

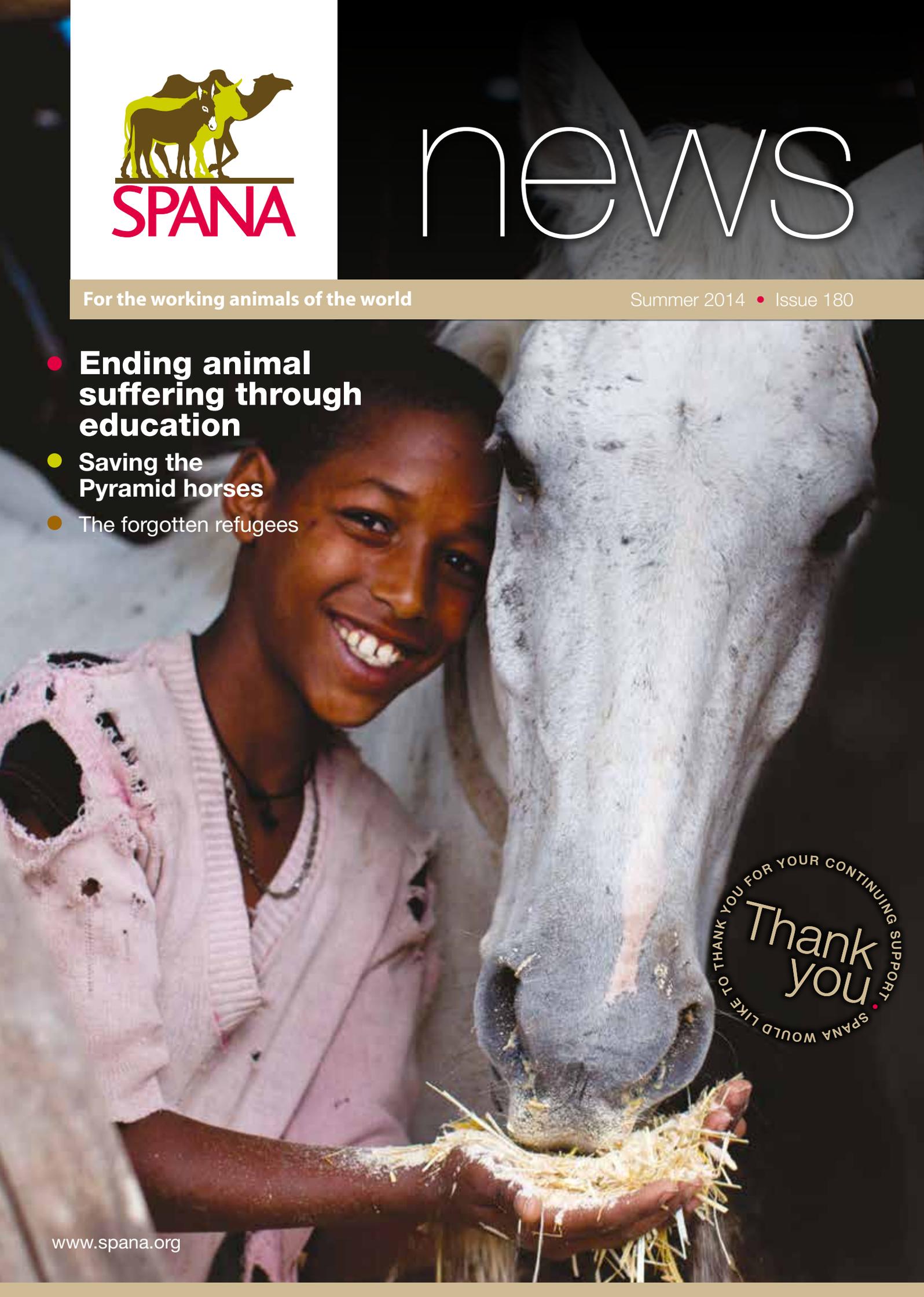


news

For the working animals of the world

Summer 2014 • Issue 180

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- Saving the Pyramid horses
- The forgotten refugees



TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT
Thank you
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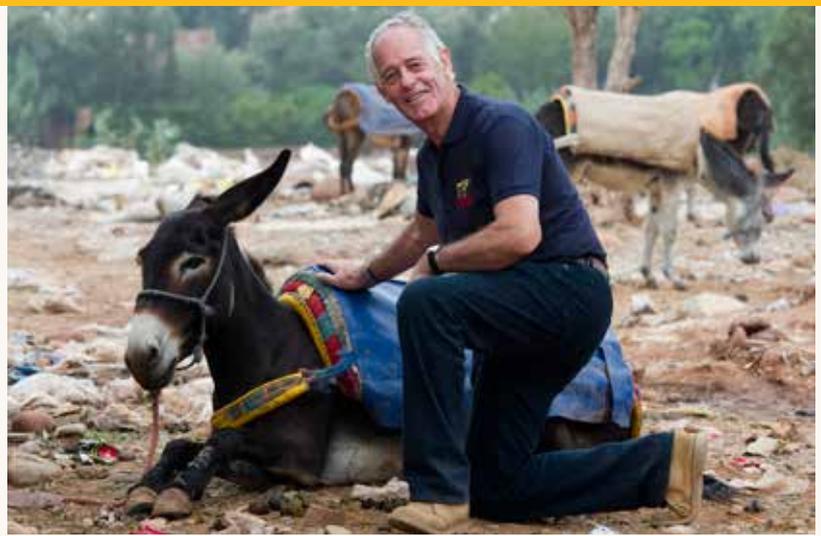
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Welcome to your new look SPANA News, the magazine for supporters of SPANA and the world's working animals.

