

Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ

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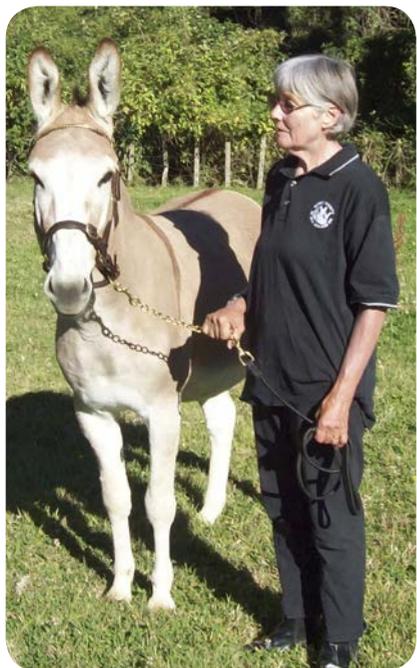
From your Editor

It's the start of a new year, but unfortunately some things seem to stay the same. There are still unhandled jacks being advertised for sale. What do the breeders of these unfortunate donkeys think is going to happen to them? Are they realistic and know that probably the dog tucker freezer is where sadly the large numbers who do not get gelded will most likely end up? It is a bleak fate for the animals bred by people who did not look ahead and only breed if they could afford to geld. The little fluffy entire donkey does not stay cute and charming for long, especially if its breeder does not give it some basic training to tie up and lead and have its feet picked up and rasped. Entires are not, and never will be a pet. Jacks are unpredictable and should be treated with great respect. Any breeder who has the welfare of any males they breed at heart will not sell them ungelded. It is not being responsible to pass the buck and tell the new owner about gelding. The breeder needs to do it themselves. People who buy cheap jacks do not want to spend another \$450 and get it gelded. Most of my rescues are jacks. They have become unmanageable and the frightened owners have beaten them up along the way to try and dominate them. It makes for a sad prospect for the poor jack.

This may seem a dismal topic, but it is very sad and depressing to see this ongoing string of jacks for sale particularly on Trade Me. The numbers of people who are experienced enough and in a situation where they can take them on are hard to find. I believe it is our main welfare problem.

The second major welfare issue for donkeys is what I call "pass the parcel syndrome". Most donkeys are with an owner for only two to five years before being sold on. Donkeys bond with their caregivers and moving home is very traumatic for them. Some become psychologically withdrawn as a way of coping with the string of temporary owners. Donkeys do not cope well with being moved around like chess pieces on a chess board. People need to realise when they buy them that donkeys live for donkeys' years and even though they do not live as long in New Zealand because they generally get too fat, they still live to about 35 years of age. Donkeys do not suit the person who tires of the current diversion only to buy another pet that has caught their fleeting fancy - this time an alpaca, or a mini horse or may be a purple cat?

I hope that this year we see fewer jacks especially unhandled ones being offered for sale, and fewer donkeys on the treadmill of being sold to yet another new home.



Donkeys have so much to give in terms of affection, knowing just how you are feeling, delighting us with their humour and funny habits and wise ways. They deserve the best of care and love and security. The Trust is here to do its best to make that happen and support the rescue and rehabilitation of donkeys. The national networks that the Trust has built up are a great strength, and the Trust's close association with the four major rescue/Rehoming centres enables it to be effective in providing much needed resources to the right places.

The four rescue/Rehoming centres that are affiliated to the Trust and their contacts are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Andrea

Photo: Andrea with her young homebred gelding Pemberton Prospero

Wendy of the Trust

Wendy moved to Kaipara from Northland almost a year ago and the climate at her new home is suiting her much better. She coped with the winter well keeping good health and her coat did not grow as long and shaggy as it had previously.



Wendy and Murphy. May, 2012.

Wendy's feet are also in much better condition compared to the same time last year, even though it was wet and muddy her feet are improved, so the Kaipara climate clearly suits her.

Wendy is very friendly and just loves being with people; except when her feet have to be looked at, but that may well be her arthritis making life difficult for her (she gets a regular dose of glucosamine for her arthritis) the farrier loves her and is very patient with Wendy.

She and Murphy her close friend and our resident donkey are great pals; Wendy is definitely 'the boss' and Murphy knows it! Arrangements are in hand for her annual teeth check up. The photo of Wendy shows she is looking a picture of health.



Neil's family of Donkeys

Thoughts from the D&M Protection Trust Chair

Trust Chairman's report, January 2013.

