



# NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2015/16



**Sunday December 27th**  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Enjoy the Holidays  
with the Donkeys.  
Free Hot Chocolate and  
Donkey Stories!

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

**If there were awards for the most improved donkeys,  
Daisy and George would certainly be the winners.**

### **MISS DAISY COMES OUT OF HER SHELL**

Daisy arrived this spring. She was withdrawn and refused to be haltered. At times she was aggressive and charged at us, teeth bared. And she bit herself when she was frightened or upset. Four months later we have a totally different Daisy. She is cooperative and looks forward to our attention. And she is able to be in the mini donkey herd. Congratulations, Daisy.

*“From Total Withdrawal and Self-Abusive Behaviours to Social Butterfly”*



**“The Star of Our Agility Program”**



### **GEORGE FINDS AN OUTLET FOR ALL OF THAT ENERGY**

We all know George and the many attempts that have been made to integrate him into a herd. All to no avail. Enter Shirley who realized that George needed a hobby to keep him busy so that he wouldn't spend his days pacing up and down his paddock. She started him on an agility training program and everyday he walked around obstacles and over special fences. He is a true champ! Well done, George.

# TOUGH TIMES FOR HORSES AND DONKEYS

The following is an email that was written by Refuge Co-Founder Shirley to one of our long-time supporters who had requested information to present to her equine club:

Hi Brenda;

If I could say one thing that I have noticed this year is that All Equines are now in danger of being forgotten or disposed of without a safe future; what with the hay shortage, the aging of the owners and the very lucrative market of the meat buyers who are able to ship the meat to Mexico.

We now have 4 mules in our care and 2 mini horses where the owners tried desperately to find homes but no one was interested and they were begging us to take their equines rather than have them euthanized.

We are now also working with Horse rescues who will phone us when they see donkeys at a farm while they are picking up the horses. In the last 6 weeks there have been 2 Equine Auctions in Quesnel and Armstrong where over 700 horses and some donkeys went through the sale. People rallied to save all of them rather than let them go for meat but I am wondering how long that can be sustainable. Of course the real solution is that the back yard breeders stop the over breeding of everything.

Our focus will always be donkeys and I am hoping more horse rescues open up their doors but we have already had one major horse rescue close their doors this year and wind down their Society status. Now we are seeing the mules coming for help and our Board is going to have to make some decisions but our door will always be open to help where we can even if it means providing hay to the owner who is unable to find hay for their equines (as long as we have more than enough for the mouths that we have to feed).

I feel that the only real solution is that we All work together to help the equines and educate the owners on over breeding.

Anyway I could go on forever but I just wanted to put in my 2 cents worth of what I hear every time the phone rings.

Thanks;  
Shirley

**THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON,  
PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN.  
WE NEED TO PUT AN END TO  
THE OVER-BREEDING OF ALL  
EQUINES AND TO THEIR CRUEL  
AND SENSELESS DEATHS AT  
THE HANDS OF THE KILL BUYERS.**



## THIS YEAR WE WELCOMED THESE NEWCOMERS TO THEIR FOREVER HOME:

Katrina and Joey • Abner • Pedro and Mandy • Priscilla and Jewell  
Daisy • Sofi and Rico • Rosie and Ben • Dorothy and Missy



Dorothy



Jewell



Abner



Katrina & Joey



Missy



Priscilla



Rico



Sofi



Rosie and Ben



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER

We are pleased to introduce our Assistant Farm Manager, Jeanette Galley. Jeanette comes to us with an extensive background in equine care and training and although she had not worked with donkeys, it took her only moments to realize that donkeys require special care and consideration and were not just "horses with long-ears". Jeannette has just moved into the residence at the Refuge and will take over many of the daily duties associated with donkey care leaving Shirley and Rob more time to work directly with donkeys needing extra care and attention. Welcome, Jeanette.



## BARN RAISER CAMPAIGN - PHASE ONE

We are pleased and proud to announce that Phase One of the barn complex is completed and **PAID IN FULL!** We couldn't have done this without the incredible support of the many, many donors who contributed to the Barn Raiser Campaign. What a beautiful building Rob designed. The workmanship of our tradesmen is exceptional and the barn is perfect for the special needs of our donkeys.

