



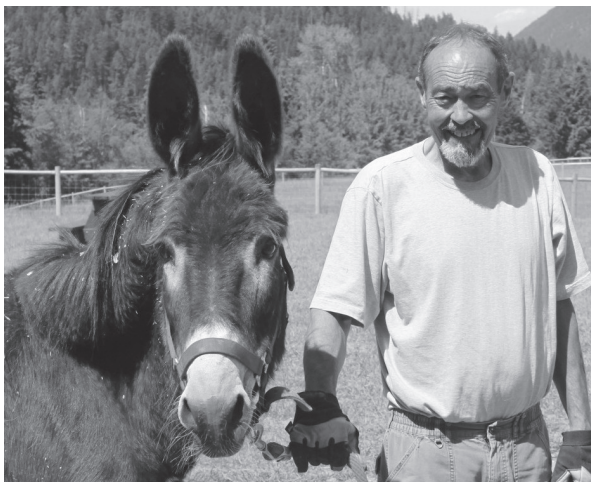
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

Visiting Hours: May 1 to Labour Day
Open 11am -3pm
every day except Wednesdays
After Labour Day please check our website for open days and hours.

7877 Skimikin Road , Chase, BC V0E 1M1
Phone: (250)679-2778 ♥ Email: donkeyrefuge@gmail.com

PATIENCE AND LOVE HELP DAISY ADJUST TO HER NEW LIFE AT THE REFUGE



There is a very special relationship between the donkeys and our own "DonkeyMan Rob". His patience, knowledge and love help each of our donkeys transition into their new life at the Donkey Refuge. This is a picture of Rob and our latest rescue, Daisy.

In only a few weeks, Daisy has come a very long way. When she first arrived she showed her fear by biting herself. While she didn't seem to mind being brushed, she would not allow anyone to put a halter on her. A quick check

showed that she desperately needed hoof care and dental services but neither could happen if we couldn't halter her. Rob patiently and kindly introduced her to the halter and in just a few short weeks she now walks into her halter with no fuss.

She was good with the farrier but is unsure of the dentist. She still demonstrates self-abuse when stressed. Daisy has come a long way but still needs to feel the safety and love that the other donkeys know here at the Refuge.

Once again, Rob's kindness has made a huge positive difference in the life of a donkey at risk.

Did You Know That When You Pat A Donkey You Are Teaching Him The Gentle Touch Of a Caring Human

For some donkeys this is far different than their experiences in life before finding refuge with us.

♥ Sponsoring A Donkey Helps In So Many Ways

MAKING TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Here at the Refuge it likely appears that we spend all of our time and talents caring for the donkeys or coming up with ways to find the funds to continue caring for, and rescuing, donkeys in distress. Amazingly, we also find time to talk about our long-term goals in the hope that our efforts will make a difference for the future generations of donkeys, and people. We need the Donkey Refuge to continue its mission long after we have moved along.

Our Long-Term Goals:

- To provide the “who, what, where, why and how” of the Refuge and our donkeys to visitors to the Refuge itself and to our website so that they can make an informed decision to support our mission now, and in the future, as donors, ambassadors and advocates for animal welfare.
- To ensure that potential donkey owners understand the commitment of time and money required to care for a donkey before they take on that responsibility by serving as a resource for donkey information and care.
- To encourage current and future donkey owners to make private arrangements for the care of their donkeys should they no longer be able to do so. The Refuge cannot guarantee that there will be room for donkeys that are not in emergency situations.
- To engage children and youth in our mission by providing an educational and fun way for them to learn about the role that they can play in ensuring animal wellbeing.
- To educate adults about donkey welfare and the critical role that they play as role models for the upcoming generations by educating them about donkeys and animal welfare in general.

ENJOYING THEIR NEW PASTURE

Our donkeys are enjoying fresh grass meals and playtime thanks to a generous donation from Jim Ferguson and Fanny Monk who have been long-time supporters of the Refuge and also are foster parents to 5 of our minis. Their donation allowed us to build the fences around the 3 pastures.



With the heat wave we have been experiencing we are only able to put the donkeys on pasture for 2 hours once per day instead of twice per day or there will soon be no grass left in the pastures. Their second meal is hay.

Our next goal is to raise \$20,000 to install a second well in the pasture area so we can irrigate the land. This way we will have green grass for both feeding times and lessen our reliance on grass hay during the summer months.

STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING FOR TWO MINI DONKEYS

In early May we received a phone call from a concerned citizen who had been told that his neighbour was going to shoot his 7 year-old miniature jenny donkey and give away her 2 year-old ungelded son. The caller gave us the owner's name so we could call to see if we could help the donkeys. We learned from the owner that the jenny was still alive and that the young jack had been given away so we agreed to pick up the mother. The owner called us soon after to let us know that the son had been unceremoniously dumped back in his yard within one day and he wondered if we would take both donkeys. The next day we were at his farm to pick them up.

We were shocked at the condition of these two donkeys. Their hooves and teeth had not received attention for years and they had been suffering from major neglect. They needed immediate farrier care and a veterinary checkup. The jack needed to be gelded. **Most distressing was that these two little ones had not even been given names....a reflection of the impersonal connection between the owner and these sweet, gentle creatures.**

Stories like this are all too familiar. These innocent creatures and so many others like them suffer at the hands of their humans. It takes years and years of care in our facility to undo the effects of the mental and physical neglect and abuse and for too many of our residents, the effects are permanent. Chronic painful hoof issues, loss of teeth making eating a difficult endeavour, yearly skin problems resulting in hair loss and painful skin irritations, life threatening weight issues, behavioural issues resulting from both physical and emotional abuse...

For this mother and young son, there is a happy ending. They are in our care and can call the Refuge their forever home. They will receive the love and care that they so richly deserve. And best of all, they have been given wonderful names...SOFI and RICO.

We can hardly believe the change in them, particularly Rico, since they arrived. We are sure he has grown several inches taller and is enjoying being a toddler and playing with the other younger donkeys. Everyone that donates to the care of these donkeys should be so pleased knowing that they have made such a positive difference for these two adorable little donkeys.

Sofi



Rico

Sofi's Hooves



JOIN US for HAY DAY JULY 26th from 11am-4pm

We are hosting a fun day at the farm to raise the funds to fill our barns with winter hay for the donkeys. There will be farm skills games including horseshoes and a hay bale relay and lots of activities for the kids. See lovely quilts made by our local artists and buy a ticket to win one of them. Watch as Shirley shows us how to spin wool. Pat the donkeys on their walkabouts with Rob and Jamie and hear heartwarming stories about the Refuge and its wonderful long-eared residents. Enjoy BBQ'd hamburgers, popcorn and ice cream cones.

Admission is by donation at the gate. Please Dig Deep - Help Us Continue to Care For Unwanted, Neglected and Abused Donkeys.

Please Remember To Visit the Buy A Bale Booths and donate towards the purchase of bales of hay - ONLY \$7.50 PER BALE! "Buy" as many as you can and feed our donkeys this winter.



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DONKEYS ARE DIFFERENT THAN HORSES

by Shirley Mainprize, co-founder of the Donkey Refuge

I frequently receive requests from horse owners who are looking for a donkey to put in with their horses as a companion animal. I often ask why they don't just get another horse as a companion because there are just so many horses out there that are ending up at the slaughter house for meat because no one wants to purchase them at the auctions or online.

The usual responses about not wanting another horse for a companion animal have to do with cost of care, lack of time for another horse or that they don't have the money to buy another horse.

These common responses have caused me concern. I decided to sit down and think about what was actually going on out there in this big country of ours where donkeys no matter what the size are perceived to be good companion animals to horses, llamas, goats, sheep, chickens, dogs etc., etc., etc.

My first thoughts were that because donkeys have such a gentle demeanour they are considered an easy and inexpensive way to increase the population of pets on a farm with various reasons in mind. I decided to make a list of requirements that donkeys need compared to horses to explain **Why We At The Refuge Do Not Advocate Donkeys As Companions To A Horse.**

Shelter A Donkey must have a shelter for protection from the Canadian weather. Not a Lean-to type building, nor trees and bushes but a BARN. Donkeys are desert animals and they cannot shed the rain or snow from their coats. They get soaked to the skin and chilled outside in our weather. Horses on the other hand have an oil in their hair that sheds the rain and snow - you will see domesticated horses stand out in all types of weather.

Food Donkeys are foragers and again because they are originally from the desert they had to walk for miles looking for little tufts of grass for their sustenance. As a result their digestive track is set up to process low protein/high fibre food in small amounts over long periods of grazing. Our beautiful lush pastures and alfalfa hay are just too rich for donkeys and therefore they cannot stay out on pasture 24/7 or be fed a free choice diet of rich hay as they can easily become overweight and also develop serious hoof problems from the rich food sources we have here in Canada. Horses stop eating when they feel full as they do not have a feast or famine mentality like donkeys do.

