



# news

For the working animals of the world

Autumn 2016 • Issue 185

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- **Education appeal - a legacy of compassion**
- **Confronting African Horse Sickness**

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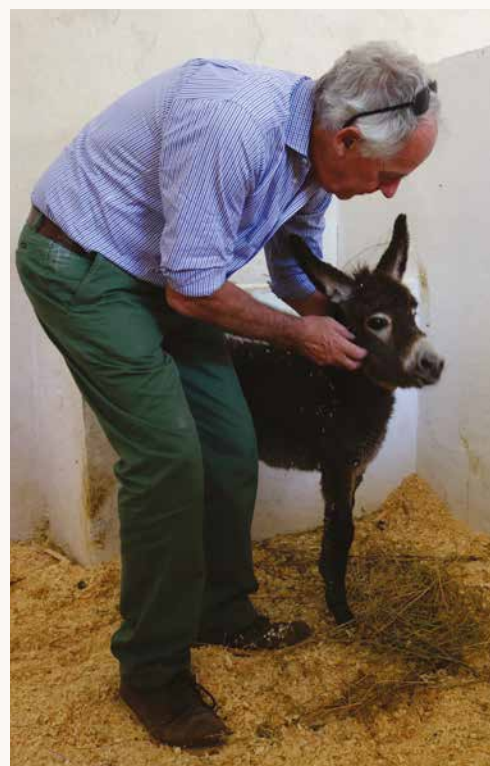
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### Welcome to the latest issue of SPANA News

This is a particularly poignant introduction for me to write, as it's my last as SPANA Chief Executive before my retirement later this year.

It's been a true privilege to lead this charity over the past 28 years and together with you, our wonderful supporters, we have made some remarkable progress. On page 10 you can read about some of the key successes that we've been able to achieve with your support.

It's worth reflecting on these accomplishments – and I hope they make you feel as proud as I do. But, they also inspire us to achieve even more in the future, and we're completely focused on what needs to be done to bring about a world where no working animal has to suffer.

The future is the focus of our appeal in this issue – and specifically our work educating children, the animal owners of tomorrow. SPANA's founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, recognised as far back as 1923 just how important a role education plays in animal welfare. They were right – and it gives me great satisfaction to think of the seismic shift we've seen in the attitudes towards animals of those schoolchildren we've taught in recent decades. Please, if you can, show your support for this appeal and help us to deliver the ambitious plans we have for our education programme – reaching more children to ensure that animals can enjoy a more compassionate future.

I would like to thank every single SPANA supporter, not just for the generous donations that make all of our veterinary and education programmes possible, but also for the unfailing encouragement, belief and passion you show for the work we do - as well as for the kindness so many people have shown to me. A profound determination to ensure that working animals have better lives is what drives us every day, and I can't tell you how much having you standing alongside us spurs us on.

**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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@ Anthony Upton

## Innovating to save lives

This innovative mobile IV (intravenous) kit was designed and developed by our team in Chemaia, Morocco. The lightweight invention sits comfortably on the back of sick and dehydrated donkeys and enables our vets to give them lifesaving fluids during mobile clinic visits anywhere. The custom-made IV drip has proven to be particularly important in remote parts of Africa, where the nearest veterinary centre can be hundreds of miles away. Thanks to your kind donations, we have been able to produce many more of these kits, which are helping to save the lives of donkeys in urgent need of vital fluids.



# SPANA *IN THE NEWS*

## Farewell Jeremy

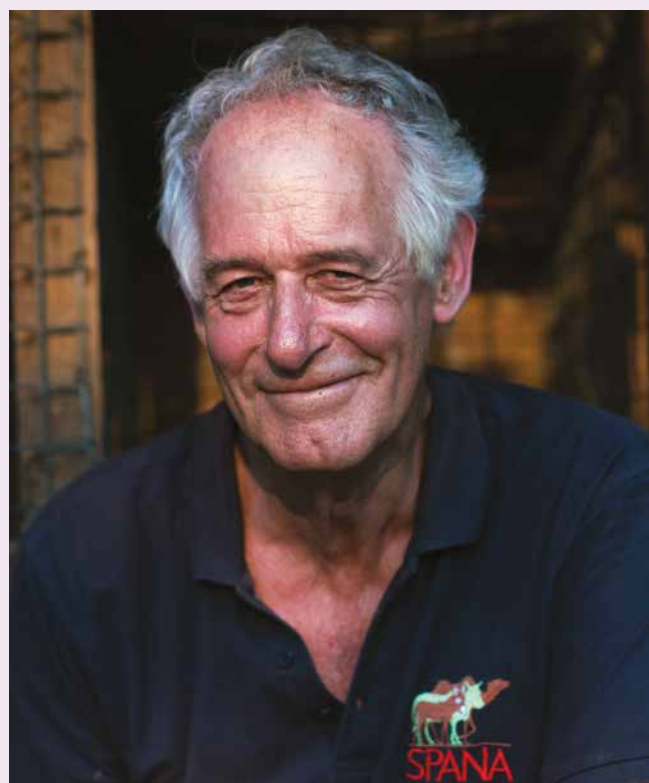
**After 28 years leading the charity, we are sad to announce that Jeremy Hulme will be retiring as Chief Executive of SPANA at the end of this year.**

