

Mannar Donkey Management & Welfare

Report #7 to Animal Aid Abroad, May 2015



Members of the WSDoM group undertake a clean-up after the floods that inundated our temporary donkey sanctuary site. Sincere thanks to Animal Aid Abroad for keeping us afloat despite stormy weather.



Donkey feeding and taming program

– In May there was unseasonal rain which flooded our temporary sanctuary. The donkeys were forced to wade through the water to reach their food. Our new site is on higher land so the donkeys won't face the same difficulties.

For two days workers at the garment factory from where we get our donkey food, went on strike! The poor donkeys were affected as the 50kg of food which they normally survive on, was not available.

Donkey Assisted Therapy (DAT) Centre – Construction of the DAT Centre started last month but due to the heavy rain, the foundations went under water. Now that the rains have stopped, construction works has recommenced.

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Working Bee at the Temporary Donkey Sanctuary – A date was set aside for a working bee at the sanctuary site because during the previous two months the place had gone under water and the area was in a real mess. With the help of members of the Welfare Society for Donkeys of Mannar (WSDoM), the area was cleaned for the good health of the donkeys.

Donkey business at school – With the permission of the Zonal Director of Education, Robin and Kelvin continue to conduct donkey awareness programs in schools. In May they presented a verbal and audio-visual presentation to 50 grade eight students at Al-Azhar Maha Vidyalayam (Muslim school). As is the pattern, the students first thought the presenters were ridiculous for wanting to wax lyrical about donkeys but at the end, there was a complete turn-around. It must be remembered that it was the Muslim traders who first brought donkeys to Mannar 1,000 years ago.



Donkey Clinic & Sanctuary – finally! The architectural plans for the clinic and education centre are completed. Sumangala and Dimitri handed over the signed drawings ready for council approval. We are still seeking funds for the construction of the facility which will cost in the vicinity of \$25,000. Our hope is that it will be completed in three months' time. If there are any generous benefactors out there, please contact us!

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