



Proposal Regarding BLM Sale Burros

PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's PROPOSAL

Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (PVDR) would like to expand on our current relationship with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Burro Program. Since the "Sale Burro" program was launched our organization has taken in over 500 of these burros and either provided lifelong care or found them pre-screened, loving homes.

Peaceful Valley has spent nearly two decades building our operations all across the country and we feel that we can assist the BLM far more than we currently are.

PVDR, with the full support of our Board of Trustees, Executive Staff, Employees and Volunteers, would like to take in all of the burros currently under the "Sale Burro" program. This would include your current inventory as well as those caught or turned age eleven each year while in your care. By partnering with PVDR, the BLM will be assured that the Sale Burros would be well cared for, for the rest of their lives.

To meet the letter of the law, Peaceful Valley would pay \$20.00 (USD) for each burro sold to us. We would prefer to operate under a Memorandum of Understanding as we have with the National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the United States Military. We would also request that all eligible Sale Burros be transferred to the BLM's Paul's Valley, Oklahoma facility. We prefer the methods of BLM's own wranglers over those of its contractors.

PVDR is a federally regulated DOT transport company with four transport units capable of hauling 20-25 burros each, safely. We can normally schedule shipments with two weeks notice. We could make accommodations to pick up burros quarterly, bi-annually or annually depending on the quantities available.

Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue and its donors sincerely care about America's Wild Burros and want to see the brightest possible future for them all. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. I have an extremely busy travel schedule that takes me all over the country, but I am generally available by phone.

Very Truly Yours:

PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE, INC.



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PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's HISTORY

The History of the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue

Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (PVDR) was founded in December of 2000 by Mark and Amy Meyers in Acton, California. The Meyers began saving donkeys, on their own, within their local community. After purchasing a single donkey Izzy, on the Internet, the Meyers "noticed more donkeys", and none of them were as happy and healthy as their Izzy. Amy began buying up these sick and injured donkeys and Mark spent his evenings "fixing" them. After their 25th acquisition, the Meyers realized that they needed a vehicle in which to adopt out their charges, thereby ensuring their future and so began Peaceful Valley.

PVDR received its Initial Exemption from the IRS in June of 2001. Peaceful Valley grew exponentially in the early years as the more the Meyers accomplished, the more they realized needed to be done. In 2005, the Meyers sold their construction businesses and went full time into donkey rescue. PVDR has since, become the largest NGO equine rescue operating anywhere in the world.

In 2008, Texas Parks and Wildlife shot and killed nearly 90 donkeys along the Rio Grande. It soon turned into a public relations debacle and Peaceful Valley was called in. Mark relocated to Central Texas and set up PVDR's operations. Realizing the need for rescue work all across the country, PVDR moved their operations center to San Angelo, Texas in 2010 where they operate today.

Mark (mark@pvdr.org), PVDR's Executive Director, and Amy (amy@pvdr.org), PVDR's Chief Financial Officer, continue their full time involvement and oversee a full-time paid staff of 25-30 donkey professionals. PVDR also has a nationwide network of dedicated volunteers that help expand and maintain the PVDR Network throughout the lower 48 states.



PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's FACILITIES

San Angelo, Texas (National Operations Center)

PVDR is headquartered on a 172 acre former dairy located in West Texas. Our San Angelo Rescue and Rehabilitation hub is designed to provide care to more than 1,000 donkeys at any time. We have 110 acres dedicated to hay production and grazing and have the ability to keep healthy donkeys in groups from 100 to sick and injured donkeys in single medical suites. We also have provisions for Senior Donkeys, Special Needs Donkeys, Pregnant Jennets, Nursing Jennets and other groups that benefit from a smaller herd setting. Jack Yañez (jack@pvdr.org), our Vice President of On-Site Operation, is responsible for donkey health and nutrition.

Peaceful Valley works closely with Texas Department of Animal Health as well as Texas Commission of Environmental Quality to ensure that our animals and our facilities meet and exceed all state and local laws and regulations. PVDR has a state of the art quarantine and medical facility unparalleled in our industry and allows unscheduled inspections by all agencies. Peaceful Valley works closely with Texas A&M Veterinary School, UC Davis Veterinary School, Cornell University Veterinary School, University of Illinois Veterinary School as well as many other Veterinary Technician programs in various colleges and community colleges. PVDR also maintains a licensed, unpaid Veterinarian on our Board of Trustees to oversee all of our medical procedures and policies, thereby avoiding any conflicts of interest.