Jeremy has been instrumental in transforming the lives of working animals and raising animal welfare standards in numerous countries across several continents. Under his leadership, SPANA has improved the health and wellbeing of millions of horses, donkeys, camels and other working animals worldwide, including providing veterinary treatment to more than 238,000 sick and injured animals last year alone.

He has also helped bring about long term, lasting changes to the attitudes and practices of animal owners, as well as a generation of schoolchildren. SPANA's education programme has grown significantly since 1988, and in 2015 over 50,000 schoolchildren benefitted from animal welfare lessons. At the same time, Jeremy initiated SPANA's community training programme, which equips animal owners with the practical skills to care properly for their animals.

Jeremy has expanded SPANA's global reach enormously. When Jeremy joined, the charity ran permanent programmes in three countries. Today, SPANA operates in 19 countries, ensuring that across the world many more working animals are able to live a life free from suffering.

Jeremy will be greatly missed by colleagues and friends of SPANA, in the UK and abroad. Please turn to page eight to read more about some of Jeremy's very considerable



achievements, and his wonderful legacy, during a generation of service to the charity.

Professor Tim Greet, Chairman of SPANA, said: "It is difficult to exaggerate the impact Jeremy has had in improving the welfare of working animals in the countries where SPANA operates. He has developed the excellent relations we currently enjoy with many countries around the world. He will be sorely missed by our staff and many supporters, with whom he has enjoyed a very close relationship during his time as Chief Executive."

In the next issue of SPANA News, we look forward to introducing you to Jeremy's successor, the new Chief Executive of SPANA, who will be working very closely with Jeremy ahead of his retirement.

before taking up a position at Durham University in the School of Education. At Durham, Stephen undertook academic research in the monitoring and evaluation of educational systems, for which he was awarded a doctorate degree. Stephen has trained with the Humane Society of the United States and holds Humane Education Specialist credentials.

Stephen said: "I'm really excited to be undertaking this important and challenging role for SPANA. When Kate and Nina Hosali founded the charity over ninety years ago, it was with a vision to end animal suffering through free veterinary treatment and humane education. These are two of my great passions in life, and I am honoured to be able to do my part in making their vision a reality."

## New Education Director

Dr Stephen Albone has been appointed as SPANA's new Education Director.



Stephen has worked at SPANA since 2011 as an advisor for the charity's overseas humane education programmes.

Stephen has extensive experience in the field of education. He holds a Master of Philosophy degree in ecology and a Post Graduate Certificate in education. As a qualified teacher, Stephen previously taught in a number of schools

## Animal welfare teaching qualification goes global

As reported in the autumn 2015 issue of SPANA News (issue 183, page 15), our new animal welfare teaching qualification – the International Certificate in Humane Education – was successfully launched in Ethiopia, with 47 teachers graduating from the course in its first year.

Following this success, SPANA was invited to run the course in the UK this summer at Nottingham Trent University, which specialises in animal, rural and environmental studies. 13 undergraduate students attended the five day course, which was very well received and was delivered by SPANA's new Education Director, Dr Stephen Albone, and Dr Stephanie Itle-Clarke of the Humane Society of the United States (who developed the qualification in partnership with SPANA). It is hoped that humane education will become a permanent part of the university's undergraduate programme in the future and will be considered as a career path for graduates.

The eventual aim is for the qualification to be made available for teachers across the globe, ensuring that schoolchildren worldwide are receiving high quality education in animal welfare.



## Successful surgery training in Ethiopia

SPANAs organised a surgical training course for vets and technicians in Ethiopia in July. The three-day course, held at the SPANA clinic in Debre Zeit, was attended by SPANA staff and the neighbouring university veterinary school.

