

We're All EARS -What they're Saying about Longhopes

We just wanted to say thank you again. We lost Boomer (our other donkey from Longhopes) last year and Sarge has been very lonely. He has goats but they don't run and play with him like Boomer did. After Longhopes gave us Bentley we saw a WONDERFUL change. Sarge and Bentley run the pasture and play together. They eat and graze together. It was like they were meant to be together. The goats are usually right there with them and both donkeys love to be rubbed by the goats. Sarge and Bentley seem to have really bonded with each other. It is so nice to see Sarge happy again.

Pam and Jim Bahl



Salty (now known as George) has been such a joy to have & I doubt I will be without a donkey again. George is usually the first one to come when I call he and the horse in from the pasture. He always follows me to the gate when I leave, looking for 1 more treat (which he gets). George gets along well with all the other animals including the dogs. Gosh, I love him. I am very thankful to have him. He makes me smile a lot. Keep up the good work. Thank you Longhopes.

Beverly Young

Thank you, Longhopes Donkey Shelter! Thanks to your DVD, "Matching Wits with Donkeys," we were able to touch our BLM burro for the first time today. We adopted Nigel almost five months ago. I'm smiling from ear to ear this evening thanks to you, Chuck Rinkor and Murphy (donkey on DVD).

Justina Sutphin



Chuck Rinkor working with Murphy

Special Thanks to:

John and Alice Sutherland for donating a large livestock trailer.

Carolyn Sears for donating our new fence, an electric gate and an automatic waterer.

Kansas Jack Rescue Update

by Kelly Walters

Last spring, Longhopes received a call from Kristin Chambers, who operated the Winding Road Horse Rescue in Kansas. Kristin had taken in several donkeys and asked us to take some of donkeys. We did a fund drive in our summer newsletter to get 8 donkeys and due to your generosity, we were able to raise \$2,859.

Kristin told us she had no working telephone so our only communication was through email. We needed blood testing by a veterinarian to transport the donkeys to Colorado. Our requests to Kristin for the testing were met with repeated excuses and delays. Eventually, we discovered that the local vets would not service Kristin because she owed them so much money. We fixed that by guaranteeing payment for testing and castration of the donkeys.

On the day of the vet appointment, Kristin had not corralled the donkeys so the vet was only able to geld three donkeys (which included one Kristin now wanted to keep). Consequently, our original list of 8 was pared down to 3 by Kristin. All of this made us suspicious about the true condition of Kristin's "rescue" operation.

More delay tactics ensued from Kristin when we tried to arrange the transportation. In hindsight we know Kristin was afraid of letting anyone on her property for fear of what they'd see. Finally we gave Kristin a firm pick up date which she confirmed. Brian Kaehler kindly volunteered to make the 9 hour drive with Kathy Dean to Waverly, Kansas. When they arrived at Winding Road, the gates were padlocked and Kristin claimed she was "not expecting" them .

The scene inside the gates was horrifying. There were numerous thin and emaciated horses and donkeys. There was no food for the animals and the 400 pounds of grain we brought was not near enough to help. Knowing how difficult it is to make a donkey thin, Kathy and Brian knew these animals had been slowly starving for a very long time. Kathy said "these are the images that haunt you at night." When Kathy asked Kristin why the donkeys were so thin, Kristin quickly changed the subject. Kristin didn't seem to even recognize she had locked the animals into a slow death.



Because Kristin had failed to confine a mule we were to take and it could not be caught after an hour of trying, it had to be left behind. The two mini jacks on the pickup list were at a foster home. They were also in bad shape because Kristin had ignored the foster home's plea for food. But at least we were able to get them out of the looming crisis. *(see their photos on page 8)*

As soon as we had the mini donkeys safely back at Longhopes, we decided something drastic had to be done. We told Kristin we would take all of her donkeys and have hay delivered to her at Longhopes' expense. Kristin flatly refused without any recognition of how desperate the situation was. That told us Kristin was no longer able to make rational decisions about the animals. Consequently, we had no choice but to immediately report the problem to the local Kansas Sheriff.

