



news

For the working animals of the world

Autumn 2012 Issue no. 177

Find out how our veterinary programme is helping horses in Ethiopia. Pages 10 & 11



Changing attitudes

An education appeal for a new animal handling centre **P6 & 7**



Success stories

Helping a foal to walk again in Morocco **P12 & 13**



Working in conflict

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Welcome

Your kindness saves lives

Dear friends,

It's hard not to feel a bit gloomy as you survey SPANA's countries of operation. War, drought, terrorism and refugee crises now seem to be increasingly common across so much of Africa and the Middle East.

But it'd be wrong to see the world only through the prism of the television news. Behind the obvious problems, life goes on.

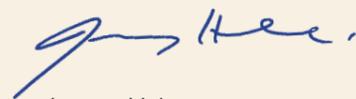
I'm constantly impressed by the dedication and commitment of SPANA teams across the world who continue to work in some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable, getting help to sick and injured animals wherever and whenever they're needed. It may not be front page news, but behind the conflicts in Syria, Mali, Tunisia and elsewhere, SPANA teams are saving lives and easing suffering for many thousands of animals.

We can only do all this with your support, and over recent months your generosity has been staggering.

When we appealed for your help to treat the donkeys working in desperate conditions on the rubbish dumps of Mali's capital Bamako, your response was overwhelming. Thanks to you we were able to ease their pain. And when we asked for your help to build water troughs for the overworked and dehydrated water-carrying donkeys of Mauritania, we were astonished by your generosity.

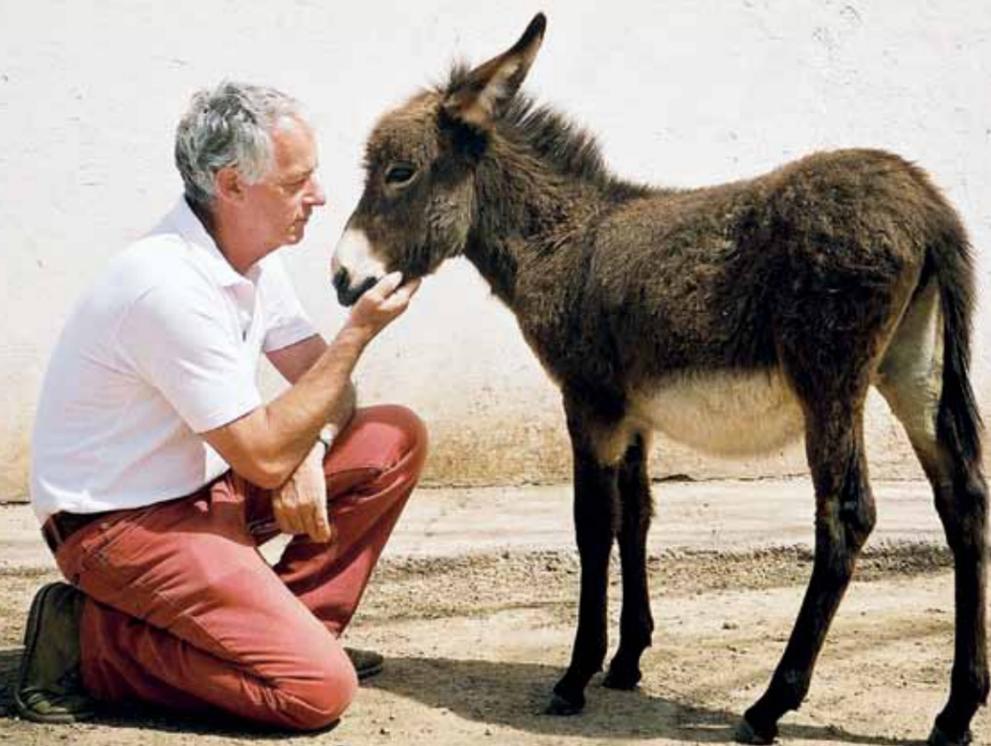
So when you turn on the TV news and see more depressing stories, remember there's good news too. Thanks to your kindness we were able to provide almost 400,000 free veterinary treatments to working animals last year; that's thousands of happy endings that you made possible. There's a reason to be cheerful.

Thank you all.



Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

PS If you'd like to know more about our work with the water donkeys of Mauritania, you can read all about it at www.spana.org/water. There's also more on the rubbish dump donkeys of Bamako at www.spana.org/rubbish.



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Front cover image: An owner receives a locally made harness pad from SPANA to place under his horse's harness to prevent wounds. © Anna Fawcus/SPANA

Jeremy's highlights

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

Holiday hooves

Every year millions of us jet off to warmer climates for a little sunshine and adventure. But new SPANA research shows travelling can be a distressing experience for many animal-loving tourists, with animal abuse and cruelty ruining holidays for many.

Worryingly, our research also showed most tourists didn't know how to complain and felt powerless to act. So just as the summer getaway was about to begin, we took to the airwaves, aiming to empower holidaymakers to help put an end to mistreatment of animals in the tourist industry.

We were joined by animal welfare campaigner and ex-MP Ann Widdecombe, who helped us secure lots of interviews with radio stations, daytime television programmes and national newspapers. Ann's support was so important in getting press coverage and her passion for animal welfare is inspirational. You can read more about Ann and our tourism campaign on page 16.

Education in Casablanca

Many of those poor tourist animals we've been trying to help are worked by young men – children, in fact – with little or no understanding of animal welfare. It's not always their fault, of course, since they've never had any instruction about how to care for animals.

They're not alone either. Across so many countries, children grow up to value animals only by their economic worth. We know that working animals are vital to so many poor families, but at SPANA we believe they all have a right to be treated with compassion and respect – and that's where our education programme comes in.

