



Cyprus Donkeys in Distress Checklist Information

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Many holiday makers and visitors, who are travelling to European countries, contact The Donkey Sanctuary regarding donkeys that they have seen which may be in difficulty, injured or appear to be in poor condition. Although The Donkey Sanctuary has no legal jurisdiction, we are increasingly more able to investigate and assist the donkey by providing advice and medical help if the owner is open to our offer. The Donkey Sanctuary often works in conjunction with other animal welfare organisations, enabling us to provide help in other countries. Thanks to people who are concerned for the welfare of donkeys forwarding information, we have been able to improve the lives of many of these animals.

The most common reports we receive are lack of water and feed, overgrown hooves and wounds caused by incorrect tethering or hobbling (*see attached*). Below are brief explanations to help you identify any situations you feel may need to be reported to us. A checklist is included to enable you to provide us with important information we require in order to do investigations. If you are able to take a digital photograph of the donkey and any landmarks, this would be of great help. The checklist can be completed online or posted to us.

- Food** Donkeys originate from Africa and Asia and are naturally very adaptable animals who can survive in situations where horses cannot. Their digestive system is designed to obtain sufficient dietary requirements from what would seem to be small amounts of feed, often of very low nutritional value. Donkeys require a high fibre diet as a high sugar and starch diet can cause health problems, particularly if the donkey is not working.
- Water** In many instances where it appears the donkey is not receiving any water, it will often be given to the donkey very early in the morning and/or late at night. In extremely hot climates the daytime temperatures will evaporate a lot of water left out in a bucket. It will also get very dirty and attract insects during the daylight hours. However, a lack of water can cause many health problems and lead to death.
- Shelter** It is always preferable for a donkey to have access to shade or shelter, particularly from the heat and heavy rain. For many owners in European countries this is not always possible, often due to lack of finance, materials or because the donkey is moved around to different areas. Again, as they originate from Africa and Asia, they can cope with the heat much better than humans, although if they are not receiving water over a period of days, it will cause severe health problems.
- Tethering** In many areas it is often virtually impossible for the donkey owner to provide fencing around the area in which the donkey lives. In these situations, although far from ideal, a neck tether, leg hobbles, or a combination of both is used to ensure the donkey does not stray. Unsuitable materials, such as wire, and incorrect fitting cause the majority of injuries which can often be very serious.
- Feet** Finding a farrier to regularly trim donkeys' feet and attend to any problems can be extremely difficult as well as being an expense that many owners can ill afford. If the donkey is not working and walking over rough surfaces, his hooves will not wear and gradually get longer. Overlong hooves can cause a great deal of discomfort and in some cases long term damage to the bones inside the hoof may occur.
- Wounds** Wounds are often a result of a direct injury, ill fitting tack, harness or hobbles or being attacked by other animals. Some wounds or injuries may need veterinary attention. Others may simply need to be cleaned. If a wound or injury affects the donkey's ability to work, it will ultimately affect the livelihood of the owner as well as the welfare of the donkey. If treatment is administered quickly and flies are kept away from the wound, the risk of infection is minimised.
- General Health** Donkeys do have a tendency to appear gloomy at times, particularly if they are dozing. However, unlike most horses, if they are unwell they do not show signs until they are often very ill. If you are concerned about the overall look of a donkey, it is a good idea to visit him/her late into the evening when it is cooler and there are no flies about.

If you are concerned that the donkey is in pain, unwell or generally neglected please complete the attached form and forward to the European Welfare Co-ordinator at The Donkey Sanctuary at the address at the bottom of this page: we may be able to investigate the situation and provide assistance.

Thank you for your interest. For more information on donkey health, have a look at the Welfare section on our website or contact us by telephone, email or fax as shown below.

“Working worldwide for donkeys”

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•Email: info@donkeysanctuarycyprus.org •Website: www.donkeysanctuarycyprus.org

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm. Other times use ANSAPHONE service or call the Visitor Centre
A subsidiary of The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon UK EX10 0NU



EUROPEAN DONKEYS IN DISTRESS CHECKLIST

In order for us to investigate any welfare concerns it is important that we have as many details as possible. If you see a donkey that you are concerned about, we would be grateful if you could complete the following details and forward this form to us either by email or by post. If possible, photographs would be very useful.

Your Name: Telephone No.....

Your Address: Email:

.....
 Postcode.....

