



JANUARY 2017

stablemate

Helping the working animals of the world with your support

Put an end to avoidable pain

A working life doesn't have to be a miserable one. Together, we can help animals at their most vulnerable.

See pages 10 and 11.

PLUS...

Ethiopia appeal
update

Meet your
team

Tanzania
appeal



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Dear friends,

I'm honoured to welcome you to my first issue of **Stablemate** as Chief Executive of SPANA. Reading through these pages, I am really excited by the amount of amazing work we've achieved over the past year, work that simply wouldn't have been possible without you. For that I'd like to thank you. Your loyal support of working animals everywhere is truly remarkable.



What's more, it's not just me who's been so impressed by SPANA's work that you made possible. At the 2016 Animal Health Awards, SPANA won the Best Animal Welfare Charity Award and an award for our work in Ethiopia. It was thanks to supporters like you that we were able to save the lives of thousands of animals from Ethiopia's worst drought in 30 years. You can read more about that appeal on page three.

You'll also see how you can continue to improve the lives of working animals. On page four you'll read of how education could prevent parasites from troubling donkeys in Morocco. Elsewhere, you'll have a chance to support the next generation of animal health workers in Tanzania (see page eight). And you'll see how your intervention could save hardworking animals from the agony of poor harnessing on page 10. On the donation form you'll have the chance to choose which appeal you'd like to support, or you can simply choose to give to wherever the need is greatest.

Finally, I hope you enjoy your latest issue of **Stablemate**. The incredible work described in these pages can only happen with your support.

Geoffrey Dennis

Geoffrey Dennis
Chief Executive

PS I'm really looking forward to a great 2017 for SPANA. If you know someone who might share your concern for working animals, you can help make that happen by passing on your copy of **Stablemate**.

Thank you.

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If you'd like to receive regular updates about SPANA's work, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.spana.org/news



Find us at www.spana.org |  www.facebook.com/spanacharity

 www.twitter.com/spanacharity |  www.youtube.com/spana1923

Registered charity no: 209015

Just in time: Your response to Ethiopia's worst drought in 30 years

We were amazed by your swift and generous response to our emergency Ethiopia appeal. Thanks to you, £40,000 was raised, over 7,800 animals were saved, and the lives of the Afar people were protected from devastation.

This drought spelt catastrophe for the pastoralist tribes of central Ethiopia. It was the worst in over 30 years (yes, that's how long ago Live Aid was!) and when we arrived, the distraught Afar people had lost between 70 and 80 per cent of their cattle.

You made all the difference

Thanks to you, we were able to provide 5,476 bales of hay and 150 tons of feed to starving animals belonging to the poorest families. These supplies had a miraculous impact and we're pleased to say that, from the first day we arrived, no further animals lost their lives.

Protection from further devastation

For a community that relies on their cattle (including for milk as an essential part of their children's diet), a severe lack of rain such as this is a massive concern. Your donations meant we were able to give each family feed rations every 15 days, providing their animals with essential nutrients and ensuring their survival.

As well as that, we cultivated 24 acres of drought-resistant grass on the edge of the Awash reserve; a long term solution that will protect thousands of working animals from future disaster.

A big thank you to everyone who supported this appeal

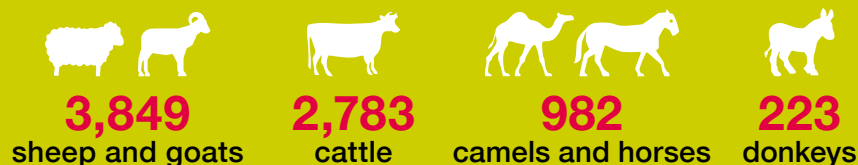
For years we've championed the protection of animals in crises like this one. But for too long, international aid agencies have failed to see the importance of these animals to their community. Without their animals, the Afar

people would have no hope, no future and no way of life. Fortunately for them, they have you on their side.

"One woman told me that SPANA had not only saved her cows, but saved her and her children. And there is no greater feeling than that."

Jeremy Hulme, SPANA's former Chief Executive

You helped us save:



Working animals that you helped rescue from starvation

Fighting parasites and relieving suffering

FIGHTING
PARASITES
APPEAL

Every month, around 800 working animals arrive at SPANA clinics ridden with painful parasites. With your support, we're tackling the problem by teaching owners about the risk of parasites, how to identify when their animal might be affected and what to do in order to treat, manage and prevent them. Here are three cases from Morocco.