Back in 1923, SPANA was formed thanks to a group of like-minded individuals who came together because they believed in a better future for the world's working animals. Things have changed a lot since then, and we now reach hundreds of thousands of animals each year, with veterinary, education and emergency programmes around the world.

But one thing remains the same – this is your charity. SPANA exists only because there are people like you who share our determination to improve the lives of hardworking donkeys, horses, mules and camels. With our help, a life of work needn't be a life of suffering.

Education has always been central to our work and on page six you can find out more about our exciting plans in Ethiopia. Please, if you can, support this important appeal today and help us build a brighter future for Ethiopia's overburdened animals.

This issue of SPANA News also has plenty of good news stories for you too. Over on page eight, I'll tell you how your support is saving the lives of malnourished horses near Cairo's Pyramids, and on page ten there's more from Mali, where you're easing the suffering of the rubbish dump donkeys.

And as you read, remember this: every single penny we receive is thanks to the support of people like you. Each of the stories you'll read could have had a very different outcome if it were not for your kindness. Thank you all, each and every one.

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

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

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

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

Spotlight on... Imlil



And the award goes to...

In Morocco's High Atlas mountains, in the isolated towns and villages that are inaccessible to vehicles, mules are still a vital means of transport.

Poor communities – and the tourists who venture up to the higher altitudes – rely on these hardy animals.

In one of the largest villages, Imlil, SPANA holds an annual awards ceremony, rewarding mule owners who take good care of their animals. It's a colourful celebration for the community and a great way of promoting care and compassion for these hard working animals.

It's yet another way that your support is improving the lives of working animals in need.

SPANNA *IN THE NEWS*

ANN WIDDECOMBE PRAISES 'UNSUNG' SPANA HEROES

Ex-MP's visit to Morocco hits the headlines



Photo © Tim Clarke



Photo © Tim Clarke

Ann Widdecombe meets one of the donkeys visiting the SPANA mobile clinic at the Ourika souk

Celebrity supporter Ann Widdecombe praised the work of SPANA's dedicated vets on a recent trip to Morocco.

The former MP and *Strictly Come Dancing* star was joined by both the *Daily Express* and *ITV's Daybreak* on her tour of our work, investigating the hard lives of working animals and those used in the tourism trade.

Writing in the *Daily Express*, Ann said, "In three short days I saw small miracles on an almost hourly basis, human despair turn to joy, animals turn

from listless to lively. Most of the sad, often overworked beasts that come to SPANA hospitals are a long way from bright and beautiful, but they are certainly being cared for by a team that is wise and wonderful, dedicated and unsung."

Chief executive Jeremy Hulme added: "We are incredibly grateful to Ann for sparing the time to raise awareness of both the plight of working animals and our work abroad. We had a wonderful reaction from the public after they saw Ann's reports."

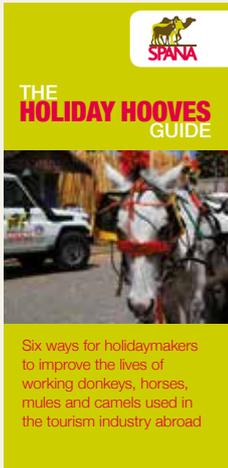
"In three short days I saw small miracles on an almost hourly basis, human despair turn to joy, animals turn from listless to lively... they are certainly being cared for by a team that is wise and wonderful, dedicated and unsung."

ANN WIDDECOMBE

Read SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme's blog at www.spana.org/annwiddecombe

SPANA URGES HOLIDAYMAKERS TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK

Free Holiday Hooves guide helps animals working in tourism



SPANA is encouraging holidaymakers to do their homework before they go abroad to help working animals in the tourism industry.

Thousands of donkeys, horses, mules and camels transport holidaymakers on excursions every year; but despite their relentless hard work, many are poorly treated, neglected and beaten by their owners.

To help improve the welfare of these animals, our Holiday Hooves guide

gives tourists simple tips on how to choose only healthy and well cared for animals for excursions like donkey rides, horse and carriage tours and camel safaris. The guide also provides information on how people can complain to country tourism boards if they are concerned about animals.

To get hold of your free Holiday Hooves guide call 0300 033 4999 or visit www.spana.org/tourism

90 YEARS YOUNG!

Birthday bash celebrates 90 years of care



Almost 200 guests joined the SPANA team at the Kensington Roof Gardens in London last September to raise a glass to 90 years of care. In the delightful surroundings of the rooftop Spanish, Tudor and Woodland gardens, guests were taken on a whistle-stop tour of some of the highlights of our work,

including rare footage of our famous founder, Kate Hosali, in action. With almost £7,500 raised, the event also proved a great fundraising success.

