

Turning Pointe Donkey Rescue

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2004

The Birth of a Rescue

Turning Pointe Donkey Rescue became a reality in October 2004 when an enthusiastic group of people got together and decided that too many nice donkeys were unwanted, unappreciated and often found themselves in the meat pen at an auction. We are a Michigan non-profit organization dedicated to the health & welfare of miniature, standard, & mammoth donkeys. To promote the humane care and proper training of these *long-ears* and to provide the public with a better understanding of their true nature, is the rescue's objective.

Our efforts will be directed towards rescuing donkeys, and education of perspective and current donkey owners. Donkeys come to the Rescue from a variety of difficult situations. They will be matched with the most compatible, compassionate and supportive environment.

Meet the board members:

Our board members bring diverse backgrounds and talents to the rescue. Sharon Windsor (president) is a long time donkey owner and breeder that is continually teaching us how to work with a donkey's behavior. Her enthusiasm, business skills, and hard work are a never-ending benefit to the rescue and the donkey industry as a whole. Sharon has taken many a donkey and taught them to trust and enjoy human companionship. Sue Synder (secretary) is the proud owner of 4 geldings, 3 minis and a standard. Sue has shown horses for many years, but this summer entered her first donkey show. She is now hooked on how diverse and fun owning a donkey can be. She is one of the most enthusiastic, resourceful, energetic people that I know. Donyale Ingagiola (treasurer), like Sue, has owned horses for years and is a very avid trail rider. She adopted her first donkey about a year ago and her initial experience was not positive. Luckily, Donyale was open-minded and was willing to open her heart to another donkey. This

was a match made in heaven and no one is better than Burly. If you trail ride in the eastern part of the state, keep your eyes open for a little donkey following a horse and rider. Judy Marteniuk (vice-president) is an equine veterinarian at Michigan State University, a long time horse owner, but yet to be a donkey owner. One of the donkeys just rescued may be the first. Along with Carla, Judy is responsible for providing health care for the donkeys. Carla Carleton (editorial consultant) is an equine reproduction veterinarian at Michigan State University. Carla has adopted two rescue donkeys over the past several years and has truly been converted to the long eared equines. Her talents as a veterinarian are unparalleled, but her writing and editing skills are essential for the development of the rescue's educational materials.

Thanks

Kelly O'Dell for the wonderful cake she baked for the rescue's first meeting.



Bill Lute for his endless support in making our presence at the expo possible. Bill spent the better part of Friday helping us setup our display.

MSU veterinary students for helping our jacks become newly gelded long ears ready for adoption.

