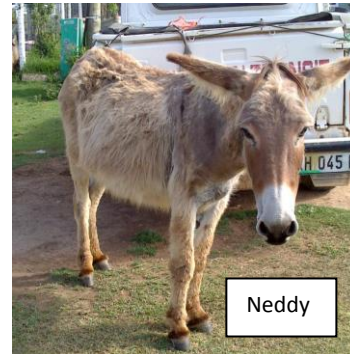
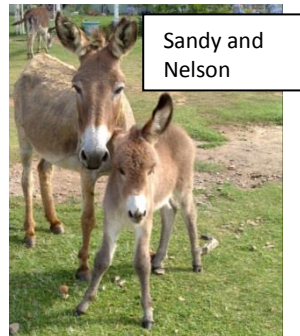




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BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Skills development for donkey owners)



PREPARED BY:

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1 FARM ANIMAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Farm Animal Centre for Education (F.A.C.E) began in 2005 as an off-shoot of Hartbeespoort Animal Welfare Society (NPO No 026-779-NPO) to cater for the need for farm animal welfare. Now in its 14th year, Hartbeespoort Animal Welfare Society continues to function as an effective small animal welfare with community support.

The founder of F.A.C.E (Jenny Copley) moved to Grahamstown, Eastern Cape in 2007 and within a few months of arrival in Grahamstown, realised that there was an urgent need for a similar organisation in the area and began networking with other welfare structures to establish which needs were being met. After assisting the local SPCA and Makana Donkey Association with equine and farm animal matters as a volunteer for almost a year, she realised that F.A.C.E. would be an organisation better placed to deal with these specialised issues.

A suitable farm property was acquired in late 2007 which needed extensive work as it had been used partly as a scrap-yard and required labour-intensive rehabilitation to render it safe for large animals. Work was carried out on the farm from 2008 - 2012, including building of paddocks, erection of field shelters and provision of watering points. During this time, Jenny and several volunteer assistants ran livestock and equine clinics in a number of resource poor-communities around Grahamstown. All work and clinics done to date have been privately funded by Jenny's husband and family. This source of income is not sustainable.

A trailer for transporting small equines and livestock has been acquired, the sanctuary is now equipped to function at a basic level and a team of enthusiastic volunteers is involved. It is our intention to provide a consistent and dedicated service to the communities and the animals that we serve. During the setting up of the sanctuary Jenny rescued 5 donkeys and 3 horses from "bush" racing (2 of which had to be euthanized) and gave a permanent home to 2 pigs. She also instigated criminal cruelty charges against a local white farmer for ill treatment of horses and laid charges for cruelty cases of cruelty to dogs.

F.A.C.E. was registered as a Non Profit Organisation (NPO) in 2012 and work has continued in the township assisting farm animal owners and their animals. We have recently been awarded Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) status and have received our Tax Exemption approval.

1.2 F.A.C.E VISION, MISSION AND ACTIVITIES

Vision

Our vision is to enable and capacitate all resource-poor farm animal owners from rural and peri-urban townships and rural villages to care responsibly for their farm animals without cruelty or neglect and to educate the wider public in humane and correct animal husbandry.

It is the declared **Mission** of THE FARM ANIMAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION:

- To educate and empower farm animal owners to properly care for their animals in a responsible and humane manner.
- To empower and assist owners in the use of natural, renewable and economically viable remedies for the prevention and treatment of known and common ailments.
- To rescue, rehabilitate and re-home (where possible) abandoned, ill treated or wounded animals.
- To conduct our work in and around Grahamstown and rural villages and further a field within the Eastern Cape, where necessary.

Farm animals: donkeys, horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, farmed wild-life and companion animals.

Key Activities

- Conduct educational, skills development and information sharing workshops with resource poor and previously disadvantages farm animal owners regarding sustainable livelihood strategies based on the use of their animals.
- Conduct educational and information sharing workshops with learners and students.
- To assist in the care, well being and humane treatment of the animals.
- To research, gather and provide information on plant and mineral based medicines/remedies to treat animals and provide prophylaxis where possible.
- Undertake significant mentoring

1.3 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR

Apart from being registered as an NPO and receiving Tax Exemption, the following donkey project achievements have been attained:

- Holding donkey and dog dipping clinics in some areas of the township
- Establishing the trust of some donkey owners.
- Buy-in from donkey-owners to facilitate the development of small businesses.
- Making connections with some of the women and children involved.
- Using herbal remedies to naturally and calmly treat many equine ailments.
- Donkey and other rescues:

Although we prefer to assist owners in caring for their animals, there have been eight donkeys we have brought to the sanctuary over the past year.