“Thank you so much for such a super birthday party. The most wonderful venue, beautiful weather, lovely food – but, most of all, the very best hosts you could ever hope for. It really was a special occasion that will live long in the memory.”

SUPPORTERS KATE AND TERRY SHORT



SPANAs Ethiopian adventurers

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Supporters see SPANA changing lives in Ethiopia

26 SPANA supporters embarked on a once in a lifetime trip to Ethiopia in October, touring the country to see for themselves how SPANA's work makes a difference to the lives of hardworking animals.

The ten-day trip began in the small towns and villages close to the capital, Addis Ababa, where much of our work is based. Supporters saw the desperate state of many of the region's sick, injured and overloaded cart horses.

Supporter Krys Lovell was moved by what she saw: “Seeing the pitiful state of most of the horses brought a lump to my throat. Just seeing pictures is not the same as witnessing these scenes with your own eyes.”

The group toured SPANA's projects in the country, seeing how a combination of veterinary care, children's education and animal owner workshops is transforming the lives of tens of thousands of animals each year.

Find out more about SPANA's children's education programme in Ethiopia on p6-7

Ending animal suffering through education

As a dedicated SPANA supporter, we know you will share our belief that animals can suffer just as humans and are deserving of our respect and compassion. Please help us share that message with the next generation.

A better future for Ethiopia's animals

For many communities in Ethiopia, animals are essential to people's lives. Families often live a hand-to-mouth existence, keeping animals such as cattle, sheep and chickens, and relying on donkeys and horses to do the work of tractors, trucks and taxis.

At home, children play an important role in caring for the family's animals. These same children are Ethiopia's future animal owners and decision makers.

If we're to improve the lives of millions of animals now and into the future, education is key. That's why, with your support, we've been running three successful SPANA animal clubs in Ethiopia since 2009.

Proven success

SPANA clubs provide a very different, interactive and enjoyable learning experience for the children – and it's an approach that works. Last year, an evaluation proved that the SPANA clubs are effective; significantly boosting the development of a child's natural empathy for animals, which is likely to influence their behaviour towards animals in the future.

There is a window in a child's development when we can intervene, when they still have a natural empathy and interest towards animals, allowing us to develop and enhance this. Once a child has grown up, attitudes are formed – and it's more difficult to change them.

Reaching more children, helping more animals

Last year we launched another 27 animal clubs across the country. This year we hope to continue our commitment to Ethiopia's animals by continuing to fund all our existing animal clubs – but if we're to reach many more animals in need we must also expand into new communities. **We can do none of this without you.**



Israel at the SPANA club, investigating pondlife.

Currently there are many schools waiting to take part but we need money to buy essential classroom resources. Each time a new animal club opens, basics such as coloured pens, pencils, activity books and a whiteboard need to be purchased. In addition, teachers receive a training course in animal welfare.

A SPANA animal club can transform a whole community's attitude towards animals, with benefits lasting long into the future. **It only costs £157 to launch a new SPANA animal club and run it for a whole year. However, our expansion in Ethiopia depends on being able to provide essential teaching resources, and to do this we need your support.**

Israel's story

Twelve-year-old Israel Mesfin lives with his parents, three uncles and grandmother in a rural village in Akaki. His uncles earn their living as carhorse drivers and keep their horses at home, along with a dog, six chickens and seven sheep. Israel helps look after all the family's animals by feeding them, providing water and keeping the stables clean.

For a four month period last year, Israel attended the SPANA animal club every Wednesday at his primary school. There, children had a forum to explore their ideas and relationships with animals.

Israel explained how his feelings towards animals changed: "Before I joined SPANA's animal club, I didn't know about animals having feelings. But now my attitude towards animals has totally changed. I've learnt about their needs and the importance of good welfare and food for animals. Now, thanks to SPANA, I have positive feelings towards our dog, sheep and pigeons and for my uncle's horse."

Support SPANA animal clubs

This year, with your support, we can teach more than a thousand Ethiopian children like Israel about humane animal care.

Please help us to continue running these vital animal welfare clubs in Ethiopia. We desperately need your support to purchase the basic teaching resources that make the clubs possible. All donations from our supporters and trusted partners will go directly towards the SPANA clubs.

For these children in Ethiopia, SPANA animal clubs will be the only opportunity they have to learn about humane animal care. Please support our appeal today with a kind gift of whatever you can afford. Thank you.



SPECIAL APPEAL



At home, Israel cares for his family's animals

Please help today

You can help give children in Ethiopia the only chance they'll have to learn about the importance of humane animal care.

£15 will provide 15 children with a special SPANA animal club activity book.

£64.50 covers the running costs of an animal club for a whole year, providing teaching essentials such as paper, pencils, coloured pens, and a teacher's manual.

£157 will enable us to open a brand new animal club in a school waiting to take part, and will then cover the running costs for a whole year.



All photos © Kate Holt

To help ease the suffering of hardworking animals for many years to come, please support this special appeal today.

