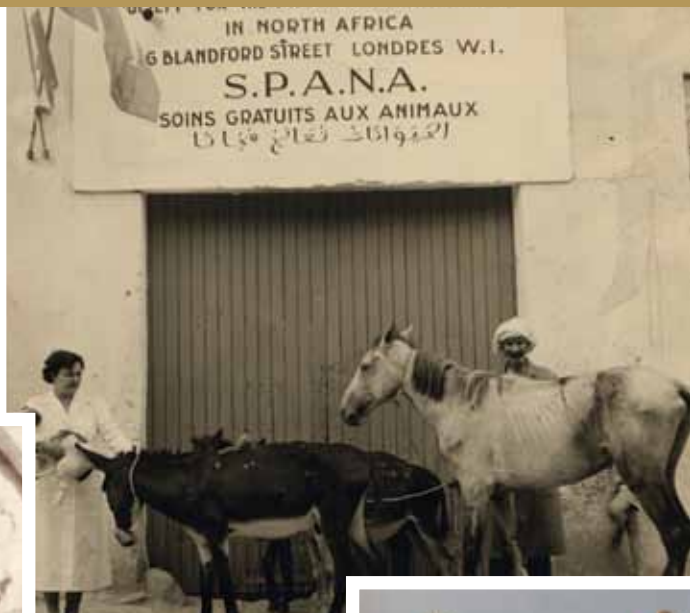




news

Spring 2013 Issue no. 178



90th
Anniversary
1923 - 2013

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Hold your own sponsored Stride Out event to help more working animals

Well, Happy 90th Birthday SPANA!

Dear friends

During this milestone year I've often thought of our founders, Kate and Nina Hosali. Did they foresee that we would still be helping animals and working around the world 90 years on?

Of course, a lot has changed since 1923, not least advancements in veterinary medicine. But surprisingly many things, particularly SPANA's founding principles, have stayed the same.

For instance, we still work in many of the poorest countries in the world with people who are often at the very bottom of the social scale, who still depend on animals for their way of life – even their very survival. We still give those animals the very best veterinary care we can.

We still believe the main cause of problems is lack of animal welfare knowledge rather than cruelty – so we train farriers and harness makers, teach animal owners and veterinary students, and perhaps most importantly, try to instil respect and empathy for animals amongst the next generation.

Yes, Kate and Nina would recognise SPANA, but they would also be amazed at the scale of our work today. I think they'd also be incredibly grateful that there are still people – like you – who care enough about working animals to support us.

I imagine they'd tell us to keep on going until the problem's solved, until the day when all working animals are treated with care and compassion.

So in our 90th anniversary year I can tell you that, thanks to you, we will.

Jeremy

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

PS We hope you like our special 90th anniversary SPANA News edition – please pass it on to your friends and family who might want to know more about us.

Front/back cover images: Selection of images celebrating 90 years of SPANA from our archives ©Anna Fawcus, ©Tryfon Topalidis, ©Katie-Jane Cockerill, ©Telegraph Media Group / Dylan Thomas



Messages of support for our anniversary

We've been overwhelmed by your kind letters and Facebook posts of support for our 90th anniversary. It really is a landmark year and some famous faces have also sent us some birthday messages.

Paul O'Grady, television presenter

"I'm a big animal lover and it breaks my heart to think of these working animals suffering from malnutrition, exhaustion, disease and injury. I send my congratulations and huge thanks to SPANA for the amazing work you've done over the past 90 years and here's to the next 90."



Twiggy Lawson, model

"I am a big supporter of charities that have animal welfare at their core so I am delighted to be giving SPANA my support. It is so assuring to know that they are caring for working animals worldwide, as well as educating their owners on how best to look after them. Whilst these animals are hardworking, they are not machines and need to be looked after with compassion and care. Happy 90th."



Pam Ayres, poet

"We ourselves have cattle, sheep, pigs and guinea fowl and so have first hand experience of the care and dedication it takes to keep these animals all healthy and happy. I think it's marvellous that SPANA gives advice and help to the poor working communities whose livestock are their lifeline and I congratulate you on 90 years of vital work. I wish you every continued success as you reach out to more and more animals and their owners."



Dawn O'Porter, television presenter

"I've always been a big supporter of looking after animals in this country and even have a rescue dog myself, but many forget that working animals can be vital to others in different parts of the world. There are lots of poor communities who just don't have the facilities to look after animals. I think it is fantastic that SPANA supports such communities, offering guidance and education to ensure some of the poorest people in the world can look after their working animals in the right way."



Pippa Greenwood, gardening expert

"As a gardener, I know how tough it can be to work the land so can't even imagine how hard it must be for the men and women who have to work on the driest, most unforgiving of soil. Their working animals, that carry water and plough fields in the burning heat, must be exhausted. I think it's brilliant that SPANA can help these communities to care for their animals, who at the end of the day, do most of the hard work! Happy 90th SPANA and keep up the good work."