One of my recent highlights was a visit to Casablanca to see how our education work there was progressing.

I met Bounkita and Noisette, a donkey and a pony that have idyllic lives in SPANA's education project. Their main role is to be pampered by the children, which both the animals and the children seem to enjoy enormously.

Out on the streets of Casablanca, animals aren't always treated nearly so well. But Bounkita and Noisette are helping SPANA to change all that, giving children an opportunity to develop a special and hopefully lasting bond with animals.

It's such important work. We're so very proud of our veterinary successes of course, but if we're to build a better future for working animals it must start by building compassion and respect at a young age. Please take a look at our special appeal on pages six and seven. If you can help us to continue our vital education programme, we'd be so grateful. Thank you.



Some malnourished cart horses in Tunisia, just some of the animals we are trying to help with our new campaign



Noisette the pony gets ready to go on a ride around the centre

Vets complete epic fundraiser

Team raise £120,000 on motorbike challenge

A team of leading equine vets has completed a 3,000-mile motorbike ride across Europe and north Africa to raise £120,000 in aid of SPANA.

The group, named 'Vets with Horsepower', set off from the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace in August.

They then travelled to eight countries in just two weeks to deliver training lectures at veterinary schools in return for donations to the charity.

Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who saw the group off from the start line at the Royal Mews, said that he was 'incredibly impressed' by the vets' challenge which required 'both physical and mental stamina'.

The founder of Vets with Horsepower Professor Derek Knottenbelt said: **"We were incredibly grateful to Her Majesty the Queen for allowing us to start our journey from the Royal Mews, home to horses that enjoy the very best standards of equine welfare.**

"We want all working animals to be as well-cared for and that's why we took part in this fundraiser to help the working animals of Mali and Mauritania. We would like to say a special thanks to our sponsors, and everyone in the UK and at our veterinary talks abroad who supported us."



The Vets with Horsepower riders and Sir Ranulph Fiennes at the Royal Mews in Buckingham Palace

The money raised from the vets' challenge will pay for new diagnostic and surgical equipment for SPANA's veterinary clinics in Mali and Mauritania, and will support the charity's Riding School for Disabled Children in Bamako, Mali. To find out more about the team, visit: www.spana.org/horsepower.

Vet students across west Africa to practise with SPANA

We are delighted to announce that veterinary students from fifteen west African countries will get practical experience at SPANA's Mauritania centre thanks to a new partnership.

The Interstate School of Veterinary Science and Medicine in Dakar, Senegal, held a formal signing ceremony for the programme that sees fourth year vet students visit our Nouakchott centre for training.

SPANA's veterinary director Andy Stringer said: "We're incredibly pleased that this scheme has been

formalised in Senegal. It's an excellent opportunity for the charity to provide high standard training to students in equine healthcare across this region of Africa, as fifteen countries send their vet students to the school.

"We also plan to provide expert speakers to enrich and develop the syllabus at the school, and provide continuous professional development opportunities for existing vets."

Hundreds stride out for SPANA

The charity's first working animal discovery day attracts new supporters

SPANA's first ever working animal discovery day has raised over £3,500 for the charity.

Around six hundred people attended the event in Warwick, which featured falconry displays, donkey rides, a mini farm, sheep dog and duck displays, llamas, alpacas and a camel. SPANA vets also ran an interactive exhibition about the charity's work.

The aim of the discovery day that was held in June was to raise awareness and celebrate the lives of working animals, both in the UK and abroad.

Warwick and Leamington MP Chris White, who sits on the International Development Select Committee, attended the discovery day and got to meet SPANA staff. Chris said: **"I was delighted to attend SPANA's discovery day and see so many local families enjoying the event and learning about SPANA's work.**

"The charity's veterinary, education and emergency work is truly inspiring and is obviously making a huge difference to the lives of working animals and their owners across Africa and the Middle East."



A llama strikes a pose

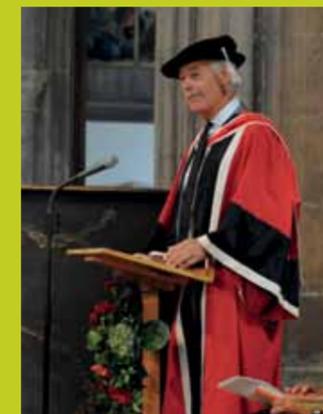


Kokoso the camel enjoyed all of the attention during the discovery day

SPANNA CEO honoured by award

SPANA's chief executive Jeremy Hulme has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Essex's Writtle College.

The university presented the doctorate to Jeremy in recognition of his services to improve animal welfare standards abroad. They described him as 'one of the driving forces behind the leading charity for working animals worldwide and the communities they support'.



Jeremy said: **"I was humbled to receive an honorary doctorate from Writtle College, where I once spent time as a student myself.**

"I accepted the award on behalf of all the charity's staff and volunteers, past and present, who have worked so hard to improve the welfare of working animals abroad. I also accepted the award on behalf of our supporters, because our work can only take place because of their incredible dedication to our cause."

Ethiopia

Getting hands-on with animals

SPANA education director Diana Hulme appeals for help to build a new animal handling centre for schoolchildren in Ethiopia

Across much of the world hundreds of millions of animals work long hours, often carrying backbreaking loads in blistering heat. It can be a brutal life.

There are few places in the world tougher for working animals than rural Ethiopia. There, our veterinary staff often see working animals with wounds and illnesses that are easily preventable, simply because many owners have no animal welfare training and don't know how to identify the signs of distress, sickness and overwork.

Many owners have also grown up in communities where animals are thought of only as tools, never developing compassion and respect for them at a young age.

