

# Bonaire's donkeys

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The current water situation for donkeys isn't working. The Pos (wells) are in poor maintenance, and many don't work at all. BDPL gave a request list to the government to ensure safety for the donkeys and public to R&O, KPCN (police) and the road department: Repair the wells and clear brush from roadsides. All departments said no.

McLean added, It's important to provide a balance of local information and scientific facts on donkeys such as: Donkeys are browsers not grazers. They continue to move. Donkeys seek out certain plants for nutritional value and then move on. They don't eat everything before it's all decimated. Officials say they are grazers and it's not true.

## McLean's suggestions:

Designating an area for a donkey preserve to manage a group of free roaming and wild donkeys is important. The government could start by forming a committee with members from nonprofits (like BDPL) and others. A veterinarian could identify the location where donkeys could be safely rehomed to or managed in their current areas. Employ the use of fertility control to reduce the number of foals born annually. Strategically place volunteer-maintained water troughs in areas where donkeys can be monitored.

Her other ideas include nationalizing Bonaire's donkey and naming it one of the many special animals that is a part of the Bonaire ecosystem. She recommends the government add speed breaks in areas where donkeys are found, post speed limits and give speeding tickets for excessive speeds.

"Use your heritage, why get rid of something that has been here so long? Should we remove everyone that has come here recently?" said McLean.

*Amy McLean, PhD is an Associate Professor of Teaching Equine Science at UC Davis Animal Science World Donkey Breeds Project. For more information about BDPL visit their Facebook page.*

*Photos / story Julie Morgan*

## Supreme Court says Aruba and Curaçao can't block same sex marriage

The Supreme Court has upheld lower court rulings on Aruba and Curaçao that opened marriage to persons of the same sex. An interest group had gone to court on both islands, arguing their long-standing refusal to recognize same sex marriages constituted discrimination and violated provisions of international treaties and the Constitutions of the two countries. Both islands appealed, arguing that eliminating discrimination is a function of the legislature, not the judiciary, and that same sex marriage violated local religious beliefs. The Supreme Court disagreed.

The Court of First Instance in both islands had found that the failure to offer an alternative, such as a registered partnership or other legal entity, meant that blocking same sex marriage was discriminatory. According to the court, marriage has an intrinsic (symbolic and emotional) value that transcends the cohabitation contract and the registered partnership. The court took into account that the objections of opponents of same-sex marriage often have a religious basis. Freedom of religion must be guaranteed, but according to the court it does not go so far that one can impose one's own religious norms and values on another. *DMR*

# Pet of the Week

## Please meet our cat of the week, Myron.

Myron is a very friendly six month old male with tabby and white coloring. When you pick him up he will put both paws around your neck and give you a hug.

Myron came to us with his three siblings as one month old kittens. They were found in the bushes on the island with no mother to be found. Myron and his brother Mika are still here waiting for their forever home. It would be great to take them together, but if not possible, please consider Myron.

Myron loves to be held, sit in your lap or just lay around keeping cool. He will do fine with children and other cats.

Come and meet Myron and take him to his forever home!

Myron is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

*Photo/story: Amy Bowen*

**If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Or call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)**



**Myron**

## Animal Shelter News

### PAWS & FOOTPRINTS



Are you looking to get your fitness steps in? Would you like to make a Shelter dog happy and let them stretch their legs at the same time? Animal Shelter Bonaire needs you. We are looking to restart the Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group.

Paws Foot Prints will be every other Wednesday beginning July 24, 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. We will also light refreshments for walkers and the dogs.

Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m., the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

Why are we doing this? Shelter dogs come from unknown backgrounds, dispositions, experiences and habits. Some dogs are social butterflies and adjust well to the chaos and noise of the animal shelter environment, while others experience incredible stress. Taking the dogs on walks helps them socialize, relieve excess energy and lower stress. Our primary goal is to provide a fun and safe experience for everyone.

#### Some things to note:

- Dog walkers must be physically capable of walking dogs independently, without assistance, and be able to acknowledge and understand staff instructions.
- Staff members will determine appropriate matches between dogs and volunteers.
- Animal Shelter Bonaire reserves the right to refuse a volunteer access to a dog if the situation is deemed unsafe for either the volunteer or the dog.
- Volunteer dog walkers must be at least 12 years of age. Please do not bring others under the age of 12 to assist unless approved by Animal Shelter staff members.
- Be sure to wear weather appropriate clothing and safe, comfortable walking shoes.
- Please do not bring treats, as some dogs experience stomach upset with changes in diet.
- Physical discipline of any dog for any reason is unacceptable.

*Let's have some fun!*

*Marissa Lamers*