



news

For the working animals of the world

Spring 2012 Issue no. 176



Suffering in silence

Help tackle dental disease
Pages 6 & 7



East African drought

Update on our emergency work
Pages 14 & 15



Famous connections

Jim Broadbent lends his
support to our latest campaign
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How our outreach projects are improving the lives
of hardworking donkeys in rural Zimbabwe. Page 8

Welcome

Working in troubled times

Dear Friends,

Though this is only the first SPANA News of 2012, a lot has already happened. Sadly, we will have all watched in horror as the situations in Mali and Syria have deteriorated. In Mali, the worsening security situation in the north caused by the Tuareg rebel uprising has made running our mobile clinics in the region increasingly difficult. Our work in the capital Bamako continues, although we are keeping a close eye on developments.

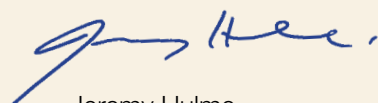
In Syria, Hama (where our work is based) seems to have become the focal point of much of the violence. Thankfully, at this moment, all our staff there are safe, and the work goes on.

In reality, many of the countries we work in have difficult governments and are subject to demonstrations and even violence – but frankly, that's why SPANA is needed in these places. As someone once said to me: "the worse the country, the more SPANA needs to be there".

I'm sure you will enjoy reading about our work in Zimbabwe where, along with our core countries, we are making a real difference. There's also an update on our successful livestock feeding project which was in response to the east Africa drought, and which you so generously supported.

It is work of which I am very proud – and I know from your many letters that you agree. So, we are making a huge effort to 'grow' SPANA – to raise awareness of what we do and recruit more supporters so we can reach even more animals. You can help us in this campaign by speaking to your friends and passing on this magazine, which you'll see has a new look – please let us know if you enjoy reading it.

Let's hope we have a lovely summer – not only with the weather, but with all our vital projects and campaigns.



Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

PS To keep our costs down in the light of the recent postal charge increases, we will now be using the Onepost service to send you relevant information.



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Jeremy's highlights

Jeremy tells us about his favourite SPANA moments from the past year:

Tommy gets a new home

I know that many SPANA supporters will remember Tommy the donkey, who was born by caesarean at our Marrakech centre in 2010. Tommy's mother had a tetanus infection and sadly died after the birth. Thanks to the outstanding care provided by our Marrakech centre staff, Tommy went from strength to strength, and I'm pleased to report that he's now found an excellent new home in Morocco provided by long-time SPANA supporters Susan and Charles Machin.



Feeding starving animals in Egypt

The events of the Arab Spring had a devastating effect on Egypt's tourism industry, driving away many of the visitors who usually flock to this beautiful country. As a result, the owners of donkeys, horses and camels who depend on tourists for their income, were left unable to feed their animals. Some of these creatures were reduced to the point of starvation. Luckily, we were able to respond to their frantic calls for assistance, and worked with our partner organisation ESMA (Egyptian Society for Mercy to Animals) to send several tranches of funding to buy fodder for these hungry working animals.



Supporting SPANA in your Will

If working animals hold a special place in your heart, you can make a lasting difference to their welfare by remembering SPANA in your Will. Whether you are making your Will for the first time or updating an existing one, you can get further helpful information by requesting our free booklet.

Please call 020 7831 3999 to request your free guide or visit www.spana.org/legacy to find out more.

If you have already left a gift to SPANA in your Will or you plan to in the future rather than right now, we would love to hear your intentions. Of course, we appreciate that leaving a gift in your Will is a sensitive subject – so if you would rather not receive information about leaving SPANA a legacy, please do still contact us.

By sharing your intentions with us, we will only send information that is relevant to you – and this, in turn, will save us administration and postage costs, allowing the money saved to be spent on treating more sick and injured animals instead. Thank you.

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SPANA making headlines

Latest news

Best kept mule competition

Most villages in the High Atlas mountains of Morocco are situated at an altitude of more than 5,000 feet and cannot be reached by vehicles. This, coupled with the poverty in the area, means communities rely entirely on working animals to do the work of trucks and taxis.

SPANA helps these hardworking mules by sending a mobile clinic each month to Imlil, one of the largest villages in the Toubkal National Park, to provide free veterinary care and new equipment. Throughout the year, the clinic closely monitors the health of each mule and awards points according to how well its owner has seen to its welfare. Mules with the highest points



Mules line up for prize-giving

score are then selected for the best kept mule awards, with prize categories including Most Improved Mule, Best Driver and Prettiest Mule. Winners receive a small financial prize and a bag of barley to feed their animal.

SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme was in the High Atlas mountains in January of this year to award the prizes:

“By holding the best kept mule competition each year and offering incentives, we ensure owners take care of their mules all year round and are encouraged to visit the SPANA mobile clinic each month so we can monitor the welfare of their animals – and treat them if necessary. The competition also helps raise the status of the mules in the community and has developed a healthy rivalry as to who has the best cared for mule.”