Annette Crosbie, actress

"My dogs are a handful and I would do anything to keep them healthy but others in different communities aren't able to look after animals who are their only lifeline. SPANA is doing wonderful work giving advice and providing vital veterinary treatment from their clinics in countries like Ethiopia and Mali. I hope you can continue for a further 90 years plus with your brilliant work."

Martin Clunes, actor

"SPANA is doing a brilliant job helping poorer communities abroad with guidance and support for the animals that are so vital to them, recognising that the lives of animals and the poorest of people are inextricably linked, which is why they have been helping both for the past 90 years."

Ethiopia to get first ever animal welfare law

Ethiopia is set to pass into law its first ever animal welfare legislation, thanks to a joint initiative by the country's Ministry of Agriculture and animal welfare organisations including SPANA.

The Directive for Animal Welfare has been drafted by a working group including the Ethiopian Veterinary Association, SPANA, The Donkey Sanctuary and The Brooke.

SPANAs director of veterinary programmes Dr Andy Stringer said: "I'm incredibly proud of our Ethiopia team's work on this landmark legislation that we expect will be passed into law very soon. This has been a phenomenally successful project, mainly due to animal charities coming together to lobby for this joint initiative.

"Our country director Dr Nigatu has been heavily involved in this process over the past two years and I would like to thank him on behalf of the charity and our supporters for his hard work and dedication."



Black Beauty inspired story published for Chinese schoolchildren

A story inspired by Anna Sewell's famous novel *Black Beauty* has been published by SPANA for schoolchildren in China.

The book called *The Adventures of Chitu* is about a horse that experiences cruelty, loneliness, mistreatment and sadness, before finally achieving a well-deserved happy ending. The character 'Chitu' is named after a famous horse in Chinese history.

Five thousand copies of the book in Mandarin and English are being trialled at schools in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Province.

SPANAs chief executive Jeremy Hulme said: "Stories like these can make a real difference to the attitudes of children by helping them to develop their empathy towards animals. They are essential in spreading SPANA's message to the next generation."



The Adventures of Chitu

SPANAs welcomes new chairman

Sir Roger Gale MP has been appointed as our new chairman, taking over from Roger Curtis.

Sir Roger, a former pirate radio DJ and BBC producer, has acted as a trustee of the charity since 2009.

Chief executive Jeremy Hulme said: "We're thrilled that Roger Gale has agreed to become our new chairman – he's been an animal welfare campaigner for many years and is incredibly enthusiastic about our work.

"I'd also like to thank outgoing chairman Roger Curtis on behalf of the charity's staff for his dedication to SPANA. His veterinary expertise and stewardship of the charity has been most valued and appreciated."

Syria operations suspended due to worsening crisis

As the terrible security situation in Syria worsens, we have been forced to take the difficult decision to suspend our operations there for the time being.

The international sanctions now in place against Syria are making it increasingly difficult to send funding for our work there, and the conflict makes monitoring impossible.

We are proud to work wherever and whenever we're needed, but the past two years of civil war in Syria have proved incredibly testing for our brave team.

We are in regular contact with our staff and are offering them any support we can through this difficult and dangerous time. We know supporters will share our hope that the team remain safe and that we may resume our work soon.

A lifesaving gift

British company donates over 2,500 lifesaving tetanus vaccines to SPANA

British drug company Elanco has donated over 2,500 tetanus vaccines to SPANA, worth over £13,000.

The vaccines have been shipped to our centres in Mali and Mauritania, where they will be used on working horses, donkeys and mules to prevent tetanus.

Tetanus is commonly fatal and is usually caused when an animal has a deep puncture wound. The tetanus toxin attacks nerves controlling the muscles in the body, causing stiffness, spasms, hypersensitivity to sound and light, and difficulty in moving and eating.

Veterinary programme advisor Jane Harry said: "We are so grateful for this incredibly generous donation.

"In Mali and Mauritania working donkeys, horses and mules are particularly susceptible to tetanus, as they work in environments where they are at risk of getting cuts and wounds.

"This gift will make a huge difference to the welfare of working animals in two of the world's poorest countries."

Over 1,250 animals will benefit from Elanco's donation, as each animal will be given two vaccines.



Vets in Mali vaccinate a horse against tetanus

Quenching the thirst of thousands

SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme on how you can help build a dam that will provide a vital water supply to animals and communities in Turkana, Kenya



Turkana is a dry and barren expanse of northwest Kenya. Besides the parched earth and blazing hot sun there is little to be found. Yet the indigenous people have learnt to live in this most inhospitable region and are almost completely dependent on their animals.

The communities are pastoralists, constantly searching for grazing land for their herds of camels, cattle, donkeys, goats and sheep - which they rely on for transport, trade and food. The animals must drink water at least every three days and this restricts grazing to no more than a day and a half away from a water source. The health of the livestock is essential if these communities are to survive and prosper but during the long, dry periods especially, reaching adequate grazing land can be nearly impossible.

