



# news

For the working animals of the world

Spring 2016 • Issue 184

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

- **Saving animals through vital surgery**
- **Ethiopia emergency feeding programme**
- **Breakthrough in Botswana**

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#### A very warm welcome to the latest issue of SPANA News

In this issue, we'll be providing an update about the emergency feeding programme we launched following Ethiopia's worst drought in a generation. Thanks to the astounding support you gave to our emergency response appeal in the last issue of SPANA News, we were able to intervene quickly and decisively to assist in this crisis and save the lives of thousands of starving animals. This would not have been possible without the funds you so kindly donated.

Our appeal this issue also focuses on urgent action in critical situations, in the form of lifesaving surgery. Our team regularly encounter animals that have suffered serious injuries – they may have been the victims of a road accident perhaps – or require a procedure to keep them alive. In these life and death scenarios, thankfully, SPANA vets have the expertise to perform lifesaving surgery. But, this can only be done with the right surgical equipment and drugs, as well as the most up-to-date training available. Please, if you can, support the appeal and help ensure that more animals can be saved when their lives hang in the balance.

Also in this issue, we're celebrating the launch of our newest permanent programme – in Myanmar (see pages 10-11), and you can also find out more about our work in Botswana, another country where we were able to launch very recently with your help. SPANA's vision is a world where every working animal lives a life free from suffering, and we are striving to improve the welfare of even more animals in new countries and different parts of the world. At the heart of everything we do is a belief that, if they need our help, no working animal should be ignored. Whatever the species, in whatever corner of the world, wherever there is need we should do our utmost to help.

Thanks to you, and only thanks to you, we are turning this vision into a reality.

*Jeremy Hulme*  
**Jeremy Hulme** Chief Executive

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

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# Pushkar Camel Fair

Every November, over 11,000 camels and 400,000 people gather at the Pushkar Camel Fair in Rajasthan, India.

The colourful and bustling 14-day festival in the desert is one of the world's largest 'camel fairs', at which celebrations are held and owners buy and sell animals. The fair takes place in Pushkar, a sacred pilgrimage site for Hindus, during the full moon.

One of SPANA's current outreach projects is a mobile camel clinic, run by our partner organisation 'Help in Suffering', which is providing free veterinary treatment to more than 3,000 camels in the area each year. The camel clinic attended the 2015 festival to promote the highest welfare standards for working camels. The team gave advice and training to camel owners in basic husbandry, harnessing and other aspects of caring for their animals. They were also on hand to assist any animals in need of veterinary attention.





# SPANA *IN THE NEWS*

## Breakthrough in Botswana

**SPANA's work is well underway in Botswana, one of the new permanent countries in which the charity is helping working animals.**



Donkeys in Botswana are in desperate need of veterinary care

SPANA has established veterinary services in Botswana to improve the health and welfare of more than 24,000 working donkeys, which enable the poorest families to earn a living by ploughing and carrying goods, firewood and water.

The SPANA Botswana mobile veterinary clinic is initially visiting ten villages around the town of Maun, travelling more than 250km each week. The population of donkeys in Maun is so large that the town is known locally as 'Donkey Town'.

SPANA will be treating a wide range of injuries, illnesses and conditions. These include agonising pressure sores and severe wounds caused by inappropriate harnesses, ill-fitting bits and improvised 'hobbles'. Donkeys are also vulnerable to attacks from predators such as hyenas and road accidents, particularly at night. Ocular disease, poor farriery and wounds are common problems too.

The SPANA team is also providing animal welfare training and advice to the local community as they treat, helping to reduce avoidable problems such as wounds caused by poorly-fitting harnesses.

Chief Executive Jeremy Hulme said: "I'd like to thank all of our Botswana Founding Supporters and everyone who



supports us for making this new programme possible. It is desperately needed to help the many thousands of donkeys suffering in Botswana. There are currently very few local vets and poor families have no way of paying for treatment when their animals are sick or injured. The low status of donkeys also means their welfare is rock bottom as a priority.

"This is why SPANA's involvement is so important. By providing free veterinary care, humane equipment, education and community training, we are determined to make a long-term, lasting difference to the health and welfare of donkeys in Botswana – changing the attitudes and practices of animal owners for generations to come."

## Ethiopia emergency appeal update

Thousands of animals have been saved in Ethiopia following SPANA's major emergency campaign. The charity launched an urgent, far-reaching feeding programme in Ethiopia's Afar region in December 2015 in response to the worst drought in over 30 years.

Over the past four months, SPANA has provided 5,476 bales of hay and 151 tons of feed provided to 7,837 animals that belong to the poorest families. This food has ensured the survival of these animals and the future of their owners – pastoralists who rely entirely on their livestock for their livelihoods (and importantly the milk the animals provide, which is an essential source of nutrition for their children).



