

## **Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue's Wild Burro Project Talking Points**

### **Our Organization**

- Peaceful Valley was founded as a non-profit on December 03, 2000
- PVDR was founded by Mark and Amy Meyers as a backyard hobby
- Peaceful Valley has grown into the largest equine rescue in the world
- PVDR provides rescue services throughout the lower 48 states, Hawaii & the Caribbean
- PVDR's Board of Trustees meet twice per year to evaluate performance and set policies
- Peaceful Valley is headquartered in San Angelo, TX on a 172 acre former dairy farm
- PVDR now has training centers/transportation hubs near Mesquite, NV and Lynchburg, VA
- Prior to WBP, Peaceful Valley averaged 750 rescues per year
- PVDR only rescues donkeys from abuse, neglect, abandonment and wild burros under threat of destruction. We do not buy donkeys from auction or typically accept owner surrenders.
- PVDR is accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries & American Sanctuary Association.
- PVDR has a national full time staff of over 20 people, with a volunteer base of several hundred.

### **Donkey Management**

- All donkeys entering PVDR's system are given two unique methods of electronic identification.
- Donkey's information is entered into a proprietary online data system and their whereabouts, medical charts, and other pertinent information updated regularly.
- PVDR's main facility is capable of housing 1,000 donkeys at any time.
- PVDR maintains over 20 sanctuaries, where donkeys that are not ready for adoption can enjoy a sense of freedom while receiving the same medical care as those on the ranch.
- Texas A&M veterinary school performs castrations on all male donkeys, twice per year
- PVDR has a strict "No Breeding" policy

### **Financial**

- Peaceful Valley is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit charity.
- PVDR does not accept government funding of any type.
- The WBP is budgeted to cost \$30,000,000 over the next 10 years
- Even "non-donkey lovers" receive a real benefit from PVDR's work.
- PVDR undergoes an independent audit each year
- Mark Meyers is our chief fundraiser
- Typical fundraising methods include social media, email, direct mail, speaking engagements, public events.
- We encourage everyone to host a fundraiser. Let us know if you want to discuss ideas!

### **General Donkey Information**

- Donkeys are highly intelligent animals
- Intelligence and thought process is often confused with stubbornness
- First domesticated by the Egyptians 5000 years ago
- Traded to all corners of the known world
- Used for transportation, agriculture, construction and mining
- Brought to the America's on Columbus' second voyage
- Today's Wild Burros are descendants of those released by miners when their work became mechanized.

- Average donkey lifespan is 40 years. Oldest one known to PVDR was 53
- Donkeys are sure footed due the placement of their eyes. They can see all four hooves while walking
- Donkeys are naturally protective. They are often used to guard livestock from predators.
- Donkeys are adapted to desert living because of their large ears. Helps keep them cool.

### **Wild Burro Project**

- PVDR's Wild Burro Project has active projects in Death Valley, Mojave National Preserve, Fort Irwin Army Training Center, NASA Goldstone Deep Space Communications Center, China Lake Naval Weapons Center and Ajo, AZ.
- All burros are caught using the least stressful methods available, typically water and bait trapping. We typically set panels around a spring and load it with hay. The burros can be self trapped or we will use a remote trigger to close the gate.
- Once caught, all burros are taken to a staging area where a veterinarian will draw blood for disease analysis.
- The Burros are given two types of RFID microchips.
- The jennets will be kept at PVDR-West for training.
- All jacks will be transferred to San Angelo for castration during cooler weather
- If treated well, wild burros acclimate to domestic life quickly
- No one knows how many burros are in this region. All project territories are adjacent and unfenced.
- PVDR is budgeting for 8,000 burros over the next several years
- Budgeted cost per burro captured through first year of training and care is \$3,420 each.
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) program only extends to those lands under their direct care.
- The WBP burros are not protected by the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act
- PVDR has assembled a scientific team of accredited professionals led by Dr. Eric Davis, DVM. He will be assisted by ecologist and doctoral candidate Erick Lundgren. The assembled team will consist of experts in all academic fields to study the effects burros have on the desert, both before their removal and after.

### **Adoption**

- All healthy burros captured in this project will eventually be placed for adoption throughout the United States.
- PVDR's Adoption Program requires that all available donkeys be friendly, accept a halter, walk on a lead and stand tied for hoof trimming.
- Adoption fees are tax deductible
- Adoption fee for one donkey is \$350 if the applicant has another equine, otherwise the fee is \$500 for a pair.
- PVDR retains title to all adopted burros. This ensures that should the adopter have a life change, i.e.; job transfer, sickness, relationship, etc. the donkey can simply be returned to our adoption system for replacement.

### **Other things to keep in mind:**

- There are people and groups who are against our efforts mainly because they don't understand the big picture and destruction that the wild burros face. Keep an eye out for comments on your social media pages and messages in your inbox that are abusive or threatening and if you come across them, don't respond & let **Lori** know immediately. If anyone contacts you for commentary on behalf of PVDR or the WBP, please refer them to **Lori**.
- The monthly reports are very important, please be sure to get those to your Regional Manager by the end of each month so we can plan our transportation accordingly.

- Because of our security upgrades, SACs will no longer have direct access to Lightspoke. The access will be limited to the regional managers and it's the SACs responsibility to inform the RMs of updates that need to be made. Please keep in close contact with them regarding applicants, phone calls, and notes.
- **Signal** is a great tool for instant messaging with others in the organization. Please be mindful of where your sending chats, i.e. use PMs if you have a question that the whole organization doesn't need to see. There are also groups for your regions which you can utilize.
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### **Terminology**

- Jack: An un-castrated male donkey
- Jennet: A female donkey
- Foal: A young donkey less than one year
- Mule: A hybrid offspring of a male donkey and a female horse
- Hinny: A hybrid offspring of a male horse and a female donkey
- Donkey: Equus Asinus, term used to describe domestic animals
- Burro: Equus Asinus, term used to describe wild animals
- Management: the monitoring of wild burro populations, can include birth control, removal, relocation, etc.

### **Links**

- [www.wildburros.org](http://www.wildburros.org)
- [www.donkeyrescue.org](http://www.donkeyrescue.org)
- [www.burromanagement.org](http://www.burromanagement.org)
- [www.burro-recon.org](http://www.burro-recon.org)
- [www.burro.photography](http://www.burro.photography)

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