SPANA wants to change that, but we need your help. We want to build an animal handling centre for children in Ethiopia, so that the next generation of animal owners grows up with an understanding of basic animal welfare and a healthy respect for their animals.

Changing attitudes

Changing ideas, fostering compassion and breaking established traditions are long-term challenges. But with many years of experience behind us, SPANA knows that the most effective way to do this is by counteracting fears and beliefs at a young age with hands-on experiences.

Although many children will go



Our handling centre in Jordan has made a massive impact on children's relationships with animals; we want to recreate this in Ethiopia – a country with over 2.5 million working animals

on to work with animals, as they grow up they often have no chance to learn about how to care for and respect them. But by introducing children to animals at a young age, they overcome their preconceptions, start to feel comfortable around animals, and begin the vital process of building compassion – all essential if we're to secure a more humane future for working animals.

It's not enough for children just to see animals in their environment; our experience has taught us that a more "hands-on" approach has a much greater impact.

It's not enough for children just to see animals in their environment; our experience has taught us that a more "hands-on" approach has a much greater impact. Children first need to develop relationships with smaller animals, for example by stroking a rabbit or holding a guinea pig. Such encounters prove to be positive experiences that have long-lasting effects.



Building children's empathy towards animals

Research shows that handling animals, particularly the small and vulnerable, can evoke feelings of nurturing and empathy in children. In one study in America, scientists found that empathy can flourish during hands-on experiences because children witness the direct affect their actions have on the animal. In this way SPANA teaches children in some of the world's poorest countries that simply stroking an animal gives it enjoyment.

Of course for this initiative to work it needs to take place in surroundings where both children and small animals feel safe and secure. Comfortable homes need to be built for the animals, so their health and welfare are assured. Children need to be seated within an enclosed area for the lesson and the handling experience. And of course the animals need to be really tame and used to being handled.

Our successful programme in Jordan shows that animal handling centres can be successful. Now

we want to help countless animals in Ethiopia by developing a similar programme for children there.

With your help, we will expand our work in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, to provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to handle animals.

We need £20,000 to build an animal handling centre that will include a classroom complete with furnishings, housing for a donkey, goats, and a small group of rabbits and guinea pigs, some feed and bedding, and funding to pay for an education officer to run the centre. We expect several thousand children will visit in the first year of opening alone.

Please can you secure a better future for the animals of Ethiopia by donating whatever you can to help build this vital animal handling centre? Every penny will help us teach a new generation of animal owners to respect and care for their hardworking animals. Thank you.



A boy in Jordan gets to handle a rabbit for the first time

OUR APPEAL

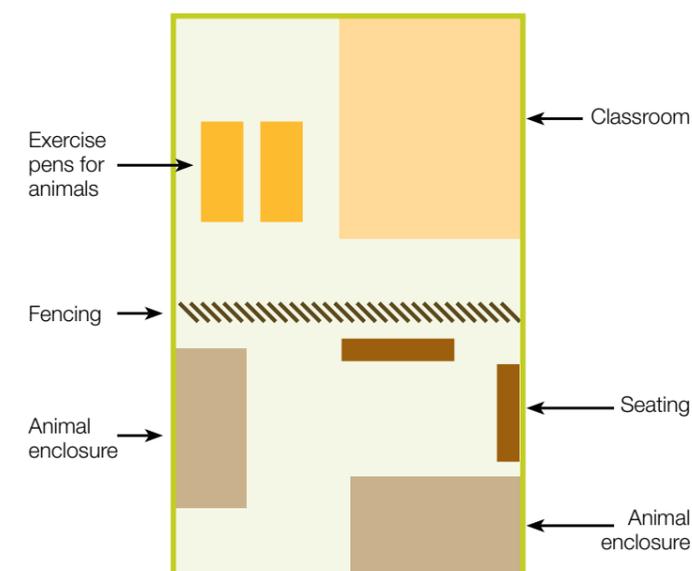
£11.50 covers the cost of a fortnight's bedding for all the animals at the education centre.

£50 buys one month's worth of feed for the animals.

£89 pays for our education officer to run the animal handling sessions over two weeks.

To make a donation to this Special Animal Handling Centre 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 education work. Any additional funds raised will help SPANA's work where it's needed the most.



This is a layout of the animal handling centre that we hope to build in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia

Changing behaviour in Tunisia

Veterinary programme advisor Jane Harry shares her visit report

I recently joined the SPANA Tunisia team at a mobile clinic we've been running for many years at the weekly souk in the town of Kasserine. It's a vital service for the animals we see in this small town, and our regular presence has helped us to develop longstanding relationships and trust with the local community.

While our vets treat, they also teach. SPANA teams use every opportunity they can to improve owner understanding of basic animal care, minimising the recurrence of preventable problems. So it's always gratifying to see the message getting through, as I did when we were approached by one particular young boy and his injured mule.

When we treat sores our vets often give out 'doughnut bandages' – padded doughnut-shaped bandages that are designed to encircle a wound or sore to relieve pressure from equipment and prevent further injury. They're inexpensive but can really ease a working animal's suffering.

So I was very pleased to see this young boy had understood the importance of protecting his mule's withers sore: he'd fashioned his own makeshift doughnut bandage with a pair of his old jeans, stuffed with straw and tied together into a circle!

The homemade bandage wasn't all that effective of course, and we quickly replaced it with a SPANA doughnut. But after years of working with the community in Kasserine, it's heartening to see this young boy learning from SPANA's example, and with such obvious compassion and ingenuity too.

Many owners there are also padding their animals' harnesses to avoid sores and wounds on advice from the mobile clinic team. There are fewer harness wounds seen in the town now, which is testament to SPANA's influence.

On my visit it was incredibly rewarding to see the positive effect the mobile clinic visits are having in the town.