The course was delivered by SPANA's head office veterinary team from the UK, supported by our Chairman and specialist equine surgeon, Professor Tim Greet. It consisted of a series of lectures and training, ranging from anaesthesia and pain relief, care of surgical instruments and sterilisation, through to dealing with complications during procedures.

The aim of the course was to equip veterinary professionals with the skills, knowledge and confidence to perform surgery and tackle problems in the future.

This essential training course was only delivered thanks to the kind donations we received towards our lifesaving surgery appeal in the spring 2016 issue of SPANA News. Thank you to everyone who kindly supported the appeal, helping to save the lives of animals in desperate need of SPANA's help.

## SPANAs launches the inaugural "International Working Animal Day"

On 15 June, SPANA launched the first International Working Animal Day to raise awareness about the hard lives of the world's working animals.

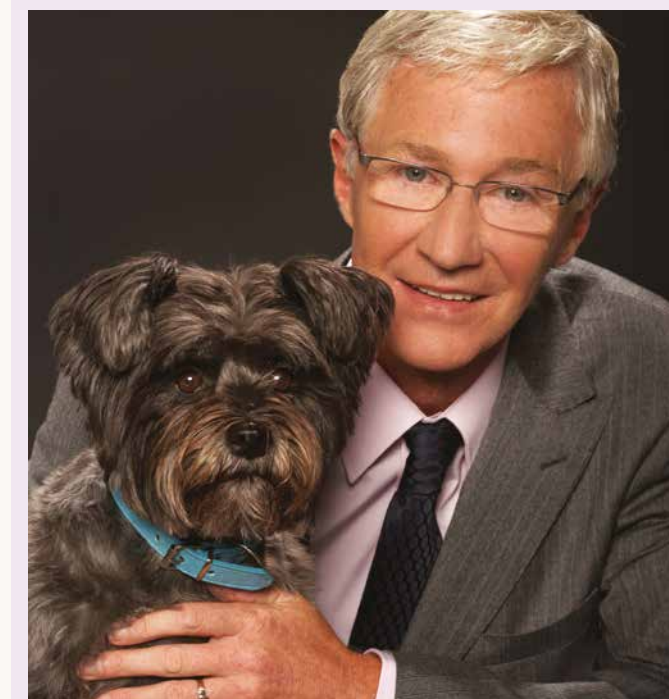
SPANAs supporters know just how important these animals are and how much they need our help. But our research shows that one in three people in the UK doesn't even know what a working animal is.

The new annual event will raise awareness about working animal welfare and, with greater awareness, will inspire many more people like you to support SPANA in ensuring a better life for hardworking animals.

Jeremy Hulme, Chief Executive of SPANA, said: "In western countries working animals helped build our towns and cities, farmed our land and were our main source of transport for thousands of years. It's a bond many people in Britain have forgotten. However, they are still as crucial to people in developing countries today as they were here a century ago.

"It's shocking that this vast global workforce is largely unknown and ignored. These animals deserve greater recognition. And, more importantly, they need our help."

TV star and SPANA supporter Paul O'Grady gave his backing to the campaign: "It breaks my heart to see how hard horses, donkeys, mules and camels have to work around the world. Hardly any receive even basic vet care when they're sick or injured. That's why I'm backing SPANA's International Working Animal Day. We need governments and aid organisations around the world to recognise the massive contribution of working animals and make sure they get the treatment, care and compassion they deserve."





