

Donkey Sanctuary Kenya
Welcomes the
New Donkey Sanctuary
CEO Mike Baker.



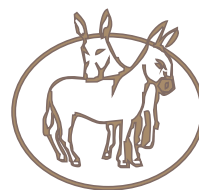
The Senior Management team and all the staff of the Donkey Sanctuary Kenya would like to congratulate Mr. Mike Baker on his appointment as the CEO of the Donkey Sanctuary. With his immense experience and knowledge in animal welfare and advocacy, we believe this will be a great period for the DS and donkeys as he brings on board invaluable expertise and stamina.

Editorial

It is our great joy again to welcome you as we take stock of our work progress on donkey welfare improvement. This middle of the year issue usually avails a nice time for reflection; a classic at time that we look back to see what has been done in the first half, and focus better for the last run to year end. And it is our purpose to demonstrate that as we retrospect, it allows us stronger views, soul searching and renewed planning for the days ahead. We therefore adjust where necessary and hold onto the steam where there is evident achievement and satisfaction.

A main feature story in this release concerns the participation of Donkey Sanctuary Kenya (DSK) in the Nakuru agricultural show. This is of interest because for quite a while, donkeys have been absent from key agriculture and livestock forums, as well as general development discourse. The immense interest witnessed by uplifting the donkey status and voicing merits for its inclusion in mainstream livestock

The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya



"HELPING DONKEYS HELPING COMMUNITIES"

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NEWSLETTER - Issue No. 5

May - August 2016

agenda is a journey that DSK and other animal welfare organisations in Kenya have been making in leaps and bounds. It is definitely refreshing that most forums on animal welfare issues are today at least conscious enough to make mention of the donkey, if not allocating it sufficient coverage.

We also continue to engage in various learning and sharing activities, which we gladly display to demonstrate our work with other organisations and institutions. Therefore we feature our collaboration with Meru Animal Welfare Organisation (MAWO) of Tanzania and tertiary learning institutions notably AHIT and University of Nairobi. Our collaborative work with Tunza Punda clinics in enhancing animal welfare is also part of the work highlighted in this bulletin. And we do not forget that our staff form the bedrock of our routine work and overall success, hence we rejoice when they have opportunity to go through further trainings for skills sharpening.

DSK places value on those who visit our premises in both Lamu and Nairobi to learn more on animal welfare and just engage with us on donkey related matters. We thus recognize our guests for their kind visitations and involvement in improving donkey welfare.

On a closing note, we value our readers and partners, and take this chance to appreciate our readers who have given us valuable feedback all geared towards improving this newsletter. It has been a happy moment to include your comments regarding form and content we compiled this issue; and we are truly grateful. We shall continue to listen to you since we hold on to the philosophy that a good thing can be made better.

So much more is documented in this newsletter and we can only say *karibu* (welcome) and enjoy your reading.

Josiah
Editor



Never too young to ride: a boy at ease and at peace with his donkey in Lamu.



**The Donkey
Sanctuary Kenya**

"Helping Donkeys, Helping Communities"

VISION

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

MISSION

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

GOAL

To reach one million donkeys by year 2025 through partnership, networking and community based and driven initiatives.



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Editor's Focus....

That donkeys form the mainstay of transport on Lamu Island cannot be contested. The picture of the issue here captures a little boy comfortably riding his donkey and going about his daily chores. We can only marvel and say.... perfect harmony!!!

Appreciation



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

We, the Donkey Sanctuary Kenya do sincerely appreciate the Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, U.K for their financial support.

Donkeys Steal the Show

One of the biggest events in the Agriculture and Livestock sector in Kenya are usually the Annual ASK shows that are held in very region at specific times of the year. The Nakuru ASK show is one of the major shows on the ASK calendar and true to form, this year's event did not disappoint in of the number of people attending and the items on show and even quality of the displays.

To add flavour to an already successful event, this year's show held in Nakuru in the first week of July was graced by a donkey theme courtesy of DSK and Agricultural Technology Development Centre (ATDC). We had a display of various



School children were constant visitors at DSK stand during the show: Here Josiah and Nicholas engage with some of them in a light moment of donkey welfare learning

aspects of our work with donkeys and our stand was abuzz with activities through- out the period of the event as show-goers trooped in to interact with our staff on donkey matters. We witnessed flurry of activities and interest in donkey harness and cart systems that were on display, donkey drawn plough, community extension and education materials that we use for our outreach on better welfare of donkeys.

