



DONKEY SANCTUARY BONAIRE DECEMBER '24 NEWSLETTER



December has arrived, and with it, we send you all our Newsletter as a conclusion to the year 2024. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our sponsors, big and small, and to the friends and supporters of our donkeys and us! We cannot say it enough – without your support, we and our dedicated team could not do this hard work. It is a lot, and it's hard work.

We hold a special place in our hearts for Genaro, Suuz, and Margot, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for working with us and never saying no to

any task. Thanks to their dedication, we've already achieved so much for the donkeys in our sanctuary and beyond.

Thank you, dear friends, and here's to an even better 2025 for the donkeys. We wish everyone wonderful holidays and a happy 2025!



*Love,
Marina & Ed*

OUR DONKEYS

Cinta

On November 10, 2023, we received a report about a donkey, Cinta, with a wound on her back. Together with her daughter Kyra, we brought her to the Sanctuary to treat the injury. The wound appears to have been caused by a machete... How anyone could do something so cruel remains incomprehensible.

Fortunately, thanks to Cinta's sweet and patient nature, we were able to care for the wound, and it has healed beautifully. As we often see with mares we rescue, it turned out that Cinta – despite already having a daughter of a few months – was pregnant again.

On October 20, we had the joy of welcoming her beautiful daughter Nara.



Injury
upon arrival



Injury now



Arrival of
Cinta and Kyra



Cinta now
with Nara

OUR DONKEYS

Leidy

Leidy was brought in after we received a report about a wound on her flank, most likely caused by dogs. She was brought to the Sanctuary on August 24, after a visit to our vet, Fulco,

who provided the necessary medication and partially stitched the wound. The wound was treated daily by the interns and volunteers who were helping us at the time.



OUR DONKEYS

Nani & Linja

We had been searching for this little orphan several times, but on August 28, we were finally able to bring her in. She had clearly shed some weight since we first saw her. When she arrived, she was very shy, but now she is much more relaxed, especially alongside her friend Linja, who joined us on October 10.

She was given the name Nani, and together with Linja, they are still receiving special PAVO foal milk. Linja was rescued from North Saliña after multiple reports about her being alone, with no other donkeys around, and going daily to a woman's house to beg for food.



OUR DONKEYS

Kona & Eros

Unfortunately, the goat poachers on the island are still active and use snares to illegally capture goats. Sadly, it sometimes happens that donkeys get caught in these goat snares. This happened to our Kona. She couldn't escape and was stuck there for days without food or water. Her son, Eros, stayed close by her side.

As you can see in the photos, Kona was severely underweight when she arrived. Fortunately, we were able to bring her and Eros to the Sanctuary on September 13, where we provided the care they needed. In the second photo, you can see how much healthier and better both mom and son look now!

