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Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #56, Feb - Apr 2021

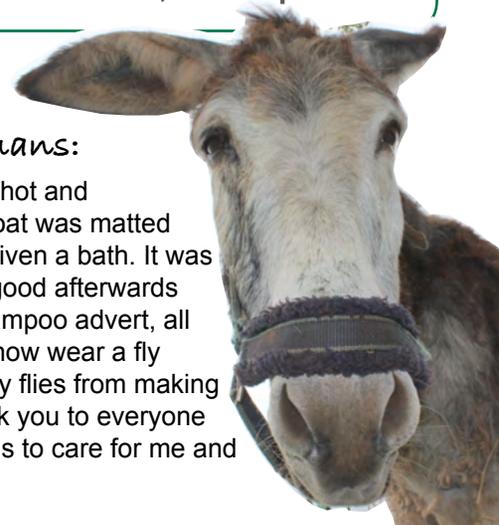
Good news from Oumatjie

As told by this feisty old lady and transcribed by her humans:

"The most amazing thing happened to me a year ago: I was removed from my bare, shadeless little camp and transported to Eseljtjesrus. Thank you to the many caring humans for noticing me and getting me to this Sanctuary. I am so happy here.

I share a big field and shelter with my new best friends Popeye and Donkey. My long time friend, Duke, a mule, was rescued at the same time and he is in the field next to me. We often chat to each other over the fence.

In January I got very hot and uncomfortable. My coat was matted and oily. I was then given a bath. It was so nice and I felt so good afterwards and looked like a shampoo advert, all silky and soft. I also now wear a fly mask to prevent nasty flies from making my eyes weep. Thank you to everyone who helps Eseljtjesrus to care for me and my friends."



My first-ever-in-my-life bath. Gently hand washed and then lovingly dried while my friends watched enviously. I made sure the humans got equally wet during this process! (Donkeys should only be washed occasionally to remedy very matted and oily fur.) Right: I also wear a mask these days. This one protects my eyes and keeps the bothersome flies away.

We opened for visitors in February again

Please come visit us for some donkey cuddles!

Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary www.donkeysanctuary.co.za



Please come and give our rescued donkeys some cuddles. They have missed their visitors.

Our Sanctuary, coffee shop, gift & book shop are open again from the 4th of February.

Covid measures are in place and social distancing will be observed. No mask - no entry (even in the fields).

Open Thursdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm.
Parties of 6+ please pre-book by calling 023 625-1593 or emailing info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

We have been open and we have been closed since our last newsletter went out in November last year.

When Covid recently came too close for comfort in our area, we reluctantly took the decision to close to visitors, for your safety and that of our staff. We opened in early February again and will continue to carefully monitor the situation. All safety protocols are in place at our Sanctuary.

Our website at www.donkeysanctuary.co.za and our Facebook page communicate regular updates about our status in these times. You are also welcome to call us on 023 625 1593.

Let us know in advance for groups of six or more people visiting so that we can make arrangements for such groups.

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

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY:

Our Outreach and Advocacy work continues. We have advised about a foal in distress in Kathu, donkeys needing help in kwa-Zulu Natal, Cederville near Kokstad, Warmbad, Laingsburg, Makhandla, Pretoria, an orphan foal near Ceres and even from California USA, where the person googled us and called us, looking for a companion donkey!

Eseljtjesrus is increasingly referred to and we enjoy positive feedback about such queries when we receive them.

Our foster home in Franschhoek continues to care for our foster donkeys and rescued Dolla, the white donkey, to the highest standards. Thank you, Anne, Dan and staff.

JUANITA LOURENS, DONKEY CARE AND FARM MANAGER REPORTS:

The summer months bring the usual extremely hot and dry conditions. We are creating extra shade structures and enlarging some shelters.

During the next few weeks we will take in a further four donkeys needing a home. We are busy preparing for their arrival and will update you about this in our next issue.

When we are closed to the public, the donkeys miss the stimulation of interacting with their visitors. During these times, many of our staff who normally would interact with the public, have enthusiastically taken on different duties to ensure that the donkeys and the farm continue to receive full attention.

Eseljtjesrus has managed to keep everyone employed during these difficult times and all our donkeys cared for to the highest standards, thanks to your loyal support.



An example of cross-skilling. Eveline Hull, who normally assists us in the Visitor Centre, helped with daily donkey care.



ESELJTJESRUS WINE AND SAGGY STONE BEER:

The prevailing liquor legislation due to Covid determines our ability to sell you our unique Eseljtjesrus wines and the popular Saggy Stone craft beer. When we are not allowed to sell directly, you can still order our wines and pay for them and the courier costs. We will courier them when the regulations allow. Please consult our website for details.

Behind the scenes

Marietjie Keller – Finance & Administrative Officer

Marietjie joined Eseljtjesrus on Workers' Day, 1st May 2017 and is our Financial and Administrative Officer.

She writes: "Ek is lief vir administratiewe werk. Ek hou van goeie strukture waarbinne ek moet werk en kon



sien dat dit die geval is by Eseljtjesrus. Verder was die pragtige omgewing met die nuuskierige donkies 'n groot bonus. Om in 'n stil omgewing te kan werk en dit met vars lug om jou, is mos nie aldag beskore vir kantoorwerkers nie." *{I love admin work in structured systems and find this at Eseljtjesrus. In addition the beautiful surroundings and the inquisitive donkeys are a bonus. Few office workers have the privilege of a quiet workplace with fresh air.}*

Marietjie enjoys the excitement with which supporters receive their adoptions. She has learned a lot about donkeys and realises that donkeys are intuitive and each has a unique personality.