Through our stand, we directly reached over 3,000 people with the message of good donkey care practices and general animal



Nicholas and Amos of DSK explain to show-goers the working of a donkey plough and its harness parts: This was a clear favourite during the show.

welfare. The majority of those who visited our stand were primary and secondary school children and farmers from the environs of Nakuru and beyond. The donkey has been variously seen as a stubborn and even aggressive animal that is little understood, but we are glad that through public forums such as these that allow interaction with a wide community audience, we are able to set facts straight, debunk myths and vouch for the true nature usefulness of the donkey. Our pride is to bring people to realize that the donkey is actually a kind companion and a partner in development.

Indeed based on sheer number of people and the question and answer sessions, we can confidently say that donkeys literally stole this Show!!

A Day in Honour of Donkeys

The month of May holds special day in the calendar of donkey people worldwide. It is on the 17th of this month that International Donkey day is marked. This year, as is true to tradition, DSK joined other animal welfare fraternity to celebrate these noble animals by focusing on their contribution to society.

Together with Brooke, KSPCA, ANAW, WAP, KVA and DVS office, we participated in interactive celebrations to mark this day in various venues. This day brought alive the networks that work in animal welfare in Kenya and also highlight the growing value and recognition of donkeys in the country.

DSK participated in celebrations in Kajiado County where there was pomp and colour as well as a free donkey health checks. The other celebration was in Nanyuki where donkey parades and a live band marched through the streets of the town to

announce to all and sundry the significance of good donkey welfare. The chief guest in this function was the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and fisheries.

In the serene Island of Lamu, business literally came to a standstill as DSK championed the values of the donkeys and their contribution to livelihood through song and



A procession to mark Donkey day was held in Nanyuki Town

dance, which later culminated in speeches by the County leadership and the day was crowned by a sumptuous courtesy of DSK.

The Chief Guest at the Lamu donkey day celebration was Hon Grace Mburu, the County Minister for Livestock. Other senior officials in attendance were Dr Gichohi, the County Director of Veterinary services; Dr Ondieki, Lamu sub- County vet officer and Mr Wadfu, the Lamu County Livestock production Officer. For an island where donkeys are essentially embedded in peoples' daily



Participants at the National Donkey Conference held at Sportsman's Arms Hotel, Nanyuki

lives, the street march through the town was clearly a spectacle to behold.

This year's Donkey day was preceded by a one day Donkey Conference held at the Sportsman's Arms Hotel in Nanyuki. During this conference, participants explored the role of donkeys in community livelihoods as the guiding theme.

Learning....and more learning

DSK is steadily growing into a centre of education in all matters donkey. In the period under review, our staff have engaged at different levels of education with learners in varied aspects of donkey welfare. We have made visits to learning institutions and we have also hosted them for education sessions on donkeys. We hold onto the premise of teaching a person to fish rather than continually supplying them with fish. It is in this regard

that we hold dear to the tenets of educating society on donkey welfare as part of our goals for sustainable donkey welfare.

We have had learning sessions and activities with students of animal health and veterinary Science from University of Nairobi, Egerton University and Mount Kenya University, as well as Animal Health and Industrial Training Institute (AHITI) Kabete. We continue working with schools and have participated in school children

learning sessions and teacher education activities in nine primary schools in Kitui (Mwingi), Kajiado and Lamu counties. Through this education approach, we have reached many people both directly and indirectly with the message of good animal care practices.



A practical learning session on donkey behaviour and handling at KSPCA with students of the University of Nairobi School of Veterinary Medicine



Dr David takes University of Nairobi Students through a health learning session detailing the steps in donkey examination

Sharpening Staff Skills

As a leader in creatively working with people to bring sustainable change to communities that depend on donkeys, the Donkey Sanctuary sufficiently supports capacity building of staff. Indeed at DS, we recognize that our staff are the core resource and form the all-important interface between the organization and the donkeys we impact as well as the people who own or use them. A strong human resource base is a key determinant in entrenching our presence and success in the animal welfare world. And we are fully alive to the reality that knowledge is evolving therefore organizations must keep pace to be worthwhile and relevant; hence we endeavor to

ensure that our staff are attuned to global best practices in key skills that will aid in achieving top notch animal welfare.

To this end, we recently sponsored five staff member to undertake a community extension course at the Government of Kenya owned Kenya School of Agriculture (KSA) in Nyeri. As premium agricultural and development training institution, KSA delivered a high caliber course that adequately equipped our staff with on form trends and practices in the development sector and tested community development methodologies that are sure to achieve results. Such training will definitely be vital for Donkey Sanctuary to enable us position ourselves as a center of excellence in donkey welfare.