To donate please use the enclosed donation form, call 0300 033 4999 or visit www.spana.org/animalclubs

Feeding Egypt's starving horses



Chief executive, Jeremy Hulme, on Cairo's forgotten carthorses.

It's only when you're sitting on the EgyptAir flight from Heathrow to Cairo, that you realise the full extent of the problem.

The recent violence and chaos in the country has completely shut down tourism, so you're almost the only person on the plane. I counted only eight tourists on our 220-seater plane.

In Luxor, the tourist department claimed that around Christmas there was only

three per cent of the normal tourist numbers. The Pyramids and Sphinx area of Cairo is not much better.

As soon as you arrive, you can see the devastation and the misery. A whole industry, and the thousands of people who depend on it, has been brought to its knees. And importantly for SPANA, there are thousands of animals as well. Horses and camels – all standing idle as their normal fee-paying passengers just don't arrive.

I saw hundreds of horses, saddled and waiting, but with no work to do. Of course with no work, there is no income. So families that depend on



SPANA's programme will feed 200 horses a day

them go hungry, and inevitably the horses go short as well.

Some are fortunate to have other incomes – perhaps they come from farms, or riding establishments. These still have reserves to feed their animals, but for the poorer owners with only one horse or camel, dependent on tourism, the current situation is a disaster. Many animals have already died; their pathetically thin bodies are a sad condemnation of the violence and upheaval.

“Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to provide survival rations for these horses since last summer.”

But I am delighted to tell you that SPANA has been able to help. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to provide survival rations for these horses since last summer. Fresh green clover, rich in nutrients, that even in limited amounts, is enough to keep horses alive.

Of course, it is a struggle. Thousands of animals have been dependent on the tourist trade. However, with your help, we can keep these animals alive - hopefully until stability and peace returns to Egypt once again. Today the situation remains dire, but the one certainty is that visitors will return in their thousands to view Egypt's unique and fabulous sights. When that happens, the tourist animals and their owners can take up their lives again - independent and self-sustaining.



Many carriage horses in Cairo are malnourished and need SPANA's help

Reaching more animals in west Africa



Director of veterinary programmes, Dr Andy Stringer, travels to Rosso to see SPANA's clinic in action.

Mauritania lies at the westernmost edge of Africa, where the parched desert meets the Atlantic ocean. Along its southern border lies the small town of Rosso, looking out across the river at neighbouring Senegal. An old ferry moves back and forth each day, carrying passengers, goods for market and animals – lots of animals.

When carthorses in Senegal reach the age when their owner starts thinking about buying a replacement animal, they don't have the luxury of retirement to look forward to. Instead they make the short trip across the River Senegal, where they are sold into a new life of work in Mauritania.

On the Mauritanian side of the river, poor owners are desperate enough to take even the tired old animals the Senegalese no longer want.

SPANAN has been helping these animals for years, thanks to your kind support. Your overwhelming response to our appeal in the summer 2009 issue of SPANA News enabled us to begin regular visits to Rosso with our mobile clinic. But there is so much more that we need to do for these animals, as became clear during my recent visit.

“During the morning we treated 218 animals at the clinic, with a wide range of health problems.”

On arrival, the mobile clinic was already in action, providing treatment for a vast group of sick and injured horses and donkeys. During the morning we treated 218 animals at the clinic, with a wide range of health problems, such as harness wounds, lameness, colic and parasites.

The first donkey I encountered was suffering with severe conjunctivitis – the dusty environment leads to eye problems for many of the animals we help. Even a minor eye infection can quickly deteriorate if left untreated, and animals with sight loss are often abandoned, facing starvation.

This time, SPANA was on hand. Just a little antibiotic ointment is all it takes to save an eye, and our first patient of the day was quickly on his way. But with hundreds more waiting to be seen, the need in Rosso seems almost never-ending.

Yet SPANA's mobile clinic is their lifeline, relieving pain and suffering for this vast and isolated population of animals – thanks to your support.



Donkeys at SPANA's mobile clinic in Rosso

PROFILE **Mali**

In one of the world's poorest countries, people rely on animals – and animals rely on SPANA

SPANA OPERATIONS

SPANA has been working out of Bamako, Mali since 1996, making a huge difference to the lives of thousands of working animals each year.

Alongside our veterinary programme, SPANA Mali delivers a children's education programme at our centre, designed to foster empathy for animals among young people. Last year 205 teachers also received SPANA training and educational materials.

SPANA is also introducing a community development programme in Mali, working with animal owners to tackle the root causes of many of the injuries and other problems our vets see each day.

One veterinary centre, based in the capital city, Bamako

One mobile clinic, visiting smaller towns, villages and rural communities

Over 25,000 animals treated each year

2,339 children visited the SPANA education centre in 2013



MALI AT A GLANCE

Population **14,517,176**

Area **1,240,192 km²**

Location **West Africa**

Capital city **Bamako**

Estimated working animal population

2.4 million donkeys, horses and camels

PERSONAL PROFILE **Dr Amadou Doumbia, SPANA Mali director**



Amadou welcomes his next patient

It's another early start for Amadou Doumbia, SPANA's country director in Mali for the past 18 years. The gates to SPANA's busy centre in Bamako have just opened and already there's a class of schoolchildren eagerly awaiting their animal welfare lesson.

