



Fewer Horse Drawn Carriages in Palma

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IT has been reported that Palma City Council is making moves to take more horse drawn carriages off the street of the city and is offering allegedly offering proprietors anything up to 40,000 Euros each to give up their licenses. The Council has retired 18 of the 50 carriages operating in the city and a spokesman from the transport Department said recently that there are a number of reasons why the Council is keen to limit the number of licenses. One of the reasons is that the amount of traffic is increasing, bringing into question issues... IT has been reported that Palma City Council is making moves to take more horse drawn carriages off the street of the city and is offering allegedly offering proprietors anything up to 40,000 euros each to give up their licenses. The Council has retired 18 of the 50 carriages operating in the city and a spokesman from the transport Department said recently that there are a number of reasons why the Council is keen to limit the number of licenses. One of the reasons is that the amount of traffic is increasing, bringing into question issues of safety and comfort for people who choose to take a ride in a carriage.

More importantly, however, is the well-being of the horses themselves. For quite some years now, Palma City Council has received numerous complaints from European Animal Welfare Groups and tourists about the condition of the horses and the carriages, together with the fact that the animals are forced to work in intense heat during the peak of the summer months with practically no shade, although some of them are lucky enough to be given a silly straw hat to wear; the idea being more to attract the client than for the benefit of the horse.

In 2006, ten licenses were rescinded and another eight were bought from proprietors last year, leaving 30 current licenses. The most well known area for the horse drawn carriages is under the walls of the cathedral in Palma, near to Plaza de la Reina. There are four more in Calle Conquistador and another four in the tourist resort of Arenal.