

Editorial

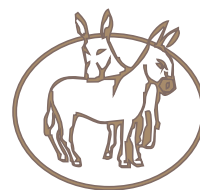
It is that time again when every organization gets opportunity to stock take and look back at the year that has been.

In these reflections, it becomes imperative to count successes, while at the same time considering areas that may call for improvement. In this final issue of 2016, we are happy to once again highlight some of the activities that bring us pride as we make a positive difference in the lives of working donkeys and the people who depend on them for livelihood. In this direction, we have made space to highlight milestones reached and key outcomes realized in 2016.

We take occasion to feature our lead story on celebrations during World Animal Day which took place in October and involved many stakeholders. Marching with animals was such an enviable moment and you will read the fascinating accounts as we share with you this experience. Often times, when Lamu is mentioned, those familiar with the place easily relate it with tourism and donkeys. But did you know that donkeys are also supporting security operations and having an essential role in it. We also did not know until a call from a military officer in Manda base; please read more of this captivating story of Lamu military donkeys.

And since this period captures our work up to the end of 2016, it is always a look back time. We connect the beginning of the year to the end and watch as success stories as well as challenges unfold. And it has been quite satisfying to see change evolve in the communities we engage, as

The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya



"HELPING DONKEYS HELPING COMMUNITIES"

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NEWSLETTER - Issue No. 6

October - December 2016

together we improve donkey welfare.

I humbly invite you to delight in the stories of our work and sincerely thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. All the best and happy times ahead in the New Year 2017. And as always, we say *karibu*, welcome.

Josiah
Editor

Appreciation



THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

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

How you can support us:

Our success could not have been possible without your generous support both financially and through your goodwill.

For donations please visit:
www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/donate



Participants brave the trek to mark World Animal Day 2016 with a clear message: I care about animals



The donkey's message is loud and clear!



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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Celebrating Animals

The month of October traditionally holds special attention in the animal welfare fraternity all over the world. This is because on the 4th of October every year, animal welfare practitioners and all who have an interest in animals take time to celebrate animals and their contribution to diversity of life. This year was not different, and indeed it can be claimed to have been better than previous times.

The DSK, while valuing the importance of collaboration and the benefits of synergies, joined gingerly with other players in the animal welfare and conservation sectors to celebrate World Animal Day. DSK was involved in concurrent celebrations at the National level in Nairobi, and county level in Lamu.

The National celebrations were marked in a big ceremony in Nairobi that brought together the Donkey Sanctuary Kenya, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA), Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA), learners from various institutions, the Director of Veterinary Services and conservationists and animal welfare supporters. This year, things took a new turn when participants happily braved a long walk from Nyayo National Stadium, along Uhuru Highway, Haile Selassie Avenue and Procession Way and culminating in an animal welfare public rally at Uhuru Park pavilion.

And it was a very cheerful occasion in this event whose theme was **“United for Animals”**. The participants steadily trekked the distance with some bearing

banners with messages directed at ending suffering and portraying the value of animals to humanity. Dogs and donkeys were the celebrated walkers as they joined participants and braved the heavy vehicular traffic along the busy Nairobi thoroughfare to put across their messages on behalf of other animals. To depict how great a spectacle it was, we had motorists gazing out of their car windows for snap shots of the procession and to read messages as displayed by the people and animals in the procession. And one daring motorist even stopped smack at the centre of the busy highway for selfie with a donkey bearing the message “do not slaughter me, I am more valuable alive. “Luckily for him, the traffic police officers escorting us were in the best of moods and he easily got away with this stunt.

The celebrations at Uhuru Park capped the day with emphatic speeches by representatives of animal



In full swing: Lamu World Animal Day procession readies up along the seafront



And the winners were promptly rewarded: DSK staff and community members pose with the winning donkeys at the end of World Animal Day celebrations

welfare organisations and the Veterinary fraternity in Kenya. The chief guest at the function was Dr Wilbur Otichillo, who is a renowned conservationist and a Member of Parliament who is also a member of the Agriculture Committee of the national Assembly. He echoed the efforts made animal welfare and lauded the organisations for sensitizing the public on animal welfare matters and engaging with the Government to enhance value of animals to the public and attain co-existence between animals, nature and human beings.

