



DONKEY SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

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GUIDE TO BUYING YOUR FIRST DONKEY

So you have decided that you would like to own a donkey but are not sure what to look for. This information sheet is intended as a guide only and it is suggested that this information be read in conjunction with the Donkey Society of Victoria Inc. (DSV) information sheets "Buying a Donkey" and "Keeping a donkey happy and healthy" also available as downloads on the Society Website www.donkey.org.au

- Have you determined what purpose you want your donkey for? Donkeys are kept as pets, for breeding, riding, harness, showing, as guardians and company for other animals. Look for and choose an animal suited to your needs.
- The DSV highly recommends that you purchase a female donkey (jenny) or a gelding. An entire male donkey (Jack) is not a suitable for the inexperienced owner.
- Donkeys need ongoing care. Check your budget. Apart from your initial cost of purchase there will be ongoing expenses such as regular hoof trims by a farrier, food, regular worming and veterinary costs.
- Donkeys can also become available for auction at saleyards. The DSV does not recommend that first time donkey buyers purchase a donkey from a saleyard. It is often the case that these donkeys may have been captured wild from the outback stations and transported to Victoria for sale. These donkeys are best purchased by people very experienced in donkey handling. There is a difference between unhandled domestic donkeys and wild caught (feral) donkeys.
- Whilst experienced donkey handlers do with time succeed in training the wild donkey the DSV cannot stress enough that these donkeys are not suitable for first time or inexperienced donkey owners.
- For the first time donkey owner buying from a stud that handles and trains their stock from birth or from someone who is rehoming a donkey already trained in the basics of leading, tying up and having their hooves picked up, is a much wiser choice.
- Although buying any livestock involves some risk you will save yourself and the donkey heartache if you choose a donkey with the temperament and training suitable for your needs and level of experience.
- From time to time the DSV has available for purchase rescued donkeys. Although these donkeys may be in some cases less expensive than if you are buying a donkey from a breeder or owner who has stock available for sale, they are not available free of charge. The DSV sells these donkeys to recover the costs involved in their rehabilitation, training and rehoming.