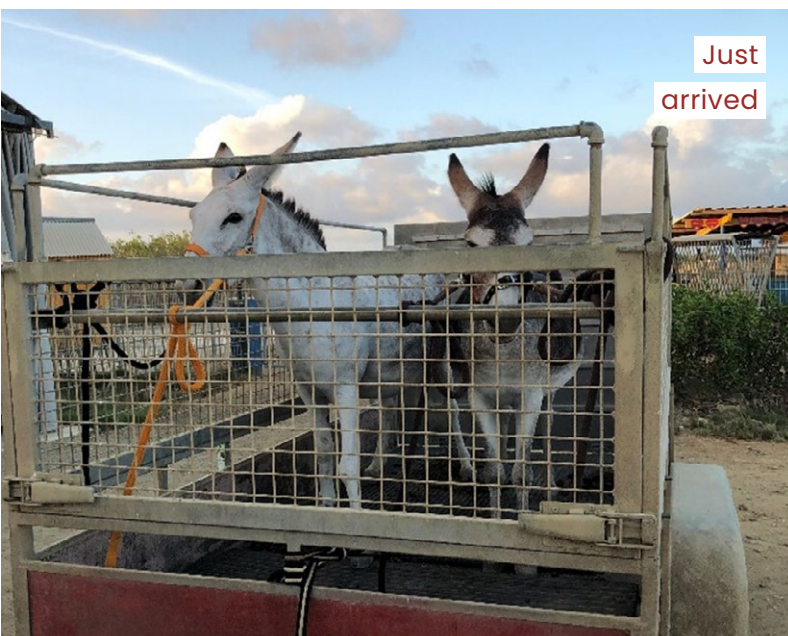


OUR DONKEYS

Sanna & Priya

On the same day as Leidy, Sanna and Priya were brought in after a report that one of them had a can stuck on her leg. We quickly discovered that both of them were pregnant.

On September 14, Sanna gave birth to her healthy son, Zayn. Shortly after, Priya gave birth to her daughter, Adya. Together, their little ones are growing up here at the Sanctuary.



Just arrived



Priya with a can around her leg



Sanna and Zayn



Priya and Adya

OUR DONKEYS

Ellie & Elaine

As described in the previous newsletter from June, Ellie and Elaine were brought in, both still pregnant at the time. Over the past few months, we have had the joy of

welcoming their babies. Ellie's son, Myron, was born on July 16, and Elaine's son, Ethan, was born on October 29.



Ellie and newborn Myron



Elaine and Ethan

DONKEYS MOVED TO THE LARGE PARK

Last year, we moved 40 donkeys from the care meadow to the large park. The care meadow is where the donkeys that need extra care are kept here on the sanctuary grounds. This includes donkeys that are too weak, too young, or new arrivals. Once the donkeys are strong enough, fully grown, and not pregnant, they are moved in groups to the large park.

Djenn and Riva are inseparable in the care meadow, and now they are also together in the large park. Djenn came in as an orphan in December 2022, and Riva arrived with her mother Raya in May 2022. Raya was pregnant and gave birth to her son Ilja in May 2023. They now all live together in the large park. Marley gave birth to her daughter Lola in November 2022, and now they stand strong together in the large park.



Marley and newborn Lola



Marley and Lola in the large park



Djenn and Riva together in the large park

OUR TEAM

Genaro

*Hello dear people! May I introduce myself?
My name is Genaro Barsilio Anthony.*

For 23 years, I have been working with great pleasure, five days a week, with Ed and Marina at the Donkeys Help Foundation. Together with Suuz, Marina, Margot, the interns, and volunteers, I regularly go out to help donkeys in need wherever we can. Unfortunately, this often leads us to our

veterinarian, Fulco, but sometimes that is necessary to relieve the suffering of a donkey.

Marina often calls me the best donkey catcher, but Suuz has now learned from me and is also a real expert in catching donkeys!

I wish you all a BON PASKU and a Feliz AÑA Nobo!



OUR TEAM

Margot

I am Margot, and I started here as a volunteer 2 years ago. The plan was to stay for 7 weeks, but now I've been here for 2 years, full-time. What is the reason I stayed longer? The diversity of the work – one moment you're in the shop, giving people information about the donkeys on the island, and the next moment you're taking care of the wounds of a donkey that's been bitten by dogs.

For me, it's fun to learn about the donkeys, their behavior, what they like to eat, how they interact with other donkeys, what they don't like, and what to do when there's a sick donkey. I didn't take any animal care training, so a lot was new to me. In the 2 years I've been here, I've learned a lot.

Time goes by really quickly here, and you quickly forget all the things that happen with the donkeys. So many terrible things happen on the streets. If it's not a car accident, it's a dog that attacks a donkey. It's very rewarding, though, to see the donkeys healthy and happy after you've rescued them from the streets.

I wish everyone the best for the new year.