SPANA is also in the process of putting in place long-term measures to help people and their animals, such as planting drought-resistant grasses that would ensure an ongoing food supply is available for livestock during periods of drought in the future.

The emergency intervention has only been possible due to the overwhelming response of supporters who so generously backed our emergency appeals in the last issue of SPANA News and since December. Please see pages 16 and 17 for more about the impact of this campaign.



Chief Executive Jeremy Hulme feeding starving cattle

## New endoscope helps SPANA get inside the problem

Thanks to kind donations from our supporters, a new endoscope has been purchased that will help SPANA vets to diagnose working animals' problems more accurately.

An endoscope is a medical instrument with a video camera that allows vets to look into the throat, lungs, stomach and other parts of the digestive tract to identify issues that wouldn't otherwise be visible.

The endoscope will be used to examine animals with a wide range of symptoms, including coughing, swollen lymph nodes and nasal discharge, as well as those breathing loudly and in discomfort. It will enable issues such as sinusitis, guttural pouch problems and stomach ulcers to be diagnosed.

The endoscope is portable and will be used to help animals in all of the countries SPANA operates in when needed.



## SPANA seals top spot in Animal Friends competition

A big thank you to everyone who voted for us in the Facebook competition run by Animal Friends, the ethical pet insurance company. Your votes ensured that we were awarded the top prize of £8,000, ahead of several other large charities. This vital money will help us to improve dramatically the lives of working animals across the world.

On top of the competition prize money, Animal Friends also presented us with a cheque for an additional £10,000. The company has offered tremendous support to SPANA since 2012 and has donated more than £87,000 in total.





# Lifesaving Surgery Appeal



**Basic veterinary skills can't always save the lives of animals like Falih – but you could**

Falih needed help, urgently. With a large mass of tissue growing from the side of his face, just below his eye, the outlook for this hardworking donkey was bleak.

Local Moroccan vets had tried to treat Falih but, as is so often the case, they lacked both the expertise and the experience necessary to operate and potentially save his life. His condition continued to deteriorate.

Little did Falih's owner realise, the large growth on the little donkey's face was a fibroblastic sarcoma, one of the most dangerous and potentially deadly types. Falih was in pain. And to make matters even worse, the growth was ulcerated and infected, and a thick cloud of flies had gathered around poor Falih's face, attracted by the blood and pus surrounding the tumour.

But, thankfully, there was a lifeline for Falih – SPANA. SPANA's team were able to flush the infected area and begin the skilled procedure of carefully removing the tumour. Our vets weren't the first to try to treat Falih, but they were the first with the expertise to help in a case like this.

**Had his owner waited any longer, Falih would have continued to suffer. Falih needed SPANA vets – but our vets need you.**

**We rely entirely on people like you to help animals like Falih – because with your help, SPANA vets can deliver lifesaving surgery when animals need it most.**

Falih is now safe and well. After successfully removing the tumour, our vets carefully closed the large

wound with stitches, and bandages were applied. Within days, and after an intense course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, Falih was well on the way to recovery. But the outcome could have been very different and many more animals' lives hang still in the balance today.

Around the world, animal owners continue to seek out SPANA's expert vets to save their animals' lives. It's only with your help today that we could give vets the skills and expertise they need to ensure working animals get the best possible chance at life.



UK vets have access to high quality surgical training and cannot qualify without gaining hands-on experience. We believe hardworking animals deserve quality care and lifesaving surgery when they need it too.

Many of our supporters have dearly-loved family pets that benefit from these advanced veterinary skills if

they are injured or fall ill, but it can be a very different story in developing countries, where skills and resources can be in short supply. The right tools, equipment and training are vital if our vets are to save lives and relieve suffering.

With your support, vets can attend surgical training sessions, working alongside highly specialised equine surgeons from around the world. Each surgical training session can cost £3,500: it's expensive but we believe working animals deserve our help.

***"Practice makes perfect is what my mother used to tell me and, when it comes to performing surgery, that's certainly true."***  
– **Jeremy Hulme, SPANA Chief Executive**

Around the world, animal owners continue to seek out SPANA's expert vets to save their animals' lives. With your help today we can give vets the skills and expertise they need to ensure working animals get the best possible chance at life.

