

DONKEY DIGEST

The Magazine of the Affiliated Donkey Societies of Australia

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DONKEY DIGEST

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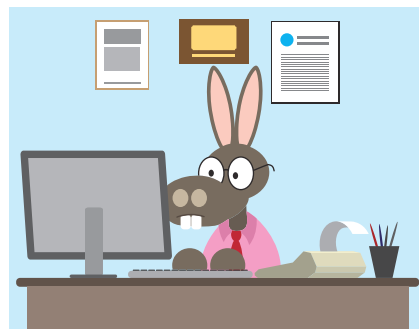
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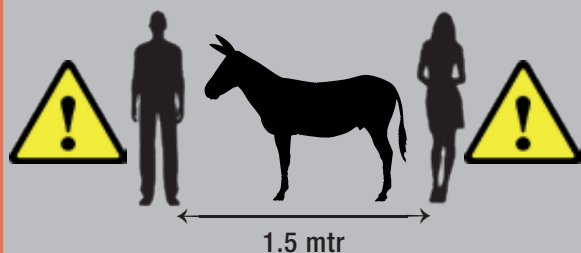
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KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Stand at least one donkey apart



inside

FROM THE EDITOR

It appears we're still 'all in this together' but, as is the case in a fluid situation, the rules often change overnight. This is causing a few headaches for organisers of donkey get-togethers.

I know the Donkey Society of Queensland is planning its popular annual Donkey Walk this month but has now been told to keep numbers down to ten – people not donkeys. Other donkey societies would be facing similar restrictions. However, we are not alone and it is interesting to read what others are doing globally to survive COVID-19 restrictions.

Two positive local news stories that I am aware of are Western Australia's Helen McIntyre being awarded an Order of Australia medal in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list. Does anyone know if an OAM has ever been awarded in this country for services to animal welfare, particularly donkeys? Congratulations Helen. The full story starts on Page 12.

And the other positive news story? Gorgeous, healthy twin foals have been born at Hawaiki Stud in Victoria. An excited Ajay Baker introduces us to Kaiba and Clare on Page 10.

Tim Daniel from Wilderness Expeditions goes into great depth on the pros and cons of packsaddles and rigging in Part 2 of Packing your Donkey or Mule, starting Page 16. This is informative reading for those with a passion for packing and trekking the countryside with their donkeys or mules.

Can you help out? The Affiliated Donkey Societies of Australia (ADSA) is looking for a volunteer Administrator. After three years Chris Trotter is handing over the reins. This is an important role, as donkeys in Australia are underrepresented compared to other animals and we need to continue the momentum already built. Of course, you don't have to own a donkey, or even be very experienced with them, to do the Admin job capably. Read more details on Page 9.

Happy Trails

Christine



Apologies in advance for any spelling mistakes you may come across in this issue. Kitty Kat sitting and work experience don't always end well.

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COVER PHOTO:

The joys of youth: Ten-year-old Xavier Carey plays with foal Stardust while Mum Minty Star supervises. Xavier and little sister Ayla have dozens of mini donkeys and alpacas to care for and play with at Dad's Malakai Stud, Miners Rest, near Ballarat, Victoria. There's also a farm stay cottage on the property for people who want to immerse themselves in this animal experience.

Photo: Shane Carey..

Nurse uses donkey to deliver health kits in pandemic



Nurse Monaliza Oliveira delivers masks & gel alcohol by donkey in rural areas without road access.

BAHIA, BRAZIL: The rugged terrain in the rural area of Boa Vista do Tupim (BA), in Chapada Diamantina, 352 km from Salvador, presents no obstacle for the work of nurse Monaliza Oliveira. She counts on equines as allies in preventing the novel coronavirus in the remote communities.

According to the most recent bulletin from the Bahia State Health Department, released on Tuesday (16), Boa Vista do Tupim had registered only four confirmed cases among a population of just over 18 thousand inhabitants.

On the back of a donkey, horse or mule, the health professional manages to reach the most remote corners of the municipality, without the risk of being stuck in the puddles during the rainy season, as sometimes happens with some colleagues when using the vehicles of the local city hall.

A nurse for eight years, Monaliza travels almost an hour by car, from the family health post where she works at the town's headquarters, to carry out preventive work in the Aliança settlement and in the Trezentas community, where she uses the alternative four-legged transport.

Egyptian pastry-maker jailed for stuffing popular dish with donkey meat

WORLD NEWS MIDDLE EAST: An Egyptian court has convicted a local pastry-maker of illegally using donkey meat in a popular dish and serving it to unsuspecting customers, legal sources said.

The Helwan Misdemeanour Court in Cairo sentenced the owner of a pastry store to three years in prison and ordered him pay a fine of 30,000 Egyptian pounds (Dh6,899).

Police had earlier raided the place where they took samples from a paste of hawawshi, which

are pitas traditionally stuffed with minced meat and spiced with onion and pepper, Egyptian newspaper Al Watan reported.

Lab tests later showed that the samples were unfit for human consumption and contained donkey meat banned in Egypt.

In recent years, Egyptian media has reported several incidents involving the sale of donkey meat with the offenders resorting to this practice due to hikes in prices of other meat products.

Dar Al Iftaa, Egypt's main Islamic body responsible for issuing fatwas, has ruled that slaughtering donkeys for human consumption is haram or impermissible in Islam.

While there is no clear penalty in Egyptian law for trading in donkey and other equine meat, the offence is categorised as an act of commercial fraud and punishable by up to three years in prison and a minimum fine of LE10,000.

The Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant

Did you ever wonder what the story is behind these two (American) party animals?

The now-famous Democratic donkey was first associated with Democrat Andrew Jackson's 1828 presidential campaign. His opponents called him a "jackass" (a donkey), and Jackson decided to use the image of the strong-willed animal on his campaign posters. Later, cartoonist Thomas Nast used the Democratic donkey in newspaper cartoons and made the symbol famous.



Thomas Nast invented another famous symbol—the Republican elephant. In a cartoon that appeared in Harper's Weekly in 1874, Nast drew a donkey clothed in lion's skin, scaring away all the animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled "The Republican Vote." That's all it took for the elephant to become associated with the Republican Party.

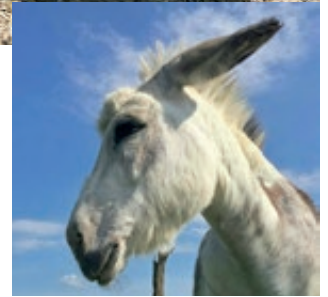
Democrats today say the donkey is smart and brave, while Republicans say the elephant is strong and dignified.



Meet Buckwheat, the donkey who crashes Zoom meetings



Farmhouse Garden's Barabash and Buckwheat dial in to a recent Zoom call. Attendees were playing a game; Buckwheat wore a blue tie to indicate she was a member of the blue team. (Photograph by Della Rollins)



UXBRIDGE, CANADA: The coronavirus pandemic has led millions of people to embrace meetings via Zoom but, admittedly, these meetings can be as tedious as in-person conferences.

So one animal sanctuary in Canada, in dire need of cash after being forced to close to visitors, found a way to solve both problems.

Meet Buckwheat, a donkey at the Farmhouse Garden Animal Home, who is ready to inject some fun into your humdrum work-from-home office day - for a price.

"Hello. We are crashing your meeting, we are crashing your meeting -- this is Buckwheat," says sanctuary volunteer Tim Fors, introducing the gray and white animal on a Zoom call.

In the video application's signature window panes, the call attendees offer some oohs and aahs as they realize what's happening - and then erupt in laughter.

"People donate to the sanctuary when they want Buckwheat to crash a meeting, so it's mostly a fundraiser so we can feed the animals, especially during COVID."

The Farmhouse Garden Animal Home in Uxbridge, about an hour's drive northeast of Toronto, used to rely on visitor donations and paid on-site activities to make ends meet. But since the pandemic erupted in mid-March, the former cattle ranch can no longer welcome outsiders, putting a serious dent in its finances.

"About four years ago, Mike Lanigan, who is a third-generation cattle farmer here, had a change of heart and decided not to send his cows to slaughter anymore," says Fors.

The animal sanctuary was born: it's now home to about 20 cows, chickens, ducks, a horse and Buckwheat, the female donkey born 12 years ago.

With the pandemic threatening the sanctuary's survival, its leaders quickly realized they needed to identify other ways to bring in money. They themselves were using Zoom calls for work - and thus was born the idea of having animals sit in on people's work calls to lighten the mood.

On the sanctuary's website, interested parties can fill out a form to hire Buckwheat, Melody the horse or Victoria, whom Fors calls the "matriarch of the herd."

A 10-minute Zoom appearance costs C\$75. For double the time, the price shoots up to \$125, and \$175 for 30 minutes, according to sanctuary co-founder Edith Barabash.

"We are always happy when the people on the meeting are surprised," says Fors. "We started about the end of April, and I think we've done about 100 meetings and sometimes we are crashing meetings three or four times a day."



Buckwheat the donkey is a Zoom superstar, making office workers giggle with her appearances to benefit the Farmhouse Garden Animal Home, the Canadian animal sanctuary where she lives outside Toronto.

The Donkey Sanctuary launches emergency fund for working longears



Jaditha Mwinzi owns 4 donkeys which carry water for her family and her livestock. They also bring her an income carrying maize, millet, sorghum, cow peas and charcoal. She lost two donkeys in the 2009 drought but saved the others by reducing their workload. Picture: © Crispin Hughes

AN EMERGENCY FUND to help working donkey and mule owners in Africa, Asia and the Americas following the coronavirus outbreak has been launched by Sidmouth-based charity The Donkey Sanctuary.

The Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund will help the most vulnerable people have access to the support they need as well as protecting the welfare of donkeys and mules who will be working harder than ever.

The Donkey Sanctuary is working with partners and international development organisations to fund interventions that directly change the lives of working donkeys and their owners.

The Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund provides funding to a wide range of situations, for example, that of The Donkey Sanctuary's strategic partner, Animal Nepal.

As part of the Covid-19 lockdown in Nepal, all non-essential services and industries were ordered to close, and this included the country's brick kilns, most of which are located on the peripheries of Kathmandu valley and Dhading.

The labourers and working equines within the brick kilns are often working and living in the harshest conditions, and represent some of the poorest households. As a result of the lockdown, they had become stranded with minimal supplies and were unable to feed their animals or travel home.

