

GENERAL DONKEY CARE

- Donkeys even though contribute immensely to rural and peri-urban livelihood of most communities in Kenya, they are generally ignored or side-lined in terms of health care and husbandry.
- This has been occasioned by the low socio-economic and cultural value erroneously attached to the donkey
- The lack of adequate socio-economic survey on donkeys has also led to this low esteem attached to donkeys
- In most livestock programs, rarely is the donkey included in any of the interventions to improve its welfare or alleviate its suffering
- There is also limited training provided on donkeys in most of the learning institutions in Kenya and indeed the world over

THE DONKEY SANCTUARY KENYA (DSK)

The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya is a non-profit limited company registered in Kenya as an affiliate of the Donkey Sanctuary UK with the mandate to work with the communities and other partners to improve the welfare of donkeys and increase their socio-economic and cultural esteem/value in Kenya

Thus in short its an animal welfare organization with the following goal, vision and mission

VISION: A society where donkeys' contribution to communities' livelihood is recognized and appreciated.

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MISSION: Working towards improving donkey welfare and communities livelihood through training, education and awareness.

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GOAL: To reach one million donkeys by year 2025 through partnerships, networking and community based and driven initiatives

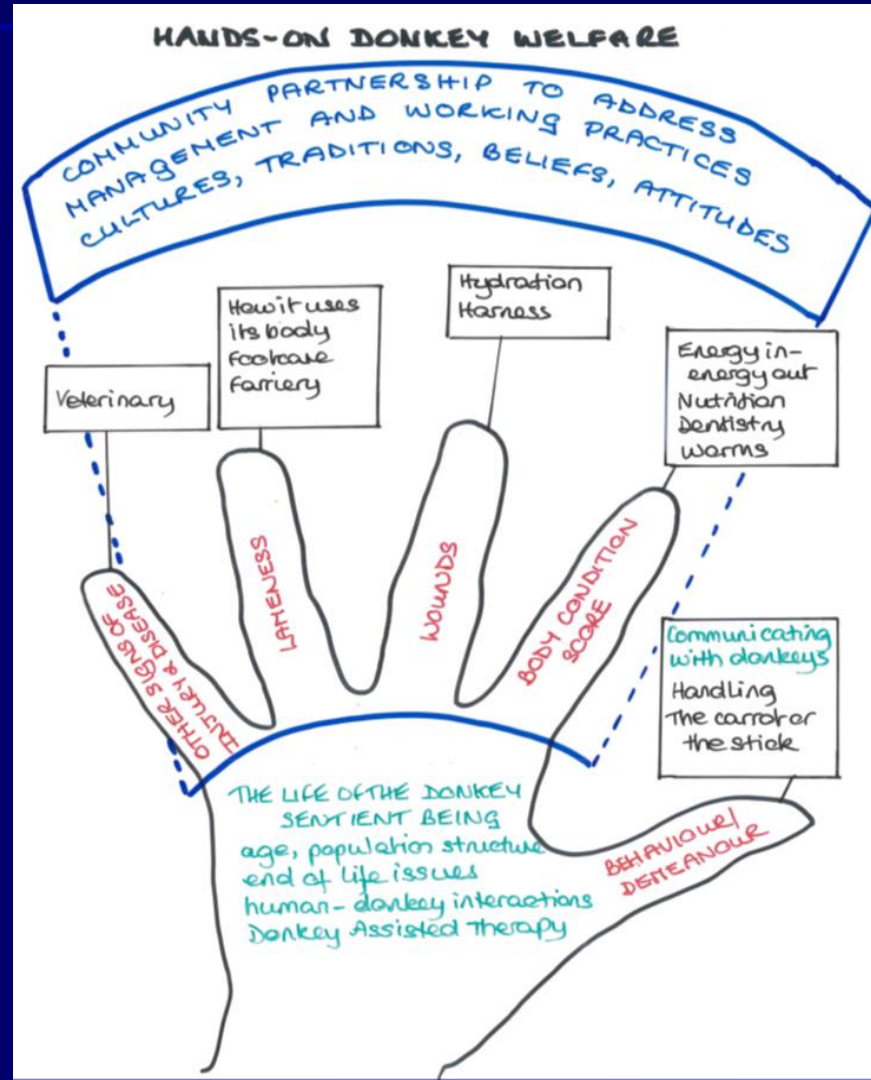
WHAT IS ANIMAL WELFARE

Its defined as the physical, mental and social wellbeing of an animal or the degree to which an animal is coping with its environment

In the world it's a principal guided by the 5 freedom as listed below

- **Freedom from hunger – enough food and water**
- **Freedom from disease, pain and injury**
- **Freedom from discomfort**
- **Freedom to exercise normal, natural behaviour**
- **Freedom from fear and distress**

USE OF THE HAND TO DETERMINE ANIMAL WELFARE STATE



WHAT IS DONKEY HUSBANDRY

This term is used in this context to mean the general and total upkeep and use of donkeys by humans.