The entertainment and speeches were all delivered before a very enthusiastic crowd of people with interests in animal welfare as well as onlookers and those caught in the Nairobi lunch time traffic jams who could not held but join in the celebrations to mark this unique day for animals.

In the serenity of Lamu Island, where life is so enter twined with donkeys, it was all systems go for celebrating World Animal Day. DSK was the organizers of a high powered event that involved marching through the narrow streets and beach front of Lamu town while chanting, singing and displaying animal welfare messages.

The march past was later crowned with a public education session at the sea front where residents were engaged in public education on various aspects of animal welfare and basic care of animals that make us responsible animal owners.

The Lamu occasion had an added flavour because a donkey welfare competition was organised for donkey owners to spruce up their donkeys and win prizes. This enabled the participants too evolve very creative ways of adorning their animals and presenting good welfare scores to win the coveted prizes awarded in different categories. And Lamu being a land of festivals, this occasion did not disappoint.



Celebrating 2016 Milestones and key Outcomes

As we reflect on the 2016, we are glad to share with you some milestones and outcomes as we enumerated below.

- DSK was able to train 3213 community members and community facilitators/champions mainly on harness making and fitting, basic hoof care and general donkey husbandry
- 2925 harnesses were improved through community partnership and training with direct impact on the welfare of over 5000 donkeys
- 7,980 donkeys received direct veterinary assistance from the Donkey Sanctuary team while another 1,173 received veterinary care through indirect partnership with the local service providers in 12 different counties
- The DSK was able to reach and influence the welfare of 10,930 donkeys directly, 14,500 through partnerships and 750,000 through awareness creation using the media and conferences as outreach channels.
- We have recorded improved welfare scores in thousands of donkeys in different parts of the country due to our education and outreach programs
- We have become instrumental in supporting other partners in East Africa Region namely Meru Animal Welfare Organisation(MAWO) and WTG to train animal health students in donkey health care
- Another level of success has been realized via 18 teacher sensitization sessions and 25 school visits reaching a total of 448 teachers and 2604 pupils thus having potential indirect impact on donkey welfare in the communities they live.
- We have registered success in donkey based advocacy efforts in partnership with Kenya Veterinary Association, World Veterinary Association and Animal Welfare Action Kenya (AWAKE), Brooke EA, ANAW, Government of Kenya Director of Veterinary services, County governments and WAP which has seen policies and legislation on animal welfare drafted and increased awareness on donkey issues through increased social media postings on the same
- Participation in animal welfare education mainstreaming in school curriculum
- We are supporting the integration of animal welfare agenda in Africa through our involvement in the African Union –Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) Animal Welfare Taskforce

- Established functional partnerships with two community based organisations(CBOs) in Mwingi(Tahidi CBO) and Loitokitok(Loitokitok SH Group) which has seen positive impact on donkey welfare within their areas of operations
- Our staff delivered 29 guest lectures on donkey health and welfare in 6 tertiary institutions directly reaching 376 students
- We made 44 conference presentations on donkey health and welfare directly reaching 3297 animal health service providers and other professionals

Donkeys in Security

Many people in Kenya are aware of the concerted security operations in Lamu involving the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to flush out Al-Shabaab militants hiding in Boni Forest and its environs. What most people do not know is the role of donkeys in sectors of this operation.

It thus came as a surprise to us when one fine day at the end of 2016, Dr Felix Rachuonyo, Donkey Sanctuary Lamu vet received a call from a senior officer at the KDF military base in Manda, Lamu, requesting if he could be available to attend to sick donkeys at the KDF camp in Baure, some three hours journey out of Lamu town on the mainland side of Lamu county. Not knowing what to expect, but with the call of duty beckoning and his love for donkeys compelling him, Felix did not hesitate to say yes. And with military precision and logistical sophistication that KDF is reputed for, Felix swiftly found himself inside an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) on his way to Baure military camp. He attended to the five donkeys at the camp while interacting with the officers and advising them on the best donkey care procedures. They generally suffered from ecto- parasites and cases of tryps, which were successfully addressed.

The military officers keep the donkeys in their camp where they assist in carrying water, wood fuel, foodstuff and some light consignments; hence donkeys have become essential to military operations in this unforgiving terrain with limited road network. This little known role of donkeys in Kenya offers a very crucial addition to the critical role that donkeys hold in many aspects of human lives.