Helping Hadda

Hadda plays a vital role in her household carrying goods to and from market. When she arrived at our mobile clinic in Ourika, she had mange on her front legs and was struggling to walk due to the pain and distress from the irritation.

If SPANA vets weren't on hand, things wouldn't have improved for poor Hadda. Fortunately they were, and they wasted no time giving her an anti-parasitic injection. Hadda's owner was then given some helpful advice from our vets, including how to apply an antiseptic cream she needed, and how to prevent it from happening again.

"Thank you SPANA. Your work has saved Hadda, as well as my family's livelihood." Omar, Hadda's owner



Your donation puts an end to their pain.

£20 could pay for a faecal worm egg count to diagnose and treat high worm burdens.

£100 could pay for the treatment and care for horses infected with Babesia, the blood parasite that infected Bahia.

£200 could pay for a microscope to diagnose skin, blood and internal parasites.

Thank you for helping these suffering animals.



Treating Bahia for Babesiosis

Bahia's family could not do without her. She's put to work ploughing, harvesting, and collecting water. So when she became ill and started to move sluggishly her owner was very worried.

After six days of showing these symptoms, she was brought to SPANA. Her head was low, her eyes jaundiced and her condition grave. Our vets diagnosed and treated her for babesiosis, a parasitic disease common in working horses, and after just one week she was fully recovered.

"We've had Bahia since birth and she is like a member of the family. I blamed myself for having waited six days before taking her to SPANA. I don't know what I would have done if I'd lost her." Mahjoub Najeh, Bahia's owner



Saving Maggie's life

When Maggie arrived at the SPANA centre in Chemaia she was dehydrated, irritable and suffering from severe abdominal pain. It was clear to our vets that her situation was serious, and they immediately started to treat her.

She was diagnosed with hyper-infestation of worms, a terrible condition in which parasites migrate through different organs in the body. Fatality rates are typically high for this condition, but the swift intervention of SPANA vets ensured Maggie was given every chance of survival. After a course of fluid therapy, anti-parasitic and supportive treatment, we're happy to say she made a complete recovery.

"Maggie never gets ill. This was the first time I saw her suffer and I didn't know what to do so I decided to rent a pick up truck and drive her to SPANA. I've been hospitalised for appendicitis and I can tell you that SPANA takes care of animals better than humans in a hospital!" El Yousfi Abderahim, Maggie's owner

We couldn't do it without you

These animals would not have been saved without the intervention of our highly trained vets. Equally, our vets would have been completely powerless without you. They have the skills to end the suffering of hardworking animals, but it's your donations that grant them access to the vital resources they need.

When they arrived at our clinic, these owners didn't know how to treat their animals' pain. When they left, they were equipped with the knowledge to prevent it from ever happening again. With your support, we want to reach more and more owners, and prevent the unnecessary suffering of working animals.

Meet your dedicated team

Veterinary care and education are at the heart of SPANA's mission to end the suffering of working animals. We spoke to four of our incredible staff, two working in veterinary care and two working in education, about the progress they're making thanks to your support.



Dr Hanna Zewdu,
Veterinary Team Leader



Dr Youness Elouasbi,
Moroccan vet



**Roman Alemayehu
and Kefyalew Mideksa,**
Ethiopian Education Officers

Q. Congratulations on the birth of your second baby, Hanna. How does it feel to be back?

A. It feels like coming back home after a long journey. I adore the time I spend with my colleagues. I've always loved working with animals. It's like a life mission.

Q. What have you been most proud of during your six years at SPANA?

A. It's my job to provide relief to sick animals. But above all my greatest pride comes when I see the attitude of an animal owner change; to see them share our vision of animal welfare and treat animals with the best possible care, with all the love they can give.

Q. Is there anything you'd like to say to our supporters?

A. I am really grateful to our supporters. It's because of them we can reach so many animals. Continuing this support means continuing to improve the lives of thousands of suffering animals.

Q. Hi Youness. Can you tell us how you first got involved with SPANA?

A. When I graduated in 2004, I volunteered in SPANA's centre in Chemaia. Then thanks to a SPANA grant, I undertook an internship at Lyon Veterinary School. When I returned from France, I worked with SPANA as my way of giving back.