**Vets can only perform these kind of vital operations successfully if they are well trained. Major injuries from road traffic accidents, life-threatening tumours and lethal joint infections all require expert treatment. Yet without SPANA – and your generous support – these are skills that are rarely available. Only you can help us to improve skills and save the lives of more hardworking animals like Falih.**



Falih's recovery begins after vital surgery

**Here's how your kind gift could make the difference between life and death:**

## £12 Lifesaving drugs

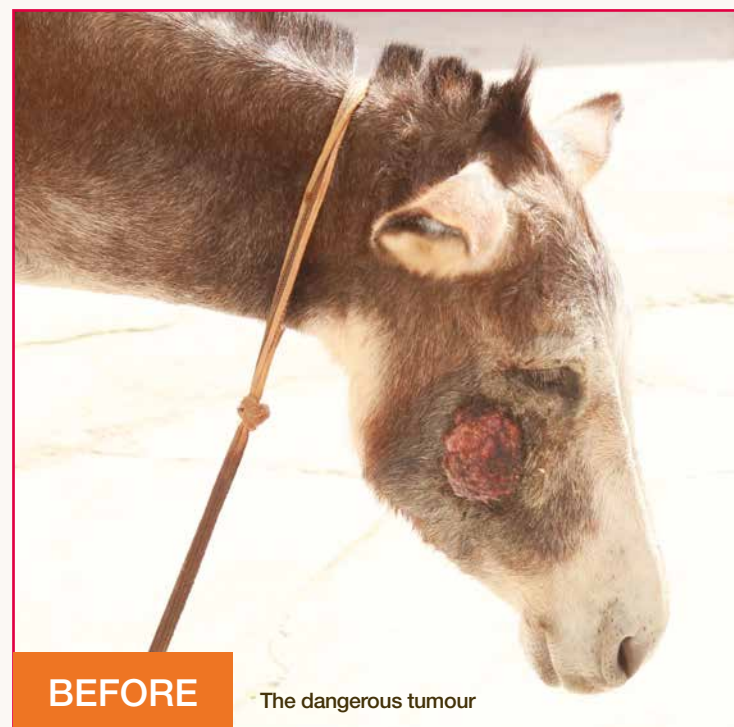
This gift could help buy vital drugs to save working animals in the operating theatre.

## £55 Surgical equipment

This gift could go towards the equipment needed to perform lifesaving surgery on a working animal whose life is at risk.

## £100 Essential training

This gift could help send a SPANA vet on essential surgical training so they can save the lives of countless working animals in the future.



**BEFORE**

The dangerous tumour

**Please support this vital appeal to ensure animals get the lifesaving surgery they need – we can do nothing without you. Thank you.**

**To make a donation to save the life of an animal like Falih, please use the enclosed form, call 0330 332 2530 or visit us at [www.spana.org/surgery](http://www.spana.org/surgery)**



# Inspiring a generation

Here we look back at some of the key milestones for the SPANA education programme over the past three decades...

After 27 years leading SPANA's work teaching children in developing countries about animal welfare, our Education Director **Diana Hulme** will be retiring this year. Our education programme has been transformed in this time, launching in many new countries and reaching more and more children every year.



© Rubén Salgado Escudero



*On behalf of everyone at SPANA – including the many thousands of children and animals that have benefitted from the education programme – thank you Diana!*

## 1989

Diana is appointed head of SPANA's education programme. Morocco is the only country where SPANA operates education work at this time, consisting of talks in schools.

Working with the government, Diana creates extra-curricular educational materials and animal welfare lessons for use in schools, as well as overseeing training for teachers.



## 1991

Education work gets underway in Jordan for the first time.



## 1993

Syrian education programme is established.



## 1995

An education centre is constructed in Jordan after SPANA obtains a plot of land in Amman. Animal handling is a popular part of the centre for visiting children.



## 1998 – 2002

Education programme expands to Tunisia, Mali and Mauritania.

## 2003

A mobile exhibition bus takes to the road in Tunisia, giving children across the country an interactive learning experience about animal welfare.

Morocco became the next country to open a mobile exhibition bus in 2012.



**“Education is so important in helping children to feel compassion and respect for animals. Many of these children will become the animal owners of the future. By changing people's attitudes at an early age, SPANA is reaching the next generation and making sure that animals' lives are better in the long term. Thank you Diana for all your support for us.”**

Abdeslam Bouchafra, SPANA Education Officer, Morocco

## 2005

Education programme begins in Ethiopia. New classrooms are built in three schools.



## 2012

After-school Animal Clubs are established in Kenyan schools.



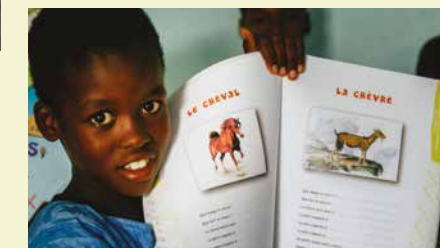
## 2013

First education outreach projects receive funding, enabling the SPANA education programme to reach new countries, working with trusted partners. Liberia and Ghana are amongst the first countries where outreach work begins.