Due to the sensitive nature of any security operation, and with strict military protocol, photography is always prohibited; therefore we could not get some proud Kodak moments to share with our readers.

With donkey treatment over, Felix was promptly ferried back to the DSK Lamu hospital courtesy of the highly coordinated KDF team. This experience clearly is a great fulfillment for him and DSK: after all, how many vets have the bragging rights of ever having travelled in a military vehicle, let alone an APC

Training the noble profession on animal welfare

Donkey Sanctuary Kenya has a vibrant training programme for various professional cadres to equip them on animal welfare. As part of our plans to entrench animal welfare education in our target schools, we conducted a very successful two day teacher training exercise in Lamu town. The training was mounted with support of the Lamu County education officials and involved 26 teachers drawn from 12 primary schools in Lamu.

The teachers were taken through introductory lessons on the basics of Animal welfare and then engaged in participatory sessions where there was intense interaction on many facets of animal welfare education. This has in turn set in motion cascading sessions whereby trained teachers give back the lessons to their peers in schools and work on learning projects in their schools to promote animal welfare education.

This training was also part of our efforts to augment the great work of animal welfare organisations in Kenya working under the auspices of Animal Welfare Action Kenya (AWAKE) to advocate the mainstreaming of animal welfare in the national schools curriculum. It therefore served as a pilot sensitisation forum for teachers on animal welfare education curriculum mainstreaming process.



Lamu Education Director addresses a session of the teacher training course



Participants in a group photo after the first day of the teacher training exercise

Reaching out to higher learning institutions

Our interaction with universities keeps increasing in tempo as the institutions desire to produce all round graduates in veterinary and animal science.

In November, we paid host to students from the University Of Nairobi School of Veterinary Medicine with whom we had an entire day's learning session on donkey health and welfare.

The young scholars learnt harnessing, donkey behaviour and handling, hoof care and general donkey care. The satisfied students gave very positive feedback on how this practical experience with donkeys had built their knowledge base in donkey health.



Nicholas training University of Nairobi Veterinary medicine students on donkey handling

A worthy intervention for Donkeys

The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya has steadily been entrenching itself in advocacy for many matters affecting the welfare of donkeys and the livelihoods of communities that use them. And so when word reached us that the County Government of Makeni had issued an order that animals (especially donkeys



Josiah of DSK in one of the many stakeholder meetings seeking to unlock the stalemate

Supporting Development of County Animal Welfare Laws

vending water) would no longer be allowed into the CBD of its urban centres, it was of immediate concern to us. This was obviously going to impact on the livelihoods of hundreds of donkey owners and users who sell water to the urban residents as a means of daily subsistence. Indeed within a few days of the order, the donkey owners held protests in the main town of Wote agitating against this new requirement.

With public attention slowly building after the protests, our team quickly got into action and opened negotiations with the key officials concerned in the County and the donkey owners and users associations.

If is there our joy to report that after careful engagement, the order has been stalled temporarily to allow donkey owners work out alternative sources of livelihood. It is also agreed that phasing out the animals will now be done in a gradual manner that does not suddenly deprive the owners of their livelihoods. And the county Government has accepted to support the donkey users with establishing other small and medium business units to boost their livelihood and avoid over reliance on the donkeys.

So the sweet news is that both sides gain in a harmonious manner; the donkeys will leave the town as urbanization takes root, but the donkey owners will not have their sources of income rudely disrupted but instead will be absorbed into new income streams, and the donkeys retreat to less urbanized located with probably less heavy duties. And to us, this is what success looks like!

The Donkey Sanctuary is actively involved in the formulation and drafting of laws that affect animals at the county level. With veterinary services classified as devolved function, a lot of focus has shifted to the counties, most of which are at the formative stages in developing County Animal Welfare Laws.

Our interest has is to ensure that our participation results in favourable laws for animals and those who depend on them; and to embed the recognition of donkeys in the statutes of the counties giving due consideration of their immense contribution to community livelihoods. Our Senior Vet Dr Solomon Onyango actively at the forefront of supporting drafting of animal welfare laws, and in the reporting period he has worked with the Counties of Nairobi, Kajiado, Kirinyaa and Kisumu in this ongoing process.