A knighthood for Roger Gale MP

SPANA trustee, Roger Gale MP received a knighthood in the New Year's Honours list for his public and political service. Among his many achievements, Sir Roger has worked tirelessly to establish the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare.

SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme said: “We’re indebted to Sir Roger for his long commitment to SPANA. His passionate belief in our work has been so important in helping to raise our profile amongst parliamentarians and the media. We’re delighted that he’s been honoured.”



all Moroccan veterinary students receive with SPANA.

SPANA's veterinary director Andy Stringer said: “We’re currently expanding the opportunities available to veterinary students so that even more of them can benefit from practical placements at our clinics and centres across all of our core countries.”

An award for SPANA Morocco

SPANA's veterinary training work in Morocco has been honoured with an award of distinction by the country's leading veterinary school, the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Sciences. It acknowledges the value of the practical training placements

Odile's column

Odile was a friend of the late SPANA founder Nina Hosali and has been a SPANA trustee since 1979.

During my years as an elected trustee, I have visited SPANA's centres abroad on numerous occasions to represent supporters' interests and ensure that donations to the charity are being well-spent.

In February, I accompanied chief executive Jeremy Hulme and education director Diana Hulme to Jordan. One of my special interests is the education programme, which is such a vital component of SPANA's work. I was therefore very keen to visit our education centre in Amman, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. An oasis of peace and tranquillity in the midst of a big noisy city, the centre



is lovingly tended and constantly improved by our director in Jordan, Dr Ghazi Mustapha.

On the day of the visit the education team received groups of schoolchildren from the city and the countryside who were taught carefully planned lessons. The children were then taken on a guided tour of the garden and encouraged to handle small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs – which for some of them is a completely new and bewildering experience! They also met two baby donkeys, some very woolly sheep and some gorgeous Muscovy ducks. Hopefully, the children will long remember their very special visit and develop a deeper empathy with animals and their environment. Watching the children obviously enjoying themselves made me proud of SPANA's unique achievement in Jordan.

I feel certain that Nina Hosali, who was a great believer in the value of education, and a lady whom I was honoured to know personally, would support our education programme wholeheartedly.

Odile Slyn

The Lady Slyn of Hadley

Hundreds come together for World Animal Day 2011

Since 2003, SPANA has taken part in World Animal Day which celebrates the ways in which animals enrich our lives.

On 4 October 2011, SPANA Morocco and SPANA Syria organised a range of educational indoor and outdoor activities that saw hundreds of children, teachers and adults come together for an exciting day of fun festivities.

SPANA Syria also held craft and story writing workshops to fire children's imaginations, and used our interactive mobile exhibition, 'The Amazing World of Animals', to inspire young minds to think about animal welfare.

We're looking forward to celebrating World Animal Day again this year!



Inspiring student teachers in Ethiopia

SPANA's education programme made a big impression on a group of student teachers in rural Addis Ababa recently.

The students were visiting the local primary school in Debre Birhan for teacher training practice, when our education officer, Kefyalew Mideksa, seized on the opportunity to talk to them about SPANA's lifesaving work. He explained how we help care for the local working animals and how we're inspiring the next generation to love and respect them.

Kefyalew showed the students our lesson plans and children's activity books, as well as the educational games and activities that we use to inspire the children in their learning.

He also explained SPANA's desire to set up a chain of Animal Clubs around the country, in the hope that once they become teachers they will want to start Animal Clubs in their own schools.

Left: Moroccan children delighted in the chance to pet and play with donkeys, camels, horses, guinea pigs and rabbits during World Animal Day 2011

Dental appeal

The unseen despair of dental disease

SPANA veterinary programme advisor, Jane Harry, appeals for help in tackling the agonising pain of dental problems

On the outside, horses, mules and donkeys can appear to be in a fine condition, working stoically to haul heavy loads day after day for their owners. Yet many suffer the hidden pain of dental problems.

Most people know the excruciating pain of toothache, but thankfully for many of us a quick trip to the dentist can resolve the problem. However for working animals with dental problems, their only option may be to endure constant pain in silence.

One study of working equids in Morocco showed that 85 per cent had dental problems. Worryingly, in the countries where SPANA works, the majority of working animal owners do not know how to recognise the signs of dental disease or know that they should get their animal's teeth checked regularly, and this means that suffering can go unnoticed for months, or even years.

It is usually only when an animal develops secondary health issues caused by dental disease, such as weight loss or difficulty eating, that their suffering becomes more apparent to owners. It is in reaction to these signs, that owners often realise that there is

a problem – and the last thing many suspect is dental disease.

Although dental disease is usually not life-threatening in itself, the problems caused by being unable to eat properly are serious. In severe cases where animals have no access

to veterinary care, they can develop colic, which can be fatal.

The unknown problems

In almost all of the regions where SPANA works, there is a lack of awareness about dental disease and the subsequent

debilitating health problems it can cause.

Our team in Chemaia, Morocco were recently presented with a mule named Moujahid that had been bought by his owner, Muhammad, only a few months previously.