- ❖ Dear old Stan was rescued while being beaten pulling a cart, by the Rhodes students. Stan was really old, crippled and blind in both eyes. He came to us a very sad and lost soul. After a month he got his “eeyore” back, enjoyed being hugged, brushed and stroked, but died from old age 3 months later. We now have a Stan memorial bench donated by one of his facebook friends.
- ❖ Neddy, Sebastian and Sophie are severely crippled and were still being driven pulling heavy loads. Neddy and Sophie are also very old.
- ❖ Sybil had been reported on numerous occasions to both FACE and the local SPCA that she had collapsed while in harness.
- ❖ Boris is extremely old.
- ❖ Sandy has a large sarcoid on her chin which the owner had “cut” off numerous times. She has now had a beautiful little foal, Nelson, who was born the day South Africa’s beloved Nelson Mandela died

- ❖ Jessica, our very very dear foal who had been abandoned by her mother due to her crippled leg and was rescued from being attacked by roaming township dogs.
- ❖ Jenny was appointed as a court registered animal welfare inspector.
- ❖ We have an active facebook page and group and we are receiving small amounts of donations and have regular contact with concerned “friends”.
- ❖ 2 rescued pork piglets were donated to the sanctuary, both for educational purposes and to give them a happy pig life.
- ❖ 2 rescued sheep were donated. The sheep have amazed us by their intelligence and willingness to play and learn. The female was caught in a snare and we have been treating her serious wounds and abscesses for almost 3 months.

Donkey rescues are always a challenge, as apart from the extra food, care and medical treatment they require, donkey owners tend to rely on “rescues” rather than caring for their animals to prevent injury and ill treatment, which is why our focus is on assisting donkey-owners to be responsible for their animals.

1.4 STAFF, BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

F.A.C.E has been operating on a volunteer basis with the Directors, vet and Committee giving time and resources. The Rhodes Animal Welfare club also provide invaluable assistance at clinics (including with entertaining and education the local children), marches, protests and enthusiastic ideas.

A farrier from the township and our wonderful farm labourers receive a small stipend for work they do for us.

We have realized that the needs of the community we work with were far greater than can be supported by volunteers only and that we need to focus on this work on a full-time basis, and are thus applying for funding.

2 DONKEY HARNESS AND CART PROJECT

2.1 BACKGROUND AND NEED

The pilot project will be implemented in the Grahamstown Township. There is a desperate need of township and rural village farm animal owners for training and assistance. This is particularly evident in the donkey owning families. These families are among the poorest of people and are trapped in a cycle of poverty, which includes their children. Donkey owners and their families usually have a very low status in the community, their children are usually forced to work the donkeys rather than attending school and the animals are usually overworked and are driven in incorrect tack, harnesses and carts.

The use of donkeys is often a tradition passed on through families and children are often not educated beyond being donkey owners. Donkey owning and working families are a neglected segment of society. They own donkeys and therefore these are considered assets that must gain an income for the family.

Donkey owners are usually scorned by the public and accused of ill-treating their donkeys and are usually branded as "rough" dangerous people, which perpetuates the cycle of violence and isolation. They do not have many resources in the township i.e. grazing, water, safe places to keep the donkeys and a source of inexpensive medicines.

In addition, donkeys are often ill-treated (beaten and mutilated, burnt with boiling water, stolen, used to cart loads without the permission or knowledge of the owners and sometimes attacked by dogs) and thus owners are forced to keep them in their small yards at night. This prevents the families from growing their own food.

Donkeys mostly bear severe harness wounds, many are crippled from road and other injuries. Many are driven by young boys who seem to drive them harder and with more anger, thereby increasing the suffering of the donkeys. They overload carts and often "race" other carters, sometimes along busy roads and other times in rough dangerous terrain.

Our Makana Local Municipality is in support of the project, but are experiencing serious challenges and do not have the capacity, budget nor expertise to implement it. The project was presented to the Community and Social Portfolio Committee and has provided us with a Letter of Support as they realize the desperate need of the families that rely on donkeys for their livelihood.