One of the well-padded harnesses we saw at the mobile clinic



An owner's attempt at making a doughnut bandage out of an old pair of jeans



Ending the agony of dental pain

An update on how your generosity from the SPANA News dentistry appeal is helping working horses

Field report

Author: Jane Harry, veterinary programme advisor

Country: Mauritania

Thanks to your generous response to the SPANA News dentistry appeal, the veterinary team is now better equipped than ever to help working animals suffering from dental problems. I travelled to Nouakchott to see how SPANA Mauritania was easing the suffering of horses there.

On arrival at Nouakchott, I joined the team for a day at the mobile clinic. Although most of the animals we see in Mauritania are donkeys, those horses we do treat tend to be in a particularly poor state. Often originating from Senegal where they were considered too old and unfit to work, they find their way across the river to a new life of work in Mauritania.

As horses began to gather for the clinic, it was clear that lots were pitifully thin and malnourished. When our vets examined many of these horses, they found many were thin because of dental problems. Unable to chew efficiently, they either drop their food or can't digest it properly. The results can be fatal.

The good news is that many of the dental conditions we saw can easily be stopped in their tracks before they become too severe. On my first visit to the centre in 2011, I saw lots of cases that were simply too advanced to treat effectively with rasping – but SPANA is changing that.

Our head vet technician, Wan, is now trained in advanced equine dentistry, and we've equipped him with the very best tools for grinding tooth overgrowths. No-one likes a trip to the dentist, but Wan's expert training means he's able to minimise any distress.

The first horse we treated had a severe case of 'shear mouth', where teeth are angled to make side-to-side jaw movement and chewing very difficult. He was clearly suffering and his owner was concerned about his deteriorating condition. But after an hour with Wan, this horse left much better able to make the most of the food he's given. And I left confident that he, and the many other horses on the streets of Nouakchott, can look forward to a better future.



I observe Wan, head vet technician, using the new dental equipment

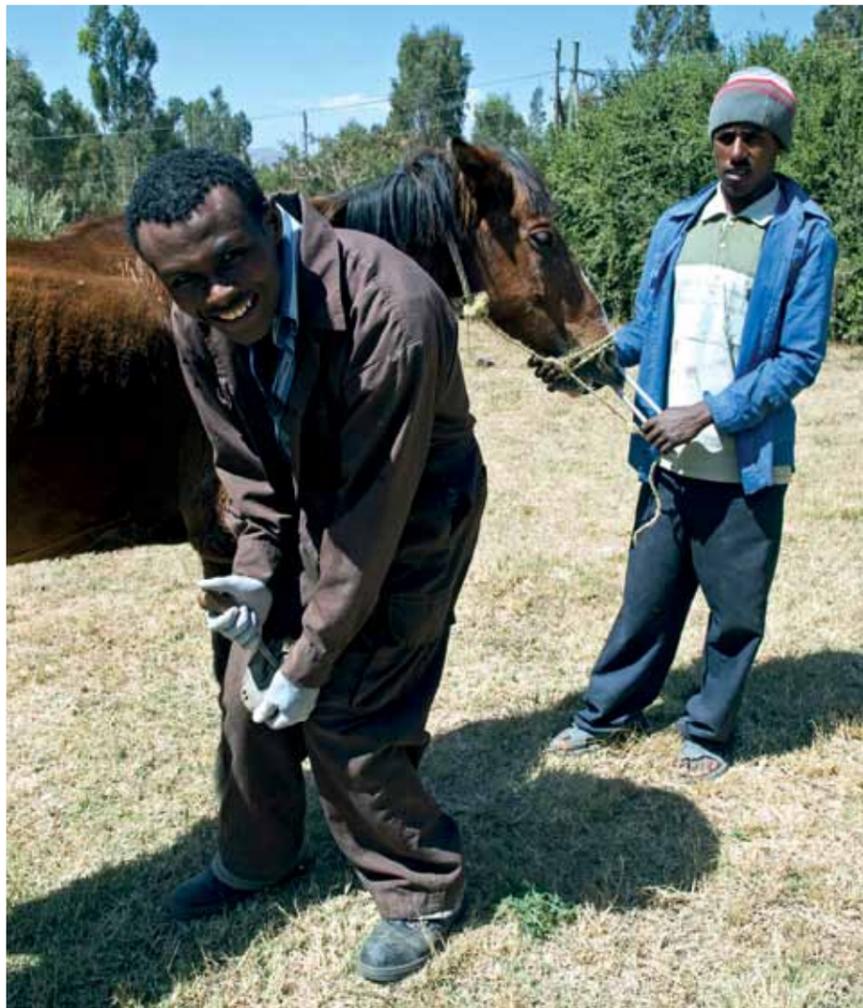


Malnourished cart horses await treatment at the centre

SPANA up close: Ethiopia

Your chance to find out about our work in Ethiopia, a country with 2.5 million working animals.

A day in the life of a mobile clinic



A vet technician corrects a badly shod horse at a mobile clinic

SSPANA Ethiopia country director Dr Nigatu Aklilu tells us about a mobile clinic visit to the city of Hawassa, the capital of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region of the country.

9am We arrive at the Hawassa state-run veterinary clinic after a 230km drive from the SPANA clinic in Debre Zeit. There 28 owners have already registered their names and

are waiting patiently for SPANA.

First we identify a specific health issue from all of the horses waiting, which we are really concerned about. We can see that many of the horses at the clinic have branding marks or wounds. We ask all of the owners to sit down and we discuss one traditional healer's activities in the town – hot iron branding. This is a practice believed to treat lameness, where hot irons are pressed on to horses' skin.