# A legacy of compassion

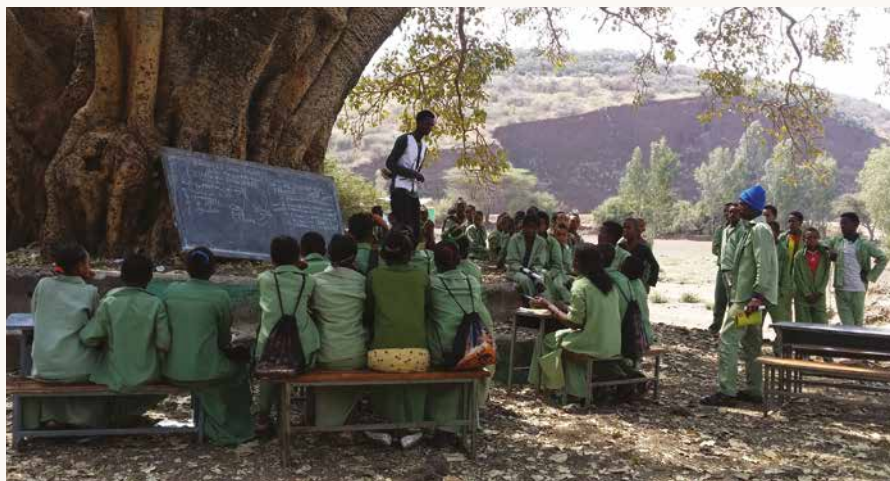


**As he prepares to retire after 28 years at the helm, SPANA Chief Executive Jeremy Hulme looks to the future**

28 years ago, before I took up my role as Chief Executive, I arrived in Morocco to begin work as SPANA's Country Director. With my family in tow, the relocation from a remote Scottish island was as big a culture shock as you can imagine. But just as shocking were the sights awaiting us – everywhere the streets were full of donkeys, mules and horses, limping, wounded and in desperate need of help.

I knew veterinary care alone could never be enough; that alongside changing dressings and harnesses, there were attitudes to change too. Now, as I prepare to retire, I am writing to ask for your help to continue my work.

Humane education is central to our work, and has been since our earliest days. In recent years the programme, led by Diana Hulme, has expanded. Today SPANA has 16 education centres across six countries, with mobile exhibition units taking our work to more remote communities. Over 50,000 children took part in SPANA's programme last year, and we reached many more through our outreach projects.



Humane education helps children to develop positive attitudes, empathy and respect towards animals. It's an approach that works. Research led by our new Education Director, Dr Stephen Albone, has proved that children who take part in our education programme – whether by visiting a SPANA centre, receiving SPANA-produced lessons in the classroom or visiting one of our mobile exhibitions – develop a more positive attitude towards animals.

Our lifesaving veterinary work is vital. But it's our children's education programme which leaves a real legacy, driving improvements in the treatment of working animals that last. Every text book, every school visit, every stop for the mobile exhibition is thanks to you – without your support, none of this can happen.

Thanks to our outreach fund, SPANA's education work isn't just limited to our nine permanent countries. In Kenya, our team is supporting a network of animal clubs for schoolchildren. Since January this year, another 20 schools joined the programme, taking the total number of participating schools up to 33. Children learn to respect animals and develop greater empathy.

To mark my final year, we've set out

an ambitious strategic plan to extend our education programme to 75,000 children, so that more animals than ever can benefit – not just now but for many years into the future.

**"I hope this will be more than just my legacy, but a commitment that the lives of future generations of working animals will be better than the suffering of the past."**

With your help we can reach an additional 1,200 children in Kenya, Ethiopia and Jordan. We can train more teachers and provide pens, pencils and activity books for animal clubs in schools that simply can't afford them.

**We can do more for the rural communities too, those most likely to own working animals. With your generous support, we aim to reach another 30,000 children with our mobile exhibition units.**

The unit's interactive displays really bring our message to life, but nothing beats spending time with animals.

With your support we can also fund animal handling programmes at



© Anthony Upton

**Here's how your kind gift could help:**

## £20 Classroom essentials

This gift could contribute towards essential classroom resources like pens, pencils, activity books and a teacher's manual for a new animal club.

## £60 Teacher training

This gift could train a teacher on animal welfare, so more children can learn about caring for animals.

## £150 Mobile exhibition units

This gift could pay towards the running costs of a mobile exhibition unit, so we can reach more children in remote areas.

**If you would like to purchase a mobile exhibition unit for £30,000, to improve the attitudes of Moroccan children towards animals, please call Caroline Francis on 020 7269 2686.**

**To donate please use the enclosed donation form, call 0330 332 2530 or visit [www.spana.org/jeremy](http://www.spana.org/jeremy)**



Ameera's growing bond with animals at the SPANA Jordan education centre

SPANA centres, ensuring children both learn appropriate care and develop nurturing and compassionate attitudes.

Ameera in Jordan, pictured, had grown up surrounded by working animals but had never spent time caring for them and understanding their needs. With your help, many more children will learn empathy like Ameera.

**Of all the things we have achieved together over the past 28 years, it's the incredible achievements of our humane education programme that give me the greatest satisfaction. Now, as I step down, I am asking one final time if you can help SPANA to reach more children, to ensure that the legacy that we leave is one that benefits these animals now and for years to come. If you can, please make a gift today to help build a gentler future for animals.**



# The fondest farewell

Ahead of Jeremy Hulme's retirement as Chief Executive of SPANA later this year, we look back at an extraordinary life – and pay tribute to his immense contribution to animal welfare.

