



STINAPA INFORMATION

EXOTIC SPECIES IN BONAIREAN CULTURE (part II)

4th article on the exotic species eradication and control at Washington Slagbaai National Park. It is unavoidable, given our human nature, to grow feelings for domesticated animals. This has happened from the beginning of human history and it has happened in all cultures. This goes as far as to even using their image to worship some gods or to represent some of our deepest cultural traits. Bonaireans, as any other people in the world have also developed feelings for the animals surrounding us. Goats have fed many generations of Bonaireans. Most native people are very surprised when told that goats are an exotic species and therefore do not belong to Bonairean nature. Some even think this can not be true. This is to be expected, since most people grew up surrounded by them, both in the wild and around their houses and kunukus. If you are surrounded by something all your life and your parents and grandparents tell stories about the same thing, it is only normal to assume that it has always been there. Donkeys are well established in the Bonairean culture, and this comes as no surprise since they were a major factor in the construction and development of this island for approximately the last 300 years. Donkeys are very smart, hard working and noble animals that can get to people's heart. They are no different than a dog in that sense. Bonaireans have to be thankful for all the work this species has done for the development of the island during the plantation times. Therefore, we should act responsibly and respectfully when it comes to take actions in order to protect our environment and make sure that we avoid unnecessary suffering. Many other species like cats and dogs also have a place in the heart of people. But this does not keep us from acting responsibly when it comes to protecting our environment from destruction. We have to restore balance and we have to do it in the most humane way. This means taking animal rights in consideration and studying the possibilities to avoid cruelty and animal suffering.

Written by Fernando Simal.

For more information or comments: STINAPA, telephone 717 - 8444, info@stinapa.org

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURELESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru