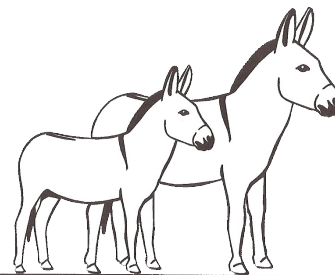




Helen Stewart

No. 27, Autumn 2020

TRUST NEWS



Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ

NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANISATION INCORPORATED #1638328

The Donkey and Mule Protection Trust Newsletter

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Editorial

The last few weeks have hit home to us all the fragility and uncertainty of life as we know it. I know for many plans have been disrupted, work has been put on hold, opportunities halted and an uncertain economic future looms. But if we have a small child or an animal in our bubble, whether cat or dog, duck or chicken, horse or donkey, then what's happening now takes a different turn. As I write this, I reflect on how more people than ever before are out walking with their children, their dogs or their ponies past our front gate. And I consider how all this might seem to the animal (or small child) involved. They don't know about the pandemic, and all the uncertainty it has caused, they just know that we are more present. We spend more time with them, talk to them more, play with them more, are kinder, take them for walks and are more free with hugs and games, teach them new things, and use them to bring normality and routine into our unsettled lives. For them, life has become better, and in some ways it may also have for us.

We've packed a lot into this issue. We visit with our sponsored donkeys and see how they are getting on, we dive into hoof health and learn what to look for and what can be done to prevent problems. We have articles from guest contributors, profiles on two more of our Trustees and I've thrown in a training exercise you can try with any animal in your bubble.

We are also pretty excited about our brand new website, <https://donkeymuletrust.org.nz/> which we launched in March. It's cleaner, fresher and tells our story well. Please visit it, pass the link onto friends and family and share our story.

Be safe, stay well and enjoy this time with those in your bubble.

Lesley
Editor



<https://www.facebook.com/DonkeyMuleProtectionNZ/>

Keep in touch with us more regularly through our Facebook page. Follow the stories of our donkeys and learn new tips and tricks about donkey care.

Encourage your kids and grandkids to get involved with donkeys by following our page. If you or they have any questions about the work we do or the donkeys in our care or just generally about donkeys, then send us a message or contact us and we'll have our donkey experts get back to you with an answer.

To Navigate the Newsletter or to Contact us:

Click on the links (anything underlined) to move around the newsletter, to learn more about what we do, to send an email or go to our [website](#).

Click on the donkey shelter  on each page to return home.



Autumn at the home of Clovercrest Bocelli and Clovercrest Giovanni (Marion van Dijk)

DONKEY HOOF HEALTH



Hoof care for a donkey is critical if you want to keep your donkeys happy and healthy.

Because donkeys evolved to survive in the harsh dry environment from where they originated, their feet are very different to those of horses' hooves.

The dry stony terrain of a semi-arid climate is ideal for a donkey and as a result their feet have adapted to be much more efficient at absorbing water than that of their cousin, the horse. This means that when a donkey comes to live on our soft sandy loam, or rich peaty soils that grow lush green moist pasture, their feet can become soft and susceptible to a range of foot diseases. It is of paramount importance that donkeys in New Zealand have the right sort of hoof care for the conditions in which they live.

You may have noticed that many of the donkeys rescued by the Trust often have hoof problems when they come to one of the RRCs. One of the most common issues are over-grown hooves.



All donkeys need their hooves checked regularly and trimmed, typically every 6-10 weeks depending on the terrain where they are kept. This is a job for a farrier or an experienced hoof trimmer like those that run the RRCs.

If you have donkeys or know of people with donkeys, it is worth getting into the habit of checking those donkey hooves before they need work done. Picking out the hoof on a weekly basis helps teach a donkey to lift her leg, gives you a chance to check that the hoof is healthy and catch a condition before it becomes too serious.

Donkeys in NZ are susceptible to a number of hoof problems due to our wetter climate and the soft grassy terrain our donkeys are kept on, but if owners are aware of what these conditions are and check their donkeys' feet regularly then it is possible to prevent most if not all of them. Typical conditions include seedy toe, thrush, foot abscess and laminitis.

[Continued on page 3](#)

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

All our sponsored donkeys are doing well, thanks to the sponsors that are covering their day to day costs.

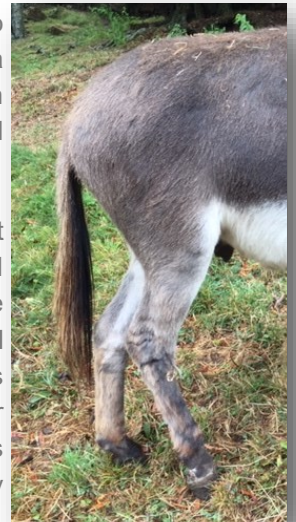
The following is a brief summary of how they're getting on.

CHESTER OF MAMAKU—Pauline Sainsbury

Chester's start to 2020 wasn't a good one. In mid-January he had a bit of a run in with a wire fence. He had either jumped or fallen over the fence and his back right leg was entangled in the two top wires. Luckily my vet, Celia, who had come to attend to one of the other donkeys, arrived just after Chester's accident and was able to assist me in getting poor Chester free.

Celia gave him pain relief straight away then we looked at the damage. He had badly sliced the coronary band (where the hair meets the hoof) and also grazed his hock (elbow). Celia sprayed his wounds with antiseptic and then bandaged his whole leg.

