

RESOURCE MAPPING



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

AIM: TO THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOU KEEP DONKEYS

The idea of this exercise is to explore how your donkeys' environment currently meets their enrichment needs. This understanding of the current situation will lead to identifying ways to increase the mental, social and physical needs of your donkeys. This exercise will also link with the donkey time budget exercise to create a fuller picture of the levels of mental stimulation provided.

- 1) Firstly get a pen and paper and create a detailed sketch map of your donkeys' environment including all of the structures and features the donkeys have access to, including shelter, feed points, troughs, trees, water troughs and access to water, toys, fences, logs, mineral licks, shade, grazing areas, organisation of the fencing etc.
- 2) Once the map is drawn you can check through it outside if possible, to ensure nothing has been missed although this is not necessary if you think it contains all the required information. Things to check would include position of water, feeding stations, bedding, trees and shelter, toys, rolling areas.
- 3) Ask yourself what you think about this as an environment for your donkeys, ask questions like, "How do you think the environment encourages the donkey to exercise?" and "How do you think the environment meets the donkeys natural needs?" "What restricts the donkeys' movement?" How much can they move, write down the answers to these questions.
- 4) Then count the number of different activities your donkey can engage in during a 24 hour period in their environment. On a separate sheet of paper create a list such as, eat grass, eat straw, chew logs, use mineral lick, play with companion, sleep, rest and social interaction etc.
Be specific where you can, if you say your donkeys can walk around, record how far you think your donkey walks in a day, how often do they travel around the available space. If your donkeys play with toys record what toys do they play with and how often.
- 5) At this point it would be useful to do the time budget exercise for donkeys. You have been thinking about your donkeys' activities so now you should be able to do a fairly accurate time budget. Once the time budget is completed you can return to complete this exercise as discussed below combining information from both exercises.
- 6) Once the activities list and the time budget is completed ask yourself what do you think you could do to better meet your donkeys' needs? or, How many ideas can you come up with to increase the number of activities the donkeys can do? This might include increasing the resources they have access to, the distances they can move, the variety of feed and water locations that can be provided. Now draw these new things on your map. If you get stuck read through the rest of this donkey enrichment guide for ideas.

What could you change? What could you introduce? What could you move? What could you build or remove? Create a list just of things that you will do to improve your donkeys' environment.

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The Donkey Sanctuary was founded by Dr Elisabeth Svendsen MBE in 1969.

The Donkey Sanctuary (registered charity number 264818) and its sole corporate trustee, The Donkey Sanctuary Trustee Limited (Company number 07328588) both have their registered office at Slade House Farm, Sidmouth, EX10 0NU.

Incorporating: The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys (EST); The International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT).

WORKING WORLDWIDE