

# MEET OUR ANIMALS

## Introducing JR and Violet - our Donkeys



Violet and J.R (short for Just Right) came to Diamond Forest Cottages in 2008 when they were just 8 months old. Violet ( the multi-coloured one) and J.R are brother and sister and came here from a farm in Pemberton. You might think, in 2017, that they are getting old but donkeys can live up to 30-35 years.

Usually donkeys are used as pack animals but here at Diamond Forest Cottages Farm Stay they are here to make friends with our guests and they like that. It also means because they are not working hard at all they will probably live quite a long time.

### **Did you know?**

- Donkeys are members of the horse family.
- A female is called a Jenny and a male is called a Jack.
- A baby donkey is called a foal.
- Donkeys are mainly known for their braying.

Yes our donkeys certainly do bray. You will be able to hear them before you actually see them. That is why we put them across on the other side of the dam because if they were in a paddock near the cottages they would be very, very loud especially early in the morning.

Donkeys are quite characters and like to play games but they also get bored very easily. You can see in their paddock all the chewed fence posts. The donkeys have done that! They also like attention and if they see someone across the dam they will bray very loudly to get their attention so that hopefully that person will come over and say hi.

### **Our Secret**

At first they may seem shy when you approach their fence and if you try to pat them they will move their head away. I have found the best way to get them to come close is to stand right next to the fence and pretend to ignore them, especially if you have a friend with you and have a conversation without looking at the donkeys. Slowly they will creep forward until they are almost right up against the fence.