Emoji Submission: DONKEY

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Contents

1 Proposal for New Emoji

This is a proposal for the addition of a donkey emoji (🫏) to the Unicode character set. There are evidences that donkeys have been used as riding and pack animals over 6,000 years ago by the Egyptians and they are still preferred to horses in some areas in Africa and South America, because their lower needs of water and food and their better adaption to barren landscapes. Today, donkeys are also used as therapy animals, for example for autistic, dement or other disabled people (fig. 2).

2 Names

2.1 CLDR short name

Recommended name: donkey

2.2 CLDR keywords

Recommended keywords: donkey, ass

3 Images

4 Selection Factors – Inclusion

4.1 Compatibility

I was not able to find any donkey emoji in popular social network and instant messaging applications.

4.2 Expected usage level

Frequency　Figure 3 shows that the term *donkey* is slightly less popular than similar odd-toed ungulates like zebras and camels. If you forget the spike in the middle of April 2017, donkeys and unicorns have a similar popularity. Donkeys defeat rhinoceruses with a great distance, but the prevalence of horses is unbeaten.

Multiple usages　Donkeys have a very wide usage and several meanings: First, donkeys are very popular figures in fairy tales. A "gold donkey" (see fig. 4) appears in the tale *The Wishing-Table*. Today this term refers to product which generates high profits. Other popular including donkeys are *Puss in Boots*, *The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs*, *Pinocchio*, *Till Eulenspiegel* and the *Bremen Town Musicians* (fig. 5). In fables, the donkey usually represents a stoic, stubborn, modest, naïve and dull personality. The Disney series *Winnie Pooh* and the DreamWorks franchise *Shrek* feature donkey characters with this attribution.

Then, some languages use "donkey" or its corresponding translation as a swear word, meaning a stupid or a stubborn person. The term "pack donkey" also refers to a person

who usually does a hard support job. There is also a skill game called *The Last Straw*, which usually features a camel or a pack donkey (fig. 6). The English word "ass" is not only used for donkeys, but also informally for "buttocks", which may make the emoji glyph ambigious in certain contexts.

Moreover, in German, the word "Eselsbrücke" (literally "donkey bridge") is a common term for memory aid, mnemonic.

And before I forgot it: In the USA, the donkey is also the mascot of the Democrats, while the elephant stands for the Republicians (fig. 7. A high usage of the donkey emoji (🐴) before US elections can be expected.

Finally, *steam donkey* is also the name for a steam engine in the forestry (fig. 8) and a *nodding donkey* is pump for oil drilling (fig. 9).

Use in Sequences A sequence of a donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster refers to the *Bremen Town Musicians*. A gold donkey is composed of the donkey and the money bag (U+1F4B0) emoji and a pack donkey can be represented with the proposed luggage emoji in one of my other suggestions. When talking about *Shrek*, someone can combine the extraterristial alien (U+1F47D) emoji with the donkey emoji (👽🐴).

4.3 Image distinctiveness

Recently, a zebra and an unicorn emoji have been added to the latest versions of Unicode. Zebras simply look like striped horses while unicorns are nothing more than horses with a horn.

Although donkeys also look very similar to horses at the first glance, there are some *major* differences. Figure 10 compares horses and donkeys and points out where emoji artists should pay attention to when creating a donkey glyph. Although there are different existing emoji for a horse and a horse's head, only one representation of the donkey emoji is needed. The two different horse characters are only for compatibility reasons.

As zebras and even the mythical unicorns recently got their own glyphs instead of a tag or a variant for the existing horse emoji, it is obvious that a donkey also needs its own character.

Even though *pack burro racing* is a local sport in Colorado (fig. 11), donkey racing is not very common in other areas. Thus, no dedicated emoji for donkey *racing* needed, even there is one for horse racing.

Finally, the egyptian hieroglyph E007 (U+130D8) has to be a strict reproduction of the glyph found on Egyptian inscriptions and therefore disqualifies for being merged with the proposed emoji.

4.4 Completeness

The Wikipedia article *Equus (genus)* states that Equus *is a genus of mammals in the family Equidae, which includes horses, asses, and zebras.*[1] The donkey (ass) emoji makes the list of *Equus* emoji (currently: horse, zebra and unicorn) complete.