It's a pity that 'bureaucrat' has become almost a dirty word, but come late winter my donkey family (photo above) may thank me for at least doing a bit of forward planning. Probably a number of you have now stored away hay, either home grown or purchased, and that will provide some backup and much needed roughage for your animals this winter. In my case I have to buy in and the word in our area is that Northland may well have a summer drought, so hay is already in real demand. The contractor who cut my supplier's field wanted to take the whole lot on the spot!

Donkeys generally do need a feed plan for at least 6 months ahead and ours involves careful rotation of the fields to ensure our animals have a reasonable level of grass available all year without ever getting too much or skinning the paddocks so bare they don't recover before winter. This can be an interesting exercise when we get the huge weather variations we have had recently and it is complicated by our having an older jack who can't be gelded but hates to be more than a single fence away from the other donkeys.

Planning feed for our donkeys months in advance is one thing, but maintaining an administrative structure for the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust is a bit different. It is important that we have a wide range of expertise available amongst our Trustees and the Society's appointment this month (January) of Sandra Shearer to a vacant Trustee position will be a real plus for the Trust. Sandra has experience in MAF, Financial planning and SPCA Horse Welfare so can expect to have her brains picked on a range of subjects. Donna McLean will also be joining the Trust committee as our new secretary, taking over from Wendy Macpherson who has resigned from that task after many years, most of them as secretary and treasurer. Donna has a background in administration (RNZAF), farming and teaching as well as having a BA in Sociology. I'm pleased to say that Wendy is staying on as a Trustee so we are starting the year with an even stronger team and organisation.

Our financial year ended in December and although our accounts need to be audited the draft figures show that we spent over \$3,650 on Trust donkeys and direct rescue assistance in 2012. With an income of \$750 from Support Fees we have really needed and appreciated the donations received, which have enabled us to finish the year in the black.

These figures take no account of the tremendous voluntary work done by our local reps and the rescue centres without whose efforts the donkey and mule population of New Zealand would be in a much poorer state. Thank you all!

Neil Cook.

Mamaku Rescue & Rehoming Centre

The Mamaku Rescue & Rehoming Centre is situated in Rotorua and covers South Waikato and the wider Bay of Plenty and works closely with the Donkey & Mule Society of NZ (Inc.) and the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust. The 'team' is made up of three dedicated donkey owners, based in Rotorua, Putaruru and Whakatane.

In the last year they have collected nine donkeys and taken them to the rehoming centre for rehabilitation; rehomed fourteen donkeys; and have four donkeys in rehabilitation. They also educate, support and assist people with whom they have rehomed donkeys in the past, and also provide advice to anyone who asks for it.

Often Mamaku has school and kindergarten children come and visit, to learn about donkeys and how to take care of them.

The donkeys also visit rest homes and participate in Christmas parades and pantomimes.

Here are a couple of examples of donkeys that they have rehabilitated this year:

Jasper of Mamaku

Jasper lived in Huntly with another donkey and was owned by a lady who used to take her donkeys to shows and even had them both pull a cart. The lady fell ill and died and left her two donkeys to her friend David but, unfortunately he did not know how to care for the donkeys.

The other donkey died, which left Jasper who became lonely. David put a cow in with Jasper and both became good friends. At some stage Jasper foundered and nearly died but luckily he recovered. During one winter David was feeding Jasper and the cow some hay and Jasper kicked out which frightened David, so he lost his confidence with him.

In the three years David owned Jasper, Jasper had not had his hooves trimmed, so they grew like 'slippers' and snapped off, leaving him with very sore legs and hooves. David decided he wanted to sell the property and move into town so he contacted the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust to find a home for Jasper.

The Mamaku Rescue & Rehoming Centre went and collected Jasper.



Above: Jasper the day after he arrived.

Left: Jasper's front hoof..



Jasper was very lame, and the journey in the horse float did not help his lameness, so once at the centre a vet and farrier were booked to come assess him. It was good and bad news. Jasper's hooves

were in a bad state and would take a very long time to correct, he was thin but with a good diet he would gain weight.

Because of Jasper's lovely gentle personality and the way he co operated with the assessment, he certainly was worth treating.

Jasper was fed a special mixture full of vitamins, oil, salt, chaff, boiled barley and sugarbeet and started to put on weight. The farrier trimmed his back hooves and rasped the front ones. Jasper also was put on medication to help him walk better.