Chester needed complete rest while his wound healed so I made a pen for him to share with his buddy Nibby. He's well on the mend and has had lots of visitors coming to pamper him. Of course with that comes lots of cuddles. He is one very lucky donkey.



ESTER OF MAMAKU—Pauline Sainsbury

Ester has had a happy summer, just loving the heat and the shade of the pine and big tawa trees with her five friends. She is a little bit overweight, but winter is coming and that little bit extra will help her through the winter months. Always such a happy "in your face" donkey bubbling with personality, she is a big clown at times especially when visitors arrive with treats. She is always in the front-line begging and putting on her best sad face for the visitors – a most successful ploy, hence her current chubbiness. She is doing well and enjoying life with no problems.

[More on page 3](#)



HOOF HEALTH, *continued*

In this issue we take a look at each of these and offer some practical advice on how to recognise the symptoms, prevent them from occurring and how to treat the condition should it occur. A healthy donkey has healthy hooves (photo on left).



Seedy Toe (White Line Disease)

This is a fungal infection that attacks the white line area of a donkey's hoof (also called white line disease.) The white line weakens and starts to crumble as the fungus eats its way up the inside of the hoof wall (photo on right above). This condition is usually not painful unless it is left untreated and causes the hoof to become unstable. This can happen as foreign substances like dirt, stones or faecal matter get trapped in the cavity where the hoof wall has crumbled away which can cause the donkey significant pain or worse, get infected. This is why it is so important to check your donkey's feet on a regular basis.

The best way to treat seedy toe is to catch it before it gets bad and to cut away the infected part of the hoof wall removing all the dead and discoloured matter. This will enable the healthy hoof to regrow, but also may leave a hole in the hoof wall which can easily refill with dirt and debris. One way to fix this is to pack it with a mix of Vaseline, copper sulphate and diatomaceous earth and a small plug of cotton wool and keep the donkey on clean dry ground until the hoof has recovered. Another is to treat the hoof with a solution of copper sulphate inside a hoof boot, this might be a better solution if the ground underfoot is wet or boggy. If the problem persists or gets worse, you need to consult with your farrier or vet who will advise the best course of action.

Thrush

Another condition that can affect a donkey's hooves is thrush. This is a yeast infection that particularly affects the frog of the foot – that triangular pad at the back of the hoof.

[Continued on page 4](#)

Sponsorship News, *continued*

CLEVEDON FUDGE—*Sharon Parkyn*

Fudge is one of 27 donkeys here at Brightwater. She still stays with the two Ponui geldings she was put with when she first arrived here but she does mix with the others if bread and hay are on offer.

She is part of the "compromised mob" as I call them, a group of eleven donkeys who need daily care and monitoring. I am still watching Fudge for feet problems, though the farrier is pleased with the way Fudge is now walking. She is still a little over weight but it is hard to get them all perfect when they want to stay with their friends. Some stop eating when full and others will continue to eat if food is provided. She seems happy and I will often find her down by the creek under the trees.

MINTIE OF IKAROA—*Pauline Sainsbury*

Mintie is having a great summer grazing with his mates Milo, Monty and Neddy. He lost his winter coat early and looks lovely and shiny. I'm not feeding out any hay to Mintie and his friends as I'm strip feeding their paddock which has a lot of long dry grass with green grass underneath. Mintie loves the long stalks of yarrow and he has great delight to be first in to eat the tops off.

He has had plenty of visitors who bring treats and it seems every year he is coming out of his "shell" which is bringing out his personality. It took him six years for him to allow me to pat him in the paddock as before I always had to put him in a pen, he was that shy. Now he is letting strangers actually pat him which is so nice to see.



[More on page 5](#)



HOOF HEALTH, *continued*

You can easily identify thrush from its strong rather unpleasant yeasty smell and it is caused by continued exposure to wet conditions. The best way to prevent this infection is to allow the feet to dry out daily – feeding in a clean dry stall, or on a concrete pad, or regularly walking the donkeys on firm dry ground.

Foot Abscess

Sometimes donkeys can get abscesses in their hooves, usually as the result of a wound that penetrates the sole or white line of the hoof. A piece of fencing wire, a shard of glass or a sharp rock, that the donkey unearths when scratching a hole in the dirt to roll, may be all that it takes. An abscess develops when the wound becomes infected and pus builds up. Such wounds can also cause **tetanus**, a bacterial infection that travels through the blood stream and attacks the nervous system of the donkey. Fortunately there is an effective vaccination protocol in NZ that can protect your donkey from this secondary infection. Ask your vet about it.

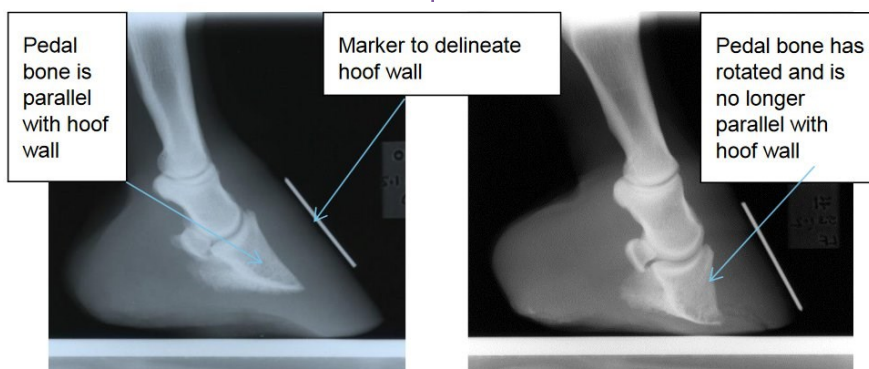
If you notice your donkey limping, or behaving differently or you suspect an abscess due to hoof tenderness during one of your regular hoof checks, you need to contact your vet with your suspicions. An abscess is an extremely painful condition and as donkeys are not good at showing pain, it is easy for us to miss the signs unless we are looking for them. Your vet will determine whether or not there is an abscess and may administer a poultice to draw out the infection if it is inside the hoof, or they may cut away the abscess with a hoof knife to drain the infection and then **dress** it.