We hold a discussion about how this practice harms the horses and afterwards many owners say they are now convinced that this is not a cure for lameness.

10am After treating some minor cases, we are presented with three horses with wounds caused by branding on the thigh and shoulder regions. We thoroughly clean the wounds, remove the dead tissue, and with their owners apply zinc oxide cream to prevent infection. We show them how to do this so that when we leave they are able to continue the treatment.

Noon We treat some lameness conditions caused by misplaced shoe nails that have led to hoof abscesses. All owners watch us treat these horses as it is a good example of showing why it is important to visit a trained farrier for shoeing. We advise the owners involved to let their horses rest until they show no signs of lameness.

3pm By the end of the clinic 40 owners have brought their horses to SPANA and we have examined and treated 63 horses in total. Most horses have come for treatment for wounds, lameness, respiratory disorders or an African horse sickness vaccination.

All of the owners are happy with both the veterinary and education services SPANA is providing and are very thankful to us. They mention that SPANA is improving their horse's health and welfare, which is reflected by the fact that fewer horses are becoming ill.

The team returns to our permanent centre at Debre Zeit.

SPANA operations

SPANA started work in Ethiopia in 2002. Our small and dedicated team there were able to provide almost 22,000 treatments for working animals last year.

- **One permanent centre** in Debre Zeit
- **Two mobile clinics** visiting animals in surrounding towns
- The **main problems** we encounter are animals with wounds, lameness, respiratory disease and a fungal infection called EZL that can be fatal
- Our **education work** currently consists of a cart horse owner education programme, and a group of after-school animal clubs for children where they can learn about animal needs in a fun environment
- To help improve the quality of life for the animals we treat in Ethiopia, we provide **harness pads** for owners to put under their animals' harnesses to prevent wounds, as pictured on our front cover



Our harness pad maker Selamawit Fikadu

Ethiopia at a glance

- Population:** 84.7 million
- Area:** 1.13 million sq km
- Location:** Horn of Africa
- Capital City:** Addis Ababa
- Estimated working animal population:** 2.5 million



Dr Nigatu at the Debre Zeit centre

PERSONAL PROFILE:
Dr Nigatu Aklilu,
SPANA director,
Ethiopia

Nigatu joined SPANA Ethiopia in 2004 and is one of the charity's most enthusiastic team members. Day-to-day, Nigatu is overseeing the running of the clinics, the cart horse owner education programme and the schoolchildren education programme.

As an expert in his field, Nigatu also lectures on equine medicine and welfare for veterinary students in the country's leading veterinary school. Each month Nigatu meets with other animal charities to organise joint activities.

Nigatu said: "Animal welfare is the key driving force in my life and I get a lot of job satisfaction from being able to alleviate animals' pain and suffering as part of the SPANA Ethiopia team. When we treat animals I also get to see the happiness and relief in the owners' faces, whose lives entirely depend on the wellbeing of their animals. These experiences give you real encouragement to work even harder.

"All of the SPANA Ethiopia team are incredibly dedicated and if there are any animals seeking treatment, regardless of the time of day or situation, the team will try to help them."

All images on these pages © Anna Fawcus/SPANA



The mobile clinic team after a long day's work

SPANAN around the world

Every day we're at work treating the sick and injured donkeys, horses, mules and camels that desperately need us. Here is your snapshot of just a few animals we've helped over the past months thanks to your support.

SYRIA

Vets treat horse burned in stable fire

SPANAN Syria has treated a horse that was rescued from a stable fire in Damascus, Syria.

Maroon the horse suffered burns to his face, hind limbs and groin after someone threw a flaming cigarette filter into his stable which ignited his hay.

The burns caused Maroon's skin to swell and peel, making it uncomfortable for him to walk. The burns on his face also caused blisters and swellings above his eyes, which meant he couldn't see properly.

Maroon's owner Salim took

him to the SPANA mobile clinic that visits the suburbs of Damascus. There our vets gave Maroon an anti-inflammatory to ease his pain and reduce the swelling. Having washed the damaged skin with saline, they applied antiseptic cream to the burns to guard against infection. They also gave Maroon an anti-tetanus injection and a course of antibiotics.

Maroon's treatment continued for one month until his burns had healed and he was able to work again.

His owner Salim said: "Many thanks to the SPANA team and all who support their work."



Vet assistant Abdul applies antiseptic cream to Maroon's burns



The foal's bandaged legs during her treatment

MOROCCO

Foal able to walk again thanks to SPANA treatment

A foal that was unable to stand because of a large swelling on the elbow of her front leg is now able to walk again after treatment by our Chemaia team.

The vets who examined the mule foal found that she had a large abscess, which was most likely caused from a traumatic incident. They drained the fluid from the abscess and gave the foal antibiotics to treat the infection.

Her wounded leg was bandaged and as her good front leg was taking all of her weight, this was also bandaged to give her some extra support.

After three weeks of treatment the foal completely recovered from her injury.

The foal's owner Abdelhadi, who delivers goods by cart to support his wife and six children, said: "My foal was in such pain that she could only walk on three legs – but from the work of the team at SPANA she has been healed. I thank SPANA for their kind help."

MAURITANIA

Owner of 'fired' donkey promises to turn back on practice

An owner who took his donkey to be 'fired' in the hope of curing lameness has agreed to never use the traditional practice again thanks to SPANA's education work.

Before being brought to our centre in Nouakchott, Ali the donkey's owner had taken him to a local traditional healer who pressed hot irons onto his skin, which they believed would cure his lameness.

When this did not cure Ali, his owner brought him to SPANA's vets who were able to explain that the firing had caused Ali undue harm and distress. His owner said he would always bring Ali to SPANA in future.