## 2014

New animal handling centre is built in Ethiopia, thanks to the generosity of SPANA News readers. Coming into contact with Chocolate the horse, Tadele the donkey, and other animals helps children foster a sense of empathy and compassion.

New children's book is produced about a donkey foal, Mensi, to build positive attitudes and nurturing feelings towards animals.



**“Animal Club is my favourite lesson of the week. I was scared of animals before, but now I love stroking them.”**

Tesfa, aged eight, Ethiopia

## 2015

Zimbabwe education programme launches.

New internationally-recognised teaching qualification is developed by SPANA. Teachers in Ethiopia are the first to graduate with the Professional Certificate in Animal Welfare.



## 2016

The SPANA education programme operates in 16 countries, from Sierra Leone to Costa Rica.

The programme reaches more than 58,000 school children each year – and rising.





# PROFILE Myanmar

In a country that has opened up in recent years, SPANA is reaching a new species of working animal and tackling different challenges

## SPANA OPERATIONS

In our newest permanent country, Myanmar (also known as Burma), SPANA is initially operating one mobile veterinary clinic, providing treatment to working animals, especially working oxen. These oxen are relied upon by people in rural areas - dependent on subsistence farming for their livelihoods - to pull ploughs and transport produce. There is still widespread poverty in Myanmar and, without SPANA, so many people simply would not be able to afford veterinary care for their animals.

SPANA is also improving the welfare of a new species of working animal for the charity - the 6,000 Asian elephants that work in Myanmar's logging industry. These elephants require veterinary assistance for the health problems they can suffer, such as eye infections and skin conditions.

Providing training to improve the skills and knowledge of Myanmar's vets and veterinary students is a significant part of SPANA Myanmar's work, ensuring that standards are raised and animals receive the best possible treatment.

One mobile veterinary clinic visiting 30 villages in rural areas surrounding Nay Pyi Taw

Over 6,000 veterinary treatments are expected to be provided to working animals this year

226 final year veterinary students are receiving training from SPANA at the Clinical Skills Centre (CSC) and with the mobile clinic

## MYANMAR AT A GLANCE

Population **51,486,253**

Area **676,578 km<sup>2</sup>**

Location **South East Asia**

Capital city **Nay Pyi Taw**

Estimated working animal population **19,093,000 horses, elephants, mules and oxen**



© Enzo Mercedes

## PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Professor Dr Ye Htut Aung, SPANA Myanmar Country Director



© Rubén Salgado Escudero

### How important are working animals in Myanmar?

Working animals are still very important in Myanmar, which remains on the list of Asia's least developed countries. For instance, there are over 12 million working cattle in the country, and these animals are integral to rural economies, providing almost all the power in agricultural production and acting as a key mode of transport.

### Working elephants are a new species for SPANA. What are the main problems facing elephants used in the timber industry?

The main problems facing logging elephants are skin sores caused by harnesses, as well as infectious diseases. We are in the process of developing a new comfortable harness for elephants dragging heavy logs, which will help prevent rubbing and wounds.

Infectious viral diseases are a major issue, since they are difficult to treat (particularly in young elephants) and Asian elephants are already endangered. We are looking to tackle

the problem by conducting research into how we can prevent and control these diseases.

### SPANA has only been working in Myanmar for a short period. What are the key successes so far, and your main goals for 2016?

Training for veterinary students in order to improve the standard of treatment given to working animals is a key part of SPANA Myanmar's work. We have been very successful so far in developing the skills and knowledge of veterinary students by providing practical training on animal welfare, and the diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases.

In the coming year, in addition to training at the Clinical Skills Centre (CSC), we will be helping newly-graduated vets to gain hands-on experience treating animals in the field - working under the supervision of SPANA vets during mobile veterinary clinic visits. We also hope to establish a SPANA education programme to teach primary school children between the ages of seven and 11 about animal welfare.

### Can you tell us about your background?

I graduated as a vet from the University of Veterinary Science (UVS) in Yezin, Myanmar in 1993, before obtaining my M Phil in Veterinary Medicine and Master of Veterinary Science (MVSc). I studied for my doctoral degree at the University of Veterinary Medicine, in Hannover, Germany. I am Professor and Pro-Rector at UVS, and am now SPANA Myanmar's Country Director.

### What are the main challenges facing working animals in Myanmar?

The main problems are infectious diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, and malnutrition, particularly during the dry season.

## CASE FILE: Myanmar

# Getting off on the right foot with Tin the elephant

The SPANA mobile clinic arrived at the Kum Pin Cho camp, where around 30 working elephants and their handlers ('oozies') were waiting for checks and treatment from the team.

The logging elephants work for around six months of the year, pulling teak logs through the jungle during the logging season. They receive good care from their handlers, but elephants are still subject to a wide range of health problems that require veterinary attention.

The largest male elephant in the camp, called Tin Hla Ma, was brought to see the team as he was lame. Dr Zaw Min Oo inspected the animal and saw a crack in his nail, which had become infected. If elephants' nails are not trimmed regularly, they can wear unevenly and this can create pressure points. Eventually, this can lead to the weakening and cracking of the nail, and there is an increased risk of infection, as had happened in Tin's case.

The team got to work immediately, giving Tin pain relief to make him more comfortable. They then tackled the infected area, flushing clean the fluid and disinfecting the nail, before providing antibiotics to treat the infection. Over the next five days, Tin would require medication and nail cleaning on a daily basis. After this time, the nail would be sealed with Stockholm tar to waterproof and protect the damaged area.

Tin's handler, Myo Htet Lin, was asked to train his elephant to lift his feet once he had made a full recovery, in order to make it easier for him to receive routine nail trimming and care in the future.



SPANA Veterinary Director Francesca Compostella meets Tin the elephant

© Rubén Salgado Escudero

© Enzo Mercedes



# SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

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



**“Thank you for helping Muti and for giving him a more comfortable noseband. I will now always give him shade from the hot sun and I will call SPANA whenever he is sick.”**

## JORDAN

### Standing up for Muti

The SPANA mobile veterinary clinic was travelling through the Jordan Valley when the team spotted a donkey standing alone in a field in the midday sun. They were concerned that there was no obvious shelter nearby and no owner in sight, so they pulled up by the side of the road to investigate.

Nidal, our vet technician, examined the young animal, which was only three or four months old. Fortunately he was not in a bad condition, although being exposed to the intense heat of the sun without water or shelter was a real cause for concern. A chain noseband was also being used, which is completely unsuitable and can lead to painful rubbing.

After a short period, the donkey's owner arrived. He said that the foal, named Muti, was too young to work and had been left in the field to rest. Muti is likely to start working when he is around four-years-old, at which point he will lead a herd of sheep as it moves around to different areas for grazing.

Nidal and the team replaced the chain noseband and gave Muti a new padded noseband to make him more comfortable and to prevent wounds. They dewormed the foal and also asked the owner, Khalid Ibrahim, to move Muti to a sheltered spot and ensure he has an ample water supply available at all times.

Khalid said: “Thank you for helping Muti and for giving him a more comfortable noseband. I will now always give him shade from the hot sun and I will call SPANA whenever he is sick.”

## TUNISIA

### Treating a young camel in Tunisia

As well as our three veterinary centres, our team in Tunisia operates three mobile clinics to help treat working animals in rural areas. One of the animals recently helped by these clinics is Karim, an eight-month-old dromedary camel who was bitten on his neck by another camel.

After developing a painful-looking wound following the bite, his worried owner Ahmed Ben Ahmed brought Karim to the mobile clinic in Nouel to ask SPANA vets for their help.

Karim is too young to work yet, but when he gets older, he will help Ahmed earn a living by working as an essential form of transport, carrying both goods and people.

Our vets examined Karim and found that the wound on his neck was very inflamed and infected and he had developed a painful abscess.

The team got to work straight away treating the young camel by draining the abscess and applying a local



disinfectant to the wound. They advised Ahmed that he should keep cleaning the wound and using the disinfectant until his neck had healed, which would take around a month.

Ahmed, who supports his wife and six children, was very thankful to SPANA. He said: “When the SPANA clinic came I was very relieved. We put our trust in them and they are always here to help us.”

## MAURITANIA



### Salah on the mend following harmful traditional ‘cure’

Life is difficult for 13-year-old horse Salah. He spends six hours a day pulling a cart that provides transport for local people in Nouakchott, Mauritania, one of the poorest countries in West Africa.

His owner, Ismail Tall, has little money to get by on, and relies solely on the income that Salah enables him to bring in to provide for his wife and young daughter.

Ismail noticed a wound on Salah's leg and, sadly, he attempted to treat it himself by burning it. This traditional ‘cure’ has been passed down from older generations, who falsely believe the practice kills bacteria and helps wounds heal. In reality, far from helping animals, it is very harmful and distressing for them.

Ismail realised that the wound had worsened, so thankfully he brought him to SPANA to receive proper veterinary care.

The SPANA vet examined the wound and told Ismail that, as his horse was not vaccinated, there was a risk he could contract tetanus through the wound, which can be fatal. He cleaned the wound and administered some soothing ointment, provided anti-inflammatory medication to help reduce the swelling and covered Salah with a vaccination against tetanus.

Our vet also clearly explained to Ismail about the dangers of trying to treat animals through traditional practices such as burning. Ismail vowed never to repeat the practice.

Luckily, after two months, Salah's wound had fully healed.

Ismail was very grateful to have his horse back in full health. He told the team: “Thank you SPANA for the excellent work and care you provide. My community has always tried healing animals, but now I know this is a mistake. I will always bring my animals to you in future and I will tell others to do so too.”



# Facing foot and mouth in Myanmar

Veterinary Programme Advisor, Hannah Davies, on efforts to tackle the disease blighting animals in South East Asia



**I'm sure many of you will remember the devastation caused by the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak that struck the UK farming industry in 2001. I remember it well as I was in the process of applying for places at vet school. Six million animals were slaughtered, a terrible price to pay, and our farming industry lost more than £3 billion.**

Caused by a highly contagious virus, FMD spreads easily and quickly between susceptible animals, mainly cattle, sheep, pigs and goats. There is no treatment, and sadly there is no cure, but it is possible to vaccinate animals against the disease.

Infected animals develop painful ulcers in their mouths and blisters around the coronary band of their feet, affecting their ability to eat and walk. Although animals can recover from the disease, recovery is not simple, can take a long time and animals are often left suffering from long term problems such as lameness, mastitis and weight loss.

In the UK we are very lucky; our control methods in 2001, although drastic, were successful in controlling and eliminating the disease. We were able to return to being a foot and mouth 'disease-free' country, quickly and efficiently protecting our livestock from the suffering and misery caused by this disease.

## Myanmar is a country that is sadly not so lucky...

Myanmar, along with many other parts of South East Asia, is endemically infected with FMD, which means that the disease is always present and circulating within the animal population. With a cattle population of 12.6 million, controlling FMD is a major challenge and many animals are unfortunately left suffering from the long term impairments associated with the disease.

Many people in Myanmar rely heavily on working cattle for their livelihoods, as a source of income for their families, for agriculture and for draught power. Living with the effects of FMD is difficult, especially as many people have no access to, or cannot afford, veterinary care and treatment. International organisations such as the World Organisation for Animal Health are working to prevent, control and eradicate FMD in South East Asia and China. However, this campaign is limited by a lack of resources.



Cracked hooves caused by foot and mouth disease

Through our mobile clinic in Myanmar, SPANA is working hard to prevent suffering, wherever possible, amongst animals affected by or at risk of contracting the disease. The clinic is providing free veterinary care to many of the working cattle in the Nay Pyi Taw region, and our team is able to offer vital veterinary advice, treatment and recommendations for animals and farmers living with the ongoing challenges associated with FMD. There may be a long road ahead before FMD is eliminated, but until that day, SPANA will keep fighting to minimise the impact of this dreadful disease.



## Sewing the seeds for a better future

In Bamako, Mali's capital city, donkeys and horses work in hot, difficult conditions supporting some of the world's poorest people. Close to the city's rubbish dumps, SPANA runs a project to improve the lives of these hardworking animals. The charity employs a group of women who make comfortable saddles and padded harnesses that are given to animal owners to replace old, worn and unsuitable equipment.

Anita (pictured) is part of the team, which produces hundreds of items every year and make a real difference to working animals, including the donkeys pulling heavy loads on the nearby rubbish dumps. The initiative provides an income for the women to support their families and, through their sewing, they are helping to prevent wounds and offering welcome relief from rubbing and irritation for the animals.

© Dylan Thomas



Anita skillfully creates a noseband





# Standing up for animals in crisis

All images © Will Miller

**As SPANA continues its emergency feeding campaign in drought-stricken Ethiopia, Chief Executive Jeremy Hulme reflects on the long fight to get the international community to understand the importance of animals in crisis situations.**

I actually started writing this piece while sitting on a rock in the middle of a dusty, barren little village, with huts made of wooden hurdles covered in dried skins and bits of plastic. It's called Dudub, and it's in the Afar region of eastern Ethiopia, where the people are struggling to survive in the worst drought for thirty years.

These people are pastoralists. That means they don't have any land - they're not farmers, they don't grow any crops (it's too dry). So they're totally dependent on their livestock, cattle, sheep, goats, even a few camels sometimes, and certainly the ubiquitous donkey (or three). They're usually nomadic or semi-nomadic, as their lives are governed entirely by the need to find grazing for their animals, and on these treks the donkeys will carry all their worldly goods.

Yet, as I sat there watching the daily life in the village, and the feeding of our SPANA rations to their hungry livestock, I realised how similar it was to most of the other drought-hit regions in which SPANA has worked. Since 1999, when we



Jeremy meets a grateful village elder in Afar

started our emergency work (in Kosovo), I have been to many bleak, dusty, barren little villages or encampments - all pretty much like Dudub, and the problems and challenges are pretty much the same.