Moujahid pulls a heavy brick-filled cart which allows Muhammad to make a living as a builder. Recently, Muhammad noticed that his new mule had suddenly stopped eating. Worried for Moujahid's health, Muhammad rented a truck and drove his mule 20km to reach the SPANA Chemaia centre for help.



Many dental abnormalities in working animals can be prevented by thorough, regular examination and treatment

The painful disease

SPANA vet Dr Youness gave Moujahid a full clinical and oral examination and discovered that one of Moujahid's upper molars was three inches overgrown, and had started to grow downwards into his lower gum. As well as suffering from severe pain, Moujahid was finding it difficult to move his jaw, which is why he was unable to eat.

The only solution was to remove the overgrowth. Dr Youness first gave Moujahid a sedative to keep him still to avoid damaging his mouth. Dr Youness then carefully used molar cutters to remove a large part of the overgrown tooth. To complete the procedure, a mechanical rasp was used to level the surface of the tooth in line with the others. Moujahid's gums could now heal and he could once again eat his food.

Frustratingly, if Moujahid's previous owner had brought him to SPANA for regular dental check-ups in the past, the problem could have been resolved more easily. Unfortunately as the problem was only found when

it had become advanced, SPANA had to use specialist and expensive equipment to treat Moujahid.

As in Moujahid's case, very often SPANA vets are the first people to look at the teeth of working animals – a sad contrast to most of the horses and donkeys in the UK who have their teeth checked once a year, at least.

Help us end the suffering

You can help us end the suffering for thousands more working animals every year.

We need more specialist dental equipment for our centres and we need to run more free dental awareness training programmes for owners at our clinics. However, we cannot do this without your help.

Please send us a gift today of whatever you can afford to help working animals such as Moujahid

receive the treatment they desperately need.

Thank you.



Vet Dr Youness carefully cuts Moujahid's overgrown tooth to relieve his agonising pain

Common dental problems in working animals



Equine teeth work differently to our own. Teeth emerge from within the animal's skull throughout the earlier years of life. The teeth wear down as food is ground and self-sharpen due to the contours of different layers of teeth material.

- **Uneven or excessive wear** – working animals which graze on sparse, dry land often eat abrasive soil and grit. As a result, their teeth can wear too fast and lose all their function.
- **Overgrown teeth** – if a tooth is missing or broken, the opposing tooth can get so long it grows into the gum or cheek.
- **Sharp points and edges** – can cause serious pain and lacerations on the inside of the animal's cheek or tongue.
- **Tooth decay** – in Tunisia, animals eat many dates, and as a result of the high sugar content suffer from tooth decay.
- **Bit damage** – we often see terrible damage to horses', mules' and donkeys' mouths and teeth resulting from crudely made bits.

OUR APPEAL

£15 could buy a vet a head torch to examine and treat working animals with dental disease.

£50 could go towards the cost of running a free dental awareness workshop to help encourage owners to care for their animal's teeth.

£100 could buy a rasp to be used by a vet to file sharp overgrowths and relieve an animal's pain.

To make a donation to this Special Dental Care Appeal please use the enclosed donation form, call **0300 033 4999** or visit www.spana.org/donate

We hope to raise £20,000 from this appeal to support our vital dentistry work. Any additional funds raised will help SPANA's work where it's needed the most.



For vets to check the teeth of working animals, specialist equipment is required – like this mouth speculum to keep the animal's mouth open during examinations

**SPANA fact**

In 2010, we started work with the AWARE Trust (a veterinary conservation charity) to help equids in the east of Zimbabwe.

Lifesaving partnerships

In September, veterinary director Andy Stringer travelled to rural Zimbabwe to see first hand the difference our two outreach projects are making to the lives of the hardworking donkeys that live there.

**Field Report**

SPANA Partner: The AWARE Trust
Region: Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

I arrive in Zimbabwe and meet up with Dr Erick Mutizhe, the vet with the AWARE Trust, our newest charity partner. It is Erick's job to travel around the rural areas of the country, running vital outreach donkey clinics for the communities here.

Our first stop is the drought-stricken Chivi district. The donkeys in this area are mainly used for transporting bricks or for carting maize – and the majority of the donkeys we see are in good condition, with few wounds. Although, disappointingly, many have had their ears slit for easy identification by their owners.

We're presented with a particularly sad looking donkey called Rudo. According to his owner, Rudo has lost a lot of weight. He's also got a cough and his breathing is laboured. Erick examines him carefully and diagnoses Rudo with a chest infection. He is immediately started on a course of penicillin and given an anti-inflammatory to bring down his temperature.

By the time the clinic closes, we've examined 104 donkeys and passed on crucial advice to owners which will help to improve the long term health and welfare of their animals.



Our partner vet Erick is seeing fewer severe wounds, and donkey owners are listening to his advice about improving their harnesses

Field Report

SPANA Partner: The Donkey Protection Trust
Region: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

I head westwards to visit another SPANA clinic run by our partner of some ten years, The Donkey Protection Trust. Once I arrive, I meet the Trust's director and licensed veterinary inspector, Ian Redmond. He runs the project along with his two animal welfare assistants Moses and Piri.