Jeremy Ferguson Hulme was born in 1948 in Woodford in Essex, the younger of two sons.

After leaving school, Jeremy spent a year working at a mission hospital in the Kalahari Desert, before joining the British army, where he served in a Scottish regiment – 1st Battalion of The Black Watch – in several interesting places around the world, including Malaya, Gibraltar and Northern Ireland.

On leaving the army, Jeremy returned to college for three years to read agriculture. At this time, Jeremy married Diana, who would go on to work alongside him as SPANA's Education Director. Together, they bought a farm on Rousay, an island in the Orkneys off the coast of northern Scotland. Although limited by the poor climate, Jeremy was a successful livestock farmer and kept a flock of 300 ewes.

Largely set on hill land, the farm was particularly rich in wildlife, fostering Jeremy's love of nature and animals. The farm was eventually divided and sold, with much of the land going to the RSPB and becoming a bird sanctuary.

With the increased responsibility of three growing children, Jeremy decided to move somewhere with greater accessibility. It was at this point, in 1988, that Jeremy's SPANA story began. He was approached to become SPANA's Operations Director, based in Morocco, with responsibility for the charity's work in North Africa. Knowing what a beautiful place Morocco was from his time in the army, he was delighted to be offered the job.

After three years in Rabat, Jeremy moved to London, where he took up the post of SPANA Chief Executive.

In the 28 years since Jeremy joined SPANA, the charity has developed and grown dramatically into the dynamic and professional organisation we see today – able to protect the lives of hundreds of thousands of working animals in need of help each year, wherever in the world they may be. (Please turn over to page 10 to find out more about the many veterinary and education centres built, new countries entered and programmes launched by SPANA under Jeremy since 1988). But, for all these advances, Jeremy has remained fiercely protective of the principles set out in 1923 by SPANA's pioneering founders, Kate and Nina Hosali – and the charity has always stayed true to their original vision.

In addition to the veterinary and education programmes SPANA delivers today in nine permanent countries – Botswana, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Tunisia and Zimbabwe – the charity now provides small grants to many animal welfare organisations



Jeremy visiting SPANA's Casablanca centre with soul superstar Joss Stone in 2014



throughout the world. Jeremy also set up an emergency operation that allows SPANA to respond quickly in crisis situations to help suffering animals in disaster areas. He has since led emergency teams in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur and many other locations, including Ethiopia most recently.

Throughout, Jeremy has campaigned tirelessly for international governments and aid agencies to recognise the vital importance of livestock and working animals to poor rural communities, especially post conflict or natural disaster.

Jeremy has helped transform the conditions for working animals in many countries through his determination and dedication. His hands-on approach has seen him (quite literally) build veterinary and education centres across Africa and the Middle East from the ground up. He is always actively trying to make a difference – whether it's building relationships with international partners, visiting SPANA's overseas projects and listening to animal owners, or rolling up his sleeves and delivering sacks of animal feed from a lorry.

Jeremy is an enthusiastic painter of wildlife, and he has provided the artwork for many SPANA books produced for schoolchildren overseas. You may recognise his paintings from our Christmas cards and gifts in recent years – including some of those in this year's Happy Hooves catalogue.

Friends of SPANA, supporters and colleagues will all have their own special memories of Jeremy. Whether it's his charismatic personality, his wry sense of humour – or perhaps even his signature red trousers – Jeremy makes an unforgettable impression on everyone he meets. He always has time for people, is unfailingly kind, and can be relied upon for an amusing or fascinating anecdote in almost any situation.

His achievements guarantee he will have a lasting place in SPANA's history – but the legacy he leaves will ensure he holds just as important a place in SPANA's future in the years ahead. Above all, Jeremy will be remembered for his life long passion for animals and their welfare.

Jeremy and Diana have recently moved to a cottage with a large garden in East Sussex, an area with a rich variety of birds and mammals, where they will retire and spend more time with their grandchildren.

From everyone at SPANA, and on behalf of our supporters, the schoolchildren and animal owners we've reached in the past three decades and the millions of animals that thankfully have a better life today – thank you Jeremy. We hope you enjoy a very long, happy and well-deserved retirement!