Farrier For some mystery that I have yet to solve there is a perception that donkeys do not need their hooves trimmed as regularly as horses. Yes they do....every 6 to 8 weeks would be optimum care. Again on the desert the dry sand takes care of keeping their hooves trimmed down to a proper length but Canadian Donkeys do not walk on desert sand so we as owners must give the donkeys regular hoof care. We see far too many donkeys arriving at the Refuge with hooves in horrific condition. This lack of care causes the donkeys so much pain and also leaves the donkey suffering with chronic hoof problems for the rest of their life.

Dental Care Domesticated donkeys and horses need to see an Equine Dentist on an annual basis. Donkeys live so much longer than horses so the senior donkeys require much more dental care to keep their teeth in good condition in order to assist with the Senior Donkey enjoying a sustaining diet in their later years in life.

Life Span Probably the most important difference of all is the fact that a donkey can live to be up to 50 years of age. The oldest donkey in the world was in her 70's. Like humans the older the donkey gets the more care and expense is involved in order to live in a comfortable and healthy manner. Unfortunately the life span difference of a donkey and a horse is rarely taken in to consideration when it comes to purchasing this so called Companion animal for the farm. As a result Donkeys tend to live in many, many homes throughout their life which just increases the odds of the poor soul landing in a home that is not set up for the extra care and needs that the donkeys require to live out their lives in a healthy, safe and secure manner.

Donkeys are one of the oldest animals that have lived on this earth and yet they are also the least understood. They are not well respected which results in their suffering and the sadness of a life not well lived.

WE CAN ALL DO BETTER TO GIVE THE DONKEYS A LIFE THEY DESERVE BY EDUCATING EVERYONE ON WHY DONKEYS DO REQUIRE MORE CARE AND ATTENTION THAN HORSES.

Two Of Our Donkeys That Were Former Horse Companions

ROSIE

Rosie is a very loving and gentle donkey who arrived at the Donkey Refuge in 2012. In the beginning she had some very serious parasite problems which effected her health but once she was put on a good parasite cleansing program she settled in to be a healthy and happy donkey.

Rosie gets along easily with other donkeys and it is a pleasure to take her for a walk. In 2015 Rosie will begin her training to become one of the educational donkeys that is used for grooming classes and special group visits.

Rosie is a pleasure to have at the Donkey Refuge and we are pleased to offer her a safe and permanent home.



MITCH



Mitch was rescued and then moved to Northern British Columbia where it was just too cold for him. The owner wanted Mitch to be comfortable and not suffer from the northern climate and so she sent Mitch to live out his life at the Donkey Refuge.

Mitch is very well trained and loves working with people. Mitch is one of our regular therapy donkeys with the Group Visits and he is always very behaved, loving and patient with the clients.

Mitch is very independent and can often be found snoozing in the corner of the paddock. Mitch gets along with all the donkeys in his herd and he will live his life with his friends in his safe and secure home at the Refuge.

FEED THE DONKEYS 2015 CHALLENGE



1 BALE
only \$7.50

5 BALES
only \$37.50

10 BALES
only \$75.00

20 BALES
only \$150

**A hay
storage
building
is also on our
wish list!**

Every year one of our greatest challenges is to find and purchase good quality grass hay to feed the donkeys during the months when the pasture will not sustain them. **THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE EVEN MORE CHALLENGING AS THE FARMERS ARE PREDICTING A SIGNIFICANT HAY SHORTAGE DUE TO THE HOT, DRY WEATHER.** For hay farmers, “he who has the money gets the hay” and we want to be at the front of the line. Donkeys eat a lot of hay! And come meal time, they are very vocal. We will need to purchase at least 4000 square bales. Last year’s price was \$7.50 per bale and we pray that we don’t see an increase again this coming year.

If you would like to donate towards the purchase of hay bales, please use the form on the back of this newsletter and make a note “To Buy Hay” or call us at (250)679-2778.