Ian explains that the donkey clinics are always hugely popular, with his team treating around 1,500 animals over four days. Today is no exception; we start work as soon as we arrive.

As the day progresses, two young boys arrive with a donkey foal on the back of a cart to be wormed. Ian notices that she is rather quiet for a foal and questions the boys, who agree that she hasn't been herself lately.

Ian checks the foal's gums – they are extremely pale and Ian diagnoses anaemia, which in severe cases can be life-threatening. Anaemia is very common in this area and usually results from an infection caused by a blood parasite which is passed to donkeys from ticks.

Ian gives the foal an anti-parasitic injection to kill the blood parasite, treats her for ticks, and gives her a vitamin injection. The team's prompt action has prevented the anaemia worsening and improved the foal's health.



The clinics run by the team at The Donkey Protection Trust are always very popular



Having a heart for the halfa donkeys

A report on SPANA's work with the 'halfa' donkeys, the grass carriers of Kasserine.

Field Report

Author: Chief Executive, Jeremy Hulme
Region: Central Tunisia



In the dry semi-desert plains around Kasserine in central Tunisia, thousands of people eke out a modest livelihood by gathering a wild desert grass called *stipa tenacissima*. Known locally as 'halfa', it's a tough drought-resistant plant that can be amazingly transformed into high-quality paper.

Gathering halfa has become a huge industry. Families 'pluck' the grass, being careful not to damage the roots, which are then tied in bundles and packed onto donkeys and mules and transported to one of the 64 depots around the region.

The bundles of halfa are huge, regularly weighing over 100 kilograms and sometimes over 150

kilograms. The donkeys will carry these loads for six or seven miles a day during a season that lasts six months.

An estimated 17,000 donkeys and mules are employed in this industry and a SPANA mobile clinic tours the depots to treat any problems. Generally the animals cope very well. But the rewards for this backbreaking work are not that great. Fifty kilos of halfa is worth about seven dinars (between £6-8) for a whole day's work, which equates to around £1,200 for a whole season. Around 16,000 families depend on this desert grass for a living.

Thanks to the kindness of supporters, SPANA is able to keep monitoring the welfare of these hardworking donkeys and mules and provide preventative care at the mobile clinic when required. Thank you for helping to ease any pain caused by their heavy loads.



A donkey will sometimes carry a load of up to 150kg of halfa

SPANA up close: Morocco

In every issue of your SPANA News, we'll be featuring a profile of one of the countries where we work. It's your chance to get an up close and personal look at who works there, what they do every day and the animals they treat.

Morocco is our focus for this edition and it's a country that has a special place in our hearts. Our founders Kate and Nina Hosali started working in Morocco in 1925 and since then our clinics and activities have flourished.



Animals queue for treatment at the Marrakech centre

Morocco at a glance

Population: 32.2 million
Area: 710,850 sq km
Location: Most westerly country of north Africa
Capital City: Rabat
Estimated working animal population:
 Two million working donkeys, mules and horses



Vet Dr Boubker talks about animal welfare to a class of schoolchildren

A day in the life of SPANA's Marrakech centre

SSPANAs centre in Marrakech is the charity's biggest and busiest. Hamid Belemleh, director of SPANA Morocco, tells us about a typical day.

7am The centre's grooms arrive to see to the donkeys, horses and mules that have been hospitalised. They muck out the stables, feed and water the animals and clean the centre.

8am The rest of the team arrive and the veterinary technicians examine the inpatients, administer medications and provide any other necessary treatment like changing bandages with the vets.

A groom then sees to SPANA's horses. Each day they pull a water carriage around the city to fill up SPANA's water troughs, used by the caleche horses (carriage horses popular with tourists). The groom

washes the horses and puts on their harnesses ready to go out with our carriage driver. In total the horses will walk 16km throughout the day and deliver 500 litres of water. The centre has three very healthy horses that work two days on, one day off.

9am The clinic opens its doors to the sick and injured mules, horses and donkeys that are waiting to be seen. Vet Dr Jaaiber treats a variety of conditions and injuries throughout the morning. Some of the animals can leave that day once their owners have been advised on their care. Others will stay at the centre until they are fully recovered.

The inpatient animals are treated by vet Dr Boubker who administers medications, performs small operations and surgery, and oversees the general welfare of the animals.

2pm It's time for the education programme. A group of

SPANA operations

SPANA has worked in Morocco since 1925 and has more centres and clinics here than anywhere else.

- **10 SPANA centres** in Casablanca, Chemaia, Had Ouled Frej, Khemisset, Khenifra, Marrakech, Midelt, Rabat, Tangier and Sidi Bou Ghaba.
- **Nine mobile clinics** reaching animals in remote communities from the edges of the Sahara to the Atlas mountains.
- Special projects such as setting up a **licensing scheme** for Marrakech's caleche horses, which pull tourist carriages. SPANA also monitors their welfare and **builds and maintains water troughs** on main routes to give working animals access to water.

schoolchildren go into the classroom for a lesson on animal needs with the education officer. Dr Boubker joins them to talk about SPANA's work. The class then tours the clinic to see the animals being treated. They also get a chance to handle the small animals kept at the clinic for the programme.

