

Little Longears Miniature Donkey Rescue Inc



Annual Report



# Little Longears Miniature Donkey Rescue

*Dedicated to the Rescue of Neglected, Abused, or Unwanted Miniature Donkeys*

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In 2017 we completed our second year with Fund Raising Strategies, a direct mail fundraising organization. Without a reliable stream of donations Little Longears cannot do the work it has dedicated itself to, i.e., the rescue and rehabilitation of abused, neglected, or unwanted miniature donkeys. After veterinary, farrier, psychological, and training needs are met, our goal is to adopt each donkey into a permanent, loving home. As a result of our partnership with FRS we have been able to provide exceptional care for the donkeys.

Our greatest expenses are Veterinary Care and Donkey Care (hay, feed, etc). We recognized that entering into an agreement with Fund Raising Strategies meant that our "overhead" costs in the area of fundraising would increase, and many donors are watchful for "low" overhead rates. We do not believe the overhead percentage is the primary measure of the success of a non-profit or the only measure to determine if a non-profit is managing its money wisely.

The presidents and CEOs of GuideStar, Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recently wrote: "We write to correct a misconception about what matters when deciding which charity to support. The percent of charity expenses that go to administrative and fundraising costs—commonly referred to as 'overhead'—is a poor measure of a charity's performance. We ask you to pay attention to other factors of nonprofit performance: transparency, governance, leadership, and results."

This type of fundraising enables us to spend more time tending the donkeys and less time on fundraising activities and events. This Annual Report presents our accomplishments and transparent financial reporting, which we believe is a good way to measure our performance!

As always, we are grateful for our donors and could not accomplish this very important work without you!

*Little Longears is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our Tax ID is 46-4921857. No benefits are bestowed upon donors in exchange for contributions...other than the joy of giving to an organization that supports miniature donkeys!*

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## Executive Summary

2017 proved to be one of our most challenging years yet. We had our hands full in our fourth year, as we worked with more law enforcement, animal control agencies and SPCA organizations from several counties throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania, taking in donkeys that were seized from their owners because of extreme neglect. These cases were some of the worst we had seen yet, and only further confirm to us how desperately our donkey rescue is needed. We are pleased that these organizations finally know we are here, and that we can assist with the rescue of donkeys.

In addition to working with law enforcement, we continually get calls from people needing to surrender their donkeys to us. There is almost always a waiting list of donkeys that we consider “non-emergency” cases needing a home here at our rescue, and we take them in as we are able, always trying to leave room for critical cases. Unfortunately, most of the donkeys surrendered to us, at the very least, are in desperate need of quality hoof and dental care, so we hate to make any donkey wait to get through our doors. This year, we took in 22 new donkeys, 2 more were born here from jennies that were pregnant when they arrived, and we adopted 19 back out into new homes.

There are so few resources dedicated to donkeys, and such an overwhelming need. Finally, word is getting out that there is a rescue dedicated to these special and often overlooked animals, and now, we are busier than ever! We will continue to work hard every day to help all these donkeys, and ensure that they are safe, for the rest of their lives.



## 2017 Rescue Successes

This past year we had our hands full helping other county Animal Control agencies throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania with donkey rescues resulting in some “not so little longears” arriving here (the Mammoths). We are happy that these organizations finally know we are here and that we can assist with the rescue of donkeys.



In late May we assisted Carroll County Animal Control by picking up a little donkey jenny they had discovered while investigating and seizing dozens of starving horses. Gracie was kept in a dark, filthy stall living in deplorable conditions. She was terrified, starving, and infested with lice.



**Gracie on the day she was seized**

After just a couple of months at our rescue she began to blossom, and it was apparent that she was very pregnant. Miraculously, she re-gained her health and just four short months after arriving here, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, she gave birth to a perfectly healthy baby girl. Baby Piper is a confident, loving little donkey, without a care in the world, and we will do everything we can to ensure that she will never know the horrors her poor mother endured.

The story of Josie, Jenny, and Moses exemplifies sheer ignorance and neglect and shows why rescues like ours are desperately needed. In May we were contacted by Bucks County (PA) SPCA about some donkeys they needed to seize, and they asked us if we could assist and take them to our rescue.



The two jennies were a mother and daughter pair living in one section of the barn. In the other part of the barn, there was an intact jack (not castrated/gelded) whose name was Moses.



**Gracie and baby Piper**

Their hooves had obviously not been trimmed in over 10 years, and because it was becoming almost impossible for these donkeys to move about, they were prisoners in their own bodies, trapped inside this barn.



Their improvements have been incredible. Moses has been gelded and plays daily with other geldings in our herds. He is happy and comfortable now, and hopefully has long forgotten the lonely days of his past.



Josie's painful feet

Jenny has become quite comfortable and runs with all her new donkey friends. Josie, at age 33, continues to thrive and considering all she has been through, and the years and years of neglect her body was subjected to, she really is a miracle.



