

Funding is fundamental

However passionate we are about helping donkeys,
the reality is that welfare requires money.

Finding funding is a major part of any organisation's work, often frustratingly so. It is natural to feel that the time spent completing forms and working out budgets could be better spent "in the field" but funders have to be sure that their money will be used in the best way. Money ill-spent means fewer donkeys will benefit in the future.

We asked a few funders for advice on creating successful applications. Here is some feedback:

- Submit a thoughtful, well written proposal without spelling or grammatical errors. Get a person proficient in the language of the application to help where necessary.
- The proposed activities should be well described, showing a good understanding of the situation and how it will be addressed.
- The timeline and activities should be manageable by the organization.
- Sincerity is important. While it is not measurable, "you know it when you see it".

Primary factors for a successful application:

- The organization must have a presence in the area where they propose to work and have relationships in place there.
- Sustainability. If an organization has a plan for, or a track record of sustainability, it is considered much more favourably.
- Good websites and social media with well-written posts. Supporters need to be able to see where their money is spent.

Importance of partnerships

"We love partnerships between organizations. We love to hear how an applicant plans to collaborate with other animal welfare organisations and government, universities, community groups, etc." says Animal-Kind International.

Obstacles affecting organisational progress:

- Funding remains the biggest challenge.
- Inadequate infrastructure such as the lack of financial services to receive funding.

- Organisations may have to be registered internationally to receive funding.
- Talent/capacity: a small staff, or relying entirely on volunteers.
- Lack of training and continuous professional development of technical and soft skills.
- Other resources such as transport (particularly for travelling to rural areas), office equipment, office space, space for providing shelter and rehabilitation.
- Operational challenges: power outages and Internet connectivity issues.
- Publicity: non-existent or infrequently updated websites and social media lead to a low online presence.

Types of support to seek:

- Funding (to employ capable staff, handle program logistics e.g. vehicles), particularly channelled towards isolated communities where animals are completely neglected.
- Creation of alliances and platforms to network, build connections, and facilitate communication.
- Mentorship or training in both broad and specific knowledge about animal welfare, technical and soft skills such as accounting, advocacy, behavioural change communication, social media, fundraising, project and people management, strategic decision-making.

Support for animal welfare organisations:

- The Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations supports smaller organisations by providing one-off training. www.caawo.org
- Animal-Kind International offers a Friendly Audit process. www.animal-kind.org
- Animal Advocacy Africa empowers Animal Advocacy organisations in Africa. www.animaladvocacyafrica.org
- The Donkey Sanctuary. www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk

It also helps to contact other, similar organisations and learn from their experiences. Donkeys for Africa is always happy to facilitate such link-ups.

Donkeys affected by the drought in Kenya

After three consecutive seasons of failed rainfall, drought conditions prevail in the horn of Africa.

Communities are struggling, crops have failed and livestock are starving. In Kenya the semi-arid and arid areas in the upper Eastern and Northern parts, and the Southlands, are worst affected.



Women, girls and donkeys are hardest hit. They have to walk far to reach boreholes where they queue at water kiosks for long periods of time, competing for the precious commodity with large numbers of livestock.

Donkeys transport water for other livestock and homesteads, and carry goods as families move from one place to another in search of food for their food animals and themselves. Due to this increased workload during the drought, the donkeys get less time to feed and also experience stress due to overworking, by walking distances of 5 to 10kms carrying water on their backs. The donkeys get harness related sores, lose body condition and become ill as their immune systems are weakened due to poor nutrition and overwork.

Since donkeys are crucial in drought mitigation, their survival is very important to the families. If a donkey dies then the family suffers as they will either have to borrow a donkey or carry water themselves or pay money to get the crucial liquid.

Luckily for the donkeys in this region, Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG), a German based animal welfare charity with an international focus, provided support. Field days were organised by Dr Solomon Onyango, the OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point for Kenya and donkey welfare improvement supporter.

The emergency drought relief work reached over 400 family members. More than 1000 donkeys were treated for various conditions including de-worming, lameness, eye problems and blood parasites infections. Feed and salt licks were provided to owners whose donkeys had very poor body condition. Harnesses were improved. The community also learned how to reduce the impact of drought on their donkeys, by working donkeys on alternate days and trying to ensure donkeys get more time to graze.



