

June 2011 Nerja Donkey Newsletter

Highway hijinks

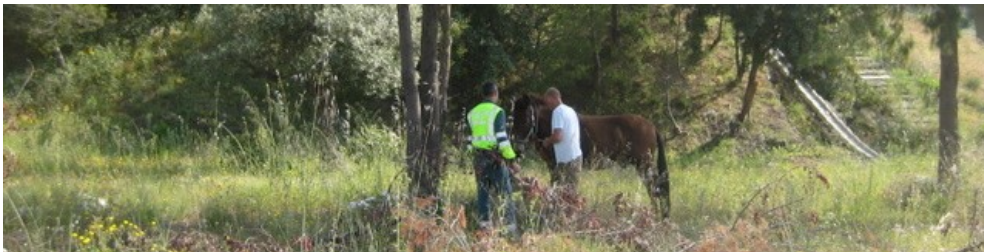
Animals breaking free from their tether is an all too common problem. When those animals stray on to roads the accidents can be horrific.

So when we received a call about a mule running on the motorway we sprang into action and set off for Maro.

Grabbing some ropes and a head collar we proceeded carefully along the autovia looking out for the loose animal. Numerous times we were passed by motorists clearly exceeding the speed limit and with no idea of the danger ahead they were only giving themselves less time to react.

Exiting the tunnel we saw a commotion ahead and flashing lights from a Guardia Civil patrol car, we feared the worst. As the officer flagged us to stop we shouted out the window that we were from the "Refugio del burro" and that we had equipment with us he jumped in his car and escorted us forward past yet more patrol cars and some civilian vehicles that had stopped to help.

Thankfully there had not been an accident but it had taken the bravery of two locals who had stopped on the autovia and managed to coax the animal onto a patch of scrub land beside the slip-road.



Picture: We secure the mule with our head collar as an officer looks on

As soon as we saw it we could see it was a mule and it looked in good condition. We approached calmly and cautiously so as not to spook him and we were able to secure him with our head collar and ropes.

We waited with the police for the animal unit SEPRONA to turn up with their chip scanner but after half an hour waiting the local police got fed up so drove back to the Nerja police station to get their scanner.



While they were away two Trafico officers turned up and a man from the highways agency so all in all about 10 officers for one mule.

Eventually they got the chip number and we set off walking the mule back to the sanctuary from Maro.

www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com

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¡Beep beep! Mind your backs please mule coming through

We passed by plenty of curious onlookers as we passed Capistrano, the health centre, the police station, the bus station and finally over the river to the safety of the sanctuary.

The whole rescue took about three hours.

Although he looked in excellent condition we put him in isolation as we do with all new animals that come in to the sanctuary in case of disease.

The mule was collected two days later after one of our supporters by chance happened to visit a friend of theirs only to find him in tears.

It turned out he was very upset having lost his mule that he had had since it was born. He was soon reunited with his mule and left the sanctuary a happy man all be it with a warning to tie the animal up better.



Passing the entrance to Capistrano Village, Nerja



Safe at last

New addition to our disabled riding stable:

Heidi came from Vélez-Málaga where she had been working with kids but her owner was unable to keep her.

She was recommended to us as a horse that would be excellent for our riding program but she has arrived in poor condition and we are working on building her up to full strength and fitness before we try her with the children.

Heidi

Speaking of children last month saw 261 visit the sanctuary as part of organised school visits.



Educating children how best to look after animals is an important part of our work and we were delighted to welcome back not only all of the schools who visited last year but also to add nursery school Snoopys to the visits. Word is obviously spreading that it is a great place to come and visit.

Summer visitor hours.

This month sees the start of our longer evening visitor hours. You can now visit us between 10 and 2 and 5 and 7 in the evening to beat the heat. We close for siesta time to give the donkeys a break as they like to follow visitors around looking for just one more carrot. Come 2 o'clock when we shut they retreat to a shady corner, under a tree or under one of our sun shelters and take a little nap waiting for fresh visitors bearing buckets of carrots at 5pm when we reopen.

Donations needed

This month donations of hand soap, large bin bags, fly spray and as always carrots would be much appreciated. Last months donation appeal was a great success thank you to everyone who donated garden chairs just in time for all the visiting school kids to sit on them and thanks to our friends at Little Weed Allotments (637 005 423) for donating a washing machine, this will help us cut costs.

Thanks

The **Chapel bar** (Calle Jaen) raised 85 for our hippotherapy sessions. **O.L.A.S** raised 65 euros and **Bar Nautico** raised 22 euros thanks to the bars and their customers.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who are doing a fantastic job in all aspects of the sanctuary at the moment, the sanctuary looks better than it ever has and it's now twice the size too, we really can't thank you enough.

Thank you also to all our supporters around the world, special mentions this month to our friends in **Wales, Australia** and **Ireland**.

Thanks to everyone who has come to visit recently and told us how great the place looks we're glad you like the improvements we couldn't do any of it without your support and donations.

Visiting

Our visitor hours are 10am to 2pm and 5-7pm. We're open every day admission is free. Great fun for kids. We're on the western edge of town a few minutes walk from the Supersol supermarket next to the Rio Chillar river. You can bring carrots and feed the donkeys by hand.

Volunteers are always welcome so if you'd like to help out why not come in or give us a call. Not all of the jobs are messy or too hands on as we always need people to help meet and greet visitors and show people around.

The important money bit

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

You can find out more about us, adopt a donkey or donate by card or PayPal at www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com email: kate@donkeyaid.com

Information about volunteering, school visits or opening hours call Rory on (+34) 664 558 133. Rescues call Harriet on 618 46 7575. Fund raising or helping at the car boot stall call Irene on 690 047 350.

You can donate in Sterling or Euros with cheques payable to Nerja Donkey Sanctuary.

Postal address (must include our president's name)
Katherine Horne, Nerja Donkey Sanctuary, Apartado de Correos 414, Nerja, 29780, Malaga, Spain.

The Nerja Donkey Sanctuary is a registered Spanish not for profit charity number 7502

Love from all at the [Nerja Donkey Sanctuary](http://www.nerjadonkeysanctuary.com)

Any questions admin@donkeyaid.com

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