Like many parts of Africa, water is in desperately short supply in Turkana. Droughts have ravaged the landscape in the last few years with devastating effect. People and animals have perished.

That's why with help from people



The Turkana people have a special relationship with their animals, which they rely on for transport, trade and food

like you, SPANA is working in partnership with a local organisation in Turkana, the Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle. We are working together to build a series of rock-catchment dams which will provide a vital supply of water for animals and communities across the land. The most recent dam was completed in December 2011, and has already provided relief to thousands of animals.

Your support can build an urgently needed new dam in an area where there is currently little access to water. Holding up to 20 million litres, it will be a reliable source for thirsty animals from many miles around and the dam is expected to provide enough water for more than 45,000 animals in the dry season. In turn it will support the lives of the nomadic families that depend on their animals.

The total cost to SPANA of building this rock-catchment dam is £28,000 and we are now urgently appealing to our loyal supporters and trusted partners to raise this. As soon as we have the full amount, construction can begin.

The lives of whole communities are dependent on this dam and many people have already been involved in its planning. Meetings have taken place between community elders and the area of most urgent need has been selected. The chosen site is situated on a dry riverbed between two settlements, which will be beneficial to as much life as possible.

Your gift will enable the dam to be built by helping to supply and transport vital materials such as cement, sand and pipes. Your support will also help pay for 40 labourers who will build the dam in just six months. They will construct the dam in similar way to how the Romans used to build them two thousand years ago, some of which still survive today. The dams will also be regularly maintained to ensure their longevity.



The animals must drink water at least every three days, it is imperative they are healthy for the communities to survive

I hope you will agree how worthwhile this project is. Turkana suffers from desperate poverty and the communities living there need as much help as we can give. Your support will benefit thousands of animals, including the many donkeys used for transport.

In 2011 whilst our most recent dam was still being built, I visited Turkana and came to understand just what the water supply will mean to the lives of people and animals from miles around. From meeting the communities and seeing with my own eyes how much they rely upon their animals, it's hard to think of a more deserving region. A donation of any size will make a real and lasting difference. Please give whatever you can today. **Thank you.**

How you can help:

You can help provide a lifesaving supply of drinking water for many thousands of animals for years to come.

£15 could help pay for the transport of materials and equipment to the site of the dam.

£50 could help pay for the salaries of the workers during the dam's construction process.

£90 could go towards buying essential building materials such as cement and sand.



The rock-catchment dam we funded in 2011

To make a donation to this special appeal please use the enclosed donation form, call 0300 033 4999 or visit spana.org/appeal

Helping working oxen

SPANAN director of veterinary programmes Dr Andy Stringer on our new Sierra Leone outreach project



SPANAN Partner: Campaign against Cruelty to Animals – Sierra Leone (CCA-SL)

In February outreach vet Laura Higham and I travelled to northern Sierra Leone to give a workshop for 40 livestock owners, crop farmers, local vets and livestock officers on the subject of animal welfare. One of our partner charities, Campaign against Cruelty to Animals – Sierra Leone (CCA-SL), asked us to run the two-day participatory workshop to help improve the welfare of working oxen there.

In northern areas of the country oxen are mainly used to plough the rice paddy fields during the rainy season. They are hitched together by a wooden frame called a yoke, which allows them to work together to pull heavy ploughs. They are also used in other methods of small-scale farming and as village transport.

Due to the nature of their work oxen can suffer from wounds, parasites, foot rot, and sometimes health problems caused by insufficient feed and water in the dry season. During the workshop we discussed the benefits of animals to the community and ran training sessions on cattle husbandry, welfare, nutrition, caring for calves and disease prevention.

I then visited the town of Falaba and met Souri, a farmer whose four working oxen allow him to make a living to support his family. Souri is one of the people that will benefit from the SPANA outreach project as two government livestock officers who live in the town, Menty and Conti, were trained at the workshop.

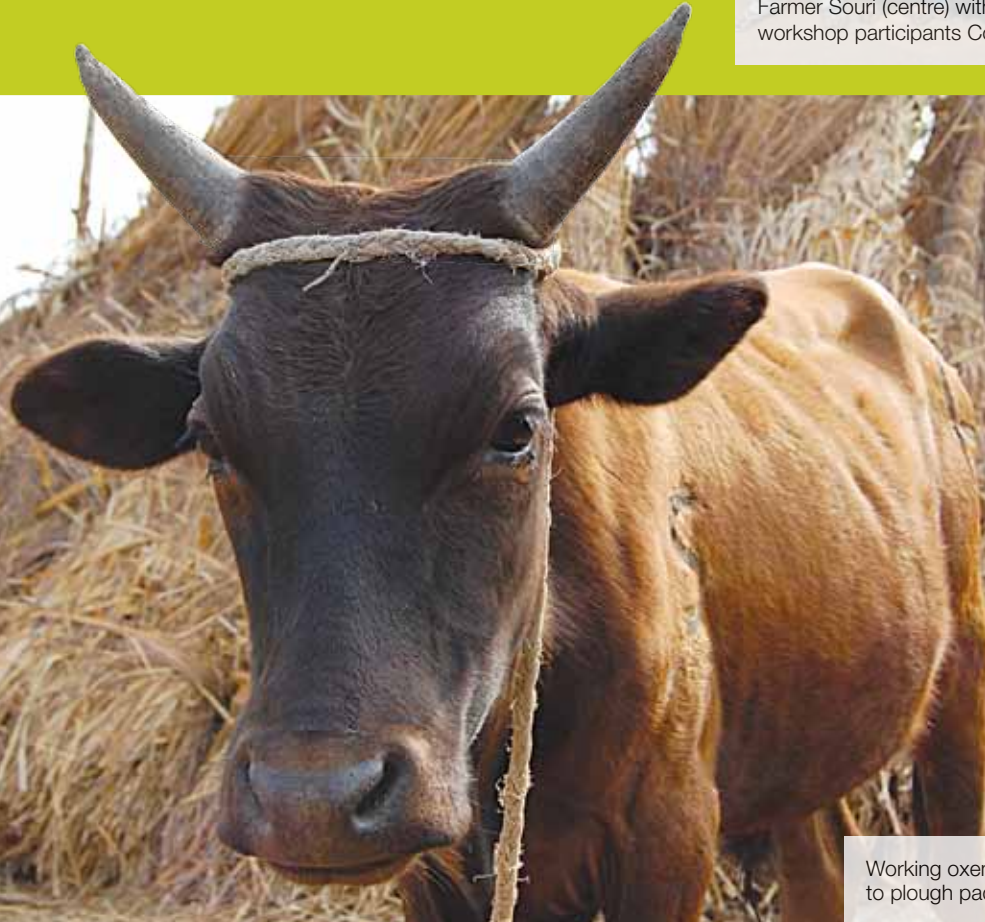
Menty told me: "Rice production is vital to this town and we will now be able to help support farmers like Souri and his family in matters of animal health and welfare more than we have ever been able to before."

Children in this area will also be taught about animal welfare through Animal Kindness Clubs, which will be set up in schools as part of SPANA's partnership with CCA-SL.

Throughout my trip I was incredibly impressed at just how enthusiastic the workshop participants were in improving animal welfare in their towns and villages, and I left feeling confident that SPANA's first project in northern Sierra Leone will have a big impact.



Farmer Souri (centre) with his family and workshop participants Conti (left) and Menty (right)



Working oxen are used in northern Sierra Leone to plough paddy fields in the rainy season

Helping animals in isolated communities

Vet programme advisor Laura Higham gives us an update on how our work in Jordan is helping people and their animals living on the fringes of society



On a recent visit to Jordan I was able to join our mobile clinic teams to see how we're helping animals based in marginalised communities.

My first visit was to our mobile clinic that operates very near to the Gaza camp in Jordan, where a large population of Palestinian refugees have lived for decades. My first impression as queues of animals greeted us was just how vital this service has become.

Within two hours our team had treated around 40 horses and donkeys, many of which had arrived with wounds, eye disorders and dental problems. Despite such a great need, our vet and technician were able to deliver treatments effectively and with amazing patience until all animals had been seen.

The next day I met with vet technician Nidel who operates in the Jordan Valley. He's been working on a type of mobile clinic called a 'home-service' system. This involves going to owners' homes directly

to provide health checks to their animals, as well as monitoring the animal's feed and housing facilities.

Nidel and I visited several Bedouin families in the area, who live in camps and mainly own donkeys.

The donkeys used to suffer from parasitic diseases and poor body condition, but this has now decreased thanks to SPANA's new service. Nidel said: "Every day that I offer veterinary care for people's animals at their homes they trust me more. Families now readily welcome and listen to my welfare advice."

During my visit I was moved by the motivation and passion of our team, and excited by the prospect of exploring a new type of mobile service involving home-visits elsewhere. This is an excellent opportunity for SPANA to expand its owner education work, capitalising on established relationships and trust, which could have a really positive impact on raising the standard of animal welfare in the area.



A Bedouin's donkey



Vet Dr Ibrahim Alaween rasps a donkey's teeth at the mobile clinic near the Gaza refugee camp

SPANA up close: Tunisia

Tunisia was one of the first countries our co-founder Kate Hosali travelled across in the 1920s to treat sick and injured working animals. Today, as Kate did all those years ago, our team visits remote towns and souks to provide free veterinary care for animals in need.

A day in the life

SPANA Tunisia director Dr Sami Mzabi tells us about a recent mobile clinic with the Kebili team.

6am We arrive early at the centre to check on the inpatients and provide any treatments before the long day ahead. One of our grooms and vet technicians will be taking care of the animals while the team are away, and the mobile clinic van is loaded up with drugs and equipment.

7am We drive to the Visceri souk, a place that we have visited for many years but can be a challenging clinic for the team to run. We are often overwhelmed by the number of animals needing treatment here and so we have to make sure we're well organised. Owners can often be quite demanding and want their animals to be treated first, so we have to make sure we're very diplomatic and calm to keep everyone happy, including the animals.

When we arrive a queue of 30 donkeys and horses quickly forms. There are several cases of pinworms as well as dentistry problems. While we treat we talk to owners about the importance of visiting



A donkey receives a noseband at the mobile clinic

SPANAs clinic regularly for check-ups, as unfortunately too many still only bring their animals to us when problems have been allowed to develop for some time.

1pm In the afternoon we pack up and head to a remote village. The vet technician announces our arrival on a loudspeaker and swarms of animals are soon surrounding us to await treatment. We really enjoy helping animals at this clinic; the local community here are very poor and appreciate our service in this desert location. We see many animals with overgrown and deformed feet, and our vet technician is kept busy with farriery for most of the afternoon.

4pm On the way back to the centre we call in at a camel station to see if anyone needs our help. Camel safaris in the desert are a big tourist attraction here, and although camels are resilient creatures, like all animals even they need veterinary treatment sometimes.

It's lucky that we stop off as we find one camel that has many thorns from palm spines stuck in his leg and the sole of his foot, which must have been causing him agony. It takes time and patience for the team to remove these, and the owner and the camel are very grateful.

5pm We return to the centre tired but feeling satisfied that we've been able to help 70 animals at our clinics today. After the night groom has arrived and we've done a last check on the inpatients, we head home.



A donkey's deformed hoof at the clinic



A camel station near our Kebili centre

SPANA operations

SPANA started work in Tunisia in 1925, when SPANA co-founder Kate Hosali travelled across the country to provide free veterinary care for working animals. Last year, our dedicated team treated almost 22,000 working animals.

- Three veterinary centres based in Bou Salem, Kasserine and Kebili
- Three mobile clinics visiting animals in souks and rural areas
- Our education work currently consists of a network of animal clubs in schools and our hands-on exhibition installed in an interactive education bus, which tours the country
- To help improve the conditions of animals used in the Tunisian tourism industry, we are setting up a carriage horse licensing scheme in the town of Tozeur this year



A Calèche horse in Tozeur that will benefit from the scheme



Tunisia at a glance

Population: 10.6 million
Area: 164,150 sq km
Location: North Africa
Capital city: Tunis
Estimated working animal population: 652,000



Personal Profile: Dr Sami Mzabi, SPANA Tunisia director

Sami is one of SPANA's longest serving staff members, first joining the charity in the 1980s. Five years ago Sami took up the post of country director and is responsible for our veterinary and education programmes, as well as looking after our dedicated 20 staff members there. He told SPANA News what he loves about working for the charity:

"SPANAs Tunisia is an incredibly rewarding place to work, not only for me but for the whole team who are all passionate about donkeys, horses, mules and camels. We are all very proud to be able to help improve the lives of sick and injured working animals, which without us might never receive any veterinary care.

"I also like that our work directly helps the owners of working animals too, some of the poorest people in Tunisia. Even though our jobs can often be challenging, it is really satisfying to see that we are making a real difference to both animals and people."



Dr Mzabi at a mobile clinic

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 a snapshot of just a few animals we've helped over the past few months thanks to your support.

MOROCCO

Sick and abandoned foal finds new home with boy rescuer

A sick donkey foal that was abandoned at a souk in Chemaia has found a new home with the 12-year-old boy who rescued him.

Abdelhak Karmi found the foal lying on the ground at the end of a busy market day. He took the foal that he named Mensi (which means forgotten), home to give him some water and feed.

Mensi remained weak though and was straining when having bowel movements. Abdelhak put Mensi into his hand cart and took him to the SPANA centre. Abdelhak knew about SPANA after taking part in our education programme at his old school.

The vets diagnosed Mensi with atresia ani, a condition where the back passage is partially closed. They gave Mensi an

epidural and operated immediately to correct the problem.

Mensi was admitted as an inpatient and bottle fed with milk and honey for a week. He quickly recovered and the vets asked Abdelhak if his family would be able to keep Mensi.

Abdelhak and his three brothers are forced to work after their father became unemployed following an accident. It's been over a year since Abdelhak left school and he now works at the souk hauling goods in his cart.

Abdelhak's family decided to keep Mensi, so that they might be able to earn money from him pulling a cart in the future.

Abdelhak said: "I knew there were people who take care of working animals from visiting SPANA with my old school. Thank you for helping Mensi and me. I hope that once my donkey is grown, he will be a great help to support my family and one day my brothers will be able to go back to school."



Abdelhak pulled Mensi to the SPANA centre in his hand cart



Mensi was weak and unable to stand when he arrived at the SPANA centre

ETHIOPIA

Mobile clinic team treats horse that ate bag of flour

A horse that was found bloated and breathing rapidly after eating a bag of flour has been treated by our mobile clinic team in Ethiopia.

Damma was brought to our clinic after he ate flour left outside his stable. The flour had caused a blockage in his intestine and our vets quickly diagnosed him with colic.

Damma was given pain relief and then fluids to clear the blockage. The vets advised his owner Melaku that Damma should not work for at least five days until fully recovered.

Melaku said: "I can't support my family without my horses. My horses may not be living today if SPANA was not here for them – and so if SPANA was not here, my family and I may not be either. Thank you."



SPANAN staff diagnose Damma with colic



The mobile clinic team put the donkey in a harness



Two working donkeys from a nearby field helped winch the donkey up from the river bank

JORDAN

Donkey found in stream saved with help from nearby working animals

An injured donkey that was found in a cold stream over 24 hours after falling down a river bank has been rescued by our mobile clinic team with help from two working donkeys.

Our team went to find the donkey after receiving a telephone call from a member of the public. They treated her immediately and gave her a vigorous rubbing down to warm her up.

An owner of a pair of donkeys ploughing a nearby field was then asked if they could help lift the donkey out of the steep valley. His donkeys were harnessed up with ropes and pulled the injured donkey up to the SPANA mobile clinic van.

The donkey, named Faiza, is now making a good recovery at the SPANA centre.

Find more stories at
spana.org
[/spanacharity](https://www.facebook.com/spanacharity)
[/spana1923](https://twitter.com/spana1923)

We launch our new animal clubs in Kenya

SPANA education director Diana Hulme shares her visit report



The programme launch at Waguthu Primary School

Recently I visited Nairobi, Kenya, to embark on a very exciting project. There, we have joined forces with the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) to establish our incredibly successful animal clubs programme in 12 local schools around Nairobi.

It's the first time SPANA has launched an education programme in a new country independent of its veterinary programme and so we're very grateful to be working

with an established organisation in Kenya. To plan the programme, we held a workshop with ANAW and local teachers about the subjects the clubs will cover – animal needs, welfare, responsibilities towards animals and why animals deserve our respect.

I then visited some areas around the city with ANAW who told me about the various animal welfare issues that children we'll teach are exposed to. I was saddened

to learn about many donkeys having slit nostrils, but it made me realise just how vital SPANA's work will be to help children to understand the importance of animal welfare in these places.

I left feeling very positive about our new programme and hope that, once we have completed the pilot phase, animal clubs in Kenya will quickly extend countrywide.

shows us that our animal club programme in Ethiopia is having a significant and measurable effect on children's animal welfare knowledge and positive feelings like empathy towards animals.

"The progress made by SPANA pupils compared to children with no animal welfare lessons was astonishing and we're pleased to now be working with the Bureau of Education to expand our programme to a further 27 schools."

and end of the school year, which was also given to children of the same age from neighbouring schools that did not have any animal welfare lessons. The improvement in the before and after questionnaire scores from grade five children who attended SPANA's animal clubs were almost six times greater compared to the children from neighbouring schools.

Education programme advisor Dr Stephen Albone said: "The evaluation

Ethiopia education programme makes a big impact

SPANA's education programme for schoolchildren in Ethiopia has been shown to have a significant impact on children's knowledge of and feelings towards animals.

The programme was evaluated by giving children a 'Caring for Animals Questionnaire' at the start

Star supporters



James Crabtree decided to mark 2012 by completing three Olympic distance triathlons in just three months to raise money for SPANA and a cancer charity. He said: "Seven weeks before the first event I had a collision with a car and broke three ribs. This made training tricky." We bet it did! Despite this James went on to successfully complete triathlons in Cheshire, Yorkshire and Chantilly to raise £3,702 for the charities. Thank you for doing such an epic fundraiser for working animals James and we hope you've recovered!

Equine vet Gil Riley raised over £10,000 by holding a sponsored horse ride across Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire. Gil's efforts were in aid of the Vets with Horsepower fundraiser, which is helping our centres in Mali and Mauritania. He said: "It was a fantastic turnout with over



James Crabtree completed three Olympic distance triathlons in three months for SPANA

120 riders taking part." Thank you to Gil and all the horses and riders who took part, from all at SPANA!

Our thanks also go to the 14 runners who were SPANA's 2012 Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon team! Between them they ran a total of 183 miles on the day and raised almost £4,000 for SPANA! Incredible work, thanks to you all!

Request a fundraising pack

For ideas on how you can fundraise for SPANA, request one of our new fundraising packs by calling **020 7831 3999**, emailing **events@spana.org** or by visiting **spana.org/events**.

We say goodbye to a dear friend

We are deeply saddened to announce that long-time SPANA supporter Annie Lambton died in Tangier on January 13, 2013.