She concludes "Ek is dankbaar om deel van die EDS span te wees en trots op die span wat so lekker saamwerk." *{I am proud to be part of the Sanctuary team that works together so well.}*

Send a unique Valentine e-card this year

Free for existing adopters and donors

Valentine's Day falls within the time frame of this newsletter.

We all need some joy in our lives to counter the dark Covid clouds. Brighten up someone's day by ordering a Valentine's Card for 14th February. For a small donation we will create a bespoke card from one of our specified donkeys and send it to the person you love (or hope to love!) Current adopters and donors can have this done at no charge as a mark of appreciation from us. Let's spread some sunshine.

Email info@donkeysanctuary.co.za or phone 023 625 1593 before the 12th February with your designated donkey (see our website under Adoptions for their names) and the name and email address of your Valentine. We will handle your request with the utmost discretion.



A gift that lasts for an entire year and needs no wrapping

Our adoption programme covers the bulk of the costs of caring for our rescued donkeys at the Sanctuary. We invite you to "adopt" (i.e. sponsor) a donkey of your choice.

A personalised adoption certificate, a photo, history of the donkey and six-monthly reports will trot their way to you and of course your donkey looks forward to meeting you for a cuddle (if it is that way inclined).

Adoption makes a unique and easy gift: no wrapping, guessing size or colour or "has he/she got one of these already?" For relatives far away it provides an anchor in South Africa. It teaches compassion and responsibility to young ones and brings Granny days of pleasure to boast to her friends about her adopted long-ear.

We welcome any amount that you are comfortable with, for an adoption. You can contribute once-off, regularly or irregularly or annually.

Visit www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help for full details or write to us at info@donkeysanctuary.co.za We can process a new adoption within a few hours, if you have forgotten a gift for that important date!

 Your adopted donkey
JASPER
Thank you for adopting!
www.donkeysanctuary.co.za



A personalised adoption certificate, a photo of your donkey, the history of your donkey and six-monthly reports are part of the Adoption package.



About books and our BOOK FAIR in 2021

Our recent BOOK SALE held over the last three months of 2020 was very well supported and received positive coverage in the local media. Thank you to all who supported this and everyone who donated so many wonderful books.

Our big three-day BOOK FAIR as many supporters know it, could not happen last year due to lockdown regulations. We plan to hold this again in 2021 when circumstances allow. We will keep you informed.

In the meanwhile we still sell a wide selection of fresh, new and previously read books at our Visitor Centre. Stock is updated regularly – so come enjoy our tranquil surroundings and buy some books for those socially distanced, 'load reduction' curfew evenings. Every book you purchase directly benefits the donkeys at our Sanctuary.



Het jy geweet?

Gevorderde tandheelkundige werk word op donkies en perde gedoen by spesialis-praktyke. Een voorbeeld is Equine Dental Clinic in Engeland, wat wereldstandaarde stel. Kyk na www.facebook.com/TheEquineDentalClinic Have a look to see advanced equine dentistry – fascinating!

Helping donkeys can provide tax benefits

Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary is a registered NPO and PBO and we issue Section 18A tax certificates. If you care to make a donation, whether once-off, regular or over and above your normal commitment, and it reflects on our bank statement by 28 February, your tax situation can benefit while enabling us to improve donkey welfare.

Please remember that there are delays in transfers via EFT, Zapper, SnapScan and PayFast, and EFTs from other banks can take up to 3 working days to arrive in our account. Please make sure that your donation is received in Eseljtjesrus' bank account by 28 February to benefit in this tax year.

We sometimes get some recurring donations with no traceable reference. Marietjie is currently trying to contact donors who have used the following references: "Bella", "NR7", and the surname *McNicol*.

Please contact us so we can send your tax certificate. Also let us know if you have not yet received your 19/20 tax certificate by emailing info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

CONSIDER A BEQUEST

Not everyone can actively support donkey welfare during these challenging times. However you can still help us by leaving a lasting gift by including a bequest to Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary in your will. Tax benefits for your estate can apply here too. We can send you a brochure and a codicil to include with your will.

Thank you for caring!



We are open Thursdays to Sundays from 10am to 4pm

Gifts, stunning donkey artwork and a range of books are available for sale at our Visitor Centre.



Come and enjoy something to eat and drink in our Coffee Shop, spoil yourself or loved ones with some books and donkey related items.

Meet our tribe of rescued donkeys where our trained Guides will tell you about each one and many fascinating facts about donkeys in general.

Let us know in advance if your group numbers six or more. All Covid protection protocols are in place at the Sanctuary at all times.

Are you a MY PLANET Card holder?

Using this card benefits us without it costing you anything. We are listed as beneficiary: Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary [11431].



You will hear from us again:

Our next newsletter will reach you during May 2021. PLEASE notify us of any contact detail changes 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. Stay safe, everyone – together we will weather the challenges of 2021 and emerge stronger. Hou moed en bly veilig!

zapper™



Scan here to pay



Snap here to pay

SnapScan

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

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

BANK DETAILS: Eseljtjesrus 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.