

Keeping Our Promises To Our Donkeys & Mules



Little José's Story

Recent arrival Little José came with a big attitude & lots of love! This little mini needed surgery to remove a cyst from his underside.

Using sedation, our vet Dr. Jay along with the Herd Health Team, was able to lay him down with hay bales on either side to hold him in place while the surgery was performed.

All went well, and Little José is back on his feet. Due to his continued behaviour issues, José and Teddy will be in their own special area and we will continue to work on trying to integrate them into a Herd.

LITTLE JOSÉ AND HIS FRIENDS ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE THIS CRITICAL CARE
THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY & KINDNESS!



Teddy & Little José

José and his friend Teddy came to the Refuge after their previous caretaker passed away. Due to José's attitude he was difficult to place in a new home.

Please help us meet or beat our target of \$120,000 by participating in our

Spring Donkey Care & Comfort Fundraiser

Our Fundraising Goal is to raise \$120,000 towards the annual cost of \$700,000 for donkey care and comfort.

Double the Impact of Your Donation!



We are pleased to announce that
SAKURA'S HOPE FOUNDATION
will once again match the first \$50,000 of donations.

Your first \$50,000 of donations plus the matching pledge will get us 80% of the way towards our goal of \$120,000 to help keep our wonderful donkeys & mules healthy and safe.



Donations gratefully accepted

turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com/donate

E-transfer: donkeyrefuge@gmail.com or call: 250-679-2778



Guinness & Butternut

Donkey Care & Comfort

Dr. Jay x-rays the foot of Lizzy, a new arrival this April. Vet Care such as x-rays helps us diagnose and preventatively treat issues when a new Donkey or Mule arrives at the Refuge.



Herd Healthcare Supervisor Nicky M. provides care for Senior Mini Donkey Elkie by grooming her winter coat to help with air circulation under her winter jacket - this is crucial to keep the donkeys warm and cozy in the wintertime.



Senior Mini Donkey Daisy, 21 years old, spent her first few nights here at the Refuge cozy on an extra thick layer of Shavings & Bedding.



Minerals & Supplements help us support our Senior and Health challenged Donkeys & Mules.



Farrier Care is provided weekly on a rotating basis to all the Donkeys & Mules here at the Refuge. Farrier Jim usually sees about 5 donkeys a week, so it takes about 4 months to see all the equines at the Refuge.

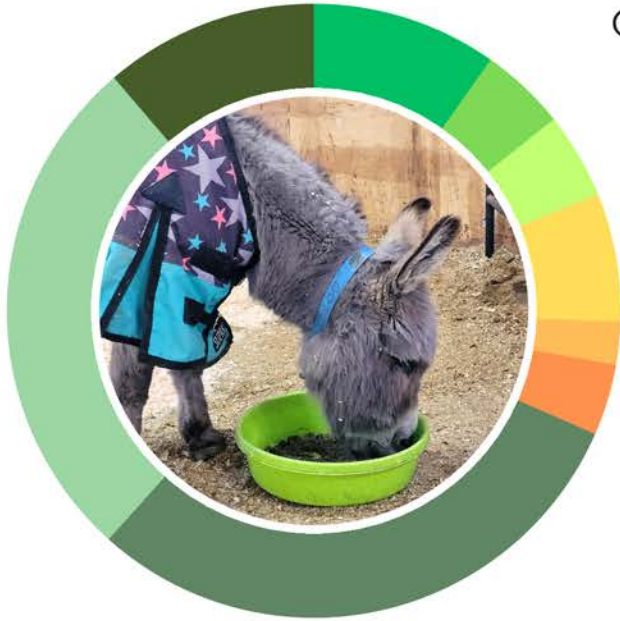


Mini Donkey Skye visits Dr. Lenny the Equine Dentist for Dental Care

Stormy gets a dose of medication from our Medical Supplies. Many of our Senior Donkeys need medication to manage chronic health conditions. Medical supplies & regular care helps them continue to live a healthy life.



Donkey Care & Comfort



Our Fundraising Goal is to raise \$120,000 towards the annual cost of \$700,000 for donkey care and comfort.