Amos shares with Lamu staff some of the skills learned at the recent staff training in Nyeri

Learning with others

Closely tied to staff development is the support accorded by DS for our staff to share knowledge and skills with other organizations and that hold a similar mandate of improving welfare of animals. We encourage our staff to learn from others and share learning with them so that we can together grow the animal welfare fraternity and attain the goal that we believe is universally shared of a better world for animals.

health for animal health students in collaboration with Meru Animal Welfare Organization (MAWO) in Arusha, Tanzania. The training was supported by WTG of Germany and targeted animal health professionals in the Arusha region to sharpen their skills in attending to donkeys. Dr Solomon Onyango and Amos Supeet of DSK spearheaded the donkey facing component of this training that was overly successful based on the feedback from the attendees



Amos leads a practical learning session on pack saddle making and fitting for Animal Health Practitioners in Arusha, Tanzania during a training organized by MAWO and WTG.

In this regard, DSK staff were involved in carrying out intensive training on harness and donkey

and monitoring reports so far received from our partner organization, MAWO.

In early August, Amos spent a packed week at Simanjiro, deep in rural Tanzania, training donkey owners on making packsaddles and other aspects of harnessing. This training was done in collaboration with MAWO as part of their community harness development programme.



Amos facilitates a community harness learning session in collaboration with MAWO at Simanjiro, Tanzania

In similar fashion, Dr David Obiero of DSK has been actively involved in carrying out donkey health training with Tunza Punda Clinics to enhance the competency of animal health professionals. David was also a key note speaker at the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) South Rift Region Conference held in Bomet town, where he took his peers through the underpinnings of salient issue pertaining to donkey health and welfare.

And at the coastal belt in Mombasa, Dr Felix Rachuonyo, DSK Vet in Lamu participated in a regional workshop to discuss the development of coastal zone pollution prevention guidelines. This high -stakes workshop brought together environmentalists, conservationists, veterinarians, medics and marine scientists to deliberate and develop frameworks for addressing rampant pollution of coastal zones which affect both marine and terrestrial lives along the Kenyan coastlands: this was important because we have had cases of donkeys getting exposed to Lethal poisoning and fatal colic as a result of dumping of hazardous waste in unregulated dump-sites in Lamu.

Building Community Partnership

DSK has been implementing an approach of increasing its reach in the community through developing effective partnerships with carefully selected Community Based Organisations (CBOs). We decided to tap into the existing strengths and networks as well as knowledge base in the communities to create sustainable systems for donkey welfare.

We gladly report that this approach is proving overly successful for the two CBOs we have partnered with. It has been quite positive working with Tahidi CBO and Loitokitok CBO to equip them with donkey welfare skills, both theory and practical, to enable us maintain a constant presence in these communities. Our engagement with them involves identification of potential members in various

aspects such as harness and community outreach; then supporting them to hone their skills further and then facilitating them as Trainer of Trainers for donkey welfare. It is encouraging that we are gradually growing a very capable team on CBO members in Mwingi and who are already proving instrumental in driving forth the animal welfare agenda. The Loitokitok CBO is also coming up pretty well and we are confident that the atmosphere is tending towards better animal welfare, and can therefore strongly vouch for working with CBOs for localized and lasting results. A key lesson is that given the varied and multi-disciplinary nature of animal welfare, partnerships are essential in ensuring effective delivery of quality and sustainable interventions.



Amos leads Tahidi CBO members in an intensive harness training session at Jalu Hotel, Mwingi.

Building Networks and Supporting Advocacy

The Donkey Sanctuary holds on to the premise that no single organization is self-sufficient in terms of resources (human, financial or others) to achieve a global good welfare state for all animals and we therefore value the tenets of working together with other organizations to realize and consolidate lasting gains in animal welfare. We have witnessed tremendous results arising from synergies which accrue when organizations collaborate on projects, and working together is a value that we cherish.

At DSK, we are happy to be involved in various joint initiatives with our partners aimed at advocating for what we corporately believe as

sustainable interventions in entrenching animal welfare in Kenya and Africa.

The key initiatives that we are currently actively involved in with our partners and networks are the development of new animal welfare laws for Kenya, mainstreaming of animal welfare education (AWE) in the national primary schools curriculum and contributing in development of County Animal welfare laws specifically for Kajiado, Nakuru, Nairobi, Kitui, Kirinyaga and Kisumu counties.

We are therefore happy to continue working on this shared agendas as we leverage on our organization strengths and the benefits of common animal welfare ideals.



Stakeholders during deliberations for the development of Nairobi County Animal Welfare Laws at which DSK was represented by Solomon

DSK at IGAD Summit

In August, Dr Solomon Onyango of DSK joined other participants in discussions at the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The focus of the work shop was to discuss the development of a regional

animal welfare strategy and action plan for the member states. The two day workshop yielded results in terms of the validation of a regional animal welfare strategy and action plan, in which IGAD will take lead through supporting member states in its

implementation.

