



***Not for profit Company: Registration no: 2020/865045/08***

***Not for profit organization: Reg no: 214-711 NPO***

***Tax Exempted organization: PBO number: 930064552 – 18A Tax benefits***

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***Presents***

**“Donkeys delivering dreams” in 2025**

***“Donkeys should be seen and never hurt”...!***



Pediatric Care Africa is proud to announce and present our very first “Donkeys delivering dreams” 500 km Donkey cart ride, departing from De Rust in the Western Cape on the 8<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and will end in De Rust on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Due to strict motorway and National Road restrictions and safety considerations most of our Donkey cart ride will be on gravel roads, with us trying to avoid any steep and long inclines.

Our route will take us from De Rust in the Western Cape through Middelplaas via Dysselsdorp past the Lusern butchery, through Oudtshoorn all the way to Calitz Dorp via the R62 returning to Oudtshoorn again via a back gravel road to the Welgeluk cottages and Feather Palace, then back to Oudtshoorn again, from there we continue past the Hospitals all the way up to where the road ends past Schoemansville at Kranskloof lodge, back to Oudtshoorn and the same gravel road back to De Rust.

In Oudtshoorn we plan to visit a few schools with our Donkey cart.

One full circle on our route is a dash over 250km which we will repeat twice. (Once for each of the 2 children we are riding for).

This is a broad outline of our route only and intended for general information. Total distance to be travelled on the Donkey cart: 500 kilometres as measured by GPS.

### **Plan:**

As the health, safety and comfort of the Donkeys are our major priority and concern we will have 3 pairs of Donkeys (6 Donkeys) that will participate in this ride with an extra pair (two Donkeys) on standby just in case one of the Donkeys steps in a stone for example, and or get injured or the veterinarian or Ferrier advice that the injured Donkey must discontinue participating in the ride. The team of two will be transported back to their home and be replaced by the replacement set of Donkeys. Any injured Donkey will receive veterinarian attention and treatment until declared healthy again.

The Donkeys will receive their final veterinarian and Ferrier check up 2 days before our departure to certify them fit and in good physical health.

Each Donkey will receive a thorough medical and Ferrier check up every week thereafter, except if we suspect a Donkey requires additional medical assistance. Dr. Garth Ryder has offered his services for the full duration of the Donkey cart ride. As far as we are concerned the Donkeys are the stars in this epic ride to help 2 children and must be treated as such.

500km sounds far for a Donkey to walk at first glance and it most certainly is, but even most humans can walk for 500km with ease if given enough time, rest, and care. That is why we will take 17 days to complete this trip.

We will do a maximum of 30km per day and we will travel at mostly walking speed with food and water breaks every 2 hours, and the Donkeys that are not pulling the cart is transported to our overnight spot by trailer accompanied by their handler who they are used to. The resting Donkeys will have free unrestricted access to bales of Teff and natural grass.

The idea is then that in good road conditions each set of Donkeys will only pull the cart every third day, with two days of rest in between.

In areas where there are steeper hills, Donkeys will be swapped out with fresh Donkeys for 50% of the ride time.

Our Donkey cart is a specially build, well balanced and a light weight cart with especially handmade leather harnesses for the Donkeys, to ensure maximum comfort and zero chafing or injury to the Donkeys.

We have 2 highly experienced Donkey experts on our team, with a combined 80 years of experience between them, with 1 in an advisory capacity and one that is the handler who will accompany them on the ride.

There will be 2 support vehicles and their functions will be as follows:

-The first vehicle is responsible for transporting the non-working Donkeys every morning to our next overnight spot, and the handler is fully responsible to assist with the safe loading and offloading of the Donkeys and to ensure free access to food and water.

-The second vehicle pulls a trailer carrying bales of Teff and water and double as the safety vehicle for the entire duration of the trip. This vehicle will drive directly behind the Donkey cart with its hazards on, a white strobe light on the roof of the vehicle and a large reflective sign saying "Donkeys ahead" to warn any vehicles approaching from the back.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of our "Donkeys delivering dreams" Donkey cart ride which we intend to make an annual event, is to collect funds for hopefully 2 specific children in the Karoo every year, and this year our aim is to provide Buggies for children suffering from Cerebral Palsy.

