

DONKEY CARE ACTIVITY CALENDAR



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

CARING FOR YOUR DONKEY IS MUCH EASIER
IF YOU PLAN FOR THEIR NEEDS IN ADVANCE

Daily - Observe your donkeys for normal behaviour. Muck out stables and poo pick fields and yards. Clean water buckets or drinkers. Provide fresh barley straw for feeding. Groom donkeys and pick out their feet. Provide mental stimulation in the form of non-poisonous bark covered logs, toys, exercise such as walking. Move strip grazing if appropriate. Apply insect protection as recommended by manufacturers. Skip out stable in evening and check for normal behaviour



Weekly - Clean field water troughs. Check all perimeter fences for damage and ensure fencing is well maintained and secure. Keep a constant look out for poisonous plants and remove whenever found. Disinfect stable floors. Dust stables remove any cobwebs.

Monthly - Farrier visits every 6-8 weeks. Take your donkeys heart girth measurement and record the weight of donkeys. Condition score the donkeys to check for weight gain or loss in conjunction with hearth girth measurement.



Yearly - Organise Equine Dental Technician or vet to check your donkeys teeth at least once a year or as required. Organise for a yearly vet check and annual Equine Flu vaccination, and Tetanus vaccination if due. Organise for faecal egg counts from donkey dung samples at least twice yearly for each donkey and have your vet advise you on the need for worming. Paint stable walls or use animal friendly wood preservative.



Spring - Begin fly protection program, see Insect Protection fact sheet. Very careful slow introduction to spring grazing. Have muck heap removed to minimise flies for spring and summer.

Summer - Continue with daily fly and insect prevention measures as per manufacturer's instructions. Order barley straw and any hay or haylage that you might need for winter use. If you have older donkeys that wear rugs in winter ensure they are cleaned and repaired if necessary. Extra grooming of donkeys to help remove winter coat. Monitor weight and control grazing throughout summer

Autumn - If donkeys have access to grazing during winter get bark chip or suitable sand to keep gateways clean and dry. Monitor any flush of autumn grass and restrict grazing as required. Put up fence around oak trees to prevent any donkeys getting access to fallen acorns. Treat wooden fencing and field shelter with animal friendly wood preservative.

Winter - Monitor donkey's water intake and offer warm water if required to ensure adequate intake. Ensure access to hard standing to help minimise foot problems and mud fever. If fitted, remove rugs daily to check for signs of rubbing.



For full details of all these activities see the Guide to Caring for Your Donkey and The Donkey Sanctuary fact sheets.

THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

Slade House Farm, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU

T [44] (0)1395 578222 **F** [44] (0)1395 579266 **E** enquiries@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk

www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk

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