Laminitis

One disease all donkeys need to be protected from is laminitis. This is a very painful disease which, should it develop needs immediate veterinary attention and could result in irreversible damage to the donkey's hoof.

Laminitis can be caused by a wide range of conditions including other underlying metabolic and hormonal disorders (way beyond this article). The best way to protect a donkey is to use a common sense approach, keen observation and give your donkey lots of active engagements.

[Continued on page 5](#)



Laminitis—What is it?

When a donkey has laminitis essentially the whole support mechanism for the toe bone within the hoof breaks down causing the toe bone to rotate and move downward (see x-ray below) resulting in abnormal hoof growth and a change in the angle of the hoof, making it an extremely painful condition.

If you notice any of these subtle signs of laminitis – contact your vet immediately:- reluctance to turn, a change in behaviour or temperament, reluctance to pick up their feet (particularly if you've made this part of their normal routine), an unwillingness to walk particularly on hard or stony ground, lying down more than usual, shifting weight from foot to foot, any abnormal heat at the hoof wall or coronet, and a strong pounding pulse in the blood vessels around the fetlock.

If you suspect your donkey might be showing signs of laminitis:

- call your vet immediately (and farrier/trimmer)
- remove your donkey from any access to grass (if you have to move the donkey some distance, be sure to support the feet before moving)
- confine on deep supportive bedding e.g. sand, sawdust, pea gravel
- support the feet if the bedding isn't sufficient to do this (e.g. with styrofoam, impression material, or boots) alternatively you can pad the entire sole using thick cotton wool and bandages.
- If you know how to use them, give NSAIDs e.g. Bute, Danilon, Equioxx for the inflammation & pain (for as short a time as possible)
- apply cold therapy to the feet to reduce inflammation and pain (but not if cold-induced laminitis/feet cold)
- and ensure easy access to food and water until the vet arrives.

X-rays should always be taken whenever you suspect your donkey of having laminitis as many of the signs of chronic laminitis may not be seen until several weeks after the damage has been done and then it will be too late to engage remedial care.

So if in doubt have it checked.

The best way to handle laminitis is to prevent it in the first place.



HOOF HEALTH: 10 Ways to Protect against Laminitis

Here are 10 things you can do to protect your donkey as much as possible from getting laminitis or, indeed, any hoof problem:

1. Identify whether or not your donkey is “at-risk” by learning as much as possible about their life before they came to you including any previous health history
2. Look for signs of hormonal imbalances in your donkey particularly as they age, things like increased thirst or urination, slowness to shed out their winter coat, loss of muscle mass, lethargy or increased infections
3. Ensure any infection your donkey gets is promptly and properly treated
4. Limit access to those lush grasses that are rich, starchy and sugary (particularly during the spring and autumn) which can cause a spike in blood sugar levels – as a rule of thumb a donkey should only be exposed to as much grass as they can eat in 20 minutes, and then they should be made to work all day to get it.
5. Avoid “sweet” feeds or concentrated foods – donkeys are browsers not grazers so make their food as natural as possible (see our Newsletter No 26 for suggestions).
6. Soak “quality” hay prior to feeding – high quality grass hays can have high levels of non-structural carbohydrates (NSC) these are water soluble sugars and simple starches so soaking the hay for an hour or so prior to feeding can reduce the concentration of the HSCs. Better yet, feed seedy hay or straw which is mainly filler and much better for your donkey.
7. Manage their body weight; overweight donkeys are more susceptible to a range of conditions but in particular a heavier body overburdens the donkey’s delicate feet.
8. Feed on a routine and make dietary changes slowly. Sudden changes in diet can disrupt intestinal flora, which are the “good” bacteria necessary for effective digestion and a strong immune system. One way to do this is to break up rations into smaller feeds to spread the browsing over the day.

[Continued on page 6](#)

Sponsorship News, *continued*

NEDDY OF MAMAKU—*Pauline Sainsbury*

Neddy is just loving this hot dry summer weather. His coat is black and shiny and his weight is very good.

He is grazing with his mates Monty, Mintie and Milo. Monty is his best mate and they play chase and also tug of war with the tawa branches that I put in their paddock. Neddy loves visitors and is always first at the fence to see what the visitors have brought him to eat.



He loves his treats but gets quite pushy and grumpy if he thinks his mates are getting more than him. He particularly enjoys mingling amongst the visitors, checking out their pockets for treats. When he’s not harassing visitors for treats, he is having fun rolling in the biggest dust bowl he can find.