Some additional issues the Portfolio committee have highlighted are:

- The omission by the municipality in identifying the specific needs of donkey-owners that rely on donkeys for their livelihoods.
- Too many donkeys and inbreeding in the township
- Lack of a safe place to keep donkeys at night
- Invasion into town causing the population to complain and additional work for the municipal workers in clearing rubbish spilt by donkeys and repairing damages.
- Harsh and cruel treatment of donkeys – burning with hot water, stabbing, beating, overloading and overworking.

2.2 PURPOSE, AIMS, ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The purpose of the proposed project is to facilitate the improvement of the lives of donkey-owning families and their donkeys. These people are from a neglected and extremely poor sector of Africa's population. They are trapped in a cycle of poverty which includes their children who mostly do not attend school.

Primary aims of the project:

1. Restore the dignity and social standing of donkey-owning families.
2. Improve the lives of the families i.e. alleviate poverty, develop new skills, improve health and children attend school.
3. Improve the lives of the donkeys i.e. suitable tack and carts, sufficient food, water and rest, medical treatment and humane treatment.
4. Develop a generic project format that can be rolled out to other areas.

Activities:

- Undertake a baseline assessment in the Grahamstown Township of donkey-owning families to determine their social and economic status.
- Capture and analyse baseline data
- Identify beneficiaries to establish pilot projects for skills development training in harness and cart making; identifying and treating common diseases and wounds in donkeys and producing plant based medicines for treating donkeys and diversification of the loads they transport for income.
- Undertake skills development training for the pilot projects, including basic business skills.
- Mentor, monitor and evaluate the beneficiaries' and projects' progress.
- Facilitate monitoring and feedback sessions with the beneficiaries to inform the monitoring and evaluation process.
- Develop a generic project to be rolled out to other areas.

Anticipated outcomes

Activity 1: Undertake a baseline assessment in the Grahamstown Township of donkey-owning families to determine their social and economic status.

Output: Baseline assessment forms completed for all (approximately 200) families.

Outcome: Beneficiaries are motivated to improve their livelihoods and will indicate which project they are interested in and offer other suggestions.

Time frame: 2-3 months

Data Collection: Questionnaires will be developed and Xhosa and Afrikaans speaking field workers will assist beneficiaries to complete the forms.

Activity 2: Capture and analyse baseline data

Output: Data base compiled containing social and economic data on all (approximately 200) families.

Outcome: Baseline data for beneficiaries captured

Time Frame: 1 month

Data Collection: Data will be captured on a computer based system to enable analyses of the existing situation and will be used as the baseline to determine the effects of the intervention.

Activity 3: Identify beneficiaries to establish pilot projects for skills development training in harness and cart making; identifying and treating common diseases and wounds in donkeys and producing plant based medicines for treating donkeys and diversification of the loads they transport for income.

Outputs:

- 20 beneficiaries identified for harness and cart making
- 20 beneficiaries identified for plant based medicine making.
- 20 beneficiaries identified for load diversification.
- 3 venues, dates and time of skills developing projects determined in consultation with the beneficiaries.

Outcomes:

- 60 beneficiaries are committed to improve their livelihoods
- 60 beneficiaries are committed to attend and implement the skills development training programmes.

Time frame: 1 month

Data Collection: All data will be captured on a computer based programme

Activity 4a: Undertake skills development training in cart and harness making, including basic business skills development to ensure beneficiaries are equipped to manage small – medium businesses.

Outputs:

- 20 beneficiaries trained to implement the cart and harness making pilot project
- 20 beneficiaries trained in basic business skills.

Outcome: Beneficiaries are capacitated to improve their livelihoods

Time frame: 6 months (concurrent with Activities 2 and 3)

Data Collection: All data will be captured on a computer based programme

Activity 4b: Undertake skills development training in identifying common donkey complaints and in producing plant based medicines, including basic business skills development to ensure beneficiaries are equipped to manage small – medium businesses.

Outputs:

- 20 beneficiaries trained to identify common complaints and in producing plant based medicines.
- 20 beneficiaries trained in basic business skills.

Outcome: Beneficiaries are capacitated to improve their livelihoods.

Time frame: 6 months (concurrent with Activities 1 and 3)

Data Collection: All data will be captured on a computer based programme

Activity 4c: Undertake skills development training in load diversification options (e.g. waste, vegetables and water), including basic business skills development to ensure beneficiaries are equipped to manage small – medium businesses.

