



For the working animals of the world

Autumn 2014 • Issue 181

news



- **Ending the agony of poor harnessing**
- **Mali's riding school for disabled children**
- **Horses in the First World War**

SPANA WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT.
Thank you.

www.spana.org

4 Making headlines: all the latest SPANA news



Special appeal: Ending the agony of poor harnessing

8 SPANA in action: reports from the field



SPANA up close: Zimbabwe

12 SPANA around the world: meet some of the animals you're helping

14 SPANA in action: Beauty contest with a difference

15 Mali's riding school for disabled children



Opinion: War Horse - The immense contribution of horses in the Great War

18 Your SPANA: how you can help working animals worldwide



Jeremy visiting Kate Hosali's grave, June 2014

The incredible legacy of an inspirational woman

"Early on my first morning I went to the marketplace and treated a donkey's sore. Before I had finished, two more were at my elbow... I counted to forty then lost count... I expect this will continue until they all get cured."

These are the words of SPANA founder Kate Hosali on arriving in Marrakech in the early 1920s. True to her word, she stayed in Marrakech until her death in 1944, caring for the hardworking and forgotten animals on the city's streets.

This year is the 70th anniversary of Kate's death. SPANA has grown enormously, but everything we have achieved is entirely thanks to the overwhelming support we receive from people like you. In this issue you can learn more about how your support continues to ease suffering and save lives.

On page eight is a report from Ethiopia on the fantastic new animal handling centre that SPANA News readers funded, and you can learn about how our community development work is changing lives in Zimbabwe on page nine.

Over on page 14, there's news from a very unusual 'beauty pageant' that is improving welfare for mules in the High Atlas mountains, while on page 15 you can read about how our work benefits needy children as well as animals in Mali.

Finally, please take a look at our appeal on page six. Across the world, wounds are the most common reason why working animals find their way to our centres. Imagine the agony of poor harnessing rubbing on open, untreated wounds, day after day. Your kind donations can make all the difference to injured animals: together, we can end their suffering.

On behalf of everyone at SPANA and the animals we help, thank you so much for your kindness.

Jeremy Hulme

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

Head office 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB

Telephone 020 7831 3999 **Fax** 020 7831 5999

Donation line 0300 033 4999 **Email** enquiries@spana.org

If you'd like to receive regular updates 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



Last year, SPANA taught 62,267 children about animal welfare. With your help, we're developing children's compassion for animals from a young age through education - ensuring a better future for working animals.



SPANA IN THE NEWS

SOUL SINGER JOSS STONE KICKS OFF WORLD TOUR WITH A VISIT TO SPANA'S CASABLANCA CENTRE

Soul superstar visits Casablanca centre



Joss Stone helps out at an equitherapy session for disabled children at our Casablanca centre

Soul singer Joss Stone visited SPANA's Casablanca centre recently, as she kicked off the first leg of her world tour in Morocco.

Animal lover Joss spent the day getting to know some of the working animals at the centre before helping out at our riding school for children with disabilities.

Joss said: "I feel very lucky to have spent time with SPANA. Before visiting the charity I had no idea just how much

people rely on working animals here for their income and transport. There's a huge need for SPANA's free vet care, not only to help animals but also to help secure people's livelihoods. I've been totally inspired."

Jeremy Hulme, SPANA's chief executive, added: "We're so grateful to Joss for highlighting SPANA's work. Her passion for animals is obvious, and the children at the riding school were so thrilled to meet her."



JOSS STONE
©Stefano Berca

"I feel very lucky to have spent time with SPANA. Before visiting the charity I had no idea just how much people rely on working animals here for their income and transport. There's a huge need for SPANA's free vet care, not only to help animals but also to help secure people's livelihoods. I've been totally inspired."

ETHICAL PET INSURANCE COMPANY DONATES OVER £62,000

Help working animals in need by insuring your pet

Animal Friends is an ethical pet insurance company established in 1998 to provide insurance as a means to support animal welfare charities. The company's aims and values have helped them to become one of the largest pet insurance providers in the UK.

What's more, they have already donated over £1.7 million to animal welfare charities all over the world, including SPANA. In May 2014, Animal Friends donated £40,000 and we have also been delighted to receive gifts via their Employee of the Month scheme, Facebook charity competition and goodwill donations. In total, Animal Friends has donated a staggering £62,450 to SPANA.

