



news

For the working animals of the world

Autumn 2015 • Issue 183

Thank you
SPANNA WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

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Welcome to the latest issue of SPANA News



I'm excited to announce some 'enormous' news in this issue, as SPANA will be helping a new type of working animal in our latest programme. Whatever the species, we believe that all working animals in need deserve our support. On page four, you can find out more about this new species, which we're sure will leave a big' impression!

In our appeal this issue, we urgently need your support to help animals in critical need when emergencies arise. Over the years, I'm sad to say I've seen first-hand the devastating impact of so many emergency situations – from man-made crises, such as conflict and civil war, to natural disasters like flooding and drought.

All too often animals are overlooked during these emergencies – the forgotten victims. But SPANA is not prepared to sit back and watch them suffer and die in terrible situations. That is why we launched our Emergency Fund to ensure our veterinary teams can respond quickly and decisively to help animals that desperately need our help. With your support for our emergencies appeal on page six, when disaster strikes we will be ready at short notice to relieve suffering and save the lives of animals.

As well as our ability to act quickly in a crisis, SPANA's work since the very beginning has been about making a lasting difference to animal welfare. Throughout this issue we're highlighting how important gifts in our supporters' Wills are to SPANA, funding around half of our veterinary and education work. We're so grateful for these generous gifts and we take very seriously our duty to ensure every penny is spent wisely, benefiting the greatest number of animals now and for generations to come. You can rest assured that a gift to SPANA will bring about a better future for working animals – an enduring legacy.

Thank you as always for your support,

Jeremy Hulme Chief Executive

PS. In recent months, there has been a lot of negative publicity about the way that charities communicate with supporters and share personal information with other organisations. I want to reassure you that SPANA takes your privacy very seriously. We really value the support of people who share our compassion for working animals and we will never sell or trade your details to anyone.

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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

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

A lifeline for thirsty animals

In Marrakech, Morocco, temperatures in the summer regularly exceed 40°C. In the sweltering heat, it's essential that thirsty animals can easily access water.

To keep working animals hydrated, SPANA has its own horse-drawn water cart, driven by Abdeljail Loudini, delivering a lifesaving supply of cool, fresh water throughout the city. With his team of trusty horses – Rabeh, Marbouh and Massaoud – Abdeljail visits SPANA's eight water troughs in the city to refill them every day. The troughs were built by SPANA in 2008, thanks to our supporters, to address the dangerous lack of water available for animals working under the boiling sun.

The horses have plenty of rest and water during their deliveries, and only two horses are used at a time to ensure that they have several days off each week. Abdeljail maintains the troughs and carries out repairs where needed. Holding around a ton of water each, they are a lifeline for Marrakech's working animals.



SPANA IN THE NEWS

Thanks to our supporters who've signed up to Gift Aid we've raised an extra £222,285 this year

'Jumbo' news as SPANA helps new species of working animal



For the first time, SPANA will be helping working elephants – a new species for the charity – following the launch of an exciting new programme in Myanmar (Burma).

An estimated 6,000 Asian elephants are still used in Myanmar's timber industry to pull logs, but there is currently very little veterinary care available for them. SPANA will also be helping to improve the welfare of other working animals in the country, such as 150,000 taxi horses.

Initially, SPANA will principally be providing training to veterinary students in the South East Asian country. Around 250 vets currently graduate from our partner university in Myanmar each year, but very few specialise in treating equines and this is one area where SPANA's expertise will be valuable.

New research will also be undertaken to find practical ways to improve the

situation for working animals, such as designing comfortable, humane harnesses for elephants dragging heavy logs, which will prevent rubbing and painful wounds.

Chief executive Jeremy Hulme said: "We're very excited to assist working elephants in Myanmar and to expand SPANA's reach to a new part of the world. Whatever the species, we're ready to help any working animals wherever the need exists.

"These animals are a lifeline for the poor communities they support, and it's only right that we're there for them to ensure they have a life free from suffering. Thanks to supporters like you, we can be."



In-patients waiting for treatment at the new SPANA centre in Rosso

New Rosso centre opens in Mauritania

SPANA has opened a brand new veterinary centre in Rosso, Mauritania. The centre offers the only veterinary treatment available to working animals in the area and will help hundreds of animals each year.

The city of Rosso lies on the border of Mauritania and Senegal, next to the banks of the Senegal river. It is a major centre of trading between the two countries and working horses and donkeys are bought and sold in large numbers every day. However, many of these animals are often in a poor condition.

The centre is open 24 hours a day throughout the year and is run by a SPANA vet, assisted by a veterinary technician. As well as providing treatment, the centre will also be a valuable base for veterinary students in training from the veterinary university in Dakar, Senegal – which hosts students from 15 French-speaking African countries – who will be able to observe and learn about working animal medicine and surgery. SPANA's presence in the area will also ensure that good welfare practices are encouraged among local animal owners and knowledge is shared about proper care for their animals.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our appeal to help elderly animals in Rosso, which has raised over £195,000 so far. Your support is making a very clear difference for these animals.

New overseas clinical skills centres to boost veterinary treatment for working animals

A new set of “clinical skills centres” has been established by SPANA to help ensure that vet students in the countries where SPANA has partnerships with universities are fully prepared and have the skills and confidence they need to treat horses, donkeys and other working animals effectively when they graduate. The centres, which are based inside the university veterinary schools, allow undergraduate students to practice the skills required for their first role in the field as a qualified vet, without the pressure of time or concerns about practising on live animals.

SPANA currently runs four centres in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Morocco and Tunisia, and three additional centres will be set up in Jordan, Senegal and Myanmar before the end of 2015. Supervised by a clinical tutor throughout, each centre has different stations that enable students to hone practical skills, such as practising stitching wounds (‘suturing’) on artificial skin pads and taking blood samples.