This involves but not limited to the following topics

- How you communicate
- How you approach
- How you handle
- How you restrain
- How you feed and water
- How you shelter
- How you work your donkey
- How you care for its health
- How to care for its hooves
- What is cruelty

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR DONKEYS:

**DONKEYS USE THE FOLLOWING ORGANS TO COMMUNICATE TO
US AND OTHER DONKEYS**

- EYES
- EARS
- HEAD
- NARES
- BODY
- LEGS
- TAIL

PICTORIAL EXAMPLES OF DONKEYS COMMUNICATION



NOTABLES WHEN APPROACHING A DONKEY

- BE CALM
- THE DONKEY MUST KNOW YOU ARE AROUND
- APPROACH FROM THE SIDE TOWARDS THE NECK
- USE THE HAND FIRST TO ALERT THE DONKEY YOU ARE APPROACHING
- AVOID SUDDEN MOVEMENTS
- ALWAYS TOUCH THE NECK REGION FIRST
- OBSERVE CLEARLY THE DONKEYS BODY LANGUAGE
- IF THE DONKEY MOVES AWAY, DO NOT RUSH OR TRY TO JUMP ON IT BUT CALMLY KEEP APPROACHING IT
- CALMNESS SHOW THE DONKEY THAT YOU ARE NOT INTENDING TO DO HARM

APPROACHING YOUR DONKEY



APPROACHING YOUR DONKEY



HANDLING DONKEYS MUST BE HUMANE AND CONSIDER SAFETY OF BOTH THE DONKEY AND THE PERSONNEL

■ **USE OF HEAD COLLAR**



■ **USE OF HAND**



RESTRAINT

ALL METHODS USED MUST CONSIDER SAFETY OF BOTH
PERSONNEL AND THE **DONKEY**

- CAN USE A HEAD COLLAR
- CAN USE THE HAND
- CAN USE CHEMICAL RESTRAINT
- CAN USE CASTING ROPES



FEEDING YOUR DONKEY

■ PRINCIPALS OF GOOD FEEDING PRACTICE INCLUDE

- Allow enough time for grazing during the day time and at night (in a secure area). Note that at the start of the rainy season ingestion of the new grass may cause severe enteritis thus ensure you control a donkeys exposure to the new grass. ATLEAST 7 HOURS A DAY
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- During periods of drought or disease, additional supplementary feeds such as bran are needed. In cases like the semi arid regions of Kenya where supplementary feeds may not be available or affordable then the donkey to be allowed longer time to look for food and possibly worked less time a day to reduce energy demand for the donkeys metabolism.
- Very active donkeys need supplementary feed to cater for increased energy and body repair requirements.

FEEDING THE DONKEY

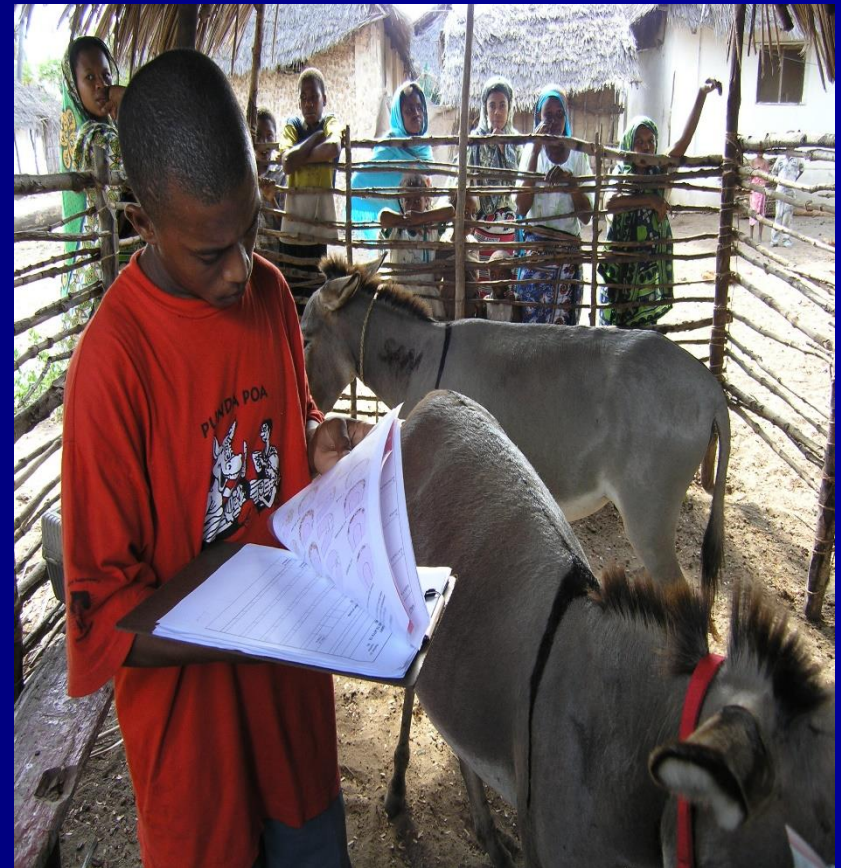
- Ensure foals get enough time to suckle especially if the dam is a working donkey. Once the foal begins to feed, supplement its diet with bran, soft grass etc.
- Ensure that donkeys do not forage at rubbish dump sites as they may end up with obstructive colic due to ingestion of plastic bags or may be poisoned.
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- Intake of too much grains e.g rice or maize may cause severe enteritis and can lead to death.
- Freely water the donkey.
- Just like most domestic herbivores donkeys can be fed on bran, maize jam, sunflower cake, cotton seed, hay, free forage grazing, molasses and supplementary salt licks