The Donkey Sanctuary agreed to co-fund an intervention with Animal Nepal to gain government permission to transport and distribute urgent relief supplies to the workers and donkeys at the kilns. Emergency relief packages for equine-owning households containing 25 days' worth of equine feed, and rice, daal and basic sanitary items for owners, were distributed to 167 families and 901 donkeys within the Lalitpur, Dhading and Nepalgunj districts.

Mike Baker, chief executive of The Donkey Sanctuary, said: "The global coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on the livelihoods of working donkey owners, at a time when many are already being impacted by climate change, conflict and crop failure.

"The Donkey Sanctuary knows that by tackling the wellbeing of the working animals and the people who work with them, we can support both to be more resilient in an increasingly complex and difficult world."

'What The World Needs Now Is Love'

AN OHIO DONKEY has become an internet celebrity after owner Dean Fagan posted a video of him cradling and singing to baby donkey, Ivy.

Dean sang "What the World Needs Now is Love" which is particularly pertinent as he was "trying to get a positive message out amid all this hate."

Dean's wife, Dawn says the message was certainly reaching people with several thousand responding on Twitter as well as invitations to appear on the CBS Morning Show Table Talk, Fox News and Channel 6 in Columbus.

The Fagans who live on a small farm in southern Morrow County take delight in the personality of donkeys. They all enjoy music. Dawn said Dean has sung to all the baby donkeys.

Sharing their property are six rescue donkeys, including baby Ivy and her mother Wyona. Dean, Dawn, family and friends love the people-oriented donkeys who impart a natural sense of calm – it's just what the world certainly does need right now.

You can see Dean singing to Ivy on the YouTube video, "What the world needs now. Ohio man singing to a donkey."

Dean Fagan singing to Ivy, a three-week-old donkey.
The video went viral and drew national attention.



Happy 90th Birthday Sean Connery

MY FAVOURITE James Bond actor, Sean Connery turned 90 last month. To mark the occasion, we revisit the James Bond Donkey created by renowned artist Peter Engels located in Antwerp, Holland. Peter painted one of 20 donkeys for a charity auction in October 2019. Proceeds went to young people who started life with less possibilities for a bright and happy future.

The James Bond Donkey features a Sean Connery portrait on one side, with all James bond movie titles painted around the donkey and it is signed by all six James Bond actors. The 007 Donkey now stands proudly at its new home, the Restaurant Lazy Jack in Oostkaai, Antwerpen.



FACT CHECK: Is this soldier carrying a donkey to keep it out of a minefield?

Many of us see this picture and explanation regularly crop up on social media but, like much on social media, how true is it? Leading global fact checker, Snopes.com sets us straight.



This picture from World War II, a soldier carrying a donkey. It is not that the soldier loves donkeys or has some sort of perversion. What's happening is that the field is mined and that if the donkey was free to wonder as it pleased, it would likely detonate a charge and kill everyone. The moral of the story is that during difficult times the first ones you have to keep under control are the jackasses who don't understand the danger and do as they please.

ACCORDING TO David Mikkelsen of Snopes, however much truth that parable may hold, it isn't directly applicable to this picture, which has nothing to do with World War II, or landmines, or any danger the donkey might have posed had it been allowed to run free.

The picture actually dates from 1958, during the Algerian War (i.e. a war for independence waged against French forces in Colonial Algeria). And it depicts

a starving donkey that was rescued by a member of the French Foreign Legion who carried it back to his base, where the animal was nursed back to health, given the name "Bambi," and adopted as a unit mascot — as described by author Douglas Porch in his 1991 history of the Legion:

"1958 proved a very successful year for the Legion in another respect — it was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Distinguished Service by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and a similar recognition from the RSPCA in London, after a legionnaire of the 13e DBLE [13th Demi-Brigade of the Foreign Legion] rescued a starving donkey and returned it to his base where, renamed Bambi, it served the unit as a mascot. Interest was pricked among the "Anglo-Saxons" after London's Daily Mail carried a photo of the donkey being carried on the back of a legionnaire. Attempts to award the Certificate of Merit to the generous legionnaire foundered upon [his maintaining anonymity]. However, the Chief Secretary of the RSPCA was informed by the Legion of numerous mascots, "running from the bear to the lizard, passing through monkeys, sand foxes, storks and other birds, hedgehogs, without forgetting of course the multitude of dogs and cats [that] follow each unit in its movements. In certain [units], the number of animals is greater than the strength in manpower." Especially gratifying was the knowledge that Bambi "at the present time is enjoying an enviable destiny and that he is sharing the life of our legionnaires and even ... their beer."

Donkeys may create dangerous situations (unwittingly or otherwise) in other circumstances, but not in the one captured in the photograph displayed above left.

Rosy's Progress

Jacquelynn Holly has some good news to share about Rosy, the sidesaddle mule we read about in the last issue of the Donkey Digest.

I HAVE WAITED AT LEAST A YEAR to share this happy ending. This story is for everyone whose equines have struggled with unilateral high ringbone. There IS an answer. There IS a cure.

This is the story of Rosy, my heart mule. I have owned her 20 years and she has given me everything I have ever asked of her.

For as long as I can remember, she struggled with lameness on her right front. We traveled to several different specialists in Southern California and did annual radiographs. It wasn't until 2013 or so that the radiographs began to reflect high ringbone.

Fortunately for Rosy, she responded fabulously to a daily quarter tablet of Previcox. She was sound and we were able to continue drill performances, parades and re-enactment. I was still cautious not to push her too hard; limiting rides to the flat and soft terrains.

Around 2016, she was doing so well on soft ground, her dosage changed to half tablet before any big performance and a half tablet afterwards. We continued to do work on the flat, missing our mountains, but playing it safe.

When we moved to Idaho in April 2017, Rosy was sound and doing great on pasture and enjoying Idaho trails with the same basic limitations and routine; flat, soft terrain, and half tablets before/after performance events.

The winters in Idaho were, however, much colder than this California-born mule had ever been exposed to. Maybe it was coincidence, maybe it wasn't, but by winter 2019, Rosy's minimal Previcox dosage had increased to nearly half a tablet daily and no riding.

This increased Previcox dosage didn't help anymore.

I was desperate to help her. We returned to Idaho Equine Hospital. Dr. Wahl suggested corrective shoeing, so we tried it, and it did nothing. We returned to IEH. Dr. Wahl suggested OSPHOS with a 50% chance of success. We tried it, to no avail.

On March 10, 2019, around 9:35 pm, I walked out to bring the mules in to bed. Rosy was under the driveway light, laying down, and Roxy, my other mule, was standing guard over her.

I called them. Roxy came over per her usual social self, but Rosy wouldn't move. She is the type of mule who will normally jump up at the sight of you walking towards her.

That night is burned into my memory. It was a struggle to get Rosy to the barn. Each step was excruciating to watch. Her discomfort was beyond everything we had tried.



Rosy's last performance in San Diego at the Del Mar National Horse Show before coming to Idaho. Photo: Sharon Vanderlip

We had exhausted all our options. Except one.

Dr. Wahl had mentioned surgery in passing once and it was time to revisit that option. Though costly and invasive, it was the only option they guaranteed soundness. This sounded fantastic to me.

Rosy was an ideal candidate; she is a healthy, fit equine, 23 years old (at time of procedure), no other forms of arthritis and most importantly, her ringbone was unilateral.

This procedure cannot be performed on equines with bilateral ringbone. It requires a week of wearing a cast post-op and the unaffected leg is really stressed during recovery.

On March 19, 2019, Rosy was scheduled for surgery.

Rosy's procedure went very smoothly. However, mules tend to be very sensitive to different drug combinations and her recovery was an unpredicted roller coaster. The first 72 hours' post-op were by far the most emotional and stressful of my life. Poor Rosy couldn't handle the drug concoction they'd given her and her pain was uncontrollable to the point that she nearly gave up on herself.

Part of me believes our kids and their carrot visits are what kept her pushing through. We practically lived in her stall at Idaho Equine Hospital. We are very fortunate to live less than mile away from the medical facility!

Rosy's stay at IEH was prolonged nearly two weeks due to her initial rough recovery. She was at IEH for nearly a month. When she came home, she was limited to a 12x12 stall for another month. But, at least she was at home.

Eventually, she was given permission to go back on pasture. And later, to start light work. And so, it really is all just a blur where milestones were reached.

But on Wednesday, May 27th, 2020, we received the most incredible news ever from Dr. Wahl. He said Rosy could resume ALL normal activity including hills and loping, two things we haven't been able to do in years!

Rosy's post-op radiograph showing her new hardware.





Rosy is back in work, sound but now in danger of being 'stolen' as a riding mount by the three Holly children, Colten, Hendrix & 3-year-old Savannah Grace, seen here trying out riding Rosy sidesaddle. Little Miss Cowgirl was soon back, all kitted up & ready to get a tad more serious.

Good job: Colten & Savannah Grace high five while Rosy takes it all in her unflappable stride.

If your equine has unilateral high ringbone, there is an option for complete soundness. Full recovery is expected around 18 months post-op. Rosy will be 18 months' post-op in September 2020.

My understanding is that this particular procedure ranges in cost; anywhere from \$8,000-\$15,000 depending on your location and all that

is involved in recovery. The initial quote for Rosy naturally went over due to her prolonged stay at IEH. Every practice will be different. I can't emphasize how phenomenal Dr. Wahl is. I hope everyone takes the time to watch the procedure I've posted on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/JacquelynnMichelleHolly/videos>

Definitive donkey dentistry guide available free

A PROFESSIONAL TEXTBOOK focused on dentistry in donkeys has been launched by UK welfare charity The Donkey Sanctuary, and can be downloaded for free.

The Clinical Companion of Donkey Dentistry is the first in a series of specialist in-depth handbooks to complement The Clinical Companion of the Donkey textbook.

Dental disease is the second most common clinical problem encountered in donkeys, after disorders of the feet. Such issues have the potential to cause significant pain.

Donkey teeth are designed to wear constantly as they are continual grazers and thrive on a diet of highly fibrous and tough-to-chew food, making disease-preventing dentistry essential. The book aims to increase awareness, and confidence of professionals in carrying out dental care and treatment in donkeys.