The concept of these centres was based on the Royal Veterinary College’s impressive facility in London, and



Vet students in Ethiopia benefit from the clinical skills centre

reflects the practical assessments that UK vets must successfully complete to qualify.

Veterinary director Francesca Compostella said: “These new centres will produce vets with a better awareness of horses and donkeys, stronger clinical skills and more confidence to tackle their first job in practice. Raising the standards of veterinary training overseas is crucial in making sure that we reach as many working animals as we can, and that each one receives the best possible treatment.”

Shock discovery for SPANA Jordan vets following snowstorm rescue

A dramatic rescue took place at our SPANA centre in Jordan earlier this year.

A severe snowstorm hit the capital Amman in January, taking everyone by surprise. During the night, the SPANA Jordan country director, Dr Ghazi, received an urgent phone call about a donkey that had been spotted outdoors and alone in the middle of the storm. He was very concerned as temperatures had dropped suddenly to -5°C .

The SPANA team assembled and set off in their vehicle to find the donkey. Much like for humans, being exposed to freezing temperatures for a prolonged period can be very serious for donkeys, with a very real risk of frostbite, hypothermia, and ultimately fatal consequences.

The driving snow made the search difficult, but it was a huge relief when the team eventually found the donkey. They rushed the animal – which they fittingly named “Snowy” – back to the SPANA centre in Wadi Al-Seer, where a warm and dry stable with food was waiting for her.

Fortunately, the initial examination by SPANA vets was reassuring and they felt confident she would recover from her ordeal. However, a further surprise was in store – the team discovered that Snowy was pregnant.

Snowy recuperated at the SPANA centre over the next couple of months and the team were thrilled when



she gave birth to a healthy little foal, named “Snowball”, in March.

Snowy’s owner could not be found, but happily a new home was found for the pair, with a responsible local animal owner well known to SPANA.

Your generous donations are absolutely vital for SPANA and this emergency rescue and its happy ending simply wouldn’t have happened without your support.



Snowy and Snowball safe and sound in the SPANA centre in Jordan



Emergency Response Appeal

Wherever and whenever, you can ensure we are always there to help animals in dire need

Disasters can strike at any time. They are unpredictable, turning animals' lives into chaos having heartbreaking consequences. Whether it's from natural causes or when conflict threatens, the poorest and most vulnerable communities are usually hit the hardest.

Wherever and whenever they're needed, SPANA vets are poised ready to act

Our vets are passionate and dedicated to help those caught in the line of fire, safeguarding animals and the livelihoods of the people who rely on them. When disaster strikes, SPANA vets will go wherever the often-forgotten animals need them and strive to keep communities fending for themselves.

In 2006, the Mandera region of Kenya lost a staggering 70 per cent of its working animals to drought. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, an emergency feeding programme gave feed to over 20,000 starving animals that remained.

After being increasingly called upon to help in these large-scale emergency situations, it seemed that no sooner had one crisis been dealt with, another occurred – straining the budgets even further. As a response, SPANA set up a dedicated emergency fund solely for the purpose of providing immediate aid as soon as these catastrophes happen. Waiting until we raised the funds was simply too late.

"We couldn't stand by and watch these animals waste away"

– Jeremy Hulme, chief executive

In 2011, drought struck in Kenya again and as the situation rapidly deteriorated even further, we had to act quickly to save the lives of countless animals. Thanks to the generosity of SPANA supporters, who donated to the emergency fund, 50,000 animals received food, and over 80,000

animals were vaccinated against common disease. Our vets worked tirelessly over a four month period to help them survive the drought.

Disasters will happen again. Waiting until the next one strikes is not an option – we need to prepare now. A gift today can help ensure that our vets are equipped and ready to act the next time myriads of animals lives hang in the balance.



SPANA provides lifesaving water to animals suffering during extreme drought

In 2012 and 2013, the 'Arab Spring' and the overthrow of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak left hundreds of carriage horses fighting for their lives. Popular amongst tourists, these notable horses carry passengers around the pyramids in Cairo every day. When tourist numbers plummeted working animals became the forgotten victims of the crisis. Owners could not afford to feed them anymore and hundreds faced starvation. Again, the emergency fund provided feed for over 5,400 horses. This intervention saved their lives and ensured the future livelihoods of many of Cairo's carriage horses.

"If the vets are not equipped with the resources they need, the animals cannot be saved"

– Francesca Compostella, director of veterinary programmes

Starvation and dehydration compromise the immune systems of animals caught in disasters. They become lethargic, less responsive and susceptible to many more infectious diseases. Consuming mouldy hay and stagnant water – commonly found in areas affected by drought or flooding – invites colic, diarrhoea and respiratory disorders. The vets must act quickly to administer treatments so they are kept protected through the worst of it.

More resources need to be ready for when disaster strikes again. A gift from you can make the difference between life and death for thousands of innocent animals.

Through experience, we have learnt a valuable lesson – fast action is paramount. Without the funds for emergencies, when relief is needed, we may be forced to stand by and watch as animals waste away. By leaving a legacy towards the emergency fund, you can secure a long-term future for the animals struggling to survive the next disaster.

This shockingly thin ox in Mandera, Kenya, was one of the many thousands of animals helped by SPANA's emergency feeding programme during the 2011 drought



How your gift can make a difference

You can save the lives of animals caught in disaster by donating today. Whenever and wherever the disaster, here is how your gift can provide emergency relief to a working animal in dire need:

£16 Feed This gift could feed three malnourished horses for one week to help build their strength and give them a chance for survival.

£38 Water This gift could contribute towards the building of a well to help provide lifesaving drinking water to dehydrated working animals.

£76 Full Emergency Veterinary Kit

Your gift could supply the vets with the tools they need in the field. The kit contains vaccinations, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. It also includes essential equipment such as needles, syringes, a catheter, a fluid giving set, thermometer and a stethoscope.