OUR TEAM

Suuz

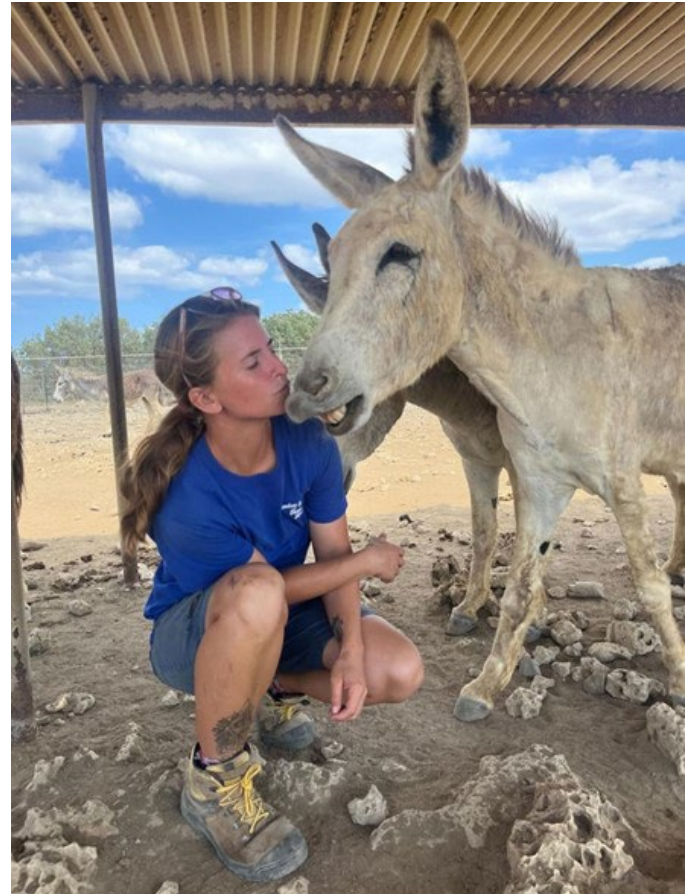
Most of you probably know me by now, my name is Suzanne, better known as Suuz!

I started as a volunteer with the donkeys in July 2019, and since November 2019, I have been part of the permanent team. In the Netherlands, I studied animal care in Rijswijk and have always had a great love for animals. In 2014, I first came into contact with donkeys and immediately fell in love with these incredibly sweet and intelligent animals, knowing I wanted to do something with them.

I had already heard from several people that there was a donkey shelter in Bonaire, and eventually, in 2019, I took the step to volunteer there. Now, 5 years later, I'm still here and can call it my job.

I still work with the donkeys every day with a lot of love and pleasure, from their daily care to responding to reports of stray donkeys, as well as taking photos or going out with you to find donkeys for adoption.

I wish everyone a wonderful end to 2024 and hope to see you again in 2025 in Bonaire!



NEW!

We have beautiful new mugs in the store!



SHADE ROOFS

A new addition in the park is the beautiful new shade roofs in the large park and at the senior meadow. Here, our donkeys can take shelter from the sun, but also from the rain.

This is thanks to the sponsors who support us. We had hearts made with the names of the sponsors, called the "Heart of Fame." These have been hung above the stables at the care meadow where everyone can see them.

Donkeys are enjoying their new shade roofs



Heart of Fame



ELECTRIC BRUSH

A new upgrade at the care meadow: an electric brush where the donkeys can enjoy themselves and turn it on by tapping it with their bodies.

Thanks to Nicolette and Mervyn for this brush!



MANY BITE WOUNDS FROM DOGS AND ACCIDENTS

As in the story of Leidy, there are many donkeys that are still bitten by dogs, like our orphaned donkey Kik, mentioned in the newsletter of June this year. Unfortunately, there are also cases where we can no longer save the donkeys, and we have had to put them to sleep...



As of November 15, there have already been 45 car accidents this year involving donkeys living on the streets, from young to old. Unfortunately, we often don't receive reports about these accidents until it's too late, or sometimes not at all; drivers often just keep going...



On the night of October 30, a mother was hit on EEG Boulevard, along with her son. Early the next morning, a report was made by someone who had seen a dead donkey by the side of the road. The son was also found with a broken leg and had to be put to sleep later that morning.