Q. What's the most fulfilling part of your job?

A. Whenever we manage to save an animal, I always want to celebrate! I say "we" because without our wonderful team, we can do nothing.

Q. What's the most urgent need you see now in Morocco?

A. Nelson Mandela said: *"Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world."* I believe that if we continue educating owners about good practices, it will be a big step forward.

Q. Hello. What brought you both to SPANA's education programme?

A-KM. There's an animal welfare problem in our country, and I think teaching children is the best way to tackle it.

A-RA. I have a passion for helping children become responsible citizens who are compassionate and caring for the planet as a whole.

Q. How important is education to the improvement of animal welfare in Ethiopia?

A-KM. It's very important. Improving how we treat animals will not only help us develop as people, but as a country.

A-RA. It will improve the quality of life for working animals. Children who attend the programme may go on to be policy makers, animal welfare activists, and animal owners themselves.

Spending your money wisely



You may have read in previous issues of *Stablemate* of the agony dental pain can cause working animals. Now, thanks to your kind donations, we're tackling the problem with a new piece of equipment called an endoscope.

This new tool will allow SPANA vets to thoroughly examine an animal's mouth, and also make the most of our other pieces of specialist equipment. It's essentially a light source that can be attached to medical instruments, allowing vets to diagnose an animal's condition more accurately.

Our endoscope will be used for:

- Visualising an animal's teeth and the deepest areas of the mouth
- Respiratory and urinary tract investigations
- Examining an animal's joints and associated strictures

We're hoping to detect a range of symptoms with our new piece of kit, helping us to diagnose problems such as sinusitis, guttural pouch conditions and stomach ulcers. That means, thanks to you, our vets can identify and end the suffering of working animals much sooner than would have been previously possible.

As our endoscope is portable, we can ensure it always gets to the countries where SPANA is able to do the most good with it. We really can't thank you enough.

Tackling animal welfare on two fronts

Last year our education programme in Zimbabwe officially launched. Read here why SPANA vets are committed to raising awareness of the needs of working animals, and why it could hold the key to preventing animal suffering before it begins.

In 2015, our dedicated team provided 28,200 free treatments to working animals across

Zimbabwe. However, they reported that many of the injuries and conditions they encountered could have been easily avoided if owners had a basic understanding of their animals' needs.

In response, we're bolstering our welfare work with an education programme that aims to tackle this lack of knowledge. Already we're working with local communities and the University of Zimbabwe to provide theoretical and practical sessions on caring for

working animals. On top of that, we recently established our children's education programme, encouraging future generations to develop positive attitudes and empathy towards animals.

This programme is the first of its kind in Zimbabwe, and has the potential to make a significant improvement to animal welfare. A donation from you today would show your support for this initiative, which in turn would prevent a huge amount of future suffering.



SPANA in action

It's SPANA's aim to be wherever we're needed, whenever we're needed. That's why we've joined forces with Meru Animal Welfare Organisation (MAWO) to respond to a growing animal welfare problem in Tanzania. We know that the key to helping these vulnerable animals lies in treatment, training and teaching. But we can only help with your support.



The sad fact is there simply aren't enough people in Tanzania able to treat working animals when they suffer injury. That's why this training project with MAWO is so important. Our aim is to train 40 community animal health workers about basic equine health and husbandry. This will equip them with the skills they need to provide care to the area's working animals.

Work has started, and mobile clinics offering much needed veterinary support across the area have already proved effective.



They're not only providing essential relief to the suffering animals of Tanzania, they're also giving our community animal health workers invaluable experience of treating different injuries.

Having an impact

One animal that has already benefitted from this project is Tunde, a male donkey belonging to a local farmer. Ngakisari noticed that Tunde had developed a swelling on his left leg but she didn't know what she could do (1). After placing soil on the wound but she failed to stop the bleeding, she knew she was in trouble.

Fortunately, news reached her that the MAWO donkey clinic was heading to the nearby village of Lengijabe. The walk to the clinic was a slow one, and Ngakisari admitted she felt worried about the consequences it would have on her donkey's health, and her livelihood.

Delivering treatment

After close examination, MAWO vets found there was no pus in the injured leg (2). They used the first aid kits provided by SPANA and MAWO to clean the wound before treating him with a course of medication.

The owner was then given medication to take home with her in order to clean the wound (3). She was shown how to apply the treatment, and told everything she needed to know to get her donkey on the way to a full recovery (4). A great example of treatment, training and teaching in action.



