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news

For the working animals of the world

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*90th
Anniversary
1923 - 2013*



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Make your very own Clarence the camel, Hattie the horse or Duncan the donkey in aid of SPANA

Reaching more working animals

Dear friends

Your unwavering support this year has truly lifted our spirits at a time of great change in many of the countries in which we work.

With Tunisia, Mali, Syria and Egypt all experiencing political upheaval, there are even more calls for SPANA to help than ever before.

So I'm pleased to be able to tell you about the SPANA team's good work in this edition and lift your spirits in return.

Thanks to you we've been able to feed hungry horses around the pyramids in Cairo, where tourism has all but stopped due to the political upheaval and related problems in the country (see page four).

We've launched a new education bus in Morocco that was officially opened by a Princess there (see page 14), and we're constructing another in Tunisia.

A new programme of owner education has started in Ethiopia and we've got the excitement of launching our permanent programme in Zimbabwe (see page three).

But of course there is so much more to do. We are constantly being asked to start up in new countries – and if there's a need we'll always want to help animals if we can.

Everyone here at SPANA is proud of what we do and wants to do more. I believe SPANA supporters feel the same – and with your help and generous support, we can.

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.



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Front cover images: A donkey foal at our Marrakech centre © Suzanne Porter

SPANA Zimbabwe opens

In our 90th anniversary year we launch a new veterinary service to help thousands of working donkeys

We are delighted to announce that SPANA is to permanently work in Zimbabwe.

Veterinary services will be established to improve the health and welfare of thousands of working donkeys, which are increasingly relied upon for agriculture, trade and transport in rural areas where around 95 per cent of the population live in poverty.

SPANA mobile clinics will regularly visit villages in the provinces of Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Masvingo and Midlands. It is estimated that there are at least 175,000 working donkeys in these areas.

The services will be provided in association with Zimbabwean charity the AWARE Trust, which for the past three years has been funded by SPANA through our small grants programme.

We will also train local veterinary extension assistants in how to give equines in their communities basic healthcare between clinic visits.

For more information, go to www.spana.org/country/zimbabwe.



Feeding Egypt's carriage horses

Horses facing starvation as tourism collapses

SPANA has funded an emergency programme to feed carriage horses facing starvation in Cairo, Egypt.

Tourism is close to collapse amid the escalating crisis and this has left many of Cairo's carriage drivers unable to earn the income needed to afford feed for their horses.

In July we launched an emergency appeal to provide 4,000 feeds to horses around Cairo in association with partner organisation ESAF (the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends).

Chief executive Jeremy Hulme said: "We're incredibly grateful to our generous supporters who donated to our press and Facebook appeals and made this feeding programme happen.

"We will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure animals and their owners receive support throughout the worst of this crisis."

SPANA has previously funded feeding programmes in Egypt, including during the 2011 revolution.



Over 4,000 feeds were provided to working horses in and around the pyramids

© SPANA/David Degner

Donkeys to glow in the dark thanks to outreach programme

One thousand donkeys in northern Botswana are to be fitted with reflective ear tags in order to increase their visibility to motorists at night.

Donkeys and livestock in Botswana commonly roam free on roads in search of grazing. However at night, drivers are often unable to see the animals on the road in time to brake and around ten per cent of road traffic accidents in the country are caused by domestic animals like livestock and donkeys.

As part of our outreach programme, we are funding partner charity the Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) to carry out the project for the second year running.

SPANA's outreach programme invites trusted charity partners to apply for funding for small projects that offer long term solutions to help working animals in need.

This year we are funding six projects in Africa, Asia and eastern Europe. These include providing donkeys and oxen that work in a gold mine in Tanzania with improved harnessing to prevent wounds, and training community animal health workers in the Rajasthan region of India.



Donkeys with reflective ear tags in Botswana

© SPANA/MAWS

Volunteers make 'asses' of themselves for SPANA

Runners wear our famous donkey costumes in the London and Brighton Marathons

Fun runners have raised almost £4,000 for the charity by donning our famous donkey costumes in the London and Brighton Marathons this year.

SPANA's very own Nic Van Gelder completed the London Marathon wearing the two-and-a-half stone costume in just six hours 48 minutes, breaking all previous donkey costume marathon records.

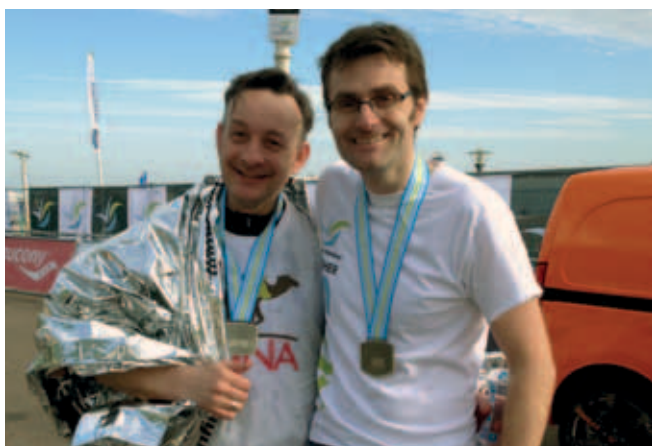
Mark Newcombe and Simon Coulthard, who both work at marketing agency DMS, completed the Brighton Marathon in the costumes within eight hours, with the help of co-workers Claire Wood and Charlotte Smith who guided them around the route.

Kirsty Brzeczek, events and supporter care manager, said: "I am in awe of the SPANA donkey costume runners' amazing achievements. To complete a marathon is tough, but to do it in one of our costumes is even more inspiring.

