



Hi all, and we thought a nice way to start the December newsletter would be some nice pictures of us all dressing up for Xmas, but PINKY ate PERKIES hat.. So PERKY has now become a reindeer, along with a few others !!!!!



One of our three big mules, PALOMA , decided she was not taking part in any photo shoot and backed herself up to one of the fences and just sat herself down, and you have all heard the expression STUBBORN AS A MULE, well at over 500 Kilos, that **Lady was not for moving !**

DON'T FORGET, GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES AN ADOPTION AS A XMAS PRESENT !

As you will read later, we are very short of cash, so you can combine giving an unusual certificate to your loved ones with helping us to help the animals, who after all, can't help themselves.

LATE SHOPPERS – WE CAN EMAIL YOU SAME DAY !

You can adopt now by debit or credit card

If you are a late shopper !!!!!

We can EMAIL you a certificate and you can print it yourself

To Adopt a Donkey
CLICK HERE

To adopt something different
CLICK HERE

TO RENEW AN EXISTING ADOPTION JUST CLICK HERE

THE WORLDS GONE MAD

£20,000 FINE IF YOU OVERFEED YOUR CAT

We thought it was April fools day when a visitor brought us a copy of the Daily Mail, dated Wednesday 5th November, where on page 11, it carried a story, based on publication of new government legislation called the "Animal Welfare Act".

UK Government Environment Minister Hillary Benn (son of old leftie Tony Benn, who must be laughing about this) said the tough codes of practice were designed to remind pet owners of their responsibilities under the law and would protect animals from cruelty.

It also tells owners to provide "entertainment" and "mental stimulation" for them also and has a nice bit about finding out if your cat is overweight as follows " Your cat should not be too fat or too thin. You can assess your cat's weight by gently seeing if you can feel its ribs. If they are hard to find, it may be overweight" - So now you know !!!!!

Seriously though, fat cats (and more of that later) and dogs can now even invalidate your pet insurance

You can adopt or donate on line with a debit or credit card or PAYPAL at
www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com

MAYBE SOME GOOD NEWS

Funny old world, or fame spreading, at last !

We were recently contacted by the Catalunian bank, CAIXA CATALUNYA, who wanted to come and visit us. This is an old style bank that (like most Spanish banks) did not play pass the parcel of debt, so is not going bust or creating havoc with the lives of millions (more on this later).

It is an environmental friendly bank, and states “ Social tasks are the reason for (the banks) existence and social work is the way in which (the bank) performs these tasks outside the scope of its business”

It also states “The aim of (the banks) social work is to give back to society part of the business profits by providing an efficient, innovative response to the social needs of the movement”

It promotes work in the areas of:

CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, DISADVANTAGED GROUPS, ELDERLY SICK AND DISABLED

It really does go to town on projects in Catalonia, it buys up or manages, large areas of land to preserve and protect the environment, and as it has just opened a Nerja office, perhaps we can persuade them to buy something down here for a nice new home for us !

Anyway, they looked at all the animal charities around here and decided to settle for us (the good news) and to put up a proposal for some funding (in five days!) in their annual competition (the bad news) for animal welfare and the environment and as they have a particular interest in preserving endangered species, suggested we couple a proposal for the Giant Andalucian donkey preservation (as we have three now) with a visitor educational and exhibition facility, new paths, fences and safety gates.

Well its in now, but as the other “local opposition” for funding is the Nerja Caves, we wait and see !
Depressingly, we were in the bank when the Caves guy came in, and he plonked down a 300 page, bound and full colour proposal, which made our three pages look a bit slim!!!!!!

As is usual with Spanish banks, its web site is in many languages ! To have a look [CLICK HERE](#)

***You can now renew any adoption on line – just select your Donkey (or pig!)
from the drop down menu – just [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)***

FAT PIGS AND THE ECONOMY !

I suppose that everyone out there in the great wide yonder of cyberspace are all wondering what is going on with all this dreadful economic stuff, where these banking guys trousered untold huge salaries and all those bonuses... Well thanks to these idiots we are really struggling but all our lovely supporters can rest assured that we are here for our animals and will fight on, regardless, to ensure their safety,

But, we just can't believe that just a few short months ago we were reporting that we were managing, for the first time ever, to balance our books (July 08) and things were looking up, and even in last months newsletter, we said we would try to rush out a happy chatty news letter as the last one was a bit short, when bang wham wallop, all those fat cat idiots playing pass the parcel with their huge salaries and bonus schemes, have sunk the world economy, and probably us with it.

We don't know how it happened and certainly did not see it coming, but, donations and visitors have just vanished, and in the space of just two short months, we have added another 13,000 Euro to our deficit, and with losses mounting daily, we have had to act fast to try to ensure that the Sanctuary stays open and we can feed everyone, and keep them happy safe and well.

Traditionally, we have funded the shortfalls in running costs by loans from our members, but for those of us who are still here, shouting and kicking, we just can't do it any more, so something has to give if we are to try and overcome this horrible state of affairs.

In essence, to try to keep open (as the alternative does not bear thinking about) the sanctuary, the rescue service and outreach projects are being run down, with immediate effect.

