

Mannar Donkey Management & Welfare Update

Report to Animal Aid Abroad

20 November 2014

Donkey Orphanage & Clinic



Pitiful condition of many donkeys in Mannar



Bridging Lanka staff member, Kelvin tames a donkey

More clearing and levelling work on the donkey sanctuary is complete and the gates installed. An architect from Colombo has agreed to visit Mannar next week to commence the clinic design on a pro bono basis.

We are currently using a block of land in Mannar town to tame eight donkeys. We have treated one donkey for a bad eye condition and are delighted by the birth of a foal three days ago. We are now trying to find a supplier for head collars and lead ropes for five of the donkeys.

A Pozible crowd-funding campaign and video will soon be launched to raise funds for the construction of the clinic.

Donkey Feeding Program



Typical diet for Mannar's donkeys



A Bridging Lanka donkey feeding station

As an alternative to the Mannar donkeys eating street garbage, we continue to 'recycle' between 40 and 50 kilos of remnant food from a 700 employee-strong garment factory six days a week. This food is supplemented by unwanted produce from local vegetable vendors and delivered to various feeding stations around Mannar.

Donkey Sanctuary UK and the DAT Centre



Discussions about the building design

Rev Sister Josephine, director of one of our partner organisations, the Mannar Association for the Rehabilitation of Differently Abled People (MARDAP), recently spent a week at the Donkey Sanctuary in the United Kingdom to learn more about the Donkey Assisted Therapy (DAT) centres they run. Plans have been approved for the construction of a DAT centre in Mannar to assist with increasing the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of local children with disabilities.

Donkey Community Awareness



A local family adopts a donkey



Community awareness sessions

Various programs to bring fresh insight and awareness about the donkey are being held on an ongoing basis. Schools and community groups are hearing about the strengths and benefits of donkeys to counter negative sentiments about these lovable creatures. Recently there have been isolated acts of cruelty against them, including a knifing of a donkey which later perished.

Donkey Volunteer



Aneil Rajaram



Aneil, a Canadian, has volunteered for two months to tame and care for donkeys and is assisting our staff in all aspects of animal care. Aneil is also helping to revamp our 'donkey exposure' on Facebook in order to reach a larger audience.

Donkey Merchandise



Funky donkey t'shirts



T'shirt designer, Sameera

The Funky Donkey t-shirt is finally being printed with the first batch of 200 ready in December. Heart-felt tanks to Rohan at Maxim Garments for sponsoring this initiative and for Sameera Rajapaksa for the brilliant design. The proceeds will go towards the running costs of the Donkey Clinic.

Jeremy Liyanage

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