While his colleague begins the lesson, Amadou is thrown straight into dealing with the dozens of sick

and injured animals that arrive at the centre each day. He then hits the road with the mobile clinic to visit the notorious rubbish dumps that circle the city. On the towering dumps, he'll be treating the countless hardworking donkeys that pull overloaded rubbish carts from right around the city.

It's one of the most demanding and difficult jobs imaginable. So what does Amadou enjoy about the role? "Working for SPANA has been really exciting. By providing free veterinary care, training and education, SPANA has made a huge effort to help the donkeys that work on the rubbish dumps across the city.

"With the hard work that the donkeys have to do, many suffer from injuries such as harness wounds. My dream was that one day the veterinary team would find no wounds on any of the donkeys that visited the mobile clinic. I am so pleased to say that it has

happened! One day we discovered a group of working animals and no donkey had any wounds. I was so happy and proud of the whole SPANA team in Mali. I think it was a moment of great satisfaction for everyone."

"I'm thankful for what we have achieved and optimistic about what more we can do in the future."

Despite the progress, working animals in one of Africa's poorest countries continue to need SPANA's help. The scale of the challenge is vast, but Amadou is not overwhelmed: "I've been here long enough to see the difference SPANA can make. Every day I see hundreds of animals that are free from pain and suffering because of SPANA. So I'm thankful for what we have achieved and optimistic about what more we can do in the future."



CASE FILE: **Mali**

A happy ending for Mamby the donkey



On the busy streets of Mali's bustling capital city Bamako, donkeys and horses share the congested roads with motor vehicles. It's no surprise then that road traffic accidents are one of the most common reasons why working animals find their way to the SPANA centre.

One of our recent arrivals was Mamby, a five-year-old donkey that had suffered a deep wound to his shoulder after being hit by a vehicle while he was pulling heavy building material.

It was a serious injury, and Mamby was clearly suffering. But the vet team were quick to help - easing the pain with an anti-inflammatory injection before cleaning, anaesthetising and suturing the wound.

"I thought I would lose my donkey, but thanks to SPANA he is healed and we have an income once more. Thank you very much SPANA."

Mamby was then treated with painkillers and a ten-day course of antibiotics to help fight off any infection. He also received an anti-tetanus jab.

He enjoyed a comfortable 21-day stay at the SPANA centre, long enough to make a full recovery.

Mamby's owner Siaka has a wife and 12 children who all rely on the income he provides transporting timber to the market for sale.

He was very grateful for SPANA's help and said, "I thought I would lose my donkey, but thanks to SPANA he is healed and we have an income once more. Thank you very much SPANA."



One of Bamako's many rubbish dump donkeys at work

SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

Introducing just a few of the tens of thousands of animals we've helped recently, thanks to your kind support.

MOROCCO

Zahi the taxi horse

When two-year-old Zahi arrived at the SPANA centre in Chemaia, Morocco, vets found that he was in real pain and struggling to move.

His owner, Faydi, had brought him to SPANA because he was so worried for his horse's health. Zahi was stiff and finding walking difficult.

Vets were quick to identify acute laminitis. This potentially devastating condition can cause horses a great deal of pain, with serious long-term consequences if left untreated. However, this time Faydi's prompt actions ensured SPANA vets could get Zahi the help he urgently needed.

Zahi was rested in one of SPANA's stables with a specially padded floor to make him more comfortable. They also managed his feeding and gave him anti-inflammatory painkillers to ease his discomfort.

After several weeks of recovery, Zahi had his new shoes fitted and was once more fit and well enough to return to work as a taxi horse, pulling passengers and their luggage.

Zahi's condition was caused by incorrect feeding, and the SPANA vet advised Faydi about equine nutrition and asked him to ensure that Zahi was not worked too hard. He was then asked to bring Zahi to SPANA for regular check-ups to ensure he stayed healthy.

Faydi relies on the work Zahi does to help him feed his parents and four sisters. He said, "Zahi is my family's livelihood. I left school very young so Zahi is my only source of income." With proper care and a good diet, Zahi and Faydi will continue to work together for many years more.



“Zahi is my family’s livelihood. I left school very young so Zahi is my only source of income.”

ZIMBABWE

Beny's harness sores

In rural Zimbabwe, working donkeys are vital to the local economy. But poor quality, makeshift harnessing is a big problem across the region, resulting in agonising sores for many animals.

Eight-year-old donkey Beny was one of those SPANA was able to help when he arrived at our mobile clinic recently suffering from painful harnessing sores.

Beny transports maize in the rural community of Marimani in northern Zimbabwe, where his owner, Junior Moyo, relies on him to help provide for the family. In keeping with much of Zimbabwe, Junior had no access to veterinary care, so when he spotted Beny's injuries he had no option but to wait for the next visit by the SPANA mobile clinic team.