"Many thanks to Nic, Simon, Mark, Claire and Charlotte for their fantastic fundraising efforts in our 90th anniversary year."



Volunteer fundraiser Simon Coulthard wearing the giant donkey costume at the Brighton Marathon



Donkey costume runners Mark Newcombe and Simon Coulthard at the finish line of the Brighton Marathon

Working animal family fun day is a huge hit

Over 1,000 people attended our second working animal family fun day to raise over £3,600 for the charity.

A whole host of animals were on show at Cheltenham's Pittville Pump Room in May, including llamas, alpacas, ferrets and donkeys as well

as falconry, dog and duck displays and a mini farm.

There were also craft-making activities, magic shows, balloon modelling and opportunities to meet our vets and learn more about our work.



A goat at the mini farm

Help us replace agonising bits

SPANA veterinary programme advisor Jane Harry, on how you can help relieve the suffering of thousands of animals being worked with improper bits

I don't think I can count the number of rusty, misshapen, ill-fitting and old bits I've seen being used on hardworking horses and mules throughout my time working at SPANA.

Bits are the metal devices placed in animals' mouths to stop and steer them. In good hands and correctly fitted, they should cause no harm.

Unfortunately though, many owners of working animals in the countries where we work just don't have the knowledge, time or skill to be able to train a horse or mule properly and so tend to use bits more forcefully than they should.

Pulling on the gentlest bit too harshly can cause mouth damage, so pulling on one of the crudely-made traditional or homemade bits we regularly see owners using on their animals can, over time, cause tremendous pain and irreversible damage.

These bits can be made from all sorts of materials including old wire, rusty pieces of metal, or are sometimes just whatever an owner living in poverty has been able

to cobble together. The worst example the charity's seen was a bit made from barbed wire (we replaced it and thankfully we haven't seen one since).

Where the bits are traditionally made by local traders, the design is often quite severe too. Sometimes the bits have a ring going in the mouth and under the chin, which gives a 'nut cracker' type action that squeezes the jaw when the reins are applied. There are also types with long side parts that create a lever action putting even more pressure on the mouth and head.

The injuries that improper bits used by unskilled owners cause can be horrendous. We regularly see horses and mules with mouth sores, cracked or broken teeth, lacerated and paralysed tongues, and in extreme circumstances broken jaws. If left untreated, injuries like these can cause the animals constant pain, make it difficult for them to eat and leave them vulnerable to infections such as tetanus.

We desperately need funds to replace these inhumane and unsuitable bits, and to educate owners, but we need your help.

It's not enough for us just to replace bits and hope for the best. We need to educate owners so that they understand how they should be using bits and how to avoid causing their animals injuries.

For example, the majority of owners don't know how to fit a bit. It should sit in the interdental space, the natural gap between the incisors and the cheek teeth. Many sit too low which damages the incisor teeth. If too high, it can damage the cheek teeth or the skin at the corners of the mouth.

In Morocco I recently saw one of the worst injuries caused by bits that I have ever seen. A pack mule in Imilil in the High Atlas mountains was wearing a very severe traditional ring bit, with a large lump of



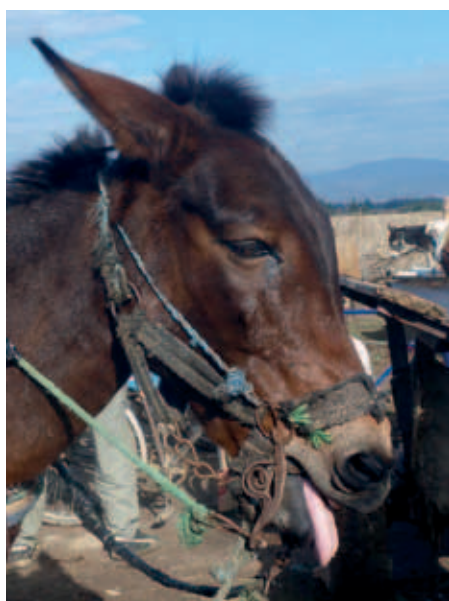
Megala's bad bit is replaced with a new one

metal protruding from the centre of the bar which was digging in to the roof of his mouth when he tried to close it. The end third of his tongue had been severed and only a stump remained; which would have been extremely painful when it first occurred.

Of course we replaced the bit and advised the owner, but prevention is always better than cure which is why we want to raise £20,000 to buy new bits, run dedicated bit swap clinics and hold owner education workshops over the next year.

Your support can help us reach more animals like Megala (pictured above). He was brought to one of our mobile clinics in Nazret, Ethiopia, with visible bit sores on the corners of his mouth. His owner has to work Megala for six to seven hours every day to help him earn a living; that's a long time to apply pressure on an improper bit.

Our vet technician Tibebu treated Megala's wounds and replaced his bit with a SPANA one whilst explaining to



A mule wearing a harmful bit in Tunisia



his owner the problems it had caused. Megala's owner Belachew said: "Thank you SPANA for giving comfortable and rust-free bits to our horses."

Belachew understood that Megala's wound was caused by the improper bit he'd got from a local trader and was so grateful to have a SPANA one.

We want to help even more owners improve their animal's welfare, which is why in Morocco and Ethiopia we've started working with local traders in how to make humane bits and we're planning on involving the cart horse associations in the scheme. But there is so much more to do for animals there and in Tunisia and Jordan.

Last year we provided over 3,000 treatments for horses and mules with injuries caused by harmful bits. Please give whatever you can today to help us stop this suffering. A donation of any size truly will make a big difference to the lives of working animals. Thank you.

