Clinical Skills Teacher – Train the next generation of Ethiopian vets

APPEAL

Please help train a student vet to provide a lifetime of veterinary care.

Francesca

Prepared for: .................................................................

Content approved by:

Director of Veterinary Programmes, Francesca Compostella
Training the next generation of vets to save thousands of animals from misery and suffering

“I was almost hopeless when I saw my horse so sick,” said Dereje Ashenati when he brought Megala into SPANA’s Bishoftu centre in Ethiopia for emergency veterinary care.

Megala was on the verge of heart failure due to a strain of potentially fatal African Horse Sickness (AHS).

AHS kills two thirds of horses who become infected. Sadly it is common in Ethiopia, causing untold pain for horses and disaster for families whose animals are their livelihoods. Fortunately, Megala reached the SPANA clinic in time and received life-saving treatment from SPANA vet and Clinical Skills Teacher Dr Reta Tesfaye and his team.

Tragically many horses are not as lucky as Megala. A desperate shortage of well-trained vets in Ethiopia means that, for many, the outlook is bleak.

This is why it is so important that we train the next generation of Ethiopian vets – so that more working animals like Megala receive life-saving treatment.

Animals coming to SPANA’s Bishoftu centre are in the very best of hands – latest figures show a 75 per cent decrease in reported AHS fatalities where SPANA operates. This is mainly due to our vaccination programme, but also the quick diagnosis and supportive care we provide. SPANA’s highly qualified Clinical Skills Teacher Dr Reta is a fantastic asset, training approximately 60 veterinary students per year. This gives them the practical skills they need so they too can save the lives of thousands of sick and injured animals like Megala.

Training each student vet costs SPANA just £89 per year, but funding for Dr Reta is running out. We urgently need to raise £16,000 to fund his post for three more years from January 2017.

A Clinical Skills Teacher will help turn veterinary students into confident and capable vets who will go on to save the lives of thousands of sick and injured animals over their lifetime - giving animals in one of the world’s poorest countries the highest quality care that they deserve.
We are working hard to address the shortage of well-trained vets in Ethiopia. In cooperation with the University of Addis Ababa’s School of Veterinary Medicine in Bishoftu, we recruited Dr Reta.

**Our Clinical Skills Teacher – Dr Reta Tesfaye**

As Clinical Skills Teacher within the SPANA team, Dr Reta is responsible for teaching veterinary students at SPANA’s Clinical Skills Centre (CSC) at the University of Addis Ababa.

Dr Reta is highly skilled and experienced. In addition to his veterinary degree he also has a master’s degree and many years of experience in teaching students and treating working animals. Alongside his excellent clinical experience, Dr Reta is passionate about caring for working animals and has quickly become a core member of the team. We are fortunate that Dr Reta chose to relocate to be closer to his elderly parents and family in Bishoftu.

**Our Clinical Skills Centre in Ethiopia**

The CSC is a dedicated area of the university where students learn theory and key practical skills. Under the watchful eye of the Clinical Skills Teacher, students master the techniques they will be using regularly once qualified, repeating the procedures to build muscle memory and essential confidence.

Use of the CSC has been incorporated into the undergraduate students’ timetable and around 60 final year students are benefiting from its facilities each year. The practical element provides a huge increase from the one week of practical training that veterinary undergraduates in Ethiopia used to receive each year. It is proving to be popular with students and a vital part of their learning experience.

The progress of every student is being meticulously logged. An evaluation of the centre has been completed and shows promising results for the first year group.

Haimanot Belete, a veterinary student, said of the CSC, “It is very important to help students in order to boost their skills and knowledge.”

Dr Nigatu, SPANA Ethiopia Country Director and vet says, “We know how to help the animals in our care, but we need your help to ease their suffering. Please help us to continue this wonderful work so we can benefit the country’s hard-working animals. Thank you.”

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**Mita was suffering from Epizootic Lymphangitis, but expert care from SPANA vets saved her**
With your help we can continue to fund our Clinical Skills Teacher in Ethiopia to provide veterinary students with:

1. a really good grounding in **theoretical knowledge**
2. essential **clinical skills**
3. clinical expertise via **practical experience** in the field

The Clinical Skills Teacher will:

1. **Expand theoretical knowledge at the CSC.**
   - Run sessions on anatomy, equine physiology, current veterinary theory, outlining different body systems and common diseases, with interactive software to aid learning.
   - Provide case study scenarios for students to work through, simulating the workup of a real case.
   - Create DVD tutorials on common conditions, such as equine colic and dental pathology.
   