Annie had fundraised for SPANA Morocco for many years and greatly supported our centres there.

She led a long, full and colourful life as a successful model, novelist, gardener and artist.

SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme said: "Annie's annual fundraising parties for SPANA were legendary – if you weren't invited, you were nobody. But if you were invited you were not allowed to leave until your pockets were empty."

"It's hard to believe that I, and SPANA, have lost such a good friend. She will be sadly missed."



Annie Lambton fundraised for SPANA Morocco for many years



Kate & Nina

our inspirational founders

Jeremy Hulme on the first of a two part series looking at the remarkable people that helped found SPANA

Judged even by today's standards, SPANA's founders Kate and Nina Hosali were pretty fearless women. I often wonder if the mother and daughter had any idea that their trip to north Africa in 1921 would change both their lives forever. They surely could not have known that just a few years later they would start a charity that would go on to treat millions of working animals all over the world.

Their great adventure involved travelling across Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Back then there was little choice other than to use donkeys, horses and camels to get around. The pair became enamoured with the region, as am I: they loved the people, the contrasts between the turquoise seas and the ochre deserts, the vivid green of the oases and the snowy mountains.

However, alongside the beautiful landscape, this leg of their grand tour was also blighted by the sight of mistreated and malnourished working animals being overloaded, beaten and worked with open wounds. On arriving back in England, Kate and Nina could not forget the suffering of these animals.

Nina wrote in her autobiography: "They [the donkeys] were so picturesque, so willing, tripping along on those dainty little feet. And yet, - we had marvelled at the size and weight of the loads and the way the man sat on top; - occasionally we had wandered into a fondouk [an area where working animals are kept] and seen wounds on their backs when the heavy loads and saddles had been removed.



Kate Hosali tends to a horse's wounds

Were these wounds exceptional, or were there many others that we had not seen?

"We often thought of the tired mule I had been given to ride at Biskra, and wondered how many others were carrying tourists all day and turning wells at night... How many other tourists had glimpsed at this hidden world and like us had done nothing about it?"

Tormented by the memories of the animals they had left behind, Kate decided she needed to do something practical. She started writing letters about their experiences to journals and magazines, and with such strong public interest in the issue, SPANA (originally the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa) was formed in 1923.

It was agreed that the society would provide free veterinary treatment for working animals; not punitive measures for owners since they were concerned that the animal welfare problems were caused more by extreme poverty than cruelty. The society then started looking for the 'right sort of man' to start treating animals, only to find their ideal candidate was right under their nose. The right sort of man was in fact a woman: it was Kate.

In 1924 Kate went to Algiers to start a year of active veterinary work at her own

expense. She travelled alone across the region, treating working animals at weekly souks. She wrote to Nina about the horrific cases she was seeing. There were horses with abscesses full of maggots, donkeys half bald with mange, terrible wounds caused by accidents, slit nostrils and horrific hot-iron branding wounds.

The communities Kate helped immediately trusted her after seeing her treat their animals successfully, and they quickly named her the 'Toubiba', meaning the 'lady doctor'. Kate was overwhelmed at the numbers of animals needing treatment, and instead of finishing work for SPANA after one year; she continued until 1927. She then moved to Marrakech permanently where she also treated animals with the help of an assistant.

Nina remained working for SPANA's head office in London for the rest of her life, overseeing the building of our first veterinary clinics and devising our education programme for schoolchildren. Some of her most testing years with the charity were throughout the Second World War when we were unable to fund some of our operations due to sanctions. During this time she was also unable to visit north Africa, meaning that she never got to say farewell to her dear mother, as Kate died in Marrakech in 1944.

After half a century of selfless devotion to SPANA, Nina was awarded an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen in 1976 for her services to the welfare of animals. She died in 1987, aged 89.

Today, 90 years on from the charity's inaugural meeting, Kate and Nina's core principle of free treatment for working animals owned by the very poorest in society is still at the centre of what we do. SPANA is very much still, Kate and Nina's charity.



My friend Nina

By Odile, The Lady Slynn of Hadley, trustee and friend of the late SPANA co-founder Nina Hosali

I was invited to join the SPANA council in the late Seventies, when Nina Hosali was still honorary secretary. SPANA, then, was only operational in north Africa and whenever I returned from a visit to Algeria, Tunisia or Morocco, I would go and see Nina and let her reminisce about how it all began.

I could not fail to be filled with admiration for these two women, Nina and her mother, who whilst undertaking such a formidable journey, were so determined to do something about the plight of working animals.

Over the years, as SPANA has expanded, I have always known how proud Nina would be at the way the charity is developing. She pioneered our first education programme in the 1930s and would have been thrilled to know that the programme is now such an important part of SPANA's operations.

So I heartily offer my congratulations to SPANA on its 90th birthday!

May it flourish in the next decade and beyond.