Throughout the afternoon the vets treat new inpatients and handle any emergency arrivals. They also give tours of the centre for visitors and tourists who are interested in learning more about SPANA's work.

6pm The day ends as it began, with the grooms checking the stabled animals to ensure they have enough food and water for the night. A live-in groom stays overnight and monitors the animals in case they need any veterinary assistance.

Teaching children to care

SPANA believes the only way to ensure a better future for working animals is to educate children about animal welfare at an early age. Our extensive education programme in Morocco will teach more than 20,000 children this year.

- Children visit all of SPANA's centres where they take part in animal welfare classroom activities and get to tour the clinics to see working animals being treated. They also get the chance to experience handling rabbits and guinea pigs which helps to develop positive attitudes and empathy towards animals.
- 12,000 children and their teachers visit the SPANA education programme at Sidi Bou Ghaba nature reserve to learn about animals in their natural environment.



In Casablanca, SPANA give disabled children new experiences

- Later this year a new educational bus will tour schools in rural areas.
- SPANA has a riding centre in Casablanca which gives children with disabilities the opportunity to take part in riding activities.



PERSONAL PROFILE:
 Hamid Belemleh,
 SPANA Director,
 Morocco

Hamid trained in veterinary sciences in Lyons, France, before returning to Morocco to gain his PhD. After his studies, Hamid taught as a professor in the veterinary school at Rabat. In 1986 Hamid started working part-time for SPANA, modernising the programme with the help of a close-knit team and has now been working for SPANA for over 25 years.

"What I like most about my job is the pleasure you get from saving an animal or ensuring its welfare through education. Since I've been working for SPANA, I've seen great changes in people's attitudes towards their animals. When I first started working for SPANA, we would have to go out and persuade people to get their animals treated. Now they come to us, and I think that's a huge achievement for the charity."

SPANAN around the world

Every day we're at work treating the sick and injured working animals who desperately need us. Here is your snapshot of just some of the 1,000 plus animals we see each day – and how we've helped them.

JORDAN

Getting a baby camel back on its feet

When a Bedouin man brought five month old baby Wadh (meaning 'white camel') into SPANA's clinic in Wadi Seer, he was in a very poor condition. An aggressive adult male had taken a dislike to Wadh and damaged his neck, leaving him unable to stand and with a nasty infected wound. Vets cleaned the wound every day but as he could not stand he needed to be supported. At first, the baby camel lay on his side and had to be turned over regularly while SPANA staff massaged his leg joints. For part of each day,

Wadh was also put in his normal squatting position between bags of soft shavings to make sure he



This lovely baby camel was brought into our Wadi Seer centre in October 2011, after he had been attacked by an adult male



didn't fall. Vets used a specially-made sling to help Wadh stand and after a few weeks he was able to potter around the yard. His infection cleared and within three weeks Wadh made a full recovery thanks to the customised care he received at the clinic.



Rajiya was suffering from a condition called choke

MOROCCO

Treating choke

Rajiya was admitted to SPANA's Marrakech centre as an emergency case. She was suffering from choke which can happen when a horse eats dry food such as hay and barley and doesn't get enough water, which can then form a solid block in the throat. If untreated, choke can cause lung infections and pneumonia, and in severe cases it can lead to a ruptured food pipe, which can be fatal.

The vet gave Rajiya a sedative to ease her distress and passed a tube up her nose and down the back of her throat. They flushed it with warm water so the food could be digested properly. Thanks to the veterinary team's immediate attention, Rajiya was treated quickly and her distress was minimised.



ETHIOPIA

A helping hand for a lame cart horse

Mulugeta Awlachew knew something was wrong with his new cart horse from the moment he started working him. Worried about his condition, Mulugeta brought his horse to our mobile clinic in Nazareth town, where SPANA's senior animal health assistant, Gizaw Gemechu, saw that the horse was suffering from chronic lameness – caused by osteoarthritis in the horse's hock joint. He comforted the animal and gave him anti-inflammatories to help ease the pain on the joint. He also advised Mulugeta to give the horse a period of rest until his lameness improved.

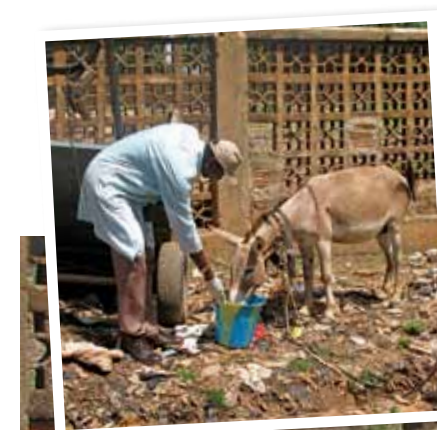


A concerned Mulugeta looks on as SPANA's senior animal health assistant inspects his horse's hock joint

MALI

A chance encounter saves a life

SPANAN's Mali veterinary team were running a mobile clinic in Bamako when they came across a donkey that had collapsed. The cart donkey had been left exposed in the sun while his owner looked for work. He was suffering from dehydration which the team were able to treat on the spot by giving him water. When his owner returned, the team explained the importance of ensuring that the donkey gets regular access to water in the future. His owner said he would make sure he gave his donkey more water from now on.



