

Donkeys are different!

Learn all about what makes donkeys so unique.



Their ears are different!

Can you see that donkeys have larger ears than horses and ponies?

In the wild, donkeys live in hot climates such as Africa. Food is often more scarce in this environment so donkey herds need to spread out over a large area to find food. Therefore their big ears help them to hear each other from far away.

Did you know a donkey can hear the call of another donkey 60 MILES AWAY in a desert environment?

Big ears can help donkeys keep cool on hot days too as the blood flows close to the surface of the skin where it releases some heat into the air.

Their coats are different!

Have you noticed that a donkey's coat looks and feels different compared to a horse's or pony's?

Donkeys are not as waterproof as horses and ponies because they do not have as much oil in their coats. So you may see them run for shelter if it's raining!

If you stroke a donkey their coat will feel drier, softer and fluffier than a horse's.

You may notice that the most common donkey colours are light tans and greys which help them stay camouflaged in the wild. Light-coloured coats also help reflect the heat, keeping them cooler on hot days.





They sound different!

Have you heard what a donkey sounds like?

Donkeys don't neigh, they bray! This helps them communicate with each other over long distances as this loud sound can travel so other donkeys from far away can hear a big noise with their big ears!

Can you bray like a donkey?

They behave in different ways!

How do you think donkeys behave differently to horses and ponies?

Donkeys are sometimes thought of as stubborn! In fact, they are not as flighty as horses and ponies and will often stand their ground rather than run away from a threat. This also means they are prepared to fight if they need to and can bite and kick well to protect themselves!

Donkeys do not always show that they are unhappy or in pain. This helps them not to show signs of weakness that could alert potential predators in the wild.

Donkeys form very strong bonds and can become very unhappy or even ill if they are separated from their friends.



Now you've learnt all about donkeys, have a go at our Dashing Donkey quiz!