Please support our Emergency Fund and reach out to working animals whenever and wherever they are next struck by disaster. We cannot afford to wait until the next disaster strikes. The response must begin now.

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

A gift in your Will can help rebuild the lives of animals and their owners long after the emergency is over.

A roaring success in Zimbabwe



Diana Hulme, education director, reports from the launch of our new education programme in Zimbabwe

As the car pulled up at the site of SPANA's latest children's education project, just outside Harare, I shouldn't have been surprised to hear animals. But here at SPANA Zimbabwe, the sound that greets our visitors isn't the gentle braying of donkeys...

Zimbabwe has only recently become a core SPANA programme, with our mobile clinic now travelling over 23,000km each year to treat sick and injured working animals in rural communities. But unlike our other core countries, SPANA Zimbabwe doesn't yet have a children's education programme.

Veterinary care is vital – but so too is compassion. That's why humane education has been at the heart of our work since the beginning. Each year more than 50,000 school children from across Africa and the Middle East take part in our programme, learning how to care for animals and, equally importantly, developing empathy.

So I'm here in Zimbabwe to see how our latest project is coming along. In many respects it's not too different from our other education programmes. There will be animal handling areas for the young children, we'll have teachers delivering lessons in the classroom and visitors will learn all about the welfare needs of animals in our exhibition area.

There's one big difference though. I'm used to hearing the chatter of noisy donkeys at a SPANA centre, but not here. The first sound to greet me as I open the car door is unmistakably a roar – and it sounds worryingly close!

Walking around the side of the classroom I come face to face with the source of the terrifying noise: a proud and playful lion called Butch.

Luckily for me though there's a fence between us. SPANA's new education project is located within a big cat sanctuary, where the lions, not surprisingly, are the biggest draw. Groups of school children already visit the sanctuary, keen to learn more about their extraordinary local wildlife.



Now, with SPANA's involvement, they will also learn about the welfare needs of domestic and working animals. Donkeys may be a little less exciting than lions to many of our younger visitors, but we're helping a new generation of Zimbabweans recognise that working animals are no less deserving of our respect.

I take a tour of the facility. Work on site is progressing well, and Keith, my host and SPANA's Zimbabwe country director, is optimistic that work will be completed on time, ready to welcome our first children in the New Year.

Keith tells me that we're expecting up to 60 children per visit, arriving by coach. After a quick introduction to the big draw for the pupils – the lions – they will head over to the classroom for a series of films, activities and lessons, before moving on to an exhibition that helps children explore and understand the needs of wild, working and domestic animals.

After lunch the children will have a chance to meet our resident donkey and handle some of the small animals – although not the lions!

SPANA Zimbabwe is already getting help to animals in desperate need. But now, thanks to your kind support, we're also securing the future of animal welfare in the country, challenging attitudes and changing behaviours to make life for Zimbabwe's working animal population a little easier.



The home of SPANA Zimbabwe's new education programme

Working with communities



Community training advisor, Dr Macaulay Olagoke leads a training course for local carthorse owners in Ethiopia

The drive from Addis Ababa airport to SPANA's centre just outside the capital is a depressing one for anyone who cares for animals. Despite the gridlocked traffic, the streets remain packed with horses and many are in a poor state of health. The most common problem is lameness: overloaded carts pulled by exhausted horses in obvious pain are everywhere.

Our team of vets perform near-miraculous work every day, but lameness, which can be caused by countless underlying problems, can't always be resolved. That's why SPANA Ethiopia has stepped up its community training programme in Ethiopia, which aims not just to relieve suffering but to prevent it.

Arriving at Debre Brehan, a small town bustling with countless horse-drawn carts, I meet up with Dr Nigatu Akilu, SPANA's country director, who will be joining me in leading a one-day training course for 25 local horse owners. The focus of our course is lameness, and with a severe shortage of skilled farriers available across the country, particularly in remote rural villages, we are joined too by local farriers who will be helping owners develop the basic skills required to keep their horses' feet in good condition.

Poor farriery, often involving makeshift materials tacked onto horses' hooves with masonry nails, can have devastating results and lead to constant pain and incurable lameness. Along with helping delegates to look after their own animals' feet, our training gives owners the knowledge to identify a skilled farrier and recognise a job done well.

Along with the practical farriery lessons, we also help owners understand how reducing loads can keep their animals healthy. Overloading is a common sight on the streets nearby, yet many owners had never appreciated the link with lameness. As working animals are the only source of income for many poor families, owners are very aware how important it is to keep them healthy and are only too keen to learn how they can secure the health of their animals – and the income of their family.

At the end of the day, I was approached by a young horse owner, Showwaye, who bounded over to me enthusiastically

and declared, "From now on I will care for the hooves of my horses as I care for the feet of my children."

Of course Showwaye's animals will benefit from his concern and his understanding of how to care for them properly. But as he returns to his community with this new knowledge and enthusiasm, as his friends and family come to see how his animals are happier, healthier and more productive, other animals will benefit too.

Thanks to your generous support SPANA's community training programme is delivering change that lasts, putting an end to avoidable sickness and injuries, and ensuring working animals are treated with kindness, dignity and respect.

“From now on I will care for the hooves of my horses as I care for the feet of my children.”



© Dylan Thomas

“Your charity has been included in my Will because SPANA realises that without their animals, many people have nothing.”

Miss Patsy Quinn

PROFILE Ethiopia

With Africa's largest equine population, the challenges in Ethiopia are great, but SPANA's progress is very clear to see.

SPANA OPERATIONS

Since 2002, SPANA has been helping working horses in Ethiopia. The charity is tackling a wide range of issues affecting equines in the country. Wounds, lameness, eye problems and malnutrition are some of the common problems our vets encounter, in addition to deadly infectious diseases such as Epizootic Lymphangitis (EZL) and African Horse Sickness.