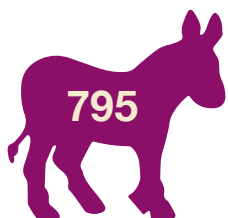
Treating Tunde the donkey at our mobile clinic



Please support our Urgent Tanzania appeal

It's your donations that ensure our volunteers are able to help working animals when they need it most.

Donkey clinic record



Donkeys treated



Dewormed



Eye care



Wound treatment



Hoof trimming



Multivitamin

Play your part in getting this project off the ground.

£20 could pay for a start up kit for a community animal health worker that includes essential equipment like wound spray and a thermometer to help them care for animals in need.

£120 could contribute towards the fuel costs of a mobile clinic to help the veterinary team reach more working animals in remote villages.

£267 could pay for lifesaving medicine and first aid kits to treat the painful injuries of working animals.

Thank you for your support!

Working together

Without your support, these donkeys would have seen no end to their suffering. We've succeeded in treating an incredible number of animals in Tanzania already. But with your kind donations, we'll be able to help even more.

Ending avoidable pain

**HARNESSING
APPEAL**

Working a 16 hour day is hard. Working under the scorching sun is even harder. But working when wounded is unbearable. For millions of animals, this is their reality: pulling heavy loads while poor fitting harnesses cut, scrape and rub at untreated sores. It's agony for the animal. But what's worse is that this immense pain could be avoided with a little understanding. That's where, thanks to your generous donations, SPANA is able to help.

FIELD REPORT:

CHANGING HARNESSSES & ATTITUDES IN SOMALILAND

ANIMAL: Donkey AGE: 16
NAME: Mido
WORK: Water transportation

BACKGROUND:

This donkey is put to work pulling a 200 litre water cart for 16 hours every day. He is owned by Mr Mohamed, his wife and their nine children; a poor family whose livelihoods depend on their donkey.

REPORT:

We first encountered Mido's suffering at a water point on one of Horn SPCA's* first clinic days. It was immediately clear that he was suffering from severe, fresh and bloody wounds across his spine and belly; wounds that were being made worse by the constant rubbing of bad harnessing. They were cleaned, disinfected and dressed at the clinic over 10 days. On top of that, the owner rested Mido for two weeks and agreed to improve the harness materials he was using.

OWNER'S COMMENTS:

"My donkey was stolen from me and he was away for almost two months. Luckily he just came to my house all of a sudden, but unfortunately he was injured. I didn't know what to do or where to take him to get better. Thank God Horn SPCA treated my donkey, and thanks to SPANA for your help.

"I've had Mido since he was four years old, and he's 16 now. He has helped me raise my nine young children and helped me build a house for my family. My donkeys are everything to me."



Spinal injury caused by poor harnessing

Hardworking animals deserve to live and work free from pain

Mr Mohamed didn't want to see his animal suffer. He has worked with donkeys for over 30 years and has a clear affection for them. But the fact is, poor access to proper harnessing materials and a limited knowledge of how to treat wounds leads to dire situations for working animals.

Thanks to your support, SPANA is providing free clinics that improve understanding and encourage proper harnessing. This will prevent avoidable pain for thousands of unfortunate animals working across Somaliland and beyond.

*Horn SPCA is a donkey welfare project that, thanks to you, SPANA is able to support. They do great work providing free veterinary services and discouraging animal cruelty in Somaliland. They, like us, are indebted to you. For more information, see page 14.

You can help us prepare for their time of need.

£12 could buy pad harnesses that will prevent animals from having to suffer like Mido.

£80 could buy the medicines and bandages needed to treat the painful wounds of working animals.

£192 could pay for six animal owners to attend a SPANA training workshop. Here they will learn about how safe harnessing, appropriate loading and evenly balanced carts can improve the long term health and welfare of their animals.



© Dylan Thomas/SPANAs



Serving tea and smashing records

We're constantly amazed by the lengths to which our kind supporters go in order to raise money for SPANA. A special thanks to everyone who took part in our World Tea Party, and Guinness World Record holder Alice Burch who, after completing 60 marathons in 60 days, was in need of a cuppa!

Serving tea for SPANA

Last year 135 of you got involved with our World Tea Party. Tea was poured, cakes were devoured and almost £4,000 was raised for SPANA. A yummy way to spend an afternoon and raise money for hardworking animals around the world. Thank you to everyone who took part.