Scenic, Arizona (PVDR-West)

PVDR-West is a 13 acre training and transportation hub developed as a part of our Wild Burro Project. PVDR is involved in many capture projects with the National Park Service and US Military with non-federally protected burros. The Scenic location is within easy driving distance to Death Valley, Mojave National Preserve, Fort Irwin and many other locales. PVDR-West can easily accommodate 300 donkeys at any given time. It has a full-time PVDR employed manager who is responsible for overseeing the care of all PVDR donkeys at that location. PVDR-West and its staff also oversee the Western States Satellite Adoption, Training and Gentling Centers throughout the Western Region of our country.

Concord, Virginia (PVDR-East)

PVDR-East is a 15 acre facility that is both a transportation hub as well as a rescue facility for all Eastern States domestic donkey rescue cases. The facility is designed to hold as many of 400 donkeys at a given time. It is centrally located to all eastern seaboard states and has been instrumental in removing PVDR donkeys from the path of various natural disasters. Its full-time PVDR employed manager is responsible for overseeing the care of all PVDR donkeys at this location as well as managing the Eastern Satellite Adoption, Training and Gentling Centers.

Satellite Adoption Centers (Locations throughout the United States)

SACs are operated by volunteers that have been screened and trained by PVDR. They utilize our methods and policies to place adoptable donkeys in their local community. Operating under PVDR's Trustees and Executive Staff, the Satellite Program is an extension of PVDR, not an individual chapter. The program have had a successful existence since 2006.

Satellite Training Centers (Locations throughout the United States)

Much like the SACS, the training center are an extension of PVDR. Operators undergo PVDR training and learn our techniques to apply at their facilities. The STCs usually work closely with a SAC to ensure we are providing the very best in adoptable donkeys.

Gentling Centers (Locations throughout the United States)

Our newest program, these facilities help ease the transition for burros from "the wild" to "the domestic". "We do not break their spirit, we simply need you to break the ice" is the motto for this program. Once the Gentling Centers have helped the burros become friendly, the burros will be moved into another, more intensive, training program.



PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's ADOPTION PROGRAM

The key to all of Peaceful Valley operations lies within our Adoption Program. We have been successfully adopting donkeys into quality, pre-screened homes for nearly 20 years. Our system is designed to weed out those individuals who do not have the donkey's best interest in mind. Our company's policy has always been, "If you wouldn't let your kids play in this person's backyard, they do not need a PVDR donkey".

Over the past 15 years, PVDR has created a one of a kind Satellite Adoption Center program. Volunteers, after being pre-screened and trained, are given 5-10 PVDR donkeys, at a time, to place within their local communities. They are not a chapter or a charter, but an actual extension of Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue. Operating under the direction of our Trustees and Executive Staff, these facilities become Peaceful Valley, at a local level, all across the country.

All of PVDR's donkeys are trained to be:

- Friendly
- Accept a halter
- Stand tied
- Walk on lead
- Pickup all four hooves for trimming

Even when adopted, the donkeys remain a part of the PVDR program through a "reverter clause" in our adoption policy. Under this clause, ownership reverts back to Peaceful Valley in any case where the adopter cannot continue to provide proper care at the location in which they adopted the donkey(s). This ensures that the donkey will not become a financial burden on the adopter and should the adopter have a life changing event, the donkey will be ensured a safe future.

PVDR does not have set requirement for our adoptions. As we adopt donkeys of all backgrounds in all climates, we prefer to require "adequate shelter and protection for the adopted donkeys". This is based on a real time evaluation of the adoption region as well as the temperament and age of the donkeys considered for the adoption.

PVDR jacks are all castrated, unless age or medical conditions warrant otherwise. In that case special housing arrangements are made. Under no circumstance is a PVDR jennet allowed to be placed in any adoptive home where she will be used/allowed to breed. Peaceful Valley also requires a Male Foal Castration Agreement to be implemented on the rare occurrence that a pregnant jennet is adopted.

Any questions related to our Adoption Program should be directed to Jessica Anselment (jessica@pvdr.org), our Director of Communications.



PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's PROJECT SANCTUARY

Project Sanctuary was launched in 2009 to benefit those donkeys that were having difficulty transitioning to domestic life from the wild and those that have been traumatized due to abuse. Many donkeys, whether caught wild in the Southwest or raised on vast ranches without human interaction; cannot easily transition into a regimented life of feeding schedules, automatic water troughs, manure management and constant human contact. These donkeys are better served being in our Project Sanctuary.

Peaceful Valley operates between 15-25 sanctuaries, depending on current population levels, across Texas. PVDR leases the land on a "per head" basis. These sanctuaries typically house around 100 donkeys on a maximum of 500 acres. Many of the ranches are much larger than 500 acres but are cross fenced. This allows us to easily round up the donkeys for health checks, trimming, vaccines and de-worming while giving us the opportunity to rotate pastures throughout the year.

