



Open Days

We held our first “Open House” days in May when we opened our doors to the public. Some of our first days coincided with the Dutch school holidays. Unfortunately on several of the days the weather was not kind to us so we found ourselves serving tea, coffee, cakes and lunch in the kitchen and many people ate lunch with us in front of the fire whilst their children ran back time and again to visit their favourite donkeys. We also held about two weeks of “Open House” days in June and these all proved to be a great success both with the donations we received for refreshments, memberships, and just making more people aware of the work we are doing.

Operation Rescue

Our donkey family is growing all the time and we have had an extremely busy time this summer collecting animals, badly injured, both from a farm and a butchers yard where we were told that they could not be put through the human food chain as their injuries were so bad that they would have been rejected by the Vet on duty at the abattoir because their meat was not good enough to be sold for human consumption!! You will see donkey salami sausages on sale at most markets in this region.

Poor Old Zebulon

Firstly we collected Zebulon, an old stallion who had a terrible injury on his hind leg, where lots of proud flesh had grown, so he must have been left in a terrible state when the injury was fresh. He had twisted hooves and very bad sores on his hind quarters so we believe he had great trouble getting up. His sores have now gone. We have used some “magic” gel which aids wound healing and we were really pleased that it worked so well. His hooves have now been trimmed twice and already he is standing really well on his previously deformed front hooves. In the autumn he will be gelded, he has a gentle character and we are so happy we could help him to come away from the awful life he lived. When we collected Zebulon he was walking quietly but steadily out of a dark stable into the bright sunlight and looking at the horse box. His previous owner started hitting him on his back bone for no reason at all, in fact the French man with us took the stick away, the lady looked so surprised – it was obviously normal for her to hit an animal just out of habit!



Then There Was Blanchette

Then we saw Blanchette, a pony who is blind in one eye and was terribly lame on her front leg. We decided we could not leave her behind to live in the conditions in which we found her. Our Veterinary Surgeon could not tell if she had any broken bones so we called an expert out from Toulouse. Blanchette certainly couldn't put any weight on her leg which was making it impossible for her to walk at all. Six X-rays were taken but no bones were found to be broken. So we then had three Ultrasounds taken which showed she has two injuries. She is suffering from tendonitis for which the treatment is box rest and we had to fit a very tight bandage on her leg. She has also had a course of pain killers. We are hoping she will recover after a long period of box rest to be able to walk again properly. If you would like to help Blanchette her Veterinary bills now stand at nearly 600 euros!

Myrte And Rosalie



In July we received an urgent call from a lady who wanted to save a donkey who had terribly long deformed front hooves together with a very thin pony suffering from barbed wire cuts all over her back and injuries to her legs. We came home with Myrte, a donkey who could hardly walk his hooves had been left for so long without trimming and also Rosalie, his pony friend. We were told she was four years old but she is definitely only about two and she is lame because both her knees have been damaged and we



wonder if she wasn't suddenly separated from her mother and trying to get back to her because of the large number of barb wire scars on her back. She is terribly thin so she is having worming treatment and being fed extra rations. We have had the Farrier to trim the hooves of Myrte and we have had to put bleach into his feet because he had maggots living in them. Each time we pick up a hoof he falls over but since the Farrier's visit he is starting to put some weight on one of his front hooves and he is improving slowly.



Finally Elisa

We then drove back, over two hours each way, a few days later, for an old horse we saw in the corner of one of the dark stalls at the butcher's yard who we felt we just could not leave there. She is called Elisa and had been collected from Spain and from the sheer amount of manure on her mane we felt she had been kept in filthy conditions for long enough. She is now enjoying a happy retirement at a friend's house with plenty of grass, other equine company and lots of TLC. She has arthritis and will need drugs for the rest of her life.

Fund Raising

On Sunday 11th July I sat and talked to people at the Big Summer Fete at Beauville which was held in aid of Les Amis des Chats. We were very pleased to raise 30 euros for our funds from our small stall and are grateful that they invited us along.

We are continuing to fund raise by holding stalls at both Montaigu de Quercy and Roquecor markets and we were particularly successful this summer at the Marches de Gourmands on a Wednesday evening at the Chateau d'Aix at Saux. If you have any ideas for fund raising where you live and could help us we would be very grateful as our lives are pretty hectic just looking after these donkeys. Do you live close to us and have any hay or straw surplus to your requirements, we would be happy to collect if you are not too far from Montaigu de Quercy, 82150 Tarn et Garonne.

If you would like to help us either by fundraising, donating goods for resale or a financial donation this would be very much appreciated. We have a bank account here at the Credit Agricole locally and we have now opened a bank account in the UK at Lloyds TSB, so cheques or cash in pounds sterling are also acceptable.

We held Open House again during September and raised a total of nearly 300 euros over 5 days. Our thanks go to those who donated goods for resale, quiches for lunch and that wonderful chocolate cake!

We now have 22 donkeys living here. This includes 2 mules and several horses. We are happy to receive any help you can give us. We realise that we all have big demands on our income but if you feel you can help us in however small a way possible, we would be so happy to hear from you, so PLEASE PLEASE spare just a little to HELP US HELP THESE DONKEYS LIVE A HAPPY HEALTHY LIFE.

Help Us Give Donkeys A Happy, Healthy Life

Please help us by becoming a "Friend of the Donkeys" for a year by making a donation of 25€ (only 5€ for children).

Or become a member of "Liberté des Anes" by making a monthly donation of a minimum of 10€ (120€ a year).

I would like to donate 25€ to become a "Friend of the Donkeys" (5€ for child)

I would like to donate to be a member of "Liberté des Anes"

Name (Block letters, please):

Address:

..... Code Postale:

Tel. No. E-mail:

Return to : Liberté des Anes, Lavolene, 82150 Belveze.

libertedesanes@gmail.com

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