Eight months later Jasper still has problems with his hooves and he had to cope with a couple of abscesses along the way, but now he likes to run and play with Pascal his paddock mate. Jasper's coat is shiny and he is beginning to get cheeky which is great, and he will remain at the Centre until he has made a full recovery.

A big thanks to the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust for their kind donations which have helped pay for some of his expenses and so enabled Jasper to receive the help and medication needed.

Ollie of Mamaku

Ollie was a three year old entire jack who lived in Hamilton on a lifestyle block, he was grazing with his mother, but his owners sold the mother so Ollie was left on his own. He was never handled and although three years old he has never had his hooves trimmed, so they had grown long and they curled up, and then snapped off exposing gaps in his feet to dirt and mud.

Ollie is a very handsome young donkey, with very long ears and he is reddish in colour, it was such a shame that he was so wild. His owners wanted to find him a good home where he would be handled and become someone's pet.

The Mamaku Rescue & Rehoming Centre went to pick Ollie up, and thankfully found that the owners had put him in the yard to be collected! Because Ollie was unhandled it was very difficult



*Ollie being picked up on
January 20, 2012.*

to put a halter on him, he was a handful. Ollie didn't lead and it took some time and skill to get him on the float. Once at the Centre Ollie was gelded, and when he had recovered the big job of trimming his hooves commenced. Also Ollie was pretty wild and needed to be tamed so he was put beside some quiet donkeys from whom he learnt. He saw the other donkeys come up for treats, get caught, have their halters put on; saw them tied up and also taken for walks. Ollie grew tamer and tamer, his hooves were trimmed, though it took some time for the ugly open gaps on the front of his hooves to close over and look normal.

One year later Ollie is living happily with his new owner who has made great progress with him, he now ties up and leads and is friendly. The Mamaku Rescue & Rehoming Centre trims his hooves and visits Ollie and his owner quite often.

It is thanks once again to the generous donation from the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust who paid for Ollie's gelding which helped in his successful rehoming.

Pauline Sainsbury.

Canterbury Re-homing Centre at Cotswold

The Canterbury Rehoming Centre has been operating under difficulties this past year as the earthquakes have make travelling anywhere (especially with a float) difficult and lengthy due to the ruined roads. The three people running it based in Christchurch have had their homes or possessions damaged, and life has been chaotic. However, despite this they have continued to provide ongoing advice and support to many, take part in activities to promote donkeys and also rescue donkeys like Special Kaye below and help people make the right decisions when buying their first donkey like Colin.

Special Kaye of Canterbury

This is about Special Kaye who was virtually unhandled and suspicious of people but who with skilled and careful handling is now able to be caught and will interact. This is important work, rehabilitating donkeys that cannot be rehomed successfully until they are rehabilitated.

In early July 2012 the Canterbury Re-homing Centre took possession of a 9yr old jenny donkey, which we named Special Kaye as her dam was called Honey Puff. (Kellogg's Honey Puffs & Kellogg's Special K!)

Kaye had been running on a Port Hills property completely alone, ever since the devastating earthquakes in February 2011. Sadly, her owners were forced to leave their damaged home at the time of the quake, but were in no position to take Kaye with them.

After several attempts to try to sell Kaye, her owners approached us for help and we decided to purchase her, with a view to rehabilitating and training her, to the point where she could be successfully re-homed.

Although her owners had taken every care with Kaye's needs, such as foot trimming and worming, she had had very little handling during her nine years and so, each time anything needed to be done, she was rounded up into a small yard. She was wary of anyone coming into her paddock, was impossible to catch and certainly did not enjoy being touched.

The decision was made to put her with two friendly donkeys, spend time getting to know and handle her as much as possible, until we made the expected 'break through'. However, after something like 8 weeks, little progress had been made. Kaye enjoyed being brushed, but only on her terms. She would come up when she saw you with brush in hand, but was gone in a flash, if you dared to present a halter!

At this point we decided to turn Kaye out on the hills with the main Cotswold herd of Jennies. Initially she would only hover on the outskirts of the herd, whilst the other Jennies crowded around demanding attention. Over time she began to join the others, looking for her bit of the action, and now, after so many months, Kaye is one of the first up! She will now stand quietly, allowing us to hold her by the halter, whilst she is patted, stoked and brushed. We finally have the 'break through' we have been seeking



and Kaye has achieved this herself with the aid of the Cotswold jenny herd. Hopefully, it will not be too long now, before Kaye can be successfully re-homed, but with other donkey company, of course!