It turns out Kristin's situation was worse than we saw. Based upon our complaint, the Kansas Sheriff confiscated almost 80 equines, plus some dogs and cats. Some horses had to be euthanized immediately. Longhopes offered money to geld the jacks and get the other donkeys medical care. We also offered to bring most of the 16 donkeys to Longhopes. But ultimately the Sheriff and the Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue were successful in finding new homes for all the seized animals. Meanwhile, Kristin was charged with 1 misdemeanor count of animal neglect, but was permitted to keep 11 equines, including 4 donkeys. The Sheriff's office is monitoring that situation and the case is not closed. So Longhopes could still be asked to take some of those donkeys.

Never Give Up - The Buster Story

Editor's Note: Longhopes first rescued Buster in 1999 when he was just 5. He was adopted twice and returned twice to Longhopes. Buster is now age 15 and he has gotten better with age. He never gave up on people and Longhopes never gave up on him. Last month – Buster finally got his big break when Jean Adams chose him to be the new companion to her geriatric molly mule.

Dear Friends:

My new mother is lending me the computer so I can write you all directly about my new life. I am now at my winter home in Arizona. Every day I get brushed and most days I go for a walk with my new mother, just us, without the Queen of the Corral, Sugar the mule. Last evening we went almost down to a lake. On the way I saw some large donkey-eating rock, which as you all know are very dangerous, but my mother reassured me (what does she know? She's not a donkey!). One of the best parts about my new home is that not too many flies followed me here, so I have not had to wear socks on my legs to protect my skin. Sugar and I get snacks at lunch and bedtime and sometimes a cookie or a peppermint. I participate as much as I can at these times, braying very loudly in excitement. Sugar brays too, but she could use a few lessons in voice training.



It is time for me to take my morning nap under our big tree now, I miss all of you but wanted you to know that I am fine and I'll have Sugar trained by the next time I write. I am just going to make a project out of it.

Love Buster



COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

Longhopes received a grant from the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance to geld jacks in Colorado.



This pilot project underwrites most of the veterinary cost for the gelding surgery so the owner's cost is only \$25. The project seeks to encourage owners who have deferred this expense to get the jack neutered before it reproduces. Unplanned reproduction magnifies financial strains on animal owners and often results in the owner giving up all their donkeys. Fewer unwanted donkeys means less burden on shelters like Longhopes. If you know of someone in Colorado who would benefit from this program, please have them call Longhopes.



Donkey's First Ride

A donkey with advanced skills is more likely to find and keep a home. In an effort to reduce the number of donkeys who become homeless, we are producing a new DVD that will be an easy visual guide with trainer Ross Keller on how to teach a donkey to be ridden. Reserve your copy today. adoptions@longhopes.org

From the Top BrASS by CEO Kathy Dean

We just accepted our 500th donkey at the request of his former owner. We have now received almost as many donkeys directly from owners as we have from slaughterhouse brokers. Some people in the equine rescue business argue that only equines saved from near death can be called “rescued.” I disagree.

When I started Longhopes in 1999, I wanted to create a safety net so donkey owners who could no longer keep their donkeys would not take them to livestock auctions. Donkeys sold at auctions risk slipping into the slaughterhouse pipeline or being sold as roping targets. Human deadlines sometimes result in unwanted donkeys being abandoned without food or water or being unnecessarily euthanized just because a new home cannot not be immediately located. Of course, it is great if owners can or will try to find a suitable new home for their donkeys. However, when that is not possible, why should we force the donkeys into severe crisis before we step in?

It is better for potential adopters if we accept donkeys before a CRISIS. The donkeys are in better physical shape and require less rehabilitation (which means less expense) if they have not been subjected to malnutrition or long term hoof neglect. Also owner surrendered donkeys have not been exposed to the illnesses that are rampant at sale barns (which can be expensive for rescues to cure). Finally, rescuing donkeys from sale barns costs money which is paid to the auctioneer or horse broker, when those precious funds are better spent directly on the donkey’s care.