Here's how you can help. We are proud affiliates of Animal Friends, so for each pet or equine you insure with them, SPANA will receive commission. Please call 0844 55 70 300 for further information – and don't forget to mention SPANA!



To insure your pet please call 0844 55 70 300 And don't forget to mention SPANA!

CLINT EASTWOOD'S HOLLYWOOD FILM CREW CALL ON SPANA

SPANA makes their day

We think all our vets are stars, but it's not often they take a call from Hollywood! However that's exactly what happened recently when our team were contacted by the crew of Clint Eastwood's latest film American Sniper, which was shooting close to the Moroccan capital, Rabat.

When a member of the film crew spotted some working animals in poor condition close to the set they got in touch with a nearby SPANA centre. Our team quickly dispatched a mobile clinic to the area to assess the working horses, donkeys and mules.

Throughout the day the team were kept busy treating wounds, rasping sharp teeth and trimming overgrown hooves. They also provided owners with new halters and soft hobbles to replace the old worn ones being used.

The demand was so great that the SPANA vets and farriers worked through lunch to help the growing queue of horses.

You may not see them on the red carpet, but we think our hardworking veterinary team are the real stars of this show!



NEWS IN BRIEF

Thanks to the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH), which represents the UK veterinary pharmaceutical industry, for raising over £3,000 for SPANA at their annual dinner.

SPANA's donkey mascot Nigel was in attendance, and director of veterinary programmes Dr Andy Stringer also gave a presentation about the work of the charity across the world.

SPANA staff from around the world joined over one hundred supporters in June for our annual Summer Party, which this year took place at St Thomas' Hospital, London. With spectacular views across the Thames to the Houses of Parliament, guests enjoyed a rare opportunity to discuss the charity's work with our country directors, while chief executive Jeremy Hulme introduced a series of films showing SPANA's recent work.



©Katie-Jane Cockerill
Dr Amadou Doumbia, SPANA Mali director



After nearly 30 years at the helm, Professor Hamid Belemlih has retired as SPANA Morocco's country director.

Professor Belemlih is succeeded by Professor

Hassan Alyakine. Chief executive Jeremy Hulme paid tribute to Professor Belemlih's achievements: "Hamid's skills and diplomacy have contributed hugely to the enormous improvement in animal welfare in Morocco over the last twenty years or so – not only that, I am privileged that he has become a good friend."

Please help end the agony of poor harnessing with a gift today

Imagine working 16 hours a day, pulling heavy loads under a scorching sun. Now imagine you were also wounded: a painful, infected sore that is never treated. For millions of hardworking animals, that agony is a daily reality – but it needn't be this way.

With your help we can ease the suffering of so many overworked horses, donkeys and mules. And that's why I am asking you to support our appeal for help today.

Sadly, wounds caused by poor harnessing are a very common problem. If a strap is pulled too tight or a harness is rubbing, it can result in a painful wound. Tack worn too loose can move around causing abrasion of the skin, and any sharp parts in a harness can cause deep cuts and increase the risk of serious infection and tetanus.

Unless wounds are treated and the harness replaced, sores will worsen and the agony will continue. Animals will often continue working, day after day in constant agony. Just imagine the constant rub of painful harnessing on an untreated wound.

With your help we can prevent the daily pain and suffering by ensuring these animals have proper harnessing and access to qualified vets.

Tragically, the torment caused by unsafe equipment is not confined to one area or country. Last year, of all the animals we treated worldwide, nearly a quarter had wounds and more than half of those wounds were caused by poor harnessing.

SPANA vets treat more than 40 animals every single day for painful wounds that could have been avoided with the use of appropriate equipment. We urgently need your kind support to help end this needless suffering by providing equipment such as padding and doughnut bandages.



A painful harness wound is treated

In so much of the world, owners fashion harnesses from whatever is available, since there are no professionals available. Your kind donation could train more harness makers, farriers and equipment suppliers, improving the quality of their products. These professionals can make a long term difference to the wellbeing of hundreds of working animals in their local area.

Ayana's story

Ayana worked through the pain

When SPANA vet Dr Hanna caught sight of this striking horse called Ayana in the Debre Zeit centre in Ethiopia, it was obvious she was in terrible pain.