Please tick the box if you would like to receive further information about the following;

Donkey Sanctuary Working Worldwide ; El Refugio del Burrito (a Spanish subsidiary of the Donkey Sanctuary) ;
 Donkey Sanctuary (Cyprus)

Location of donkey.

Village/Town.....Country.....

Name of Owner (very often, if you ask around, someone knows the name of the owner and where they live).

.....

Details of location i.e. street name, landmarks, approximate distance from landmarks:

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Details of the problem

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Age It is sometimes possible to access a donkey's approximate age by its physical appearance. Please indicate which category best describes the donkey you have seen. *Please tick the box*



Foal



Young



Middle Aged



Old



Very Old

Weight Does the donkey appear to be -



Very Thin



Thin



Good



Overweight



Very Overweight

NB Donkeys can easily store fat on the top of their necks, back and rump which will often remain there even when the donkey is otherwise thin.

Feet Which picture would best indicate what the donkey's feet look like? *Please tick the box*



Good



Too upright



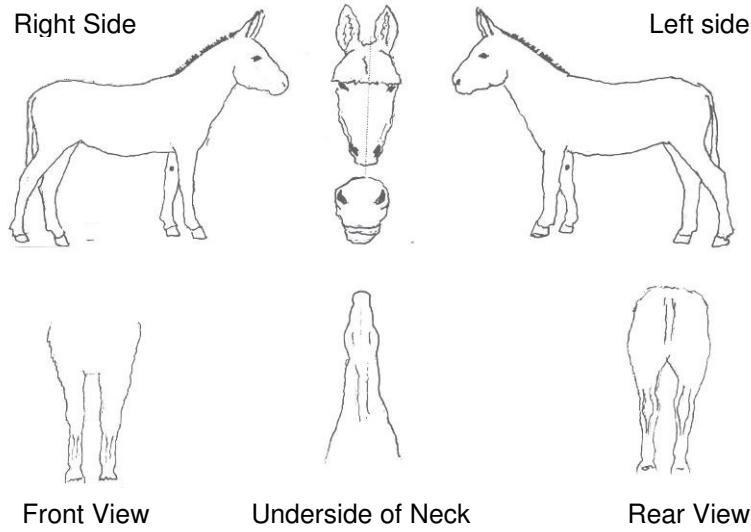
Long



Very long

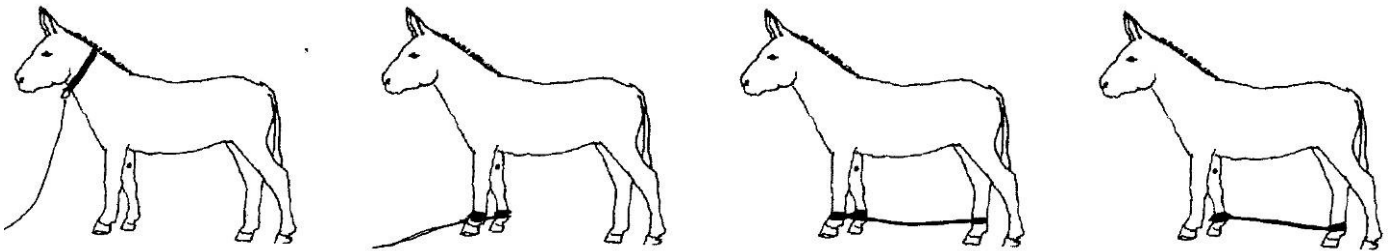
General Condition

Does the donkey have any wounds, sores or lumps? Please mark on the pictures where they are and the approximate size in relation to the drawing.



Tethering and Hobbling

The pictures below show common types of tether and hobbles. Please indicate which one most resembles the type you see on the donkey.



What sort of material has been used? *Please tick the box*

Leather Web or Nylon Chain Wire Plastic Combination of some/all

Has the tether and/or hobble caused injury? *Please give details*

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In your opinion, is the tether and/or hobble fitted correctly i.e. neither too tight or too loose? *Please tick the box*

Comfortable Too loose Tight Cutting into the donkey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

Data Protection Statement
 The Donkey Sanctuary (Cyprus) and The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon UK, values your right to privacy and will only use your name for our own charitable purposes. We never let anyone else see your details, but if you prefer not to receive any further information. Please write to The Data Compliance Officer, Donkey Sanctuary (Cyprus), 4772 Vouni Village, Limassol District, Cyprus