Stakeholders during a drafting session of the Nairobi County animal welfare laws

“The question is not, Can they reason? nor, Can they talk? but Can they suffer?”

~Jeremy Bentham
Philosopher



DSK promoting Continental Animal Welfare Agenda

For the last two years, we have been actively supporting the development of the animal welfare agenda in Africa, together with other key participants under the auspices of African Union- Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

In the month of October, Dr Onyango represented Donkey Sanctuary in a high level meeting held in Nairobi as a task force member for the Animal welfare agenda in Africa. We are proud and confident that this process, however lengthy, will eventually result in the attainment of a sustainable platform for animal welfare in the continent.



An intensive session during the Hoof care training course in Cairo, Egypt attended by two DSK staff

Empowering Community partners

At the Donkey Sanctuary Kenya, we have established training regimes for communities and partners whom we work with to enhance sustainable donkey welfare structures.

Over the period in this newsletter, we have carried out successful trainings of Tahidi Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Mwingi. The training has covered key areas of donkey welfare and health as well as community outreach methodologies and practice.

The CBO is actively engaged in a vast matter of development matters in Mwingi, Kitui County. Our association with them in gradually entrenching donkey welfare matters in aspects of development at the county and local community levels in Mwingi.

Our key community group of donkey owners in Mwingi, Nuu Women Group has continued to receive intense training of harness development in October and November, with very impressive results realised.



AU –IBAR animal welfare task force members having a well-deserved tea/coffee break and sharing light moments during a busy working session on the continental animal welfare agenda.

Exposing our staff to current trends

The Donkey Sanctuary recognizes the inherent value in staff and the need to keep them updated on modern happenings in their different areas of expertise. Since knowledge is dynamic, it is only prudent to ensure constant expose of staff to new developments and alternative approaches of working in animal welfare.

We therefore had vets Solomon and Felix of DSK joining other animal welfare professionals in Cairo, Egypt for a two week course on hoof care protocol development. At the end of this training, they were able to develop core competencies and hoof care protocol that will be used in hoof management in donkeys and mules. We are very grateful to Donkey Sanctuary for arranging and supporting this exercise.



Josiah leads an animated Training of Trainers (ToT) session for leaders of Tahidi CBO in Mwingi

And finally.....saying Bye to Nakuru

After many years of implementing community based projects in Nakuru County, there were emotional moments as we wound up our tour of duty. In the process of consolidation of efforts, we had to exit Nakuru operations to allow the communities find independent footing in taking forward donkey welfare. While we are confident that our investment in these communities are bearing fruit, there is always the feeling of nostalgia and a tendency to keep checking if all is well.

Since welfare is wide ranging and dynamic, with different stakeholders involved at various levels, it is our great hope that the gains we have achieved will be sustained by the donkey owners and users, as well as the local service providers and technical teams we have worked with in so much harmony, not forgetting partners and stakeholders at diverse levels.



Josiah shares cart and harness tips with Subukia donkey owners during one of the final exit meeting sessions with communities in Nakuru.

PICTURE SPEAK



A practical harness learning session for donkey owners in Manda, Lamu, led by Chamusa



Ruth, a community harness champion trained and mentored by DSK leads Nuu Women Group in Mwingi, during a pack harness making training session.

PICTURE SPEAK



Josiah and Nicholas conduct welfare assessment of donkeys in Ongata Rongai using the newly developed Hand App.



Amos leading a participatory community learning session on carts and harnesses in Timau



Amos takes a donkey owner through a concentrated learning session on donkey care



Representatives from various organizations working on AWAKE Framework at DSK Offices in Karen



Chamusa holding a learning session on harnessing for the Manda donkey users



Key stakeholders holding a consultative meeting at DVS office at Kabete over the importance of better Vet Drus control to safeguard both animal and human welfare: "One Welfare Principal"



Amos using the Hand App to collect welfare data among stray donkeys in Isiolo Town



Ruring'u Donkey users group having a "peer-to-peer" learning session on harnessing in Nyeri



Amos taking the Nuu Women in a Learning Session about the use of the Hand App in welfare data collection



Illasit donkey users taking a keen interest in learning about the use of the Hand App in collecting valuable donkey welfare and community data



University of Nairobi Students learning about hoof care in Thogoto village

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