We want to make this year even bigger

So if you'd like to find out how you can host your own tea party, please get in touch! Our new fundraising packs (including recipes, invitations, posters and more) will be available from spring.

To order yours go to spana.org/teaparty or call us on **020 7831 3999** for more details.



Jan Coleman and friends tucking into afternoon tea



Crossing the finish line for SPANA

Running into the record books

Alice Burch's amazing achievement of running 60 marathons in 60 days has now been recognised in the Guinness Book of Records. She completed her world record breaking feat in 2015, raising over £6,000 for SPANA. We're really proud of Alice's efforts, and hope she can now find some time to put her feet up – she's earned it.

To read more about Alice's 60:60 Challenge, and to sponsor her efforts, head to justgiving.com/Alice60Marathons60Days

Jeremy's 16th (and final) Supporters' Tour

"On 8 November, I returned from leading my final Supporters' Tour – this time to Zimbabwe. There were 26 of us in all and, as usual, the tour was a mixture

of visiting SPANA work, and seeing the wildlife of Zimbabwe. We saw donkeys being treated at mobile clinics in Lupane and Gweru,

protected rhinos in the Matopas reserve, and visited the opening of a new education centre in Harare. I'm happy to say that my final trip, as one of our supporters confirmed, was one of our best." – Jeremy Hulme, SPANA's former Chief Executive.

If you'd like to register your interest for future SPANA trips, please call **020 7831 3999** or email events@spana.org

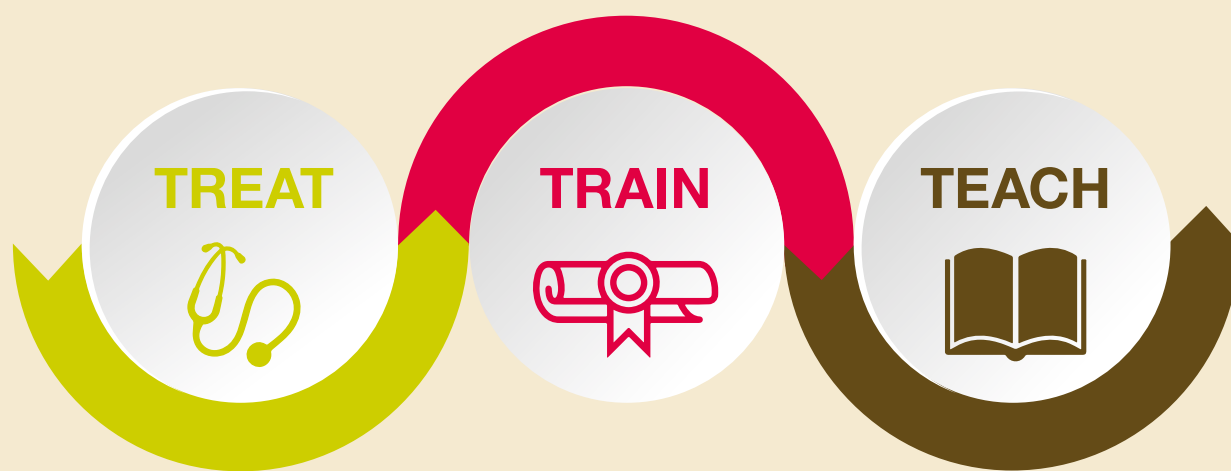


Zimbabwe Supporters' Tour 2016

Leave a lasting legacy

At SPANA, we're committed to treating, training and teaching our way to a world free from animal suffering. A world where working animals are treated with compassion and cared for properly. It sounds good doesn't it? But we can't do it without you. Please consider leaving a gift in your Will – and help us make that world a reality.

Your legacy – whether big or small – will help us realise our vision in three important steps.



Providing a lifeline

Our dedicated vets are the frontline in our daily battle to ease animal suffering. They work in difficult conditions, providing care to around 650 vulnerable animals every single day. They are a veterinary lifeline for suffering animals, helping when no one else will. But they depend on you.

Legacies pay for nearly half of everything we do for working animals.

Improving knowledge

Training vets in different countries gives us the power to help animals outside of our core reach. But we rely on legacy gifts from generous people like you in order to train them. With your help, we will continue to elevate the standard of care for working animals across the globe.

We'll work on your behalf to raise the standard of care for working animals.