Ayana works hard six days a week to transport goods and people to market. Her owner, Tengene, was concerned by a large wound across her chest. When our vet removed her harness it was very clear that the collar was the cause of her wound – rubbing against her chest constantly as she worked without complaint. What makes Ayana's suffering all the more upsetting is the fact that it could so easily have been avoided with a properly-fitted, padded harness.

Luckily for Ayana, which means 'beautiful flower', Dr Hanna was on hand to gently treat and dress her wounds. She gave her painkillers and antibiotics to clear the infection. Only when Ayana's wound had fully recovered, Dr Hanna gave Tengene a locally-made SPANA padded chest bandage with which to pad his horse's harness. These bandages and proper padding are vital in preventing the harness from rubbing and causing wounds in future.

A lasting change for working animals

By making a donation today you'll help to save animals, educate owners, improve access to vets and professionals, and provide equipment such as padding and bandages. Thanks to you, these hardworking animals could be free from the constant pain of their unsuitable harness.

Last year, thanks to your support, we distributed over 8,600 items of humane equipment including doughnut bandages, head collars, harnesses, bits and nose bands. Please help us distribute even more this year.

We can't do any of this without you. We would be so grateful if you would support this important appeal. We hate to see animals in pain, especially if that pain is avoidable. Thank you so much for your support.



Ayana's agonising chest wound

How your gift will make a difference

You can help hard working animals like Ayana to live and work free from pain.

£12 will buy 20 doughnut bandages used to pad harnesses and ensure that animals will not have to suffer like Ayana.

£24 could buy the medicines and bandages needed to treat the painful wounds of working animals.

£64 could pay for two animal owners to attend a SPANA education workshop. Here they will learn about how safe harnessing, appropriate loading and evenly-balanced carts can improve the long term health and welfare of their animals.



PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT APPEAL TODAY AND HELP PUT A STOP TO THE AGONISING SUFFERING OF UNTREATED WOUNDS.

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

Children hold the future of animal welfare in their hands



Education director, Diana Hulme, travels to Addis Ababa to see SPANA's centre take shape.

SPANA News readers' extraordinary response to our appeal to build a new animal handling facility in Ethiopia (issue 177, autumn 2012) was overwhelming. Since then, our team have been hard at work building a centre that will help a generation of young Ethiopian children foster a sense of empathy and compassion for animals. SPANA's education director, Diana Hulme, reports from Ethiopia.

I'm visiting Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to officially launch our latest animal handling centre, made possible only thanks to the generosity of SPANA News readers. Like our animal handling projects in Morocco and Jordan, the centre gives children the chance to see, and even handle friendly and well-socialised animals. For children raised alongside working animals, which are often seen as nothing more than an economic necessity, the handling centre is a fantastic way to evoke nurturing feelings and empathy for animals. The future for

so many of these children will involve working with animals, so building firm foundations of respect is vital.

Here in the city's university, SPANA's newly constructed centre is buzzing with children, teachers and local dignitaries, all here to mark an important day in the development of our Ethiopian education programme. We have never had an animal handling centre in the country – until today.

The animal handling centre will be open to schoolchildren from across the country, but priority will be given to those schools taking part in our Animal Club programme. So far, over 40 schools are signed up to the programme, which continues to expand.

"No-one in my class had ever seen a guinea pig before – they looked very strange when we first saw them! But I loved handling the animals and caring for them. My teacher will be bringing our class back to SPANA soon. I can't wait!"

Desta, a nine-year-old schoolboy from nearby Debre Zeit, spoke for many of the children when he shared his excitement: "I enjoy school very much, but I always look forward to Animal Clubs the most – we all do. I have animals at home, but we have never learned about their needs before at school."

Thanks to your support, thousands of Ethiopia's children will have the chance to develop empathy for animals and to appreciate that they have the same basic needs as people. It's an exciting day for the children but an important one too for the animals of Ethiopia.



© Kate Holt

Changing harnesses – and attitudes – in Zimbabwe



SPANA's community development advisor, Dr Macaulay Olagoke reports on the new programme.

Community development may be a new term to many, but its basic principles have been central to our work for over 90 years. SPANA founders Kate and Nina Hosali recognised that veterinary treatment alone could never be enough: where we treat, we must also teach. And that's why I'm here in Shashe, our community development field office in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe.

