



Turning Pointe Donkey Rescue

Quarterly Newsletter
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Lungworms: What I should know

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What are lungworms?

Lungworms, also known as *Dictyocaulus Arnfieldi*, are a roundworm, similar to the worms that live in the intestinal tract of equids. However, *D. Arnfieldi* makes its home in the peripheral bronchioles of the lungs. The complete lifecycle, what veterinarians call the prepatent period, is about 2-3 months. Lungworms can affect all equines, but normally can only reproduce in donkeys and mules. Less than 2% of horses seem capable of having the parasite complete its life cycle. While some research articles state that prevalence of lungworms is 68-80% in donkeys and 29% in mules.

So what is the concern?

In donkeys, where the parasite likely developed, it lives without causing the donkey any apparent concern, unless lungworm numbers are extremely high, the donkey has other respiratory concerns, or the donkey has recently been dewormed with a product that kills lungworm. However, this is not the case in horses, in which the parasite is not adapted to the host. In the horse, lungworms cannot normally complete their lifecycle. Since the horse is not the 'natural' host, the horse recognizes the lungworms as foreign its immune system tries to rid itself of the problem – the lungworm. An affected horse develops respiratory disease that can be very similar and often not distinguishable from heaves [also known as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)].

How are lungworms diagnosed?

In donkeys and mules, it is easy! A fecal sample is analyzed by a veterinarian. However, you must inform your veterinarian that you want to check the sample for lungworms, as the testing is much different than a regular fecal. The test you must request is called a Baermann Fecal Test and checks for tiny larvae that have hatched prior to being passed in the feces. In a routine fecal exam for intestinal parasites, the sample is only examined for the presence of parasite eggs. The eggs don't hatch until they are passed in the feces. However, since you have collected a fecal sample, it's an ideal opportunity to evaluate the sample not only for lungworms, but also for intestinal parasites. With the development of resistance to dewormers, even donkeys on a regular deworming program may be found to have a significant parasite load. A fecal sample should be checked once a year to evaluate the effectiveness of your parasite control program.

In the horse, it is much harder to make a definitive diagnosis. In about 2% of horses, the lungworm can complete its lifecycle, so doing a Baermann fecal may be diagnostic. However, for the remaining 98% of the horses, other means of analysis must be used. As with all problems, a good history is important to root out other potential problems. If horses are housed with or pastured on land where donkeys or mules have grazed in the past 2 months, lungworms need to be considered. If mature lungworms are present in the bronchioles, they may be visualized via endoscopy. Immature larvae may be visible in a lung washing, also known as a Bronchiolar

Alveolar Lavage (BAL), or a type of white blood cell, an eosinophil, may be identified in the BAL fluid or in a complete blood count (CBC). The presence of eosiniphils suggests an allergic or parasite problem. Finally, the diagnosis may be made by a positive response to a dewormer that kills the *D. Arnifieldi*.

How to prevent lungworms?

Conduct a Baermann fecal on all donkeys housed with horses and/or use a dewormer that is effective against lungworms, such as ivermectin or moxidectin. If possible, collect all manure at least twice a week and dispose of the manure in a manner, such that pastures are not contaminated. Also, it has been shown that the *Philobolus* fungi may facilitate the larvae's spread on pasture as it sporulates. The small lungworm larvae are carried on the fungal spores. Manure collected from the pasture, or from stalls may be composted. Composting kills the parasites. Whether spread on the pasture, spread on hay or crop ground, or used on your gardening sites, compost will enhance the soil quality wherever it is used. If manure can't be picked up from pastures, dragging the pasture on a hot, dry, sunny day will disperse the manure and facilitate the death of parasite larvae. For more information on composting and other manure concerns, visit www.canr.msu.edu/horseadults/index.html?url=publications/publications.html

What's New?




- Thanks to all who have new donkeys in their barn. We are deeply appreciative of all the new, and forever homes of our donkeys!