NIBBY OF MAMAKU – *Pauline Sainsbury*

Nibby has had a very busy summer. Aside from being quarantined in “rest mode” with his best mate and cousin Chester (see Chester’s report), because of Chester’s injury, Nibby got to go to the Rotorua A & P Show at the end of January on his own.

He was so good and walked straight into the horse float for the trip to a very busy Rotorua A & P show. Once we got there Nibby wanted to get out and about and mingle with the people. Our main object was to promote the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust which Nibby did particularly well.



Nibby being groomed at the Rotorua A&P Show

[Continued on page 6](#)



HOOF HEALTH, *continued*

9. Make your donkeys walk more – walking increases circulation and stimulates the blood flow to the hoof. Ways you can do this include separating food from water sources forcing your donkeys to walk from one to the other, or taking them for walks on firm surfaces, up and down hills or through interesting bush land where they can have a browse here and there.
10. Finally, keep up basic hoof care – checking feet regularly, trimming the hoof properly and maintaining a regular schedule with your farrier

References:

- The Donkey and Mule Society brochure on Hoof Care
- The Donkey Sanctuary <https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk> articles on "Donkey Hoof Care", "White Line Disease", "Laminitis in Donkeys", "Feeding Donkeys", "Tetanus in Donkeys"
- Equus Magazine (equuzmagazine.com) Keys to Preventing Laminitis



Personalised Plates FOR SALE

Due to a very generous donation the Trust has been given a pair of unique plates to sell.
You can find them at www.kiwiplates.nz



Asking price
\$990

or make us an
offer!



Sponsorship News, *continued*

We led him around the show, stopped to talk to children in pushchairs, family groups or anyone who wanted to pat a donkey. He wove through a maze of cars, dogs, tractors, spectators and display tents and lapped up all the attention he could get. Nibby thoroughly enjoyed his day out. He loves pats and cuddles, and his favourite "bum scratches". Even though we didn't raise much money, we were able to verbally spread the word about the good work that the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust does. Well done Nibby.

ROSIE OF MAMAKU – *Pauline Sainsbury*

Rosie just loves her little paddock near the house and her "palace" the deer shed. She has a couple of donkey friends next to her, Jake and Benny, two obese newbies.



They are separated by a double electric fence which is not activated, however Rosie often decides to go under the fence and graze their paddock with them until feeding time, she then just crosses back under the fence to her deer shed for her hard feed. Jake and Benny stand there and wonder how she does that...

Rosie gets lots of visitors; they all give her cuddles which she loves. Rosie will turn 40 this year...she is slowing but is healthy and wise.

Her little mate Fang the cat, lives in the deer shed with her, and is always close at hand. Like an old couple, they are never far from each other.

SUZY OF MAMAKU—*Pauline Sainsbury*

Suzy has had a great summer, she is healthier than she was last year when she'd been quite poorly, it is great that she's bounced back and is enjoying life again.

Suzy is very flat "footed" and experienced a split front hoof, so I asked Elise a very experienced farrier to come have a look at her hooves and give them a trim. Elise did a great job and will come again to give Suzy's front hooves that extra bit of attention.

Suzy grazes with five other donkeys that she gets on well with.

[Continued on page 7](#)



Starborough Pims



By Susan Rogerson

Pims came to me as a nine year old jack donkey, he had been a breeding jack and had spent the previous four to five years pacing the fence line as his jennies were on the other side of the fence.

There were five donkeys at Pims previous home: three jennies, a gelding and Pims.

No one wants ten year old wild jack, even though he was gelded before being rehomed and so he ended up here. We put him into a separate paddock where he proceeded to pace the fence line, until I could not put up with that behaviour any longer and I opened the gate. He chased my jennies for around two weeks. The jennies were cunning though and used to hide behind a shed where he could not get them. The funny thing was that after that time the tables turned and he is now at the bottom of the pecking order.

When he first came to me I could not catch him, and although his feet had been trimmed the farrier must have been a brave man as he was not the easiest donkey to trim. His speciality was to kick with a hind foot when you picked up a front foot. He has just about stopped that now, thank goodness.

It took about a year to catch him easily, and even now nine years later, if he thinks that he has to pull the cart he will rush off. He watches and if someone else is being harnessed up he will hang around and will happily go at the back of the cart and not have to work.

As you may have guessed he is now a fabulous harness donkey and has a very fast walk and is very obedient. When he was being trained I had to make sure that I never upset him as he is very sensitive. He could really go feral if I was not completely gentle with him.



Pims (brown donkey) at play

[Continued on page 8](#)

Sponsorship News, continued



Suzy with her filta bac on for sunburn

Her best mate is Ester and the two of them hang out together enjoying the dry hot weather. She always has plenty of visitors and just loves to snuggle in for a cuddle and pat. She also loves being groomed particularly if there is are carrot treats involved.

SOLDIER OF BRIGHTWATER—Sharon Parkyn

Soldier and Fudge are in with a number of donkeys, the "compromised herd" that I need to look at daily. Soldier is there because he still has feet problems and has developed a limp which the farrier thinks is arthritis. I had the farrier here to give Fudge and Soldier another trim. Soldier seems to enjoy the smaller herd as he and Fudge are often waiting at the gate for a wee bit of bread or pellets night and morning with the others. It is good to see Soldier willingly come forward for his pieces of bread whereas before he used to hang back.



Starborough Pims, *continued*

I decided early on in his training that he would probably not like a bit in his mouth, so I have always driven him in a Monty Roberts Halter, which is a nylon halter with two pieces of rope over the nose.