When vets examined Beny they found friction wounds on his chest and shoulder, which were painful and had become infected.

After cleaning, SPANA vets applied antiseptic betadine solution and zinc oxide to disinfect the wounds. They also assessed Beny's harness and concluded that it had been chafing, but advised that padded straps should prevent Beny from needing further treatment in the future.

Junior took the advice on board: "I am very grateful to SPANA for helping Beny and teaching me about proper harnessing. My donkeys are very important to my family."



After five days, our vets visited Beny once again and saw that his wounds were healing well. Junior assured the vets that Beny would have plenty of rest until he is fully recovered.

SPANA provided Junior with parting gifts of a grooming brush and hoof pick, which will help him care for Beny in future.

"I am very grateful to SPANA for helping Beny and teaching me about proper harnessing. My donkeys are very important to my family."

ETHIOPIA

Saving Yonas from African Horse Sickness

With its quick onset and a 90 per cent fatality rate, when it comes to African Horse Sickness, prevention is always better than cure.

Signs of infection include fever, conjunctivitis, respiratory problems with froth from the nostrils, and depression. There is no cure for the condition and recovery only occurs in a small proportion of cases, following plenty of rest and proper care.

For our vets in Ethiopia, trying to save the lives of affected horses is a daily challenge, and tragically many will die. But, with the care and expertise of the SPANA team, some animals pull through.

One of the lucky horses was 14-year-old Yonas, who arrived with his owner, market worker Workineh Lemma, in a poor state. His swollen eye area, discoloured tongue and depressed manner all indicated he was suffering from African Horse Sickness.



Our team knew they needed to act quickly. They gave Yonas antibiotics to treat secondary infections, and anti-inflammatory medication. He was hospitalised at the SPANA Ethiopia centre for rest, ongoing treatment and care. Luckily, the illness was caught early and Yonas made a full recovery within 13 days.

After treatment, Mr Lemma was encouraged to make sure Yonas received an annual vaccination in future, at the beginning of the rainy season. These vaccinations are vital to ensure working animals like Yonas are protected from this deadly disease.

"Vaccinations are vital to protect working animals like Yonas from this deadly disease."



Since SPANA's very earliest days, our children's education programme has sought to change attitudes towards animals, building respect and empathy among the next generation. We don't just treat problems, we work to tackle the root causes of animal suffering too.

Changing attitudes, changing lives

New research: SPANA's education programme delivers

A new research report by education programme advisor Dr Stephen Albone has shown SPANA's Ethiopia's education programme is effective in changing the way young people think and feel about animals.

The SPANA Ethiopia programme takes the form of after-school clubs, which children voluntarily attend for one hour each week. The club sessions make learning fun and interactive, allowing children to explore their relationship with the animals around them.

Changing attitudes is about more than children learning to repeat what they have heard their teacher say in class. The researchers therefore developed a special 'Caring for Animals' questionnaire, designed to measure the way children think and feel.

Using the questionnaire, SPANA researchers tracked the progress of 482 children in three schools, comparing the results over the course of six months with a similar number of children who received no formal animal welfare lessons.

The results showed that the way children think and feel about animals matures among all groups. But by age 11, children attending SPANA lessons were progressing at a much faster rate – five times as fast as those from neighbouring schools.

Animal welfare clubs

SPANA's Kenyan network of animal welfare clubs is now entering its second year, and is showing very encouraging results.

Our education team visited Nairobi in January, just as the new school year began. They met with the same group of 13 teachers that pioneered the scheme last year – and of course the children they teach.

Purity Nyaboke, of the Kahuho Road Academy, couldn't have been more enthusiastic. The SPANA clubs are the highlight of Purity's week, and she was keen to show off just how much she has learned: "Although I don't have a pet, I now know how to take care of animals, like giving them food and water to drink."

Purity's friend Rosemary shared her enthusiasm: "The animal welfare club helps me to tell the difference between animals such as lions and leopards. These are the famous wild animals we have in Kenya. Since I joined the club, animals have become my best friends. I now feed my cat every day and the club has taught me how to care for her properly."

Thanks to SPANA's animal welfare clubs, Kenyan children are now better equipped to care for animals with compassion as well as practical knowledge.



©Kate Holt

Please support our education Special Appeal on page six

Animal welfare – the key to thriving communities



SPANA chairman, Sir Roger Gale MP, travels to Nouakchott and finds the lives of working animals and the poorest communities are inextricably linked



One of Nouakchott's many water donkeys at work

Next time you turn on the tap, remember there are many places in the world with hardly any piped water at all.

Within a couple of miles of Mauritania's capital city, Nouakchott, lies the Sahara desert and not a lot else until you reach the River Nile - several countries away in Egypt. The modern city of Nouakchott was created when Mauritania gained independence from France in 1960, and accommodates up to two million people.

Aside from a tiny area in the centre of the city that has mains water, the entire population of the capital and the rest of the country's six or so million people have to rely on old oil drums full of water transported by beasts of burden.

In Nouakchott alone there are an estimated 100,000 working donkeys, of which some 70,000 are water carriers - all pulling a load of half a ton or more.