*We wish to thank the following individuals and companies who made the completion of the barn possible:*

Gaynor M Aikenhead  
Anne Marie Anderson  
Jackie Baxter  
BDO Canada LLP  
Warren Bell  
Ann Bonkowski  
Susan Braden  
Donna Brearly  
Grace Brouwer  
Lawrence Capkun  
Wayne Carlson  
Amyra Carsh  
Riina Cazemier  
James Ferguson & Fanny Monk  
Jo-Anne Garrett  
Sara Garrett  
Sheila Gorman  
John & Bambi Harris  
Tom & Chris Harris  
Pauline Haslett  
Jean & Frank Hassard  
David and Lisa Hawkins  
Christine Heinrick  
Heronbrook Foundation  
Allister Higginson

Lik Hang Ho  
Carol Hoffman  
Gail Hope  
Ruth Hunter-Moffatt  
Ironhorse Oilfield Services Ltd  
David Jones  
Nancy Jones  
Sharon Kelder  
Helen Kelly  
Kurt & Katherine Kennedy  
Erin Konowalyk  
Cecile Lam  
Linda Leahy  
Jacqueline Leonard  
Ann Ligertwood  
Clive & Linda Lytle  
Cecile MacNaughton  
Brad & Jaana Mainprize  
Arlene Marchi  
Teyjah McAren  
David & Alison McKinnon  
Bruce Meek  
Dianne Miller  
Megan Mills  
Dennis Newton

Alisha O'Neill  
DG Peterson  
Paula Pick  
Garnet T. & Mary-Lou Plant  
Sally Powell  
April Ray  
Beverly Robinson  
Wendy Rosen  
Shannon & Randy Schneider  
Fred Scott  
Andrea Seminiano  
Kirsten Skipp  
Karen Stackaruk  
Katherine Stratford  
Rosemary Tingey  
Don & Dorothy Titus  
Chris Sullivan & Rebecca Turner  
Verjac Ventures Inc  
Roger & Sandra Walmsley  
Heather Ward  
Matt Weran  
Murray & Joan Widdifield  
Jennifer Wolney  
Roberta Wong  
Trisha Wright  
Barbara Zielke

We are in the process of creating the Donor Appreciation Plaque to honour those who contributed to the Barn Raiser Campaign. If you contributed and do not see your name on the list, please let us know as your donation may have been mistakenly recorded as a general donation.

### Thanks also to the construction "crew":

Shepherd's Hardware, Turtle Valley Timber, Trussel Construction, Turtle Valley Rock, Salmon Arm ReadyMix, Kamloops Truss, North Shuswap Plumbing and Spooner Electric.

And, of course, to Rob Miller, our own donkeyman, who put his vision of the perfect donkey shelter onto paper and designed this amazing barn complex. And Alice Shether who drew a perfect rendering of the barn.

**Now on to Phase Two and the Refuge Hospital - YES, A HOSPITAL...**



## HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN IS NEXT!

**JEAN AND FRANK HASSARD  
KICK OFF OUR HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN  
WITH A \$5,000 DONATION!**

Can you imagine the quality of care that our veterinarians could provide to our donkeys if they could x-ray, diagnose and treat our donkeys on site at our own hospital?

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to provide a clean, safe place for a sick or injured donkey, and to have room for her best friend to keep her company?

A well equipped healing center - what a difference that would make.

### The hospital will include:

- a special diet food prep and storage area
- an equine weigh scale
- a cleaning station for buckets, cloths and donkey care tools and equipment
- padded stalls that are big enough for the patient and his best friend
- an x-ray machine
- a dispensary for typical medication
- fully equipped examination area
- portable lift
- surgical capability

We will approach veterinary equipment suppliers to see if they are willing to donate or at least discount the medical equipment.

We will also contact the veterinary pharmaceutical companies for the donation of the medical supplies.

**THE REST IS ON US - Can you help us out?**

# FOCUS ON HEALTHY HOOVES

Donkeys need healthy hooves! When a donkey arrives here, the condition of his hooves is a primary indicator of the quality of care that has been given. With every new donkey that arrives, our concern increases. We are seeing overgrown hooves that we have only seen in pictures from third world countries where donkeys are mistreated and overworked. In a country like ours, with quality farriers that are experienced in caring for donkeys at reasonable prices, it is unfathomable that donkeys arrive in with such overgrown hooves that they are barely able to walk.

We initially decided against adding pictures to this article but realized that there are just no words to properly describe the seriousness of this problem. We can't begin to imagine the pain that they must be enduring.

