



!!!400!!!

Our 400<sup>th</sup> rescued donkey, Matisse, is a thin, 1 year old paint jack. He was standing in a pen with some calves at a feedlot before coming to Longhopes. Who knows what kind of future, if any, he would have had? He was frightened, but he made a friend of Longhopes' Mohito. Good move, because a loving family has chosen to adopt both for their new home.

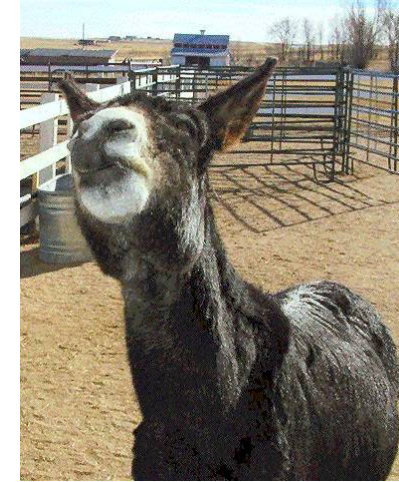
## THE PASSING OF A FRIEND by Kathy Dean

It is the end of a decade both literally and figuratively. years ago that I decided to create a shelter to help donkeys. I made that decision because in November 1999 donkeys from a guy had collected 15 unwanted donkeys to slaughterhouse. Many people stepped up to give the homes so all of the healthy ones were gone by the time I One was Snoopy a 15-something black gelding. He was up and distrustful. He was so weak he fell down in the way back to Longhopes. When we arrived at the shelter he us even dress his wounds - instead he kicked my husband-arm (which Alan never forgot).

Years later when Snoopy was in much better shape we him adopted, but he was totally aloof to strangers. we gave up and made him our "mascot." He seemed proud of the billing.

For the last year Snoopy made the "Infirmary Stall" his bedroom whenever it wasn't being used for a sick donkey. If we tried to get him to share it he would get terribly upset.

Poor Snoopy had cataracts in both eyes, arthritis, and stomach ulcers. But nothing seems to stop him. He had also no grinding surface to eat hay, so he sustained himself on grain. On the night before he



It was 10 homeless I bought 5 ship to a donkeys arrived. skinny, beat trailer on the wouldn't let Alan in the tried to get Eventually,

died, it was business as usual and he had a healthy appetite. We put him to bed for the night with his thick blanket, a special bowl of grain as a late night snack and a bed of shavings. The next morning he was in the stall, lying down and could not get up. This was very significant considering I hadn't seen Snoopy lay down more than once in 4 years. His breathing was shallow and he was in distress.

When efforts to get him on his feet failed, I called the vet. In his typical way-Snoopy went out fighting.....his spirit was willing but the body was not.

It is difficult not seeing him out in the corral every morning and night. He was "Longhopes" and everything we stand for.

Dear Miss Bliss:

Dear Miss Bliss:

Now that the slaughter of donkeys and horses is outlawed I've been telling everyone that Longhopes can close down and you won't have your "job" at the newsletter anymore. I guess you will just stand around the barn and get fatter now. *Sparky in Spokane*

Dear Sparky, I always wondered where the terms "dumb ass" originated and now I think I know. I may be a bit full figured, but every ounce has admirers and fans all over this great country. There never seems to be enough of me to go around!

You are partially correct about the slaughter issue. It HAS been outlawed in many states and there are no equine slaughter facilities in the U.S. now. But more than 10 states have pending legislation to open new slaughterhouses as a way to create "jobs." Further, there is currently no prohibition against shipping equines *outside* America to be slaughtered, so the industry is still extremely active in Canada and Mexico due to a high demand for equine meat in Europe (100,000 slaughtered in 2008!) Unfortunately, this means the donkeys travel farther in crowded trucks with no food or water and are killed under conditions even less humane than in the U.S. Because of their smaller size and therefore less value to the slaughter industry, donkeys are often sold for the "sport" of donkey roping first, so that their last days are even more terrifying and painful.