4.5 Frequently requested

Figure 12 shows a selection of Twitter users who complain the lackage of a donkey emoji.

5 Selection Factors – Exclusion

5.1 Overly specific

A donkey emoji is not very specific, as there are different kinds of donkeys, like the domesticated (or African) donkey, the onager (Asian wild donkey) and the kiang (Tibetian wild donkey). A *mule* is a hybrid of a donkey and a horse, with the stamina of a donkey and the power of a horse. A *hinny* is similar to a mule, but while a mule's mother is a horse, the hinny is grown up by a donkey mare. Both are too overspecified to qualify for an emoji, but a *donkey* emoji is not.

5.2 Open-ended

The donkey emoji is very flexible. Here are some ideas for future ZWJ sequences. (Those are just sources of inspiration and not part of this proposal.)

- gold donkey <U+xxxx U+1F4B0>

- pack donkey/burro <U+xxxx U+200D U+yyyy> *where xxxx is a proposed luggage emoji*

5.3 Already Representable

Although donkeys are related to horses and zebras, they are considered to be different. Representing a donkey with a horse emoji is not sufficient. If the donkey emoji would be encoded with a ZWJ sequence or a variant selector of the horse emoji, this would be cause serious compatibility problems. Donkeys have a great stamina, they stand for certain character traits like modesty, phlegm, pragmatism and strong will. An application using an older version of Unicode would show a horse glyph which may be easily misinterpreted, as a horse may stand for temper, speed and obedience, which is the exact opposite of the nature of a donkey. In conclusion I strongly recommend that the donkey should be implemented as a *separate* coding point.

5.4 Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Donkeys and mules are often used in logos, as seen in figure 13. Because of the wide usage in in various industries, this would not be an issue though.

5.5 Transient

As you see in figure 3, unlike unicorns, there are no major fluctuations in the search demand of donkeys.

5.6 Faulty Comparison

The *donkey* emoji may be suggestive, as it can be interpreted as an *ass*, which may stand for anal sex. The same issue, however, already occurs with the existing rooster emoji (U+1F413), which can be also read as "cock".

6 Sort location

6.1 Category

Recommended category: animals-mammal

6.2 Emoji before

Recommended emoji before: unicorn face (U+1F984)

7 Other Information

The attached image file, available under the terms of CC0, is based on the Public Domain clipart "donkey democrat 1" from WPClipart.

References

[1] Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. *Equus (genus)*. 2017. URL: `https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Equus_%28genus%29&oldid=783222310` (visited on 06/10/2017).

Figure 1: A pack donkey, also known as *burro*. Source: dedMazay, Shutterstock

Figure 2: A therapy donkey. Source: asinella.com
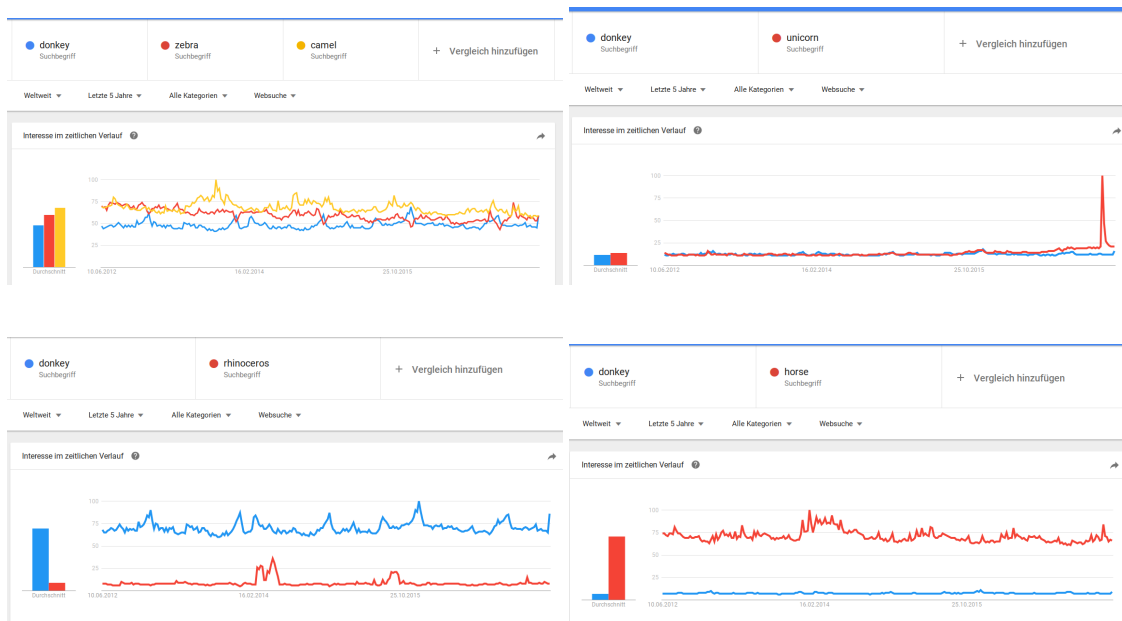
Figure 3: Google Trends, *donkey* compared to other odd-toed ungulates