Those problems are getting worse. Maybe it really is a changing climate, but it could also be an increasing population (it doesn't take much improvement in health care to make the population grow), and more people means more cattle, sheep and goats, and therefore more pressure on the grazing.

Yet some things have improved over the years - it's 31 years since the Live Aid concerts. The international aid organisations are now very well organised. They know just how many tents are needed per thousand families, how many toilets, how many water points and, crucially, how many kilos of flour, oil, sugar and other essentials have to be supplied to each family.

Yet every emergency we were involved in the same thing happened. No matter how well organised things were, no one gave a hoot for the animals. How could they not realise, that for pastoralists, (and there are still many millions of them across the world), without their livestock they have nothing?

In Darfur, the UNDP stood and watched while ten thousand donkeys starved to death at Abu-Showk refugee camp. In Mandera and Somalia, millions of livestock died. I have spent the last fifteen years of my life with this campaign - trying to get the authorities and the international aid agencies to realise that these animals are not pets, and when we shout about animals dying, it's not because we're being sentimental and want to stick them in some kind of sanctuary for the rest of their lives.

It is because these animals' lives reflect the lives of the people; so intricately bound together that neither can survive without the other. When their livestock are all dead these people have no present, no future, no culture and no pride.

My goodness it's been hard work. I sat next to a medic with one of the major aid agencies as we flew into Darfur, and when he heard what SPANA did, he said "Animals! Huh - I'm afraid they wouldn't come very high up my list of priorities!" Was the man blind? The whole place was run on animals - and just to rub in the point, a sick woman and her baby were waiting for the plane, sitting on a donkey.

**But, miracles happen, and it is changing! The BBC broadcast a major report on the Ethiopia drought on their main news - and on the Radio 4 Today programme - and both featured the fate of livestock and the terrible consequences of them all dying. I could hardly believe it.**

**Maybe SPANA has finally made people listen - and understand.**



Emergency food supplies are delivered by SPANA



# Supporter News

Get involved, have fun and help working animals worldwide!

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

## WALK BESIDE US AND BE OUR FRIEND

**SPANAN vet Hannah Davies and volunteer vet Alfonso Martin were working in Mauritania recently - driving from our clinic at Rosso to work at the clinic in Nouakchott. In the middle of nowhere, they came across these two men walking by the road with their donkeys and decided to stop to speak to them.**

The men said the donkeys and their sparse possessions were all they had in the world and they were walking to Nouakchott hoping to find work. From Rosso to Nouakchott is a five-hour drive but these men were walking! Hannah and Alfonso shared some of their fruit and water with the travellers and checked over their donkeys. It was the least they could do and the men were incredibly grateful for this kindness.

This incident illustrates just how extreme the poverty can be where SPANA works and just how important working animals are to their owners.

SPANAN has been on a long journey also, since 1923, providing free veterinary care to working animals and helping their owners scratch out a living in what can be a very harsh world. And you have been there alongside us every step of the way – thank you.

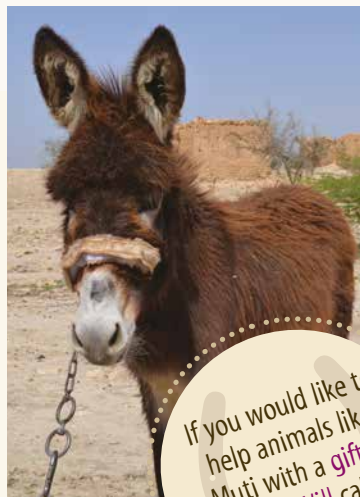
Some supporters have told us that they like the fact that SPANA makes a practical difference and can do what they

themselves cannot – work in challenging conditions relieving the suffering of hardworking animals. Your donations allow us to help animals like Muti the foal today (Muti's story is featured on page 12) and that gifts in Wills mean we can continue helping sick and injured animals into the future – a future where poverty will continue to drive people and their animals to travel for days just to find work and food.

If you think you could be a friend to SPANA in the future by leaving a gift in your Will, we would be incredibly grateful.

You don't need to be rich to leave a legacy as a little can go a very long way in countries like Mauritania. The legacies we receive – whether big or small – all add up to fund for nearly half of all the work we do.

**For more information on how to leave a legacy, you can speak to Penny or Caroline in our friendly legacy team, or request a free legacies guide by phoning 020 7831 3999 or emailing [legaciesnotification@spana.org](mailto:legaciesnotification@spana.org)**



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

## Celebrate with SPANA

### Do your loved ones have everything they need?

Why not celebrate their birthdays, anniversaries and important occasions with an extra special present this year? A donation to SPANA on their behalf will help working animals all over the world! If you let us know your loved one's details, we'd love to send them a special card or email.