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR FOOD AND DRINK FOR 2025

Exclusive of costs for: personnel, park maintenance, work vehicles, and the veterinarian.

To keep the donkeys in good condition, they receive food **three times a day**. In the morning at 7:30 AM, the donkeys are fed maintenance pellets from Vente - Agri Uni Rijnvallei from the Netherlands, followed by old bread and old fruit from Van den Tweel during the day, and at 3:00 PM, they receive hay, also from the Netherlands. Fresh water is available throughout the day from the 5 water sources within reach.

Vente/Agri Unie Rijnvallei *(from the Netherlands)*

Purchase (20,000 kg of pellets per month):

€79,560 per year

Shipping costs:

€48,924 per year

Duties and handling fees:

\$19,000 USD per year (estimated)

Hay from Berg Fourage *(from the Netherlands)*

Purchase:

€84,744 per year, 12 x 40 ft containers (on average)

Shipping costs:

€72,000 per year

Duties and handling fees:

\$27,000 USD per year (estimated)

Total (without price increase):

€331,228 EURO

Wishlist for 2025

TO CARE FOR OUR DONKEYS IN THE PARK EVEN BETTER

Diesel forklift

New or used. The one we are currently using is quite old and uses gas tanks, which, when empty, sometimes require us to wait up to two weeks for full tanks that need to be refilled in Curaçao. Every month, we need to unload 40ft containers with the forklift, so it's much needed.



Paved floor for the care meadow

To keep the front area dry

Truck

with hydraulic tail lift for picking up fruit, which we are allowed to collect twice a day with full carts from Van den Tweel.



Make the donkeys happy this holiday season, donate!

INGB Bank

(Netherlands)

IBAN: NL 82 INGB 0003921224

t.a.v. M.M. Melis – Inzake Donkeys Help

Bic: INGBNL2A

Maduro & Curiels Bank

(Bonaire)

10878904 Stichting Donkeys Help

Bic/swift: MCBKBQBN

Pay Pal

hulpvoorezels@gmail.com

Geef Gratis

www.geef.nl/nl/doneer?charity=6211



HELP THE DONKEYS!

To care for the hundreds of donkeys in the sanctuary and to provide medical care to donkeys in distress, obviously money is needed.

Donkey sanctuary Bonaire (Donkeys help) is a small, registered and non profit making organisation. The sanctuary is dependent entirely upon donations, gifts and the work of volunteers.

Are you willing to help us to go on caring for the donkeys on Bonaire? For instance, come and pay us a visit at the sanctuary. The entrance fee will completely benefit their care. All other profits such as sales of drinks and souvenirs, will be used entirely for the care and upkeep of hundreds of these adorable donkeys.

However there are many more ways to support the sanctuary. For instance you can adopt a donkey. You will then receive an adoption certificate and a picture of the donkey of your choice. A one off donation is, of course, very much appreciated.

Maybe your company is willing to sponsor us or to donate goods? And also if you have any other ideas as how to support these gentle creatures the Sanctuary will love to hear from you.

We need all the help we can get!



READ MORE NEWS?

We send out a newsletter twice a year. But of course a lot happens year round at our Donkey Sanctuary.

Would you like to keep up to date with The Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire?

Please follow us on Facebook: @DonkeySanctuary

We are incredibly proud of our sponsor, Dutch Farm. Thanks to your sponsorship, our donkeys remain healthy and happy. Thank you so much for your support!

DutchFarm
INTERNATIONAL



For donations in US dollars:

Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire
Account number: 10878904 in the name of Stichting Donkeys Help
Swift: MCBKBQBN

For donations in Euros:

ING Bank Nederland
IBAN: NL 82 INGB 0003921224
t.n.v. Mevrouw M.M. Melis -
inzake Donkeys Help
Swift: INGBNL2A

Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire

P.O. Box # 331,
Bonaire

If you would like to report a donkey in distress on Bonaire we are available via telephone 24 hours a day!
Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire · donkeysanctuary.com · info@donkeysanctuary.com · +599 95 607 607