



February 2009 - Just nice chatty News

Yes, its winter cut and trim time, yet again, but time flies, and here is our faithful Sally Scissors getting ready to cut Trevor's ears off ! (only joking Sally), but grooming, brushing and trimming, goes on all the time, as it helps to keep the spirits up, and the donkeys neat and tidy, in the hope that more can be adopted!



Talking about being adopted, why not get a certificate for that someone special who has everything ! And now you you can even get one which says *Happy Birthday* or *Happy Anniversary*, and probably, if you get one of Henrietta, you will yourself may need one which says *Happy Divorce Darling*, as in the case of the wonderful publisher, Editor and chief scribe of Soltalk who almost got divorced from the



lovely and long suffering Gerry when he said he needed his bottle at night, and a big one at that !

We are just waiting for the Town hall to finish off the lovely new walk down along the river bed to the beach as the donkeys (and all else) have been muttering (in donkey or mule talk) that they are fed up with no visitors and it is about time the were taken out for walkies, or better still a nice paddle on the beach.



Looking back on last year, we were wishing that the beach access was finished as we keep getting complained at by the beach bars and restaurants that we are using cars to collect the bread and food left overs, as they said their customers were asking what had happened to the eco donkey and the eco bread run, to which the simple answer is that, sadly, we have no safe way to walk a donkey down to the beach at present.



Pablo the eco donkey all dressed up & nowhere to go



WINTER GALES



Brrr never known a winter like this is the cry from the local farmers, and they are not kidding.. Reports from the rescue crew sitting in a nice warm Guardia 4x4 up the Rio Chillar watched with horror as the outside temperature gauge dropped to its lowest reading (**minus**) - 10 Degrees !



It was of course the dreadful wind factor that was doing it, so we had to rush around buying more safety fences from next door (we worry about the bill later when its the animals health at risk) and covering them with the green screen stuff to make wind breaks. When the weather is bad, we often have to put certain animals in pens at night and Petra has to use a side pen, but we had run out of the green

stuff, so we had to make do with blankets, so we look a bit like an Indian Bazaar !



The other result of very cold nights, rain and winds, is that our lot have to be fed a lot more to keep their strength up, and also the side pens and main areas all need bedding to help insulate the cold ground, so its double up on the hay order (Urghh... more dosh going out !) and as our outside road still resembles a battlefield from world war one, (YES, still no sign of action from the Town Hall)

and the feed truck can't get in properly, so, it is the muscle job again !



In our ongoing attempt to hide the dogs from the attention of the Government vet ! work has been continuing on the area near the front, that was the dog pens.

In their place, we have created 4 new side pens for our big animals, plus an isolation pen (and hidden the dog pens!).

This work will make a great difference for the more infirm, ill or elderly animals that get jostled when visitors (what visitors ?!) produce munchies and the usual jostling and kicking that occurs, although we have not enough money for any more roofs and watering systems etc just yet, so they are really only able to be used as day time pens for the moment and we use muscle to hump the water up and down, and down and up !, still its good for the six pack !!!! (Sorry ladies).



CHAIN GANGS AT WORK ON NEW PENS

We have also been able to make a separate pen for Billy the kid to use during the day, and now that he has been moved from the pen he shared with Silver, they both seem to be much more happier and the two of them are probably missing their daily punch up over the contents of their food buckets !



We are also working on providing a nice new area for Henrietta, who has been suffering from the "attentions" of the, now, getting, very "boyish" baby boars !



PS On all the new works.. well, life must go on and we are taking advantage of the quiet (urghh.. did we really say that ? !) period, and our lots of nice new volunteers, both full and part time, sweat and tears to get on with doing all the jobs we really needed to get done, plus, as we already said, playing lip service to the Government vet (schhhh) who wants the dogs out and more donkeys in.

We have also decided, that as we are cut off at the front, that the Dunkirk Spirit is with us, and we are trying to see if we can cut our way through the jungle at the back, to carve a path to the nice rear tarmac road, which in turn, leads down to the beach.

It is not just cutting the weeds and brambles down, as the donkeys and the goats can do that very quickly, but we need to lay down new paths, and as we remain skint, we are going on the scrounge to collect building rubble to see if we can use this as hard core. So, if we appear more knackered than usual, that is why !!!!!

But, whilst we are going to try this, we are not sure what others !!!!! (Guess who ?) will make of this new idea, and may decide to build something out the back instead. But, what the heck, that is another day and our donkeys need to get out and about soon, for much needed exercise, otherwise their muscle tone will suffer and their rehabilitation and health can, and would, suffer.

HOMES NEEDED FOR OUR LONG TERM DOGS



We have some dogs, that no matter what we do, somehow no one wants to give them new homes, and currently we have 3 with us, such as 2 year old BUSTER, who was born at the sanctuary, just 20 minutes after his mother was brought in, and we even found some of the original pictures.

BUSTER is a lovely boy and to make matters worse, in 2007, yes, we did say 2007, when he was still young, a woman from the UK decided she wanted him and he stayed with us for the next seven months

whilst his rabies was cleared for him to go to the UK. His new Mother arrived to collect him last summer, and then just said she had a new partner, and he did not like dogs.

We were all flabbergasted and our advice was muttered that she should find a new partner. What was worse, when he was younger and waiting for that crucial 7 months, we had lots of people wanting to take him. He desperately needs a new loving home and is a sort of a man's dog, but we are really worried that he is going stir crazy if we don't find him a new home. He is castrated and we have kept his rabies and other legal stuff up to date so he can travel to the UK straight away, or anywhere in Europe.



Blue & Sampson



NEW FULL TIME VOLUNTEERS



With Woofer Sylvain setting off to Australia, we were very lucky to have another, not one, but two extra full time Woofer volunteers, Lucy and Andy from Dorset, doing a few months travelling, joining us, and they are settled down nice and snug in their "des res", one of the overnight caravans, and using the cold shower that we have installed in the loo! - One of these days, when we have some money, we might just manage to fit a hot water boiler! We all want to say a big thanks to these extra, and much younger, full time volunteers who join us for a month or so,

HOLIDAYING HERE & WHEN YOU LEAVE

Woofers are for the most part people travelling around Europe on a very limited budget to help out charities and farms. If you have any food left over at the end of your holiday they won't be offended if you bring it in to the sanctuary for them, half a packet of biscuits is better than none!

Fundraising

Wow... Neil, Jay and Flyn (and dog) Houghton, just moved to Pembrokeshire, raised almost £1,000 by emailing all his friends

Please help me raise £1000 for the Nerja donkey sanctuary by December. To see their work look at www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com - Ask me for my Sponsor form or send me a cheque payable to Nerja donkey sanctuary or adopt a donkey for £20 .(who could that be a Christmas present for??) They do a fantastic job ..i know times are hard but please help if you adopt or donate directly please let me know at neilfornerjadonkeys@tiscali.co.uk and i can keep a tally of funds towards my target! Thanks for reading this every penny counts!

Allan Palmer's Birthday Party raises almost £500 - Allan decided that instead of presents, money please for us, a big thanks and what a great idea

Streetwise magazine donated cards raises almost 1,000 Euro - When Bill & Dawn closed the streetwise mag shop, they kindly donated ALL ITS CONTENTS to us, and with the help of our lovely Irene Ward and Elizabeth at Smiffs in Nerja, we raised that fantastic sum. So thanks to you all, and it paid for January's feed!

Thanks to all those who support us but space and time limits entries & news

Well, we reckon that is enough news for now,

Lots of love & kisses from all at Nerja

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