How you can help

You can help us treat wounds, replace bits and educate owners in how they can better care for their animals for years to come.

£15.45 can pay for a new comfortable bit to replace one causing a horse or mule suffering.

£55 can help pay for the cost of running a bit swap clinic.

£100 can pay for a two hour owner education workshop.



Megala's owner fitting his new bit

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

Returning to Bamako

Jane Harry, veterinary programme advisor, returns to Mali for the first time since war divided the country



I'd been itching to return to Mali ever since my last planned visit in 2012 was cancelled due to the uprising there, so I was excited to board the plane to Bamako in June this year.

Although I was apprehensive about what I might find, the city felt relaxed and vibrant, the people appeared content and there was no evidence of the continuing troubles in the north.

Despite the difficulties there SPANA's work has been able to go on almost unhindered. However the team are still facing challenges, the biggest at the moment being a lack of electricity due to lengthy daily power cuts.

I accompanied our team to some of the rubbish dumps where we help so many hardworking donkeys that have the task of collecting and off-loading huge loads of waste.

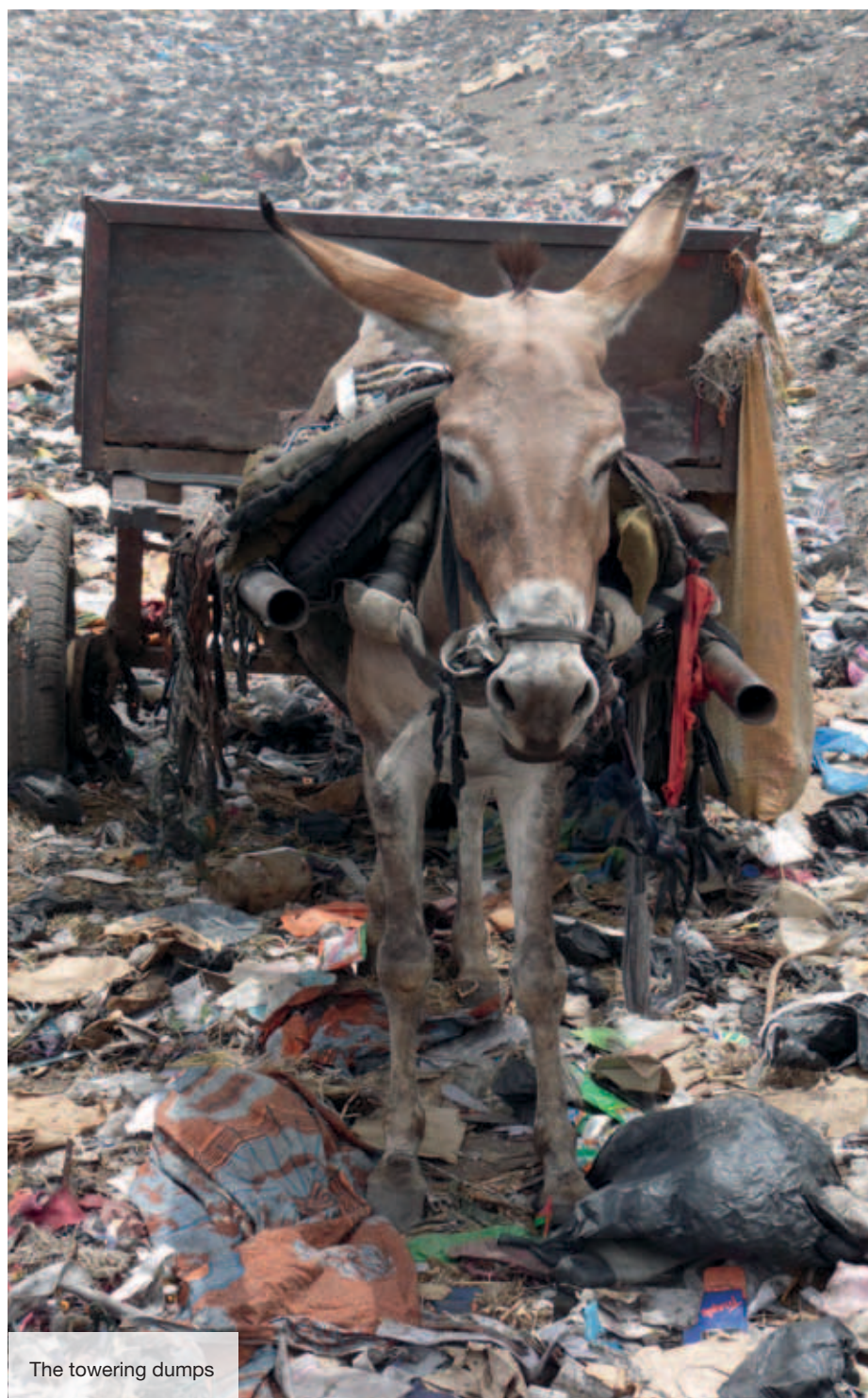
The dumps had grown in height since my last visit and some donkeys have to haul their carts to the top to empty them. Other dumps are on fire for most of the year, making them almost intolerably hot and smoky.

Although the majority of donkeys there appear in good condition, the work is gruelling. Donkeys sometimes have to wait in line for a long time to empty their heavy carts. As the carts are two-wheeled and poorly balanced, a lot of weight is taken on the donkeys' backs and they can buckle under the load. To avoid this, our country director Dr Amadou instructs the cart drivers to unhitch their donkeys, or to simply place a stick under the shaft to keep it propped level and take the weight off the donkey.