Each day, the resident SPANA vet and his team of technicians expect to see a dozen or so hospitalised inpatient animals, 50 outpatient cases and a further 30 at the mobile clinics.

The majority of these animals are not underfed, but they do have horrific sores caused by badly designed and ill-fitting harnesses. Antibiotics, antiseptics and farriery keep the animals on the road. And a complementary education programme seeks to instruct owners and children in basic animal husbandry.

“If you want people to survive, prosper and be self-sufficient, then you need to help them look after their working animals and their livestock.”

The UK spends a great deal of money on overseas aid. And yet there is no recognition in high places that if you want people to survive, prosper and be self-sufficient, then you need to help them look after their working animals and their livestock.

Just a modest investment could make a massive difference, but I fear that in Whitehall and Brussels the attitude is: “We don't do animals; we do people.” But, thanks to your kind support, SPANA shall carry on doing its work wherever it can.

Please, next time you leave a tap running, give a thought to those who do not have that luxury, and to the donkeys that daily deliver the stuff of life.

“Just a modest investment could make a massive difference”



Many donkeys carry goods to and from the beaches

The forgotten refugees

Chief executive, Jeremy Hulme, on how war in Libya left thousands of thirsty animals in need of SPANA's help



The sprawling Mbera refugee camp, Mauritania

In the general euphoria following the fall of Colonel Gaddafi and the 'liberation' of Libya in October 2011, few could have predicted the disastrous consequences that were to follow. But, as I write from an isolated and dangerous corner of the Sahara, those consequences are inescapable. They're all around me.

I'm in Mbera in Mauritania, just across the border with Mali. Surrounding me are half a million thirsty animals, trying to survive in the parched desert alongside 75,000 people in a makeshift tented city. These animals are the forgotten refugees; displaced by the fierce fighting that engulfed most of Mali in 2012. But ultimately, the reason they're here can be traced back to Libya.

And that's how SPANA first got involved in north Mali. Part of the peace deal was a commitment by the United Nations

to fund and organise some healthcare, education and, with SPANA's help, veterinary care.

It was an incredible experience to become involved in this remarkable land with its remarkable people. They live in one of the most hostile environments on Earth, yet are still able to wrest a living from the land. But, like so many of those struggling to survive in difficult environments, they are totally reliant on their animals.

It is too dry to grow crops, so they have evolved a culture and lifestyle completely dominated by the health and welfare of their livestock. They are not sentimental, yet they have a symbiosis with their animals that I have rarely seen anywhere else. Animals are simply a part of their lives, as fundamental as their children and the sand around them. Their camels especially are revered: it is said that there are fifty words in



One of hundreds of thousands of animals at the Mbera camp



SPANA funding is reconstructing wells around Mbera

them with the latest weapons.. Now as Libya fell and their leader, the Colonel, was killed, they swept back into their old homeland of Mali, armed and trained for conflict.

With their new modern weapons, they brushed away the ill-trained and ill-equipped Malian Army. All the major towns – Gao, Kidal and finally Timbuctu – fell.

As violence spread across the region, huge numbers of people migrated with their animals in search of safety and pasture. For many, their final destination was Mbera; a sprawling refugee camp just across the border in Mauritania. Here, up to 80,000 people share the desert camp with hundreds of thousands of donkeys and head of livestock, which will be vital if they are to ever stand a chance of escaping this bleak place and resuming a life of self-sufficiency once more.

“There’s a long way to go before the West recognises the fundamental link between pastoralists and their animals, and the economic and political disasters that arise from standing back and watching animals die.”

The UN agencies are doing the best they can, but the scale of need here is breathtaking. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of SPANA’s loyal supporters, we’re doing our bit too. I’m here to oversee the restoration of six wells in the bush around the camp, which will provide water for the thirsty animals and allow them to range further in search of scarce pasture.

Without water these animals have no future. And without animals, neither do the people.

Everyone tells me the same old story: “Yes, we get our food and shelter, but no-one except SPANA thinks of our animals.” SPANA is here, thanks to your kindness, and we’re making a real difference to the lives of these animals and the communities that rely on them. However, there’s a long way to go before the West recognises the fundamental link between pastoralists and their animals, and the economic and political disasters that arise from standing back and watching animals die.

the Tamasheq language to describe their different colours.

Over the years we trained over 150 tribesmen as animal health workers - the UN agreement meant they had to be ex-fighters with their own animals and living in the communities. Using their own herds as an example and an advertisement, they would vaccinate and worm animals so that losses were reduced and animal health and production improved.

I spent time living with some of the nomads, watching the way their daily lives revolved around these animals – particularly the endless search for food and water.

Then in spring 2012 all that was to change – perhaps forever. Fifteen years earlier, some of the rebels had refused to accept the end of the civil war against the south, and migrated north into Libya. Natural warriors, Colonel Gaddafi recruited them as bodyguards, trained them and armed

Leaving a gift that lasts

Please help SPANA keep its promise to working animals

SPANA has made a promise to working animals around the world to treat their injuries, cure their illnesses and ease their suffering. We have kept that promise for 90 years and you can help us keep this special promise for the next 90 years by remembering SPANA in your Will.