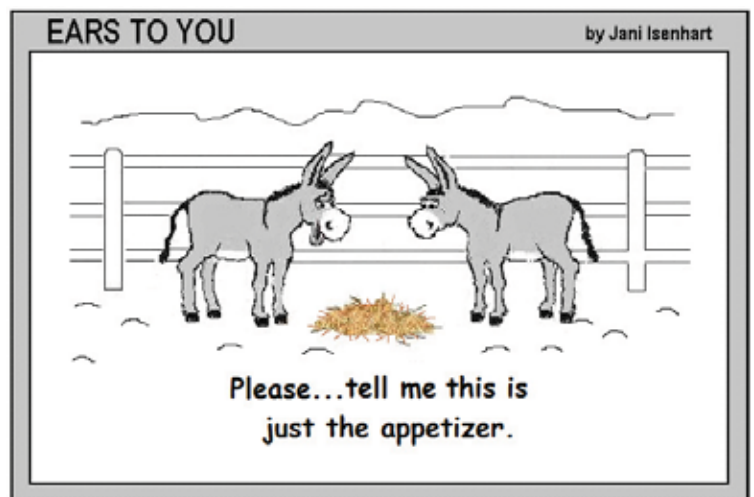
We know all too well that the poor economy has forced animal owners to make some very difficult choices that they never intended to make. With your help, we can continue to protect donkeys from the unintentionally cruel consequences of those choices by serving as a safety net for both donkeys and their owners.

We appreciate being on your list of favorite charities.

Your donation is needed to help us rescue our next 500 donkeys.

Thank you!

Meet Noriko Kawashima from Tokyo. She volunteered all summer at Longhopes. Noriko writes, “I learned that donkeys are easy to keep because they are smart.” Noriko is now spreading the news in Japan.



Dear Miss Bliss,

I heard donkeys built Colorado. I'd like to learn more about my ancestors so I can refute comments that "I am a stupid, worthless ass."
Do you know where I can find more information about us?
Rusty in Wellington

Dear Rusty:

Oh Darling. Don't let anyone make you feel inferior. Donkeys are proving to be the most adaptable, efficient, affectionate, working animal on the planet. Did I mention we have beautiful voices toos?

You can read all about us in the new book "On the Backs of Burros" by Dave Smith and Lyn Bezek. The book explains how donkeys got to America then to Colorado and what hard working, loyal animals we have been.

Modesty aside, NOT!!!! The only real reason to buy the book is to read the true story of how I rose from an orphan foal to becoming Miss Bliss. I still cry when I see the photos of me as a foal. I was too cute even then.

Love the one and true -Miss Bliss.



Happy Tails



Rookie and Highhopes with Bill and JoAnne

Last summer we had to euthanize our donkey named Jose who lost his long fight with a massive Sarcoma. We still had our feral donkey Cody so we wanted him to have a new companion. The people of Longhopes bent over backwards to help us obtain two of the most beautiful burros that you would ever want. Rookie and Highhopes. They are a joy to be with and have formed a friendly group of three with Cody. Cody has changed his whole attitude since the new burros have arrived. Cody has become outgoing even to joining in the serenade when I appear in the front yard in the morning.

Bill and Joanne Tyree



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Donkey Lover Gifts

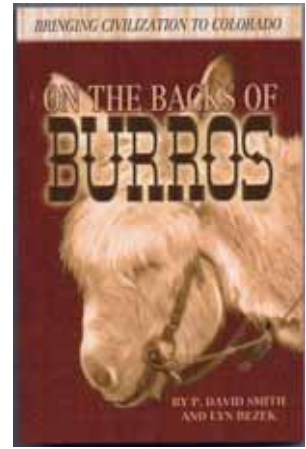


S, M, L, XL 100% cotton T-Shirt
 preshrunk in Violet or Teal
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 You're Impatient!"*
\$15.25 w/shipping

Longhopes Donkey Shelter 2011



Color 2011 Longhopes Calendar
 11" x 17" open **\$11.39** w/shipping



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"On the Backs of Burros"
 251 pages 8.5" x 5.5"
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Photos by Ross Keller

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Donkey Socks
 Polyester/nylon
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\$9.74 w/shipping





Lucky (left) and Kong (right) are two miniature gelding donkeys from Kansas . (see story on page 3).

Both donkeys have gained 45 pounds since arriving at Longhopes and are looking great.



Lucky and Kong showed no energy when we first rescued them .

Now they play all the time.



They are very bonded little donkeys. They bray extremely loud if they are out of each other's sight.

They are ready for a great new life with a loving family.

They need only a small turnout, a warm barn and each other.

A Big Thanks to our Corporate Sponsor



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