Alongside our veterinary work, SPANA runs a community training programme, working with animal owners to address the root causes of welfare issues and prevent avoidable problems. The programme includes training for local carthorse owners in basic animal care, focusing on practical skills such as proper harnessing and providing suitable feed.

More than 16,000 children benefited from our education programme last year, attending after-school clubs and visiting our recently-opened animal handling centre. The centre gives children the opportunity to see and handle animals, helping to foster feelings of compassion and respect towards them.

- **One permanent veterinary centre** in Debre Zeit
- **Two mobile clinics** visiting the surrounding areas of Modjo, Adama, Debre Brehan, Akaki, Shashemene, Hawassa, Sheno, Sebeta and Holota
- **Over 10,000 veterinary treatments** provided to working animals last year

ETHIOPIA AT A GLANCE

- Population **90,076,012**
- Area **1,104,300 km²**
- Location **East Africa**
- Capital city **Addis Ababa**
- Estimated working horse population **2,500,000 horses**



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PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Dr Nigatu Aklilu, SPANA Ethiopia country director



© Karel Prinsloo

How long have you been working for SPANA?

I have been working for SPANA Ethiopia since April 2004. Initially, I worked as an equine clinician for a year, and then as a project leader for five years, before being appointed country director in April 2010.

How important are working animals in Ethiopia?

Ethiopia has the largest equine population in Africa. These animals are the backbone of the economy and the sole source of income for millions of people who depend on them. They are the key means of transportation for

people in rural areas and many towns, and transport almost all agricultural produce to market, as well as water, firewood and construction materials. Equines relieve the burden on women, enable children to go to school and help transport the poorest people to hospital. Yet, despite their importance, these animals are also the most neglected. Their welfare is often badly managed by their owners due to a lack of government services, poor awareness, deep-rooted negative attitudes and poverty.

What are your main goals for 2016?

We have a wide range of ambitious goals, including expansion of our animal welfare clubs to reach more school children; training more farriers and improving farriery services; and creating or strengthening local by-laws in all towns to improve animal welfare, working closely with municipal authorities, traffic police, carthorse associations and livestock agencies. We would also like to introduce a new ambulance to provide veterinary services in other more distant locations.

Has the situation improved for working animals since SPANA Ethiopia began?

There has been a significant improvement in our areas of operation, where we see only minor wounds and fewer cases of colic, lameness, eye problems and infectious diseases, such as EZL. This is the result of our veterinary work and community training programmes. Ethiopia is a huge country however and we are constantly working to find ways to reach even more animals and achieve our goal of good welfare for all working animals.

Are you optimistic about the future for working animals and animal welfare in Ethiopia?

I am very optimistic about the future. We are tackling the problems from different angles – providing veterinary treatment; training professionals, veterinary students, and the current owners; and changing attitudes amongst school children – the animal owners of the future. We are also working with the government to help develop and implement animal welfare policies, which will help bring about positive changes across the country.

CASE FILE: Ethiopia

Getting Bullo back into his stride

When cart owner **Almaztakele Megbaru** noticed that her beloved six-year-old horse **Bullo** was having trouble walking, she brought him straight to the local SPANA mobile clinic to get checked over.

Bullo helps Almaztakele earn a living and provide for her family by pulling a cart that transports passengers and goods around the town of Modjo in Ethiopia. She noticed that Bullo started having trouble bearing weight on his right-hind hoof and was hobbling.

SPANA vets examined, trimmed and cleaned Bullo's hooves in case that was the cause of his discomfort but, despite this, he continued to limp. After further examination of his back legs, they concluded the pain was coming from his hock joints, which was likely due to pulling a particularly heavy load.

The vets prescribed Bullo with anti-inflammatory painkillers to improve his comfort and told Almaztakele to rest him for at least ten days. They advised that Bullo should then have a new set of shoes fitted and return to the SPANA clinic in two weeks for a check-up.

While at the clinic, Bullo was also vaccinated against African Horse Sickness, an infectious viral disease that can be fatal.

Almaztakele was very thankful to SPANA staff for their help. She said: "Bullo is very precious to me and when I saw he was in pain, I made sure to rest him and brought him to SPANA to find out what was wrong. I've visited SPANA's clinics before with Bullo and they show great kindness to the animals they treat."



© Karel Prinsloo

A relieved Almaztakele and Bullo following treatment

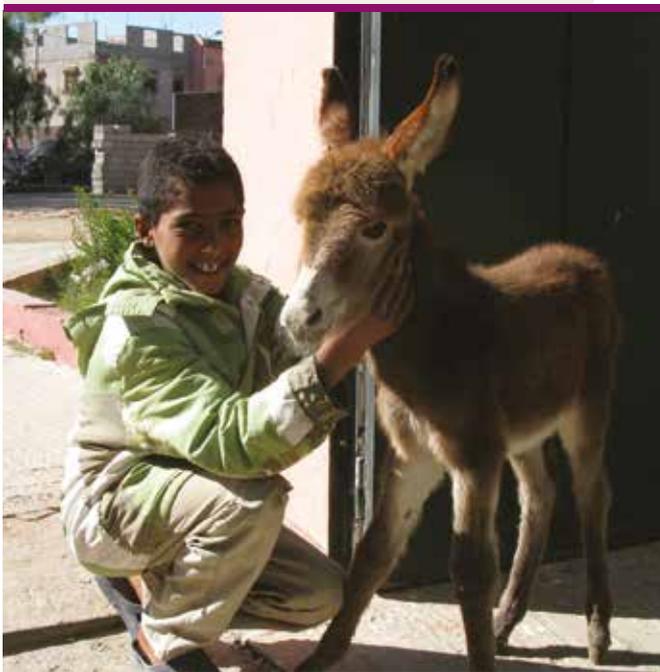


© Karel Prinsloo

In 2014 nearly 100,000 animal treatments by SPANA vets were only possible because of legacies

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

Brave mother Saïda injured protecting her foal

In Chemaia, Morocco, a 15-year-old donkey called Saïda was rushed to the SPANA centre with severe wounds on her ears. Following Saïda was her foal, born just ten days earlier, which would not leave her side.