	Quality Grass Hay	\$21,000
	Shavings & Bedding	\$7500
	Farrier Care	\$7500
	Vet & Dental Care	\$10,000
	Minerals & Supplements	\$4500
	Medical Supplies	\$6000
	Daily Care Barn Staff	\$30,000
	Herd Healthcare	\$25,000
	Barn, Paddock & Pasture Upkeep	\$8500



Daily Care Barn Staff ensure the Refuge is clear of parasites and waste, keeping all our equines healthy & happy.



Barn, Paddock & Pasture Upkeep includes proper irrigation of the Pastures which feeds the Donkeys in the summer and helps mitigate our wildfire risk.



Quality Grass Hay ensures the donkeys are able to get all the nutrients for their daily diet. Hay costs us \$15/bale and we use about 5000 bales a year.

Help Support the Donkeys & their care

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

I would like to donate to:



PLEASE DO NOT enclose your CVC/CCV Security Number

- Donkey Care & Comfort 2025 Matching Fund \$ _____
- Sponsor a Donkey \$50/year. My Donkey is: _____
- Become a Bray-ve Heart donor \$ _____ / month

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

DONATE FOR DONKEY CARE

Keeping Our Promises

President's Message



We are excited to welcome everyone back for another wonderful summer with the Donkeys here in the Turtle Valley. Over the winter, we have been busy with many projects around the farm - insulating the rest of the barn, upgrading our picnic tables, and taking good care of our Donkeys & Mules.

I would like to thank everyone for your kind remembrances of my wife Shirley. Shirley's kindness and caring touched the hearts of many and we all miss her. She would want us to remember all the good times, hug our loved ones, and - of course - hug a donkey.

- Rob

Our Mission

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



A Message from Sakura's Hope Foundation

We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of everyone at Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge in caring for the animals and educating the public.

We recognize how vital it is to support their ongoing efforts and hope the match inspires donors to contribute, making this fundraiser a success.

Interim Director - Leanne Rutley



The Board welcomes new director Leanne Rutley, a longtime friend, advisor, and supporter of the Donkey Refuge, who has joined the Board until the next AGM. Her steady guidance will be invaluable in the months ahead.

Summer Events

- May 2 - First Day Open for Visits
- May 25 - Rooster's 50th Birthday
- July 14 - Shirley's Remembrance
- August 17 - Hay Day
- September 7 - Last Visiting Day



Thank you to the TNRD for helping us purchase 4 new accessible picnic tables!



Remembering Shirley

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Shirley Mainprize, co-founder & President, of the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge Society, on Monday, March 3rd, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer.



Your Words in Remembrance

"My husband and I had the pleasure of meeting Shirley and Rob many years ago. We were so impressed with their intelligent ideas of what was needed to make the sanctuary successful, their dedication to make it happen and, most importantly, their love for the donkeys. We have been monthly supporters ever since and will continue to be. This is sad news but Shirley's gift to the world must continue."

"Shirley was the most friendly, kind and supportive person. We always looked forward to visiting with her when we visit the donkey refuge."

"The donkey family has lost a great lady! Thank you Shirley for without you and Rob, many of these wonderful equines would not be with us."

"Shirley you will be horribly missed. I will treasure the laughs and hugs we've shared. Condolences Rob my heart breaks for you and everyone two and 4 legged that Shirley leaves behind"

"My deepest condolences to everyone who knew and loved her. Every interaction I had with Shirley over the years, I always felt like I was talking to an old friend. She sure led a life we can all aspire to."

"Shirley was so many things - kind, warm hearted, compassionate, optimistic and so much more. We need more Shirley's in the world."

"Shirley was an incredible lady and left a lasting legacy through the great work she was so passionate about."

"Someone like Shirley can only inspire and impress a person, and make you realize our responsibility to the incredible beings we are entrusted with. As a rescuer she was always so encouraging, thoughtful, and I always left our conversations feeling better knowing that there are "kindred spirits" out there. What is truly our loss is heaven's gain."

"Shirley's dedication to making a difference in the lives of the donkeys under her care was exemplary. I will always appreciate our chats and be grateful to have known her."

"Shirley took time to share great insight and wisdom with me when I found my first donkeys. I am so grateful but sad for her passing."

"Shirley was the brightest light and her memory will always shine at the Refuge."

"She had a true love of her donkeys and such passion in caring for them. She will be leaving very large shoes to fill."