The vets cleaned Ali's wounds, gave him an anti-tetanus injection and put him on a course of antibiotics. Ali was then admitted to the centre for rest until he recovered from his injuries.



Ali arrives at the Nouakchott clinic

ETHIOPIA

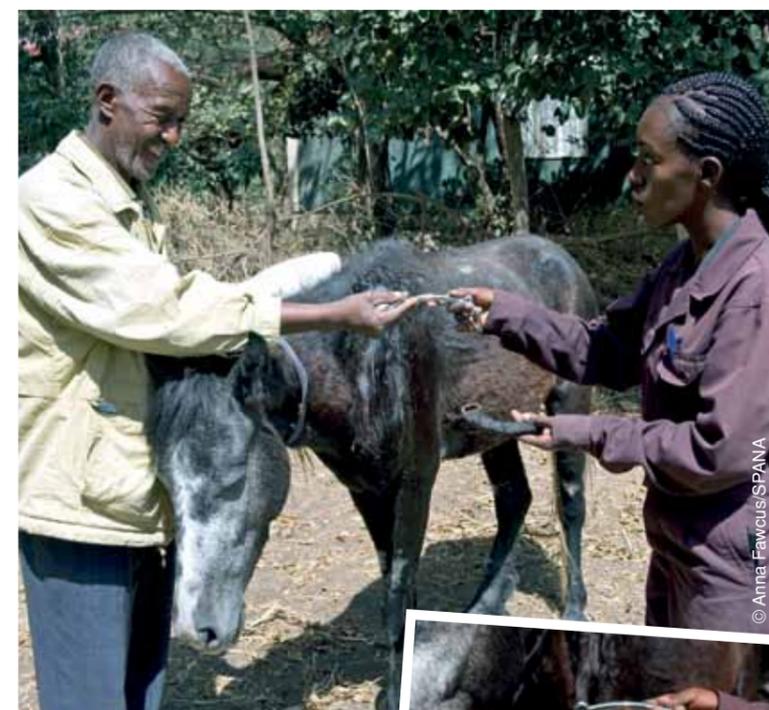
New equipment helps prevent cart horse from further injury

A cart horse with wounds caused from improper equipment has been given a new harness pad and bit thanks to our mobile vet team in Ethiopia.

Jengo the cart horse was brought to our mobile clinic by his owner Shibeshi after he suffered a deep wound on the left side of his withers region and a girth sore from where his harness had rubbed.

Shibeshi had made Jengo's harness himself but unfortunately the materials he'd found were not appropriate and caused Jengo's injuries as he pulled the cart.

Vet Dr Hanna treated Jengo's wounds and gave his owner a locally made SPANA harness pad to place under his harness to prevent it rubbing. She also noticed that Jengo had an old rusty bit wrapped in cloth and so swapped it with a new SPANA bit which would be more comfortable and less likely to cause damage to his mouth.



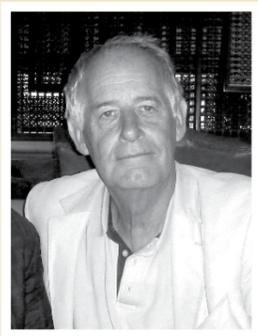
Dr Hanna gives Shibeshi a new bit and harness pad for Jengo



Dr Hanna swaps Jengo's old bit for a new SPANA one

Animals and conflict

With conflicts raging in two of SPANA's countries of operation, Syria and Mali, our chief executive Jeremy Hulme looks back at the charity's history of working in war zones to help animals – the forgotten victims.



If you happen to travel down London's Park Lane you may notice a striking landmark. Unveiled a few years ago to much ceremony, the Animals in War Memorial is a powerful tribute to the many animals that gave their lives in the conflicts of the 20th century. It's a fitting memorial to some forgotten victims of war.

We rightly think first of the many men and women that died in those conflicts, but that should never prevent us from also sparing a thought for the enormous suffering endured by those animals that suffered and often died in battle.

Eight million working horses lost their lives during the First World War alone, along with countless donkeys and mules. It's an astonishing and sobering statistic.

Back in 2004 when the memorial was unveiled, there was little press interest. But the sacrifices made by working animals during the First World War have recently been brought to a much wider public with the play (and now film) War Horse. The success of the play both here in the UK and across the world brought the suffering of these noble animals to a global audience.

Today animals continue to be used in conflict, albeit to a lesser extent. Yet animals still suffer in conflicts right across the world; with the war reporters focusing their attention elsewhere, the suffering of animals is largely ignored.

At SPANA we're known for getting help to animals whenever and wherever we're needed, and we've found ourselves working in some of the bloodiest and most brutal conflicts of recent years, getting help to the forgotten victims: the animals.

When the bombs were falling on Kosovo in the 1990s, SPANA was there. Retreating soldiers used cattle as target practice, spraying them with gunfire. The results were horrific. SPANA, with support from the Ministry of Defence, flew out to the scene, removing the bullets and relieving the suffering of these animals. On my return to the UK I was interviewed for Channel 4 television news, highlighting the plight of these poor creatures.



In Kosovo our veterinary treatment was widely needed

Animals are not only collateral damage, of course. Sometimes they're actually a cause of conflict. In the isolated deserts of northern Kenya, drought and climate change have fuelled ongoing tribal conflicts between pastoralists. In this barren region, animals are the difference between life and death. During

drought, when most of the herd can be lost, conflict can worsen as tribes fight to take ownership of the remaining animals. SPANA has worked in the region for years now, supporting the building of dams that will provide water for animals during even the worst droughts, easing their suffering and tackling the causes of conflict.

Across the border in Darfur, in one of the bloodiest conflicts of recent years, SPANA also helped support pastoralists.

