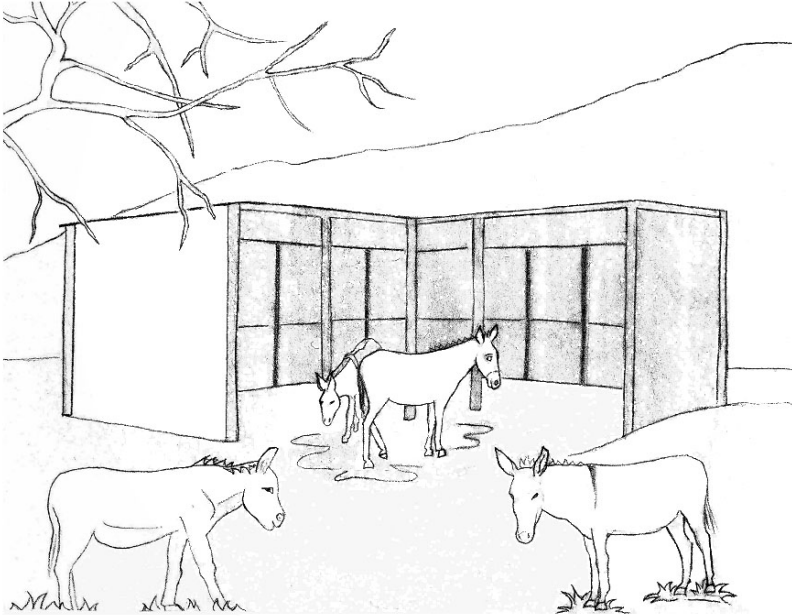


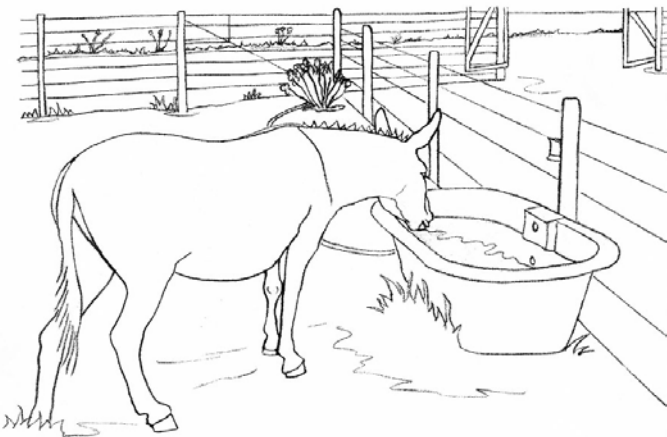
Caring for a donkey

All animals, including donkeys, need to be fed and cared for. The information below shows you how to best look after a donkey.

A **field** with a good fence around it is necessary for donkeys. The field should have enough grass for grazing and must be big enough for two donkeys to be able to exercise in. The donkey droppings need to be removed regularly to keep the field clean.

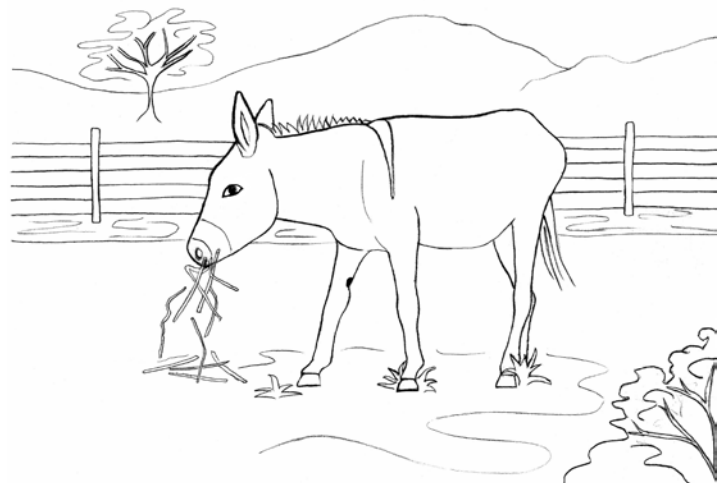


A **shelter** for donkeys is very important as their coats aren't waterproof. The shelter will protect the donkeys from wind, cold and sun. It needs to be big enough for them to turn around in and should contain straw for bedding.



Water should be clean and fresh every day. Donkeys won't drink dirty water.

Grass is the food donkeys eat in summer but they also need some straw (dry stalks of grain) for roughage. In winter, in places where the grass loses its goodness, donkeys need straw and hay (dry grass with seeds).



Brush donkeys every day. It helps to remove mud and burs.

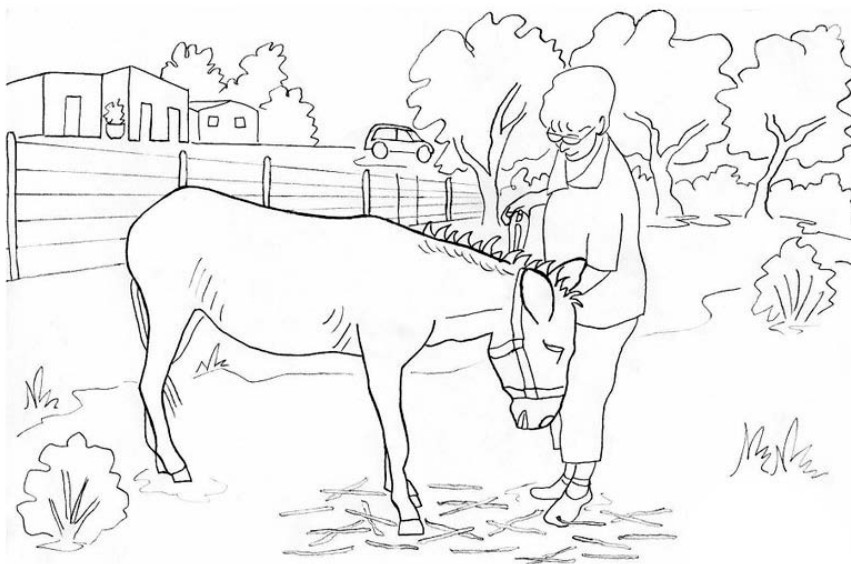
In early summer some donkeys will start to shed their winter coats. A rubber curry comb is very useful to help to remove the extra hair from their coats.



The **feet** should be picked regularly with a hoofpick. Just as your toenails need cutting, so donkeys' hooves need to be trimmed and filed. The special person who does this job is called a **farrier**. Any sores on donkeys' feet should be bathed and treated.

Worms are something all animals have. The vet is the best person to give advice about deworming donkeys. Although donkeys do not get fleas, lice and ticks need to be kept under control.

Trained donkeys are very patient, gentle animals and are wonderful with people, especially children. Though they are accused of being stubborn, donkeys are not obstinate creatures. If they refuse to do something, there is usually a very good reason for this, and it is the owner's job to find out what the problem is.



The donkey in this picture is being trained with a halter.

Note the good fence around the donkey's paddock.