



**EL REFUGIO
DEL BURRITO**

PRESS KIT

EL ROCÍO IN NUMBERS

With over one million participants and close to 120 brotherhoods, El Rocío is the largest pilgrimage in the Western world. Between the 9 and 16 of May, the worshippers will cover the journey to the chapel of El Rocío (Almonte, Huelva) in carts decked with colours and ribbons or riding horses, mules and other equines. More than 20.000 animals will accompany them.

In 2015:



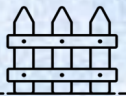
20.000 equines participated in this pilgrimage, including donkeys, mules, horses and ponies.



More than 1 million pilgrims and 120 brotherhoods took part



El Refugio del Burrito assisted over 200 wounded, dehydrated and undernourished animals.



El Refugio del Burrito rescued 6 abandoned/mistreated animals

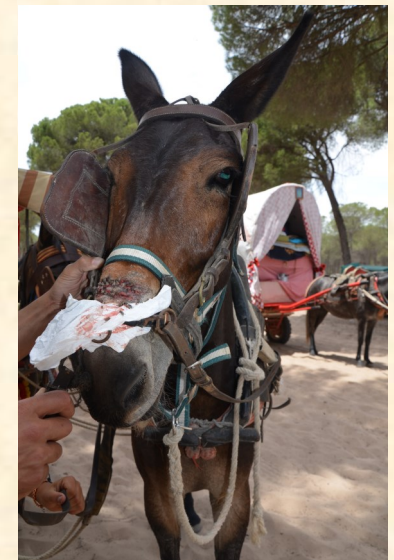


El Refugio del Burrito ensures the welfare of horses, mules, donkeys and ponies that participate to the pilgrimage. A team of 30 people, including veterinaries, farriers and specialists in equine behaviour and care, integrate this security

and assistance operation that will travel to Huelva in May.

In 2015, El Refugio del Burrito assisted close to 200 animals and rescued 6 abandoned and/or mistreated equines, which now live safe in the charity's farms. Although most of the animals were in good condition, some of them (especially hired horses and mules) needed assistance due to inappropriate care and unfit equipment. The presence of El Refugio del Burrito was decisive to ensure the welfare of these animals and to minimize their suffering.

“This security and assistance operation costs 40.000 € (£32.000) ”





The cost of this operation is 40.000 euros (32.000 pounds). This includes the logistics of the field hospital and the patrols, the veterinary and farrier expenses, the medicines and material for cures and treatments, food and water.

“This operation is needed to ensure the welfare of all animals participating in the pilgrimage.”

During the pilgrimage this year, El Refugio del Burrito will:



Offer veterinary assistance to those animals in need, through itinerant veterinary devices and a field hospital.



Counsel owners and users of equines, to ensure the welfare of the animals.



Patrol the access ways and the village of El Rocío to identify those cases of animal cruelty and report to the competent authorities.



TO FOLLOW THIS EVENT, YOU CAN:



Request information and audiovisual material to El Refugio del Burrito.



Regularly consult and follow the website and social media of El Refugio del Burrito, which will feature an exhaustive coverage.





El Refugio del Burrito investigates cases of negligence, abuse, mistreatment and abandonment of donkeys and mules throughout Spain. There are close to 300 animals living in the farms of El Refugio del Burrito, while in 2015 the organization participated in 55 investigations and collected over 60 donkeys and mules. Last February, we led a massive rescue of 100 donkeys in Cáceres. Besides, El Refugio del Burrito actively engages in those causes that urge the application and improvement of law and regulation regarding animal welfare



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