It would be wonderful if we could close the doors at Longhopes. I could do some of the travelling I've wanted to do, and there are a few courses at the local community college that have piqued my interest (Ear piercing 101. Wouldn't some rubies look good in my sleek, long brown ears? But I digress...). Meanwhile, though, I will be in my office helping Longhopes to educate people on the sad effects of indiscriminate breeding and equine auctions. Our volunteers and employees, with the help of our donors, will continue to rescue and rehabilitate as many donkeys as possible.

So Sparks, get your head of out of your human and help spread the word that Longhopes is still an important and necessary establishment for our donkey friends.

Dear Miss Bliss:

Mules, donkeys, burros – they are all the same thing, right? I love your column, I think you are a beautiful and smart donkey (mule?)! Clueless in Cleveland

Dear Clueless,

Thank you for the kind words, but please, don't ever (*ever!*..EVER!!!) call me a mule. I am a donkey, meaning my father and mother were both donkeys. A mule is the offspring of a donkey father, and a horse mother. Some say they have the best attributes of both, the speed and agility of a horse, the strength, brain and sure-footedness of the donkey. Personally I think speed is overrated. If your human is trained correctly there is no need to go racing around the pasture looking for food. A pleasant stroll to your hay is all that is necessary. And the only need I have for agility is getting my tongue around the doorknob so I can get to my treats!



## From the Top brASS by Kathy Dean

Tired of hearing about government bailouts, and failing investments? Then you'll be relieved to know that Longhopes just finished its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year where income exceeded expenses and we were able to put the balance aside for emergencies and our long range plan to purchase instead of lease our facility. Of course, this is all due to wonderful people like you who keep us going with donations, and the kind hearted people who make room in their barns for our donkeys. It is truly a team effort!!

Nevertheless, we have limitations on how many donkeys we can accommodate at our facility so taking in every donkey at-risk is not the solution. As with humans, it is far cheaper to address a donkey's medical or behavioral problem before they create a crisis that results in the donkey becoming homeless. Therefore, we have been expanding our mission to include more outreach programs. Our centerfold explains part of this new work. We have also been awarded \$1,000 from the ASPCA to create an emergency hay fund, which will be available to donkey owners facing a temporary financial crisis. Further, the Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation is underwriting our production of a DVD to train farriers and donkeys owners how to properly care for their donkeys' hooves. This DVD has the potential to impact donkeys across the country who are not getting adequate hoof care. Lastly, we are hoping that the Ahimsa foundation will approve our grant request to create an incentive program for owners who castrate their jacks or choose humane euthanasia when a donkey must be destroyed.

		2008 Financials	
	Income		Expenses
Adoption Fees	9,788.00	Advertising	714.38
Donations	75,680.99	Auction rescues	3,209.75
Event fees	3,897.83	Merchandise costs	8,478.24
Grants	10,395.00	Farrier	1,860.00
Investment	4,352.18	Feed	14,687.30
Recycling	30.35	Foster care	90.00
Merchandise sales	11,868.50	Fund Raising Costs	594.63
		Insurance	3,004
Total	\$116,012.85	Maintenance supplies	4,718.43
		Medical	10,774.61
		Office	4,203.82
		Prof. Fees	601.84
		Tack	1,432.08
		Transportation	4,166.55
		Utilities	847.28
		Wages	18,494.21
		TOTAL	\$77,877.12

## The Donkeys By Miriam Kyzer, age 8

I was surprised when I heard we were getting donkeys, but very happy. I had never had donkeys because we lived in downtown Phoenix, Arizona. We moved to the mountains outside Lyons, Colorado. It was a big change.

Taz, Ranger and Elway (the donkeys we adopted from Longhopes) are so adorable and sweet. Taz, the girl, is white, Ranger, is brownish grayish, and little Elway is furry gray. I sometimes get to ride Taz and Ranger.



the cardboard. I think they were just trying to open the boxes!

I really enjoy rubbing the donkeys' noses and brushing them because they really like it and that makes them like me! They always come to see me when I go to the barn and I feel like we are good friends.

There are a lot of funny stories about the donkeys. Like once, my dad was working really hard on making a fence or something like that, and he was using these metal gates. Taz was nearby, and my dad turned around to get a tool. The next second he turned to go back to work, and there was Taz, holding one of the gates with her mouth! (She was just trying to help!)

