

## Mannar Donkey Management & Welfare Update

Report #2 to Animal Aid Abroad

December 2014

### Temporary Donkey Sanctuary

December brought both blessing and hardship to our sanctuary. A new cuddly foal was born and was an instant hit! But...also the heavens opened and flooded the site. Our staff and volunteers had to wade through knee high water just to reach the animals.

Twelve donkeys are currently being tamed at our temporary sanctuary. Daily the animals are fed, groomed and trained – and shown a lot of love!

We possessed only five head collars and it is difficult to train donkeys without them. A search for both head collars and lead ropes in Sri Lanka proved futile. This need was addressed when our wonderful friends at Donkey Sanctuary India offered to post some out to us.



Last week a donkey with a debilitating sore and injured foot was treated and recovered quickly. Yesterday we noticed a donkey with its skin torn away and felt helpless without any clinic facilities.



Donkey treatment 'on the hop'



Cruel animal attack and we don't yet have a treatment clinic



### Donkey Orphanage & Clinic

Recently an eminent Colombo architect, Sumangala Jayatillaka and his apprentice, Dimitri, came all the way to Mannar to get a 'feel' for the proposed site. They wanted this experience before starting to design the Donkey Orphanage & Clinic facility. We are busy trying to find supplies of recycled timber, doors and window frames.

Sumangala on site



### Clinic property

Al Hathir, land owner and great supporter, priced a fence and thought he could construct one for much cheaper – so he did! Thanks for saving us precious funds.

### Everything's Pozible - new online donkey campaign

We are one step closer to mounting a crowd-funding campaign through the Pozible platform. We have finally completed a video for the campaign. Big thanks to Freeman Trebelcock who donated his time and expertise to shoot and edit the video. Funds raised will go towards the construction of the clinic (\$28,000). We will be seeking \$10,000 from the campaign.



[Donkey Orphanage & Clinic video](#)



### Donkey Merchandise

The Funky Donkey t-shirt are finally completed. Some t-shirts will be given to local Mannar people who have supported our donkey projects. The bulk of the t-shirts will be sent to Australia for sale at \$30 each. All proceeds will go to the Donkey Orphanage & Clinic building construction. The Girl Guides (Sri Lanka) has also offered to sell t-shirts and to mount a special fundraising effort as a 'Brownie' initiative to raise badly needed funds for our donkey projects.

Funky donkey t-shirts

## Donkey Sanctuary UK and the DAT Centre

Rev Sister Josephine, Director, the Mannar Association for the Rehabilitation of Differently Abled People (MARDAP), gave a presentation about the work of the Donkey Assisted Therapy Centres in the UK where she recently spent two weeks. She came back excited to join with us to establish this facility as soon as possible. We need \$25,000 to build and equip the centre.

## Donkey Volunteer



Eero Piirialu



Paul Yates

Paul from Australia and Eero from Estonian have taken over from Aneil, our last donkey volunteer in caring for and taming donkeys. Eero has already been successful in helping tame six donkeys.



Lunch complements of the Timex Garment Factory

## Donkey Feeding Program

Robin continues his daily feeding run to homes which have adopted donkeys and also to our temporary sanctuary. The garment factory and local vegetable vendors continue to support this program. Mannar residents have noticed a healthy change in the donkeys since the feeding program commenced.

Take a look at Kelvin hand-feeding the donkeys...  
<http://youtu.be/K3VSY97J4hc>

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