Or if your own celebration is soon, you might like to ask for donations to SPANA instead of receiving presents and give a working animal the gift of working pain free. You could even spice up your celebration with one of our free SPANA World Tea Party packs (see overleaf).

*"I wanted my 60th birthday to be special and memorable; I wanted a party that was going to be a treat for my family and friends. However, I didn't need presents. Instead I asked for donations to SPANA, so that my birthday could have a much bigger impact and help support the most needy of working animals. I thoroughly enjoyed my party, and it's good knowing that many vulnerable animals will benefit too."*



Anne Yeeles raised a wonderful £449.

Thank you Anne

We love this annual Charity Circle Dance organised by Hilary Brown. By dancing up a storm, her latest event raised a fantastic £165.



Thank you Hilary

Well done to Celia Marker for baking an amazing 17 Christmas fruit cakes and raising a tasty £115 for working animals.



Thank you Celia

## A new fantastic fundraising group

A new SPANA fundraising group has been launched in Bath and is looking for more members. The group is led by Gail Needham, who was previously leader of our group in London, where she organised numerous fundraising collections and raised over £2,000. Gail said, "It's a great buzz to spend the day with other people who care about animals, then bring home a tin of money and know that it's going to help horses and donkeys that really need it."



SPANAN now has seven fantastic groups around the UK and we'd always welcome new groups. Get in touch for further details on joining or starting a group.

## Recycle to raise money

Your old jewellery, postcards and stamps can all be turned into valuable funds for working animals – over £6,300 was raised in 2015 by recycling for SPANA. You'll find a special freepost envelope enclosed for jewellery. Stamps and postcards can be sent to:

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

**Old postcards:** Miss J E Webb, 18 Hammonds Way, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO40 3HF

## Overseas trip

The next Supporters' Tour to visit SPANA's projects overseas and see first-hand how your donations are spent will be a trip to Zimbabwe this November. These trips are a unique opportunity to experience a different culture and meet the animals you are helping. Get in touch to register your interest for SPANA's trips.

## SPANAN annual party

Our long term supporters will know that we'd usually announce the details of our annual Summer Party in this issue of SPANA News. We have a change in store this year though as we'll be hosting the annual get together in mid-November, in the London region, when you can expect a special announcement.

**Register your interest now so we can let you know when tickets go on sale.**

Not to be missed

To register your interest for SPANA's annual party call us on 020 7831 3999

**If you would like to contact SPANA about fundraising, upcoming events or recycling, please call Jessie on 020 7831 3999 or email [events@spana.org](mailto:events@spana.org)**



# Be part of something amazing

## 9 July 2016



**The SPANA World Tea Party is back! It's time to get out your cake tins, shake off the doilies and invite your friends round for a tea party with a twist.**

You can keep it simple and have a traditional afternoon tea or spice things up with one of our special World Tea Party themes. Whatever you choose, it's a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with friends, family, neighbours and colleagues while making a big difference to the lives of animals in need.

**Get your free pack now** for everything you need to host the perfect party. This year we've got a new recipe to tickle your taste buds, coasters, special invitations, posters and much more! A fantastic £4,500 was raised last year – will you help us to beat that and help even more working animals this year?



**Ethiopian Coffee Morning**



**British Afternoon Tea Party**



**Indian Chai Tea Party**



**Moroccan Mint Tea Party**

**Our new recipe for tasty coconut ladoos, ideal for an Indian Chai Tea Party, is a favourite of Celia Imrie's, one of the stars of The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, which was filmed in India. Celia said:**

*"I am very proud to support the SPANA World Tea Party and would encourage everyone to have a go at trying out this delicious recipe for coconut ladoos. It's one of my absolute favourite treats from India and it goes perfectly with a cup of chai tea! Hosting an Indian tea party or another world-themed party is a great excuse to get together with friends and family, try out new recipes, and raise much-needed money to help give medical care, respite and nutrition to these amazing tirelessly hard working animals I have witnessed day by day supporting the world's poorest communities."*

**Actress Dame Judi Dench said:**

*"I'm delighted to lend my support to the SPANA World Tea Party. I fell in love with India while filming there and one of my favourite discoveries was the sweet and spicy taste of a cup of authentic chai tea. Everyone should give this delicious recipe a go and host their very own Indian chai tea party to help working animals. I saw first-hand just how important these animals are to the families that rely on them for the small income that they provide, and SPANA's work to care for and protect them is both inspiring and essential."*



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**Call 020 7831 3999 or go to [spana.org/teaparty](http://spana.org/teaparty) to order your pack today**