Saïda's owner, Laâroussi El Orche, explained that stray dogs had attacked Saïda and her baby, and the mother had suffered from multiple bites. Saïda's foal was unharmed and the SPANA team concluded that she had fiercely defended the foal during the attack.

Stray dogs are a common problem in Chemaia, posing a risk to people and animals, especially during a period of mating.

Our vets examined the brave mother and saw maggots in the wounds, visible on closer inspection. They acted quickly, first sedating Saïda to prevent causing further distress, before clipping and cleaning the infected wounds, and then removing the maggots and any damaged tissue. They gave her antibiotics to treat the infection, as well as anti-inflammatory medication and an anti-tetanus injection.

Saïda spent a month in the centre recovering and her wounds slowly healed. The team fell in love with Saïda's foal, who is always lively and curious, with boundless energy.

Laâroussi relies on Saïda, who is used for ploughing, harvesting and bringing water from the well, to support his extended family of eight. The team advised Laâroussi to give Saïda plenty of rest. He said: "When this unfortunate accident happened, I did not know what to do with my donkey.

I do not have the means to pay for treatment. Thanks to my neighbour, Aziz, I learned of SPANA. I am very grateful to them. Thanks to their dedicated work Saïda has survived."

“When this unfortunate accident happened, I did not know what to do with my donkey. I do not have the means to pay for treatment. Thanks to my neighbour, Aziz, I learned of SPANA.”

“SPANNA cares for those animals who so easily could be forgotten. How could I forget them in my Will?”

Mr Alec Boyd

TUNISIA

Zied the donkey's big appetite gets him into trouble

The SPANA mobile clinic arrived at Tombar, near Kebili in Tunisia, to find a new patient, four-year-old donkey Zied, who was suffering from a painful stomach complaint.

Zied's owner, Ali Mahrouf, told our vets that his donkey had not had a bowel movement for four days and had stopped eating. His abdomen was clearly very bloated and the team wanted to get to the bottom of what was causing his constipation. They asked Ali about his donkey's diet and he said that Zied mainly ate grass and some grain.

This didn't offer any clues, but after inspecting the enclosure where Zied stays, the team became suspicious when they found numerous stones from dates inside very dry faeces. Zied had been eating a large number of dates, which grow abundantly throughout the area, while still attached to their branches. This had created a faecal impaction, a large lump of dry, hard stool blocked inside Zied's intestines.

The vets set about treating Zied to clear the blockage and relieve the constipation. A tube was carefully placed into Zied's stomach through his nose and oesophagus. The team then administered paraffin oil and fluids through the tube to soften the blockage and lubricate the digestive system, as well as medication to relieve pain.



Thankfully, Zied seemed instantly more comfortable and, after five further days of treatment, his problem was completely resolved.

To avoid a repeat of the problem in the future, SPANA vets told Ali to try to prevent Zied from getting access to the dates. They suggested ways for Ali to improve Zied's diet, including providing ample water and ensuring that grain is not given to him on the ground, particularly in sandy areas.

Zied usually works for around three or four hours each day assisting Ali with agricultural work, enabling him to earn an income. Ali, who is married with seven children, said: "The service SPANA provides is wonderful. We would be lost without them. They have improved the health and welfare of animals in the area."

MALI



Help arrives for Adama after costly error

Four-year-old horse Adama was brought to see SPANA vet Dr Amadou in Bamako, Mali, by his worried owner Issouf Sissoko.

Issouf showed Dr Amadou a large, tender swelling on Adama's neck, which stopped him from turning his head or stretching down to graze. Adama had needed treatment a few days earlier and a local vet, with very little experience treating horses, had tried to give him an injection. Due to his inexperience, the vet had missed the vein and accidentally injected the drug into the surrounding tissue. The drug

injected was quite irritant and this had caused the swelling, which was hot and painful to touch.

Dr Amadou started treating Adama immediately. With great care, anti-inflammatory medication was injected into the vein on the other side of Adama's neck and a protective cream was applied to reduce swelling and help the painful lump heal. The grateful owner was also told to apply a warm compress every day.

Issouf has a livelihood thanks to Adama, who carries construction materials, such as bricks and breeze blocks, to and from building sites. Dr Amadou instructed Issouf not to work Adama until he had fully healed, which would take up to a month.

Unfortunately, SPANA regularly encounters problems like this, as many other vets in the countries we work are not taught about treating equines at veterinary school, often because the significance of working animals is not understood. To improve this situation, SPANA delivers training to vets in many developing countries to ensure vets working in areas SPANA cannot reach can effectively treat horses, donkeys and mules. This year in Mali, SPANA will thankfully be running a training workshop for around 80 practicing vets to equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to treat equines safely.

With your continued support, SPANA will always be there to provide treatment to animals in need, but we are working just as hard to prevent avoidable problems that cause suffering from happening in the first place.

Reaching out to help working animals around the globe

Veterinary programme advisor, Cecilia Gath reports on SPANA's veterinary outreach programme



SPANA has been running a veterinary outreach programme for the past 20 years. The programme invites small registered organisations around the world to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to implement a project that will benefit working animals.

The programme is a very important way for SPANA to increase our reach in areas where we don't currently have veterinary teams providing direct treatment on the ground, allowing us to care for even more animals by working with trusted local partners.

Our outreach work also creates an ideal opportunity for SPANA to assess the suitability of particular partners and countries for potential longer-term projects in the future. By working with partners on a smaller scale, we can judge their level of organisation, financial management and other important factors that demonstrate effectiveness and reliability. Nowhere is the success of the outreach programme more evident than in Zimbabwe, our newest core country, which originally began as an outreach project.