"Shirley was a legend. When we first met Shirley we knew she was the real deal. Her love for the Donkeys and her passion to build the very best forever home was unstoppable. She will always be remembered. We send our thoughts and prayers at this time."



Photo Credit: 2016,
Jenifer Norwell/CBC

The Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge Board of Directors - Rob, Kris, Lisa, Bridget & Leanne - would like to invite everyone to a celebration of her Shirley's life and legacy on July 20, 2025. This event will be held at the Donkey Refuge - 7877 Skimikin Road, Chase, BC. Thank you to everyone who has expressed their condolences for the loss of our good friend Shirley.

New Donkeys in Our Care



Teddy

Size: Mini Gelding
Origin: Okanagan
Age: 17
This classic grey mini is best friends with Little José.



Little José

Size: Mini Gelding
Origin: Okanagan
Age: 19
He has a brown coat with a classic cross & a lot of energy!



Daisy

Size: Mini Jenny
Origin: Fort Steele
Age: 21
Sweet little Daisy joins us after her best friend passed away.



Lisa

Size: Mammoth Jenny
Origin: Okanagan
Age: 16
Lisa made fast friends in the mammoth herd when she arrived at the Refuge.



Decker

Size: Standard Gelding
Origin: Alberta
Age: 48
Decker & Lizzy are a bonded pair; they like to groom together.



Lizzy

Size: Standard Jenny
Origin: Alberta
Age: 25
Lizzy comes to us after her caretaker passed away.



Taco & Bella

Size: Mini Jennies
Origin: Alberta
Age: 28 / 29
Cute grey minis
Taco & Bella are inseparable!

Visit Us!

May 2 - September 7, 2025
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10:30am - 3:30pm

7877 Skimikin Rd, Chase, BC
250-679-2778
turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com

Finishing the Barn



Over the past few years we have been working on upgrades to all the barns. The Senior Barn is completely insulated walls and ceiling; over this past winter we have completed insulating the ceilings of the rest of the Barn. We will be continuing to insulate all other sections of the Barn as time and budget allows. The cozy atmosphere from the lower ceilings and the insulated dormer doors has made a huge difference this year to the Donkey's health - we have had fewer cases of colic in all our Herds as the weather fluctuates. We are so grateful for all our wonderful supporters who have helped us improve the barns for our Donkeys & Mules.



Strapping goes up in the Mammoth Barn



Ceilings cladding goes up in all the Barns



Insulation is blown into the ceiling area.



Senior Donkey Rooster is the oldest long-ear resident at the Refuge. He is turning 50 this year! Rooster really benefits from the warm & cozy senior barn. We still keep a coat on him during cold weather to make sure he doesn't catch a chill. Rooster has a very distinct bray - you might hear it when you visit. We would love you to join us on May 25th to celebrate Rooster's 50th Birthday!



Senior Donkey Daisy enjoyed this winter in her super-fluffy coat.



Senior Donkey George, who suffers from Cushings, was thrilled to have the barn warmer!



Senior Mini Donatello enjoys his warm mash.

Thankful for You



Did you know we are generously supported by Trouw Nutrition - Hi-Pro Bagged Feed Canada with quarterly donations of their Step Right Premium Equine Feed?

This wonderful line of equine feed is a blend of double-conditioned pellets and extruded feed, which we use in different combinations for making warm mash for senior donkeys, as a supplement to help put on and maintain weight on any underweight equines, and to make delicious mash balls to help medication go down easy.



Fundraising Helpers



DONATE a CRATE

DO YOU HAVE A DOG OR CAT CRATE YOU DON'T NEED?

DONATE A CRATE AND SUPPORT A LOCAL ANIMAL CHARITY

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

1

Donate a clean, good condition, used crate of any size at Healthy Spot

2

We will put the crate up for sale in the store

3

When a used crate is purchased, 100% of the selling price will go to a local animal charity



100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO THIS PROGRAM!

Salmon Arm Location Only
Call Leigh Ann 250-832-1966



Donkey hugs to everyone at Trouw Nutrition for providing this excellent product that helps us care for our Donkeys & Mules!



This mash is so good new arrivals Teddy & Little José actually fight over licking out the bowl after Senior Donkey Donatello finishes his mash! Scan the QR code to watch these two minis enjoying a little playtime tussle over who gets to lick the bowl clean.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!