

Most of the donkeys who come to the Sathya Sai Sanctuary are elderly. Many are ex-working donkeys who have laboured for years bringing in the hay and the turf, carrying the milk churns to the creamery and even ploughing and harrowing the fields. Nowadays this work is done by tractors and other farm machinery.

They come to us from many sources: voluntary relinquishment when their owners can no longer care for them or have died; abandonment, when they are usually found loose on the road; or in cases of severe neglect or cruelty. The most common problems involve neglect of their hooves due to insufficient, inadequate and unprofessional trimming, plus keeping the animals in unsuitable conditions such as on wet, acid land with no recourse to somewhere dry. The neglected hooves shown here are totally unacceptable.



Other common problems include skin disorders such as mud fever and rain scald due to living out, without shelter in Ireland's wet climate. Whilst native ponies have waterproof coats, donkeys are indigenous to the hot, dry climates of Africa and Asia and have no waterproofing in their coats. They unquestionably require a dry shed for shelter.



Harness sores are rarely found these days but it is not uncommon to find a donkey or pony with rope burns or wounds on the face from having too tight a halter or headcollar left on permanently. On a young animal that is still growing this can prove disastrous.

More information on www.donkeys.ie

The following animals are available for sponsorship under our Adopt a Donkey/Pony Scheme.



Joshua - a real boy, pushy, affectionate, used to getting his own way (with charm!) and loves nibbling buttons, zips, toggles, handbags and clothing,; especially if he gets more cuddles that way.

Roki - an unusually marked "spotty" donkey gelding with a penchant for food; especially carrots and ginger biscuits. He came to us when his previous owner, who had rescued him from an abusive situation, was obliged to move abroad.



Luke - a handsome, strong, fawn coloured gelding with beautiful markings, who came to us as a 6 month old foal with his severely abused dam, Lady. When Lady died two years later Luke bonded inseparately with Mostestina.

Benny - is an attractive mousey coloured gelding with dusty black points and a duo tone mane. He is a stocky little fellow with an ebullient nature whose special friend is an older dark brown mare called Tessa, who suffers with lameness problems.



Tommi - came to us when his previous owner moved abroad. Tommi is quite a nervous donkey with a chestnut, slightly shaggy coat and a mild spinal problem which makes him unsuitable for riding or driving.

Molly - came to stay at the Sanctuary as a chronic laminitic who was being bullied by her bigger companions. She is an adorable 11.2 hh pony mare with a gentle and affectionate nature. She is the youngest of five small ponies at around 11 years old.



Adoption fee: €15 per year. *Thank you*