# Making great strides

From launching in new countries and building veterinary centres by hand, to travelling in conflict and disaster zones to save the lives of animals, **Jeremy Hulme's** time as Chief Executive of SPANA has certainly been eventful. Here we revisit some of the key moments, and reflect on how Jeremy has transformed the charity and the lives of working animals over the past three decades...



## 1988

Jeremy joins SPANA. Based in Rabat in Morocco, Jeremy is responsible for running SPANA's operations in North Africa.

## 1989

SPANA Jordan is established.

## 1991

Jeremy returns to London with his family, taking up his post as SPANA Chief Executive.

## 1996

SPANA begins working in Mali, offering vet care to working animals, such as the donkeys of the Bamako rubbish dumps.



## 1997

Jeremy expands SPANA's work in Tunisia, with the opening of a second permanent centre in Kasserine.

## 1999

Jeremy visits Kosovo - SPANA's first emergency trip - five days after UN troops enter the country, establishing a mobile vet clinic to help animals, many of which had been wounded by bullets.

## 2001

SPANA expands into Mauritania, opening a veterinary centre in Nouakchott.



## 2003

Work begins for the first time in Ethiopia - a country with 2.5 million working horses.

Jeremy visits Iraq and sets up a mobile clinic after the war to provide urgent veterinary help for equines and farm animals.

## 2006

A new state-of-the-art veterinary centre is officially opened in Casablanca, Morocco.

## 2010

Following a request from the British Army in Afghanistan, SPANA sends a team to war-torn Helmand province to train animal health workers.

## 2011

SPANA launches an emergency feeding programme to save thousands of animals in Somalia and Kenya during the Horn of Africa drought.

## 2013

Zimbabwe launches as a core country of operation.

Jeremy visits Mbera refugee camp in Mauritania where 75,000 people fled from the conflict in Mali with 470,000 animals. A SPANA programme begins to repair wells to provide water for animals and their owners.



## 2015

SPANA operations get underway in a new country, Botswana. Jeremy leads emergency feeding programme to save starving animals during Ethiopia's worst drought in over 50 years.

New clinical skills centres for vet students open in Jordan and Senegal, bringing the total to seven.

## 2016

SPANA launches a new permanent programme in Myanmar, helping working elephants - a new species for the charity - for the first time.

The charity's education programmes now operate in 16 countries.

Free veterinary treatment provided to more than 238,000 working animals worldwide every year.





# PROFILE **Jordan**

**Outside of the wealthier urban centres, working animals continue to play a fundamental role in the lives of Jordan's poorer rural population**

## SPANA OPERATIONS

Since 1989, SPANA has been assisting working animals in Jordan. In our fixed veterinary centre and mobile clinic, vets provide treatment for a wide range of problems. Many horses and donkeys are still used by many poorer people in rural areas for agricultural purposes, such as ploughing fields and delivering goods. Wounds and other injuries sustained from this hazardous work are common and often require urgent attention from our team.

Camels are used for transportation up and down the country. In desert regions, Bedouins have long depended on the support of these reliable and hardy animals, while their milk also provides a key food source. Camels are also widely used in the tourism industry.

Our extensive education programme reached almost 2,400 children last year. The SPANA education centre in Amman provides animal welfare activities and tours to groups of children from the age of four upwards. Children are also given the chance to come into contact

with donkeys and rabbits, helping to develop positive attitudes and feelings of compassion towards animals. 85 SPANA-led Animal Welfare Clubs exist across the country, while workshops and classes are held in around 126 schools nationwide.



## JORDAN AT A GLANCE

Population **9,710,752**

Area **89,341 km<sup>2</sup>**

Location **Middle East**

Capital city **Amman**

Estimated working animal population  
**25,780 camels, horses, donkeys and mules**

## PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A **Dr Ghazi Mustafa, SPANA Jordan Country Director**



### Can you tell us about your background?

I have worked for SPANA for 22 years and have been Country Director for 11 years. I graduated as a vet in Syria in 1991 and then joined the army in Jordan. Before moving to SPANA, I worked as a vet in the royal stables. SPANA were looking for an equine specialist and I was one of only four horse vets in the country.

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

Donkeys have a very low status. There is more respect for horses, but not

donkeys. However, the attitudes of the community are changing. Wounds are very common, and equine herpes virus, which affects the nervous system is also a very serious problem. It paralyses animals and is fatal if not treated, but it can be difficult to identify.