Donkeys trekking to a watering point. They cover up to 10 kms daily to fetch water during the drought.

The power of collaboration



A community engagement project underway in South Africa is led by Dr Quixi Sonntag, Community Engagement Coordinator in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at University of Pretoria, in partnership with Dr Isabel Meyer, principal researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and Professor Leanne Scott of the Department of Statistical Sciences at the University of Cape Town. The Donkey Sanctuary (UK) provides financial support.

The Bahananwa Community Welfare and Livelihood Support project

This project embraces the “One Health” approach: recognising that the health of people, animals and our shared environment are closely connected. The significance of interdependency among humans, animals and the environment is acknowledged, for example when there is a drought all three are affected. Consequently all species of animals in the communities are considered.

A community group, the Bahananwa Donkey Friends, conducted a survey in the 10 villages in the Blouberg Municipality in Limpopo where important issues were identified. They include better nutrition to improve the physical condition of the donkeys, improving harnesses to reduce skin lesions, knowledge of the correct use of medication, and better cart designs to improve efficiency and safety.

Status of donkeys

Dr Sonntag noted that “While some community members recognise the value of donkeys and have expressed pride in having healthy animals, for others, donkeys are at the bottom

of the hierarchy, with cattle above them and people at the top. By increasing awareness of the worth of donkeys through participatory community meetings and networking among communities, the image of these animals may improve and their hard work be better appreciated.”

“Donkeys are a neglected species, both in the sense that they are often undervalued – while in fact, they contribute significantly to people’s well-being – and in the sense that the Veterinary Science curriculum does not include donkeys as a separate study area,” Dr Sonntag says.

Through this project, contact between the community and the local compulsory community service (CCS) veterinarians in the nearest town was established in order to improve access to veterinary services. “We hope that our model will be applicable to other CCS clinics in the country to encourage national application,” Dr Sonntag says. The experience gained through this project could inform curriculum development at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, she adds.

www.up.ac.za/usr/news/post_3048907-up-led-community-project-puts-the-welfare-of-donkeys-and-people-in-the-driving-seat/

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Donkey welfare proponent is recognised around the world

HARNESSING HERO HELPS HERDS OF DONKEYS

**Donkey Power Facilitation and Consultancy Services,
Musina, South Africa**



Dr Peta Jones has established a strong reputation as a well-informed and practical proponent of donkeys and their welfare. It is impossible to encapsulate her varied life experiences in one page so we present a severely restricted picture of this remarkable person.

After completing her schooling in South Africa, Peta travelled and worked around Europe and the UK, and gained degrees at the University of Cape Town (majors in Psychology and Archaeology), a Master of Science in African Studies at Edinburgh, and a PhD in the Department of Prehistory at Sheffield, which concentrated on the origins and nature of traditional farming in Africa south of the equator.

“I started off being most interested in human behaviour, but have grown to find animals much more interesting.”

Keen to live in a traditional African farming community, Peta got a job as a schoolteacher in Binga, northern Zimbabwe, where her connection with donkeys started. She was invited to produce a training manual on donkeys and in 1997 the first edition of Donkeys for Development was published. This publication has been regularly updated.

Peta pioneered a very successful small tourism project with donkeys and a community on the shore of Lake Kariba, about 10 km from Binga. When she had to return to South Africa for family reasons, she made arrangements to have her donkeys walked from Binga to South Africa. A group of keen students helped to realise this. After various adventures the eight donkeys were safely installed on a farm in South Africa, slowly adapting to a strange environment.

Peta says that she really got to know a lot more about donkeys in those years. “You can’t live with donkeys without regularly learning something new, and this is what makes them so fascinating.”

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“The main challenge, I have come to realize, is to persuade users and particularly welfare agencies that donkeys are *nothing like* horses and nothing like oxen.

Not just physically, but

behaviourally too. They have things in common, but unless the differences are recognized, donkeys will always be treated wrongly and be expected to use the wrong equipment, thus reinforcing notions of their being weak and stupid. Their intelligence, strength and ingenuity always come as a surprise, as it did to me. But you need to know them well to recognize such things.”