He is now a donkey who follows me around when I am picking up manure and is always after a scratch. He tells me when to move the electric fence by walking up to it and staring at me. His favourite thing however is to play with the other geldings with a ball or the canvas fire hose.

I always think that he is catching up on all the play that he missed when he was young.



Susan Rogerson

OUR SPONSORED DONKEY OF THE MONTH: Kate

By Anne and David Elliott

Kate is approximately 31 years old and is a Jerusalem donkey. She came into our care approximately a year ago from Mangonui in the Far North and had been living on her own for several years, after her companion had sadly died. Kate was not used to being brushed or cared for and refused to have a cover on her back, through what turned out to be quite a cold winter here in Waipapa.

She quickly settled into life here with our two jennies, Flossy who is 2 and a half and Millie who is 19 years of age.

Over time, Kate has responded well to the attention she is given and is less nervous around us. In order to brush Kate, she has to have her halter on and she has slowly got used to being groomed.



Kate, *continued*



She has also got used to being stroked and patted. While she is still rather shy, she will now follow us around the paddock happily from a distance, curious to know what we are up to. She enjoys grazing and she has access to hay every day.

In the evening Kate is given hard feed with flake salt and liquid seaweed, along with chopped apple and carrot. Around 6 pm all the donkeys retreat to the shelter. We have wood shavings and clean hay as bedding. Every morning the donkeys are mucked out to ensure a clean environment.

Kate has a very sweet nature. She is very inquisitive and likes to know what's going on. We think she enjoys the company now in the paddock and just seeing and interacting with people more.

She is in good health for her age and her feet are sound according to our farrier. We think she looks less sad these days and we welcome any visitors to come and meet our donkeys, so please feel free to visit us anytime.



Helen Stewart



Financial Report—by our Treasurer, JUDY WEILD

Final Year End Accounts as at 31 December 2019

INCOME

Donations	\$ 7,198.77
Interest	\$ 755.61
Calendars	\$ 2,151.90
Sponsorship money received	\$4,502.50
Accrued interest - term deposits	\$765.00
Total Income	\$ 15,373.78

EXPENSES

Web	\$ 122.85
Bank charges	\$ 1.50
Vet	\$ 4,539.12
Calendar	\$ 1,110.65
Travel	\$ 819.20
Sponsorship money paid	\$2,040.00
Total Expenses	\$ 8,633.32

Gross Surplus	\$ 6,740.46
Less Sponsorship money to be paid out	\$2,462.50
Net Surplus	\$ 4,277.96

Notes

1. Money held on behalf of others

Sponsorship money yet to forwarded \$ 2,462.50

2. Total in bank accounts \$ 37,809.18

Pre-Order your 2021 Calendar Now!

While all non-essential work has been paused during the lockdown, we are still going ahead with our Calendar for 2021.

Help support the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust and reserve your copy by contacting: **Lesley Catterall**,
Phone: 021 916 124

lesleymcatterall@gmail.com

Or **Andrea Thomson**, Phone: 06 328 9812,

Email: pemberley2113@farmside.co.nz



REHOMING CENTRE REPORTS

Mamaku Rehoming Centre, (Bay of Plenty):

Violet and Indi: Violet had a very successful hoof trimming, she behaved perfectly. Indi still very shy but Pauline is hoping to rehome them within the next two months to an approved experienced home.

Harry: has settled into his new home with his donkey mate Sonny.

Jake and Benny: Picked up in early Feb, both donkeys obese, need to get their weight down safely, both lovely donkeys, quite bad feet, still assessing whether they are rehomeable.

Weatherby: Weatherby was not settling into his new home, he is a very timid gelding with trust issues, and a bit of an escape artist. He decided to run through a high tensile wire fence that had an electric tape in front of it and in doing so cut his head. Then a week later, he did it again but this time ran through three fences, and ended up on the road. He was found at the neighbour's place with a bleeding face.

Pauline brought him to Mamaku the next morning and had his wounds seen to. Initially he would only come to her, sniff her hand but wouldn't come any closer. Some days he would let her briefly pat his cheek then back away. Something had happened to him sometime in the past so he's become Pauline's new challenge. She works with him every day and they are making great progress, Pauline can now pat his forehead, down his neck and his wither as long as she has a carrot in her hand.



She has him grazing with four gelding donkeys: Neddy, Milo, Mintie and Monty, he is getting on with them really well, his favourite mate is Milo.

If you would like to sponsor Weatherby, contact us via our Website or Facebook page.

Other news from Mamaku: On February 15, 2020 Mamaku RRC held a "donkey people" gathering day.

[Continued on page 10](#)



Get Jack Donkeys Gelded

Shelley Pender

I can't stress strongly enough the importance of getting a jack donkey gelded. With only a very small market for a breeding Jack, it is sad to hear about the many jacks living a lonely life as an entire male. So many lovely young jack donkeys can turn nasty and unapproachable because of the treatment they have received from lack of handling and understanding of what is required to keep a jack in good health mentally.

Even the sweetest most adorable Jack can transform into a raging demon if his natural instincts kick into action, they simply cannot help themselves and can cause serious damage or kill another animal or their handler. There is a good reason why jennies with foal at foot will stare clear of the Jack paddock as they have been known to grab a foal through the fence and kill it.