We know we must be proactive in dealing with this problem. Overgrown hooves can lead to so many other issues - bone deformities, muscle pain, back pain, inability to get the exercise they need to stay healthy, or find food or shelter.

We need to find a way to communicate with donkeys owners - to teach them how to care for their donkeys. To provide them with the resources and information they need to show their love to their donkeys by keeping them healthy - starting with their hooves.



**SO PAINFUL  
SOME CAN  
BARELY STAND**



**SO PAINFUL  
SOME CAN  
BARELY WALK**



Before



After

Sofie and Dove having a foot soak so their hooves can be trimmed.





# *This Year's Fun-Raising Activities*

**THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE OF THEIR TIME AND SPIRIT TO MAKE OUR FUNDRAISERS SUCCESSFUL!!!**

## **HAY DAY AND BUY-A-BALE**

This year our Donkey Days Celebration was renamed Hay Day with the focus on fun, food and fundraising for the purchase of hay for the donkeys this winter. The theme carried through into the fall where we once again invited our visitors to donate to Buy-A-Bale project at our Pancake Breakfast. Hay could be "purchased" for \$7.50 a bale and the idea of buying hay for the donkeys was well received by our participants. Our goal was \$30,000 and we are about 65% of the way to our target. Securing hay for the donkeys was complicated this year by a shortage of grass hay that resulted from a low yield due to a hot, dry summer. After great effort, Shirley was able to find hay for sale in Prince George and we all breathed a little easier. Storage was also an issue so we were forced to purchase a coverall building to keep the hay clean and healthy for the donkeys.

## **RONA HARDWARE BBQ'S**

Twice this year we got to BBQ burgers at the Rona Hardware Store in Salmon Arm. They provided everything and set up and cleaned up while we just cooked and shared information about the Refuge. And every penny made went to the Refuge to care for the donkeys.

## **PANCAKE DAY**

Always fun and this year we had LOTS of yummy pancakes and sausages. What a great group of visitors and so generous, as always. We have the best supporters!!!



## **VISITOR OPEN DAYS**

This year we were open to the public 6 days a week and closed only on Wednesdays when the farrier was there. Although we enjoyed the visits, by the end of the summer the volunteers who greeted and cared for the visitors, and the donkeys, were tired. It is our wish to give visitors the opportunity to get to know the donkeys and learn about them at their convenience but in the end 6 days per week seemed to be too many. Over the winter we will revisit this and come up with an even better way to engage our visitors without wearing ourselves and the donkeys out.



## **RAFFLE**

This year's raffle was a great success. There were three prizes - a lovely quilt created and donated by Gayle Wildfong of Blind Bay; a beautiful print of an owl drawn by Maury Robinson and donated by Irene Robinson, and a large pink donkey stuffie crocheted by Kathy Dohnalek and a donkey sponsorship. The first name drawn was Gracie and on her ticket were the following words: I would like to win the third prize because I want the donkey stuffie. We were happy to honour her request. The quilt was won by David Hawkins and the print was won by Karen Craig.

## **Tis The Season....**

Isn't it interesting that the first "donkey" story so many of us remember is the story of the birth of Jesus and how Mary rode to Bethlehem on the back of a little donkey. How did that loyal, beloved beast of burden go from a place of honour to being ridiculed and portrayed as stupid, stubborn and ugly. From carrying a precious cargo to carrying back breaking loads equal to their body weight. From being treated with love and devotion to being starved and beaten. How heartbreaking.

Here at the Refuge, we work very hard to dispel the myth that donkeys are anything less than the loving, loyal, intuitive, intelligent creatures that we know them to be.

A general lack of common sense with regard to animal welfare and care has prompted the release of a comprehensive document that details the "rules of care" for all animals. We are pleased to see that the simple code of animal care that we have followed instinctively has been summarized in what is universally called The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare.

## **THE FIVE FREEDOMS OF ANIMAL WELFARE**

- 1** Freedom from Hunger and Thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- 2** Freedom from Discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- 3** Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- 4** Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- 5** Freedom from Fear and Distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

These 5 freedoms have been developed as a guideline for all animal "parents" to assist them in providing a healthy, safe and loving home. They seem so straightforward and obvious that one might wonder why they have to be written down at all. To be happy and healthy, all living creatures, including humans, need food, comfort, health, freedom and security.