This year we received a very large number of high quality applications. The projects we've chosen to fund were selected based on the number of animals benefiting, their expected impact and long-term sustainability. I'd like to tell you about a couple of the diverse projects we're supporting in more detail, although other exciting projects will also be undertaken in countries including Mongolia, Kenya, Afghanistan, Ghana and Tanzania.

Mobile camel clinic, Help in Suffering (HIS), India

SPANA are funding a new mobile clinic to provide free treatment exclusively for working camels in Rajasthan, India. The camels work in the brick kilns in the area around Bassi, moving heavy loads of bricks and sand for their owners who rely on them to earn a living. There are currently no existing affordable and accessible veterinary services nearby.

Run by our partner organisation 'Help in Suffering', the clinic will regularly visit around 55 rural villages, covering approximately 1,400 km a month. Over 3,000 camels are expected to be treated each year, with common problems including saddle sores, nose-peg injuries, lameness, road accidents, blood-borne infections and mange. The team also have a camel 'hospital' facility to admit more severe cases needing more intensive care.



A visitor to the mobile camel clinic in Rajasthan

The project will also involve running workshops and distributing resources to teach around 2,000 camel owners about basic husbandry and harnessing, and the team will increase awareness of camel welfare by attending major 'camel fairs' – traditional festivals in the desert where over 11,000 camels and 400,000 people gather.

The remaining funding will provide reflectors for camel carts to prevent road accidents, and plastic nose-pegs to replace the wooden ones that can injure camels' delicate nostrils.

Working Donkey Champions, Farm Animal Centre for Education (FACE), South Africa

In villages around Grahamstown, South Africa, we are funding a project to train four 'Working Donkey Champions' (WDCs) in donkey welfare, basic first aid and community engagement. Partner organisation 'Farm Animal Centre for Education' will select these volunteers from the community for their proven commitment to donkey welfare. Following their training, they will provide advice, care and support to donkeys and their owners in their villages, as well as teaching children in local schools.

The aim of the project is to raise the status of working donkeys and improve attitudes towards them in the community, and to teach and empower owners to take proper care of their donkeys.

WDCs will be provided with a first aid kit to allow them to treat basic injuries, as well as infestations and infections. They will be mentored for six months following their training, allowing them to build confidence and receive advice.

The success of the project will be judged by changes in owners' practices, knowledge and attitudes towards their animals, gauged through a series of workshops and continued direct monitoring of the donkeys' health and welfare.

All of these projects are only possible thanks to your support. We're excited to see the positive impact they make and look forward to sharing the success stories with you.

"I have remembered SPANA in my Will.
The work done in the schools is so necessary"
Mrs Margaret Basham

New teaching qualification puts animal welfare top of the class

A new teaching qualification has been developed by SPANA and the Humane Society of the United States for teachers educating school children about animal welfare. The Professional Certificate in Animal Welfare is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge and tools they need to provide effective animal welfare education, with the confidence to develop their own lesson plans and teaching materials.

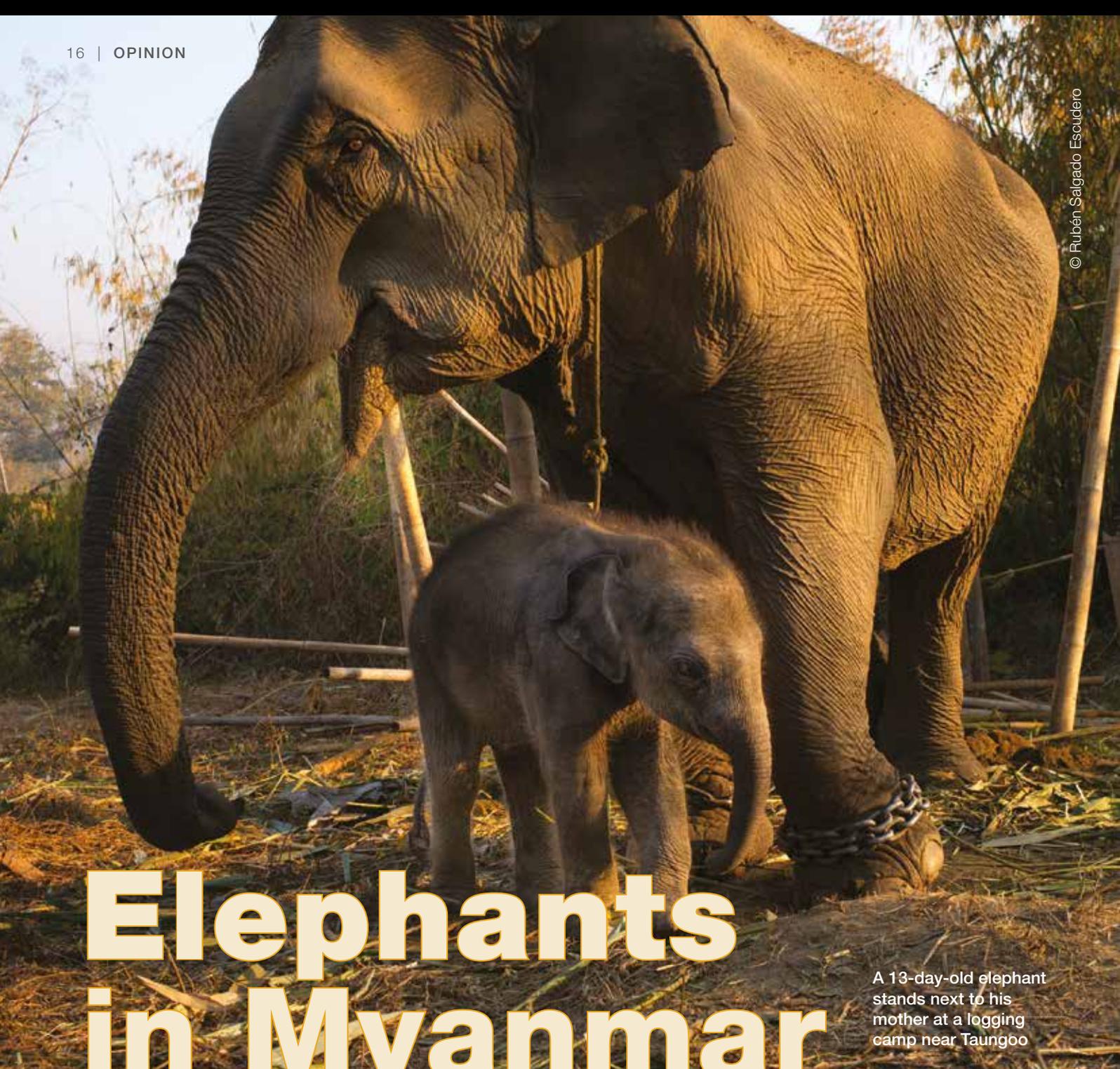
Raising the standards of teaching in animal welfare in the countries in which SPANA operates educational programmes will ensure school children are receiving the most valuable and engaging lessons promoting positive attitudes towards animals, benefiting both the children and animals in the long term. Having a recognised professional qualification will also increase the status of animal welfare education amongst teachers and