The Clinical Companion of Donkey Dentistry

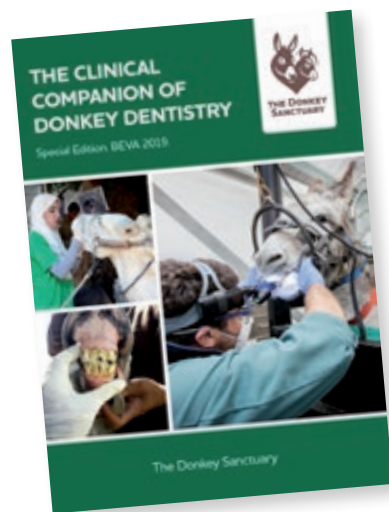
enables The Donkey Sanctuary to share its vast knowledge and experience in donkey and mule dentistry to improve the health and welfare of donkeys globally. This guide is illustrated with colour photos and produced in an easy-to-navigate format over its 237 pages. The handbook includes a list of definitions of the common dental disorders affecting donkeys.

Dr Faith Burden, Director of Research and Operational Support at The Donkey Sanctuary said: "We are delighted to release this dentistry book which focuses on an important, but often neglected element of donkey and mule welfare. By providing this evidence-based handbook, we are sharing our knowledge and expertise, which has been developed during The Donkey Sanctuary's last 50 years."

The Donkey Sanctuary's Gemma Lilly — BEVA/BVDA examiner and former Chair of The British Association of Equine Dental Technicians — said research suggested that dental disease had a prevalence of 73-93% in donkeys globally.

"Dental disease can have a profound effect on longevity, systemic health, welfare and quality of life, and subsequently a major concern for professionals and owners alike.

"This volume charts new territory, being the only technical handbook focused on the oral and dental health of donkeys and mules across the world. I am particularly proud of the bias



Research indicates that dental disease has a global prevalence of 73-93% in donkeys. © The Donkey Sanctuary

towards high welfare and the practical application of contemporary science-based principles, many of which are products of our own research," Lilly said.

"We have included guidance on biosecurity, instrument maintenance and troubleshooting, in addition to information on quality of life and specialist breeds such as the Mammoth Jack, Poitou, Zamorano-Leonés and Miniature Mediterranean donkeys. Much of the content is applicable to the general equid population, so this is a relevant text for all dental technicians and vets."



Registrar's Roundup

with Kerrie Haynes-Lovell



Registrations	Registration no.	Owner
Registrations	Registration no.	Owner
WattleWoods Wee Romeo	20/009GE/Aus.Min	Hazel Knight
WattleWoods Wee Rocco	20/010GE/Aus.Min	Hazel Knight
Joy's Charlotte Rhodes	20/004JE	Joan Young
Crofters Brae Brigetta	20/005JE/EI	Joan Young
WattleWoods Wee Ralph	20/011GE/AusMin (100%)	Hazel Knight
WattleWoods Wee Ruyben	20/012GE/AusMin (100%)	Hazel Knight
WattleWoods Wee Re Wynston	20/013GE/AusMin (100%)	Hazel Knight
Crofters Brae Eclipse	20/007JE/EI	Joan Young
Crofters Brae Mira	20/006JE/EI	Joan Young
Crofters Brae Mushroom	20/008JE/EI	Joan Young
Crofters Brae Celtic Lace	20/009JE/EI	Tracey Stuart

Transfer #	Name	Registration #	From	To
20/17	Wendanjo Kansas	06/006GE	Tracey Brand	Judy Wright
20/18	WattleWoods Wee Romeo	20/009GE/Aus.Min	Hazel Knight	Barry Cooper
20/19	WattleWoods Wee Rocco	20/010GE/Aus.Min	Hazel Knight	Barry Cooper
20/20	Joy's Charlotte Rhodes	20/004JE	Joan Young	Tracey Stuart
20/21	Crofters Brae Brigetta	20/005JE/EI	Joan Young	Val Stuart
20/22	WattleWoods Wee Ralph	20/011GE/AusMin (100%)	Hazel Knight	Sandra Fletcher
20/23	WattleWoods Wee Ruyben	20/012GE/AusMin (100%)	Hazel Knight	Belinda McKay
20/24	WattleWoods Wee Re Wynston	20/013GE/AusMin (100%)	Hazel Knight	Belinda McKay

Why register your donkeys?

By Kerrie Haynes-Lovell
ADSA Registrar

Registration of donkeys is not something that immediately springs to mind for new donkey owners. Many people would think that registrations only apply to "purebred" animals and not just "pets". Of course, all our donkeys are purebred but of varying types and origins.

Donkeys and mules come in many different sizes, colours and origins. One of the reasons for having a registration record of the animals in Australia is to identify these differences. In recent years, we have seen the importation of different breed types: Mammoth, Irish, English and Miniature, to name a few. We also have many "teamster" or "bush" donkeys that were the backbone of our rural societies in days gone by.

In the past, some owners did not want, or have access to, brands to identify their animals. However, the advent of microchips has paved the way for a much less traumatic method for many owners to permanently identify all their animals. In fact, if you are in areas where it is necessary to vaccinate against Hendra virus microchipping is a compulsory part the vaccination programme.

In much the same way as a dog or cat microchip works, registration identifies individual animals which reduces conflicts of ownership and allows animals to be identified in the case of that animal being lost, particularly during natural disasters such as floods, fires and storms. In these extreme weather events, which are only predicted to get more frequent, animals may have to be relocated to communal

paddocks or they often escape from their normal environment. If the animal is registered the owner can be positively identified and ownership verified.

Another, often distressing, consequence of not registering a donkey is that previous owners cannot track their donkey or its progeny. With donkeys living up to 40 or 50 years, this is a problem. I often get calls from people wanting to find out more about a donkey they have purchased or sold and lost track of. I can sometimes help them in their quest to find more information. Sadly, often, I can't help them as the animal is not in the records or the change of ownership record has not been kept up to date. This can be heart-breaking for someone whose search suddenly comes to a dead end.

So, registration is not solely for breeders. It is just as important for paddock pets, often of unknown parentage, to be registered on the Affiliated Donkey Societies of Australia (ADSA) database to keep track of the animals, see what types are being kept and the origins of the animals. It's crucial in building up a picture of the national donkey herd.

The ADSA has a long history of registering donkeys and mules in Australia and the more information the registration system collects the better we are able to assist owners and interested parties about the number and type of animals found in the country.

An animal with identification that is registered has its ownership details, parentage, breeder and current whereabouts recorded on the ADSA database. When an animal is sold and the transfer details are entered into the records, we can track the animal through its life.

If you haven't registered your donkey or mule, it's not an expensive process so why not consider doing so? If you require a registration form, or a copy of the registration rules, contact Kerrie Haynes-Lovell – phone 0416 167 453 - Email: lotsodogs@bigpond.com.au - for an electronic copy. Alternatively, the form and rules are available on the ADSA website – www.donkeysadsa.org The total number of entries in the database currently stands at 1141 animals.

Suzy the Showjumper



In the Streefkerk household even the cat rides a donkey. Pat's cat Suzy is seen here practising her forward seat in readiness for the return of donkey shows.

Please help



ADSA needs an Administrator now, details are in the ad below.

It's not a hard job. It would suit someone who may not be as active with donkeys, or may not even own a donkey but would still like to keep an interest in our longears.

Why not contact Christine and talk it over?

The Affiliated Donkey Societies of Australia

WANTED: ADMINISTRATOR

ADSA are seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Administrator as soon as possible.

The Administrator, Registrar and Donkey Digest Editor perform the three key functions of ADSA.

As the Administrator, you will be required to carry out both administrative and treasury duties.

Although the workload is not particularly high you will need to be organised, able to meet deadlines, have reasonable computer skills including using internet banking and a basic knowledge of bookkeeping. You will work closely with the Registrar, Editor and each State Treasurers particularly at the commencement of September, December, March and June each year. Most contact is through email. You will also be responsible for arranging for the auditing of financial records for 1 July-30 June each year, and organise a Biannual General Meeting every two years. This meeting is now held via video conference.

If you think you may be interested in taking on this important role then please contact the current Administrator Christine Trotter on 0417 348 819 or email cljgypsy20@gmail.com

Please do not feel committed if you want to make initial enquiries as I am happy to answer questions.



Twin Foals born at Hawaiki Stud

I am Ajay Baker, 10 years old and I would like to share my story of our twin donkey foals that were born at Hawaiki Stud in Girgarre, Victoria

A week before Hawaiki Stud's twin donkey foals were born I said to my nan (Debra Baker) "Nan, Oakey might have twins" to which she replied "No Ajay that is just Oakey".

Fast forward a week - it was Sunday July 5th when Hawaiki Oakey went into labour at 3 pm. Luckily it was daylight so we could watch

Oakey lay down and I could see the water bag come then the foal arrived. It was the jack foal later to be named Kaiba. I got a towel and rubbed and stimulated him and cleared his airways. In the meantime, to my surprise, there was another baby coming. This was a jenny foal whom I

named Clare. I also rubbed Clare with a towel. I think mum Oakey was in shock herself as to what had just happened - not one but two baby donkeys. I'm sure she thought to herself "Wow, double trouble here."

Within about 10 minutes the babies and mum were all up and the babies were hungry. They had a nice drink and were happy.

Now 5 weeks old, the twins sure are double trouble. My favourite one is the jack foal Kaiba whom I spend a lot of time with, leading him and grooming him. One day I will get him gelded and break him to harness. I told nan that she could have Clare so we both have one each. I am looking forward to watching the babies both grow up and have a bright future ahead of them.



Healthy twin foals for Oakey. Kaiba (L) takes after his Dad, while Clare (R) takes after her Mum.

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Congratulations Helen McIntyre OAM

A lifetime of dedication to donkey welfare has been recognised with Helen McIntyre being awarded an Order of Australia medal in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list.

Helen has been a member of the Donkey Society of Western Australia since 1983. During that time, she has held various positions – President, Secretary, Treasurer, committee member and is a Life Member of the Society. She is also a current committee member.

The Investiture Ceremony, held last month at Government House Perth, saw Helen presented with her OAM medals by Kim Beazley, the Governor of Western Australia.

Always humble and never seeking the limelight, Helen was perplexed about why she should be considered for an award.

"I really can't think that I have done anything to warrant it other than enjoy myself playing with other people's donkeys as well as my own."

However, in her usual style, she said after the ceremony: "Not sure when one wears all the jewellery, it might spook the donkeys although it could look good on a brow band at a show."

Look out donkeys of the west, you just might be upstaged at shows by Helen's bling-wearing longears!

Yvonne Messina shares her 'Helen' experiences



I first met Helen when I was trying to find a suitable donkey for myself. I made various contacts with people, then came across Helen McIntyre's contact on the Donkey Society of Western Australia's website. She was friendly and amazingly helpful and before long she had located the most beautiful donkey for me and even drove 500kms one way to deliver him to me. She has since travelled to our farm several times delivering donkeys and bringing with her a group of interested donkey society members.

