

# Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, Inc.



Thursday, January 16, 2025

I am writing to address the misinformation being circulated about Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (PVDR). As an organization dedicated to the welfare of donkeys, we believe it is crucial to provide clarity and ensure transparency regarding our operations. Below, we address and debunk the false claims being made:

- 1. PVDR Does Not Send Donkeys to Slaughter** PVDR has never, and will never, send donkeys to slaughter. This accusation is entirely unfounded and contradicts our mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome donkeys in need. Every donkey we rescue is cared for with compassion and placed in a safe and suitable environment.
- 2. PVDR Does Not Sell Donkeys** Although we do not outright sell the donkeys, once they have been thoroughly vetted and have completed our training program, donkeys are available for adoption. Adoption fees are \$350 for one or \$600 for a pair. All trained donkeys are social, halter and lead broke, they stand tied, and pick up all four feet for a farrier. This is our way of ensuring the donkeys' behavior will not compromise their opportunities to receive vet and farrier care in their new homes.
- 3. PVDR Does Not Euthanize Donkeys in Large Numbers** The decision to euthanize is never taken lightly and is made only when an animal's quality of life is irreversibly compromised due to severe illness or injury. Claims of mass euthanasia are entirely baseless. Our euthanasia policy is in line with the recommendations of the AAEP, and even a bit more strict.
- 4. PVDR Does Not Steal Donkeys** Every donkey that comes under our care is rescued with proper authorization and documentation. We work closely with local authorities, landowners, and community members to ensure that our actions are ethical and lawful.
- 5. PVDR Keeps Donkey Family Units Intact** We understand the strong bonds that exist within donkey herds and make every effort to keep family units together during and after the relocation process.
- 6. PVDR Utilizes Humane Trapping Methods** We do not utilize, nor need to utilize, aggressive trapping methods such as helicopters, motorized vehicles of any type, or horses and ropes. PVDR only utilized self-catching traps, meaning donkeys walk into the door by their own volition, and cannot walk back out the door. We entice them into the traps by baiting them with alfalfa hay and/or clean water.

Additionally, it is important to clarify the following points:

- **Collaboration with San Bernardino County:** Peaceful Valley was approached by San Bernardino County to assist in decreasing the herd size in the area. This collaboration reflects our expertise and dedication to humane animal management. Our involvement has been at the request of the county, not through unsolicited intervention.

An IRS Recognized 501(c)(3)  
Non-Profit Charitable Organization  
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## **Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, Inc.**

- **No Payment Required for Our Services:** PVDR does not charge for our rescue operations. In fact, we have invested thousands of dollars to ensure a smooth and humane relocation process. This includes covering transportation, veterinary care, and other associated costs.
- **Humane Transportation Practices:** Contrary to claims, donkeys are not subjected to 48-hour trips in trailers. These animals were transported to a facility less than 10 hours away, ensuring their safety and comfort throughout the journey. Jents with foals always travel together. Our staff are trained to do visual checks on the donkeys every time they stop, and know how to intervene if any donkeys are experiencing difficulties during a trip. Difficulties rarely occur as PVDR leaves ample space for the donkeys in the trailers to prevent crowding and uncomfortable conditions for the animals.
- **Experienced and Compassionate Staff:** Our employees have decades of combined experience in rescue services and always treat the donkeys with the compassion and care they deserve. Our staff conduct themselves professionally and do not engage in conflict.
- **Sanctuary Program for Untamed or Mistrustful Donkeys:** If donkeys are not quite ready for training, PVDR also has a Sanctuary Program that allows wild donkeys and domestic donkeys with a mistrust of humans a safe place to live while still having a sense of freedom to securely roam. Our sanctuary locations are hundreds to thousands of acres of suitable habitat for donkeys.
- **Mission Driven Leadership:** Mark Meyers, Executive Director, chooses not to increase his salary over 1% of the annual budget, even though PVDR's Board of Trustees has authorized him to do so. Our staff prioritizes our mission and our resources over financial gain, demonstrating deep, selfless commitment to the cause. The typical salary percentage for a non-profit executive director can range from 10% to 2.5% of the organization's annual budget, not at PVDR. PVDR's Executive Director and supporting staff are willing to sacrifice personal benefits for the greater good of the organization and its beneficiaries, the donkeys.

Respectfully,

Kim Elger  
Chief Operating Officer  
Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue