

*Holiday  
Greetings!*



*From Your  
Friends At*



*Mission Statement:* To provide a safe, secure and permanent home for abused, neglected and surrendered donkeys.

# Welcome New Arrivals in 2019



DOB 2004

Rita's owner was retiring from farming and Rita needed a secure home as she has chronic hoof issues that require specialized care. Rita resides in the Special Needs herd.



DOB 2014

Billy's best donkey friend had passed away which left Billy alone without any animal friends.

It was winter and Billy needed a safe place where there were other donkey companions. Billy resides in the Special Needs Herd.



DOB 1993

Sebastian arrived at the Refuge with his best friend Nugget. He is a Senior Donkey that was well loved and very well cared for and he enjoys good health. Sebastian resides in the Special Needs Herd with the other Senior Donkeys.



DOB 1990

Nugget is a Senior Standard Donkey who has come to live out her Senior Years at the Refuge. Nugget was loved and very well cared for throughout her life and absolutely loves attention.

Nugget resides in the very special herd of Sophie and little Izzy.

## Donkey Facts

Donkeys can live from 35 - 50 years of age. The average age of the Donkeys in our Care is 29 years. As a result of Donkeys outliving their senior owners we are seeing more Senior Donkeys coming in to our care. Our protocols are in place to ensure that the Senior Donkeys enjoy a safe home as well as the special diets, extra hoof care, protection from the cold winter temperatures and trained staff monitoring their comfort and well being. We are able to provide this special care with the generous support of our Donors and we Thank You All for being part of these Donkeys lives.

# 2019 News From the Refuge

With the very generous support of our Donors 2019 was a Year of Blessings for the Donkeys as we continue to improve our infrastructure for the donkeys now and into the future.

**GREEN PASTURES PROJECT-PHASE 1** saw the installation of the water lines, hydrants and electrical lines which meant the sprinklers were running all summer long keeping the pastures green for the Donkeys' summer feed. We also saw the installation of two generators for the Barns which provides the electricity needed to have water for the Donkeys during any emergency.



## HAY FOR THE DONKEYS

We are thrilled to report that we were successful in filling our Hay Barn with 4500 Bales of good quality grass hay and 250 Bales of Straw.

## MEDICAL CARE

74 Donkeys had their Annual Dental Check ups, numerous Donkeys had xrays taken of their hooves, blood was tested, fecal counts were done and emergency Veterinarian visits made for some pretty intensive days of Herd Health this year. With over 100 Donkeys in our care and 14 donkeys in Foster homes throughout the Province it is wonderful to know that we all work together for the betterment of the donkeys' lives.



We Thank all of Our Donors, The Province of British Columbia Gaming Grant, B.C Interior Community Foundation, SASCU Credit Union and the Shuswap Community Foundation for providing the funds for these projects.



# "A Gift For Santa" *Written by Chris Harris*

Some people think that Christmas is only for people. That Santa is only for children. Here at the Refuge we know it just isn't so. At least for one very special little donkey.

Tiny Tim loves Christmas. He loves the snow, and the twinkling lights that Rob and his friends put up in the barns each year. It means that soon there will be a visit from Santa. And he loves Santa.

Each year when Santa comes to visit the donkeys, they line up and Santa gives them each a hug and rubs their long silky ears. And each year, Tiny Tim gets his hug and then trots to the end of the line and waits his turn to get a second hug.

For the last few years Tiny Tim had been finding a special gift for Santa. It seemed a little backwards to the other donkeys who knew that it was Santa that brought the gift of hugs and scratches to them. But Tiny Tim thought Santa deserved a special gift each year too.

The first year he gave Santa one of the orange traffic cones. It was pretty chewed up and it belonged to all the donkeys but he knew that each year they got new ones so he didn't think the other donkeys would mind. Another year he gave him a piece of hose that he and his friends used to play tug of war in the summer. Santa seemed to really like that one. One summer Tiny Tim found a pretty rock in the paddock and kept it hidden away to give to Santa. He was sure that was Santa's favourite gift.

One year he even tried to give Santa ear scratches but that wasn't Santa's favourite gift because Tiny Tim's little hooves didn't feel very good on his little human ears.

This year Tiny Tim was very sad. He had searched and searched for a gift for Santa but he just couldn't find anything at all. He still hadn't found a gift when he heard Santa's "HoHoHo".

When Santa came into the barn to hug all the donkeys, instead of rushing forward to be the first to get his Christmas hug, Tiny Tim went quietly to the very back of the line. When it was finally his turn to get his hug he couldn't even look up at Santa because he felt so badly.

Santa knew that Tiny Tim was sad because he hadn't found a gift to give. He took Tiny Tim's head in his hands and bent down until they were almost nose to nose. With tears in his eyes, Santa whispered ever so softly,

"Tiny Tim, you don't need to find the perfect gift for me. You are the perfect gift!

Every day you give the gift of joy to everyone who comes to visit you. You remind them that no matter what happens, there is always room for hope and for love. There is no better gift for them and for me."

Then Santa gave Tiny Tim a big hug and in the blink of an eye he was gone.

Tiny Tim stood tall and brayed to his friends ... "THIS IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER!"



## 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_