The main welfare problems for the animals are still wounds from beating and from poor harnessing, although thankfully we are seeing fewer severe cases due to the distribution of saddle pads and cushioned breast collars made by a group of women who SPANA employ.

Although there remains much to do in Bamako in the years to come, I left feeling hopeful. Our excellent team is getting treatment to vast numbers of animals, and is even operating a home visit system to treat some of them.

We remain concerned about the north of the country, but are reassured to hear that the paravets trained by SPANA in Mali have been providing vital animal health services both in the areas affected by conflict and the refugee camps.



The towering dumps

Changes in Morocco

Chief executive Jeremy Hulme on exciting new developments



Visiting SPANA's work in Morocco is like coming home for me. As country director in the 1980s, I spent many happy years there with my family, helping to build the centres – and even the ponds!

My goal was to change the way local people viewed animals, eventually becoming less dependent on SPANA and instead taking responsibility for animal welfare themselves.

So my most recent visit was a particular joy for me, since it represented a real step towards that dream.

Arriving at Tangier I was met not only by our staff but also by a group of local animal lovers and friends of the charity, many of whom I've known for years.

That's because, after careful negotiation, dedicated Tangier residents are taking on the funding and running of the centre. We will provide them with support and financial help while they get on their feet, but this represents a step towards a sustainable future.

Tangier's success is not isolated. In Midelt, Khenifra and Sidi Boughaba, other individuals and organisations have come together to fund and manage SPANA centres. During my trip I met many of these dedicated and

passionate advocates for animals.

Our staff will remain and SPANA will retain oversight – everyone wants to stay part of the 'SPANAN family' – but it frees funds for other projects. Projects like the new mobile exhibition unit, which will tour Morocco promoting our animal welfare message to children nationwide.

With progress on my mind, my next stop was Marrakech. Outside of the city centre, in dusty suburbs, some of the city's poorest people scratch out a meagre income with their animals. They're often casual labourers, spending their days outside builders' merchants, hoping to earn a few dirhams for odd jobs.

The animals are in terrible shape. Many poor owners lack even a basic understanding of animal care.

Our goal now is to develop programmes that will help them: to improve their understanding of animal care, to replace painful bits, to treat injuries and ease suffering.

There's much we can celebrate in Morocco, but my trip also served as a reminder of how much more there still is to be done.



Working mules in Marrakech, just some of the animals that need our help

SPANNA up close: Mauritania

On the west coast of Africa, Mauritania remains one of the poorest and most troubled countries in the world

Working animals here are depended upon by thousands of families to earn a basic living of sometimes only a few dollars per day. Since we started working here in 2001, there has been a huge demand for our services.

A day in the life

SPANNA Mauritania director Bebeha Ahmed tells us about a typical day at our busy centre in the capital of the country, Nouakchott.

7am The team arrive at the clinic and the grooms start preparing food for the inpatients and cleaning out the stables, whilst the vet and technician prepare the daily medications. They then check on the inpatients, which are mainly donkeys suffering with problems including fistulous withers, wounds and lameness. The team checks the temperature, pulse and respiration rate of all the inpatients; and then administer their medicines and clean and redress any wounds.

8am The outpatient clinic opens and animals are brought in for the treatment

of illness and injuries, as well as routine procedures like dentistry and foot trimming. The vet, technician, groom and two farriers are kept very busy, while Baba the teacher makes a record of all owners that bring their animals in. The majority of patients are donkeys used to pull carts either carrying water or goods such as building materials around the city, with fewer horses that are mainly used to pull taxi carts and occasionally for riding.

9am Two mornings a week classes of schoolchildren come to the centre accompanied by a teacher, to learn about animals, their role in the environment and their needs. Baba takes the lessons with Wan the vet technician assisting.

12pm The team packs equipment into the truck and heads off for the mobile clinics. They visit two or three water points

in the town where they will treat mainly donkeys. The team see many wounds caused by badly made harnesses and also from beating. The donkeys do not wear bridles so their drivers steer them by hitting them on one side or the other with a stick. Each water point is visited every month, with Baba the education officer attending to advise owners on how to steer the donkeys.

3pm After a long day the team return to the clinic for final checks on the inpatients before heading home. There is a guardian who lives at the stables and takes care of the inpatients overnight. He will give them feed and water and check on them, and if an inpatient needs treatment or an emergency arrives, the vet technician Wan always comes back to see to them.



A donkey with mutilated ears pulls drums of water in Nouakchott



Mauritania at a glance

Population: 3.6 million

Area: 398,000 sq km

Location: West Africa

Capital city:
Nouakchott

Estimated working animal population:
190,000



The challenges faced by SPANA Mauritania

SPANA volunteer and photographer Tryfon Topalidis shares his experience of visiting our team in Mauritania earlier this year.

In the capital city, Nouakchott, there are over 50,000 donkeys that spend their lives hauling massive drums of drinking water to households around the city, with little relief from the backbreaking work. The need is overwhelming and I saw staff at SPANA's centre there doing their absolute best with limited resources. But they are still facing an uphill battle.

The owners of the animals that I met in Nouakchott are very poor people, with incomes usually no more than two dollars per day – an amount that only marginally covers the very basics of household living. Often they have no money to buy food for their animals and certainly not enough to cover any essential costs for an animal's care. SPANA regularly provides vaccinations, treatments and training on the welfare of animals, thankfully all absolutely free of charge, and this is highly appreciated by owners.

For many remote towns and villages though, access to veterinary services is limited. It will take time, money and effort to rectify the problems faced by the team there and the challenges are huge. SPANA's presence may only be small with one centre and one mobile clinic, but they battle on to make the biggest possible difference to working animals that they can.