Odile Slynn

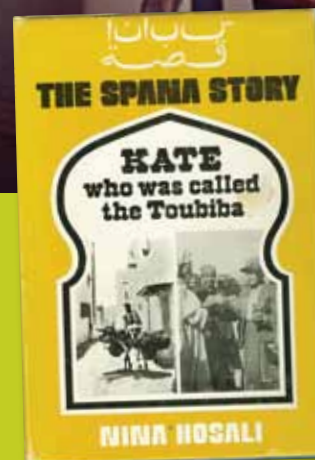
The Lady Slynn of Hadley



Amongst the SPANA archives are sketches by Nina Hosali of animals she witnessed in north Africa



Nina Hosali on news of her MBE (above) and visiting SPANA clinics in the 1930s and 1940s (right)



Next edition:

We introduce you to the Longstaff family and Marie Ruperto, inspirational SPANA staff members who were instrumental in developing our work throughout the 1930s and 1940s

Nina's autobiography, "Kate who was called the Toubiba - The SPANA story" was published in 1978

Help SPANA in its 90th year

Ideas for how you can raise extra funds to help even more working animals



Hold a Stride Out event

Stride Out for SPANA in 2013 and help us get 90 events happening to mark our 90th year! Hold a sponsored walk, horse ride, cycle or run to raise money for working animals. To request your free event pack or for help and advice, call the team on **020 7831 3999** or go to spana.org/strideout.

Donate used postcards

Your used postcards can help raise funds for working animals. Postcards will be sold on to collectors and the proceeds donated to SPANA. Please send postcards to:

**Miss J Webb, 18 Hammonds Way,
Totton, Southampton SO40 3HF**

Send us your used stamps

One of the easiest ways to fundraise for SPANA is to collect used stamps! Simply cut stamps out from envelopes leaving one quarter of an inch around the stamps to make them easy to process. Please send all stamps to:

**Alan Gray, 7 Rookery Close, St Ives,
Cambridgeshire PE27 5FX**

Give a car

If you're thinking about scrapping your car, why not donate it to SPANA? Not-for-profit scheme Giveacar arranges the free collection of cars anywhere in the UK. Cars are then either recycled for scrap metal or put into auction, with the proceeds going to SPANA. For more information call us or visit giveacar.co.uk.



Organise a SPANA birthday party

Why not organise a tea party for your friends and family to celebrate SPANA's 90th anniversary? You could ask for a small donation from your guests for their tea and cake, or hold a raffle with the ticket proceeds donated to SPANA. Whatever you decide, it's a great excuse to get together with friends and tell them about what we do. We can also provide you with fundraising materials to help make your event a big success!

For more information on how to request a fundraising pack, see page 15

A special year to leave a special gift in your Will

Ninety years on from Kate and Nina Hosali's inspirational journey to help working animals, their work is still very much alive thanks to supporters like you. Today we are treating animals that desperately need our help in more countries around the world than ever before, but we can't do it alone.

Currently gifts left in Wills fund almost half of our work. If you would like to help Kate and Nina's legacy live on for many years to come, a gift in your Will can enable us to reach even more working animals.

Caroline Francis, a member of our legacy team, said: "A gift of any size really will make a huge difference to the lives of working animals. If you're not sure if you'll have anything to give to SPANA, you could consider leaving a residuary gift. This is a share of your estate once all your other wishes and commitments have been carried out. You don't need to have a huge estate to help, and even if there is nothing left then it simply means SPANA won't receive anything, though we would still appreciate your kind thought."

If you'd like more information about how to leave a gift in your Will to SPANA we can send you our free legacies guide or one of our friendly team can give you a call.

If you've already included SPANA in your Will, we'd love to hear from you. We know that gifts in Wills can be a sensitive issue, so please let us know if you would prefer not to hear about this subject.

Whatever you decide, please let us know. This helps us communicate with you appropriately and keeps our costs down.



Keya is one of the thousands of animals we've been able to treat this year thanks to gifts in Wills. He was suffering from a tetanus infection that, without treatment, could have been fatal. It took 18 days of around-the-clock care in a specialised stable, a course of painkillers, muscle relaxants, antibiotics and an antitoxin injection for him to make a full recovery.

SPANA's 90th Anniversary Grand Reception

Date: Saturday 7 September 2013

Time: 12pm to 4.30pm

Place: The Roof Gardens, Kensington, London

You are cordially invited to a reception to celebrate SPANA's 90th anniversary. Guests will have the opportunity to meet SPANA staff, watch films about our work, explore the Roof Gardens and meet the famous flamingo residents. Tickets are on sale now for £30 including lunch and beverages. Call **020 7831 3999** or email events@spana.org to get your ticket. Please note there is limited availability and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

90th
Anniversary
1923 - 2013

To request your FREE copy of the SPANA legacies guide or to speak to one of the team, please call 020 7831 3999 or visit spana.org/legacy

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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

SPA/ABC4

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Watch SPANA films on YouTube

www.youtube.com/spana1923