I am sure that all the 'good' breeders will agree that 99% of all jack donkeys should be gelded with only the very best, well-bred, Jack donkey, being kept entire for breeding purposes.

The best practice is to geld at an early age before the frustration and dominate nature can grow. An entire Jack having a calm day can suddenly 'take off or lurch at another animal unexpectedly, it's like having a loaded gun with no safety!

A gelding is so much more social to have and generally speaking, will be able to live among the jennies without causing a riot.

Good breeders will factor in the cost of gelding for the long term betterment of the animal's welfare, people who do not geld do not have the best interests of the donkey in mind and should not be letting their stock reproduce indiscriminately.

Shelley Pender is a representative of the Trust in the Wairarapa. She breeds miniature donkeys that she shows regularly and very successfully.



Clovercrest Starbuck

Rehoming Centre Reports, continued

They had a great turnout with people coming from Hamilton, Tauranga, Napier, Te Kuiti, Otorohanga as well as locally. Elise, Pauline's farrier, gave a demo and trimmed Jake's two front hooves, answered hoof problem questions and gave advice on farrier tools.

Mamaku RRC also attended the Rotorua A & P Show, taking Nibby. Also attended the Te Puke show, supporting Lin and Des Langdon who took their four beautiful quiet donkeys...the aim was to promote the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust. They only raised a few dollars but more importantly educated a lot of people.

Motukawa Rehoming Centre (Taranaki):

Leroy and Hamish: Barbara collected these two donkeys that had been abandoned in Whanganui. The person the owners left them with contacted Andrea Thomson and Barbara collected them. They are very well behaved but have never experienced hills. Their feet are in fairly good condition which makes a nice change. Barbara keep them for a while to assess whether they have any particular needs before finding them a new home.

Teresa of Motukawa: Teresa suffers badly from arthritis and is constantly on medication. Due to Teresa's age and failing health there is real concern that she is lacking a quality of life and a decision as to what is best for her will be made before the winter.



Ikaroa Rehoming Centre, (Lower North Island)

No activity since last time.

Brightwater (Nelson):

No activity since last time.

Canterbury Donkey Rehoming Centre (Motukarara):

No update available.

Fernhill (Southland):

No activity since last time.



Introducing—Alan Baguley Trustee

Wendy my wife, and I live near Whakatane and always wanted donkeys. Our first rescue was Molly a very sad and difficult donkey that had a bad start in life. We went to visit her, fell in love and took on the challenge of being able to give her love and attention which paid off.

Then I became involved with the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust, became a Trustee and was asked to assist in donkey rescue by Pauline Sainsbury and the late Elton Moore who were setting up a rescue centre called Mamaku Donkey Rescue & Rehoming Centre in Rotorua. So I joined them.

Soon after we added a young rescued donkey called Ben to be a friend for Molly. Over the years I have been involved in many donkey "pickups" and rehoming, using my vehicle and sometimes my float, travelling as far north as Pollock (north of Waiuku) and far south as Napier.



Molly and Alan



Alan and Ben

Some donkeys were in bad shape with difficult owners and then there were some really healthy happy donkeys with great owners whose circumstances had changed so they were no longer able to look after their donkeys and asked us to rehome them.

We keep in touch with the donkey owners' whom we have rehomed donkeys to as well as answering emails and phone calls to people with donkey "problems" offering advice and support.



If it's windy and cold, Ben keeps Alan warm when he's lying down on the job.

Every donkey that I have helped to rehome came with a story and each has gone to an approved home and are living happy lives.

It is so rewarding to see donkeys settle in their new homes and see their new owners smiling faces.

Donkey rescue, rehoming and welfare of donkeys is what I am passionate about, I look forward to continuing my role as a Donkey & Mule Protection Trustee helping donkeys in need.

Alan Baguley



Wendy taking Molly and Ben to collect the mail. The drive is a kilometre long and steep so a good workout for the donkeys—and Wendy



Introducing— Pauline Sainsbury

Mamaku Donkey Rescue, Rehoming Centre and Sanctuary, Rotorua

My first donkey rescue and rehoming began in 2006; it was a couple of years later that I became a Trustee of the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust and the Mamaku Donkey RRC and Sanctuary was formed. My team comprised of the late Elton Moore, Wendy and Alan Baguley and recently Debbie Fleming. To date we have “picked” up and rehomed over 300 donkeys from all over the North Island, travelling as far north as Waiuku, Coromandel and far south as Bennydale and Napier.

I enjoy a challenge and many donkeys are just that but it is the end result, which is most rewarding, to see a neglected, unhandled, shy donkey learn to trust and to see their true personality emerge. Donkeys like that need a lot of time and one-to-one every day which I am able to give them. Once they settle in and show signs of adjustment, we can find approved loving homes for them. I keep in touch with all the rehomed donkeys' owners, and offer advice and support if need be.

Some of the donkeys, due to health issues, hoof problems and/or age, are not rehomeable, so they become permanent “residents” of which I have ten.

I am very grateful to the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust who help with costs and also, I would like to thank the sponsors and our other supporters who make the work we do here possible.

My passion is everything donkey and I hope to continue to do what I do with a great team.