   “The anatomy stations is good, because I find it hard to understand the theory. If shown by video it is much simpler.” Mendida Mekuria, student vet.

2. **Improve clinical skills at the CSC.**
   - Teach vital practical skills, such as laboratory procedures, suturing, bandaging techniques, wound care, giving injections, taking blood samples and sterile gowning.
   - Enable students to repeatedly practise until they have perfected techniques and are confident in their own ability.

   Abdulahi Mohammed, a fifth year veterinary student, said: “Really amazing demonstrations. We got a lot of confidence on the procedures described on the stations. Dr Reta is very nice and cooperative and such a skilful professional. Thank you SPANA.”

3. **Provide opportunities for practical experience in the field.**
   - Give students the opportunity to observe and learn from live clinical cases at SPANA’s mobile clinic.
   - Help students gain confidence in handling live animals correctly, safely and calmly - beneficial for both animal and vet.

   One student commented, “All the practical stations are very informative and I have got a lot of experience and skill. Previously I know a lot about them theoretically but now I did them practically. Thank you for preparing this for us.”
How you can help train the vets of tomorrow

A Clinical Skills Teacher in Ethiopia has the potential to raise the standards of the next generation of veterinarians country-wide, but funding is running out.

With your help, we will give veterinary students the best training we can to provide better treatment for hardworking animals. Your support will help prevent suffering caused by dreadful conditions such as African Horse Sickness and Epizootic Lymphangitis and provide a sustainable means of improving veterinary skills in the long term.

Delivery plan & Budget 2017-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Skills Teacher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salary</td>
<td>5,334</td>
<td>5,333</td>
<td>5,333</td>
<td>£16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student vets taught</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Animals treated per vet</td>
<td>2159</td>
<td>2159</td>
<td>2159</td>
<td>6477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals treated per year group</td>
<td>129,540</td>
<td>129,540</td>
<td>129,540</td>
<td>388,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clinical Skills Teacher costs SPANA just £5,334 per year, meaning that for £16,000 we can fund Dr Reta for three years. In three years, Dr Reta can train 180 student vets, who in turn will go on to treat hundreds of thousands of working animals and alleviate suffering for years to come. This is one of the most sustainable ways to end the suffering for working animals.

The fundraising target for the project is £16,000 and the first £6,000 donated online will be doubled thanks to The Big Give’s Christmas Challenge! Please see the enclosed donation form for details.
## SPANA CASE STUDY REPORT

**Location:** Bishoftu, Ethiopia

**Prepared by:** Dr Reta

### Animal details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Horse, male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name and age</td>
<td>Megala, 9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of work and hours</td>
<td>Pulling cart over rough and muddy road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work hours</td>
<td>8 hours a day, 6 days a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners name &amp; Occupation</td>
<td>Mr Dereje Ashenafi, cart horse driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Dereje supports his family – his mother, father, sister and 2 brothers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Animal injury/illness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury/illness</th>
<th>African Horse Sickness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injury/illness signs</td>
<td>Swollen head, neck and conjunctiva of both eyes. Pin point rash (internal haemorrhages) on the tongue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury or illness cause</td>
<td>African Horse Sickness - viral disease. Two forms: cardiac and pulmonary (Megala was diagnosed as having the cardiac form). Abnormal blood flow leads to swellings of the horse’s head. Without supportive care over 60% of infected horses will die of heart failure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Megala had a fever, so was admitted to the SPANA hospital for supportive veterinary treatment and close monitoring over 10 days. To help reduce the stress on his cardiovascular system, his water intake was assessed and he was given diuretics and luckily, with plenty of rest at the SPANA stables, he made a full recovery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice given to animal owner by SPANA staff</td>
<td>We advised Dereje that, although there is no cure, he should bring Megala back to the SPANA’s clinic for the annual vaccination programme between May and August prior to the rains. We were very happy with care Dereje was providing. Dereje is feeding Megala well. Despite only earning 100 birr per day (c. £3.60), Dereje spends over half on feeding Megala on a mix of wheat bran and hay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners’ comments</td>
<td>Dereje was overjoyed and said, “Thank you SPANA for saving the life of my horse from such deadly disease. But now with the intensive care and support he gets from you my horse is healthy. Thank you all staffs and supporters.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr Reta takes Megala’s medical history, before assessing and diagnosing AHS

Megala’s severely swollen head was indicative of AHS

Megala on arrival at the Ethiopia clinic

Megala looking much brighter after 10 days of care and rest at the SPANA centre