

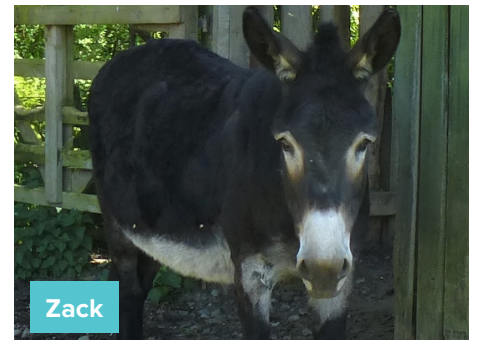
Spring 2024

DONKEY HEAVEN



As the Sanctuary opens for another year, we look forward to seeing everyone who has supported and adopted Donkeys to help us take care of the ever-increasing number of Donkeys and Mules we have here. We have rehomed and rescued more Donkeys in the last year than ever before.

Our last year is also tinged with sadness as we open with quite a few well-known faces no longer with us. They include Ant, Jasper, Luba, Felix, Dylan, And Zack.



For the last 15 years. I have had some challenges; this last Winter must have been the wettest and muddiest to date. Some of the larger sheds in the yard have had the Donkeys shut inside for periods of time as the mud and wet conditions were causing huge health issues with the Donkeys legs and hooves. It will be the aim this year to try to make simple but necessary improvements to lessen the 'Mud Issue'. Let's hope the Summer lets us make these alterations successfully.



HARD WORK BY THE VOLUNTEERS



Throughout the year our group of hard working and dedicated Volunteers give up their time to help look after the Donkeys. They show people around, assisting and informing the visitors enabling them to enjoy their visit to the Sanctuary.

They clean up shelters, sheds and fields lifting dung which would be an immense heap by the end of the year!

Last year they shovelled and barrowed tonnes of muck to a heap in the yard from all corners of the Sanctuary and there will be even more this year with all the extra Donkeys here. Shhh don't tell the volunteers!!! Their diligence and dedication are highly commendable as they trudge back and forth smiling and chatting as they go.

They are taking new photos of the Donkeys to update pictures on the website. The shop is being cleaned and restocked with favourite goods and some new ideas. We hope they will continue with their hard work and kindness towards the residents and visitors at Donkey Heaven.

We would be delighted if anyone has any suggestions for the shop and we will put an idea book into the shop for suggestions that might help Donkeys and Visitors.

We are following up on some suggestions from last year with extra benches around the Sanctuary near the fields. Also, some parasols for the tables on the Courtyard so that visitors can sit in the shade and enjoy their picnics and coffee.

Any other ideas will be given consideration. Thank you all for your support which you all give in so many ways!



BLOSSOM AND TEDS PROGRESS

The two foals born last spring, Blossom and Ted are now 1 year old and 9 months old. Blossom who had a very shaky start in life seems now to be thriving even in the mud!

They look a bit shaggy and being outside in a shelter means they constantly look quite scruffy but are growing.

Ted is under observation to see when he will be physically ready to be castrated, the last thing we need is a young stallion creating havoc amongst our Jennies.

DONKEY NUMBERS INCREASE ALARMINGLY

The Scottish Borders Donkey Sanctuary tries its best to give any Donkey and Mule a home if possible. Over the last eight months there has been a constant stream of new donkeys coming down the Drive. We have been far and wide for Donkeys coming in batches of three and four even six! Our paddocks and sheds are groaning with the sheer numbers within.

Mostly they are healthy animals with few problems medically, but farriery and dentistry costs have risen. Changes always unsettle and cause behavioural problems, and these are the issues we are dealing with now daily to help them resettle in a new environment. We don't have many Donkeys who are suitable for rehoming at the moment but hope over the summer months to try and get a few rehomed to suitable new homes and reduce the numbers at the Sanctuary. We always need to ensure that we have space for donkeys that due to change in circumstances have had to be relinquished by their owners and those that need rescued.

