

Keeping Our Promises To Our Donkeys & Mules



Little Harvey's Healing Journey

Little Harvey arrived at the Refuge in late February this year. Harvey was underweight as a result of dental issues, and he also needed surgery to remove a cyst the size of a golf ball that was attached to his jaw.

Harvey was a timid and anxious little fellow, so his care needed to be slow and gentle. Our first step was to put Harvey on a special diet of soft food that would help him gain 50 pounds.



Once Harvey had gained enough weight to endure sedation, his surgery was booked. Dr. Heather from Kamloops Large Animal Clinic came out to the Refuge Infirmary with her team and all her equipment for the operation.

Harvey's large cyst was removed, and thanks to the extra weight he gained, he tolerated and came out of the sedation perfectly.

Unfortunately, the first night after the surgery Harvey scratched his incision and broke open his stitches, extending his recovery time to four weeks. Our care team enjoyed lots of quality time with Harvey during his recovery, including walks around the farm every day, extra grooming, and daily health care of cleaning and re- bandaging his surgical incision.

Once healed, Harvey was just too anxious to handle supervised visits into the mini herd,

so we decided to move Harvey to the barn off the Infirmary where he could learn to make friends with our two gentle mini jennies Skye and Silkie. We are happy to report that Harvey is now settled in the mini herd!



President's Message

Over the last eight years the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge Society has successfully built over 20,000 square feet of Barns for the Donkeys as well as our 2000 square foot Donkey Hospital. With your generosity, we have created an amazing home for the rescued and surrendered donkeys that have come into our care.

During our pandemic closure to the public, we focused on building out the Donkey Hospital, and this year in February we received Little Harvey who required surgery to remove a cyst the size of a golf ball from his jaw. This surgery was successfully done in our own Infirmary which meant Harvey did not need to travel out of town for the operation and could receive his post operative care from our Herd Health Staff.

Currently we are hard at work on the new Senior Barn and Infirmary Expansion, to help us house our aging resident donkeys & new senior donkey arrivals. Because of their adaptation to a desert environment, Donkeys are not suited to our cold winters or wet weather and so they need a large indoor space during our Canadian weather extremes.

Every week we receive calls from elderly donkey caretakers who are aging out of ranching and selling their farms, and are unable to place their senior donkeys. These caretakers are anxious to find a safe and caring home where their senior aged donkeys can live out their final years. Like humans, senior Donkeys require more care as they develop the typical ailments of aging such as cataracts, arthritis, digestive issues, and other chronic conditions.

Many equine caretakers are not ready to take on the challenge of caring for a senior donkey or mule, although the animal may have years of companionship and enjoyable life ahead of them. This is where the Refuge is able to step in and, with your help, make sure that we have enough space to care for senior donkeys who need us.

We are proud to have created a wonderful home for the Donkeys and we thank everyone who has been part of this amazing journey to create a safe, secure and permanent home for donkeys in need.



Shirley Mainprize - President
Rob Miller - Vice President (and Kiki)

Shirley and Rob, the Founders of the Charity, have been rescuing donkeys for over 23 years. With the purchase of their first donkey Maximo and his senior aged mother Maria they soon came to the realization that Donkeys were misunderstood and often suffered from abuse and neglect. From their love of donkeys sprang the desire to help and they have created a safe and secure home for Donkeys in need.

Introducing our Board of Directors

A successful charity runs smoothly with a Board of Directors that are genuinely engaged with our Mission Statement and who volunteer hours of their time to uphold our mission.



Lisa Marshall - Secretary

I became a Board Member in the Fall 2019 and have resided in Calgary Alberta since 2021. When I met the donkeys at TVDR I was amazed by their kind and gentle souls and they immediately captured my heart. I found myself spending countless hours with them grooming, cuddling, laughing, rubbing their big beautiful ears along with telling them how much I adored them. Nothing in the world seems to matter when I am in their presence except for their well-being.

Bridget Ady - Grant Writer

I joined the Board officially in 2022, and currently split my time between Canmore and the Shuswap. When I first discovered the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge about 15 years ago it was home to just over 30 donkeys. I could never have imagined that there would now be over 100 mostly senior donkeys happily living out their final years in the peace and tranquility of Turtle Valley. During the past 25 years, I have served on the Boards of both the Wild Horses of Alberta Society (WHOAS) and the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). I am now semi-retired and I am pleased to have more time to dedicate to the Refuge.



Kris Tomson - Treasurer

I live and work in Northern BC as a public servant and have so, for more than 10 years. I grew up on a hobby farm near the Refuge and spent most of my childhood around a variety of animals. Although I never pursued a life around animals they have always been a contributing factor into who I am. I completely enjoy the outdoors and my years spent with the donkeys since the inception of the Refuge. Although I've enjoyed my time informally working with and around the donkeys, I am very excited to have taken on a formal role in their care.

Our Mission

To provide a safe, secure and permanent home for abused, neglected and unwanted Donkeys.

DONATE TO THE HAY FUND

In Memory of Chris Harris - Past Director

By Shirley Mainprize



In 2012 Chris became a Board Member, Treasurer and Volunteer at the Refuge. From the first moment that Chris introduced herself to Rob and me, she dedicated her mission in life to help the Donkeys in any way possible. Her talents showed in the multiple Donkey story books, newsletters & poems that she wrote and published but it didn't stop there.

Chris cleaned barns, fundraised to help purchase the new farm and build the Barns and Infirmary, she raised money with the selling of the vast amount of Donkey crafts that we sold in our Donkey Shoppe, she was always running errands and promoting the care and well being that she knew our resident donkeys deserved.

If there was a job to do Chris jumped right in so you may have met her when she was flipping pancakes, grooming donkeys or promoting the Donkey Refuge at local farmers markets. If it needed to be done Chris got it done.

