



The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids - Factsheet

Working and production donkeys

Donkeys/mules are used for a number of practical purposes including: tourism, transport of goods, garbage management and production of milk and meat. Persons without appropriate experience should seek advice from a trusted source prior to taking responsibility for working equids' welfare.

What you need to know

Tourism

- It is essential to ensure the welfare of donkeys used to transport passengers or luggage.
- Tourists can influence animal welfare standards through good decision-making

Milk Production

- There are many donkey dairy farms in EU countries and no specific legislation in place. However, a guide to good practice is available.

How to do it properly

Tourism

- Ensure that working equids do not carry loads that are too heavy or for too long a period.
- Ensure animals have access to appropriate shade, food, water and rest. High quality, appropriate equipment must be used.

Milk Production

- Appropriately manage different animal categories - jacks, foals at foot, weaned foals, milking and dry jennies.
- Pay attention to the additional nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating jennies and their foals, and separation of foals from jennies to allow milking.



Passengers should be conscious of the welfare of taxi- and tourist-donkeys



Dairy donkeys Good animal management practices for donkey milk production



Good management practices are essential to the care of dairy donkeys

Persons caring for working equids must have the necessary knowledge and willingness to ensure donkey welfare.

Photographs used in this factsheet to illustrate some situations should not be considered to illustrate the sole solution to situations described.