Figure 4: A gold donkey. Source: 8hertzwitness.wordpress.com

Figure 5: The Bremen town musicians: donkey, dog, cat and rooster. Source: Wuzur, Wikimedia Commons, CC-by-3.0
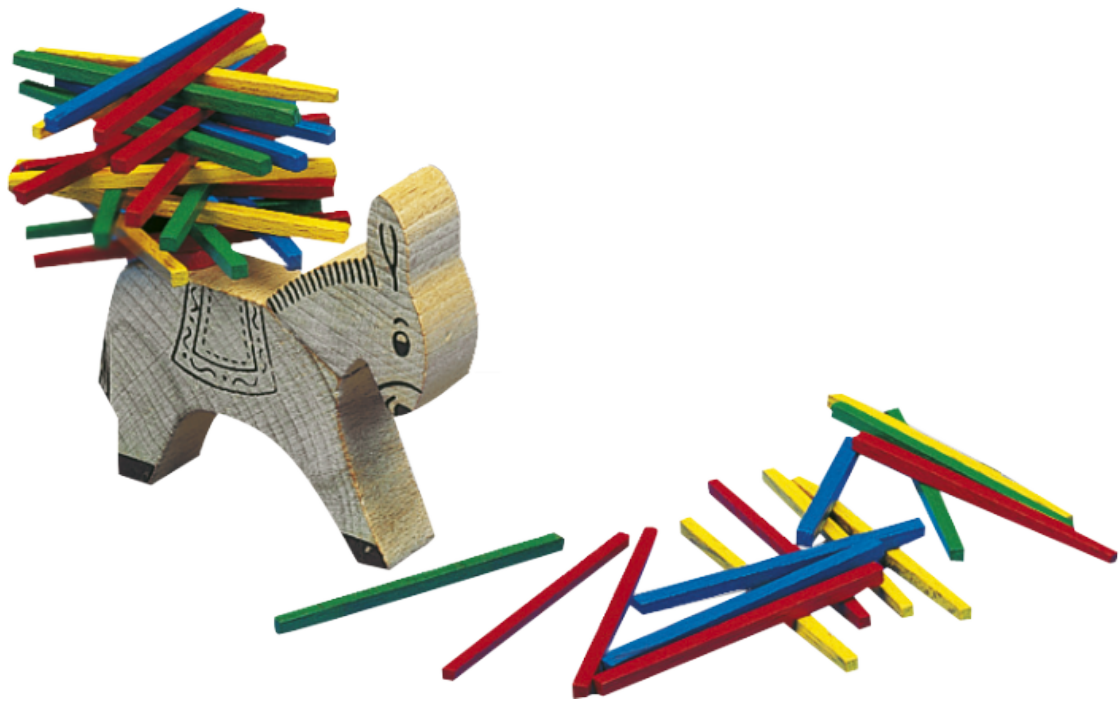
Figure 6: *The Last Straw,* a popular skill game featuring a pack donkey. Source: Schmidt Spiele
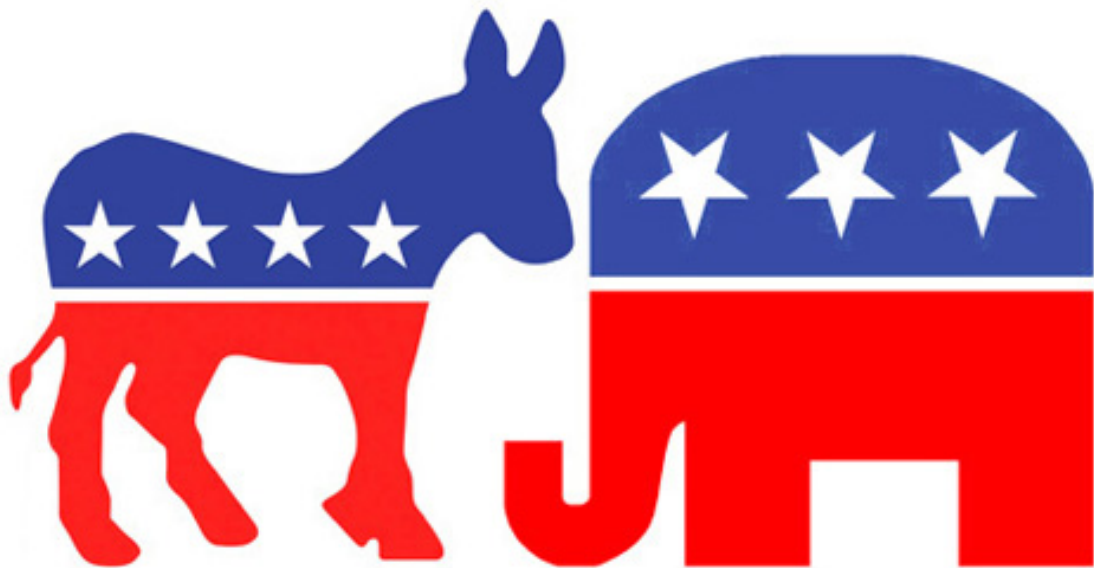
Figure 7: *Donkey and elephant,* mascots of the Democrats and the Republicians. Source: smithsonianmag.com

