

Keeping Our Promises To Our Donkeys & Mules



Did you know that Simon and every donkey before him received a special promise from Rob during their first few quiet moments together?

While we are not sure exactly what Rob says to each of them we know he promises that they are now in their forever home and that they will be safe, well cared for and loved.

From that moment forward we do everything in our power to keep that promise.

This includes everything from a change in diet or a warm blanket to a new herd placement to a large scale project to accommodate changing herd demographics.

Fact: our donkey population is aging and they require higher levels of comfort and a calming environment where they will spend their senior years.

Our newest arrival, Simon, represents the majority of our future residents.

He is one of many senior donkeys that must be rehomed by elderly donkey owners who find themselves unable to continue to care for their wonderful companions.

The increase in requests in the past few months has been substantial and we believe that it has been in part due to concerns about the long-term effects of the current pandemic.

In keeping with our promises to our donkeys we need to expand our barn complex this summer to include an Infirmary.

This project has been part of our long-term planning but current events in our world have moved it to the top of the list.

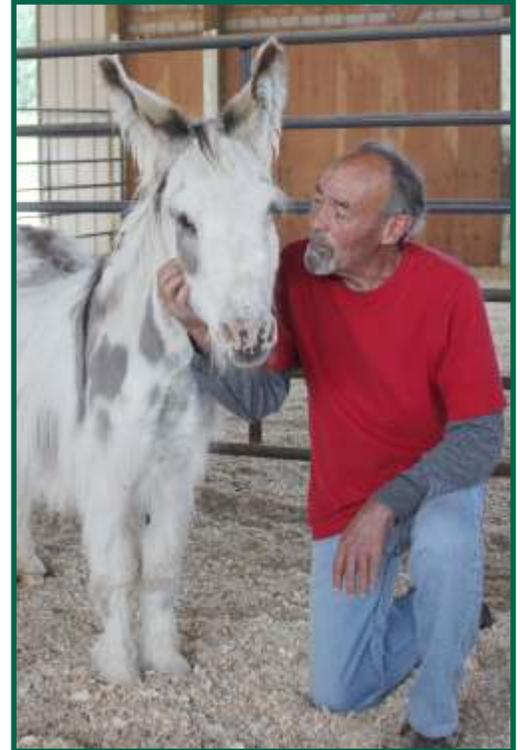


**Junior Donkey "Siska" 10 years old
Rescued from a meat auction**



Junior Donkey "Soda" 6 years old

Senior Donkey "Simon" with Rob



SIMON, our newest arrival is a 24 year old grey and white spotted miniature donkey.

Simon's father passed away this past Christmas leaving Simon without much needed companionship.

His caring owners requested that since he is a senior donkey needing special care he spend his remaining years at the Refuge with the other senior donkeys.

Visit Our Website At:

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

**Start your
sponsorship today!**

Keeping Our Promises During Challenging Times



Senior Donkey Sebastian 27 yrs old

The COVID-19 pandemic has most definitely affected us financially. However, we are both surprised and pleased to learn that no matter what, our supporters are here for us.

Thank you from all of us at the Refuge and the donkeys and mules that are staying happy, healthy, safe and loved thanks to your amazing support.

Even through these trying times, your donkeys have continued to receive the best care possible because you have continued to donate towards their care. We have also received support from the Animal Care Facilities Initiative Fund from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, the Vancouver Foundation Community Response Fund and the Canadian Government Emergency Wage Subsidy Program (CEWS).

The decision to remain closed to visitors this summer and to cancel this year's annual events has been a difficult one.

For many of you the country drive to the Refuge to see the donkeys has become an annual event. It also allowed first time visitors to get to know about donkeys and fall in love with them just as you did.

Our visitor revenue traditionally has helped carry us through the long winter when costs of care are far greater. We sharpened our pencils and found ways to stretch our donations and store sales dollars to help cover the costs for winter hay and staffing.

We have increased our postings and videos on Facebook so you can visit the donkeys virtually until you can visit in person. We have also doubled the number of eBRAY online newsletters to keep you up to date on what's happening here at the Refuge.

And...  drum roll please!

OUR GREEN PASTURE PROJECT IS COMPLETE!!!