I found Helen to be a person who was happy to go above and beyond with her help of old and new members and equally to those who aren't members. She is always at the end of mine and other new and old members' emails and telephone calls when we have difficulties with feeding, health, and training, etc., and answers with practical and knowledgeable advice.

Since becoming a member of the Donkey Society I have had numerous contacts with Helen and on one occasion when I said I was going to Perth, she arranged a whole day of what I call 'Donkey School'. I went to her place and she spent a great deal of time demonstrating

harness and cart procedures, followed by other members joining us on an excursion where we visited other donkey owners' homes. This gave me the opportunity to network and learn much more about donkey care. I learned so much in that day and Helen's willingness and approachability meant that I really felt much more confident in the care and training of my own donkeys.

Helen enjoys visiting new members, assisting them with donkey issues, providing sound and expert advice and encouraging them to share their journey with other members, especially through social activities and through written articles in the News and Do's magazine which is published quarterly. Her ability to get to know a person and match a suitable donkey to them is outstanding.

Helen is passionate about ensuring donkeys and owners have a safe and happy journey, she is an outstanding contributor and worker for the Donkey Society of WA and Australia. She has worked hard to promote donkeys as smart and dependable creatures and has taken her donkeys to many public places to do this. She also willingly uses her vehicle and trailer to assist people to take their donkeys to various activities such as Christmas and Easter events, events for elderly people and schools, Anzac Day services and various agricultural shows. She also takes her own donkeys to these events, which again reinforces her very strong views about donkeys being capable and dependable.

Health and welfare of donkeys is paramount to Helen and she can readily call upon other members' skills and abilities especially in calming and civilising donkeys before finding them a good home. Helen has taken countless donkeys to veterinarians to have them treated or gelded as needed, donating her own time, vehicle and trailer. While out and around she observes donkeys in paddocks and has a very encouraging way of contacting owners and offering assistance with health and foot care and providing them with information about the Donkey Society, which they always find very welcome.

She provides much needed answers to questions on anything and



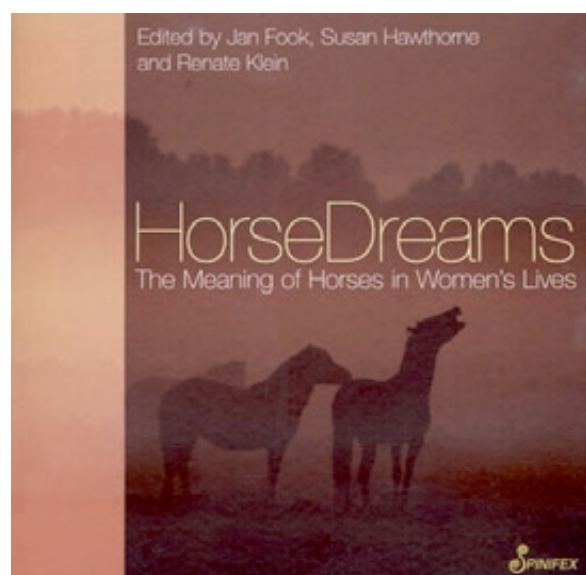
Travels in the Donkey Bus: L-R Dawn Maton (partly obscured), Anne Wright, Helen McIntyre, Andrea Park, Sue Harris & Stella Gallack.

everything donkey and will take the time to research questions and follow up with answers, including author's notes where relevant. She will go virtually anywhere in WA at her own expense to assist donkey lovers and owners especially in providing much needed training in bush fire management. Helen also provides a safe venue for stressed donkeys and those in threat of bush fires and assists the owners to relocate donkeys in those times.

I found that everything Helen does is tireless, willing and enthusiastic and ensures that donkey owners and trainers have a safe, happy and successful relationship with their donkeys.

I recognise that people do amazing things when part of a team and I believe this is true with DSWA. They have shown me that they are a strong, focused and dedicated group of people who inspire, and I am so fortunate to have had all of their input in my journey. Thank you to all at DSWA and congratulations Helen and thank you for your devoted help over a number of years to myself and others.

The Orphan Foal by Helen McIntyre



We reprint Helen's engaging story about Pollyanna from the book *HorseDreams: The Meaning of Horses in Women's Lives*, with permission from Spinifex Press.

Having a big mouth has always gotten me into trouble, so it is nice that on at least one occasion it all ended up okay. At the time I had three grey donkeys and one day, watching them while chatting with a friend, I said, 'If ever anything happens to one of my donkeys and I decide to keep having three and not cut down to two, I think maybe my next one will be a brown one.' So, of course, about two months later I received a frantic phone call. Fat Kate, who had already killed two foals and who was not supposed to get pregnant again, had dropped a foal and was attacking it. The owner was desperate to find a home where it could be hand-reared and the word had gone around that I was looking for a brown donkey. Yeah right, who left out the 'one day', 'if ever I only have two' and the 'maybe'. So, Pollyanna came into my life, she at twenty-four hours of age and me at fifty-four years of age.

First move, off to the vet to have her checked out to see if Fat Kate had damaged her, to have her tubed full of milk and given any other treatment the vet thought necessary. First, weight, fourteen kilograms. My Kelpie dog weighed eighteen! The, before treatment, the vet asked, 'What's her name?' I think names are important, so I frantically searched my memory banks for a 'positive' name, to give her all the help I could. Of course, Pollyanna! A survivor if ever there was one. She was always glad, even positive enough to be glad crutches were a better present than a doll as she didn't need them. So, Pollyanna it was. Why, oh why, didn't I have time to think further? Pollyanna was also an interfering busybody who always knew better than

anyone else and thought she had the right to direct everyone along the lines she chose. Pollyanna has worked very hard to live up to her name, especially the bossy side of it. If only I'd thought, 'Topsy, she just grew.'

So, home with Pollyanna, Divetalact milk powder and instructions on all the things to watch for and worry about. I decided bottle feeding was time consuming and fiddley, so I first tried her on the milk in a small bowl. For the first and last time in her life, Polly decided to let me do things the easy way and she drank straight away. Probably wasn't for my benefit, she probably worked out she could get more down, faster, if she drank that way. From the time she came to me, until the time I weaned her, she drank over \$700 worth of milk. I suppose she was not prepared to wear the label of 'free donkey' all her life. I had strict instructions to watch her bowel movements for too much, too little, too hard, too soft, so of course she chose not to have any. I was on the phone to the vet every hour or so, 'She hasn't pooped yet, shall I panic? 'Is it panic time yet?' 'How long now before I should start panicking?' Aren't vets lovely, long-suffering people? Mine made comforting noises and didn't once indicate he had other more pressing duties.

“
On the few occasions I could not take her with me, I hired a babysitter for her, much to the stunned amusement of the sitter.
”

I decided she should sleep in the house, knowing that although donkeys are basically strong, healthy animals, once they become depressed it is very difficult to save them. Actually, I think Pollyanna would have been more depressed staying with her own mother where she would have had to obey. As it was, she got a mother who could be controlled and manipulated any which way she chose. I moved a double mattress out onto the kitchen floor and we slept on it together, waking every two hours to drink and then go outside and walk around until she answered the call of nature. The book said to feed every two hours for a week or so, then cut out some night feeds so that you ended up with the last feed at night at about midnight and the next first thing in the morning. In between, start lengthening the time between feeds until they are about four hours apart. Idiot me thought, 'Better to feed nature's way and feed little and often the way a real mother does', so I made a huge rod for my own back by feeding two hourly for three months, then started on the reduction.

Is bringing a foal up in the house a good idea? No, never again. Next time, I move out into the stable if I think it necessary. The problems I came across were many. I couldn't sleep past the two hour feeding time or Pollyanna would stand up and tread on me to wake me, or, on two occasions, urinate on me to make sure I woke up. Quite deliberate, I assure you. That was just before she was moved out onto the veranda at night to sleep one side of the screen door while I slept the other.

I like my bath almost boiling but for months I had to have tepid water as Polly insisted on coming in and drinking it, so it couldn't be any hotter than her milk. The worst part was that the floor in the bathroom was slippery and, on several occasions, as she stood drinking, she

would gradually do the splits. I would have to leap out in all my glory to stand her up again. I nearly froze to death because I couldn't have the heater on, then turn it off and risk her getting cold.

She had to learn to be a paddock donkey eventually. She pulled things off shelves, opened cupboards, galloped up the passage and then, when I asked her to, refused to repay me. It was like this. She had developed the habit of rushing up the passage and leaping onto my double bed and off again, biting and kicking the bed before jumping back on to it again.

After this went on for weeks, I thought, 'Right, you can earn your keep by winning Funniest Home Videos for me' and I asked the chap down the street to bring his video camera. He set himself up on a stepladder in the corner of the room. Pollyanna galloped down the passage, stopped dead in the doorway and said, 'No way am I going to be exploited' and from that day she never jumped on the furniture again. She even threw my camera on the floor and broke it, to make sure I did not have any still photos of her as a baby, walking under the kitchen table, sitting on my knee on the lounge or any of the other 'cute' pics. Like mother, like daughter, I guess. I hate having my photo taken too so I suppose I can sympathise...just.

In the mornings we would go for a walk around the block to buy the paper. The included the local park where I would let her off her lead to gallop wildly in all directions before coming screaming back to me hee-hawing with joy. The ranger saw us once but agreed there was no law stating that donkeys had to be on a lead at all times. In the afternoon at 4 pm we would play 'chasey' around the back paddock as I had observed that that was about the time the horses next door played with their foals.

When she got too big to fit in the back of the car, I would have to put the trailer on and take her with me when I went visiting so she could be fed every two hours. She would lie on the doorstep of the house I was visiting until it was time to go home. On the few occasions I could not take her with me, I hired a babysitter for her, much to the stunned amusement of the sitter.

This all happened ten years ago. Pollyanna grew up to be an absolute monster in many people's eyes. She hadn't been bitten and kicked at the appropriate times because I don't speak donkey fluently, but we gradually overcame most of her problems and she and I understand each other, even if the rest of the world doesn't know how to take her. Because of her experience of being taken everywhere with me as a foal, she has no fear of any situation she finds herself in, if I am there. She is absolutely bombproof in harness. I didn't really want another donkey when I got her, but now I couldn't imagine life without my half-human little donkey.

Helen McIntyre grew up in the early 1940s at Bibra Lake Western Australia. From the age of eleven, she was never without a horse until she married in her thirties and lived in the suburbs. She became involved with donkeys when her mother bought a pregnant jenny and gave her the foal which lived on her parents' property. After being widowed in 1990 she purchased a property and became more involved with donkeys, owning them, driving them in harness, finding homes for needy donkeys and being completely besotted by them.