Adopter	Donkey's Name
Mike and Suzy Hall	Conrad and Paco
Amy Scharmen	Myrtle
Bill Loeffler	Rose and Ivy
Tom Weaver and family	Jake
Katie Byrne	Wilbur
Pete and Karen Andrews	Jim
Diana and Gary Hurst	Murray and Marty
Kelly and Gene Dehnel	Georgio
Yvette Huesler	Ian
Chris Copeland and Julie Copeland, DVM	Hugo, Apache, Finney, Johnny Cash and a permanent home for our two old gals, Sarah and Samantha
Jim Woods	Margo and Millie
Carol Costa	Chullo and Pablo
Michelle and Jay Lugthart	Daisy and Minnie
Labarski Family	Denim and Howard

- Come visit our website - www.turningpointedonkeyrescue.com
Continuing thanks to Chris Wilson for keeping the website current and impressive!

➤ Donkeys available for adoption:

To see if your favorite donkey is still available for adoption, visit us at our website www.turningpointedonkeyrescue.com or at www.petfinders.org .

Donkey name's	Pertinent comments
<p>Joni</p> 	<p>Joni is a 5 years old, brown, standard jennet that is very sweet and appreciates any attention paid to her. She loves treats, hugs and pats. Readily demanding her grain in the morning, Joni is the best alarm clocks anyone could wish for – sweet and punctual! Joni leads, loads and ties, and wants to provide countless hours of attention to her new owner. As her confidence improves, so does her trust about handling her feet – she stood "like a trooper" for her last trim. Joni would make a great companion for equine friends, as well providing companionship to another equine that lives with sheep, and goats. For more information, contact Tia at 810-797-2229</p>
<p>Jill</p> 	<p>Jill is a shy, mature, grey, standard jennet that is about 7 years old. With the quiet kindness that she has received in her foster home, she is becoming as much of a treat-demander as Joni when anyone approaches. Nevertheless, she needs someone with plenty of time, patience and an understanding of equine behavior. Jill ties, loads and leads, but continues to work on her confidence when being led in new settings or having her feet handled. Jill gets along well with other donkeys and would make a wonderful companion for another donkey or horse. For more information, contact Tia at 810-797-2229</p>
<p>Professor Higgins</p> 	<p>Professor Higgins is a 15yr old BLM pale brown standard donkey gelding. This boy is an absolute dear and gentle soul with a very soft face. We understand he went to auctions for 2yrs before he was finally rescued and saved from that life. He is pretty good about leading, but needs some work and to be shown the world still. He LOVES attention and being brushed and will stand all day for it. He even likes having his mane braided, especially by kids. This poor guy is missing pieces of his right ear, but he doesn't seem to mind. Higgins will be a wonderful companion for equine and human alike! For more information, contact Sharon at 517-623- 0000.</p>

Mickey



Mickey is a 6yr old gray dun miniature donkey gelding. He has just been gelded, so cool off time will tell us more about him. We have been told that he has been at petting zoos and gone to class, so he should be a wonderful pet once those hormones leave. He is definitely a very loving guy who adores attention. He is Minnie's dad too and unfortunately lived a life of neglect along with Daisy, but luckily his rescuer sent him to TPDR to find a forever home that will spoil him like he should have been all along. For more information, contact Sharon at 517-623- 0000.

Ruth



Ruth is a gorgeous black standard 6 year old jennet. Ruth has a kind heart, but is so overshadowed by her fear and distrust of humans that she **MUST** go to a very patient, kind, loving, knowledgeable home. One must be able to give her unconditional love without any expectations. For more information, contact Sharon Windsor at 517-623-0000

Little Richard



Little Richard is a very adorable, dark bay gelded mini mule that is 4.5 years old. He has super conformation with a disposition to match! He is great for the farrier, leads and ties too. He also will just jump right into the trailer and is ready to go where you're taking him. Little Richard is getting some special attention with a trainer right now and might even be a driving mule once he's done! He's one of his foster mom's favorites because he's so cute and sweet. He's very social with people, adores brushing and treats. Little Richard would make a fabulous companion for donkeys, mules or horses of any size. For further information, contact Sharon at. 517-623-0000.