Figure 8: A steam donkey. Source: Rschulz, Wikimedia Commons, GFDL-1.2

Figure 9: A nodding donkey. Source: Richard Croft, Wikimedia Commons, CC-by-2.0
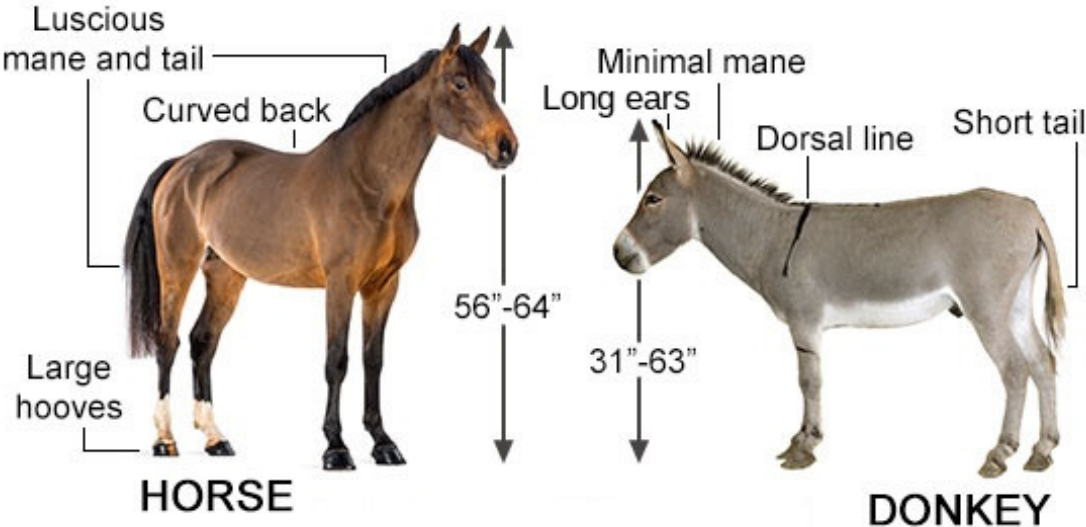
Figure 10: Comparsion between horses and donkeys. Source: moleopedia.com, edited by
the author

