



LANG-OOR NUUS

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #70, Aug - Oct 2024

“Die donkies gaan universiteit toe!”

Breakthrough for donkeys at Veterinary Faculty

Thursday 22 August witnessed a strong gallop towards improving the status of donkeys in the eyes of the veterinary profession.

Eseltjiesrus presented the first of a series of guest lectures about donkeys to the Veterinary Nurse students at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty at the University of Pretoria.

In October it will be the turn of the students enrolled for the BVSc degree to learn more about the needs of these oft-forgotten animals. In 2025 more presentations covering welfare, behaviour, husbandry and nutrition of donkeys will be presented to new groups of students.

Our appreciation to the Ethology Department and all involved in making this happen, and may it herald the start of a long-term working relationship with Onderstepoort!



Feedback received from lecture attendees:

“The booklet is an incredible resource and they will be extremely lucky to have it. Thank you again for the exceptional effort you have put into this lecture. It is going to be so valuable for the students and I believe will make a difference to donkey welfare through influencing these students.”

Dr Ashleigh Knowles, Ethology lecturer at Onderstepoort.

“Thank you for the insightful talk on Thursday and for the excellent booklet. I'm confident the students gained a lot from it and will be eager to support the cause for donkeys.”

Dr Elize van Vollenhoven, Head of Ethology Dept, Onderstepoort.

“I've checked all the QR codes and they work perfectly. Really well written brochure too. Easy to understand and read, and then being able to delve into more detail if required via the links.”

Gordon Knight.

Promoting the welfare and status of donkeys through a culture of caring

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From our Sanctuary

The Sanctuary was blessed with over 170 mm rain recently and fortunately no damage was recorded, even after strong winds battered the area. Our grazing is looking good and we have not needed to irrigate as much as usual. Feeding took place in the shelters and the donkeys' daily routine was maintained in spite of the stormy weather. The donkeys are all well and enjoy parking lengthwise to capture maximum warmth when the sun comes out.



Beauty dozing in the sun

In May we sadly put to rest sweet Pippin, one of three donkeys that came to us from Swellendam in 2022. Pippin suffered from internal damage in her hooves and pain medication was no longer effective. Our geriatric donkeys Granny and Sonop are now keeping Pedré and Pepe, the remaining members of the little family group, company.

We welcomed a volunteer who came all the way from Herold's Bay to learn about donkeys and their needs and care. Please get in touch with us if you would like to spend a day or more to help our team with their important and satisfying tasks. Contact Juanita at farm@donkeysanctuary.co.za

Update on our Feed Store campaign

We are thrilled to report that we have raised just under R500,000 towards the cost of our new Feed Store. We are in the process of appointing an architect and then plans will be drawn and submitted to the Langeberg Municipality. If all goes well we should have approved plans by late September.

As part of the shelter in our Olive Field is currently being used to store feed, the new Feed Store will free up more space for the donkeys in the shelter. The Feed Store will also allow us to buy large quantities of feed at the best prices, knowing that the new storage facility will protect the feed from the elements.

If you would like to contribute to this project please contact Tony at admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za for further details. Section 18A tax certificates are issued for all donations.

Visitor Centre

The McGregor Primary School visited us for a second time this year. Their earlier visit had focused on Thankfulness, and the theme of the more recent occasion was Respect.

The children gained a practical understanding of respect through direct interaction with the donkeys. They learned how respect is demonstrated through caring actions, gentle handling and attentive listening to the needs of the animals.

We look forward to welcoming your group or school to the Sanctuary. Please contact Leonard at visitors@donkeysanctuary.co.za or 023 625 1801 and we will create an experience specifically for your group.



Het jy geweet?

Eseltjiesrus verleen op verskillende maniere bystand aan organisasies wat donkie-welsyn aanspreek. Ons het onlangs gereël dat die Nasionale DBV 'n inspekteur stuur na 'n verafgeleë gebied waar donkies swaarkry. Ons kan nie self orals wees nie, maar ons kan verseker dat hulp plekke bereik wat andersins agterweë sou bly.



Book Fair Report

Our Annual Book Fair which was held in McGregor this year, raised over R100,000. This will be spent on Care for our rescued donkeys at the Sanctuary.

Just under 2,400 books were sold over the three days in June (14 to 16). On average each buyer purchased 5 books and in so doing, gave R225 to our work. The weather was good and our volunteers contributed immensely to the success of the event. In addition we were able to donate a good number of books to local organisations and schools as part of the June 16 Youth Day celebrations.

Your support for this important annual fund-raising event is highly valued!

Outreach and Advocacy

We provide a helpline telephonically and per email, to assist with donkey welfare queries. We have recently advised on donkey well-being at places such as Bloemfontein, van Wyksdorp, Montagu, Olifantshoek, Deben, Philipstown and Stellenbosch.

We assisted a post-graduate student at Free State University with his research on the socio economic importance and welfare of donkeys in the North West Province of South Africa. We are also communicating with a group of South African students researching the donkey skins trade.

Important reminder: South Africa has an annual export quota of 10,500 donkey skins to the east. The skins are used for the manufacture of ejiao products, believed to have regenerative properties in traditional Chinese medicine.

The member states of the African Union have proposed that the trade be banned throughout Africa. It is imperative to undertake strong advocacy and lobbying to persuade our government to implement this ban.

Please contact us at info@donkeysanctuary.co.za if you have any ideas about how to achieve this.