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Helen & Pollyanna looking smart in a turnout class at the Quindanning Donkey Harness Championships.

Where is Pollyanna now?

by Helen McIntyre

Pollyanna is now twenty five years of age. Have the years mellowed her? No! In fact, as with many of us, she is getting crankier and more difficult as she ages.

However, she has taught me a lot about donkeys and raising an orphan foal, or even buying a donkey as a foal and the mistakes it is so easy to make.

As can be seen from her story, she was spoilt from birth. I knew better and Jasper, Dinky and Mr Jenkins were all perfect donkeys, Jasper in harness and anyone could ride Dinky or Mr Jenkins, all of which I had trained from the start as Dinky turned out to be pregnant when she came down from the North as a feral donkey and some months later had Mr Jenkins.

Pollyanna was wished upon me. I had three grey donkeys and one day, sitting on the verandah, I mentioned to the friends I was with 'if ever I get another donkey I will make it a dark brown one'. Only a few weeks later I got ring at crack of dawn to say a man with a donkey as a companion to his trotters had had a foal and the jenny was trying to kill it. He had tied her in a corner of the paddock with her head and front feet to one side and her back legs across to the other fence and he thought the foal had had a bit of colostrum when he held her underneath, but he could not go to work and leave her like that so if someone could come and take the foal away they could keep it. Of course, the person he first rang had been with me when I made my comment about a dark brown donkey and volunteered me. So I dashed up and got her before eight o'clock and the man went off to work.

I felt sorry for Polly, poor baby wanted to play and the other three donkeys were past playing foal games, so I played chasey up and down the paddock, hid behind a tree and jumped out, laughed when she was naughty and generally turned her into a monster. To this day she is pushy, will try to get to a gate before me and be ready to push through the moment I have taken the bolt out or loosened it in the slightest way. She demands she has first choice of the food bin and the other donkeys can find another one or wait until she has at least made sure there is nothing special she needs to eat before the others are allowed to start.

Playing with a foal is so easy and we know their mothers do but you will always end up with a pushy donkey. Yes, their mothers run with

them and play other rough games as they get older, but when the game is over she will then bite their neck, nip the back of the knees, kick or nudge the foal in such a way that says 'we have finished that now, go away and eat'. We can't do that in a way the foal understands so the foal does not learn there is a time for playing and a time for respect.

To make your foal into the loving, cuddly pet you want you need to ignore it when it wants to play. Hopefully it will enjoy playing with cardboard boxes, large horse balls, small cones and other safe things left in the paddock it can amuse itself with. I should only have cuddled, brushed, scratched in the right places and generally handled Pollyanna when she was calm and receptive, walking away when she started getting rough or pushy. And I think they know what our laughing means and so if we laugh when they are naughty they do it again. Like children, they need to be told that is not appropriate behaviour and laugh about it with your friends when they can't overhear you.

Having realised too late that the fun and games I had with her had been such a bad thing to do, when it came to putting her into harness at the age of three I was very strict. I realised that a donkey with no respect for me or anyone else would be dangerous in a cart and it would be a shame if she went through life being a paddock donkey, so if she so much as moved at the wrong time I growled at her.

What was the result of treating her so strictly? When I get the harness out and start putting it on she gives a deep, long breath and behaves perfectly. I feel safe driving her absolutely anywhere. She has even done a number of weddings in her 'smart' cart with me driving with the father of the bride beside me and the bride in the back, or three brides in my cart following Gill Baddeley with the Bride and her father in her smart cart and even a Mexican themed wedding surrounded by lots of noise and movement. Not a worry in the world about her spoiling the day for the bride.

The deep breath? I interpret that as saying "now I know what I am, I am a harness donkey. Most of the time I am confused about my place in life. Am I a child? A dog? A toy? NO, I am a harness donkey and I know exactly how to be a donkey. I wish I was always so sure of my place in the world."

However, even spoilt and at times a problem, we still enjoy our lives together and hopefully will continue to do so for years to come. ■



Packing Your Donkey or Mule

Part Two by Tim Daniel, Wilderness Expeditions



So, you have identified a suitable animal or pack team and now a decision is to be made on which pack saddle to use. Let's talk about the various options and the pros and cons you need to consider.

I drove across the Barkly Tableland towards Darwin for the first time in 1987. We called into the Barkly Roadhouse for a refreshment and fuel. I remember a comprehensive display of harness, pack saddles and other items on the walls from the days of pack horse droving the Northern Territory and Murrumbidgee Stock routes. Sometime later the roadhouse ceased trading. I drove back across the Barkly Tablelands following one of the Stockroutes some six years later to find a new, replacement Roadhouse. Sadly, all the saddlery and harness, including all the donkey sized pack saddles and harness were no longer on display, and I had not photographed the display during my previous visit. The collection had probably been consigned to a dump to be forgotten. Little did I know that some ten years later I would be searching in vain for donkey pack saddles and harness to establish a pack donkeys' trekking business. Despite being located in an historic mining town which had been a centre for pack transport with over 2000 pack mules and horses plying the many pack tracks in the region 90 years before, there was not a skerrick of pack harness or even any evidence of the animals' toil remaining. This made me determined to learn the craft of Australian packing and collect the methods and skills.

The distinctive Australian methods and pack saddlery equipment are largely lost, and the remnants are being displaced by cheaper and easily purchased North American saddlery that has a very different background. There are many books and manuals on outfitting and packing in the North American fashion but little on record of the Australian methods. Australian pack saddles, being more sophisticated than the North American equivalents, are more expensive. The knowledge of manufacturing Australian pack saddles and adjusting them to fit is on the decline as demand diminishes and traditional saddlers retire with few followers to pass the skills to. The skills that were common in droving plants and with packhorse mail contractors in the 1960s have largely disappeared, and those with the knowledge have reached an age where their memories and themselves are succumbing.

My experience is with packing donkeys on walking camping treks since 2001. This article provides a general background understanding of packsaddles to assist prospective packers to choose a pack saddle that suits their animal and packing requirements.

Carrying baggage and cargo on animals has been conducted by humans for probably thousands of years. It seems that the taming of horses, camels and donkeys may have started in the Far East and with successive contacts, invasions and exchanges along the Silk Route, packing techniques were imported into Eastern Europe and North Africa. Certainly, the Romans introduced Donkeys and Mules into Northern Europe and Britain as components of their army's baggage trains. Mules and donkeys and packing techniques were introduced into Spain via North Africa by the Moors. Consequently Northern, Eastern and Western Europe have developed different breeds of donkey, together with many different designs of pack saddles.

The Spanish and French introduced packing (and reintroduced equines) into the Americas. The American Indians quickly adopted the horse and invented their own styles of saddles including pack saddles. French and later British trappers and explorers introduced the Crossback style of pack saddle, and later pack saddles that evolved in Mexico {Apajecos} were adapted for use in Southern USA. These designs have been modified and developed into the typical pack saddles used across the USA and Canada.

Packing in Australia commenced soon after settlement as there were no roads on which to drive wheeled vehicles. The difficult terrain of the Blue Mountains effectively contained early explorers until they learned to traverse the steep ridges and cliffs and break out into the Liverpool Plains and the Southern Highlands using pack horses. All the early explorers, Mitchell, Kennedy, Leichhardt, Sturt, Bourke and Wills to name a few, employed pack transport, presumably using traditional British styles of pack saddle or improvised methods, until Major Thomas Mitchell introduced his design in the 1830s.

For this article I will concentrate on pack saddle designs readily available in Australia. This includes North American saddlery that seem to be popular and can be purchased by mail order. The traditional Australian type of pack saddles have been used in Australia since at least the 1830s by explorers, drovers and travellers, and for pack transport in regions such as the Cairns Hinterland. There are obviously other designs and styles of pack saddle from countries around the world. But these designs are difficult to find, and unless travelling in the regions concerned, it would be difficult to ensure that the size and fit would be correct for an animal working in Australian conditions.

Pack saddles are more rudimentary in construction than a riding saddle. Pack saddles consist of the following components:



- Arches, these take the load off the animal's spine and provide anchor points from which to hang or lash the load.
- Backboards or bars, to spread the load along the muscles of the animal's back.
- Rigging, this is a harness to position and secure the saddle to the animal.
- Quarter panels are padded panels that support the saddle, separate the load and the animal, and provide padding for the comfort and protection of the animal.

The rigging may include:

- Breeching*, a strap that fits around the animal's rump to stop the saddle shifting forwards:
- A breastplate#, a strap fitting around the chest to stop the load moving backwards; and
- Crupper, which is a special strap that fits around the base of the tail (dock) to stop the saddle moving forward.

Notes:

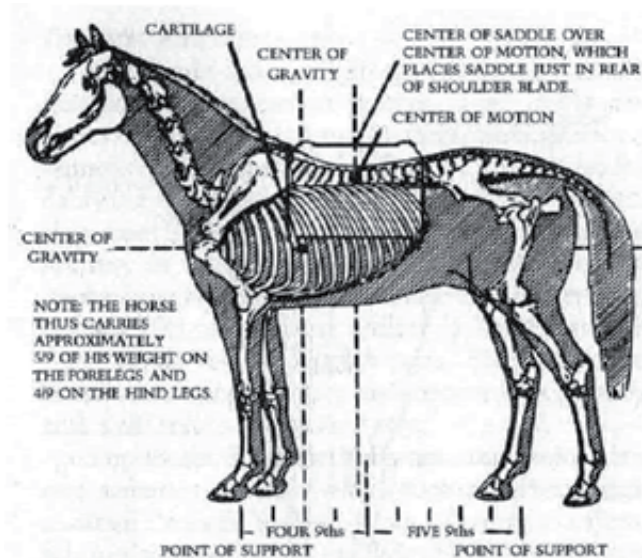
1. *The correct spelling of this strap is "Breeching" as in "Breeches" per the Concise Oxford Dictionary, pronunciation is "briv/chiven ", "Britchen", Britchin" are US vernacular!
1. *#A breastplate is of lighter construction than a "Breast Collar" that is used in heavy harness.
1. *A breastplate is required when operation in steep country or when animals are tied as a "Pace" using the saddles.
4. The Australian pack saddle incorporates some rigging in the quarter panels.

Fitting a pack saddle

Do not be fooled into thinking that there is not much involved in fitting a pack saddle to your animal. The load suspended by a pack saddle is a dead weight and remains constant for the time that the animal is loaded. A poorly fitted pack saddle can very quickly cause injuries due to the effect of constant weight and any movement.