Peta has published widely and attended conferences worldwide. Amongst her long list of publications, take note of the latest edition of Donkeys for Development. An introduction to the harnessing set called the Powerset, successfully implemented in many projects, is featured in our library. Contact Peta for more information on these.

May she long continue to improve the lives of donkeys, their owners and carers and those who depend on these underrated animals.

Dr Jones can be contacted via email at asstute@lantic.net Also look at her video (200MG) in our library and the Powerset instructions.



Visit the DfA Library and watch the Harnessing Video from Dr Jones and download the Powerset instructions for harnessing and hitching.

Correct harnessing and hitching contributes towards donkey welfare – and productivity.



Treating sarcoids



Sarcoids are the most common skin lesions found in equids and are acknowledged as being difficult to treat successfully.

Dr Martin of the Animal Welfare Society of Cameroon reports on a project that focussed on sarcoids in donkeys in Garoua in North-Eastern Cameroon: “We encountered mostly the fibroblastic type of sarcoma where we worked and the treatment applied yielded some positive results. Depending on the size and location of the growth, we surgically excised some and treated the ensuing wound as closed or open depending on the nature of the surrounding folds. We administered antibiotics (oxytetracycline) and the anti-inflammatory Dexamethasone. After cleaning the sarcoids with diluted alcohol we sprayed the surface directly with a wound-spray that contains iodine. Cicatrisation of the sarcoids was achieved but the nodule could still be felt. Gradually it was diminishing. Further research on the other types of sarcoids is needed” he concluded.

www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/sites/uk/files/2017-08/sarcoids-in-donkeys.pdf
www.gla.ac.uk/schools/vet/cad/researchprojects/sarcoids/

RAISE YOUR PROFILE

Would you like to see your organisation profiled in a future Donkeys for Africa newsletter?

We enjoy making contact with different organisations and their people, hearing about their challenges, successes and failures, and sharing these with our readers.

Everyone benefits: you reach a wide audience and get your name ‘out there’, your work and staff get recognition, others can learn from your work and thousands of donkeys benefit.

In the past we have profiled organisations as widely spread across Africa as Tikobane Trust in Zimbabwe, BAM Animal Clinics in Uganda, NAWA in Namibia, amaTrac Uluntu in South Africa, Liberia Animal Welfare, Lesotho Equine Welfare, Ghana SPCA, Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust, FAWCAM in Cameroon, ASPA in Tanzania, SPANA in Botswana, to name a few.

Email us your details and we will be in touch.

Legal help for animals

Animal Law Reform South Africa in conjunction with the Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg is presenting an online course entitled “Foundations of Animal Law”. The brochure is available at www.donkeysforafrica.org/law.pdf and we look forward to presenting feedback on this ground-breaking initiative.



8th May – WORLD DONKEY DAY

Many countries observe World Donkey Day on 8th May. Let us know how you honoured these hard-working animals and brought their plight and needs to the attention of people.

The Patron of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary in South Africa is songwriter, performer and producer David Kramer. He has written a song for all the donkeys in the world with proceeds going to Eseltjiesrus.

A music video, which will include the lyrics in English, is in production. Links to this will be shared on our Facebook page and in the next issue. This catchy tune is useful when educating children about the worth of donkeys.

You can listen to the song at: www.donkeysforafrica.org/dk.mp3



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From the Editor

Our correspondents increasingly remark that solutions to the problems facing Africa are in the hands of the people of Africa. We have to accept responsibility and take the initiative for action.

A difficulty facing organisations that want to improve animal welfare is that funders are reluctant to support projects or organisations that are new, without any evidence of activity or success. Perhaps then a trusting benefactor has to be found, to get the action going.

In the meanwhile the areas of need

expand rapidly globally: unrest, war, drought, floods, extreme climate conditions, all shouting for attention and intervention. “One Health” works both ways: negative impact on the wellbeing of a person, animal or the environment affects them all.

This may feel overwhelming, but when we help others, those around us are more likely to help, too. Never feel that you are insignificant and can’t make a difference. You may not be able to change the world, but if you help

one person or animal, its world will be changed. Trust that this will create ripples that spread.

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