Our neighbor is a sculptor and sometimes she works outside, so the donkeys keep her entertained with their funny moves. They are always arguing over who is in charge and Taz usually wins, but sometimes Ranger, or even Elway will win for a little while.

The donkeys are always very curious. When we drive to the barn, they're always in the way and interested in the truck. They even stick their noses inside when there is a window or a door open to get a better view! They like to know about everything. We even had to build a box for our packages that get delivered to our house. Once, the UPS guy left some packages outside the fence and the donkeys pulled them through and chewed on



## Outreach Longhopes' Style by Kathy Dean

Longhopes is not and has never the donkeys that come to our shelter. help *any* donkey owner who has problems with their donkey.

Why? Because every donkey we loving home is one less donkey that will at a shelter like ours. Think of us as of the donkey world.

This requires countless hours in the telephone calls from donkey owners behavioral questions. We also spend donkey owners at Longhopes or at their volunteers Chuck Rinkor and Ross traveling around Colorado responding to these calls for help.

Chuck recently went to Howard to work with "Murphy" a 4 year old gelding donkey rescued by Janet and Jerry Mallow. In just one day, Chuck was able to persuade Murphy to be touched, haltered, lead and loaded.



been just about  
We are willing to  
questions or

can keep in a  
require placement  
the visiting nurses

office answering  
with medical and  
hours training  
home. Our  
Keller have been

Ross Keller has been responding to calls in Conifer and Denver. Recently Ross spent time retraining a 20 year old donkey named "Eeyore" to pick up his hooves, so Eeyore can get regular hoof care.

Also thanks to Chuck, we've been able to develop some photograph training handouts. We never charge for these materials or any of the articles in our library that we send to people. You can see an example at our website:  
[www.longhopes.org](http://www.longhopes.org)

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## What Some Folks Call "sport" by Pam Moser

Donkey roping is a very popular sport in some regions of our country. Having known cowboys all my life I truly believe that some have no idea of the harm they are causing to these sensitive, intelligent animals. It is my hope that with education and awareness, this horrible "sport" can be ended.

Over the years many unimaginably cruel activities called sport have been thought of as "cultural", or not harmful to the animals involved. The recent publicity about dog fighting has shown that, with education, these forms of animal abuse can be slowed down, if not stopped.

Donkey roping is an "event" where the donkeys are roped on the neck and hind legs as they are running. As in the inhumane sport of horse tripping, many of the animals at these events are bought cheaply at auction, used to exhaustion and then sold for slaughter when they are completely broken down.

Donkeys are often used to train calf ropers, since they are smarter, "last" longer and are cheaper than a steer. They can first be taught to run a pattern which, supposedly, helps in roping training.



Physically the roping can break legs, crush the esophagus, and, regardless of what some think of as the toughness of a donkey, their skin is easily injured by the ropes. As the owner of a previously roped donkey, I know the physical harm is the least of it.

My Gib is a big, chocolate brown teddy bear. I have had him for 8 years, and it is still difficult for him to trust me when we are in an open field. He is totally head shy, and, maybe I am imaging it, but I see a deep hurt his eyes, even as he yearns to trust again.

Donkeys are wonderful, smart creatures who have helped mankind for many centuries. Though no longer needed for farming or transportation here in the US, they can still be used for trail riding, packing, cart pulling or just as wonderful companion animals. Roping is *not* an acceptable activity for them.

Comparing this story with what we do at the shelter, I can't help but HOPE that with your help more donkeys will be trained for a long life of helpful service, than will be destroyed in a day of mindless cruelty.

*Photos courtesy of Mineral Wells Index*



## LONGHOPES DONKEY SHELTER

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This winter Longhopes was asked to help two young donkeys who had been passed around by a few animal rescues until they landed at a rescue in Cortez, Colorado. We stepped in to pay for a complicated castration surgery (crypt orchid) for this uniquely marked gelding named "Tarzan." We then found a new home for Tarzan and his burro buddy "Hershey" in the mining town of Cripple Creek, Colorado. You can see them wandering with a herd of 12 other donkeys. We were able to help these donkeys because you helped us. THANK YOU!