### How important are working animals in Jordan?

Outside of Amman, in the Jordan Valley for instance, people still depend heavily on working animals, which are used for activities such as ploughing and as a means of transport. In mountainous, steep or hilly rural areas, there is lots

of terracing for growing produce – people can't use a tractor to plough these areas, so working animals are essential.

### Has the situation improved for working animals since SPANA started working in Jordan?

There's a very big difference. People's attitudes have changed, especially towards donkeys. Traditional practices, such as nose slitting, used to be common. These practices are very dangerous as they can lead to tetanus and death. Ten years ago there were lots of cases, but now – thanks largely to our work with the community – it is far rarer.

### What is the best thing about your role?

As a vet I feel so happy when I see animals recovering after an operation. If an animal requires surgery then it is because they have really got to the stage where they are very sick. I feel incredibly happy and satisfied to stop animals suffering. Without SPANA providing the facilities and the medicine then it would be impossible for us to help these animals.

## CASE FILE: **Jordan**



**“Lufti is so important to our family and we will take very good care of him as we never want him to suffer. We rely on SPANA to help our animals and I am very thankful to them. They have never let us down.”**

Hamad's son  
Kalil with Lufti

## Lufti the horse can breathe easy again

The SPANA Jordan team were on hand to help a four-year-old horse experiencing breathing difficulties during a recent mobile clinic visit in Wadi Shuaib.

The owner Hamad Hassen Sliman was anxious, as his horse had been wheezing and had some clear fluid coming from his nostrils.

Hamad is a farmer with a goat herd who makes a living by selling milk. Lufti supports Hamad and his family by working on the farm and transporting the produce to the local market.

SPANA vets gave Lufti a full examination, took his temperature and listened to his lungs and windpipe. The team asked the owner about Lufti's feed and he confirmed that he uses a nosebag to feed his horse and that recently Lufti had been breathing more heavily while eating.

The team diagnosed that Lufti was suffering from a dust allergy and highlighted that the nosebag was making the problem worse. Nosebags are sealed sacks of feed

covering an animal's mouth and nose that are commonly used by owners here to ensure that the animal will get its whole ration of food. Inhaling the dusty feed can be problematic for animals like Lufti however, as it can set off an allergic reaction in the lower airways, similar to asthma.

The SPANA team gave Lufti an anti-inflammatory injection to settle the reaction in his lungs. They offered Hamad plenty of advice, as careful management of Lufti's condition and close monitoring of his breathing will be very important in the future. They instructed Hamad never to use a nosebag to feed his horse and to keep Lufti in a well-ventilated area. They also advised him to dampen down Lufti's feed with water to ensure that any dust has settled. The vets asked Hamad to bring Lufti to the SPANA centre straight away if further problems occur.

Hamad said: “Lufti is so important to our family and we will take very good care of him as we never want him to suffer. We rely on SPANA to help our animals and I am very thankful to them. They have never let us down.”



# SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD



**“Our animals are very important to us, as they help make our daily jobs easier, rounding up the cattle and getting to the village. We also like the animals very much. We wish SPANA all the best in Botswana.”**

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

## BOTSWANA

### A young foal faces a leopard attack

Young Ray, is a six-month-old foal from the Matsaudi village in Maun, Botswana, and when he is old enough, he will work on his owners’ cattle farm.

Sadly, Ray was attacked by a wild leopard, leaving him with multiple injuries over his body, including painful claw and bite wounds.

His owners – brothers Joel and Mpho Gubago – were extremely worried about Ray, but thankfully the SPANA mobile clinic was passing through the village and came to the rescue.

The SPANA team cleaned Ray’s wounds and applied antibiotic cream to prevent the wounds becoming infected. They also gave him medicine to help with the pain and sprayed him with a repellent to keep flies away.

They stressed to Joel and Mpho how important it was to keep Ray’s wounds as clean and free from flies as possible to allow the best chance of healing.

To prevent this from happening again, SPANA advised Joel and Mpho to bring their horses, especially the foals, into a fenced enclosure at night, so they can be guarded and kept away from wild animals.

The team conducted regular follow-up checks on Ray to keep an eye on his recovery and they were pleased to see that, after five weeks, his wounds had completely healed.

The brothers were very thankful to SPANA. They said: “There is nowhere to go for help. But we heard of SPANA and called you. SPANA helped us treat the injuries, gave us treatment to follow on with and showed us how to handle the horses more calmly.”

