



LANG-OOR NUUS

Esetljiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #58, Aug – Oct 2021

From a tragedy, a beautiful legacy

On a fateful evening in September 2020 the young veterinarian dr Nico Benadé was killed in a car accident near his hometown Ventersdorp in the North West Province. Nico was passionate about his work and had a great love for donkeys.

His parents say that even in his schooldays he was interested in their well-being. Whilst a student at Onderstepoort he took part in a project to develop humane harnesses for donkeys.

The family decided to establish a fund in his memory and asked Esetljiesrus to administer the fund. Antoinette and Willem Benadé,



Antoinette and Willem Benadé get a cuddle from Oumatjie.

Nico's parents, visited the Sanctuary and it was agreed that the funds will be used to provide veterinary care for donkeys in need.

The Nico Benadé Donkey Fund

To support the Nico Benadé Donkey Fund, please send your donations to the usual Esetljiesrus bank account with the reference **NBD** and your contact details. Section 18A tax certificates will be issued for all donations.

Help us to ensure that needy donkeys continue to benefit from this young man's commitment.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We invite you to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 6pm.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions this meeting will take place via Zoom with also an email option for participation. To register for the AGM via Zoom we request you to email us your full name and email address and we will send you the AGM documents, as well as the meeting code and password.

To participate in the AGM via email only, just email us and we will send you the documents and a reply form.

Apologies and proxy votes can be emailed to admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za

Protection of Personal Information



At EDS, we respect your privacy and are committed to keeping your personal information secure and confidential.

In compliance with our obligations under the Protection of Personal Information Act ("POPIA") and Promotion of Access to Information Act ("PAIA"), we are currently notifying everyone on our database that we hold personal information about them and the purposes for which we intend the data to

be used. Please go to www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/images/donkey-sanctuary/documents/EDS_Privacy%20_Policy.pdf to access our Privacy Policy.

Throughout the Privacy Policy you will find information required by POPIA regarding the categories of personal information collected from you, the purposes for which we use personal information, and the categories of third parties your data may be shared with. */continued on Pg2...*

Promoting the welfare and status of donkeys through a culture of caring

Email: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za • **Tel:** 023 625 1593 • **Web:** www.donkeysanctuary.co.za

Post: PO Box 29 McGregor, 6708, South Africa • **Patron:** David Kramer • **NPO:** 056-575 • **PBO:** 930028734

Behind the scenes

Pieter Hull, Farm Foreman

Pieter werk sedert 2017 by Eseltjiesrus en is tans Voorman op die plaas.

Pieter has a team of six support staff. His day starts in the morning when he fetches his staff from the nearby village of McGregor to start the daily feeding, grooming, and care of the donkeys at the Sanctuary.

“This is the highlight of my day” he explains. “Donkeys are so clever. If, for example, I am concerned about anything, they give me gentle head butts and demand I tell them what is bothering me. Spending time with these donkeys puts everything into perspective for me” he says.

Besides his donkey care knowledge, Pieter has a wealth of farm management experience and makes sure that the Sanctuary is maintained at optimal levels all year round. His responsibility includes managing the fields, maintaining the buildings and structures, including the fences and the essential water supply.

His biggest challenge? “During the summer we need to be very ‘water wise’ to maintain our fields for the donkeys and also for our visitors who are so important for the support they provide to the donkeys” he says.

Pieter is a valuable member of the Eseltjiesrus team. His work mantra and advice is: “Be focused and disciplined in

everything you do. Make sure you always deliver the best you can - no matter what you are doing.”

Below:

Pieter with some of his friends at Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary.



BEYOND OUR FENCES

We regularly respond to queries about donkey welfare. A few examples of places where we have recently advised: Potchefstroom, Oudtshoorn, Agterkliphooft, Brandvlei, de Aar, Boksburg, Piketberg, Clocolan, Langkloof, KZN Midlands, Citrusdal, Calvinia and Slanghoek. We had discussions with a trainer from World Horse Welfare to assist in creating a training programme focusing on donkeys, for Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Zimbabwe (VAWZ).

Donkeys as guardians of stock

There is the perception that donkeys act as guardians against predators of small stock such as sheep and goats. This may sometimes be successful but equally often is not. We are opposed to this practice as there are reservations about the impact on the donkey’s well-being. We were delighted when approached by the Cape Leopard Trust asking about this measure – when we explained our position they fully agreed and are investigating alternative predator controls.



Protection of Personal Information, continued

This information is current as of the date of the Policy. In terms of POPIA and PAIA you have the right to ask us what personal information we hold

about you.

This can be done by emailing us at: admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za
You have the right to ask us:

- if we have collected any personal information about you;
- to disclose the specific pieces of personal information we have collected about you;
- to correct or delete certain personal information collected about you; or
- to delete all the personal information collected about you, subject to certain exceptions.

You may also:

- opt-out of any newsletter or marketing information we may send you;

- object to any processing of your personal information; or
- appeal any rejection of access to your personal information; or
- make a complaint about us to the Information Regulator <complaints.IR@justice.gov.za>

If you DO NOT give us consent to keep your information and would like us to remove all your information that we hold, please click ‘unsubscribe’ to this newsletter or contact us by calling 023 625-1593 and we will remove your details.