Our Annual General Meeting

Our 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in August. The meeting experienced some technical difficulties and the opening remarks by the outgoing Chairperson could not be delivered but follow below.

WELCOME!

Our Annual General meeting is a good time to contemplate how this organisation has grown.

Some 23 years ago Annemarie and I were approached by the SPCA in McGregor to provide a safe permanent home to two donkeys. These sad creatures were used to mix the constituents for bricks – their daily routine consisted of walking blindfolded in a circle tied to a pole. Vaal and Japie spent the next 20 years with us at our home in McGregor and became the first honorary members of what was to become Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary.

We battled to find land to rent so that more donkeys could enjoy shelter and freedom – temporary premises were found and the donkeys had a home for the next seven years.

Initially we looked after the animals ourselves and as numbers grew appointed two staff. All of us did everything: feeding, picking up manure daily, erecting nearly 3kms of fencing, installing irrigation, receiving visitors, maintenance, dealing with colic crises, administering medicines and arranging euthanasia, ensuring clean water at all times and providing special diets for the many elderly donkeys.

I took a decision from the outset that still stands, of not taking a salary of any kind but to be a full-time volunteer. In any event Eseltjiesrus could simply not afford it.

Over the years we managed to gather a modest sum for a land deposit and found a 10ha farm for sale. With great difficulty we eventually found a bank that would risk giving us a bond, provided we put our own house down as security. And so, in October 2013 we moved to our present property – the donkeys now had a permanent home of their own!

We would like to warmly thank all those many donkey friends who have helped to make Eseltjiesrus a successful and respected animal welfare organisation. All of us are touched by your compassion –and the many donkeys that benefitted from your assistance are smiling broadly!

We are well and truly settled on the farm and the Board has decided that our efforts will now shift to assist more donkeys in need beyond our fences: the next few years will see a gradual increase in our Outreach programmes.

The toddler has become a healthy teenager. It is now time to grow into adulthood and to further develop crucial traits such as humility, high ethical standards, loyalty and naturally a deep concern for the animal that has been and is still so badly treated by humans.

May Eseltjiesrus continue to promote respect and dignity for all animals and all people.

I thank you.

Johan van Zijl – outgoing Board Chair: 14 August 2024 (Johan remains a Board member)



Behind the scenes

Profile of Anwar Goeieman



Anwar Goeieman is one of our three trained guides who accompany visitors as they meet our donkeys. On Mondays he helps with the important task of daily manure pickup to ensure clean paddocks for the donkeys. Anwar also assists with caring for our donkeys, which includes feeding and grooming.

He was born and grew up in Clanwilliam and moved to McGregor after finding the love of his life in the village and deciding to make McGregor his forever home. His hobbies include reading, spending time with family, taking long walks, and gaming.

Although Anwar had not worked with donkeys before coming to Eseltjiesrus, he has always had a great love for animals.

At work, Anwar enjoys meeting new people from all walks of life.

He finds listening to the visitors' stories just as enjoyable as teaching them about our work and the special nature of donkeys. Additionally, he loves the morning care sessions with the donkeys and finds the special contact with them to be beneficial for his soul.

May you stay with us at Eseltjiesrus for "donkeys' years", Anwar!

We accept PayFast (via our website) Zapper & Snapscan along with traditional EFT, card and cash payments.

zapper™



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Snap here to pay

SnapScan

Section 18A tax certificates

SARS have made our lives a little more difficult this year and require further information for your tax certificates. This information is also sent to SARS. If you have not received your tax certificate and would like one, please contact Marietjie at adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za for a form to complete so that we can issue your certificate promptly and also in future.

MyPlanet, going paperless



MyPlanet is committed to protecting the planet and is transitioning to digital sign-ups of new supporters.



- ONLINE: Go to www.myschool.co.za and select Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary. You can have up to three beneficiaries on one card.
- SMS: JOIN Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary to 31231. MyPlanet will call you back (SMS is Free)
- SCAN: Use the QR code on the left.

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

You will hear from us again.

The next Lang-Oor Nuus will reach you in November 2024 and Donkey Reports will be sent to adopters during September/October 2024. Recipients of gift adoptions also receive the reports and newsletters.

Please inform us of any changes in your contact details, and tell us of friends who would like to receive our newsletters. Where possible we request that postal communications change to email, but we will post information if that is what you prefer.

You can help us to help donkeys by:
DONATING • ADOPTING • VISITING & BUYING OUR BOOKS, OUR GIFTS & OUR WINE • VOLUNTEERING
• PUTTING A DONKEY IN YOUR WILL

Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans.

Visit our website to securely donate, adopt a donkey or purchase our wine. Find out more about donkeys and use it to contact us:

www.donkeysanctuary.co.za

Email: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

Call: +27 (0)23 625 1593

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eseltjiesrus-donkey-sanctuary

Instagram: www.instagram.com/eseltjiesrusdonkeysanctuary

View our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCRseHdhyztM6nOLSThl-hw



Find us on Google Maps

BANK DETAILS: Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary • Standard Bank • Branch Code 050413 • Savings Account: 288244419

You can also pay by SnapScan or Zapper (see the codes above). Donations, adoptions, renewal of adoptions and wine orders can be made via our website at www.donkeysanctuary.co.za through PayFast which accepts credit/debit cards and instant EFTs.

Please identify your deposits so that we can thank you, record your details and issue Section 18A tax certificates.