Buggies are very expensive as they are specially adapted to suit every individual child, and is fitted by an Occupational therapist to ensure a proper fit and to lend support where it is needed. There is no one size fits all solution as every child is affected differently and is of a different size.

We can not cure Cerebral Palsy, but we can make a huge difference in the quality of life of a child suffering from CP. Most severely disabled children growing up in an impoverished environment, seems to spend their lives lying on the floor by themselves, and as they get heavier due to growth they can no longer be carried by their parents resulting in them being isolated in their homes and not able to be a normal part of a family by doing simple things like sitting at a dinner table, looking at people from a sitting upright sitting position and the fact that their parents can push them to a store or friends for a visit.

Simply put, a buggy dramatically changes a disabled child's quality of life and that of their families.

## Where do we get our Donkeys from?:

All Donkeys used by us on this ride, belongs to a private person living in Dysseldorp between De Rust and Oudshoorn and we "Charter" the Donkeys from them once they pass all veterinarian and Ferrier check-ups.

We only use and select Donkeys and owners that pass our very stringent medical requirements and standards as any sign of past neglect of a Donkey will result in an automatic disqualification, and if required the veterinarian will inform the authorities as he is morally and ethically obliged to do so. We have a zero-neglect or cruelty to animal's tolerance.

We pay for the use of the Donkeys and their usual handler, to support local persons and the local economy.

Part of the payment plan is that we supply to and support our 6 Donkeys with 3 large bales of Teff weighing approximately 800kg, to ensure that the Donkeys are well fed and looked after during the dry and hotter months and not neglected. ***"After all, Donkeys should be seen and never hurt!"***



***Donkeys are getting their first of a series of veterinarian checkups from Dr Garth Ryder of De Rust.***

## Why Donkey's:

Besides having great personalities and being "super cool" animals, Donkey's for us is the symbol of the Klein Karoo, not only because they are still widely used here, but we also feel that Donkeys are not always as well looked after as they should be and if we can show the public just how nice and special they actually are, and create an appreciation for them, we hope that members of the public will intervene or assist when they observe a Donkey being treated poorly.

We invite all donkey or animal lovers to meet us on the road for a chat, and hopefully you will arrive with a coffee and milk tart in hand....? 😊 Together we can show the world how Donkeys are to be treated and cared for, after all our Donkeys are the "Stars" of this show, and should be treated as "Stars".

We believe that showing Donkeys off to the general public and creating an appreciation for them, persons will become aware of their plight and contribute to and assist places of safety for neglected Donkeys such as the Donkey Sanctuary near Prins Albert for example, who is doing a tremendous job in taking care of neglected Donkeys, horses and mules.

*A few fun facts about a Donkey:*

*\*If you compared a Donkey to a horse of the same size, the Donkey would be stronger.*

*\*Donkeys are considered very intelligent animals.*

*\*Compared to horses, Donkeys are more independent in their thinking and can make decisions based on their safety. They have a keen sense of curiosity.*

*\*Because of their amazing memory, Donkeys can recognise areas and other Donkeys they were with from up to 25 years ago.*

*\*The large ears of a Donkey help keep them cool and is highly adapted to dry and desert areas.*

*\*A Donkey can live for over 50 years.*




***We had this type of harnesses especially made for the Donkeys***

***Promoting the welfare of children through Donkeys cultivating a culture of caring for both – Donkeys should be seen and never hurt!***

## How to get involved:

We ask that Companies or individual persons to please sponsor Dr. André Hattingh who will be riding the Donkey cart per every kilometre of the 500km's he rode or to make a once off donation to Pediatric Care Africa with reference "Donkeys", so we can track what your donation is intended for.

We are a fully registered NGO/NPC and all Company/ Business donations qualify for a 18A tax certificate if required. Not for profit Company: Registration no: 2020/865045/08 - Not for profit organization: Reg no: 214-711 - PBO number: 930064552 – 18A Tax benefits.




**PEDIATRIC CARE AFRICA**  
**1ST**  
**DONKEY CART RIDE**

**500KM ON A DONKEY CART BY  
DR ANDRÉ HATTINGH  
IN AID OF  
2 KLEIN KAROO KIDS  
WITH CEREBRAL PALSY IN NEED OF  
SPECIALISED BUGGIES**

**8 APRIL 2025 - 24 APRIL 2025**

**DONKEYS DELIVERING DREAMS**



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"All Children have the absolute right  
to a healthy life"