

Local Connections Magazine

Still keeping promises despite the odds

FRIDAY, 09 OCTOBER 2009 06:40 MIKE

Following last month's article about the CYD Santa Maria equine rescue charity based in Alhaurin el Grande, the centre reports a large amount of interest from our readers. However, at present, the centre is not able to accept any more animals due to lack of space and the crippling added expense, so more help is urgently needed. However, director Concordia Marquez has one 'happy ending' to report – the mare called 'Promise,' who was featured in our article, is doing well and has begun to put on weight. "She even has a 'boyfriend,'" says Concordia. "We recently rescued a gelding who was even thinner than Promise, and it was like love at first sight – they now live together in the same stable."

Another success story is the successful re-homing of six horses and ponies to Holland, a move made possible thanks to Kennard Buisman of horse transporters BS Horse Services (BSS Paarden Transporten). The six arrived safely last week after a two-day trip, and include Bollycao, a yearling who was first abandoned, and then run over by a car; Bonachón and Pecas -- two of the 30 horses and ponies rescued in a high-profile operation in Alora -- and Moonlight, a horse which arrived at the centre after suffering appalling cruelty.

The Alora operation has still not been paid for, despite promises from the Town Mayor that he would pay the first 10 days of care as the law orders. However, because CYD was in such urgent need of help, another company – Alimentos Altube – has supplied high-quality feedstuffs to the charity. "We are so grateful for any help we receive," said Concordia. "If it were not for loyal friends and family, we could not care for the horses and ponies we already have, but sadly we really are full up at the moment. There are still so many, many cases of cruelty and neglect which need our care and attention and because of the recession, there are fewer families able to adopt them."

To contact the charity, visit www.asociacioncydsantamaria.es

Tricia Johnson