Sadly, these basic needs are far too often overlooked. Despite access to excellent information via the internet, and including conversations that Shirley and Rob have had with owners, the donkeys that are being surrendered to our care are arriving in worse shape than we have ever seen.

***How on earth does this happen?***

# MATCHING GRANTS THIS YEAR

*A very special thank you to:*

**Vancouver Foundation** for the grant to upgrade our donor information program and our new website (soon to be launched)

**Shuswap Community Foundation** for the grant to purchase a camera and security system to keep the donkeys safe. We can now keep an eye on the donkeys while they are in the barn and see what's going on outside the barns as well.

**BC Gaming** for the grant to assist with expenses directly related to donkey care including the purchase of hay, veterinarian, dentist and farrier services, farm worker wages.

## OUR NEW BRAYVE HEARTS MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Those of us who were among the first to join the BrayVe Hearts Program several years ago will remember that it was designed to fund the purchase of a satellite farm near Turtle Valley as we were "full". That was back in the summer of 2013 and "full" meant that we had about 60 donkeys in our care. We searched the Shuswap, Thompson and even Okanagan districts for a secondary site for the donkeys and eventually realized that although the concept was a good one - a main refuge that would serve as the center for donkey intake and assessment and would be open seasonally to visitors along with a satellite farm for donkey care - it just wasn't feasible. The fact that we couldn't find a suitable property gave us time to realize that a "duplicate" farm meant duplicate costs. Fast forward two years and here we are with a beautiful new home right here in Turtle Valley while the old location serves as a temporary satellite farm until we have completed Phase Two of the Barn Complex.

The Refuge is just like a huge home with many children - 97 of them. Just like in any family situation, there are monthly costs in addition to feeding and clothing the "kids" - the mortgage payment, the utilities and insurance, repairs and maintenance, gas for the car. And just like a family, it is comforting to know that there is enough money in the bank at the end of the month to take care of those bills. For us these costs are close to \$6,000 each month.

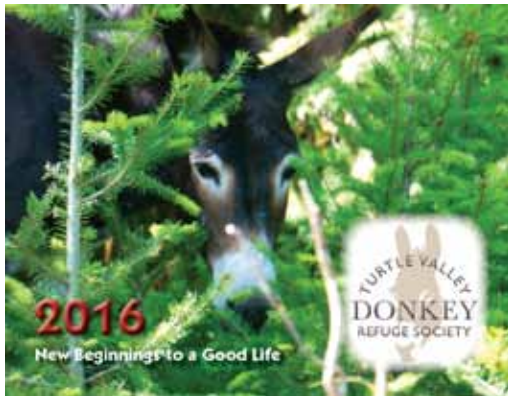
That is where the BrayVe Hearts Monthly Giving Program comes in. Every monthly contribution be it \$20 or \$200 helps to pay these expenses and we are about 25% of the way to having the funds for these expenses in the bank at the beginning of each month thanks to our BrayVe Hearts.

If we know that these challenging but necessary costs are going to be taken care of each month, we can spend our precious time and energies on the rescue, rehabilitation and ongoing care for the donkeys that are part of this huge family called the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge.

And you, as a BrayVe Heart, are part of this very special family as well. We are so grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Would you like to become a BrayVe Heart? For a minimum of \$20 per month you can make a huge difference. Help us reach our goal of \$6,000 per month in BrayVe Hearts monthly giving.

## Time for Shopping!



### Christmas Shopping for the Perfect Gift for Friends and Family?



Check out our web store where we are featuring our beautiful 2016 Calendars and our newest storybook about our sweet little donkey, Mitch.

**Mini books too!**

[www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com](http://www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com)



**The donation form is on the back of this newsletter.**





**Santa Rob and  
side-kick  
Lillie invite  
you to join us!**

**Sunday December 27th  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Enjoy the Holidays  
with the Donkeys.  
Free Hot Chocolate and  
Donkey Stories!**



## 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!

**Send us a letter:**  
7877 Skimikin Road, Chase, BC V0E 1M1

**Check out our website:**  
[www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com](http://www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com)

**eMail Us:** [donkeyrefuge@gmail.com](mailto:donkeyrefuge@gmail.com)

**Like Us on our Facebook page:**  
Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge

**Subscribe to our monthly  
online newsletter**

**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](http://www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com)  
or by calling us directly at 250.679.2778**

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