Figure 11: Burro racing in Colorado. Source: Mdywer, English Wikipedia, GDFL-1.3

claire crowley @claireliz6 · 8 Std.
Antwort an @AlCrowl_
Insert **donkey emoji**. lol jk😂
2

RdZ @pentzman · 10 Std.
Antwort an @SRobertsKRON4 @KyrieIrving @MountainDew
No lie! That was one weird (no **emoji** for a **donkey**) commercial ! 😜
1

🐊 **taylor rhodes** ™ @NotTaylorRhodes · 10 Std.
Antwort an @5BearCummings5
Draymon- <insert **donkey emoji**>

Jackie Peña @JackieFerraez · 12 Std.
@Emojipedia why isn't any **donkey emoji**? We need it! 🐤#yesplease

Margaret Boyce @faerieguts · 6. Juni
Donkey day is this Sunday, June 11 @DonkeySancCa 🐴<-- closest thing to a **donkey emoji** thing

> **The DSC** @DonkeySancCa
> If you missed them @ niagaravegfest, come visit them this Sunday here @DonkeySancCa. twitter.com/fairlyfrosted/...
> 1

COVFEFE🐶 JOSH💢 @Birds60 · 15. Mai
How come theirs no #**donkey** **emoji**? #republicans get their fat elephant 🐘. Why can't #Democrats get a **donkey**? #trump #MAGA #jackass # 🇺🇸

Marian Cantwell Fry @MarianCantwellF · 14. Mai
Antwort an @kwilli1046
@MaxineWaters, will you be at this meeting??? 🤣 (Why is there no **donkey emoji** on the Twitter list?)
1

Jordan @Yung_Whooty · 14. Mai
Antwort an @iamkillbill
LOL *searched frantically for **donkey emoji**
1   1

Matt Dettmer @dettmer93 · 13. Mai
Shame Long... where's that **Donkey emoji**? #saintsfc
1

Since 5minsago @xsincealwaysx · 12. Mai
donkey emoji

Weston Foster @mynameisweston · 12. Mai
@Apple & @AppleSupport is complicit; how comes there's only an elephant **emoji** but no **donkey emoji**.

Some Girl EH @SomeGirlEH · 12. Mai
Why isn't there a **donkey** or a waffles **emoji**?? 😡

maddz ♌ @madalynnhaley · 6. Juni
Antwort an @madalynnhaley @_raytoven
Wow there's really no **donkey emoji**. I'm pissed. You're a headass
1