Working animals often suffer terribly during conflict, but so too do their owners, who are often amongst the poorest people in their society. The majority of Afghanistan's rural poor depend on working animals for their livelihood, yet when SPANA arrived in Helmand, one of the most difficult and dangerous provinces in the country, 1.5 million people had no access to trained veterinary professionals. In 2010, SPANA worked to rebuild that shattered infrastructure, training animal health workers and equipping them with worming and vaccination kits.

Though our work in Afghanistan and Iraq has now come to an end, new conflicts in Africa and the Middle East – including those of the so called Arab Spring – are now of real concern. Many of the previous conflicts in which SPANA operated were beyond the reach of our core programmes, so we worked with partner organisations to get immediate help where it was needed. Today's conflicts are much closer to home, in and around those countries where SPANA has permanent operations. As I write, the violence in Syria seems to be worsening, and the situation in Mali,



We trained animal health workers in Afghanistan

which has endured civil war and a military coup in recent months, seems far from stable. Yet I am constantly impressed by the bravery of SPANA teams in making sure our vital work continues.

History has shown that conflict and war will always disproportionately affect the most marginal and the

poorest communities, those most likely to rely on animals for their livelihoods. These animals are the forgotten victims and too often their suffering goes unheeded. But, thanks to your kind support, SPANA is there to help. Because if we can't help, who will?

We set up a temporary clinic in Baghdad to help animals caught in the conflict



Throughout one of the bloodiest conflicts in Darfur, we set up a feeding programme for animals and trained community welfare workers

Ann Widdecombe supports SPANA



Animal welfare campaigner and ex-MP Ann Widdecombe has helped launch SPANA's new responsible tourism guidelines for holidaymakers abroad.

Ann promoted the guidance during a series of press and broadcast interviews on behalf of the charity in the summer.

The advice, named the Holiday Hooves Guide, was written by SPANA's veterinary team after the charity conducted a survey which found that over one in five British adults have seen animals mistreated while abroad on holiday. The most common animals that people reported seeing mistreated were horses (45%) and donkeys (35%).

To help tourists, the guide includes advice for those who plan to go on activities such as horse-and-carriage rides, donkey treks or camel safaris while on holiday. It also includes advice on how people can report the mistreatment of any animal abroad to tourism boards in order to lobby for change.



A malnourished cart horse pulls a carriage of tourists in Tunisia

Ann tells SPANA News why she supported the charity's new campaign:

I was drawn to help SPANA's new campaign because I think it's important that people know what they can do if they see animals mistreated abroad.

I have seen sick and weary animals being worked while on holiday overseas and as a tourist, especially in developing countries where there is often no animal welfare legislation, you ask yourself what is it that you can do in this situation to help.

According to SPANA's survey, almost nine out of ten British adults would not know how to go about reporting the mistreatment of an animal in any country abroad. That's a worryingly high figure – but there are some simple steps SPANA is urging people to take and I would encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with the charity's advice.

First, use your spending power to improve animal welfare standards. If you're going on an activity like a donkey ride or a camel safari, refer to the Holiday Hooves Guide to check whether the animal is in a good condition. If you have any doubts whatsoever, don't use the animal and tell the owner why. By choosing animal tour providers who appear to treat their animals with kindness and respect, this in turn will encourage other owners to do the same.

Secondly, if you see any animal in need of veterinary care, ask your hotel or travel rep to contact a vet for you. If it's a charity they may treat the animal for free. If it's a private vet they may ask for payment – but in developing countries this will cost nothing like what it would in Britain.

And thirdly, report any animal mistreatment you see to the country's tourism board (the addresses of which you can find via a link at the website address below). Tell them what you saw and say that as a tourist you do not expect to see animals treated this way. If you don't want to go back to the country because of it, tell them that too.

SPANNA's had success in the past by encouraging holidaymakers to complain about incidents of mistreatment.

In Marrakech for example, thanks to the lobbying of tourists and the charity, it is now law that the city's carriage horses visit the SPANA centre for a free health check three times a year or else the carriage drivers can be forced to cease operating.

Lobbying really does work. We desperately need to stop animals used in the tourism industry suffering for the sake of our enjoyment. So please, tell your friends and family about SPANA's advice.



The Holiday Hooves Guide

For more information visit www.spana.org/tourism or for your free printed copy of the Holiday Hooves Guide, phone us on 0300 033 4999.

Helping children get hands-on with animals



Vet technician Soufia Boudlal tells SPANA News about her work with the charity's animal handling programme and the impact it's having on schoolchildren in Casablanca.

Animal handling is a very important activity in SPANA's education programme, as it helps children to build compassion and develop positive attitudes towards animals and their welfare. For many children who visit our centre, this activity will be their first opportunity to be close to and to handle animals.

We get children to handle small animals first, because often they will be frightened as many will have been taught that animals are dangerous. Most of the children don't have pets and so by introducing them to relatively small and unthreatening animals, this soon allays their fears.

My role in the animal handling programme includes training rabbits and guinea pigs so that they become more docile and sociable. Socialisation plays an important role in animal handling, especially as small animals are very timid and fearful by nature. It is vital therefore that they are familiar with humans so they are trusting and relaxed when being handled. This part of my job I particularly enjoy, as I get to come to work and handle and stroke the guinea pigs and rabbits!

At the beginning of an animal handling session, the children are especially fascinated with guinea pigs as most of them haven't ever seen one and they usually mistake them for mice! However once they see me stroking the animals, they're quick to tell me that they would like to touch and handle them too.

I explain to the children the correct way of approaching and handling small animals without scaring



Soufia Boudlal runs SPANA's animal handling programme for children in Casablanca

or harming them and I show the children how the animals should be held to ensure they aren't dropped or allowed to fall. I also show them how to pet the animals, before they try themselves.