Thank you for making it possible for SPANA to reach some of the neediest cases in some of the least accessible communities in Mauritania.



Head vet technician Wan examines inpatients

SPANA operations

- One veterinary centre in the capital city Nouakchott, mainly treating donkeys and horses
- One mobile clinic visiting areas in Nouakchott and the town Rosso
- Adult education programme informing owners of how best to care for their animals
- Our schools education programme currently consists of children from Nouakchott visiting the SPANA centre six times a year to participate in animal welfare lessons
- Last year our small but dedicated team provided almost 34,000 treatments to working animals



A water donkey wearing a nosebag in Nouakchott

SPANNA 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 recently thanks to your support.



Kacimi heads home and receives a new noseband, humane hobbles and a SPANA bit for Mahdouda

MOROCCO

Abandoned donkey gets new home with blind man

A donkey that had a large abscess and was abandoned by her owner has found a new home thanks to the Chemaia team.

Vets found the donkey injured and took her in to be treated at the centre. After a few months of rest and recuperation the donkey that they named Mahdouda (meaning 'lucky') was ready for a new home.

The team wanted to make sure Mahdouda went to a good owner, and knew of Kacimi Mbarek, a 90-year-old man who had recently lost his donkey to a lung condition.

As Kacimi is blind, he relies on his donkey to transport him around town, collect water from the well and to get him to the local souk (all with the help of his family members to guide the donkey). He gratefully accepted the offer of Mahdouda and collected her in July.

The team have stayed in regular contact with Kacimi and understand that Mahdouda is getting on very well in her new home.



Kacimi meets Mahdouda for the first time

TUNISIA

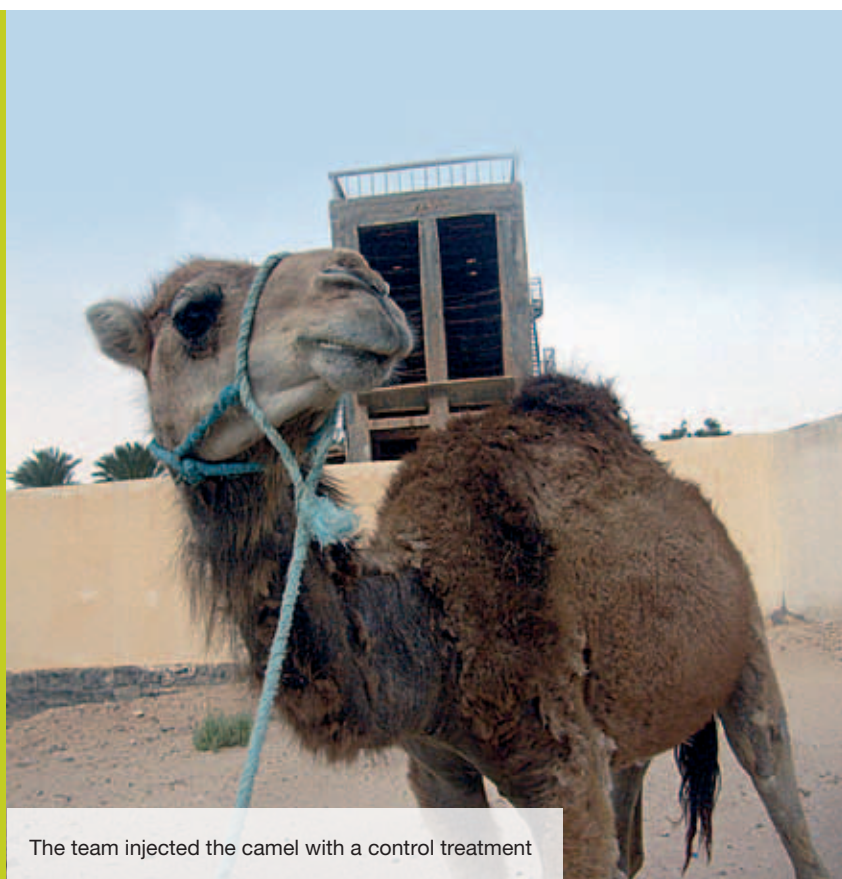
Camel gets the hump with scabies

A 12-year-old male camel has been treated for scabies by our mobile clinic team in Douz.

The scabies infestation was severe and the camel had an almost entirely bald neck from being very itchy and attempting to scratch himself on rough surfaces.

His owner Hamed uses the camel to transport tourists and so it was incredibly important not only to get the camel cured from this uncomfortable condition, but to avoid passing it on to people and fellow animals as well.

Our vets injected the camel with an anti-parasitic treatment and returned two weeks later to administer a second dose to prevent the condition returning. About one month later, the team were pleased to see that the infestation had cleared.



The team injected the camel with a control treatment



Alemayehu stays with Keyo as his swelling is treated

ETHIOPIA

Injured horse that works to support 13-year-old owner successfully treated at Debre Zeit centre

When horse Keyo developed a large, painful swelling on his shoulder, his 13-year-old owner Alemayehu walked for three miles to take him to the SPANA centre.

Alemayehu relies on the money he earns working with Keyo to pay for his school fees, as well as his food and clothing, so he was very concerned about his horse.

After an examination by our vets, the abscess was flushed with antiseptic solution and Keyo was given a course of antibiotics. Alemayehu admitted he had noticed the swelling when it was smaller but he had hoped it would go away.

Thanks to the free vet treatment, Keyo made a full recovery in just two weeks. Alemayehu said: "In future I will come to SPANA as soon as I notice anything wrong with my horse."

