



**THE DONKEY  
SANCTUARY**

## **A GUIDE TO BATHING YOUR DONKEY**

The Donkey Sanctuary has found that there is resistance to the effects of the common anti-lice wash – Deosect, so we find that clipping and bathing is an effective alternative. The clipping allows the shampoo to reach the skin and the bathing literally drowns adult lice. However, the lice eggs can still remain viable and this is why we advise a repeat bath after a couple of weeks by which time any eggs will have hatched but hopefully not had time to lay further eggs.

We have not found any particular shampoo to recommend. Those claiming to be antiparasitic tend to have very low levels of the active ingredient and this can have the effect of promoting resistance to the effects of the product. We would therefore advise a baby shampoo which will be perfume-free and not too harsh to cause damage to the eyes and sensitive tissues.

Below are a few tips on how best to bath your donkey:

- Please use warm water in all but the hottest of weather. The key to successful bathing is to be prepared, take your time and reassure your donkey at all times. Collect your equipment and decide where you are going to bath your donkey.
- You will need:
  - a. Several watering cans with a rose type sprinkler head or a hose with hot and cold water.
  - b. Several large old bath towels and 1 small towel for the ears and face area.
  - c. A hose connected to the water supply, close at hand.
  - d. 2 small sponges (baby sponges are ideal) or cup for the ears and face.
  - e. Preferably a friend/family member to help occupy and reassure your donkey and to run and get more water!
  - f. Ginger biscuits as a reward.

## **HOW TO BATH YOUR DONKEY**

1. Fill the watering cans half full with hot water. Mix the hot water with cold water from the hose to a comfortable warm temperature. This saves you carrying heavy watering cans from the kitchen to the yard.
2. Wet the donkey's body all over using the watering can leaving the head and ears to the last. Pour the water slowly and do not drench in one go. Your donkey will be finding this new sensation very strange.

### **THE DONKEY SANCTUARY**

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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**

3. Use the shampoo sparingly and massage into the body. Remember the more you use the more there is to rinse.
4. Start from the neck down, paying attention to the mane, the withers, the armpits and the groin area (lice love these areas).
5. With the small sponge, wet the face and areas behind the ears and hollows above the eyes (other favourite spots for lice). Use your hand to protect their eyes.
6. Squeeze a little shampoo on to the sponge and work the shampoo into these areas.
7. With clean warm water rinse the donkey thoroughly, use a clean sponge or small cup for their ears and face area. DO NOT get water in their ears.
8. Pat dry with towels, this is the bit that the donkey will like. Use the small towel to gently dab dry their ears and hollows.
9. Give lots of praise and the all important ginger biscuit as a reward.

Don't forget your donkey's friend who will have been watching, they will think they deserve a treat too!

Rugs, grooming tools and tack should all be thoroughly washed as well.