

Nerja Donkey Sanctuary

April Newsletter - Caruso's story

Just seven months old little Caruso has had a tough start to life. He spent his first months living with a farmer near Frigiliana who was unable or unwilling to help out his poorly skinny baby donkey. Undernourished and sick nobody seemed to want Caruso and he was passed from owner to owner until he found someone willing to take him in.

Caruso was so small they picked him up and put him in their 4x4 for the drive home. He lived in their back garden where they started to get him back to a good weight but then the rains came and the wet winter wouldn't ease up, with no shelter to offer Caruso these kind animal lovers opened their doors to him and [he lived in their house](#) for two months with two dogs and eight cats as friends.



Caruso was seen by our vet and once he had recovered enough strength the vet recommended that he be moved to the sanctuary to continue his rehabilitation and learn to be a donkey rather than a house mate.



[Pic - Caruso shortly after arriving in the sanctuary](#)

April newsletter Caruso's story cont...

Caruso is still very thin; he had to have two extra teeth removed that were causing him eating difficulties. He was also suffering from a stomach ulcer that we have treated in the sanctuary, we hope that he will make a full recovery. He is settling in really well and has made new friends with our baby donkeys. You can help Caruso by [adopting him online](#) or in the sanctuary.

You can meet Caruso and all the new arrivals in the sanctuary between 10-2 and 5-6pm. [Please note we will be closed to visitors on the 15th of May for the San Isidro Romero.](#)

Pic - Our educational program continues with the second school visit from La Cala



Smarty the naughty pony has been homed with our neighbours at the builders yard, they wanted to take Smarty as soon as they saw him but he needed some training first and we wanted to make sure he was in the best possible condition and had calmed down a bit before we let him leave

We have also successfully homed piglets George and Mildred who were born in the sanctuary in February. Thanks to everyone involved in finding them a home. We still have 2 dogs desperately seeking homes; Sampson and Blanca. You can walk them any day, mornings are best as they really appreciate the extra attention. If you can home one of our two final dogs please come and see us in the sanctuary or call us on the numbers below.

Donkey news

Farry is back in training ready to carry the older children who attend our therapy riding program. **Leo** has been well behaved. **Flash** has been suspiciously quiet so we're expecting a few stolen hats soon. **Bolera** has a bit of mouth trouble and has been given a special mouth wash by the vet. **Chocky** is getting used to the new riding course laid out for the kids. **Hilary** has been stealing the donkeys' food when we turn our backs so we need to buy more mangers that hang on the fences - donations please!

Paloma loves the new larger sized hay feeder as she doesn't have to bend down so much so her back is more comfortable. The **babies** are slowly getting used to **Ambrose** and now they are showing Caruso the ropes too.

Mum to be **Chica** is now just a few months away from giving birth, as you'd expect she's getting bigger by the day. She still enjoys running about with baby **Ambrose** and her latest craving is for **spinach** you could bring her some as a treat when you visit. Our eldest donkey **Petra** is famous for her long curly hair that on occasion has seen her mistaken for a sheep.

Last summer saw temperatures in excess of 40 degrees in the sanctuary and **Petra** struggled so this summer we have cut her hair short.

So thank you for the donations of hair clippers following our appeal last month. Our fridge is on its last legs so if anyone has an old fridge they don't need it would be much appreciated.



Donations needed

It's not all good news; following the wet hard winter our usually busy Easter period saw a record low for visitors, down 70% on last year. Fewer visitors means fewer donations. We are now heavily relying on a good summer or face the threat of closure. You can help by adopting one of our donkeys. For just 20 euros you can support an animal for a whole year and help keep our doors open. Your online support is vital in this difficult period.



[Online adoptions](#), [donations](#) and [adoption renewals](#) . Adoptions make great presents and we aim to dispatch every online adoption within 24 hours. Check out our **new** postcards available on [zazzle.co.uk](https://www.zazzle.co.uk)

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:-

CCC. 2013 1741 25 0200039610

IBAN ES08 2013 1741 2502 0003 9610

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[TITULAR: ASOCIACION DE MALAGA DE LOS SANCTUARIOS DEL BURRO](#)

How you can help

We often get asked what people can bring us to help out, besides the obvious like donations we are also eternally grateful for the following items

Carrots! - Large black sacks for the bins - unwanted tools and wheelbarrows - Large black bins to store the feed - Fly Spray - getting to that time of year again. Frontline spray for the dogs, bric a brac for the car boot stall... Any leftover food, condiments, spices/tea bags - these are very useful for our woofers who live on site and often are on a travelling budget. Also any food left in rental apartments is thrown away when you leave, health and safety madness, we can give it a good home. Especially tea bags and carrots, did we mention we need carrots!

April 2010 newsletter Thanks to - Louis, Madolyn, Natasha, Lisa, Chris and Angie. Martin and Judy for their help; particularly with the car boot sale (helpers needed) and also for paying for the use of the digger (from Maquinarias Nerja) and skip for our big spring clean. Coop Astor and Wayne's drains for clearing out our blocked pipes free of charge. Big thanks to all our regular volunteers and to the Victoria for their successful quiz night every Thursday raising money for the donkeys. Last but not least Alexandra, Uli and Nando for rescuing and caring for Caruso.

For more info call Rory on (+34) 664 558 133. Rescues call Harriet 618 467 575
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.

Love from all at the [Nerja Donkey Sanctuary](#)

Any questions admin@donkeyaid.com

Follow us on our [Facebook page](#), [Facebook group](#) and [Twitter](#)

The Nerja Donkey Sanctuary is a registered Spanish not for profit charity no.7502

Please be aware not all of the animals in the sanctuary are available for adoption. Where possible we home our residents to foster homes so they may not be in the sanctuary when you visit.



Pic - Shaggy (foreground) with Chocky and Silver enjoying their newly extended pen