Pauline Sainsbury



Pauline with two of her donkeys



Mamaku Donkey Rescue

Rescue & Rehoming Centres

Supported by the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust <https://donkeymuletrust.org.nz/>

North Island

<u>Mamaku</u> (Bay of Plenty)	Pauline Sainsbury	07 357 5435
Motukawa (Taranaki)	Barbara Jones	06 756 5844
<u>Ikaroa</u> (lower North Island)	Andrea Thomson	06 328 9812
	Nancy Neal	06 856 6020

South Island

Brightwater (Nelson)	Sharon Parkyn	03 542 3096
<u>Canterbury</u>	Diana & John Humphries	03 329 7871
	Margaret Salkeld	03 326 5072
	Jan Wright	03 384 6902
	Lea Hullett	027 686 0735
Fernhill (Southland)	Joan Rabbitte	03 236 0765



Report from Chair PRU HUNTER

March 2020

Since I wrote my report below our world has changed. I hope all of you and your families are coping with the current situation and I wish you all well. Stay safe.

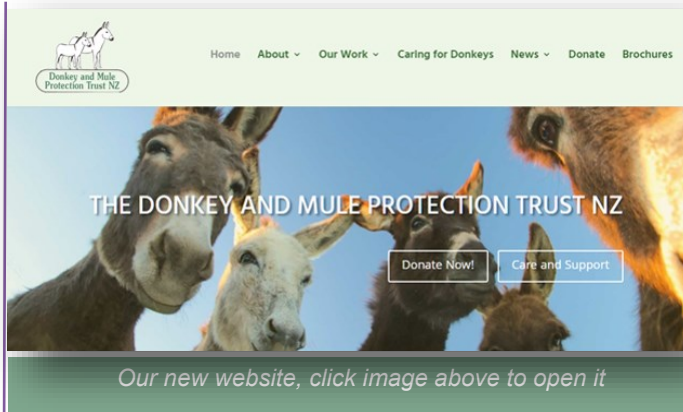
It seems like it has been a hot dry summer for half of us and a soaking wet one for the rest. I hope that somewhere in New Zealand someone is experiencing a warm temperate climate with a reasonable rainfall.

In the Wairarapa it is great donkey weather with hot dry desert-like conditions that seem to be continuing for the immediate future. But not great weather for farmers and gardeners.

I got to go to three donkey shows over the summer. One was the Donkey and Mule Society show in Auckland. What a great turn-out with 20 donkeys on show in all their finery. Mostly miniature donkeys and many were the progeny of Peter and Marion Van Dijks' donkeys. The Van Dijks have been great supporters of our Trust and it was really lovely to finally meet them.

We also had the Masterton A&P show in February. There is doubt whether this show will continue which is a shame as the grounds are lovely. I had two donkeys there and Rebecca Kent, another of our Trustees, had three. We had a happy time enjoying the sunshine. It is a great reason to spend the day just hanging with your donkeys.

Then there was the Central Districts Donkey and Mule Society show in Woodville organised by Shelley Pender. Not a huge turnout but Andrea Thomson, our former Chair, was there with two of her donkeys including little Billy Bob who got a Reserve Champion. Amy Blok was



also there with Biskit who is a donkey the Trust has supported. He was looking amazing and also won a Reserve Champion title.

The rehoming centres have been busy over the last few months as always. But this means more donkeys are being helped. Financially we have had a good year thanks to your donations and we have made a small surplus – details are in this newsletter.

Another event was the girl guides in Carterton in the Wairarapa who visited Rebecca's property and met her four donkeys and two of mine. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it including the donkeys who were taken in turn to be walked around and around by the lovely girls. It was a good opportunity for young people to meet donkeys and for their parents to appreciate how calm donkeys are. We hopefully managed to get a few messages across about caring for donkeys and how different they are to horses but it was mainly just a fun time for all.

Finally, please check out our new [website](#). We would welcome your feedback. Keep well, and stay safe.

Kind regards
Pru Hunter



Biskit won Reserve Champion title



*Billy Bob,
Reserve Champion*



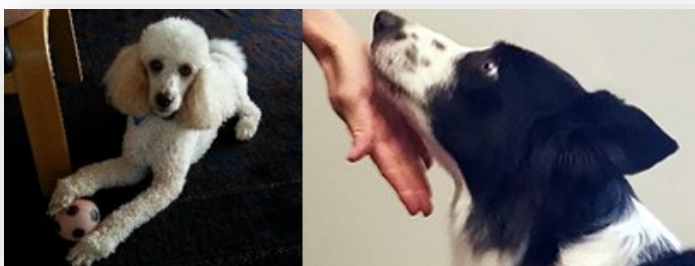
TARGETING—Training through Touch

A training technique you can try at home

All animals use the sense of touch to explore their world and will investigate new and curious things through a sniff or a nudge or a very close inspection. This natural instinct of any animal can be utilised in a range of ways to help the animal be more comfortable with something scary or to learn new tricks or a more appropriate behaviour. The technique called “targeting” is a form of behaviour shaping that works with any animal including humans.

Animal trainers in zoos and aquariums, in shelters and in sanctuaries, and with their animals at home, use this technique to build trust and to make life a little easier for all.

I first learnt to use this technique when I studied under Terry Ryan as part of my Clicker Training qualifications. We were living in Switzerland at the time, and I had just adopted a young miniature poodle who, after a month in hospital recovering from the abuse he had sustained during the first seven months of his life, found just about everything in the environment around him aversive.



Targeting was the tool that enabled me to rebuild his relationship with the world so he could get the joy from life that he deserved. In fact he got so good at using the technique that he built it into all his games and used it to communicate with me as to what he wanted me to do.

