



the donkey
sanctuary
of canada

The Donkey Sanctuary of Canada 2025 Annual Report

Welcome & Mission

2025 was a year of steady care, strong advocacy, and meaningful community connection.

At the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada (DSC), our mission is to provide a lifelong home to donkeys, mules and hinnies who are unwanted, neglected or abused, or whose owners can no longer care for them; and to promote the responsible stewardship of all animals through humane education. In 2025, that mission was reflected not only in the care we provided every day, but in the voice we raised on behalf of donkeys far beyond our fences.

Thanks to the compassion of our supporters, volunteers, and staff, the DSC continued to meet growing needs with care, responsibility, and heart.



Donkey Care & Welfare

Providing lifelong, highest-quality care remained at the heart of everything we did in 2025.

With **184 equines** in our care, the DSC balanced thoughtful intake decisions with the responsibility of supporting a growing senior population and donkeys requiring specialized care. Each donkey received daily attention tailored to their individual needs, including veterinary care, dental work, hoof care, appropriate nutrition, and enrichment.

Our **Host Farm Network** continued to play an essential role, allowing donkeys to live in safe, caring environments while remaining fully supported by the DSC. This collaborative approach helped ensure every donkey received the care they deserve, regardless of where they call home.

New & Returning Donkeys

In 2025, **38 donkeys arrived at the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada**, each with their own story and needs.

Many arrivals reflected a common and growing reality: caring owners facing health challenges, downsizing, or changing circumstances. Some arrivals

were also donkeys returning from Host Farms when circumstances changed, underscoring the DSC's commitment to lifelong care. In every case, the DSC provided a compassionate safety net, ensuring these donkeys could transition into secure, long-term care.



Saying Goodbye — Remembering Da Vinci

In 2025, we said goodbye to 13 donkeys, each deeply missed.

Among them, Da Vinci, the oldest at age 39, held a special place in our hearts. His gentle personality shone through every day from his arrival at the DSC in 2011. Whether leaning in for a scratch, braying for breakfast, or standing quietly with his friends, he brought calm and joy to all who knew him.

Even in his golden years, he enjoyed basking in the sun, greeting visitors and sharing peaceful moments with his friend Tequila and the rest of his herd.

Though we were saddened to say goodbye, we take comfort knowing Da Vinci spent his final years surrounded by the very best care and affection. For his grace, spirit, and years of companionship, he will be long remembered.

Advocacy & Education

Advocacy was a defining focus of 2025.

The DSC continued to speak out against the **global donkey skin trade**, raising awareness about its devastating impact on donkey populations and the communities that depend on them.

Education remained a key pillar of our work, helping the public to better understand donkey behaviour, care needs, and the importance of humane treatment.

Virtual Learning Centre

In 2025, the DSC took an important step forward in education and outreach with the establishment of the **Virtual Learning Centre**.

Designed to extend the DSC's educational reach beyond the sanctuary, the Virtual Learning Centre provides accessible, engaging learning opportunities for donkey stewards, supporters and the wider public. Online videos and resources help deepen the understanding of donkey behaviour and welfare.



The launch of the Virtual Learning Centre reflects the DSC's commitment to meeting people where they are by making accurate, compassionate donkey education available regardless of location. This initiative also strengthens the DSC's advocacy efforts by empowering more people with the knowledge needed to advocate effectively for donkeys.

As the Virtual Learning Centre continues to grow, it will play an increasingly important role in fostering awareness, and quality care for donkeys.

Community & Connection

Community support was felt throughout the year, both on and off the sanctuary grounds.

PACE for the Donkeys 5K Trail Run and **Donor Appreciation Day** offered opportunities to connect with supporters and share the impact of

their kindness firsthand. **Seniors Days** were especially well received, creating welcoming, accessible experiences that allowed visitors to engage meaningfully with the sanctuary and its residents.



During the holiday season, the **Braytones choir** brought warmth and celebration to the sanctuary, closing out the year with music and joy.

These moments reminded us that the DSC is more than a place. It's a community built on kindness and care.

Financial Stewardship

The DSC is committed to responsible stewardship of every gift entrusted to us. Donations in 2025 directly supported donkey care, and the infrastructure required to sustain a growing sanctuary population.

Careful financial management ensured that resources were prioritized where they were needed most, with transparency and accountability guiding all decisions.

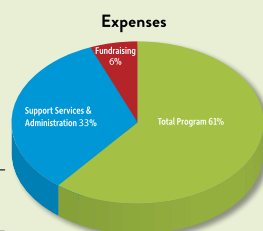
View our annual financial statement highlights on the next page for insight into how financial oversight supports daily operations and long-term planning.

Financial Summary: DSC Fiscal Year January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Expenses (without depreciation)

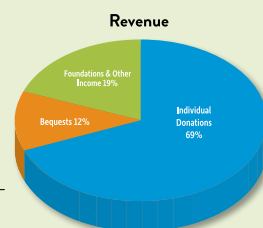
(percentage of total program indicated)

Program		
Animal Care	\$ 551,663	
Farm Management	\$ 277,684	
Education & Outreach	\$ 70,900	
Donor Stewardship	\$ 134,250	
Total Program	\$ 1,034,497	61%
Support Services & Administration	\$ 562,659	33%
Fundraising	\$ 96,788	6%
Total (less depreciation)	\$ 1,693,944	
Depreciation	\$ 205,450	
Total Expenses per Financial Statements	\$ 1,899,394	



Revenue

Individual Donations	\$ 1,096,997	69%
Bequests	\$ 195,137	12%
Foundations & Other Income	\$ 303,279	19%
Total	\$ 1,595,413	



Income from Operations \$ (303,981)

Capital Expenditures

Land, Facilities & Equipment	\$ 152,688
Vehicles	-
Total	\$ 237,701

Total Capital Expenditures and Functions Expenses \$ 1,846,612

Assets net of depreciation (as of Dec. 31, 2025)

Farm property, buildings, equipment, etc.	\$ 5,701,955
Cash, securities, and other assets	\$ 4,726,766

Total assets \$ 10,428,721
Liabilities \$ 751,290

Total Net Assets \$ 9,677,431

Governance & Accountability

The Donkey Sanctuary of Canada is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors and supported by staff and volunteers who share a deep commitment to donkey welfare. Together, we uphold strong governance practices that reflect the DSC's values of integrity, responsibility, and compassion.

2025 Board of Directors

Chair: Sandra Pady
sandra@thedonkeysanctuary.ca

Vice Chair: Sheila Zanyk
skzanyk@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Pady
david@thedonkeysanctuary.ca

Directors:

Carleigh Cathcart
carleighcathcart@gmail.com

Katharin Harkins
katharinharkins@gmail.com

Doug Morris
dmorris2u@gmail.com

Ex-Officio - Janine Holman,
Executive Director

Founder: Sandra Pady



Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, DSC remains focused on:

- Providing lifelong care for a growing senior donkey population
- Maintaining thoughtful, sustainable intake practices
- Strengthening advocacy efforts for donkeys
- Deepening community engagement and education

The needs facing donkeys continue to evolve, but so does the compassion of those who stand with them.



With Gratitude

None of this work is possible without you.

To our donors, volunteers, Host Farms, and community partners: **thank you** for being part of the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada in 2025. Your kindness ensures donkeys have a safe, caring home today, and protection for the future.

tel: 519.836.1697 **email:** info@thedonkeysanctuary.ca
web: thedonkeysanctuary.ca *Registered Charity #: 138721253 RR0001*