



Donkey Rescue  
Wild Animal Refuge  
Animal Science Center  
Forgotten Animal Sanctuary  
Compassionate Learning Center



## **AGE EXPECTANCY**

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When considering a donkey as a companion, do you ever consider your own mortality? In the United States, donkeys have a life expectancy of over 40 years. When considering your own longevity, will you be there when your donkey is entering its twilight years when it will need you more than ever?

In the Middle East, a donkey can be expected to live around 9 years. This is largely due to the heavy work to which these animals are subjected. They are worked daily without rest and expected to carry loads well over 50% of their body weight. Another killer of donkeys world wide is internal parasites. Third world donkeys are not fed well and when forced to share their food with a host of internal worms, malnutrition is the result. These donkeys, much like their human counterparts, have a much rougher lot in life than those of us fortunate enough to live in the United States.

Obesity cause from improper feeding generally results in a donkey living for only half of their normal span. Fat pockets, laminitis and founder are all telltale signs that a donkey will not live to see the golden years.

Grandma, a jennet born in 1959 and living out her life at the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, has been passed through many owners. In our fast paced society, most pet owners have a hard time committing to the 7-10 years of a dog's life, in Grandma's case, 40 plus years were out of the question. For her many owners. So when you are arranging your final affairs, don't forget to include your donkeys. Often times, the family will simply take all of the animals to auction. What was once a loving pet will spend its remaining years in unspeakable conditions. Make sure your next of kin knows what to do with your animals!