

October 2010 Donkey Newsletter

The sad tale of Mendez the horse.

Please note: We try to keep our newsletters light hearted and positive where possible but this is one case that cannot go unreported.

This newsletter contains pictures of a very malnourished horse that you may find distressing.

For six years our sanctuary has been rescuing and caring for abandoned and mistreated donkeys.

Horses and mules tend to be better looked after than donkeys, which is a sad story in its own right and when necessary we take in mules and horses needing our help.

Horses can usually be quickly found new homes, however on occasion we have to act to try to save an animal that has been so badly treated that leaving them with their owner would mean the end.

We are receiving an increasing number of calls about malnourished animals left with no shelter, food or water.

Often we find an animal in reasonable condition (by local standards) with scrubland to graze on and water brought at night as sun-heated water causes illness.

Mendez's story however is at the extreme end of the scale he had barely any food and was severely underweight.



Mendez was not an old horse and could have lived many more years but for the neglect he was subjected to.

Mendez was brought to our attention by sanctuary volunteers experienced in caring for animals in all kinds of conditions, often seeing the animals when they first arrive, so when they reported a very skinny horse to us we knew it would be bad.

We were shocked by what we found and quickly moved to remove the horse from the owner helped by police animal unit Seprona and our vet who we called in to assess the poor horse's chances of survival.

The owners would not relinquish the horse for fear of prosecution, they wanted to keep him out of sight until he died “naturally”.

We visited frequently to check on the horse and our fears came true when we returned to find the horse had been moved, hidden from us so we could not help him.

All the while he was continuing to starve. After two weeks of negotiating and arguing with the owner he grudgingly relented and we were able to bring the horse in to care.

Mendez was painfully thin and had lost more weight in the two weeks it took to get him away from his owner and to the sanctuary.



Another of our vets recognized Mendez. He visited him three years before when he had been in excellent condition. In the following years he had been starved and lost all condition damaging to his organs.

Mendez was so desperately tired he didn't even have the energy to lie down, he just stood, barely moving.

We were able to gently coax him into eating small amounts of straw so as not to overload his system and after he was seen by the vet we slowly gave him energy rich grains and hay.

Mendez started to eat and and move around but he never regained the spark in his eyes. He was tired and had suffered enough. Eventually he found the energy to lie down and rest but despite our best efforts couldn't get back to his feet. He had simply had enough and had found a place that he could finally rest.

Had Mendez had a microchip we would have denounced the owner to the police immediately. How can anyone let an animal get into this condition? We offer assistance to anyone struggling to keep their equines and are currently dealing with four horses that are underfed, without our intervention they are heading to the same awful state as Mendez.

Another striking example of how not to treat a horse is Silver who has been at the sanctuary for 3 years.

Silver was ridden when he was too young deforming his back permanently. He shares his pen with another horse and the contrast is all too evident.

Silver plays an important role in our education program delivered to local schools and many from further afield who come to visit the animals and learn to care for them properly.

The only way forward is through education, please help us stop this cruelty by visiting the sanctuary or donating online.



Educating children can help bring an end to the wide-scale abuse of animals that still occurs.

These animals are not just machines to be worked until they can do no more.

They deserve respect, after all they and their ancestors ploughed the fields, carried goods and helped build Nerja.

Please help us continue to fight to stop this kind of abuse by making a donation or adopting a donkey on the website.

Donkey news

Pablo has been wearing a fly protector mask over his head as the flies were really bothering him don't worry there's nothing wrong with him he just looks a bit odd.

The pigs and little piggies have been having a whale of a time in their wallow, check out the video on youtube



Petra found the heat a bit too much for her so we improvised with a beach umbrella to give a bit more shade!

Please remember [online adoptions](#), [donations](#) and [adoption renewals](#) are extremely vital for the survival of the sanctuary. Adoptions make great presents and we aim to dispatch every online adoption within 24 hours.

Thanks to –

Norma Young, Kate, Matthew and Anna. Caz, Anne, Liz, Amanda, Kerri, our Welsh supporters and all the visitors and volunteers who did all they could for Mendez.



Baby David has been posing with our lovely new [Charibags](#)



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

More info call (+34) 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.

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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