"Thank you for treating my horse, it means I can now carry on with my lessons."

All aboard Morocco's new education bus

Education director Diana Hulme on the new mobile exhibition that promotes positive attitudes towards animals to schoolchildren



Teaching children to be kind to animals has been a core objective of SPANA's work since the charity was founded 90 years ago. SPANA has organised school visits to veterinary clinics, first hand experiences with animals, and the production and distribution of education materials for schools around the world.

This is all aimed at developing children's positive attitudes, respect and responsibility towards animals.

Usually lessons take place in schools or in SPANA's centres in Morocco, but there are a vast number of children that live in remote areas and have never heard of us. Now however, things are about to change.

A new mobile exhibition has just been launched that will travel to the furthest corners of the country. Imagine the surprise for children when, instead of a boring maths lesson a bus arrives at the school gate and they are invited on board to listen to a story being told by a cat.

The domestic cat in question is called Whiskers and he talks about his wild ancestors that used to be so numerous in north Africa. Whiskers goes on to explain that animals were domesticated to help humans and that owners have a duty to

supply their animals with what they need. A simple story with clear messages, but told to children in a new and exciting way.

The mobile exhibition was officially opened in Marrakech in June and Morocco's Minister of Education attended accompanied by HRH Princess Lalla Hasna. Both appeared delighted with the exhibition, which is now on its way around schools in the Kenitra region.



The brand new bus will tour the country



A pupil touring the new bus

Your generosity makes a big difference in Ethiopia

Education programme advisor Gail Gardner on how children attending our animal clubs are to benefit from new resources thanks to the kindness of SPANA supporters



Schoolchildren in Ethiopia can look forward to visiting our new animal handling centre in Debre Zeit later this year. Thanks to the supporters who donated to last year's SPANA News appeal, work will soon start on a classroom and animal handling facility at our centre in Bishoftu.

Many children already visit our veterinary clinic, but there are no facilities for them to learn more about animal welfare and how they can look after the animals they keep at home.

Lessons will not only focus on increasing the children's knowledge of animals and their needs, but will also aim to change children's attitudes and build empathy towards animals. The new

classroom will also have a small animal handling area where children will be able to see firsthand how to handle animals with respect and care.

We hope this will become a stimulating learning environment for the children who will leave with a wealth of knowledge of animals that they can then share with their family and friends, and which will have a positive impact on the welfare of the animals they look after.

After a successful appeal in our winter magazine *Stablemate*, we will also be able to supply our education centres in Ethiopia with much needed learning resources.

The schools we work with in Ethiopia have little teaching resources and libraries

stock only vital government textbooks. Teaching children about animal welfare in a fun and interactive way can be very challenging. These resources will include useful reference books, inspirational stories, creative games and other essential materials.

We were also touched by the lovely messages that many of you wrote for the children in our animal clubs. We will be sharing these with the children on an upcoming visit and look forward to telling you about this in a future SPANA News.

Thank you to all the supporters that contributed to these appeals.



Pupils taking part in our Ethiopia animal clubs

Animal clubs to be launched in Sierra Leone

Teachers in Sierra Leone are to be trained in how to run their own animal kindness clubs in schools and teach members of their community about animal welfare.

SPANAs is providing funding to set up two humane education centres

where teachers can visit for training and develop lesson plans.

The project is run with partner organisation the Campaign Against Cruelty to Animals (CCA-SL), with whom SPANA funded a veterinary project last year to help working oxen.

Education director Diana Hulme said: "We sincerely hope that this project will help animal clubs to continue to flourish and grow in number, so that the next generation of owners treat their animals with respect and compassion."



Longstaff &

Jeremy Hulme on the second part of a series looking at the inspirational people who worked for the charity during our early years

Without David Longstaff and Marie Ruperto, I very much doubt the charity would be where it is today. They were two of SPANA's most committed and adventurous staff members, but they rarely get a mention.

I first discovered their incredible stories whilst reading SPANA co-founder Nina Hosali's autobiography. There I learned that David and Marie, who both came from humble backgrounds, were two of the most outstanding and courageous staff members in the charity's 90 year history.

David Longstaff, who had the "courage of a lion"

Cockney David Longstaff had worked in mule transport during the First World War and had gained a lot of experience in how to handle these unpredictable animals. It was whilst running a failing fish and chip shop in Sunderland though that he saw the advert to manage SPANA's operations in Tunisia.

With his wartime experience he was seen as an ideal candidate and in 1928 he moved his wife and two young children to the then French-occupied country. Surprisingly, they didn't speak a word of French, Berber or Arabic, so goodness knows how they managed those first few years.

David quickly proved his worth and his earliest achievement was to rebuild SPANA's first animal hospital. But just a few years later, tragedy struck. After torrential rain a reservoir that was built on a hill above the hospital burst its banks, and water and mud filled the hospital in a matter of seconds.



The incredible Longstaff family



David Longstaff treating an injured donkey in Tunisia

The Longstaff family escaped on to the roof, but the animals were trapped in the floodwaters. David swam down to cut some of the horses free from their stables but got kicked and temporarily paralysed during his rescue attempt. Meanwhile his 12-year-old daughter Jenny, who had only learned to swim a few months previously, managed to open some of the smaller animal cages. Thanks to the family's incredible courage, six horses, eight dogs and eight cats were saved.

But this wasn't all fate had in store for the Longstaffs. During the Second World War, Tunisia was captured by Italian forces and David was sent to an internment camp in Italy, and then later Germany. His wife stayed to continue running SPANA's centres alone. I can't imagine how difficult a time this was for them.