Centre of Motion: Due to the action of a horse, mule or donkey's gait, the saddle and load are subjected to an oscillating, figure of eight motion about a point along the animal's back. Any resultant rubbing by the saddle or load will cause galls and saddle sores. A well-fitting saddle will reduce any rubbing. The higher the load, the more it rocks and moves placing strain on any lashings and exaggerating any looseness or lack of balance and will again extenuate any rubbing motion. The load should be distributed along the length of the tree to provide balance from front to rear. In a riding saddle the weight of the rider is concentrated in the seat which is generally located near the centre of the animal's back over the "Centre of Motion".

This point along the animal's back is the centre of an oscillating motion created by the animal's gait. This changes slightly when at the walk, trot, canter or gallop. A pack saddle is positioned more centrally on the animal's back than a riding saddle, to place the centre of the saddle, (and therefore the centre of the load) over the centre of motion. It is explained further in the diagram below.



Correct position of a pack saddle in relation to the centres of gravity and motion. US Army Field Manual 25_7 Pack Transportation

Tree Length: Pack saddle trees can be made in different lengths to suit different animals. The correct position for the backboards is between the shoulder blade and the last (18th) rib. Equines have a floating shoulder blade that moves backwards and forwards in an arc during the animal's gait. This arc is slightly different in donkeys, mules and horses. The extent of movement of the shoulder blade is traced by picking up a front leg and moving it through a cycle. The arc of movement can be marked on the animal with chalk. There should be at least two fingers width of clearance between the front of the back board and the arc of movement of the shoulder blade. Next, the rear extent of the rib cage is located and marked with chalk. The rear of the pack saddle should not extend beyond the end of the ribs as shown in the diagram. This is to prevent the pack saddle pressing on the animal's kidneys. The distance between chalk marks can be measured and provides the correct length of the backboards. Backboards for our large standard donkeys are 450-500mm long and 100mm wide.

Points regarding backboards: Most backboards, also known as "bars", are curved to suit the dip in a horse's back. The curve is known as "rocker". Rocker may be combined with twist or "warp". Backboards for older Australian pack saddles were made by shaping blocks of wood with a band saw. A

similar shape can be achieved by steaming a board or shaping with a rasp or sander. Warp is introduced using a jig or press. The amount of rocker and warp of backboards to be used with quarter panels is not so important, as stuffing of the panel will compensate for the shape. If the backboards are to rest on a felt saddle pad then it is more important to match the rocker and warp to the animal's back.

Crossbuck saddle backboards often have a bight in the edges that allow for the shape of the ribcage. These profiles are known as "Humane" trees.

A donkey's back is straighter and narrower and the shape of ribs and loins are different to that of a horse. A saddle tree for a donkey requires more warp and less rocker than that for a horse. A suitable jig is described in Brian Beck's books and CD on "How to Make Your Own Donkey Packsaddle" and "How to Make Your Own Horse Packsaddle". His

text provides the profiles for a typical larger standard donkey and for a medium height horse. Backboards formed in this jig are made from 3-4 layers of three ply, glued and cold pressed into shape.

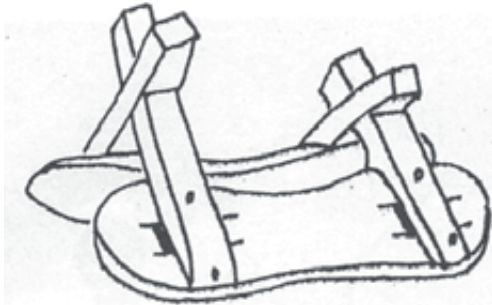


A finished backboard profiled for a donkey on forming jig.

Gullet: The gullet of a saddle is the gap between the backboards or in the tree over the animal's spine. In an Australian pack saddle and most military saddles the gullet is provided by the separation of the quarter panels. In all other pack saddles the gullet is provided by the distance between the backboards. The gullet should be adjusted so that the backboards rest on the muscle along the back (longissimus dorsi). If the gullet is too narrow it can pinch the spine causing bruising or if too wide it will sit on the ribs rather than the muscle. If the gullet is too low it can allow the load to rest on the spine and compress it.

North American Pack Saddles

The most basic pack saddle is a "Crossbuck". This consists of two crossed posts at each end fixed to backboards. The rigging is arranged around the base of the crossed posts called "bucks". Crossbuck saddles are fitted with two girths. Still extensively used in USA, this design evolved from the early frontiers where it was used by trappers and fur traders. The design was taken up by gold miners during the many Californian goldrushes and has become a mainstay of packing in many states. Panniers or "Kyacks" are slung by straps from the crossed posts on the opposite side to where they lay. Loads may also be slung from the bucks with sling ropes using basket or barrel hitches. Note that the front "Bucks" are taller than those of the rear to compensate for the lower wither of a donkey and mule. When arranging sling ropes, the rope is secured to the front buck using a clove hitch and passed back behind the rear bucks.



Wooden Crossbuck type pack saddle tree.

The other common design in USA and Canada is a "Decker". For further information regarding the history of Decker saddles see <https://www.outfitterssupply.com/decker-pack-saddle.asp>

This design has replaced the crossbuck posts with a steel loop known as a "dee". The Decker design normally has only one girth which is rigged with a strap to each dee. This "Y" arrangement allows the position of the girth to be adjusted forward or backwards by lengthening and shortening the girth points rigging. The load is slung from the dees using sling ropes and hitches. "Mantied loads" are preferred to panniers or Kyacks (packbags) when using this style of saddle. Hooks can be added to the sling straps of panniers to hook the load direct to the dees.



Decker pack saddle tree.

Crossbuck and Decker saddles rest on thick felt pads or stuffed panels to cushion and spread the load across the animal's back. The Decker has a cover known as a "Half breed" to reduce wear on the felt pad and to help keep it clean. The Half breed normally has felt padding on the sides and wooden slats sewn into a pocket about a third up the sides. These slats assist distribution the load along the animal's side. A "Quarter Breed" is shorter and does not include the slats.



A Decker pack saddle with rigging and Half-breed cover.

Custom Pack Rigging, Canada manufacture a number of options of hinged trees with backboards made of moulded ABS plastic and stainless steel arches. One tree has hooks suitable for suspending Australian style pack bags. Custom Pack Rigging also manufacture quarter panels that are strapped on to the tree and can be matched to the trees that they make. These panels are made of thick felt which is probably not as effective as a quarter panel stuffed with horsehair or straw but are perhaps, a cheaper compromise to an Australian-made panel. All the backboards are made for horses and may be too long for smaller donkeys and mules.



Custom Pack Rigging military style hinged tree.

Australian Pack Saddles

A distinctive design of pack saddle has developed in Australia. Australian pack saddles have strong arches with attached hooks. The arches are mounted on quarter panels that provide padding to separate the saddle and load from the animal and prevent chafing. Quarter panels are traditionally stuffed with a combination of straw and horse hair. Many panels made on cattle stations were stuffed with straw used to pack bottles of beer in crates. This straw was sewn into



Traditional Australian Packsaddle Tree. Note: the horn-shaped load hooks, the leather seat between the arches and the manner of fixing the girth points to the backboards, rebates under the arch for straps to secure swags and other similar to loads. The front arch is narrower than the rear.

Australian pack saddles were designed by the Surveyor General of NSW, Major Thomas Mitchell. He developed his design from experience gained during the Peninsular battles (Spain) of the Napoleonic Wars. He used this type of pack saddle extensively during his expeditions to explore the interior of NSW, Victoria and Southern Queensland. Essentially the design has not changed since the 1830s. Two distinct patterns have evolved since:

- Queensland and
- South Australian

The Queensland style has one central girth (see photo below) and low arches, whereas the South Australian style has two girths, a main and a balance, and often distinctively taller arches (see RM Williams Advertisement). A variation of the Queensland style came into use to carry tin ingots from smelters in Herberton and Irvinebank to Port Douglas. This was known as the "Port Douglas" pack saddle.



Queensland Style Australian Packsaddle; note single girth, half-apron and swag straps.



South Australian Style Packsaddle. Note the double girth and high arches. Photo: Asterisk Horse-collars & Harness.

Suppliers of Australian Pack Saddles

Manufacturers of Australian pack saddles are limited. There are probably many traditional saddlers who retain the skills and can make saddles, pack bags and other packing accessories that can be contacted locally. I know of three suppliers who offer complete packsaddles:

- James Alcock, The Leather Shed, Clare SA;
- The Overseer Saddlery, Armidale NSW; and
- Asterisk Horse Collars and Harness, Henty NSW.

James Alcock makes both traditional fixed tree pack saddles and hinged facsimile army trees.



Example of Pack Saddle made by James Alcock.

Overseer Saddlery make a pack saddle developed themselves with a hinged tree and plastic backboards. The saddle can be provided with leather or canvas packbags, a pack cover, surcingle and other accessories.



Overseer Australian Pack Saddle.

Commonwealth Military Pack Saddles

The Australian Army was equipped with the Commonwealth pattern MkV General Service(GS) pack saddle. This saddle design was probably developed in India and was refined and introduced to Commonwealth Forces as a result of the Boer Wars in South Africa. The saddle was issued to

UK, Canadian, NZ, South African and other Commonwealth Armies and Police Forces. This saddle was issued to Australian Light Horse and Pack Transport Units until 1943 when the Australian Army was motorised and horse transport units disbanded. The British Army retained a Pack Transport Unit on Hong Kong Island until the 1980s. This unit was equipped with this type of saddle.

This saddle was sold as Army Surplus in Australia after WWII and many thousands of saddles were purchased and used by droving plants and cattle stations. Mike Allen made a facsimile version that was called a "Trekker II" and sold through the Bi-Centennial National Trail (BNT).

The saddle has quarter panels, a distinctive galvanised arch design and the backboards are hinged where the arch is attached to the backboards. The hinge allows the backboards to adapt to the slope of the animal's back. The quarter panels are rounded at the top front corner and square at the other corners to aid correct identification of near and offside panels. The load hooks have an extension at the open end. This extension facilitates the retention of load ropes when fastened to the hooks. Several variants of this pack saddle were developed to carry special loads such as Vickers Machine guns and other heavy weapons. These designs normally included a steel frame incorporated in the arches to carry the weapon. A special hanger bracket was available to mount chairs known as cacelotets, and litters for the carriage of wounded personnel. Heavy pack saddles were made to carry mountain guns. The Australian Army did not acquire this type of artillery piece so this type of saddle was not issued in Australia.