Our first donkey, 22 year old "Maximo" and friends out on pasture

Your generous donations plus the funding received from the BC Gaming Capital Projects Grant, the Shuswap Community Foundation, and the SASCU Credit Union provided the funding for this critical expansion of our pastures.

We now have a well and irrigation system and 7 healthy pastures (one for each herd). The donkeys go out on pasture almost every day through the summer season to feast on fresh grass and get exercise. The savings each day the donkeys eat breakfast on pasture is \$100 - \$120.

If you want to see very happy donkeys, visit our Facebook page and watch a few of the videos. You will know that your support definitely made the donkeys happy and healthy.



Junior Donkey "Nic" Only 5 years old with many happy, healthy years ahead of him



The Donkey Infirmary

The **Donkey Infirmary** will be added this summer in response to the critical need for our current senior donkeys and our new donkeys like Simon to enjoy their forever home at the Refuge. It will be constructed between the Main and the Mini Barns and will provide a seamless connection for all the barns.

Phase One will be the construction of the barn itself and will include the roof extension, exterior walls, power and water and revamp of the current paddocks to create a proper outside area for the Infirmary donkeys.

Phase Two will concentrate on the completion of the interior spaces and equipping of the Infirmary.

To date we have had three wonderful long-time donors contribute to the Infirmary so these funds along with donations and other fundraising activities will cover the costs of this much needed expansion to our current facilities.

The first residents of this new barn will be Sophie, Izzy and Nugget. Currently they are segregated from the other herds due to Izzy's physical challenges and Nugget's age. Of course, Izzy's mom Sophie has to be with her baby.

To help with the costs we are applying for a capital grant from BC Gaming. Unfortunately, as time is of the essence, we will need to start prior to knowing if our grant request has been successful.

We know that our donors will want to support this worthy project so we have set up a Special Campaign donation category on our website at www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com/support/



Senior Donkey "Rooster" at 44 years old we believe Rooster is our oldest donkey



Senior Donkey "Nugget" 30 years old



Senior Donkey "Jackson" 33 years old



Senior Donkey "Socrates" 27 years old



Raffle Will Help Towards Winter Bedding for the Donkeys & Mules

First Prize:

A Private Day at the Refuge For Two Adults hosted by Shirley and Rob, co-founders of the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge. The day will be during the open season of 2021 and will include a sampling of the day-to-day donkey care chores, a quick lesson and time grooming the donkeys, lots of great information and stories about the donkeys from your hosts, a light lunch and free time to enjoy the donkeys and the farm.

Value: \$400



Second Prize:

A Handmade Donkey Themed Quilt Pieced and Quilted by one of our volunteers. Measures 60" by 60".

Value \$300

Third Prize:

A Handmade Wrought-iron Donkey Themed Weathervane donated by one of our supporters.

Value \$200



Junior Donkey "Izzy"
6 years old
Needs lifelong care due to an injury at birth

Draw Date: October 12, 2020 at 3pm License# 126609

Tickets are \$10 each available at:
www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com/bigcartel.com
or by calling 250.679.2778



Mammoth Donkeys "Cotton" & "Sampson"
Ages unknown



Senior Donkey "Lady"
23 years old

Consider a Monthly Donation for Donkey Care

Our popular **BrayVe Hearts Monthly Giving Plan** allows you to donate monthly to the care and comfort of the donkeys and mules. Monthly donations help us budget for the costs of keeping the donkeys happy, healthy and safe.

To become a **BrayVe Heart** call us at 250.679.2778 or visit us at www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge/support/brayve

CAN YOU HELP US KEEP OUR PROMISES?



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**
\$10/Month Minimum
\$ _____/Month
- Please accept my donation of:**
\$ _____ to support in the care
of the Donkeys

CONTACT INFO

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

ONLINE: www.turtlevalleydonkeyrefuge.com
MAIL: 7877 Skimikin Rd, Chase BC V0E 1M1
PHONE: 250.679.2778 ~ Shirley

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- I have enclosed my cheque made payable to **Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge Society** (including Bray-ve Heart post-dates)
- Please charge my **Visa or MasterCard**

Exp: _____ CVC: _____
Signature: _____