governments, boosting its standing in the curriculum and encouraging more teachers to prioritise these lessons.

The course involves six full days of training for teachers taking part, who will need to complete written assignments and pass three exams to gain the qualification.

Recently, 63 teachers started the course in Ethiopia, where the certificate is endorsed by the veterinary faculty of Addis Ababa University and the Bureau of Education. These teachers are expected to graduate early next year.

Our education programme is helping improve the lives of working animals both in the present and the future. Please turn to page 18 to find out how you can leave a lasting legacy that will transform these animals' lives.



Elephants in Myanmar

A 13-day-old elephant stands next to his mother at a logging camp near Taungoo

As SPANA begins its new programme in Myanmar (Burma), chief executive Jeremy Hulme reflects on the importance of elephants in Burmese culture and the position of working elephants today

There is something unforgettable about that first meeting with a real, live elephant.

African or Asian, they are just huge - bigger by far than any other land animal, and close up to them, their size and strength is almost overwhelming.

We had walked a couple of miles along a jungle track in central Myanmar, with steep, forest-covered hills on either side, and past village houses on stilts with thatched roofs and woven matting walls. Tropical rainforest (or jungle) has a unique smell, something I hadn't encountered since I was a soldier in Malaya in the sixties.

We walked round a bend in the track, and suddenly, wham! There they were! Thirteen logging elephants had come to meet us, with their 'oozies' (the Burmese for handler) – the men who spend their lives working with them.

They were all around us - their size and colour and smell intoxicating - as they grumble and mumble and argue with



© Rubén Salgado Escudero

their riders. It was good to see the oozies often carried no sticks - they simply talk to their elephants, and use their knees, and ask them to do things - and yes, the elephants do argue back. One I saw sucked up a trunkload of muddy water from a puddle, and expressed her disagreement by hosing down her oozie.

One elephant, Khin Mi had calved at the ripe old age of 55, and her son, Khin Maung Kyu, now two years old, had regular feeds to supplement his mother's milk - so had become a totally spoilt little monster, as he demanded his entire day's ration in one enormous feed. But everyone, humans and elephants adored him.

Every day they are washed in the river after work, and then released into the forest to feed themselves - reappearing in the mornings tempted by tasty tit-bits (tamarind and honey balls, with salt and vitamins added).

Even with good care, and only working during the six month logging season, elephants are still subject to many health issues - cardiac problems, eye infections and, surprisingly, skin conditions - despite its apparent thickness. At the moment, there is little understanding of these serious veterinary problems.

The caring attitude towards elephants is perhaps not so surprising, as of course, they are deeply ingrained in local culture. The Buddhist religion demands respect for all animals, especially elephants, which feature in literature, art, architecture - they even appear on banknotes. A symbol of good luck, kings and emperors prized them for their prestige and majesty, and of course they were employed with devastating consequences in ancient warfare.

And not always so ancient - they were used to great effect against the Japanese in the Burma campaign of World War Two. They helped the British and Indian armies to haul loads in the difficult terrain and build bridges and roads, sometimes even pulling carts loaded with wounded.

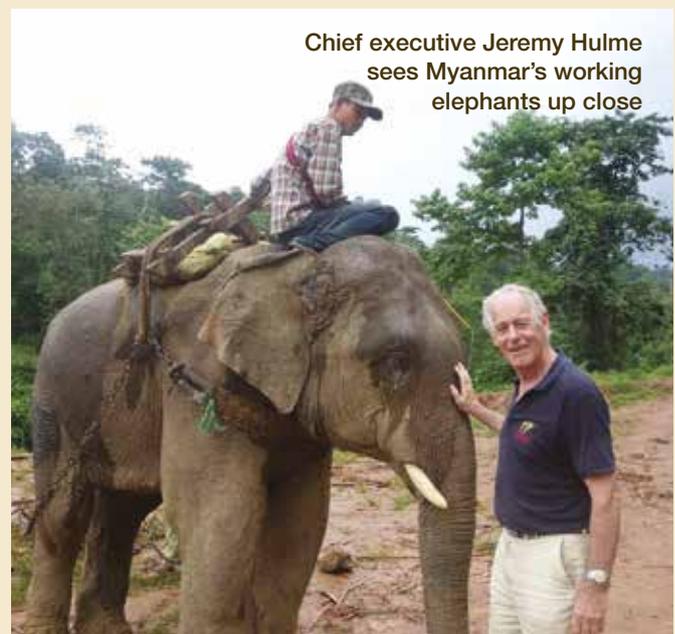
Given the revered place they have, you can imagine my feelings when at the end of our first meeting at the veterinary school, the Union Minister for Livestock said to me, "Jeremy, SPANA's got to help us with our elephants."