By taking this drastic action, we hope to make some major savings in medical and vets bills to try to get us through the immediate problems. We know, and it hurts, that by doing this, animals will suffer, but we really have no option if we are trying to ensure the sanctuary, at least, can keep open whilst we get our act together and try to come up with ways to raise money, and it is also a harsh fact of life that with no 3 am start on the outreach and less time on the rescue service, then we have more time to try and raise money, but what a way to go !

Its also a fact that the more animals we rescue, the more money and space we need, so it is a viscous circle – As a further sign of what is going on with the economy in general, take our emergency appeal for homes for the 43 horses we need homes for – This was well publicised on radio and TV, and not only has nothing happened, all we have had is a stream of calls asking if we would take more horses.

SO WHAT NOW ?

We have had a terrible month or so of soul searching, trying to work out what to cut as the reality is we are talking about the lives of animals and not saving money on pens and paper clips as we never ever bought things as all our volunteers always provide their own and we just don't have any fat to cut. Yet, we believe that we offer fantastic value for money in what we do, and yet the donations are just not coming in any more as the recession bites.

By cutting the rescue and outreach project, our monthly budget would be reduced from under 7,000 Euro a month to about 4,000 Euro a month, yet, that means we can't help or take in any other animals, and more worryingly, we know that locally, within a few months, we will be back to square one with animals that we were keeping an eye out for and keeping them medicated and wormed on the outreach project will be abandoned when their condition deteriorates, with so more suffering to come.

Rescue service and outreach, vets and medicines cost a 100 Euro a day



We have had to suspend our rescue service to save money, even although over the last 6 months, we had even tried to operate emergency call outs on scooters as a cost saver, but when we are asked to move to safety or into our care an animal in danger, ill or injured, then we just have to use our rescue truck and trailer, but as a double whammy, our 13 year old truck is now beyond economic repair and we just can't afford to replace it.

In the last week alone, we have had to say no to helping with 7 big animals in danger, including a young donkey in nearby Torrox that really needed rescued, and all we could say was that the owner needed to be denounced for cruelty, which he was, but as is so often the case, as we could not help, the donkey was dead just a few days later. Over the last 13 years, our free rescue service for the Guardia, local police, town halls and the general public have undertaken nearly 8,000 rescues and have rescued, made safe or found new homes for over 5,000 donkeys, mules and horses, but without the money coming in, then we just can't do it any more.

The outreach service, which amongst other successes, has done so much to cut down on local animal cruelty including bringing an end to the horrible local practice of hobbling animals feet with bits of wire by constantly denouncing and chasing anyone who did so, also monitored the care of nearly 300 local animals when we started. Yet just a few years later, the number of local animals that need to be monitored are now, thankfully, down to a handful. But over these years, and until recently, we would provide and pay for medicines and vets fees for local farmers who could not afford to do so, in a successful attempt to stop the animals being abandoned when they became ill, thus needing rescued by us, and this has proved a great success, but at a cost which we now can't afford.



The result of closing the outreach project means that those elderly or ill animals that needed winter injections and regular worming, will now be at risk, and undoubtedly we will return to the bad days of many more animals again being tied out to await their fate of a slow and lingering death.

[Please Donate or adopt on line at www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com](http://www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are a few days late with the newsletter as we wanted to be certain of the extent of our financial woes, and it is very bad, so please believe us when we say we are not crying wolf.

The situation is very serious

We can send you a label to print out and stick it on a coffee jar something similar and display it at home or work or a poster to display asking for donations

[CLICK HERE TO EMAIL US](#)

**[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION,
HOWEVER SMALL, BY DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL](#)**

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A MONTHLY £5 \(OR MORE\) DONATION](#)

If you already have an adoption about to expire, it really helps us if you renew it on line just select from drop down menu

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO RENEW AN EXISTING ADOPTION](#)

NEW UK CHARITY

Thanks to all the hard work by Melanie Radford and her fellow students and Leeds University Business department, we are on our way to sorting out a UK charity which will help us considerably if we manage to work through all this immediate financial crisis.

This will mean that for UK donations, we will be able to claim extra cash if the doner is a UK tax payer, which will be a great help and we will shortly also have a UK bank account.
In the meantime, you can send any UK Sterling cheques to

Nerja Donkey Sanctuary
73 Amersham Road, London SE14 6QQ.

Have a merry Xmas

you can donate by debit or credit card or PAYPAL at www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com
You can also send a cheque in sterling or euros, payable to the
Nerja Donkey Sanctuary, Apt Correos 414, Nerja, Malaga, 29780.

Our bank details are Banco Popular
0075-1458-25 060 00108-86 - IBAN ES37007514582506000010886 BIC POPUESMM

contact us - Kate on 664 558 135 or Rory on 664 558 133 rescues 618 46 7575

kate@donkeyaid.com

rory@donkeyaid.com

rescues@donkeyaid.com

The Nerja Donkey Sanctuary is the founder member of Asociación de Malaga de los Santuarios del Burro - A registered charity dedicated to defending the environment and the rescue and care of animals, registered number 7502 and NIF G92826304.