The donkey was discovered on the roadside by our mobile clinic in Mali, suffering from severe dehydration

Breaking the devastating cycle



Following the devastating drought in east Africa last year, SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme questions whether current aid strategies are working and argues animals are the key to breaking the cycle of famine in the region.



Feed and water points are a lifeline in times of drought

2011 was a terrible year for the people of east Africa. Facing a food crisis on a devastating scale, much of the region found itself once more at the mercy of international aid. The communities most affected were nomadic pastoralists – people who depend entirely on animals for their livelihoods and, in times of crisis, sometimes their lives.

SPANNA was there

I saw for myself the rapidly deteriorating situation early in the year and knew we had to act quickly. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we were able to provide food, water and vaccinations for working animals and livestock along the Kenya/Somalia border. Take a look at the 'How we helped' section alongside to see what we

were able to achieve thanks to your support.

It's not the first time we've worked in this part of the world. We were there five years ago, during the last crisis. The tragedy is that many of the people who lost their livestock – and so their way of life – the last time, are still trapped in the refugee camps, dependent on daily handouts. The new arrivals from the 2011 drought will no doubt find it equally difficult to escape, restart their lives and regain their independence.

Drought does not arrive from nowhere – another will come soon. We now have an opportunity to build resilience and ensure pastoralists are better able to endure the next crisis. But so often aid agencies are geared towards

reacting only once a crisis has already taken hold, and then having to deliver food aid on an epic scale.

Livestock is vital

Across much of Somalia, where the majority of the population are pastoralists, the health of livestock is vital if rural communities are both to survive and prosper. Livestock and working animals are part of an ancient way of life; without them individuals and communities lose milk, transport and trade. And of course, ultimately they lose their independence, income and status.

The drought of the summer devastated much of east Africa. Now, as the crisis has eased significantly across much of the region, those who still have animals can get back on

track quickly. But those who lost all livestock have lost the ability to fend for themselves. Many will become dependent on aid, not just for a short period, but for the foreseeable future.

If just a tiny proportion of the funds spent on humanitarian response was used to save at least some livestock, pastoralists would not be forced into the aid trap in the camps and could pick up an independent livelihood once conditions improve.

During the worst of the crisis we knew we couldn't save every animal. So we focused on saving a nucleus of animals in each community, ensuring that nomadic families could rapidly grow their herds once the rains arrived.

The lack of focus on animals has many other consequences too. The loss of livestock affects the role of young men in pastoralist culture as

it's their responsibility to care for the animals. In Somalia there's evidence that young herdsmen, destitute after the loss of their animals, are easy picking for al-Shabaab, the militant group linked to al-Qaeda. With no income from their livestock and with a family facing hunger and possible starvation, it's no surprise that the offer of food and money appeals to many.

SPANNA has helped many communities through the latest drought, but in east Africa it is never too long before the next crisis is upon us. Now is the time to learn the lessons from the famine of 2011 – we must protect the animals if we're to ensure that the vulnerable nomadic pastoralists of east Africa are better able to weather the next crisis they will face. Thank you once again on behalf of us all here at SPANA for your generous support.

ON THE EDGE OF EXISTENCE

Pictures that paint a thousand words

World renowned photojournalist, Giulio di Sturco accompanied SPANA staff on a recent trip to the drought-stricken region. His photos, like the one below, document the devastating scale of the crisis and its impact on families and their animals.



How we helped

The 2011 Kenya Drought Emergency and Rehabilitation project, funded by SPANA and implemented by our partner organisation, Practical Action, aimed to minimise the impact of the drought on the poor pastoralist communities by protecting animal health.

Over the four-month project:

- **90,000 kilograms of high concentrate animal feeds were distributed to 50,000 animals**
- **80,000 animals were vaccinated against common disease**
- **36,000 animals were de-wormed**
- **200,000 litres of water were distributed**

Jim Broadbent on why he supports SPANA

STOP
TREATING ANIMALS LIKE
MACHINES



Jim meets a foal at SPANA's Marrakech centre

Last year, SPANA launched a new fundraising campaign – **Stop Treating Animals Like Machines** – to highlight the plight of working animals. In January, Oscar-winning actor and SPANA ambassador, Jim Broadbent, took part in a series of radio interviews to help promote the campaign.

"I've been a SPANA supporter for a number of years, so I was delighted to be invited to see the charity at work in Morocco.

The first thing that strikes you is the sheer number of animals queuing up for treatment. There are often more than 50 animals waiting to be seen, some in shocking states, with terrible wounds from car accidents or crudely made nosebands and bits. It's upsetting to see these animals in pain, but also heart-warming to see their owners bringing them to the clinic for care and attention.

The people that rely on working animals are not cruel, but desperately poor, and their donkey or mule will be their most valuable possession. If a family's donkey gets sick,

they can't plough their land or transport their children to school.