FEEDING YOUR DONKEY WATERING YOUR DONKEY



SHELTER

- Rain, exposure to hot sun and cold can affect your donkey.
- There are skin problems that are caused by exposure to the elements
- Putting your donkey in a good secure shelter will ensure that your donkey does not get bitten by stray dogs, stolen or injured



WORKING WITH YOUR DONKEY

- Working with your donkey can be very easy and problem free if you have the right equipment: a good harness, a well made cart. It is important for you to be patient with your donkey.
- Repeated whipping of your donkey makes it suffer and hard to handle – use kinder methods when controlling or directing your donkey.

WORKING WITH YOUR DONKEY

- The key things to note are
 - Load your donkey well. A donkey is to carry a maximum of 80Kg (~1/2 its live weight) on its back and can pull a cart with a load capacity of 300Kg (~2x its live weight) on flat ground
 - On hilly rocky grounds a donkey should pull a maximum of 1.5 its weight which is about 220kg and the users should help the donkey push the cart up hill
 - Use proper well padded and well kept harness
 - Use a well designed, light and well oiled cart
 - Your donkey should work for a maximum of 8 hours a day with a short break after 4 hours
 - Guide your donkey during work instead of whipping it
 - Ensure your working donkey gets enough water to drink during the working day

WORKING WITH YOUR DONKEY: HARNESSING

A GOOD HARNESS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING

- A PULLING SYSTEM CALLED A BREAST BAND
- LOAD CARRYING PART CALLED A SADDLE OR BACK PACK
- A BREAKING PART CALLED BREECH
- THE PART IN CONTACT WITH THE DONKEY MUST BE MADE OF SOFT MATERIAL
- THE BACK PACK OR SADDLE MUST BE FIRM ON THE TOP TO PROTECT THE SPINAL CORD FROM COMPRESSION INJURIES
- THE HARNESS SHOULD BE WELL FITTING TO AVOID RUBBING OR COMPRESSION INJURIES

WORKING WITH YOUR DONKEY

GOOD HARNESS AND CART



WORKING WITH YOUR DONKEY PACK HARNESS

PROPER HARNESSING



PROPER LOADING



COMMON DISEASES OF YOUR DONKEY FOUND IN KENYA

- Skin diseases e.g. mange, habronemiasis, ring worm, wounds, allegry, sarcoids, among others
- Respiratory conditions e.g. pneumonia, flue etc
- Rabies, Tetanus, AHS, Babesiosis, Tryps
- GIT problems like enteritis, colic, dental, helminths, rectal prolapse among other
- Lameness which include fractures, arthritis, tendon injuries, hoof over growth, hoof abscesses, hoof cracks, myositis
- Eye injuries
- Spinal deformities
- Reproductive system problem like dystokia, penile inflammations, mastitis, scrotal inflammation, vaginal prolapses
- NB; A DONKEY TO BE DEWORMED ATLEAST TWICE A YEAR

COMMON SIGNS OF BAD HEALTH IN DONKEYS

- BODY CONDITION (fatness, hair coat and wounds)
- EYES AND EYE LIDS (tearing, wounds and swellings)
- BREATHING (difficult breathing, abnormal sound, mucous production and coughing)
- MOUTH MUCOUS MEMEBRANES (pale, bright or bluish)
- LOCOMOTION AND GAIT (lameness and pain)
- DIARRHOEA (gut problems)
- FEEDING (not eating or food coming out from mouth or nostril)
- Demeanor: Dull

YOUR DONKEYS HOOVES (WHEELS)

- The hoof of your donkey is the main machine that support and enable your donkey to work
- Its thus important to take good care of them by regularly cleaning them and removing any foreign objects sticking on the sole
- In cases where the hoof is overgrown, call a trained farrier or animal health provider to trim them using the correct tools.
- Badly kept hooves lead to pain, inability to work well and damage of joints and soft tissues



SIGN OF LAMENESS

- Lifting one of the limbs
- Putting less weight on a limb when standing
- Abnormal posture
- Reluctant to move
- Limping when moving
- Attempting to scratch or bite a hoof

CRUELTY

The following acts are considered in-humane and illegal in Kenya as per the Cap 360 Kenyan Laws on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

- Overloading
- Overriding
- Whipping
- Starvation
- Straying
- Working a sick or injured animal
- Denying an animal vet care
- Delayed or failing to euthanize a terminally sick or injured animal

CONCLUSION

Punda Ni Mali

Linda Mali Vizuri

**it's the role of vets and vets paraprosesionals to ensure
animal welfare is upheld and practiced in Kenya and
beyond**