Community development involves working with animal owners to address the root causes of welfare problems rather than simply treating problems after they have arisen. Our work drives changes in attitudes and behaviours, promoting humane treatment of animals and reducing the need for veterinary services.

Located 700 miles from Harare, Shashe is one of five villages that form the focus of our community development work. Here local donkeys pull carts known as Spinikara, transporting water, produce and people around this sparsely populated region.



© Anna Fawcett

"It will take time and perseverance, but the benefits will be lasting."

The animals have access to our mobile clinic, but many of Matabeleland's working animals suffer from avoidable problems. Poor harnessing, coupled with owners' limited knowledge of animal welfare, make painful wounds commonplace.

Most are treatable, but local community development officer Pamella Nyathi and vets Erick Mutizhe and Andy Garura want to do more: they want to prevent wounds from occurring in the first place.

Andy explained: "SPANA's veterinary treatments show quick results – painkillers, antibiotics and bandaging make all the difference to ease suffering. But preventing those wounds is not so easy. Changing a dressing takes no time: changing attitudes can take a generation. It will take time and perseverance, but the benefits will be lasting."

I join Pamella, Erick and Andy at a workshop for donkey owners in nearby Mapani village, discussing a community plan to improve animal welfare. The owners settled on two early priorities: a small-scale local harness-making factory and a new shop to sell veterinary medicines. In a remote area like Matabeleland, these two changes alone could drive significant health improvements.

There is a long way still to go in Matabeleland, but how heartening it is to see the enthusiasm of the local community. The future looks brighter for Zimbabwe's working animals.

PROFILE Zimbabwe

In a country brought to its knees by political and economic problems, SPANA is providing a lifeline for animals and their owners

SPANA OPERATIONS

Zimbabwe is SPANA's newest country, with the permanent veterinary service launching in 2013, following a successful partnership project with a local charity. SPANA's two vets, Dr Erick and Dr Andy, travel up to 1,600km at a time in the mobile clinics to help thousands of working donkeys throughout the country. Around 95 per cent of the population live in poverty in Zimbabwe's rural areas and the mobile clinics are the only way for people to access veterinary care for the animals they rely upon.

A new programme of community development is also underway, helping to change owners' attitudes and practices to prevent avoidable problems for their animals (read more about our community development work on page 9).

SPANA Zimbabwe is now aiming to establish an education programme for children. Our two vets will go into local schools during the mobile clinic visits to teach the children about animal behaviour and welfare.

Two mobile clinics, visiting smaller towns, villages and rural communities in six provinces

Over 4,800 donkeys treated last year

More than 23,000 miles travelled by SPANA's mobile clinics in 2013

ZIMBABWE AT A GLANCE

Population 13,771,721

Area 390,757 km²

Location Southern Africa

Capital city Harare

Estimated working animal population 175,000



©Anna Fawcett

PERSONAL PROFILE Dr Erick Mutizhe, SPANA Zimbabwe vet



SPANA vet Dr Erick Mutizhe is on the road for his latest mobile clinic, a busy two-week period in the field, which he alternates with SPANA Zimbabwe's other vet, Dr Andy Garura. This time Erick is travelling throughout Manicaland, a rural and isolated province in the eastern part of the country.

Erick travels large distances in the mobile clinic to reach the many communities where animals require help and can treat as many as 600 donkeys during the fortnight. His day starts at 5.30am and owners arrive early in the morning with their donkeys

for the clinics, which last until late into the afternoon.

So what are the main issues Erick encounters? "There is a great need for SPANA's services in these areas. Wounds are a very common problem at the clinics, mostly caused by ill-fitting, makeshift harnesses. We also frequently treat eye conditions, diarrhoea, lameness and respiratory problems, as well as providing necessary deworming treatments and vaccinations against rabies - as many of the donkeys come into contact with other wildlife and bites pose a risk of infection."

Despite only being a core country since last year, Erick believes SPANA has already made an important difference in educating owners and improving the welfare of Zimbabwe's rural donkey population.

"In a relatively short space of time, SPANA has made a big impact in Zimbabwe. The overall health and wellbeing of the working donkeys has already improved and in the villages we visit, the owners are more educated

about how certain practices can be detrimental to their animals' health. Without SPANA the situation would be very bad, as no free and accessible treatments would be available. These animals would otherwise be neglected and donkey welfare would continue on a downward spiral. Thanks to SPANA, this is no longer the case."

The scale of the challenge is great, but Erick is very optimistic about the future:

"Extending our community development work, education programme for children and training new vets in Zimbabwe, alongside our veterinary work, will only improve things"

There is a great deal of work to do, but we are making significant progress in helping to improve animal welfare and this can only be good for working donkeys and the livelihoods of their owners and their families."

CASE FILE: Zimbabwe

Mary the donkey gets help just in time



Worms are a common problem our vets encounter. Although the problem can be prevented or quickly solved with the right medication, if left untreated the parasites can cause serious damage to animals' internal organs and can prove fatal.

The team encountered a serious case during a recent mobile clinic visit to Chipinge, where Dr Andy met Mary, a donkey who was losing weight at a dramatic rate.

Five-year-old Mary was brought to the clinic by her owner from his home in Checheche, where Mary pulls carts to help earn a living for his family. After carrying out tests, Dr Andy diagnosed worms as the cause of Mary's severe weight loss and immediately treated her with anti-parasite medicine.

Thankfully Mary's owner, Tungumai Zengeni, had found out about SPANA and was able to bring her to the mobile clinic before she suffered any further. Tungumai said:

"I now know more about SPANA and am grateful for the help you have given us. God bless you all."

As well as ensuring that Mary is regularly dewormed, the vets also advised Tungumai to bring Mary to the SPANA clinic should there be any further signs of weight loss in the future to prevent problems worsening.



Dr Andy treats his patient, Mary

SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

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



MOROCCO

Saad the donkey on the road to recovery

In poorer countries, many families have no livelihoods without their working animals. When an injury happens, it's important that SPANA's vets can provide treatment as quickly as possible to ensure a swift recovery.

Six-year-old donkey Saad was brought to the SPANA centre in Chemaia with a large wound on his shoulder, which happened after he had rolled on the ground and cut himself on glass.

His owner 57-year-old Fatna Ziani was very concerned for Saad's wellbeing, as he helps support her large family. Fatna is a widow with four sons, who also looks after her three young grandchildren following the death of her son's wife. Without Saad, who generates an income for Fatna through transporting construction materials and other objects, she would have no means of providing for the family that depend on her.

Saad was clearly nervous about people going near the deep cut, but the vets were able to calm him and examine the wound. The team cleaned the wound, which had become dirty, and stitched it under local anaesthetic. They gave Saad painkillers, anti-tetanus drugs and antibiotics, which Fatna was instructed to give him for five days, to prevent infection.

After ten days of recovery, Saad's wound had healed well and Fatna was extremely relieved. She said: "I thank SPANA for everything they have done for Saad. Without him I wouldn't have any money to look after my family."

"I thank SPANA for everything they have done for Saad. Without him I wouldn't have any money to look after my family."

TUNISIA

Atifa's painful wound

Atifa, a seven-year-old donkey, was brought to the SPANA mobile clinic in the town of Kasserine, Tunisia suffering from a large sore on his back.

Atifa lives in a mountainous region, largely inaccessible by road, where he carries loads up steep, rocky inclines. The painful wound had gradually developed due to the constant rubbing of a homemade harness and his owner Brahim Adwani had brought Atifa to the SPANA clinic to seek proper treatment. Brahim is disabled and depends on his donkey to transport food and water to his wife and three children, as well as carrying halfa grass which Brahim can trade in nearby villages to earn an income.

After giving Atifa a thorough examination, the SPANA vet team identified the poor quality harness as the cause of his problems, combined with a lack of rest. The team gently cleaned the wound with antiseptic solution and gave Atifa painkilling anti-inflammatory drugs to ensure he was comfortable. They then securely bandaged the wound to protect it from infection.

"I am very grateful to SPANA for helping me to keep my animal safe and in good health."



To prevent a repeat of this type of injury, our vets showed Brahim how to pad and fit the harness properly, so that it would be safe and comfortable for Atifa to wear. They also advised Brahim that his donkey would need to rest for at least a month and that the wound would need to be cleaned daily.

Brahim was pleased that the improved harness would help ensure Atifa's wellbeing in future and thanked our vets. He said: "I am very grateful to SPANA for helping me to keep my animal safe and in good health."

JORDAN

Sultan the camel riding high again

Sultan the camel arrived at the SPANA mobile clinic near to Amman with deep sores behind his ears.

SPANA vet Dr Saeed instantly noticed that the head collar Sultan was wearing was too small for him and the rubbing of the collar had caused the tender wounds, as well as irritating his eyes. The restrictive position of the collar next to Sultan's throat was also making it difficult for him to swallow.

Sultan's owner Zaki is a Bedouin, whose family lead a nomadic life. When temperatures soar to intense levels in the Jordan Valley during the summer months, Zaki's family move closer to Amman to find new pastures and a water source for their animals, before returning in the winter. Camels are essential to the lives of the Bedouin people, providing milk for families and carrying their belongings. The same is true of one-and-a-half-year-old Sultan, who has a critical role for Zaki's family, transporting their tents and making it possible for them to move when needed.

Dr Saeed removed the head collar, which was later replaced with a properly-fitting one, before administering eye drops



and treating Sultan's wounds. Dr Saeed instructed Zaki to rest Sultan for a week to allow his wounds to heal fully.

Zaki said: "The new collar fits Sultan very well and he is no longer in pain. SPANA look after our camels and are always there when we need help."

"The new collar fits Sultan very well and he is no longer in pain. SPANA look after our camels and are always there when we need help"

A beauty contest with a difference for the mountain mules of Morocco

In the High Atlas mountains of Morocco, mules have been perfecting their catwalk turns for a unique beauty contest that's improving the lives of around 500 working animals in this beautiful but isolated region. SPANA's chief executive Jeremy Hulme reports from his latest visit.

The steep, winding road leading up to the remote villages of Morocco's stunning High Atlas mountains is one I have travelled many times before. I know each turn in the road, and I know also many of the people who somehow survive in this poor and mountainous region.

But familiarity hasn't reduced the impact of this incredible landscape. Climbing from the hot and dusty plains south of Marrakech, you quickly find yourself surrounded by white mountain peaks, villages that cling to the hillsides - and lots and lots of mules.

In this terrain, travelling from village to village would be impossible by car, and only the larger towns have decent access by road. So the local community relies on mules to work as delivery trucks, tourist taxis and transport in and out of the hillside villages, where the harsh terrain can make access by vehicle impossible.

In such an isolated and impoverished community, you might expect the animals to be in a poor condition. But that's far from the truth.

SPANA's mobile clinic makes regular trips to Imlil, the main village in the region, and animals are brought from miles around to access veterinary care, dentistry and farriery. The mobile clinic is a vital lifeline for these animals, but between visits it's the owners themselves who make sure their animals are healthy, well fed and well treated.



© Anne Heslop

SPANA's been working with the muleteers here for years, improving their knowledge of animal welfare and rewarding owners who treat their animals well.

The highlight of the muleteers' year is SPANA's annual Best Kept Mule contest, which has become a popular fixture in the local calendar, and I'm making my yearly visit to award prizes to the best owners. SPANA vets award points throughout the year, based on how well owners are caring for their mules, and winners are recognised at the annual ceremony.

Four villages currently enter the competition and winning muleteers receive a small financial prize and a bag of barley to feed their animals.

In a region where mules really do provide the economic backbone of the community, these awards have given local people a new perspective on the importance of animal welfare.

By promoting the awards we have captured the imagination of the community and provided an even greater incentive for owners to look after their animals well throughout the year.

Our long term goal is to change attitudes and make local people aspire to provide these hardworking animals with the care and respect they deserve.

Mali's riding school for disabled children

Changing lives, one ride at a time...



In Bamako, Mali's capital city, the SPANA team work to improve the lives of children with severe disabilities through our riding school for disabled children rehabilitation programme. One child, Sekou Diakite, couldn't sit down when he first came for treatment, but within a year he was comfortably sat on our horse, Punky. By the end of the second year he was standing, and after three years he was managing to walk. Children are referred to SPANA by local disability organisations, and as Sekou's story shows, time spent with our team of physiotherapists and animals like Punky can make a huge difference. Punky was rescued from a tough life on the city's streets, and now loves his new life at the SPANA centre. He's pampered by staff and loved by the children.