While he is no longer with us, he taught me the myriad ways in which this technique can be employed. Since then I've used it with a variety of animals from chickens to horses, and of course with my two lovely donkeys.

The concept is simple:

- Human presents target (in a way that makes the animal want to explore it)
- Animal touches the target (out of curiosity)
- Human marks the moment (with a click or a marker word) and reinforces it with something the animal

finds yummy (usually food, this lets the animal know that touching the target is a good thing)

- Animal is more likely to touch the target again (to make the human give them more of the yummy reinforcer).

It is the execution that can be tricky to get right. This is mainly due to the animal being smarter than we think, and we humans being too slow to mark the touch at the moment it happens.

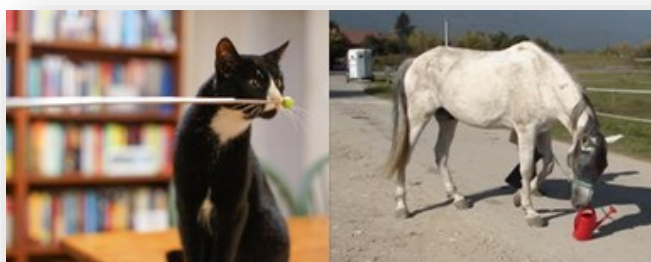
Why is it important to mark the moment? Animals work from cues in the environment and if they know that a certain sound, or a certain word always mean the same thing (Yes! You did that right!), then it is easier for them to work to recreate that marking moment. For us that means getting our timing right, you want to mark the touch, not the pulling away from the touch.

Other factors that interfere with the execution are poor planning, not having sufficient treats, or using treats that are not sufficiently reinforcing, and distractions in the environment, like another nosy donkey who wants to get in on the action first.

So while we are all in lockdown, why not take a moment or two and play a targeting game with the animal in your life.

Step 1: Select the animal you want to try this with and amass a number of treats that they are particularly partial to: for cats and dogs this might be dried fish or meat treats; for a horse or donkey, apples are a winner at this time of year.

Step 2: Plan the behaviour you want to shape. What do you want your animal to do? Lift a paw or hoof? Touch nose to cone? Target to a fist or an open hand? (A hand shake is a targeted behaviour.) Target to a post-it note? Or target to a pointer (this is particularly good for cats and small dogs as you don't have to lean down).



[Continued on page 15](#)



TARGETING, *continued*

Select the target you want to use – it can be anything at all. Get your treats together, at least 10-12 and, if you have one, a clicker. Note: If you don't have one you can use a tongue click, or a marker word preferably a single syllable word like "Yes" or "Right" or "Ace".

Step 3: Set the scene by removing distractions or going to a place where just you and the animal can practice. Note: When you both get better at the behaviour you want to shape, you can reintroduce distractions to strengthen the behaviour.

Step 4: Present the target to your animal in a way that makes it very easy for them to nose toward it. Click or mark the behaviour and give your animal a treat.

Step 5: Present the target again, and see if you get a touch this time, as soon as you do click and treat.

Step 6: Once you have the behaviour the way you want it, position the target in different locations and repeat from step 4 at least 5 or 6 times more, this time using a verbal cue (eg, nose, touch, paw, up) as you present the target.

Step 7: Make it a little harder. Move the target away from the animal so they need to move to reach it. Use your cue, and click as soon as they give you the behaviour. If they look at you confused, go back to Step 6 for a few more times.



Step 8: Finish on a high. Position the target in easy reach of your animal friend and give your cue. Click and treat when you get the touch. And congratulate your animal for a job well done.

Replay the game in lots of different situations to strengthen the cue and the behaviour and to build that bond between the target and the good things that happen.

Click on the image below to go to my ["Learning in Action"](#) page and scroll to the bottom to see some targeting videos.



Now try using the target near something your animal has found aversive in the past, see what happens.

Lesley Catterall qualified with the Karen Pryor Academy in the USA as a Certified Training Practitioner. Now retired, she still helps people work with animals with special needs.



A Word to our Sponsors

The Trust is extremely appreciative of your continued support during these most uncertain times. Our sponsored donkeys depend on the regularity of your generous contribution for their upkeep and to maintain their health. We understand though that with the lockdown and a recession in the wings your circumstances may be changing. If this is the case, please feel free to share with us any changes you foresee in the future so we can plan ahead to ensure our donkeys continue to get the support they need.



Our donkeys depend on your donations

If you wish to make a donation or you are thinking about sponsoring a donkey, please take a moment to go online or complete the form below, and donate today. Help us help donkeys.

You can donate directly through our website at <https://donkeymuletrust.org.nz/donations/> using a credit card or online banking. If you prefer not to use our website or wish to post a cheque please complete the following information and email this page to j.a.weild@gmail.com or post this page to the **Treasurer** with your cheque:

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Donation Amount

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☐ \$10

☐ Other \$

If you require a receipt, please provide your address:

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All donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible within allowable limits. NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORG. INC—CC21227

- ☐ I would like to be a Friend of the Trust and therefore agree to my contact details being held by the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ for the purposes of future communications
- ☐ I would like to sponsor a donkey for a portion or all of its monthly keep. Please send me the details. I have included my contact details above.

Internet banking:

03 0633 0136784 00 (D&M Trust)

Please enter your name as the code and DON as ref.



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No biting now, Molly instead gives big kisses (Alan Baguley)

Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ

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