

Mannar Donkey Management & Welfare

Report #3 to Animal Aid Abroad, January 2015



Training donkeys

If we want donkeys for the Donkey Assisted Therapy (DAT) Centre, they must be tamed and trained adequately. The feral donkeys must also be prepared to carry disabled children. To this end, Robin and Kelvin are busy training the donkeys to carry items.

Last month our temporary donkey sanctuary was flooded with rain. To save Robin wading through the water for 30 meters carrying sacks of food for the donkeys, we used the donkeys to carry the food from the gate to the feeding troughs.



A big 'thank you' to all the **Animal Aid Abroad** members who are also supporting our donkeys in Mannar!



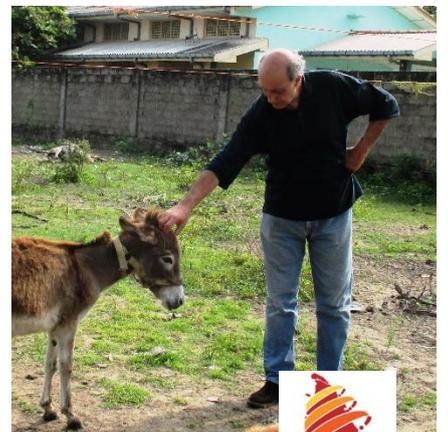
Head collars from India

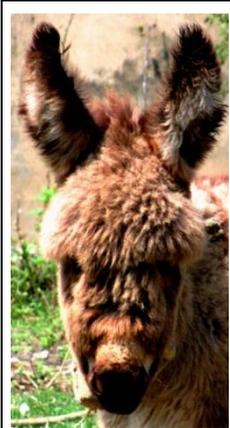
As we are finding it difficult to tame the feral donkeys without head collars and it is difficult to source this item in Sri Lanka, Kelvin emailed Dr Ramesh Kumar from Donkey Sanctuary India (DSI) to see what he could do. DSI posted 10 head collars and leads. The job of taming the donkeys has become so much easier as a result!



Global volunteers

This month we had three volunteers who helped us care for the donkeys. There was Viola from Germany, Sophie from Australia and Emmanuel from Italy. Viola and Sophie helped us to tame and groom donkeys and also created a web page to raise funds for our future projects. Emmanuel groomed donkeys and being a journalist, promised to write an article about the Mannar donkeys for an Italian magazine. He also bought one of our Funky donkey t shirts for a writer back in Italy who has written a book about donkeys.





Name : Lucky
Age : 52 Days
Birth place : Mannar
Sex : Male
Micro No :
Date : 27/1/2015

Donkey IDs

To keep track of the growing circle of donkey friends, Kelvin has created ID cards for all our donkeys. In time we plan to microchip the donkeys for easy identification and animal specific information – identifying features, roaming area in Mannar, treatments, inoculations, suitability for work.



Donkey Orphanage, Clinic and Community Education Centre

Architect, Mr Sumangala Jayatillaka, and his apprentice, Dimitri visited the one acre property situated in Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mannar Island, before starting design work on the facility. Sumangala is undertaking this task pro bono and we are privileged to have such a renowned architect involved.

Vimal, inspiring Mannar engineer and Jeremy from Bridging Lanka visited Sumangala to review the draft building plans. Modifications are being made and the final plans will be issued soon.



Funky Donkey T-shirts Hit the Streets

Sincere thanks to Maxim Garments of Ratmalana for producing the first batch of 200 Funky Donkey t-shirt. The eye-catching item by graphic designer, Sameera Rajapaksa, has proved popular. Proceeds from the sale of t-shirts go toward the construction costs of the donkey clinic facility.

Eero who volunteered with us has sold t-shirts to his family and friends in Estonia.

Jeremy Liyanage
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