After the war David returned to Tunisia, but his health had declined and eventually the family moved back to England.

Under his leadership, David had trebled the charity's work in Tunisia, ran our first horse ambulance, opened many more new hospitals and treated thousands of animals. SPANA co-founder Nina Hosali called it "Longstaff's Little Kingdom" and remembered him as having "a heart of gold and the courage of a lion".

Ruperto



The “most astounding” Marie Ruperto

Nina Hosali said in her autobiography: “Of all the amazing and incredible people that have been connected with SPANA, Marie Ruperto was easily the most astounding.” And I would have to agree.

Known as ‘Ruperto’ to most, her childhood was far from ordinary. She apparently came from Sicilian peasant stock and when she was young all of her family died in an earthquake that left her seriously injured.

She eventually trained as a nurse and moved to Algiers. However, possibly because she looked ‘different’ (her spine was crooked from injuries caused by the earthquake), she was not given nursing work but kept doing jobs such as cooking, cleaning and mending.

That’s when her wasted talents were recommended to SPANA in 1926, just as it was setting up in Algiers. Ruperto started work visiting souks and made make-shift veterinary clinics in nearby stables. She dealt with terrible cases of starved and abandoned donkeys and horses in her first few months, but she rose to the challenge and quickly became a respected member of the community. The Mayor of Algiers even gave her the power to give on the spot fines in cases of cruelty – what we’d give to have that in some of our countries of operation today!

Her achievements were simply too many to mention. As well as treating countless working animals, she tirelessly campaigned to stop bull fights, dog fights, cruelty to stray cats and she improved the welfare standards of livestock being sold by banning some horrific practices.



Marie Ruperto in her SPANA summer uniform with her dog Follette

One of my favourite stories of her exploits was when a travelling ‘menagerie’, or circus, had gone bust near Algiers. Animals including six lions, a lioness, hyena and leopard were left starving in their cages. Ruperto went to the newspapers to raise money to feed them, but she hadn’t quite worked out how she would technically achieve this.

By opening the cages of distraught and hungry lions to feed them enormous hunks of meat, she would be exposed to the dangers of being lunch herself. Somehow she did it though; apparently she thought they could understand English and so would say ‘nice boy’ and ‘nice girl’ before throwing in the food.

Ruperto tirelessly worked for SPANA in Algiers throughout the Second World War under German occupation, and then moved to Touggourt in the south of Algeria to run a remote SPANA centre with a companion. She worked for the charity for almost forty years, and died in 1966.

A very brave and wonderful woman.



Marie and one of her rescued lions



Request a 90th Anniversary Brochure

For more information about our history and our exciting plans for the future, you can order a free commemorative 90th anniversary year brochure by calling 020 7831 3999 or by using the letter enclosed.

Helping working animals for the next 90 years



How a gift of any size in your Will can fund SPANA's programmes for years to come

We are proud to have helped millions of working animals over the past 90 years, which has only been possible thanks to you – our generous supporters. However, with an estimated 100 million working equines worldwide today, we know we'll still be desperately needed for many more years to come.

Whilst much of our work is initially funded by appeals, such as our new programme in Zimbabwe, it is funding from gifts left in Wills that ensure these projects can continue in the future.

Caroline Francis, a member of our legacy team, said: "Gifts left in Wills truly are the backbone of the charity and fund many of our on-going programmes, helping hundreds of thousands of animals worldwide. We recently heard from our Jordan team about one of them, Skot (below), a horse that had severe

lameness caused from a badly made shoe that was fitted by a local farrier.

"Funding from legacies helped treat and hospitalise Skot until his hoof had fully mended, as it does for so many animals with a variety of injuries and illnesses every year."

If you'd like more information on how a gift in your Will can help, you can speak to one of our friendly team or request a free copy of the SPANA legacies guide by phoning **020 7831 3999**, or visiting **www.spana.org/legacy**.

If you've already included SPANA in your Will, or if you would prefer not to hear about this subject, please let us know. This helps us communicate with you appropriately and keeps our costs down.



Skot arrives at the clinic and is given painkillers by SPANA vets

"I continue to be full of admiration for the absolutely amazing work that the society carries out. In this sad world it is a beacon of light and hope."

Archie Pierce, a SPANA supporter who has pledged a legacy

Star supporters

Thank you to everyone who's taken part in challenges and held events for SPANA during our 90th anniversary year. Here are just a few fantastic fundraisers.

Fun runners

- Student Melanie Nahum ran the Lydd Half Marathon for SPANA, and to raise even more sponsorship she held a bake sale in her school canteen. She said: "Along with my fellow classmates I made millionaire's shortbread, rocky road bars, carrot cupcakes, flapjacks and managed to get a local bakery to donate some cupcakes." Melanie raised £1,420 in total. Thanks Melanie from all of us. We're sure the SPANA donkeys would have especially liked your carrot cupcakes!
- Ruth Humphries and Charlotte Passingham took part together in the Wolf Run and the Bupa Manchester 10k wearing some wonderful donkey ears! They raised £445.
- Barbara Widera from Bognor Regis ran both the Brighton and London Marathons – which are only one week apart! She raised £345. Such an amazing achievement, three cheers from us!
- Alice Bricogne raised an amazing £686 by taking part in the Bupa London 10,000. She learned about SPANA after seeing the plight of working animals whilst on holiday in Morocco (much like our founders Kate and Nina 90 years ago).



