

May 2009 Donkey Newsletter

Working with kids and animals

This month saw the start of a new triple collaboration between ourselves, Riding for the Disabled and the CAIT*. This new project's aim is to help out local kids who have a range of learning and muscular difficulties helping to improve their mental and physical development.

Riding for the Disabled have kindly lent us Hannah and Georgia's pony Chocky. He is used to carrying children and is perfect for our hippotherapy. (He's also tiny!)



Pic - Hannah, Georgia and Harriet with Chocky (The sanctuary is just next to this Nerja sign)

Hippotherapy (from the Greek: hippos - horse) has been used for many years to help kids and adults with everything from motor skills to speech and breathing problems. Riding provides a great deal of stimuli for the children and for those with muscular problems it can provide an extra challenge that makes the muscles work harder. Chocky is a bit like a large, hairy wobble board! Plus he's cute so he captures their attention.



Kids grooming Chocky the 'Hippo' horse



We hope to continue this program indefinitely with at present a session every Tuesday afternoon after visitor hours. Presently 5 children are taking part, the physios and parents are really impressed and we have seen results already. With your help we can keep this riding program going and really make a difference to these kids lives. If you can't make it out to visit us this year please remember you can donate online at www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com

*Centro de atenció n infantil temprana - An early years intervention association based in Nerja who help children with learning difficulties.

School's out

Phew, finally the school visits are all wrapped up. With just under 1000 children taught in 9 schools it has been hard work. We gave our lessons on animal welfare and looking after donkeys in all the schools in Nerja and a couple in Maro and Frigiliana too, the kids were well behaved and listened intently to our donkey tales. Thanks to Regina from SPA, Harriet and Mark and anyone else who took time to help out with the lessons or indeed in keeping the sanctuary up and running whilst we were teaching.



So it has been a busy few weeks, just unfortunately not with visitors as the number of tourists in and around Nerja seemed to drop lower and lower before picking up again at the end of the month. It seems the credit crunch is starting to hit harder but who knows maybe if the MP's stop claiming expenses for moat repairs people will be able to afford a holiday... once they've repaired their own moat of course.

We are not immune from this financial worry and the impact on our funding has meant we have already had to cut back so much but when operations need to be done then we just have to crack on and hope that a.) our vet will wave his hands in the air and say pay me later and b.) the visitors will return and donations will increase again. So this month Ziggy (Platero) and Stardust were castrated and we are waiting on Nico to come and fix Bolera, Mocarra and Pablo's teeth as they are struggling to eat properly. Nico stood us up for friday night's dental fun but he promises us he'll come on Wednesday instead... we'll see. Thank you to those who have already made a [donation](#) towards the dentistry.

★ **The Victoria** (on Calle Chaparil) held a St George's day event, including pin the tail on the donkey (no one was injured!) in aid of the donkeys and raised just over 100 euros on the day. Great work guys, thanks for your support.



Rescues - Horses again this month with Harriet called out to rescue a horse that had "an entire reja stuck to it's head" needless to say we rushed up to find the poor horse, well, with an entire reja (the metal grills you see on Spanish houses covering windows and doors) stuck on it's head collar. The owner arrived and explained that he'd used the old rejas to make a temporary feeding trough, unfortunately the horse's head collar had become caught up in the fence and in a panic he'd pulled the fence out of the ground and dragged it away. The horse is now doing fine.

In a sadder story our rescue team were called to visit a sick horse north of Nerja. It was clear the horse was in distress so we called our vet who arrived promptly. He decided on a course of treatment with the owner

who was upset that his horse had become ill and instantly set about constructing a shelter for it. However we later received a call from our vet telling us that another vet had made his own diagnosis and without having the decency to contact our vet to find out his side of the story decided to denounce the owner and got the Guardia involved. With the denuncia issued the Guardia's hands were tied they had to ask the owner to either move his horse, which he clearly couldn't as it was recovering from it's illness, or pay a 6000 euro fine. The distraught owner was therefore forced to have the horse put down, needless to say our vet wasn't very happy either. With a simple phone call and not jumping straight to issuing a denuncia perhaps the horse's life could've been saved. An investigation is under way but as it stands we will not use this vet again, in fact when we had to call him recently as a last resort he refused to come and help even though it was an emergency...

Donkey in free ads: In Spain they don't call it a credit crunch but "la crisis" (cree-sis) and a sure sign that it's hitting Andalucia is when people start giving away animals in the freads. This donkey was brought to our attention by a Spanish supporter, we have contacted the owner and offered to take in the baby donkey if the need arises. On the plus side at least they didn't just abandon him in a field.

Regalo burro 3 años

Contactar con el anunciante 6 may, 09:21 [Volver a la búsqueda](#)



15.000.000 € este viernes. Juega aquí

Regalo burro por no poder mantenerlo. Interesados ponganse en contacto conmigo en horario comercial llamando al numero citado anteriormente.

Anuncio visto 771 veces

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Just in time for the weather heating up our misting system that keeps

the animals and visitors cool has been damaged leaving us cooling system free until we can buy a replacement water filter.

Donkey round-up: [Connan](#) and [Woody](#) are now sharing a pen, [Mocarra](#) has had to be moved to [Silver](#)'s old pen as she is struggling with her arthritis. [Flash](#) is enjoying helping himself to the piles of coriander and rocket that the farmer is bringing in. [Pinky](#) has been playing [chase with a stick](#) in his mouth. [Rubì](#) is making the most of her pen only having half a roof as she can spend time in the shade and then go and sunbathe at the back (all in the design don't you know). [Pablo](#), [Petra](#) and [Farry](#) have been having their legs moisturised to deal with irritated skin from those pesky flies. (cheap bottles of moisturiser always handy, big bin bags, fly spray and carrots always needed!) Oh and Bolera nearly knocked a tree down...



Oh and Bolera nearly knocked a tree down...



[Rubì](#) enjoying the sun at the back of her pen

Thank you to: SPA for arranging the school talks and donating 200 euros
Thanks to Steve Jones for his generous donation. The [Nerja Tapas Guide](#) website for sending all profits our way, a great place to plan your next tapas crawl.

The kids at Almuñecar International school for raising 200 Euros from their art auction. The 50 new people who joined the Facebook group...
Thanks also to Lucy and Felicity for putting in a months hard work, in particular their care and grooming of the animals has left the donkeys looking fantastic and we miss them already.

Love from all at the [Nerja Donkey Sanctuary](#)
Any questions admin@donkeyaid.com