

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

Breed: DONKEY

Names / Sex / Age:

Noah	Male	(Miniature Mediterranean donkey – gray)	unknown
Marie	Female	(Miniature donkey – all brown)	8
Andy	Male	(Miniature donkey – brown & white)	8

Previous Home: Noah was donated to Black Pine by a local church group many years ago. Marie and Andy were adopted from private owners who wanted them to enjoy more interaction with people as they could no longer provide as much time and attention.

Native to: Often called a Sicilian donkey, the Mediterranean donkey is native to the Sicily and Sardinia. The earliest known remains of the domestic donkey were found in lower Egypt, though no one is certain about the origins. Some believe they are descended from the African wild ass. The first donkeys brought to the New World arrived with Christopher Columbus in 1495. The largest influx into the U.S. occurred during the Gold Rush, coming from Mexico.

Life Expectancy: 25 years in the wild, 30-35 in captivity.

Diet: Grasses, hay, oats, cracked corn (horse feed)

Status: Good. They are extinct in their land of origin.

Facts:

- Donkeys are correctly called ‘asses’, a term that derives from the Latin term Asinus
- A male is called a Jack, and a female a Jenny
- Burro is also a reference to the ass, but is usually used west of the Mississippi, while donkey is used east
- Unlike other miniature breeds, the miniature donkey is not a bred-down version of a larger animal, their small size is natural
- Donkeys are extremely patient, but known for being stubborn
- They are extremely intelligent, docile and easily trained
- Donkeys live in unstable social groups
- They feed for up to 20 hours a day, grazing
- Donkeys are most often used domestically for carrying heavy loads, or simply kept as exotic pets.

Personal History:

Noah was donated to Black Pine by a local church group who hoped children would enjoy hearing the stories from the bible that are believed to explain the “cross” marking on the back of the animal. The cross over the animal’s shoulders is said to be a holy symbol. Andy and Marie arrived in early 2005. Their owner simply was not able to spend as much time paying attention to his pet donkeys as he wanted, or felt they deserved, so he asked if Black Pine could adopt them. They were born in 2002.