So that was why we were visiting the logging camp. It's all about teak - still one of the most valuable hardwoods in the world - and half of it comes from Myanmar.

There's normally about one tree every two acres, and when I was in Malaya as a soldier, they were cutting teak in the steep hills of Johore as fast as they could. But sadly, they had no elephants, and so, to get the logs out they had to cut down the whole forest with bulldozers and graders, and the soil would be washed away in the next tropical downpour.

But in this part of Myanmar, Mrs. Elephant can pull the log gently downhill, threading her way between the rest of the trees. In the space left behind, the sun and rain soon germinate new teak seedlings, and the forest continues undamaged. A sustainable and environmentally-friendly system to harvest teak.

And I'm very proud that SPANA will be there to help these wonderful creatures.



Chief executive Jeremy Hulme sees Myanmar's working elephants up close

"We are grateful for every legacy we receive, whatever the size"
Jeremy Hulme

© Dylan Thomas

A LEGACY TO BE PROUD OF

Few of us like to think about the world without us in it. But gifts left in Wills by kind and generous supporters like you mean that we can continue to ease the suffering of working animals for years to come. As SPANA supporter Valerie Wallace says: "I know that SPANA will use my donations wisely and that my legacy will help the good work continue when I'm no longer around."

Making a Will is a very personal matter, and your family and loved ones will naturally be your first priority. But if, after they are taken care of, you are able to leave a gift of any size to SPANA in your Will, you will be leaving the greatest gift of all: you will help to bring us closer to a world where working animals live their lives free from suffering.

Even a small gift can make a big difference to animals like Sami (pictured here). Young Rakesh was on a school visit to a SPANA centre learning about animal care. He struck up a bond with Sami the foal and was invited to help hold him while

our vets tended a leg wound. The more children we reach like Rakesh, the more likely it is that animal owners in the future will be kind and caring.

Not surprisingly, SPANA supporters often say to me "I don't know how much will be left, so how can I know if I will be able to leave a legacy or say how much it will be?" One solution is to leave a residuary gift. This is a share of whatever is left of your estate once all bills and pecuniary (cash) gifts have been paid. A share of your estate will protect your special gift against inflation, so it will help even more animals in the future. And it could mean you don't have to keep remaking your Will as the value of your estate, or your circumstances, change.

If you are interested in leaving a gift to SPANA, please don't hesitate to request a copy of our free legacies guide. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please just call me or my colleague Penny on 020 7831 3999 or contact us by email at hello@spana.org. Once again, I'd like to stress that we understand this is a sensitive topic, and we promise to respect your privacy and your wishes.

On behalf of all of us at SPANA, I'd like to thank you for your support, kindness and generosity. Every animal we help, every vet we train, every child we educate is thanks to you.

**With warmest regards, Caroline (and Penny)
– SPANA's friendly legacy team.**

Supporter News

Get involved, have fun and help working animals worldwide!



In memory of someone special

At a time of loss, people often draw comfort from honouring the life of someone special by making a gift to a favourite charity. A donation to SPANA in memory of your loved one, or to mark an anniversary or special date, will ensure that their name will live on in happy, healthy working animals around the world.

Much-loved pets

For many of us, animals are an important part of our family. Our pets receive all the love, care and attention they could ever want, but sadly not all animals are so lucky. A gift to SPANA in memory of your pet will honour their life in a very special way and we'll record their name on our Pet Memorial Wall on our website: www.spana.org/pet-memorial-wall

To make your gift in memory, please call Jessie on 020 7831 3999 or send a cheque made payable to SPANA to 'Gifts in Memory', SPANA, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB. Please include a covering note with your details and those of whom the gift is in memory.

Donations in lieu of flowers

You'll have read in this issue of SPANA News about the importance of legacies. If you are thinking about updating your Will, you may also like to consider making your wishes known about donations in lieu of funeral flowers.

A lasting memorial

As a way of SPANA saying thank you for gifts in memory, we'd like to create a lasting record to commemorate your loved one's life. For gifts of £50 or more, we will record their name in our special Book of Remembrance kept at our head office. For gifts of £250 or more, your loved one's name will be recorded with a plaque on our memorial wall, in the gardens of our centre in Marrakech.



To make your gift in memory call Jessie on 020 7831 3999



Memoirs of a Party Animal

Long-time SPANA supporter, Angela Humphery, has written a wonderful book all about her seven decades in animal welfare. *Memoirs of a Party Animal* is full of funny and touching stories and has had fantastic reviews. It has even received support from celebrities, including actors Ricky Gervais and Peter Egan. Writer Philip Norman said: "Angela Humphery's passion for animal rights is matched only by her zest for life. *Memoirs of a Party Animal* is a highly entertaining testament to both." You can buy the book from Amazon.co.uk or Lulu.com, and all the profits will be helping the animal charities mentioned in the book, including SPANA.

New Year Party

When: Thursday, 14 January 2016 **Time:** Noon – 3pm

Where: SPANA, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB

You are cordially invited to SPANA's New Year party. It's a wonderful chance to meet SPANA staff and your fellow supporters, plus we'll show films and tell you all the latest news about our work. 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.

Record breaking marathon challenge

Alice Burch's 60 marathons in 60 days world record attempt started on 1 October 2015. Please support Alice's amazing challenge for working animals by being a witness in Southampton or making a donation towards her fundraising target. Go to www.spana.org/6060 or call 020 7831 3999 for more details. Go Alice – we're all rooting for you!



You can leave a better world for Rakesh and Sami



TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT • SPANA WOULD LIKE TO SAY

Thank you



Give the greatest gift of all.

Please see page 18 to find out how.