So to see SPANA treating these animals for free and getting the animals back to their owners in a healthy and happy condition was fantastic.

I was also hugely impressed by SPANA's educational work. They teach owners about the best ways to prevent further problems and they teach as many children as possible about animal welfare.

SPANA is a practical charity and we know that we can't stop animals doing the work of machines like trucks, taxis and tractors in developing countries. But through free veterinary care, equipment and education, we can make sure they're not treated like machines but instead with care and compassion.

I feel extremely honoured to be an ambassador for SPANA and hope that many more people will support the charity's excellent work."

Jim Broadbent

As a result of Jim taking part in the interviews with BBC and commercial stations, we saw a significant increase in the number of people visiting the SPANA website.

A big thank you to Jim for his support from all of the SPANA team!

Thank you for supporting our latest SPANA News campaign

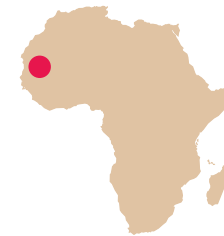
Our autumn SPANA News campaign appealed for support to help our hardworking vets treat fistulous withers, the common complaint that develops from the pressure of poorly fitting harnesses. Your generous donations have helped to treat donkeys like Albert, who was recently brought to our centre in Bamako, Mali, with painful wounds along his back. Our vets tended to the sores and provided the owner with a new comfortable harness, so the donkey could work in comfort.



Albert is treated by the SPANA team

A day in the life

SPANA education officer Ahmed Baba tells us about a typical day



Donkeys and horses have incredibly difficult lives in Mauritania, one of the poorest countries in west Africa. These hardworking animals often carry heavy loads for hours in intense heat and choking dust. We treated over 14,000 donkeys and horses at the SPANA centre in Nouakchott last year and sadly many of the cases were avoidable.



Personal Profile: Ahmed Baba

Mr Baba taught in one of Nouakchott's leading schools for many years and retired from state education at the same time as SPANA's education programme started in Mauritania in 2004. He joined SPANA to teach animal owners and became involved with the schools education programme once a classroom had been built. He now organises and runs all lessons for SPANA.



Baba is SPANA's education officer in Nouakchott

SPANA believes that education is vital to ensure the welfare of working animals in the future

Ahmed Baba, SPANA Mauritania's education officer, gives us an insight into his typical working day:

8am As I arrive I'm greeted at the main gate by a queue of donkey and horse owners standing patiently with their animals while the veterinary staff tend to those that have been stabled. I take my ledger and record all the owners' names, then pass it on to the team of vets who carefully record what's wrong with each animal and the treatment it receives.

11am We load up the Land Rover ready for the mobile clinic and set off for the water points dotted around the town. When we arrive there I set up a poster on that day's subject (which can be anything from worming, teeth rasping or lameness) and pin it to the side of the Land Rover to use as a teaching aid. I spend about 10 minutes talking to the owners that have gathered with their animals, then hand out photocopies of the poster to act as reminders.

3pm As we return to the centre, an orderly line of school children is entering the classroom. We divide the class in half. One group can go and look at the animals being treated with Wan, the technician in charge, whilst the other group receive a lesson on animals' basic needs. Then they swap over, so all the children get to see the hospitalised animals.



SPANA supporters

Supporter news

SPANA's Summer garden party

Date: Saturday 14 July 2012**Time:** 2.00pm – 6.00pm**Place:** Conquerors B&B,
Herstmonceux,
East Sussex

Our annual summer party will be held in the beautiful gardens at the home of long-time SPANA supporters, Kate and Terry Short. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the SPANA team and fellow supporters and listen to an update from chief executive Jeremy Hulme. Conquerors is located between the A21 and the A22, not far from Eastbourne and Hastings. Parking is available or it's a 20 minute drive from Polegate train station, from where we'll provide a shuttle bus. Tickets are on sale now for £15.50, including a picnic tea and glass of wine. Please contact Nic Van Gelder on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org if you'd like to attend. If you would like to know more about Conquerors, please visit www.conquerorsbandb.co.uk

Sign up to the Vet Charity Challenge!

Date: Saturday
15 September 2012**Place:** Royal Agricultural
College,
Cirencester

We're encouraging veterinary professionals to sign up for this year's Vet Charity Challenge, a one-day event of physical tasks and puzzle solving challenges. We hope the event will raise in excess of £20,000 for SPANA, Hounds for Heroes and the Pet Blood Bank. Visit www.vetcharitychallenge.co.uk or call 01727 859259 for more details.