Special Kaye with a friend at Cotswold

Colin

The Canterbury Rehoming Centre offers advice and support to people looking for a donkey especially their first one, to make sure they find the donkey that is right for them and they are supported with advice to make a success of donkey ownership.



In November the Centre was contacted by a lady interested in buying an attractive, nine month old broken coloured Jack advertised on Trade Me. The prospective buyer was doing things right by contacting us for advice and information, and whether this was the right donkey for her to buy, especially being a jack. We provided her with a great deal of information including on training and

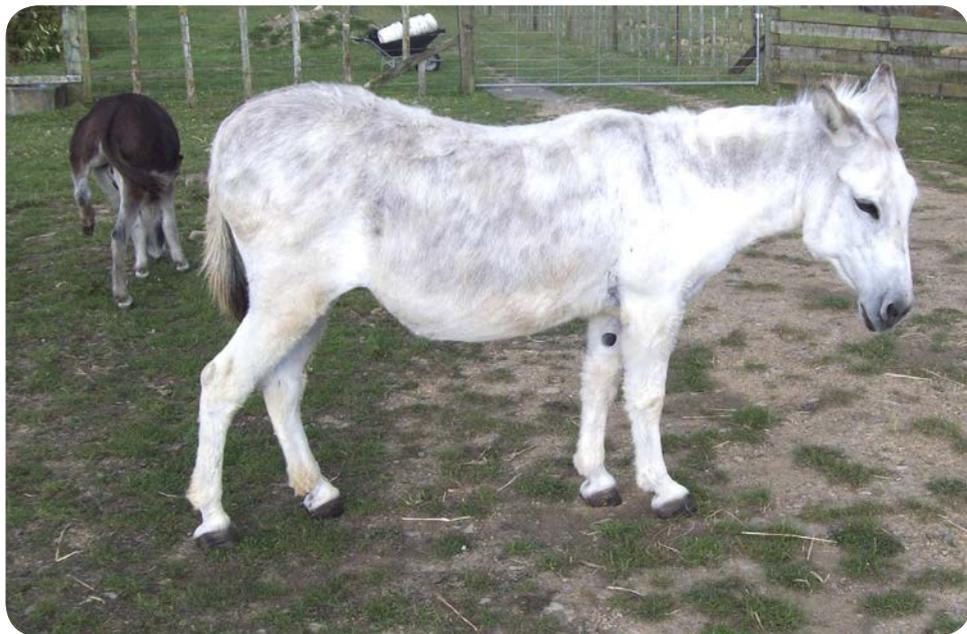
especially that the donkey must be gelded. She finally decided that the wee fellow was the one for her. There was great excitement as she picked him up from the Christchurch area for a long trip back to his new home in Nelson. Colin, as she named him has settled in well. She had him gelded as soon as he had recovered from the journey and was settled in his new surroundings. Now he is leading well and is very friendly following her everywhere around the paddock. She is delighted with Colin. So now we have one responsible, happy new owner and one happy donkey.

Cordelia of the Trust

Cordelia has been back at Andrea's farm for two years. It was intended that she go on to another home but it became clear that she had become deeply traumatised by the frequent moving from home to home within a few years, and that she was quite unable to interact with us. I had rescued her initially when she was neglected and had long feet, and then rescued her again a few years later when she had unfortunately been sold on to a home that had not looked after her well.

It did not seem kind to let her leave a third time as she needed to have a permanent home where she could establish roots that would not be dug up just when she was feeling secure. It has taken two years for Cordelia to come out of her shell and express her personality. Unfortunately Cordelia was allowed to get grossly overweight at one of her homes and her neck has collapsed onto one side. But we keep a close eye on her diet and she has her grass intake strictly limited. She lives in the farm driveway so she can get lots of exercise without getting too much grass.

Cordelia has now got a mini donkey as a special friend. He thinks she is his surrogate mother and he jumps all over Cordelia like a foal, but Billy is devoted to Cordelia and she looks after Billy, and teaches him good manners when he becomes too exuberant. Cordelia has an important role keeping Billy company and looking after him. They look charming together and everyone thinks they are jenny and foal not knowing Billy is a miniature with a BIG personality. Billy goes off for part of each day to have some better grass as he is still young but Cordelia is just over the fence and they graze side by side until put back together again. Cordelia is gradually looking happier and has only just now started calling out to me when I do my feed rounds at night. I don't know if she realises she is finally going to stay here for the rest of her life and be one of our special donkeys.



Cordelia with Billy (in the background)

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