I think that most of the children who visit us feel new emotions and sensations when handling small animals. You can almost see their fear turning into fascination, and then into a caring concern. I hear many of them say they want to adopt a rabbit or guinea pig by the end of the session.

From my experience of running the animal handling programme in Casablanca, I've seen the immense benefits that children gain from having the opportunity to be around small animals. It allows them to understand



Schoolchildren in Morocco are always fascinated by guinea pigs

that animals have similar feelings to humans – which is such a vital process in building and developing empathy, as well as a brighter future for working horses, donkeys, mules and camels.

Star supporters

Supporters who have gone above and beyond to fundraise for SPANA

Natalie Wood has proved that the sky really is the limit when it comes to supporting SPANA! In May this year she bravely took to the skies for a **parachute jump**, all to raise vital funds for working animals. Natalie said: "After the initial nervous feeling it's brilliant! I can't wait to do another one. It was a really exciting way to raise funds for a great charity." Thank you Natalie – rather you than us!

Amanda Walker decided to mark her 51st birthday in a very special way this year, **walking 20km** to raise money for SPANA. The *Across the Divide walk* started at Goodwood Racecourse, taking in the beautiful South Downs. Coming in at sixth place Amanda said: "It really was such a huge achievement for my first walk and especially at my age! The hills were hard work but I kept

thinking about the work of the poor animals that SPANA helps, so that kept me very positive." Amanda raised £485 – thank you!

Congratulations also to Simon and Jenny Eden from Leeds who recently got married! And three cheers also to them for **asking their wedding guests to donate** to their four favourite charities, including SPANA, rather than giving presents. Simon, whose wife Jenny is an equine veterinary surgeon, said: "We have worked with these charities for years, taking our skills and using them in developing countries to benefit others. We couldn't think of a better way to continue our help than by inviting our guests to donate money to these worthy causes." They raised over £3,000 for the charities. Thank you – and congratulations from us all!

SPANAN EVENT

SPANAN's New Year party

Date: Thursday
10 January 2013
Time: Midday – 3.00pm
Place: SPANA head office,
London

You are cordially invited to SPANA's 2013 New Year party. The party is an annual tradition and a great way to kick off the New Year and meet new friends.

Our next party will be held between midday and 3.00pm at our head office, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB, on Thursday 10 January. All the team would love the chance to tell you all about the work you've funded, and to meet you face-to-face to say thank you for your support and generosity.

If you would like to join us, please call Nicola on **020 7831 3999**. Space is limited so please do let us know as soon as you can.

Supporting SPANA in your Will

You probably know that SPANA provides almost 400,000 veterinary treatments for sick and injured animals every year. But what you may not realise is that almost half of these treatments are funded by supporters who remember SPANA in their Will.

Whilst your generous donations enable new centres to be built, more education programmes to be opened and more veterinary staff to be trained, it is the ongoing funding we receive, especially from legacies, which enables these essential services to go on helping sick and injured animals year after year.

For people who care about the suffering of working animals, it's often a comfort to know that they can go on making a difference for many years to come. A gift in your Will, of any

size, can make a real difference.

If you would like to know more about how to leave SPANA a gift in your Will, then simply request our free legacies

guide. Or, if you have already made a Will and would like to add a gift to SPANA, then we can send you a Codicil form to complete.

Legacies are vitally important to the future of SPANA and the animals we help, and we are always so grateful for each and every gift we receive. What may seem like a small amount can really go a long way overseas and SPANA will make sure your generosity helps as many animals as possible.

If you've already left a gift in your Will or plan to do so, we'd love to



A gift in your Will can help animals like these donkeys recovering in one of SPANA's stables

hear your intentions. Of course, we appreciate leaving a gift in your Will is a sensitive subject. So please let us know if you'd rather not receive information about legacies – this will also help reduce administration costs and enable SPANA to help even more animals.

To request your FREE copy of the new SPANA legacies guide, please call **020 7831 3999** or visit www.spana.org/legacy



Natalie Wood raised £160 on her skydive for SPANA

Jenny and Simon on their wedding day

Make room for a little donkey on your list this Christmas

Forget the stress, crowds, queues... feel good about your Christmas shopping this year! We have everything you need to make your loved ones smile: caring gifts providing lifesaving treatments to working animals, perfect presents for the home and garden, Christmas cards and stocking fillers too.

Money raised from Happy Hooves goes directly to animals in need, so you can give a gift with a difference knowing working animals will also have a happy Christmas!

Some of our gifts...



1. Donkey Salt and Pepper Shakers
2. Donkey Egg Cup
3. Hot Dogs Double Oven Gloves
4. Mixed Note Cards

Order online at www.happyhooves.org or call **0300 033 4999** for your free catalogue!



SPANA

For the working animals of the world

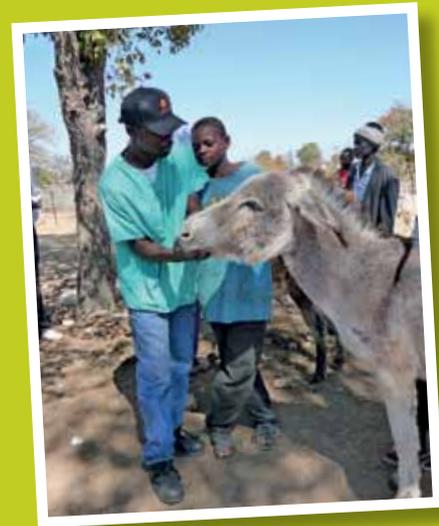
Founded in 1923, SPANA is the charity for the working animals of the world.

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

SPANA 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

Head office:
14 John Street,
London WC1N 2EB

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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