Grace

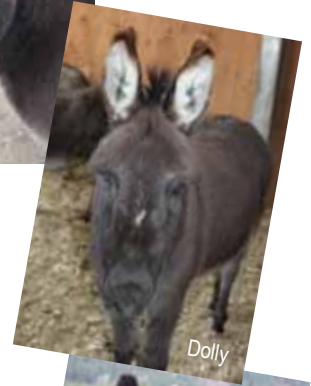


Teddy



Daisy

**THANK YOU FOR GIVING  
THESE WONDERFUL DONKEYS  
THEIR SAFE AND LOVING  
FOREVER HOME IN 2017**



Dolly



Nic



Maggie



Lacey



Skye



Katie

**GOODIES FOR CHRISTMAS FROM OUR WEB STORE**

**PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE AT [www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com](http://www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com)**

**OR PHONE 250-679-2778**



Lavender or Patchouli  
Bath Salts in reusable  
cotton gift bags  
Small \$6 Large \$10



Our 2018 full size calendar \$20

And...  
A Sneak Peek  
at our  
New Donkey Refuge  
Storybook.

Order yours now!  
only \$15



Steve

**STEVIE THE WONDER DONKEY**

Mr. Brown passed the same field every day on his way to and from work.  
And every day he saw the little grey donkey all by himself.

On the sunny days the little donkey would be out in the field eating the  
grass. Sometimes he would be drinking from the little creek that ran  
through the field. Sometimes he even ran around the field kicking his  
hooves as high as they could go.

Because he was a donkey.....

**Sponsor Steve and receive a complimentary  
pocket-sized copy of his storybook  
with your sponsorship package!  
(Offer expires December 31, 2017)**



Coffee mug with Refuge Logo \$10



Christmas Card  
10 card sets (2 each of 5 cards)  
\$15

# This Year YOU:



Fed 104 donkeys and mules  
6600 bales of hay at \$10 per bale  
plus special feed. **Cost \$71,000**

Provided medical supplies and treatments  
including SWAT bug repellent, leg and  
hoof wraps and 350 tubes of worming paste  
at \$20 per tube. **Cost \$2,395**

Provided critical veterinary visits,  
treatments and medication. **Cost \$18,300**

Helped Jim the Farrier give 580 trims.  
**Cost \$22,360**

Helped with annual dental  
checkups and surgeries. **Cost \$5,600**

Gave the donkeys and mules a safe and  
clean home and gentle,  
loving and excellent care from  
dedicated staff like Sherri.  
Total staffing costs for 11 full and  
part-time staff **\$153,000**

Provided 39440 kgs of wood  
shavings for fresh,  
clean and comfortable bedding.  
**Cost \$12,580**

## Thank you so much

## SAVE THESE DATES IN 2018!

Sunday April 8  
Annual General Meeting

Sunday May 6  
Spring Fling Annual Lily Sale and Tea

Sunday June 10  
Donkey Day

Sunday September 9  
Pancake Breakfast



## What Your Amazing Support Did For A Family In Distress:

"If you don't mind seeing a grown man cry"...honest words spoken softly by a wonderful, gentle man as he lovingly strokes the muzzle of one of his little donkeys. Soon he and his wife will be heading home and will once again leave behind a piece of their hearts. They are happy that they are still able to make the trip out to visit their beloved long-ears but each time there are tears. They are relieved that with each visit it seems to get a bit easier to say goodbye.

The year before, serious personal health issues had forced them to make the heart wrenching decision to give up their beloved donkeys...eight of them. A happy, healthy donkey family that had grown up together and needed each other. They had tried to find them new private homes but no one wanted donkeys, particularly older donkeys. And especially 8 of them. Putting these beautiful little creatures down, even in a humane manner, just wasn't an option they could consider. Neither was the livestock auction where they would surely be sold for meat.

In desperation, they had called the Refuge, praying that we could help.

The trip out to deliver their precious pets had been heart wrenching, made even worse when the unthinkable had happened. One of the donkeys had died while being gently loaded into the transport trailer.

As the seven remaining donkeys were being unloaded from the trailer at the Refuge, the man and his wife cried, and we cried with, and for them. Their love for their donkeys was obvious. For us this was becoming all too familiar...loving owners who could no longer care for donkeys that they had nurtured, most since they were foals. For them, no one could understand the pain and anguish they were experiencing.

Finally, when there was nothing more to do but leave, they hugged each of their donkeys and started their long journey home. Empty. And broken. Yet knowing that they had made the best decision for their donkeys.



We would also like to thank the following companies who provided financial support this past year through donated or discounted goods and services:

- All About Imprint Kamloops
- Askews Uptown Salmon Arm
- Blind Bay Country Market Blind Bay
- Brass Ring Hay Services Falkland
- Brian Baker Construction Sorrento
- Buckerfields Salmon Arm
- Enviro Sorb Woodshavings Chase
- High Impact Signs Salmon Arm
- Hucul Printing Salmon Arm
- Interior Supplies Kamloops
- Kamloops Large Animal Vet Kamloops
- Kamloops Scrap Iron Kamloops
- Merck Pharmaceuticals Canada
- Nature's Bounty Sorrento
- Nixon Wenger Law Offices Vernon
- Reliable Septic Services Salmon Arm
- Re-MAX Real Estate Kamloops
- Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union
- Shukanagan Equine Dentistry Salmon Arm
- Shuswap Veterinary Clinic Salmon Arm
- The Horse Barn Kamloops
- Turtle Valley Rock Chase

We were also awarded grants and funding from the following:

- BC Gaming Corporation
- BC Interior Community Foundation
- David and Bess Wright Endowment Fund
- Heronbrook Foundation
- North Shore Lions Club
- Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union
- Shuswap Community Foundation
- United Way Matching Program

## YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO RESCUE AND CARE FOR DONKEYS IN DISTRESS. WILL YOU HELP?



### Please Donate Today!

- Assist with Donkey Care.**  
I wish to Sponsor a Donkey (\$50/Year)  
Donkey Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Become a Refuge Society Member**  
**Adult** (\$30/Year) **Youth** (\$25/Year) **Lifetime** (\$250)
- Become a Bray-ve Heart Monthly Donor**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_/month (\$25/month minimum)
- Please Accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to support the care of the Donkeys.

### Payment Options:

- I have enclosed my cheque made payable to:  
(Including post-dates for Bray-ve Heart)  
**Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge Society**
- Please Charge my Visa / Mastercard  
# \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please also note that you can donate Online at  
[www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com](http://www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com)  
or by calling Shirley directly at 250.679.2778.

### Contact information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail this form to:

7877 SKIMIKIN ROAD, CHASE BC, VOE 1M1

Printed in Salmon Arm, BC by Hucul Printing Ltd.

### CONTACT US

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