Ruth and Charlotte sporting their donkey ears

Star vet practice

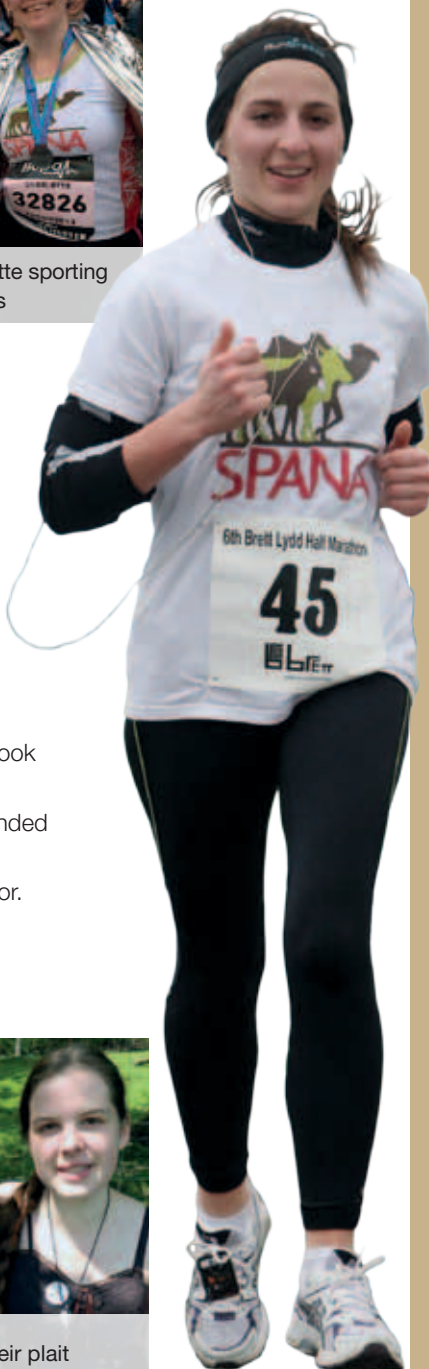
Vets David Rendle and Victoria Copas from the Liphook Equine Hospital in Hampshire raised over £1,570 by talking about SPANA at their client evenings. This funded a training course for university vets in Ethiopia that Victoria kindly volunteered her time to be a teacher for. Sincere thanks from us and the Ethiopia team.

Most unusual fundraiser

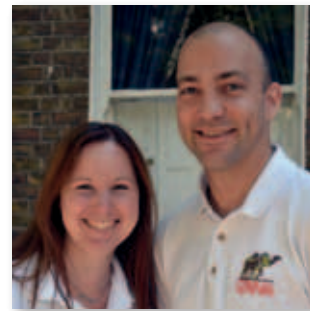
Friends Cat and Amy spent 24 hours with their hair plaited together for SPANA! They took part in various activities from going shopping to navigating their way through an obstacle course. They raised £185. Something a bit different to raise money for the working animals of the world! Thanks girls!



Cat, Amy and their plait



Melanie running the Lydd Half Marathon



Events and supporter care team Kirsty Brzeczek and Nic Van Gelder share the latest supporter news

Events

Olympia Horse Show

Date: 16 – 22 December, 2013

Place: Olympia Exhibition Halls, Hammersmith, West London

Website:

www.olympiahorseshow.com

We're very excited that SPANA will be exhibiting for the first time at the world-famous Olympia Horse Show! Not only can you see top class international competitions in show jumping, dressage and driving, but there is a whole hall devoted to shopping. We'll be there selling Christmas gifts and spreading the word about our work. We desperately need volunteers to help us run the stand, so if you're interested please contact us on **020 7831 3999** or events@spana.org.

SPANA's New Year supporters' party

Date: Thursday 9 January, 2014

Time: Noon – 3.00 pm

Place: SPANA head office, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB

You are cordially invited to SPANA's New Year party. Guests will have the opportunity to meet SPANA staff, fellow supporters and watch films about our work. If you would like to join us, please call Nicola on **020 7831 3999**. Space is limited and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please do let us know as soon as you can.

Big Knit for Vet Kit

To celebrate our 90th anniversary year SPANA supporter Twiggy has launched our brand new knitting fundraiser



"I know everyone will have so much fun knitting their very own gorgeous camels, horses and donkeys. And of course, the money raised will help SPANA treat real working animals in one of their clinics in Africa or the Middle East."

Twiggy Lawson

Using one of our free patterns you can knit your very own Duncan the donkey, Hattie the horse or crochet Clarence the camel, and help SPANA vets treat hardworking animals in need by getting sponsored while you stitch.

There's a £20 sponsorship or donation target for each animal made, which will help our vets treat a real donkey, horse or camel at one of our clinics.

The free Big Knit for Vet Kit fundraising pack contains all three patterns, a sponsorship form and donation envelope; so all you need to do is get your knitting needles out and select your wool. Why not hook in some of your friends to join you too?

To order your free pack, visit www.spana.org/knit or call **020 7831 3999**.



Duncan the donkey, Hattie the horse and Clarence the camel were designed by knitting and crochet pattern designer Val Pierce



Help a little donkey this Christmas

This year why not buy Christmas presents with a purpose?

Our Happy Hooves shop has beautiful gifts for the home and garden, stocking fillers, Christmas cards, and – for the person that has everything – presents that will provide food, water or veterinary treatments to working animals.

Money raised from Happy Hooves goes directly to donkeys, horses, mules and camels in need, so your gifts will give back this Christmas time!

To view all our gifts, please visit and order online at www.happyhooves.org or call **0300 033 4999**.



£6.50
Donkey egg cup



£6.00
Donkey ring holder



£7.00
SPANAs own sticky toffee pudding



£8.00
Set of four cat coasters



£4.50
Cherries in dark chocolate