**VET
CHARITY
CHALLENGE**
2012

Vets with Horsepower

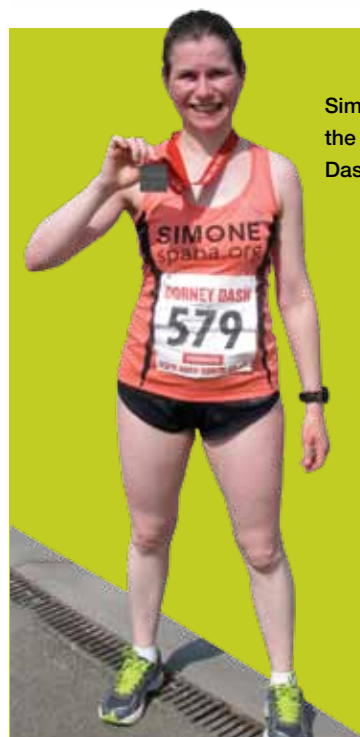
This August, a team of seven leading equine vets will embark by motorbike on a two-week 3,000 mile lecture tour to raise funds for SPANA. The team, led by Professor Derek Knottenbelt, will travel through Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Morocco and Spain to deliver lectures to veterinary schools in return for donations to the charity. To sponsor the team, please call Nic Van Gelder on 020 7831 3999 or visit www.justgiving.com/horsepower2012



Last year's tour raised over £100,000 from veterinary lectures across the UK

Star Supporters

Congratulations and a very big thank you to all the runners that went that extra mile to support SPANA in 2011. Veterinary nurse, Julie Harris completed her first London Marathon in April raising over £500 for SPANA. Simone Kirby, new president of the BVDA (British Veterinary Dental Association), ran the 10k Dorney Dash on 30 July raising almost £300 and Harriet Drouin took part in the BUPA Great Yorkshire Run on 9 October and raised over £260.



Simone does the Dorney Dash



Enjoy a summer afternoon in the beautiful gardens of the Conquerors B&B

Stride Out this summer for SPANA

STRIDE OUT!
for working animals



DISCOVERY DAY

Join us for two exciting Stride Out events



We launch our new fundraising event to help change the lives of 10,000 animals

We're delighted to announce the launch of our brand new summer fundraiser – **Stride Out** – which aims to make a huge difference to the lives of 10,000 working animals worldwide.

There are two ways you and your friends and family can get involved in Stride Out – by attending one of our organised Stride Outs listed on the right, or holding your very own Stride Out event!

What is Stride Out?

It's not just a walk, a horse ride, a cycle or a run – it's any of these. So you can choose the activity that best suits you and your family, friends or colleagues. And we're not telling you how far to Stride Out either, that's completely up to you. Every step you take and every single pound you raise will go a very long way to help donkeys, horses, camels and other animals in desperate need.

Where can you Stride Out?

You can Stride Out wherever you like, but for those who wish to follow in the footsteps of working animals we've got a selection of Stride Out routes with animal connections on offer. There are 12 suggested routes (on the website and in the fundraising pack) across the UK from canal towpaths and drovers' roads to bridleways.

Free event pack:

Get yours today by calling the Stride Out team on **020 7831 3999**, ticking the box on the enclosed response form or go to www.spana.org/strideout



Stride Out Discovery Day, Warwick Racecourse, Sunday 24 June 2012 12.00pm – 5.00pm

Enjoy a fun-filled day out with amazing animal attractions and loads more surprises waiting to be discovered on a short trail around Warwick Racecourse with SPANA's amazing donkey costumes.

Tickets are just £6 for adults when you book before the event and £8 on the day. Children under 12 enter FREE. Call **020 7831 3999**, email events@spana.org or visit www.spana.org/strideout to book your tickets.

Stride Out on Hampstead Heath 2.5km walk, Saturday 15 September 2012 10.00am Start

Join long-time SPANA supporter Angela Humphrey on a walk around London's Hampstead Heath guided by the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, Simon Lee. The 2.5km route around the famous park will include a chance to meet Simon's wonderful donkeys, Sienna and Calypso. Registration costs £10 and we would ask that you try to raise £25 in sponsorship. To find out more or to register, please call the Stride Out team on **020 7831 3999** or email events@spana.org.



SPANNA

For the working animals of the world

Founded in 1923, SPANA is the charity for the working animals of the world.

Millions of people depend on animals for their livelihoods, yet many lack access to professional veterinary care. Across Africa and the Middle East, SPANA clinics treat hundreds of thousands of donkeys, horses, mules, camels and livestock every year.

During conflict, drought and natural disaster, our emergency programme gets help to animals and the communities who depend on them, whenever and wherever we're needed.

Our education programme reaches tens of thousands of children each year, teaching respect and compassion for animals.

We believe every working animal deserves to be treated with humanity and kindness. We're working towards a day when animal suffering will cease to exist. Until then, there is a lot of work to be done.



Where you can help

Permanent programmes around the world

- Algeria
- Ethiopia
- Jordan
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Syria
- Tunisia

Outreach and emergency programme

- Kenya
- Mongolia
- Zimbabwe

SPANNA works around the world to help animals in need. In the past, we've run emergency and outreach programmes in five continents.

Stay in touch

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14 John Street,
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Telephone: 020 7831 3999
Fax: 020 7831 5999
Donation line: 0300 033 4999

Email: enquiries@spana.org

If you'd like to receive regular updates, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.spana.org

Registered charity no: 209015

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www.spana.org



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www.youtube.com/spana1923