Mali's riding school for disabled children



War Horse: The immense contribution of horses during the Great War

Much-loved Uncle Jack, who had served long and hard in the trenches of the First World War, often talked to me of his experiences - after all, I was also a soldier, in the infantry, so perhaps I might understand just a little of what he'd been through.

One story made a lasting impression on me. He was in the London Rifle Brigade, and one morning in late 1915 they'd gone 'over the top', into withering shell and machine gun fire. The attack failed - half of them killed or wounded - and by the evening they were back in the same trench they had started from - exhausted, bitter and disillusioned.

Then the Germans started shelling the rear areas, where a large number of horses were tethered. Terrified and injured they bolted, jumping the trenches and careering out into 'no man's land' until trapped and entangled in the terrible barbed wire, screaming with fear and pain. Immediately the soldiers left the safety of their trench and went forward to deal with the horses. "Well", he said, "we just couldn't leave the poor creatures suffering like that." What he hadn't said was that there were wounded men lying out there too, but it took the screams of the horses to get their exhausted bodies back into action.

Over a million horses and mules served Britain in that terrible war, and only 62,000 returned. Yet they were very, very precious. The army had scoured farms and stables across the land for the horses they needed (as in 'War Horse'), but farms were run almost entirely with horse traction, and the

One hundred years on from the start of the First World War, chief executive Jeremy Hulme reflects on the horses that made an immeasurable contribution during the conflict

Royal Army Veterinary Corps bandage a wounded horse at Abbeville, April 1918

© IWM

nation desperately needed food, so there were few spare. One famous (but understandably unpopular) general once said, "I don't care much about the men; I can replace them, but for God's sake, look after those horses."

Everything depended on horses and mules. A single battery of horse artillery needed 228 horses to function. Almost all the ammunition, food and supplies arrived at the front in the famous General Service Wagon (and not a few casualties were carried back in them), drawn by two or more long-suffering mules or horses. Keeping these animals fit and well was a major problem - and the Royal Army Veterinary Corps rose magnificently to meet that challenge. Eighty per cent of the injured animals treated by them were able to return to duty.

Captain of a British regiment leading his horse with his pet dog resting on the saddle, August 1918

A horse and water cart stuck in the mud during the Battle of Passchendaele, August 1917



Like the LRB men, soldiers felt they also had a duty to the horses in return for their patience and hard work. They depended on the animals, the animals depended on them. That reminds me of SPANA and our work today.

"I don't care much about the men; I can replace them, but for God's sake, look after those horses."

One hundred years on and animals are still suffering terribly in present-day conflicts. Our determination at SPANA to reach animals in great need means that we have worked in many of the most brutal war zones in recent years – from Kosovo and Iraq to Afghanistan – and we strive to continue providing help wherever it is needed. This vital assistance is only possible thanks to your kind and unwavering support - a constant for these animals amid the turmoil and uncertainty.



70 years on from the death of our founder Kate Hosali, everyone at SPANA is still inspired by her adventurous spirit, resilience and determination to help animals no matter what obstacles were in her way.

Will you leave a gift to help animals like Mary and Atifa?

At SPANA, we continue to travel to wherever working animals need us; helping sick and injured animals like Mary and Atifa, whose stories are featured on pages 11 and 13. These donkeys were able to receive treatment only because SPANA's mobile clinics allow us to reach remote regions.

Many supporters, who care deeply about alleviating the suffering of working animals like Mary, find it a comfort to know that they can go on helping for many years to come by leaving a legacy to SPANA.

We appreciate that when writing or updating a Will you may have family and friends to consider first and foremost. A common sentiment we hear from supporters when they are thinking about leaving a legacy to SPANA is that they don't know if there will be anything left. One way to overcome this issue is to consider leaving a residuary gift.

After you have provided for your loved ones and all debts, expenses, pecuniary (cash) gifts and specific gifts have been



If you would like to help animals like Mary with a gift in your Will call 020 7831 3999

paid – you can leave the remainder, or part of it, as a residuary gift to enable SPANA to help animals in need. What is more, as a share of your estate rather than a set amount, your gift is much more likely to retain its value over time - allowing us to do even more for hardworking donkeys, horses and livestock. We are very grateful for every legacy, whatever the type and whatever the size and recognise the compassion behind each and every one.