Outputs:

- 20 beneficiaries trained in load diversification options and strategies.
- 20 beneficiaries trained in basic business skills.

Outcome: Beneficiaries are capacitated to improve their livelihoods.

Time frame: 6 months (concurrent with Activities 1 and 2)

Data Collection: All data will be captured on a computer based programme

Activity 5: Mentor, monitor and evaluate the beneficiaries' and projects' progress.

Outputs:

- 60 beneficiaries are mentored and are become confident to implement the pilot projects.
- At least primary going children from beneficiaries families attend school (numbers will be determined during the baseline assessment)

Outcome: Beneficiaries are capacitated to improve their livelihoods and share challenges and successes with each other and primary age children attend school.

Time frame: Throughout

Data Collection: Mentoring will occur in-field and all data will be captured on a computer based programme.

Activity 6: Facilitate monitoring and feedback sessions with the beneficiaries to inform the monitoring and evaluation process.

Outputs:

- 60 beneficiaries take part in the monitoring and feedback sessions
- Results assist to inform changes and improvements to the projects.
- Results used to measure the effect/change/outcome of the intervention/projects.
- Results used to develop a generic format that can be rolled out to other areas.

Outcome: Beneficiaries participate fully in the sessions and learn through the process.

Time frame: 2 months

Data Collection: All data will be captured on a computer based programme and analysed

Activity 7: Develop a generic project format.

Output: A generic project format developed

Time frame: 2 months

Data collection: Data gathered from the pilot phase project will be used to inform the generic project format.

It is anticipated that the pilot project will take a year to complete.

2.3 BENEFICIARIES

The direct/primary beneficiaries will be the donkey-owning families and their donkeys. This will include the women and children in the families that rely on the use of donkeys for their livelihoods.

The pilot phase aims to train 60 donkey owners. It is anticipated that at least 120 children and 60 women will benefit as well.

2.4 SUSTAINABILITY

Extensive mentoring and monitoring will be undertaken throughout the project to ensure that the beneficiaries understand and are supported in developing the business ventures and that they are sustainable. Other opportunities, such as tourism, will also be explored.

Beneficiaries will therefore create their own income and will have the knowledge and support to ensure it is managed sustainably. They will also have more dignity and will thus be in a position to defend their choices and their use of donkeys. Donkeys will be better taken care of and will sustain less injuries and abuse with an effective harness and cart combination, better medical assistance and better “standing” in the community.

The Makana Local Municipality will continue to monitor and support the beneficiaries. The public will assist in monitoring the donkeys and their treatment. There are a lot of concerned residents that continuously contact FACE regarding the poor treatment of donkeys in Grahamstown.

2.5 MAJOR RISKS

As with all community development and animal welfare work, the major risks need to be identified prior to the start of a project so that ways to overcome them can be identified in order for the project to continue. FACE will also work very closely and take advice from the donkey farrier, donkey owners and other community people we work with in how to deal with the risks should they occur.

Major risks and mitigation we have identified include:

- Beneficiaries may not regularly attend training sessions. This will be reduced by establishing suitable times for training with the beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries may continue to abuse and ill-treat their donkeys. This will be reduced by gradually gaining the confidence of the owners as most are currently very rebellious and uncaring.
- In-fighting amongst donkey owners may increase. We will employ the mitigation measures as above.
- Insufficient funding to complete the project. Funding is currently being sourced from numerous sources and the project will commence in whatever form the funding allows. If sufficient funding is not received in the first year, the project time frame will be extended.

3 SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME GRAHAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP DONKEYS



Inappropriate harness, head gear and carts. FACE will implement the use of carts and harnesses which enable donkeys to pull from their chests and not their necks.



Inappropriate harness, head gear, cart, overloaded and young driver



Harness wounds



Scars from boiling water burn



Wound from an ill-fitting bit. Bits are not necessary for donkeys in harness



Prolapsed rectum after a stick was inserted in this donkeys anus during a "donkey war" incident.



Donkey with a sesamoid fracture at one of our clinics



Septic knees caused from donkeys falling when pulling heavy loads



Donkey injured in an accident on the Highway past Grahamstown



4 donkeys (one new born) killed in town after students were "drag" racing down a street that donkeys often occupy after dark.