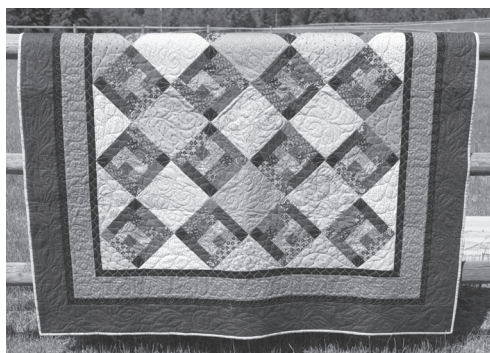
DONKEY SPONSORSHIP NEEDS A BOOST



So far this season we are finding that visitors to the Refuge are enjoying our donkey talks and interaction with the donkeys but are not choosing to sponsor a donkey before they leave. In prior years we were pleased that one in 5 families would pick a favourite donkey to sponsor and would leave with a lovely memento of their time with the long-ears and a feeling of pride knowing that they had made a huge difference. As a charity, this financial support is crucial to our mission to save donkeys in distress.

With so many donkeys to love, picking that special donkey can be difficult so we have chosen representatives from each herd as Donkey Ambassadors but ALL of our donkeys can be sponsored for one year with an opportunity to re-sponsor on each anniversary.

We hope that as the season progresses, sponsorships will increase. Who can resist those soulful eyes, lovely long ears, and of course those melodious voices? They make your heart happy!



WIN! This Lovely Quilt,
A Beautiful Owl Print or
A Donkey Sponsorship Package

*Tickets are only \$2 and
can be purchased at the Refuge
or by contacting the Refuge*

*Draw will be September 13
at the end of our Pancake Breakfast.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHECK THE WEBSITE CLOSER TO THE DATE FOR MORE INFO

Pet Expo in Kamloops - August 8th at St. Andrews On the Square 159 Seymour St., Kamloops

Come out and meet a few of our donkeys and support this very important event which focuses on Animal Rescue in the Interior of British Columbia.

3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast - September 13, 2015

Pancake Breakfast Day is such a great day. Besides enjoying your time with the donkeys, and sponsoring your favorite, there are big, tasty pancakes and sausages cooked just for you. Last year was a sell out so this year we will be prepared to make double the pancakes as last year. Make sure to be here early so you don't miss the fun. Last day to buy raffle tickets for the quilt, picture and sponsorship prizes.

Thanksgiving Burrito Day - October 10, 2015

A great way to spend the day before that big turkey dinner. Join us for fresh, homemade burritos made right before your eyes with a side of delicious nachos from Fresh Is Best. The donkeys are starting to fuzz up for the winter and are always happy for a visit.

IN MEMORIAM

Here at the Refuge we try very hard to shield our visitors from the deep sadness and frustration that we feel when we see our donkeys in physical and emotional distress. We want our visitors to enjoy their interactions with the donkeys and leave feeling happy, knowing that their support is making the world a better place for the donkeys.

Too many of our donkeys come to us with damaged bodies and broken souls. We help them heal as best we can and keep them safe and loved. Sadly there are times that we just can't undo the physical trauma they have suffered and, after exhausting all possible remedies. **Fortunately, not all of our donkeys are mistreated** and we are so pleased that these two donkeys were blessed to have owners that loved them and took good of them as long as they were able. Unfortunately the donkeys' health diminished to the point where we had to do what we promised them when they arrived - to keep them from suffering.

So, with heavy hearts and many tears we have said good bye this past year to two cherished donkeys who were loved by their former owners and by us. Bonnie and Sassafras you will always be in our hearts. Rest in Peace, Wonderful Long-Ears.



♥ Sponsoring A Donkey Helps In So Many Ways

peace.

it does not mean to be in a place
where there is no noise, trouble,
or hard work. it means to be in
the midst of those things and
still be calm in your heart.

(unknown)



STAY IN TOUCH!

Visit us: Our physical address is 7877 Skimikin Road, Chase, BC. Please check our website for open days and hours...and GOOD directions!

Read our postings on our blog:

www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.blogspot.ca

Send us a letter:

7877 Skimikin Road, Chase, BC V0E 1M1

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online newsletter**

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Phone Us: (250) 679-2778



PLEASE DONATE - every dollar helps!

Assist with Donkey Care.

I wish to Sponsor a Donkey (\$50/Year)

Donkey Name _____

Become a Refuge **Society Member**

Adult (\$25/Year) **Youth** (\$15/Year) **Lifetime** (\$250)

☐☐☐

Become a **Bray-ve Heart** Monthly Donor

\$ _____ /month

(\$20/month minimum)

Please Accept my **donation** of

\$ _____

to support the care of the Donkeys.

☐ I've 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 _____

Contact information & Payment Options:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

**Please also note that you can donate *Online* at www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com
or by calling us directly at 250.679.2778**

Mail this form to: 7877 Skimikin Road, Chase BC, V0E 1M1