If you would like to help animals like Mary with a gift in your Will and you need more information on legacies or how these gifts can help, you can speak to one of our friendly legacy team or request a copy of our free SPANA legacies guide by phoning 020 7831 3999 or visiting www.spana.org/legacy.

If you have already left a gift to SPANA in your Will, or if you would prefer us not to write to you about this subject in future, please do let us know. This helps us communicate with you appropriately and keeps our costs down.

© Victor Kleive

Supporter News

Get involved, have fun and help working animals worldwide!

New Year party

Date: Thursday, 15 January 2015

Time: Noon – 3pm

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

Do come along to SPANA's New Year party. You can meet SPANA staff, other supporters, watch films of our work and get all the latest news. For more information and to book your place, please call Nicola on 020 7831 3999. But hurry - space is limited and places are first-come, first-served.

To book your place at SPANA's New Year party call Nicola on 020 7831 3999



Artist's new gift cards

A new set of gift cards featuring the paintings of donkeys by Edinburgh-based artist Caroline Fulton will be available from the Happy Hooves shop this Christmas or at the Happy Hooves website, www.happyhooves.org.

Caroline moved to Essaouira, Morocco in 2007 where she painted the local working animals and wildlife in traditional colours and patterns. Living in the medina, with no cars for transport, Caroline was inspired to paint the numerous donkeys pulling carts loaded with fresh produce, piles of rubble and building materials, as well as the local people in taxi carriages. **To read more about Caroline's work and see a gallery of images, visit her website: www.carolinefulton.com**

Community fundraising



SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme and education director Diana Hulme with supporters Martin Humphrey and actor Peter Egan

Long term SPANA supporters Martin and Angela Humphrey, who are retiring from fundraising after 75 years, held no less than five charity tea parties at their home in north London this summer for five different animal charities. Jeremy and Diana Hulme attended the SPANA event and were delighted to be presented with a cheque for £1,000. Our sincere thanks to Martin and Angela.

SPANA WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT.

Lift-off for fundraising groups

Responding to supporters' requests, the community fundraising team is proud to introduce SPANA's first official fundraising groups. Travelling the length and breadth of the nation, we have so far set up groups in London, Bristol, Lancashire, Birmingham and Manchester. Drawing on the skills and talents of supporters, the new groups make fundraising for SPANA a personal, fun and social activity.

Would you be interested in joining a group or setting up a new one? You can make a real difference and we'll back you every step of the way.

Special birthday present

This year saw a special celebration for very special supporter, Ann Weir. Celebrating her 70th birthday in style at a local hall surrounded by friends, family and a fantastic band, Ann dedicated her occasion to SPANA, raising an incredible £610. She screened SPANA films and helped raise awareness about our work. This amazing cake was made by Ann's friend Audrey. A big thank you to Ann.



Charity Carriage Drive

Having seen SPANA's work first-hand in recent years in Morocco, Jordan and Ethiopia, Barbara Mills was inspired to organise a Charity Carriage Drive to raise funds for working animals. This lovely event in the New Forest saw working horses here in the UK doing their bit for their less fortunate counterparts overseas. The event raised a fantastic £325. Thank you to Barbara and fellow SPANA supporters Sue Smorfit, Patsy Baverstock and Gill Griffin.



Sue and Patsy with one of the drivers, Fred Howland and his mare, Jubilee

Thank you!

Thank you to all of these amazing people for their support. For more information about fundraising groups and organising a fundraising event for working animals, contact the community fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org

Remember the little donkeys this Christmas

This year our Happy Hooves shop is even better! We have some wonderful Christmas gifts for the home, a few tasty treats and great stocking fillers for your family and friends. We also have a fantastic selection of Christmas cards for you to choose from and for those wanting something a little more special we have the Gifts of Health and Happiness. These gifts will provide food, water or veterinary treatments to working animals. Money raised from Happy Hooves goes directly to donkeys, mules, horses and camels in need, so you know your gift will be making the difference and that working animals will have a happy Christmas too!

To view all our gifts, please visit and order online at www.happyhooves.org

or call 0300 033 4999



Daisy the Cow Double
Oven Gloves



Handmade
and Handpainted
Tunisian Bowl



Handmade and
Handpainted
Tunisian Jug

Tea Caddy
(including
teabags)



Gourmet
Dog and Cat
Crackers



£4.00

Tin of
Fudge