Building a better future

Changing a dressing on a wound takes no time, changing attitudes and beliefs can take generations. By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help fund education programmes that promote positive attitudes towards animals in future generations, teaching children to treat animals with the dignity they deserve.

Your gift will encourage compassion towards working animals, one child at a time.

To find out more about the amazing work that gifts in Wills makes possible, please chat to our friendly legacy team on 020 7831 3999, or email Penny at giftsinwills@spana.org

If you've already told us that you intend to remember SPANA in your Will, thank you again for your generosity. We couldn't do so much for working animals around the world without your incredible kindness and support.



Your support goes a long way

SPANNA has a positive impact on the welfare of working animals worldwide. None of this would be possible without you. So to highlight some of the great work you allow us to do, we've picked out some projects you are helping to fund right now.



Honduras (EQUHS)

Thanks to your gifts, SPANA is helping set a good example to the horse owners of Honduras. Our new initiative guarantees animal owners work – so long as they agree to have their animals checked regularly by a vet, harness maker and farrier. It means we're able to help families earn a regular income, and encourage good animal husbandry at the same time.

-  Core countries where we work
-  Outreach and emergency work

Nicaragua (A.Mar.Te)

Your donations are helping to create an effective animal welfare network in Nicaragua. Working with partners A.Mar.Te, SPANA is training veterinary professionals and students in six universities. The training sessions will help equip future generations of local vets with the knowledge, hands-on experience and confidence to help working animals when they need it most.



South Africa (PEACE Foundation Trust)

In rural parts of South Africa, cars and other vehicles are an unaffordable luxury. But thanks to you, we worked with PEACE to promote the safe use of working donkeys. 'Donkeys 4 Development' is a co-operative scheme that puts donkeys at the heart of the community; creating jobs, having a positive environmental impact and elevating the status of animals in society.



Somaliland (Horn SPCA)

It's great to see that SPANA's vision for animal welfare is spreading beyond the core countries in which we work. In the semi-arid city of Hargeisa in Somaliland, your support has helped Horn SPCA provide care to donkeys around the city, launch community education and awareness workshops, and provide animal welfare clubs for children. A truly exemplary programme.

India (TOLFA)

Carrying heavy loads over difficult terrain, often for hours at a time, can lead to donkeys falling sick or suffering injury. But in remote areas of India, poor owners of injured animals have little access to the veterinary services they desperately need. To help animals in 24 villages surrounding Rajasthan, you helped us buy a rural animal health vehicle, allowing TOLFA vets to tend to over 8,000 vulnerable animals in the area.



Kenya (Vetworks)

After vets graduate in Kenya, they rarely get the postgraduate training they need to continue developing their roles to the same extent as vets in the UK. This means they come out of school unprepared for helping many of the animals in need of their care. To tackle this, you've helped us fund further training for Kenyan vets, preparing them better for the important jobs they're doing.



Happy Hooves sale!

Treat a loved one, or yourself, to a gorgeous gift at a bargain price and help working animals everywhere.



SPANA Bespoke Apron and Tea Towel bundle

WAS £18.00

Designed by our former Chief Executive Jeremy Hulme, this tea towel and apron will make cooking and drying less of a chore.

Gift code: M16BAB



NOW £10



Farmyard Mug

WAS £8

Presented in a matching box, this decorative mug makes for a wonderful gift.

Gift code: M16FYM

NOW £6



SPANA Notelets

WAS £5

These little notecards are blank inside and feature a lovely, heart-warming picture.

Gift code: M16TDN

NOW £3.50

Grey Donkey Hand Puppet

WAS £8

Little (and big) kids will love playing with this fun puppet.

Gift code: M16DHP



NOW £6

Christmas Star Tin

WAS £12

A beautiful tin containing clotted cream and chocolate fudge treats. Delicious.

Gift code: M16ST



NOW £9



SPANA Magnetic Bookmarks

WAS £2.50

A vibrant bookmark for any bookworms you know.

Gift code: M16MB

NOW £2



SPANA Jute Bag

WAS £8

Pack your shopping into this great looking bag that's good for the environment too.

Gift code: M16JB

NOW £5.50



Find more bargains on our Happy Hooves website!

You'll find even more gifts, cards and treats at a discount price on the Happy Hooves website. And with every gift you buy, we're able to help more working animals across the globe. Thank you so much for your support.

*Standard postage only.