

## September Donkey Newsletter

**The Wedding Crashers** - When we had a request for a donkey to attend a wedding on the beach Farry was first in the queue as he was so well behaved on his last outing. The groom's name was Platero and his bride Paloma, as Platero is probably the most famous donkey name in Spain and Paloma means dove in Spanish they of course wanted a donkey and a dove to attend the wedding. Fortunately and this is a little known fact, Farry's middle name also just happens to be Platero. We were asked to provide the dove too but politely declined.

Farry coped very well with all the loud noises, car horns beeping, bangers going off and general loud cheering and shouting as the bride and groom posed with Farry. He barely flinched and seemed less bemused than his handlers who found themselves surrounded by cameras as part of the photo shoot.

All well and good, except Farry enjoyed the party so much that while we stopped for a photo request outside the bar Farry decided he hadn't had enough carrot canapés and headed back towards the wedding party! Fortunately a passer-by helped catch him before he got too far... phew



**Farry pictured seconds before his return to the party!**

**September** brought a slight increase in the number of visitors as people made the most of the brilliantly sunny but cooler weather that this time of year brings. The next six months are still looking to be **make or break** for the sanctuary as the winter tourist numbers for Spain are predicted to be down on previous years... although that surely means there must be some good deals out there for anyone looking to visit Nerja. All this makes [online adoptions](#), [donations](#) and [adoption renewals](#) extremely vital for the survival of the sanctuary. Adoptions make great presents and we aim to dispatch every online adoption within 24 hours.

**Giant Haystacks** - A huge thank you to everyone who helped out with the hay delivery. As we were temporarily reduced to just one person on duty who was faced with



some escaped donkeys and broken water pipe and the prospect of stacking an entire lorry load of hay single handedly it was a great relief to have four fantastic visitors volunteer themselves to help with the task of stacking the thankfully slightly less than normal 121 bales.



You may remember from last month's newsletter that after getting wet and muddy washing all the residents we also had to scrub up to appear on television after a Spanish tv and magazine crew dropped in for some interviews and to film the sanctuary. They were particularly interested in our work with local schools and our riding program for disabled children which

we will be starting up again soon. However the physiotherapy charity we work with to provide this program might be unable to provide full physio support due to the credit crunch. We hope this will not be the case as it is a wonderful project and the children benefit immensely, so we are looking for volunteers to help out please call for details, the sessions are

held in the afternoons usually around 5 or 6pm. You can also help by adopting Chocky our physiotherapy pony [online](#) for just 25 euros for one year's adoption.

The last few weeks of summer brought a shortage of helpers but in the midst of this crisis two volunteers from Cuba and another from France came to help out with our winter preparations ahead of any rain. We are hoping for a drier winter and certainly nothing like the storm two years ago that nearly washed the sanctuary away. We did manage to rescue two turkeys from the tempest and the animals were all fine thanks to the sterling effort of a few hardy helpers who stayed in the sanctuary for the duration of the storm. We've also managed to get hold of a small digger that we hope we can use to level out some of the pens and make a drain of sorts.

The coach trips bringing visitors to the donkey sanctuary from the Benalmádena area have returned after their summer break which is a welcome boost to our visitor numbers and will hopefully ease some of our money worries through the winter. Escuela de Idiomas Nerja are also visiting regularly with their students who are able to interview the sanctuary helpers (in Spanish!) as part of their Spanish course whilst meeting the school's adopted baby donkey Platero.



## Donkey news

**Paloma** had a spell in a side pen during the thunderstorm so that we could open up the whole donkey area and allow the naughty baby donkeys to mix with all the others and use the shelters available. The babies tend to harass Paloma so she got luxury treatment with a pen to herself and her own hay net which she loved.

**Derek** went for a midnight wander after a gate was left unlocked. **Farry** also enjoyed a little jaunt around the visitor area in the donkey breakout but was good natured enough to return himself to the donkey enclosure without too much persuasion.

**Iggy** went for a wander around the entrance area and helped out with some weeding although we returned him to the donkey side when he started nibbling on our grape vines!



**Iggy weeding near the front gate**

**Flash** decided to break a few more water pipes just to keep us on our toes.

**Silver and Chocky**, just a reminder that these two are on special diets and shouldn't be fed anything else under any circumstances Silver gets three meals a day of special feed that touch wood is keeping his colic under control and Chocky needs to be in tip top shape to carry the kids around.

Our two goats were in the wars a bit and both had to be given injections of antibiotics to clear up their problems. **Billy** was treated by a lovely vet who comes to visit us when he is on holiday and carries out basic treatments for free and **Luna** was treated by a combination of volunteers, visitors and vets to clear up her mastitis brought on by a phantom pregnancy. Thanks to everyone for helping out.

**Leo and Chalkie** have been enjoying the sunshine and both enjoyed running around and playing with the baby donkeys during the rain storm

The **babies** (**Ziggy**, **Stardust**, **Pinky**, **Perky** and **Trevor**) would like to say a big **thank you** to everyone who donated towards their feeding troughs and toys we hope they will arrive soon and when they do you'll be the first to see the pictures here.

## Thanks to -

Yani and Jinte visited the sanctuary after reading an article about us in the Brussels Airlines inflight magazine (our donkeys get everywhere!) they adopted Pinky and Perky and kindly posted the magazine to us when they got home. Jill Leeson very kindly knitted two beautiful donkeys for us, Alexandra Rose from Norwich age 9 raised 61 pounds doing a garage sale for Nerja Donkey Sanctuary, our two Frontline dropper donators, everyone who dropped in items to sell at our Sunday car boot stall, R&R Builders and Lynda Hart for her donation.



Donations via direct bank transfer are the quickest and best way to donate money to the donkeys and also incurs the least charges.

Our charity bank details are:- **Banco Popular Nerja No:** 0075-1458-25 060-00108-86 **IBAN** ES3700751458250600010886 **BIC** POPUESMM

Thank you to everyone who has donated in response to our Save our Sanctuary appeal. We all hope that the key will be to survive this winter and your fantastic donations have got us off to a good start. Join us shortly (we promise!) for October's newsletter which will have details of some great donations and some fantastic ways of raising money for your favourite donkeys, see you this side of Hallowe'en!

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