

Rescued donkeys arrive in the Bitterroot December 22, 2010 By Michael Howell

About 30 donkeys and a miniature horse were brought to the Bitterroot Valley for veterinary care last week by a coalition of Montana animal rescue groups that have stepped in to handle the disposition of over 1,000 large animals, including around 700 llamas, over 100 horses, two bison, two camels, emus, sheep, goats, and cattle, that currently reside north of Hot Springs, Montana at the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary and Rescue.

A coalition of animal care groups came together east of Corvallis last week to provide farrier work and veterinaria n care for 30 donkeys rescued from an



animal rescue facility near Hot Springs that had run out of money and then out of food for over 1,200 large animals being kept on the 400-acre spread. *Michael Howell photo.*



Shannon Alexander (holding the lead rope) of Western Montana Equine Rescue and

Rehabilitation of Corvallis and Phyllis Ruana of the Montana Animal Care Association of Corvallis prepare one of the rescued donkeys to have its grotesquely overgrown hooves trimmed. *Michael Howell photo.*



The Montana Office of the Humane Society of the United States paid to have farriers come in from around the state to deal with the donkeys' overgrown hooves. Here, Rob Detlaff from Melrose, after carefully cutting the hoof down to size, prepares to do some final filing on what will remain a tender foot for some time. Detlaff said that one serious concern was the degree of damage to the laminate that binds the hoof to the foot. He said the animals would be monitored to be sure they are recovering properly. He said that from his experience the animals would have to have gone more than a couple of years without care for their hooves to be in this kind of condition. *Michael Howell photo.*