“We are always so grateful for every legacy we receive – even what might seem like a small amount can make a big difference overseas.”

Animal lover Mrs Pamela Hall from Wales is one supporter who has chosen to help us in this most special of ways. When Mrs Hall rang to let us know that both she and her husband had included a gift to SPANA in their Wills, she told us: “We’re retired and we don’t have a lot of spare money to help all our favourite charities as much as we’d like. But we both really like the idea of leaving money to help the animals when we’re gone. We think that SPANA is a great charity and we’re both so pleased to be able to help in this way.”



© Tim Clarke

For people like Mr and Mrs Hall who care about the suffering of working animals, it can be a comfort to know that they can go on making a difference for many years to come. We are always so grateful for every legacy we receive – even what might seem like a small amount can make a big difference overseas.

Each year, the legacies people have so kindly left to SPANA fund around half of everything we do. They give us the flexibility to act quickly when we are desperately needed, like in Egypt when our emergency feeding programmes helped save the starving carthorses. Gifts in Wills also lay the foundations for a better future for working animals by teaching young children why animals deserve care and respect. Now, or in the future, gifts in Wills help hundreds of thousands of working animals.



© Kate Holt

Find out more

If you’d like more information about how to leave a gift to SPANA in your Will, whether you are making your Will for the first time or updating an existing one, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us.

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 by visiting www.spana.org/legacy.

If you have already left a gift in your Will, we would love to hear from you as this gives us a chance to thank you.

We do appreciate that leaving gifts in Wills can be a sensitive issue, and if you would rather not receive information about legacies, please do let us know. This will help us communicate with you appropriately, reducing our administration costs so we can help even more animals.

Supporter News

Get involved, have fun and help working animals worldwide!



Runners go the distance

There's no limit to how far some SPANA supporters will go to raise money for animals in need.



Wayne Littlechild from Kent went all the way to America last October for the Chicago Marathon, heroically following that with the Tokyo Marathon in February. Wayne has raised a fantastic £1,382 so far.

Veterinary surgeon pals, **Victoria Copas** and **Sarah Ross** from Liphook Equine Hospital, travelled to Morocco in January for the Marrakech Marathon, where they were also able to visit SPANA's busy centre. Altogether they raised almost £2,000.

A huge thanks to Wayne, Victoria and Sarah.

Please get in touch if you fancy putting on your running shoes for SPANA

Community fundraising



Jane Marshall from Nottinghamshire raised £63 from a soap stall at her local church – ably assisted by her dog Rosie. Thank you both!

To receive SPANA's fundraising booklet, jam-packed with tips and ideas on fundraising, please call 020 7831 3999 or tick the box on the reply slip enclosed.

Recycle and raise money!

Do you have any old or broken jewellery lying around at home? Send it to SPANA using the freepost envelope enclosed in this issue of SPANA News and you could raise vital funds for working animals. Old or foreign banknotes can be enclosed too!

Wedding bells!

When **Alan Petty** and **Pat Price** booked to join the SPANA trip to Jordan in 2011, little did they know that cupid was waiting for them!

They each signed up for the trip as a way to see first-hand how their support is helping hardworking animals overseas. After meeting on the trip, the pair stayed in touch back in the UK, and romance soon blossomed. The happy couple were married in Gretna Green in September 2013 and we're delighted that they asked for donations to SPANA in lieu of wedding presents. Congratulations to Alan and Pat and thank you for your support!

Why not ask for donations to SPANA for your next celebration? What could be a better gift?

EVENTS

Vets fundraise for SPANA

We're thrilled to report that the 2013 Vet Charity Challenge raised a staggering £16,700 for SPANA.

The challenge saw 55 teams of four, competing to complete hiking, cycling, kayaking and mind challenges against the clock. Thank you to everybody who took part on the day and helped to organise such a fantastic event.

SPANA is delighted to be involved with the Vet Charity Challenge once again in 2014. So if you're a vet, sign up today!



Summer party

This year, SPANA's country directors from around the world will gather in London for our annual Summer Party – and we'd like you to join us! You can chat with the team about their work and how your support helps the world's neediest animals. Don't miss what promises to be a memorable afternoon at a lovely venue overlooking the Thames and the Houses of Parliament.



Tickets are £20, including afternoon tea and a glass of wine. Numbers are limited, so guarantee your place today by calling 020 7831 3999.

Where Shepherd Hall, St Thomas' Hospital, London

When Saturday 28th June, 12.30pm – 4.30pm

Tickets £20



Commemorate your much loved pet in a very special way

For many of us, animals are a part of the family. Our pets receive all the love, care and attention they could ever want, and there's always a vet on hand should they fall ill.

Sadly, as you have read in this issue of SPANA News, not all animals are so lucky.

If you've recently lost a loved pet, please consider a gift to SPANA in their memory. Your kindness will help less fortunate animals around the world, and you'll also honour the life of your pet in a very special way.

**To find out more,
please contact:**

**Nic Van Gelder
020 7831 3999
nic@spana.org**