Australian Forces rarely used pack bags or panniers as most military loads are contained in packing boxes. Special lashings were devised to assist with rapid loading and unloading of pack animals by unskilled labour. Light Horse units were issued open topped leather panniers to carry small items such as weapon maintenance tools. Medical supplies and signal equipment were transported in wicker chests or panniers. These chests were still being used in the Army in the 1970s and 1980s but have now been replaced by plastic boxes. Most packaged loads of ammunition, rations and other heavy items were made in dimensions that suited pack loads. Even today the Australian Army Ration packs are packed in a cardboard container that conforms to the ideal pack mule side load.

The British Army adopted a single girth point design adapted from the cavalry riding saddle. This was known as the "Y attachment" and was used with a shorter girth made of canvas. The Australian Army

did not adopt this modification and retained the twin leather slotted girths.



Australian Army MkV GS Pack Saddle. Note: Hinged backboards fixed to the quarter panels with pockets and distinctive load hooks with the extra lug. This lug assist retaining load ropes tied to the load hooks.

Hybrid Pack Saddle

Wilderness Expeditions uses a hybrid packsaddle. This consists of an Australian type tree with arches fitted with load hooks supported by thick wool felt saddle pads as used by Western Riding enthusiasts. This is a compromise that I am not entirely satisfied with but, at the time of procuring our saddlery, I did not have the cash to have 12 sets of quarter panels made up. This arrangement does however provide a platform to practice Australian packing techniques and methods.

We have started using rubber spiral mesh pads under wool felt saddle pads. Th spiral mesh assists retaining the felt pad in place and assists dispersion of perspiration. Spiral mesh is available in rubber shops by the metre. One lineal metre will make two saddle pads.



Hybrid pack saddle Tree. Modified design with arches based on MkV GS pack saddle, fitted with backboards profiled for a donkey using Brian Beck's designed jig. Experimental rigging and "Y Attachment" girth point made from tubular webbing. Resting on a spiral mesh saddle pad.



Wilderness Expeditions pack saddle adapted from Brian Beck Design. Fitted with ring girths. Fits over heavy wool felt pad.

to fit a donkey or a mule. Please see the link: Miniature Horse Talk by Northwolf

- The British Donkey Sanctuary publish a very basic pack saddle design made from feed bags stuffed with straw for use in Africa and other developing countries as part of their welfare programme for donkeys. See: The Donkey Sanctuary Guide to Pack Saddles The design does not include arches so loads would need to be bundles fixed in place using sling ropes. I will introduce slinging of loads in a later article.

NEXT TIME:

I repeat again that correct pack saddling is hard work, However it is, like most endeavours that require dedication and effort, very rewarding and soul soothing when you get out into the bush and far away from the noise and distraction of city life.

In December we'll talk about Pack Saddle Accessories that will give you a modicum of luxury on your treks.

Making Your Own Pack Saddle

Another option is to make your own pack saddle. Many pack saddles were made by cattlemen and packers in the field. There are several sources of information and instructions that I have found:

- We made our pack saddles after discovering Brian Beck's booklet on "How to Make Your Own Donkey Pack Saddle" This booklet was later sold as a CD and the design refined. Unfortunately, the CD has gone out of print but it may be possible to find somebody that has a copy of the CD or booklet.

- Another comprehensive source of instructions is Bushcraft 7 Preserving Old Secrets, Ron Edwards, ISBN 1 875872 05 1

- Another very basic but workable design for a donkey pack saddle is contained in Rowans guide to packing with donkeys, B/W version

- During some searching on the internet I discovered a link posted by a lady in Switzerland who had made a pack saddle for her miniature horse based on the Swiss army pack saddle. The original Swiss army saddle is very robust and heavy, being designed for Haflinger Horses. Her directions are comprehensive. Her design could be adapted



GIVEAWAY TO GOOD HOME ONLY

As much as I love the donkeys, all good things come to an end. They take up too much of my time and I am struggling to keep up with the everyday basics such as cleaning, shopping and maintaining the house, as well as the general duties of living day to day. So, something has to give. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I offer the following for re-homing:

**All FREE of charge, but to good homes only.
Serious inquiries only please.**

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dustpan and broom | 7. Dishwashing liquid |
| 2. Sponges | 8. Laundry detergent |
| 3. Dusters | 9. Laundry baskets |
| 4. Mop and bucket | 10. Cleaning sprays |
| 5. Window cleaner | 11. Scrubbing brushes |
| 6. Steam cleaner | 12. Vacuum |

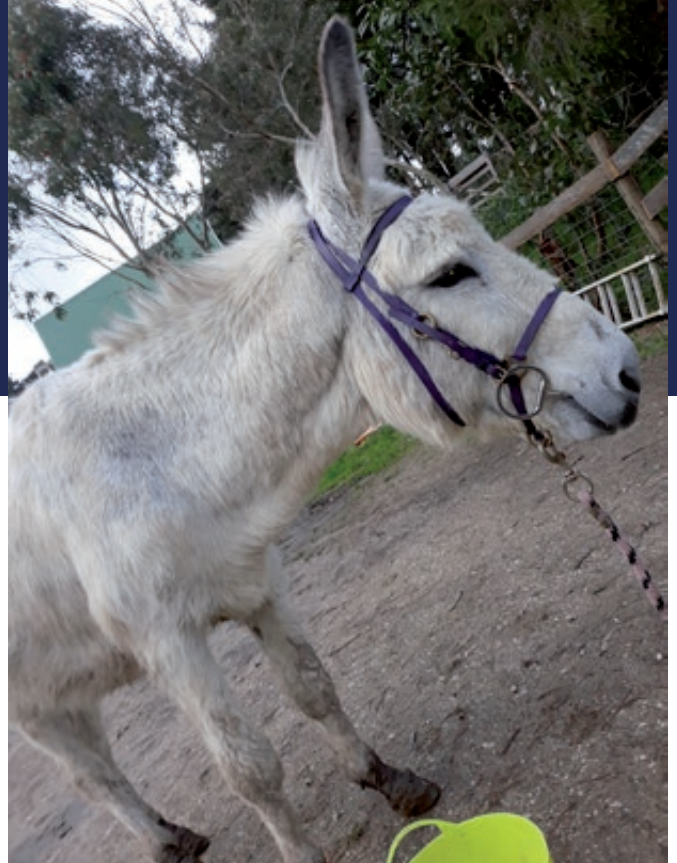
The iron went years ago and no one noticed
and the sewing box never happened.

Respectful responses only.

Contact the Editor and details will be passed on.

FROM THE RIDGE

With Fiona Mottram



Blithe Moon Key aka Kiewa eating his brekky while wearing the Myler bit.

My order for some Myler jointed snaffle bits finally arrived. Lorraine McCluskey had bought one on the recommendation of trainer Rachel Haslau (harness specialist and long donkey/mule involvement) who saw them used successfully with donkeys in the USA. They are not cheap ranging \$130- \$200 each. Seeing them on a \$30 approx. discount at an online Australian saddlery, I decided to buy three of the level 2 (medium port) 5 1/2 inch size so I wasn't swapping a bit from bridle to bridle and could take more than one animal out at a time with this bit. The Myler bits have a roller and a mild port in the centre. The roller covers the bit joint. This means the donkeys' mouths can't get pinched or bitted by the joint, the donkey is discouraged in getting their tongue over the bit, and the handler can lift just one side of the bit. I believe this is gentler than the movement of the single bar Spanish snaffle and Kimblewick bits that I have normally used as generally I have found my donkeys prefer the single bar to the standard jointed bit. The Myler bits come in several versions, including with a flatter or a higher port, eggbutt sides or rings, and with/without curb chain hooks. I tend to be a bit fidgety with my hands so chose the more stable eggbutt style. The Myler bits are available from several saddleries. Shop around if interested, as the prices varied. Used ones on Facebook bit groups sell extremely fast. So far Keysoe Tambo and Blithe Moon Key aka Kiewa have been content with the Myler bit, which is encouraging. Kiewa is at the training stage of wearing a bit while he eats. Once my donkeys can eat easily while wearing a bit and not play restlessly with it, I feel they are ready for long-reining. Kiewa accepted the bit immediately. Instead, it has taken more effort to get him comfortable with having his ears put through between the bridle browband and headband! Keysoe Shane aka Snowy is next to be introduced to the Myler bit. I have previously long-reined him with the Spanish Snaffle, but he was clearly unhappy with it.

Keysoe Mathoura aka Marlo has impressed me with his cleverness. About to turn three, this fella gets a daily feed to support his growth. Although I have not trained him intentionally, he anticipates getting his feed by self-loading into the crush or the float as these are spots where I often feed my longears to avoid them stealing another's feed. Most days he quietly goes and waits in one spot or the other. Occasionally he repeatedly loads himself alternately into both places while he waits. It's amusing to watch, and I reward him by giving him the first bucket. Marlo has also learned to open a gate that none of the others have managed.

The three gelding mules are currently living off-site 3km away on free agistment. They were so excited to arrive there. Yay, grass, they squealed then galloped off wildly across the nearest thing a paddock can be to a cliff but still be described as a paddock. They have a shelter and superb views across the ocean, inlets and farmland.

Yurrah UpsaDaisy and Tambo have started the seasonal 'spring flings' on outings. A pigroot here and numerous enthusiastic dashes there when I want to warm up their muscles gradually or ask them to stand quietly while we chat with a passer-by or unlock gates. During our last 10km trip from Foster to Toora along the rail trail, the pair of them acted like idiots for a few kilometres. First, Daisy ran the cartwheel backwards over my foot at a gate unlocking. Then we 'readjusted' the angle of my cart's mudguard on one side when Daisy and I disagreed about the margin to give a gatepost. The more I asked her to back, which she normally does easily, the more determined she was to haul forwards and jam the cart harder. Thankfully on the return 10km trip they were quiet and obliging. Sometimes we headed down embankments, through bogs and waist high grasses and across ditches to avoid gate opening. (Not done in summer when snake risk is high). My apologies to the landowner with the deceptive nature-strip that looked solid. It was wet and we accidentally left two pairs of deep wheel ruts and a mass of hoof indentations. I wonder if the owner ever figured out what made those marks?



Driving Daisy on the return trip from Foster to Toora.



LEFT: My friend Berry Johnson, who had a riding donkey for many years, helps me take out more than one longears for exercise at a time. Here, she is driving Keysoe Tambo on the Great Southern Rail Trail returning from Toora.

