

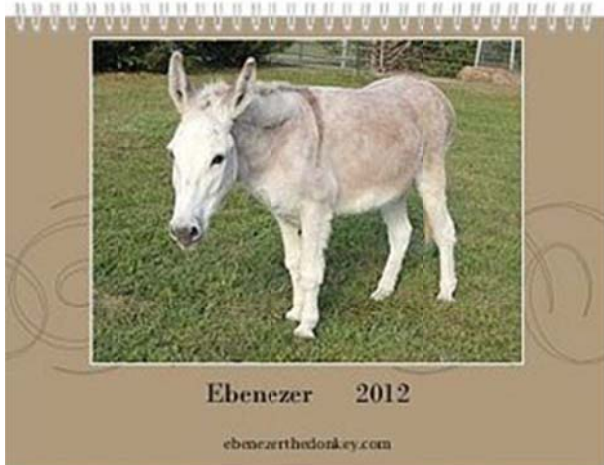
Grandview's colourful donkey passes away

February 15, 2012

Ebenezer the donkey, the unofficial goodwill ambassador for Grandview, Missouri, died on Sunday night.



Ebenezer.



The 2012 Ebenezer calendar.

However, early in 2010 it was apparent that several ailments were starting to [cause him problems](#). He was in need of dental work and treatment for white line disease of his hooves.

When your chips are down, you soon know who your friends are - and the same goes when you're a donkey.

The Kansas City Star ran a touching story about Ebenezer on its front page.

It said anyone wanting to contribute to the donkey's veterinary bills could make a donation to Equine Health Solutions, a veterinary clinic in Raymore.

Its readers opened their wallets and within days [\\$US5000 had been contributed](#) - not to mention 300 cards from wellwishers.



Ebenezer, 32, was never short of something to say and was a popular local attraction as he surveyed the world from his pasture on the western edge of Grandview.

He had been struggling with a shoulder injury suffered in a fall in his pasture about 10 days ago and the decision was made on Sunday to euthanize him when he was unable to get up.

The Kansas City Star reports that Ebenezer was surrounded by friends when he was given the shot that ended his life.

"He looked up at us like he knew we had done everything we could," his primary caregiver, Shirley Phillips, told the newspaper. "He was at peace. He didn't want to get up any more."

Ebenezer was laid to rest the next day in a grave on a hill near a creek that winds through his pasture.

Ebenezer had been a fixture in his pasture for most of his life.

Locals stopped to say hello for years and many have provided him with a few treats to liven up his day.

Ebenezer was owned by Ben Alvarado, an 85-year-old World War 2 veteran, who wryly told the newspaper that Ebenezer had more friends than he did.



Ebenezer on arrival at Equine Health Solutions in early 2010.

One was Shirley Phillips, who, since September 2009, had been stopping by twice daily to provide supplementary meals, given that Ebenezer's worn teeth meant his ability to eat grass was limited.

Alvarado said at the time he was unable to visit Ebenezer as much as he used to, but said he knew only too well the affection the community held for his old friend.

"All those people who come to visit him, they're his family now," he said.

Ebenezer arrived at the clinic for his health exam, blood work and x-rays, and received treatment for a lung infection.

When his health improved, he returned to his pasture, where his fans were again able to swing by to say hello.

They could follow his life on his [Facebook page](#) - he had more than 450 friends - or on his webpage, www.ebenezerthedonkey.com.

His many friends expressed their sadness at his deaths.

Ebenezer was always a can-do kind of donkey.

Late last year, [calendars featuring Ebenezer](#) were selling like hotcakes, with proceeds going towards helping him through the chilly Missouri winters.

He had been having trouble staying warm. His calendar went on sale to help pay for a new heated barn.

About 100 orders were expected, but by late last year it seemed that 500 or so could head out the door.

Ebenezer would have celebrated his 33rd birthday on April 10.