Barron Park Donkeys Find New Fiscal Sponsor with Palo Alto Humane Society

Longstanding fiscal sponsor, Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet, partners with Donkey handlers and Palo Alto Humane Society to transition the fiduciary starting January 1, 2022.

PALO ALTO, CA – January 5, 2021 – Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS), a Palo Alto based animal welfare organization, has acquired The Barron Park Donkeys, a fiscally sponsored organization of Acterra that serves The Barron Park Donkeys (a.k.a. the Donkey Project). The donkeys have been loved by generations of children and adults since 1936. A volunteer group of Donkey handlers provides all the necessary care and feeding, while Acterra has housed their operations and donations. Acterra’s role will now be played by PAHS, as the two animal welfare missions are so closely aligned. The move to acquire the Barron Park Donkeys first started in the summer of 2021, after the strategic focus of Acterra shifted towards climate change and decarbonization. The process took approximately six months, and the deal was signed on December 6, 2021.

“We could not be more thrilled by this partnership with PAHS—a long history, a mission-oriented alignment, and a love for local tradition (and donkeys!) is on full display with this transition!” said Lauren Weston, Executive Director of Acterra. “It has been an honor to steward this project, and we are fortunate to pass the baton to a well-suited, and well-respected, local supporter of the Donkeys and of animals at large.” The acquisition of the Barron Park Donkeys fits into PAHS’s strategy to support humane programs in intervention, advocacy, and education. By fiscally sponsoring the Donkey Project, PAHS shows its deep commitment to local animal welfare. The two organizations believe deeply in community, and in PAHS, Acterra finds that the added benefits of advocating for humane solutions for animals, particularly those that can be housed outside a shelter setting, is the perfect next home for Perry and Buddy, the current Barron Park Donkeys.

“We can’t imagine a better outcome for the Donkeys and are so grateful to Palo Alto Humane Society for being willing to explore the possibilities of sponsorship—it really is a great show of leadership. A huge thanks to Acterra for always keeping the best interest of the Donkeys at heart!” said Jenny Kiratli, lead handler at the Donkey Project. Since the late 1990s, volunteer Donkey handlers have kept an eye to the care of these beautiful animals, initially providing care to Mickey, the last of the Bol family-owned Donkeys, joined by Pericles (Perry) in 1997 and Miner-49er (“Niner”) in 1998. Niner was succeeded by Jenny [the Donkey] in 2016, and recently, the Donkey Project welcomed the newest addition, Buddy. Carole Hyde, Executive Director of PAHS, shares this sentiment. “Our mission is to create awareness, and we know that the Donkeys support a healthy and thriving community. There is no time like the present to come together to care for each other, and these Donkeys, as a team.”

The official transfer occurred on January 1, 2022. All future donations to the Donkey Project can be directed to barronparkdonkeys.org.

About Acterra: Acterra is a San Francisco Bay Area 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Palo Alto that brings people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet. Acterra’s educational programs help people and communities use cleaner power and reduce their carbon footprint through beneficial electrification of homes, businesses, and transportation, and climate-friendly food choices such as plant-forward diets and reduced food waste. For more information, visit acterra.org
About the Barron Park Donkey Project: The Barron Park Donkeys represent a historic tradition dating back to the 1930s when Josina and Cornelis Bol cared for a small herd on their property, land that would later become Bol Park. From 1934 to the present day, the community has enjoyed the presence of the donkeys. The donkey pasture officially became Bol Park in 1974, as a result of neighbors taxing themselves to raise money for the park. Neighbors began caring for Mickey, the last of the original Bol herd to help Josina Bol when she could no longer care for him. After her death in 1996, Perry and Niner joined Mickey as donkey companions. For more information, please visit: barronparkdonkeys.org

About Palo Alto Humane Society: The Palo Alto Humane Society is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, charitable, volunteer-supported organization. PAHS is one of the few humane societies nationwide with no animal shelter. Instead of managing animals inside a shelter, we work to keep animals out of the shelter through humane programs in intervention, advocacy, and education. For a century, our mission has been to alleviate the suffering of animals, increase public sensitivity to animal issues, and elevate the status of animals in our society. For more information, please visit: paloaltohumane.org

Media Contact:
Wendy Chou
Communications and Outreach Manager, Acterra
Tel: 408-459-9073
wendy.chou@acterra.org