Kirby



Kirby is a handsome 6 year old standard donkey gelding with a beautiful reddish tone to his coat. He is a BLM donkey bought at auction. If you are looking for a **VERY** laid back guy, Kirby might be your man. He is a calm donkey who never spooks and loves to go for nice, slow walks. He doesn't mind leaving his pasture mates to spend some quality time with his foster mom. He loves treats and will stretch his top lip way out to take treats "oh so gently" from your hand. He also ties fine and loves brushing. He is good for the farrier and his deworming. Kirby gets along wonderfully with all of the animals on the farm too, he's just a sweet, kind and lovable boy! For more information, please contact Sue 269-209-3578 or ssnyder@waltersdimmick.com

- TPDR appreciates the support of all our members. Their generosity and selflessness in improving donkey welfare is extraordinary. Benefactors deserving special praise & thanks are:

TPDR Supporter	In appreciation for:
Toni Jones	Attending her local auction and finding Chullo and Pablo and then fostering them
Tobias Lehman.	Continued help in evaluating, training and offering temporary housing for the TPDR animals
Chuck and Lynn Ward	Locating Cloudy for the rescue and saving our two (Old Lady Donkeys) Sara and Samantha
Dr. Perry Ragon and the Kern Road Veterinary Clinic	Caring for our long eared friends
Ellen Dahistet	Her continued generous support of TPDR
Eileen McKee	For fostering, transporting and doing farm checks
Amy Scharmen	Keeping www.petfinders.org up-to-date
Jim Tonti	For donating Cactus
Mary Rose Six	For transportation and fostering Mickey and Professor Higgins.
Bill Lute	His continuing & greatly appreciated support
Melinda Lemmon	For transportation and foster care

- Make sure to visit us at the Stallion Expo in March - March 10-12, 2006: at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, E. Lansing, MI. Come and talk donkeys with us!
- Do you have a desire to help and have some extra time?
 - Are you a great organizer with some extra time? We are in need of a volunteer coordinator.
 - If you have several hours to help staff the TPDR booth and "talk donkeys" to Expo visitors, please call Sharon at 517-623-0000
 - Enjoy working with equids and have an extra stall or two? Consider becoming a foster home for a donkey that may need a temporary home prior to adoption.
- What a Rescue is all about!

It is with sadness that I inform you that two members of the TPDR board of directors have resigned – Carla Carleton, DVM and Sue Snyder. Both were original members who were instrumental in the concept of the Rescue and the hard work necessary to make that dream come true. However, as everyone knows, life is about change. Sometimes that change is sought and presents great opportunities, as it has for Dr. Carleton. Her international interests and research are allowing her to make great strides in the health and well-being of both the people and the horses in remote areas of Thailand. The health of these ponies is essential for they provide the people with the means necessary to make a viable living. With this commitment and Carla's extensive demands providing both a clinical reproduction service and her heavy teaching schedule at Michigan State University, she felt it was best to resign from the TPDR board, as it was nearly impossible for her to make the board meetings. As shown by her research interests, she continues to have a great interest in the welfare of all equines and I'm sure will continue to help needy donkeys whenever possible. Squirt and Windsor, her two rescue donkeys, agree.

Without Sue Snyder's enthusiasm and hard work the Rescue would still be a dream. Sue has done it all – secretary of the TPDR board, foster home – fell in love with several that now call Sue's place home, checked references for prospective news homes, identified donkeys in need of a new home, helped at the expos, transported donkeys and the list goes on.... Sue will be deeply missed, not only for her hard work, but also for her cheerful attitude and smile. However, due to present family needs and the importance of family, Sue felt it best that she resign her current position on the board. They will be greatly missed, as both Carla and Sue are the type of people everyone would want for a friend and colleague.