



**ASOCIACIÓN
NACIONAL DE
CRIADORES DE LA
RAZA
ASNAL
ANDALUZA**

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THE ASSOCIATION OF BREEDERS OF ANDALUSIAN DONKEYS

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Dear Reader,

Let me introduce you to A.N.C.R.A.A. This is the National Association of Breeders of the Andaluz Donkey, or in Spanish, Asociación Nacional de Criadores de la Raza Asnal Andaluza. This particular breed of donkey is in danger of extinction as recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in year 2001. The above association ANCRAA was formed so that with the help of like minded people, this almost extinct breed can be saved and slowly increased, thereby saving a little bit of heritage for future generations to enjoy.

I have recently taken on the Presidency and Custodianship of ANCRAA and the only nucleus of this pure breed will be cared for on our finca on the Costa del Sol, Spain. There are 5 Jennies, 2 Jacks, a seven-month-old male, (future Jack) and a 4-week-old baby female (Jenny) foal. More foals are due! We already have our own two donkeys, one of which may be suitable to breed from, hopefully creating a fresh bloodline. However as quality is paramount to preserve the race, we will have to take great care.

These are not your average donkeys as fondly remembered from seaside holidays of yesteryear, these beauties are around 1.45m- 1.50m to the wither, which means they are VERY large. Their special gentle character, grey/white colouring and beautiful facial bone structure with their exquisite eyes are their most outstanding features. As mans' special workmate, they have carried water, olives, oranges, lemons, farm produce, building materials etc and up in the cork forests they were used for carrying huge loads of cork. In the fields they ploughed and harrowed and sowed in perfect harmony with man. After work groomed to perfection and dressed in colourful authentic Spanish headgear and backpack etc they carried the romantic young man to the next village to woo his sweetheart! Who could resist man and beast so handsomely presented!! It is only the advent of agricultural machinery, trucks and the motorcar that has made them redundant and therefore expendable, and sadly forgotten. Suddenly you begin to realize that there are no large donkeys to be seen around and the planet could be losing another member. Please don't let it happen.

I am indebted to my Spanish friend Javier who will remain Honorary President and founder, for his trust in me to fulfil the dream we both share. His guidance and expertise is invaluable and he will remain as a source of knowledge for the betterment and repopulation of the breed.

If you feel you can contribute to this very special project, I shall be delighted to hear from you. Yes, we do need money, as immediate needs are for 2 extra stables with hard standing/yards to keep the two males apart. Of course Hay and straw need to be bought ready for winter feeding, electric fencing and a handful of other small items like vaccinations as the foals are born. We are also looking for volunteers to help on the finca with fencing, building, etc etc. We shall need Publicity, Press and Magazines and TV is also very welcome. Finally we would like to share these beautiful donkeys with you all, so a Visitor's Centre is a must. Is there a company able to donate a large portable sales office no longer in use I wonder? Adoptions, Donkey Holidays and a website will follow as we grow.



If this appeals to you please call me on + 34 952790511 (evenings) or e-mail marlene@ancraa.org or post ANCRAA Aptdo 32 Estepona 29680, Malaga, SPAIN.

Thank you for sparing time to read this and I look forward to hearing from you.

Marlene Byrd, Presidenta A.N.C.R.A.A.