We urge you to read through the Privacy Policy to understand how we protect and process your information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za

At our Sanctuary

Our ongoing donkey care

Winter can be hard on elderly creatures and donkeys are no exception. Cold weather, advancing age and accompanying dental problems may lead to weight loss. Our elderly donkeys and a few of the not-so-old (like Sheila) get bowls of nutritious soft food daily to maintain condition.

Some of our donkeys, such as Granny, have a thinner coat and wear a warm pony blanket at night when it is cold.

Our deworming practice is based on assessment of individual identified manure samples. Research shows that 20% of donkeys in a group will be shedding 80% of the measured worm burden, so it is logical to identify the manure samples, although it takes some vigilant observation!



Carefully sorted manure samples.



Granny with blanket.

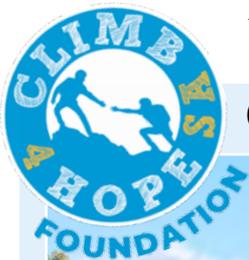


Shy Sheila with treats.

Visit by EARS Donkey Sanctuary

We were delighted and honoured when the committee of EARS Donkey Sanctuary in Greyton visited us. This was a wonderful day of "talking donkey" and illustrates the equine welfare co-operation in our region. More such visits are planned, in both directions.

From left: Michelle Wells, Natasha Carter, Tony Younghusband, Jo Sedgwick, Annemarie van Zijl, (EDS) and Penny James.



Climb4Hope supports Eseltjiesrus

www.climb4hopesa.co.za

In 2020 this annual challenge to lovers of the outdoors resulted in a donation of R25 000 to our Sanctuary.



This donation, raised by the climbers at this event, enabled us to build a new shelter in one of our smaller fields. With the influx of more rescued donkeys we had to divide some of our fields and needed more shelters. Currently our mule Duke is occupying the field with this sturdy structure to protect him against wind and weather.

Our sincere gratitude to the organisers of Climb4Hope and to all who climbed all over Montagu for this fundraiser.

The 2021 event is planned for **Saturday 13 November**. Contact tony@samountain.co.za for details, and support worthwhile charities while enjoying yourself.

Het jy geweet?

In Meimaand is ons gebied geteister deur stormwinde en swaar reën. Ons het meer as 160mm gemeet en dele van die plaas was onder water. Gelukkig het ons geenstrukturele skade ondervind nie. Winterreënval vanjaar is goed.



Please support us and keep visiting our rescued donkeys

People are yearning to spend family time in the outdoors and in spite of lockdown restrictions we receive a steady trickle of visitors. Our excellent range of books, at bargain prices, proves popular for these rainy winter days.

DAYS OF COVID

We constantly adapt our visiting procedures to enforce all Covid protocols and to ensure a safe environment for our visitors and staff. Please help us by adhering to these rules.

A new feature at the Visitor Centre is a large cut-out sign of one of our very shy donkeys, Andy. It provides the perfect setting for selfies or photos to send your friends and loved ones, clearly identifying Eseltjiesrus as the venue.

Please understand that when we are very busy, our donkeys can suffer from "people overload" and we may suspend contact visits for a while. We cannot guarantee entry into the fields, nor can we promise exactly when you might be able to interact with them. After all, this is their retirement home.



Even Andy, our mascot, is not allowing any hugging (or kissing) during Level 4...

In the public eye

Articles featuring Eseltjiesrus appeared in Maroela Media, Die Burger, Beeld and Die Plattelander newspaper. The popular TV programme Voetspore showed us on SABC TV2, and Visitor Guide Leonard Jordaan was interviewed on Paarl FM Radio. We also featured on the cover as well as feature articles about the Nico Benadé Fund in the prestigious SA Veterinary Association Journal, VetNews.

VISITOR CENTRE MANAGER

The Sanctuary is currently recruiting for a suitable candidate for the newly created post of Visitor Centre Manager. The person appointed will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Visitor Centre to ensure a positive visitor experience as well as managing the donkey gift and coffee shops.

Help our donkeys with your MyPlanet card

Using this card

benefits us on a regular basis without it costing you anything. We are listed as beneficiary:

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary [11431].

We can also instantly issue you with such a card at our Visitor Centre when you visit us.



You can donate or adopt by using the Zapper or Snapscan codes below - and via our website:

zapper™



Scan here to pay



Snap here to pay

SnapScan

You will hear from us again:

Our next newsletter will reach you during November and our latest donkey reports go to adopters in September. Please notify us of any contact detail changes (or any queries you may have) at:

info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

If you have received this newsletter via post and could possibly get it through email, please let us know. That would be more reliable, cost-effective and efficient for the Sanctuary.

Take care, everyone, and stay safe. Bly veilig, almal, en volg al die Covid-reëls. Donkies het julle nodig.

*Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans.
Dankie dat u omgee!*

Please bookmark our website at
www.donkeysanctuary.co.za
and follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/Eseltjiesrus-Donkey-Sanctuary
Email us at info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

BANK DETAILS: Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary • Standard Bank • Branch Code 050413 • Savings Account: 288244419

You can also pay by SnapScan or Zapper (see the codes above). Donations, adoptions, renewal of adoptions and wine orders can be made via our website at www.donkeysanctuary.co.za through PayFast which accepts Credit/debit cards and instant EFTs.

Please identify your deposits so that we can thank you, record your details and issue Section 18A tax certificates.