Our donkey is a Cribber

By John & Judy Wright, East Gippsland, Victoria

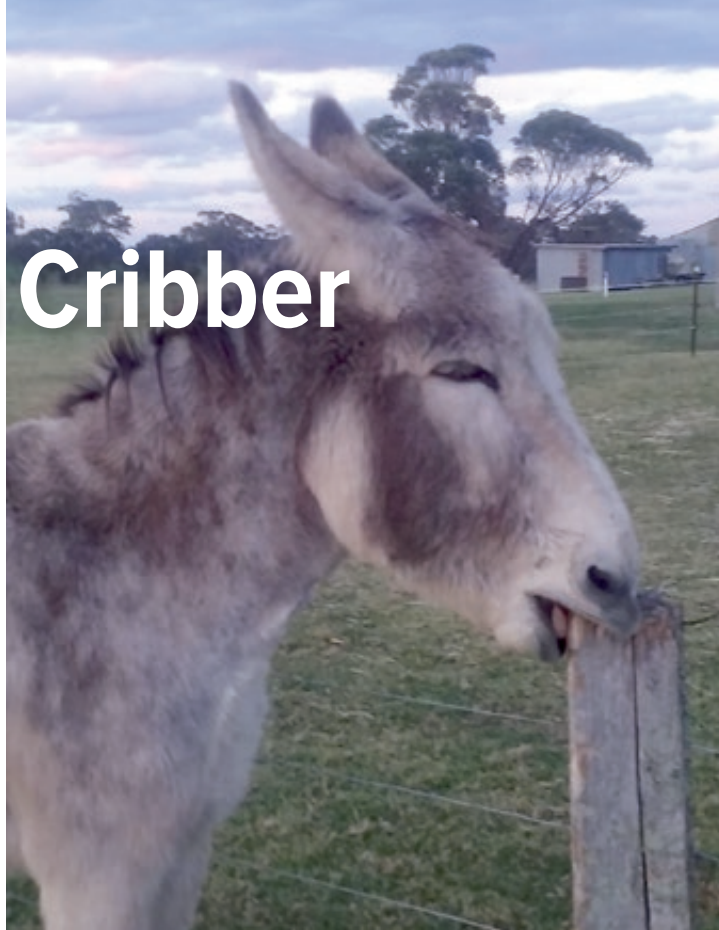
Recently we acquired a very adorable (and super smoochie) mammoth-cross gelding by the name of Boots. Boots is 15 years old and has an interesting quirk! He is a cribber. When we purchased Boots the cribbing aspect was not an issue as we had owned a Thoroughbred mare in the past (that windsucked 50 times a day) and apart from the noise she was a wonderful horse.

For those that may not know the difference, (before you start waving your arms and jumping up and down saying it's the other way around, please do your research and you will be surprised) Cribbing is when an equine presses their top teeth on a stationary object like a fence plank, post, stall door or feed bin. Windsucking is a vice similar to cribbing, (and is thought to form part of the mechanism of cribbing, rather than being defined as an entirely separate behaviour) and the noise the equine makes is the same. But when an equine windsucks, they do not grab on to an object with their teeth before sucking air into his throat.

Cribbing or crib biting involves an equine grasping the solid object with its incisor teeth, then arching its neck, and contracting the lower neck muscles to retract the larynx. This coincides with an in-rush of air into the oesophagus producing the characteristic cribbing grunt. A similar but unrelated behaviour, wood-chewing or lignophagia, is another undesirable habit observed in equines, but it does not involve sucking in air; the equine simply gnaws on wood rails or boards as if they were food.

Cribbing is considered to be an abnormal, compulsive behaviour or stereotypy seen in some equines, and is often labelled a stable vice. The major factors that cause cribbing include stress, boredom, habit, stable management, genetic and gastrointestinal irritability. There is evidence that stomach ulcers may be correlated to an equine becoming a cribber. A study also found that they would perform the cribbing behaviour in attempt to decrease the cortisol levels that can be brought on by stressful situations.

With Boots, we know from the breeder that there were no initial cribbing or windsucking issues. He was then purchased from the breeder. Sometime later Boots was acquired by a rescuer / rehabilitator who noticed the behaviour was quite prominent. At this time, he was severely overweight and had literally destroyed the timber posts and fencing. He was then found a new home as it was thought his behaviour may be a problem within their herd, which is understandable and a common concern with



a lot of horse owners including us when we got the Thoroughbred mare. That owner then had him for several years before (reluctantly) selling him to us! We have not added the owners and breeders' names as this is not a finger pointing exercise, more of a basic historical timeline.

And now to us. He is one of a six-gelding herd. The herd boss is a Quarterhorse while his paddock buddy is a teamster. During the day (unless it's raining) they will roam the paddocks as a herd along with the three miniature donkeys. Overnight they have separate paddocks (helps at feed time) with the horse on his own, the minis together and the two bigger guys in their paddock. This also ensures they all have access to shelters and there is no shelter-bullying! His feed consists of straw hay or grass hay (which is not much as we have heaps of feed in our paddocks at the moment) and a small daily feed of chaff (with the Khonkes Own Donkey Supreme and salt thrown in). He is currently on a six-week program which consists of a daily dose of Khonkes Own Gastro Coat & Trim and Omega Oil mixed together in a 100ml syringe (picked up from Supercheap of all places) which will hopefully help with any gut issues. When we initially gave him this, he would immediately head for the post to crib but has not done this for a few weeks now.

In relation to habits and frequency we find that he cribs quite randomly and sometimes only a few times a day (early morning and late afternoon).

It may last a few seconds or a few minutes and if his focus goes to something else, he will usually move on. If he is grazing with the herd, he may go the whole day without doing it and it also appears as though now he does it less than when he first arrived. He does have three timber posts that he uses and will go to them specifically, possibly due to their height as they are all the same. There is no damage done to the posts but the constant movement may affect stability over time. He has not cribbed when we walk him down the road or out on trails (and floating is not an issue).



Despite common fears about behaviour copying, the others in the herd are only fleetingly interested when Boots goes to his timber post.

His last dentist appointment was July 2020. Interestingly we had not told the dentist of his behaviour but once he opened Boots' mouth the first question he asked was if he was a cribber. The dentist (who coincidentally has a cribbing stockhorse that has all the same traits – uses same posts, only a few times a day and will not crib if grazing with the herd) highlighted that his teeth were that of a 20-25yr old but were in good condition. He showed a chart which identifies the differences between the age groups, and we were also able to take a few photos whilst he was working on Boots' teeth. He also remarked that his stockhorse cribs less during the warmer months which will keep a look out for when the time comes.

So, the questions we have asked ourselves were: Has the weight reduction and change in diet helped? Is his age and current lifestyle making him less stressful? Would we put a collar on him? (No!) And finally, do other equines copy this behaviour? Our research detailed that cribbing is not a learned behaviour – equines do not start cribbing because they see their stablemates doing it. Boots' previous owner did not have any of their donkeys or horses copy him (with the dentist also confirming this via his herd) and we have found that our guys have watched in interest but moved on quite quickly so the jury's still out on this one.

This behaviour has in no way stopped us from adoring him and taking him out on walks and he has become an instant favourite with our friends and neighbours (mainly because of the tug-boat style braying). If anyone else has a cribbing or windsucking donkey we would love to hear about your experiences. For those that may be interested, there is a short video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/2stpNSJ3ggA>



Boots shows no desire to crib when out walking on the trails.



Our new mammoth-cross gelding, Boots, is a super smoochie.



A dentist appointment revealed the 15-year-old has the teeth of a 20-25-year-old but they are in good condition.



OUT & ABOUT with Oliver



Would you get a more handsome specimen than this? I don't think so.



Home schooling is a nightmare. Abbey makes me continually practice flag-bearing for street marches that have all been cancelled.



My fellow donkeys,

Our humans are experiencing very trying times at the moment which undoubtedly will result in them being a bit depressed at times so it is up to us to be ultra kind to them and cheer them up. They can't take us to shows (which is a bonus) so they can't congregate with other people fortunate enough to be involved with donkeys and they love to primp us up and show us off so they are at a bit of a loss at the moment.

I amuse my human by getting involved in everything that he is doing. Just the other day he was sitting out in the sun reading the newspaper so I went up to see what he was doing. The newspaper didn't taste too bad either and he knocked his drink over when I ran into his table. It also knocked his biscuits on the ground which of course I helped to clean up. Little things like this keep our humans sane in these precarious times.

Unfortunately, I am forced to live with a team of slobbering shorteared specimens. One of them, a stupid foal named Lurch, really scrapes the bottom of the barrel. Every day he has to follow a schedule when he is being fed; first he has a couple of mouthfuls then goes and looks in the glass doors of the house, has a couple more mouthfuls then goes and tips out the dogs' water, a couple more mouthfuls and then over to the feed shed to peer in the door and try and get into the feed drums. With all this he takes about 25 minutes to devour a 10-minute feed. I won't mention the 10 minutes yelling to get him back into his yard. Now I ask you; if you gave this feed to your donkey what would he or she do? I will tell you if you are new to donkeys. They would not lift their magnificent heads until every skerrick of feed was eaten and the spillage cleaned up.

All my regular fairs and field days are cancelled and I am a bit disappointed because a lot of people come to see me every year and some bring me good stuff to snack on. The human spends most of the days answering questions from people who are fascinated by donkeys and we also raise money to help the Brooke Foundation who look after all our brothers, mules and shortears in developing countries where we are used for extremely hard work by people who have generations of experience which is unfortunately very detrimental to animal welfare. The Brooke has set up clinics where these people are re-educated in correct animal handling

techniques and supplied with well-fitting harness and their animals given dentistry and farrier work.

Always remember DONKEYS RULE.

Oh dear. She now thinks she'll try polocrosse.

She can't even pick up the ball with my foot stopping it from rolling away.

*Oliver's personal assistant
is Bob Pankhurst, Celebrity
Donkey Management,
Somersby, NSW.*

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You Can't Buy Love?

You can't buy loyalty so they say;
I bought it though, the other day.

You can't buy friendship, tried and true;
Well just the same, I bought that too.

I made my bid, and on the spot,
Bought love, faith and happiness in one lot.

So I'd say all in all,
The purchase price was pretty small.

I bought a simple, trusting heart
That gave devotion from the start.

If you think these things are not for sale,
Buy a brown-eyed donk with a rope-like tail.

Author Unknown

Enjoying the fresh air and exercise at a social distance.

Ruth Walker, Bendigo, Victoria takes Keysoe Pedro, her 4 1/2 year-old gelding, out for his first drive.