DSK will be frequently involved in development of regulations for production animals as part of this strategy. This is among the initiatives that DSK is happy to take in promoting animal welfare at all levels as opportunities allow.



Solomon of DSK and Asmamaw of Donkey Sanctuary Ethiopia during a break from proceedings at IGAD meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

DSK at World Rabies Day

It was a very good opportunity to be part of the over 120 Kenya veterinary Association and 44 OIE delegates Brooke sponsored evening party and Kenya Veterinary Association's Veterinary of the year awards (VOYA) ceremony in Mombasa Travelers beach Hotel during the world Rabies day. Dr. Solomon of The Donkey Sanctuary got opportunity to give a short key note address on need for all of us to work together to improve and develop good animal welfare policies and legislations to ensure better life for our animals, better public health and safe guard our environment by sustaining not just the flora but also our fauna in a health state



World Rabies Day Celebrations dinner party for OIE, Mombasa County Government Representatives and KVA Delegates at Travelers Beach Hotel, Mombasa

Our Pleasure in Welcoming Visitors

Our Lamu sanctuary and hospital is a must see for any visitor to the serene Island of Lamu-little wonder then that it has been recognized by Lamu Tourism Association as one of the tourist attraction sites on the Island. It is our immense pleasure that we are able to continue offering quality donkey care while at the same time moulding a place where people can enjoy interacting with donkeys and learn more on their care and general welfare.

of American University (Washington DC) and Bob Miles of the University of North Carolina who were on a learning visit in Kenya. They had both heard about the brilliant work that Donkey Sanctuary is doing internationally in serving donkeys and when they learnt that Donkey Sanctuary runs programmes in Kenya, they made time to call in and witness our work. Sarah in particular has a special liking for donkeys and had adopted a donkey named "little VJ" at the Donkey Sanctuary UK. They both had



Dr. Felix facilitating a Visitors Learning Session on Welfare Assessment using the Hand Guide at the Lamu Facility

We are also increasingly getting visitors coming into our Nairobi office for inquiries on donkey related matters or just to mingle with us on donkey issues. In mid-June, we were pleased to host Sarah Dumont

high praise for what we are doing in promoting donkey welfare. Our doors are ever open for learning and sharing to achieve better living and working conditions for donkeys.





*Josiah explaining a point about harnessing to visitors
Bob and Sarah (visiting American Scholars)
at the DSK Harness Workshop,
being assisted by
workshop Officer Maina.*

Community Profile

In this issue's community profile, we feature Fatmah Khalib, our volunteer at the Lamu Donkey Hospital. She has been working as an intern at the clinic in 2015 and has demonstrated a strong passion for working with donkeys and the communities that depend on them.



*Fatmah our Volunteer in Lamu carrying out
practical demonstration on handling of donkeys*



*Florence takes a farewell pose with Sarah and Bob
after their tour of DSK work*

Fatmah is a graduate of social work and community development and displays a keen sense of working with people to understand their interaction with donkeys in a manner that promotes good welfare practices and balances maximum returns for the owners. During her volunteer experience with DSK, she has acquired many skills that relate to donkey work including basic harnessing, developing animal welfare lessons for use with school children, basic care of donkeys such as wound management and generally negotiating her way through the thread of donkey welfare issues.

On a typical day, you are likely to find her multitasking between giving advice on good care to a donkey owner, attending to a visitor at the clinic and explaining to them about donkey welfare as well as preparing a lesson to interact with school children on donkey matters. She has aptly carried herself well in the true spirit of volunteerism.





Amos in c on sultation with Alex, a community champion from Ongata Rongai who makes saddles for sale to fellow donkey users



Dr. Felix Rachunyo conducting welfare assessment of a donkey in Manda. Lamu



Chamusa working with Manda Community on harness improvement



Josiah facilitating a community work practices and harness session in Illasit, Loitokitok. He is flanked by Amos.



Solomon gives a talk on Lameness Management in Donkeys at a learning session for animal service



Paul of KSPCA facilitates a community hoof care and harness learning session at Kiserian, under the tutelage of DSK staff.



Daniel Mwanza of Mlolongo one of our community champion holding a practical harness training session for other community members.



AU-IBAR Animal Welfare Task Force Members sharing a light moment with other AU_IABR staff during a tea break at their Headquarters in Museum hill, Nairobi



Amos holding a practical demo session on harnessing for animal health students in Tanzania in collaboration with MAWO and WTG



Practical session on loading and working practices at Ruringu, Nyeri



Kanai of Kenol demonstrating harnessing to other community members



Part of the DS Senior Management Teamn sharing a light moment with the CEO Mike Baker and the Acting Director for International Operations and Director of Care and Welfare Andy Foxcroft at Kingswood and Deveron Hotel in Sidmouth, UK

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