Zac Williams (zac@pvdr.org), our Vice President of Off-Site Operations, is responsible for maintaining the health of the sanctuary donkeys as well as the health of the range that they inhabit. Zac has a background and degrees in animal health as well as range management. The sanctuary donkeys receive the same medical care as those on all other Peaceful Valley facilities. They simply have a greater sense of freedom than those on a dry lot setting or in a more intensive training program.

Our sanctuary donkeys are constantly evaluated to see if they may be ready to be entered into our training program. Those that are are bought onto our San Angelo Facility and placed in quarantine. Once cleared they are placed in a transition pen of approximately 20 donkeys. This will allow them time to acclimate to their new setting.



PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's IDENTIFICATION

Peaceful Valley deals with thousands of donkeys all across the country. While this is an impressive feat, it is not why we got into the donkey rescue profession. While we might rescue thousands, our focus has always been on the individual.

PVDR employs three forms of identification. Two represent the individual and one represents the collective.

Every Peaceful Valley Donkey receives a subcutaneous 15 digit microchip on the upper left side of their neck. We also insert a 15 digit RFID ear tag in their left ear. This allows for a visual identification without a reader. It should be noted that the ear tags are removed prior to adoption. The third "herd" form of identification is a PV freeze brand on their front left shoulder. This indicates that they are a Peaceful Valley Donkey and can never be sold. We have gone to great lengths to contact all sale barns and brand inspectors to make sure that they realize that these would be an illegal sale.

Peaceful Valley has built an impressive online data system created to record all of the information related to every donkey in our care. The system records:

- Rescue Case ID: Who submitted the request, location and other pertinent details
- Donkey's personal details: Age, sex, color, identification, disposition, and any medical issues
- Current location: Our "Care Records" record every time a donkey is transported including facility transfers, sanctuary and adoption.



Myers
Productions

PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's EUTHANASIA POLICY

It is the goal of the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue to provide the utmost care to the donkeys within our system. We have made a commitment to long term care to every donkey that we rescue. A reality of this commitment is that some donkeys are suffering and there is no more that can be done for them.

Euthanasia is an important part of animal rescue, but it is a part that cannot be taken lightly. As a non-profit, we must use the funds entrusted to us in the best way possible. This means that we cannot spend many thousands of dollars on one donkey's life when that money could be used to save many, many more.

PVDR uses the following criteria to make the final decision:

- Can the donkey stand and walk on its own?
- Can the donkey eat and drink on its own?
- Can the donkey socialize?

Based on a truthful assessment of these three items, two senior staff members or one staff member and a veterinarian must agree that the donkey needs to be euthanized. The date of death must be recorded on Lightspoke.

Where it is possible to bury the donkey a minimum of six feet, the preferred method of euthanasia is a large dose of "Fatal Blue" a barbiturate based inter-venous drug. The donkey's remains must be disposed of immediately as any carrion eater can die from eating the carcass.

In other situations, a qualified shooter may use a large caliber hand gun to euthanize the donkey.

PVDR's Euthanasia Policy is inline with the American Association of Equine Practitioners Policy: [http://m.aaep.org/euthanasia_guidelines.htm? page_name=euthanasia_guidelines](http://m.aaep.org/euthanasia_guidelines.htm?page_name=euthanasia_guidelines)

AAEP Equine Euthanasia Guidelines

- *An Equine should not have to endure continuous or unmanageable pain from a condition that is chronic and incurable.*
- *An Equine should not have to endure a medical or surgical condition that has a hopeless chance of survival.*
- *An Equine should not have to remain alive if it has an unmanageable medical condition that renders it a hazard to itself or its handlers.*
- *An Equine should not have to receive continuous analgesic medication for the relief of pain for the rest of its life.*
- *An Equine should not have to endure a lifetime of continuous individual box stall confinement for prevention or relief of unmanageable pain or suffering.*

AAEP Techniques for Euthanasia – The following techniques for performing euthanasia of horses by properly trained personnel are deemed acceptable:

1. Intravenous administration of an overdose of barbiturates
2. Gunshot to the brain
3. Penetrating captive bolt to the brain
4. Intravenous administration of a solution of concentrated potassium chloride (KCl) with the horse in a surgical plane of general anesthesia.
5. Alternative methods may be necessary in special circumstances



PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE's LEADERSHIP

Trustees/Advisory Board

Debbie Foley	Maple Valley WA	661-940-0167	debbie@pvdr.org
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Website Directory

Main Website	www.donkeyrescue.org
Wild Burro Management Services	www.burromanagement.com
Policies and Procedures	www.pvdrsop.org
Financials	www.pvdrfinances.org