Bobbi Lee @bblee720 · 25. Mai
Antwort an @nolan923C @CNN
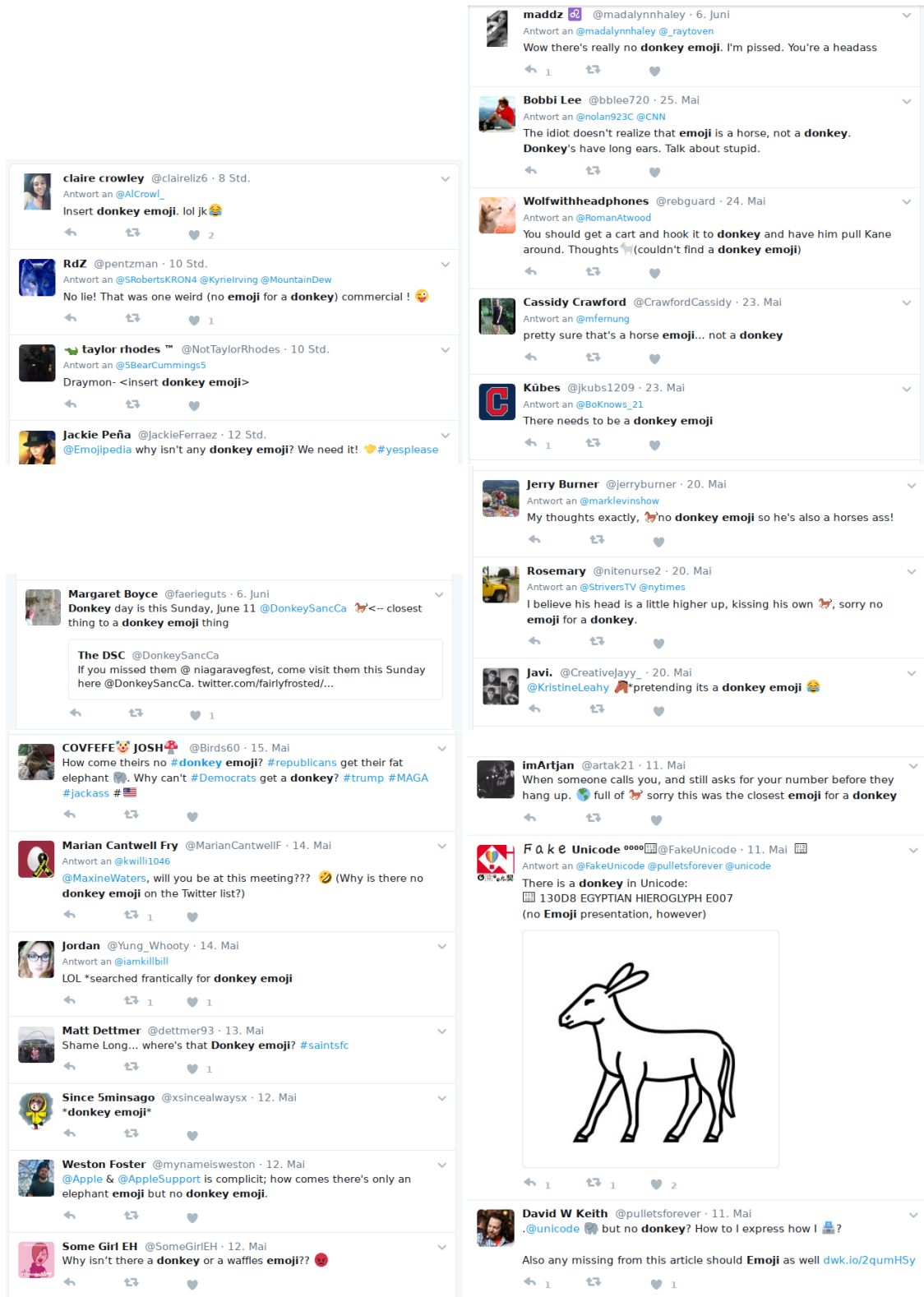The idiot doesn't realize that **emoji** is a horse, not a **donkey**. **Donkey**'s have long ears. Talk about stupid.

Wolfwithheadphones @rebguard · 24. Mai
Antwort an @RomanAtwood
You should get a cart and hook it to **donkey** and have him pull Kane around. Thoughts🐐(couldn't find a **donkey emoji**)

Cassidy Crawford @CrawfordCassidy · 23. Mai
Antwort an @mfernung
pretty sure that's a horse **emoji**... not a **donkey**

Kübes @jkubs1209 · 23. Mai
Antwort an @BoKnows_21
There needs to be a **donkey emoji**
1

Jerry Burner @jerryburner · 20. Mai
Antwort an @marklevinshow
My thoughts exactly, 🐴no **donkey emoji** so he's also a horses ass!

Rosemary @nitenurse2 · 20. Mai
Antwort an @StriversTV @nytimes
I believe his head is a little higher up, kissing his own 🐴, sorry no **emoji** for a **donkey**.

Javi. @CreativeJayy_ · 20. Mai
@KristineLeahy 🐴*pretending its a **donkey emoji** 😂

imArtjan @artak21 · 11. Mai
When someone calls you, and still asks for your number before they hang up. 🌍 full of 🐴 sorry this was the closest **emoji** for a **donkey**

F a k e Unicode °°°°🏯@FakeUnicode · 11. Mai 🏯
Antwort an @FakeUnicode @pulletsforever @unicode
There is a **donkey** in Unicode:
🏯 130D8 EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPH E007
(no **Emoji** presentation, however)

1   1   2

David W Keith @pulletsforever · 11. Mai
.@unicode 🐴 but no **donkey**? How to I express how I 🗳️?

Also any missing from this article should **Emoji** as well dwk.io/2qumHSy
1

Figure 13: Example for logos starring a donkey or a mule. Images belong to the corresponding trademark owners.