Her love for the Donkeys guided every decision that was made and many Board Meetings she was famous for asking "How will this Help the Donkeys." We have all

lost a very good friend and we will miss her dearly. In honour of Chris' love and devotion, we will see to the completion of her dream for a Memorial Garden at the Refuge where we will remember the many donkeys that have come into our care and have since passed on to Greener Pastures.

Help Support the Donkeys & Their Care

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

I would like to donate to:

- ☐ Support Senior Donkeys & Their Medical Care \$ _____
- ☐ Sponsor a Donkey \$50/year. My Donkey is: _____
- ☐ Support Veterinary Care for the Donkeys \$ _____
- ☐ Become a Bray-ve Heart donor \$ _____ / month
- ☐ Support daily Donkey care at the Refuge \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Online: turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com/donate • **Mail:** 7877 Skimikin Rd., Chase BC V0E 1M1 • **Phone:** 250-679-2778

PLEASE DO NOT enclose your CVC/CCV Security Number

- ☐ **Bill my Visa/Mastercard #** _____
Expiry date: _____
- ☐ Call me for my security # ☐ Email for my security #
- ☐ **I have enclosed a cheque payable to**
The Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge for \$ _____

Phone: _____

Training Rita to Trust

In 2016, we received a call to take in five donkeys and a mule that had been rescued from an Equine Meat Buyer. When Rita the mule arrived at the Refuge we were warned by the Transport Driver to be careful around her as she was likely to hurt anyone who tried to get near her.

Rita arrived wearing a ragged halter but due to her extreme fear of people she would not let us remove it, and eventually it fell off. Over the years we have tried multiple times to try and sedate Rita for a health check up and medical care, including blow darts delivering sedation needles; unfortunately, Rita's adrenalin would fight the sedation and she would not succumb.



This past winter, Dr. Heather ordered special sedation that we administered in Rita's food using an increasing dose every second day - but this was also unsuccessful.

Despite our best efforts, our goal to use sedation to make sure Rita's care check could be completed was not successful. Rita was still extremely fearful of humans and was not going to trust anything that we did. The good news was that in the years Rita has lived here at the Refuge, we have given her time to realize we are not going to hurt her and she has stopped running out of the barn or paddock whenever a human comes near her.

We were also very fortunate this Spring when Sandra of HippoLogic Clicker Training, who specializes in Equine Clicker Training, reached out to us.

Rita has now been in training for 6 months, her trust is building, and she is slowly releasing her fear of being around humans. Rita has made massive progress and is now comfortable being close to her trainer while she works to solve puzzles to find treats. We are continuing to work with Rita to build her trust so eventually we will be able to give her a full medical check-up.

Mules are not born with this fear of humans; they learn it as a result of abuse in the hands of humans.



This Summer's New Programs



TRU International Students

The Refuge hosted over 200 International Students from Thompson Rivers University. They enjoyed a walking Tour with Rob the Donkey Whisperer, a historical talk about the emigration of donkeys from Africa to North America, and were provided an opportunity to meet a donkey, some of them for the first time ever! We are happy to say that we saw students going home with a whole new love and respect for Donkeys.

Grandma/Grandpa & Me Donkey Care Class

Our Grandma/Grandpa & Me Donkey Care Classes provided an opportunity for our participants to learn together how to groom a donkey, clean their hooves and take their donkey for a walk.



Seniors Tea with the Donkeys

Our Tea with the Donkeys provided participants with an opportunity to make new friends while enjoying English Tea and Scones. After the Tea the guests enjoyed a visit with the Donkeys in the Barn.

**Our Senior Programs were partially funded by the
Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program.**

VISIT US IN THE SUMMER

— Senior Barn & Infirmary Expansion Update —



The new Donkey Infirmary saw so much use this past year that we made the decision to renovate the Barn area into a clean, temperature-controlled recovery room. The walls and ceiling were insulated, a cement floor, heater, fan, two windows & an insulated door were installed. The renovation increased our Infirmary size to 2000 square feet of hospital space.



This winter Little Dove caught a chill and stayed in the Infirmary for two days to warm up.



Little Eeyore had colic and needed to stay in the Infirmary for four days of treatment. He recovered quicker because he was warm & cozy in the infirmary.



Newly installed Concrete Floors in the barns keep the dust down for a cleaner environment for the Donkeys. The floors also provide a flat and tidy storage area for the 300 bags of special formulated pelleted feed that is graciously donated for our donkeys from Trouw Nutrition Canada.



Dr. Lenny can now do Dental Work in the Infirmary year-round!



Get your pen out and send a few notes this holiday season with the Elf's Jingle Bells Note Set! Each Set Includes: 3 Elf Cards - 5 x 7" & 3 matching size envelopes, 3 Sheets of Elf Stickers, 2 Elf Notepads - 3.5 x 5" - cardboard cover with the image; blank white pages inside.

\$19.35 + PST & S/H



Make a new start in 2023 with a year of donkeys! This 12-month weekly planner will help you stay organized and goal-oriented. With a monthly overview, quick-flip tabbed monthly dividers & a 2-page spread for every week of the year, this planner features donkeys of the Refuge!

\$31.50 + PST & S/H



The calendar features beautiful photos of our lovely donkey friends here at the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge. The calendar opens up to a spread of 17". Make a brand new start for 2023 & help yourself or a friend stay up to date with this cozy calendar!

\$20 + PST & S/H



Available in Adult Sizes Small to 2XL in "Cherry Red", these 100% cotton Gildan unisex tees are flattering on everyone! Help Senior Donkeys in Need. In addition to the small logo, there is text under the logo that says "I helped build a donkey barn!"

\$25 + PST & S/H