Josie and Jenny- 4 months after arrival

We also took in donkeys that other equine rescues saved from auctions or kill pens. Early in the year, two little donkey jacks we named Cowboy and Ranger came to us. They had USDA stickers on them, which meant they had already been cleared to ship for slaughter. These two boys were justifiably frightened after having been through the auction and kill pen experience, but after many months of living here at our rescue,

receiving gentle care and attention, they were finally ready to go to their new home.



Ranger and Cowboy

Later in the spring, we accepted 3 young jacks who had been rescued from the auction by another equine rescue. As usual, these boys had obviously not been handled by people, so they were incredibly frightened of us. Their shaggy coats were

matted, and filthy, and their hooves needed to be trimmed. It took several months of hard work and loving care to get these boys to come around, but they finally did. Nelson, Hunter, and Cooper learned how wonderful humans can be, and were adopted into a fantastic home.



Nelson Cooper and Hunter

### 2017 Farm Activities

Our annual fall fundraiser, Dinner with the Donkeys continues to be a huge success and our largest fundraiser of the year. The dinner, along with the live, silent and online auctions raised \$15,187.93 for the rescue. This event is very popular, and tickets sell out quickly.

In April, our barn was hit by a lightning strike during a huge thunderstorm. Thankfully, not one single animal or human was injured, because they were all out of the barn at the time, and structurally, the barn was not damaged. However, all the electrical in the main barn, equipment shed, and all of the lines that run to each paddock were damaged. Everything had to be replaced, which was no small task! We are grateful for excellent homeowner's insurance, which covered everything.



We've had a couple of beautiful new babies born at the rescue this year.

Duncan, a baby boy, was born on July 27. His mother Stella is a jenny we rescued last October from the auction. Very soon we discovered that Stella was pregnant. Despite all her neglect she gave birth to a healthy baby. Duncan is a playful, carefree little donkey who is perfecting the role of annoying younger brother, playing with (and irritating) his older sister, Xena.

Stella and baby Duncan

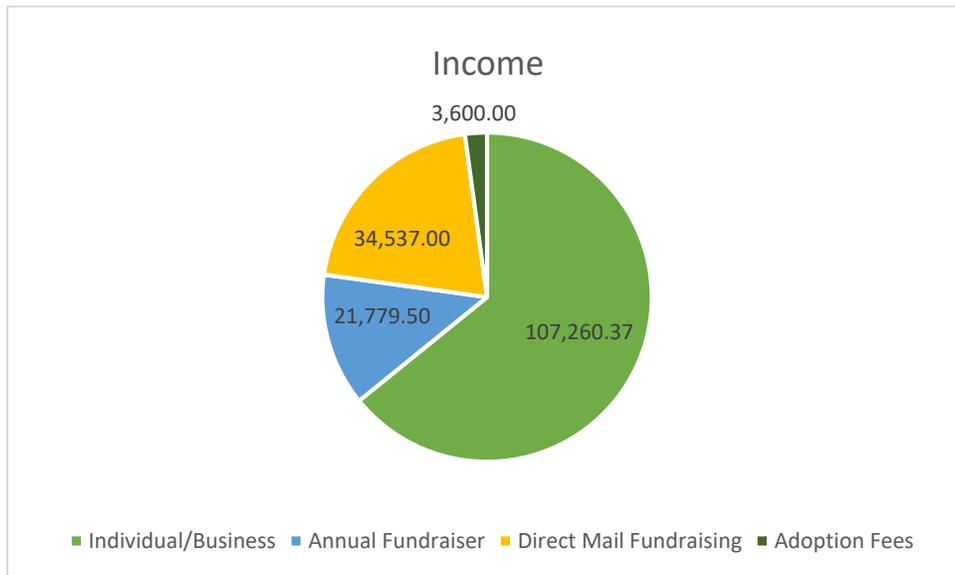


Piper, a baby girl, was born September 12. Her mom, Gracie, was rescued from deplorable conditions and after a few months with Little Longears, became healthy and was clearly pregnant. Piper will never know the conditions her mother endured and is a happy go lucky little jenny.

### 2017 Financials

Our income sources included the following:

Individual/Business	107,260.37	64%
Annual Fundraiser	21,779.50	13%
Direct Mail Fundraising	34,537.00	21%
Adoption Fees	3,600.00	2%



## Expenses

Expenses for Little Longears include:

- Administration – items like stable license, postage, website, printing, etc.
- Annual Events – Fundraising costs in support of our Spring Open House and Fall “Dinner with the Donkeys” events
- Facilities – care of the barns, shelters, and fencing
- Donkey Care - Shavings, Hay, Grain, etc.,
- Veterinary expenses – vet visits, surgeries, farrier
- Payroll – we now have full and part-time employees assisting with the care of the donkeys

Administrative	\$8,435	8%
Annual Event	\$5,463	5%
Facilities	\$13,597	14%
Donkey Care	\$29,978	30%
Veterinary	\$21,203	21%
Payroll	\$20,723	21%