## TUNISIA

### Treating a painful bite

SPANNA’s weekly mobile clinic at the souk (market) in Sbeitla, in the north of Tunisia, recently treated four-year-old donkey Hana, who came in with a large wound on her ear.

Hana works long hours on a farm, helping her owner Lebsayri Belgacem earn a living to support his wife and six children. Sadly, Hana was bitten by another donkey, leaving her with a deep and painful wound on her right ear.

After the team had examined Hana’s ear, they applied special ointment to help the wound heal and gave her antibiotics to fight the bacterial infection that had been introduced as a result of the bite.

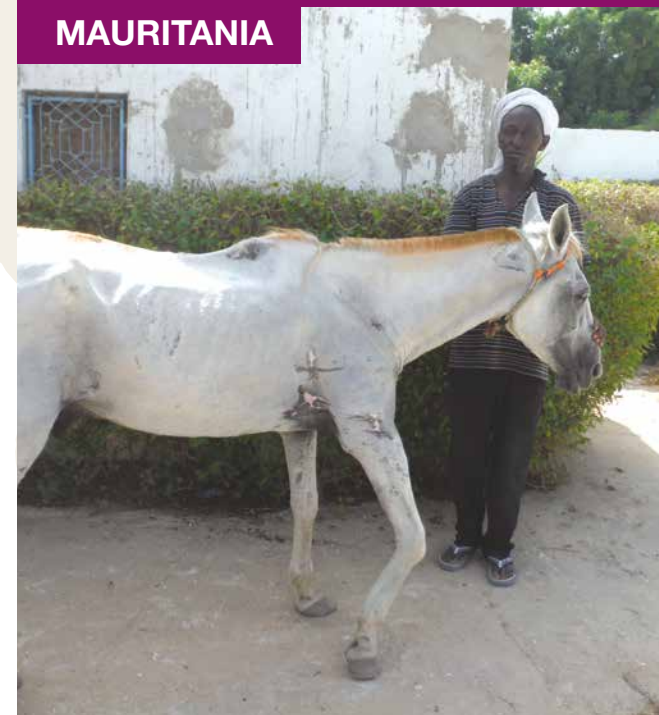
They advised Lebsayri to rest Hana for two weeks and to keep an eye out for any unusual behaviour that may indicate an infection with rabies.

Lebsayri expressed his sincere thanks for SPANA’s help.



**“As a farmer, my animals are very important to me. I was so worried when I saw the terrible bite on Hana’s ear, but thankfully the vets at SPANA have helped to treat her and made sure she’ll be healthy again soon.”**

## MAURITANIA



### Helping after a road accident

Fourteen-year-old Salah from Mauritania pulls a cart transporting people in El Mina, one of the poorest parts of the capital city, Nouakchott. The small amount of money this horse brings in helps his owner Ahmed put food on the table for his wife and four children.

The conditions on the roads of El Mina can be hazardous when it rains and, unfortunately for Salah, he was hit by another cart, causing an injury to his front right knee.

Ahmed rushed Salah to the nearby SPANA centre where, after examining Salah’s knee, and ensuring there were no fractures with a radiograph, our vets gave him medicines to reduce the pain and swelling.

They advised Ahmed that he would have to rest his horse for at least a month to give him a chance to recover properly and to take extra care on the roads to prevent this happening again.

Ahmed was grateful to SPANA for treating his horse for free.

**“Thank you very much SPANA for the work you do to help Salah and all the other animals.”**



# Confronting African Horse Sickness

SPANA's Veterinary Programme Advisor, Hannah Davies, on the struggle to control a devastating disease that is a constant threat to equines in sub-Saharan Africa

"Could it be African Horse Sickness?"

As an equine vet, those are words that I dread to hear.

A virus that proves fatal in the majority of horses and has no cure, African Horse Sickness (AHS) is considered a major health threat for horses worldwide.

In the UK, we are lucky; we do not currently have AHS in our equine population. But, as the name suggests, Africa is not so fortunate. In many areas of sub-Saharan Africa, such as Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, AHS is endemic, which means it is always present, posing a constant threat to the equine population.

Transmitted by midges, all equines can become infected with the disease, but horses are most susceptible, suffering from two main forms – 'pulmonary' and 'cardiac'. The 'pulmonary form', affecting the respiratory system is the most severe form of the disease and is almost always fatal (95 per cent of horses will die from the infection). Donkeys and mules are more resistant to the disease, and zebras are known as the 'reservoir' species; once infected, they do not show signs of disease but act as a 'reservoir' of infection for midges to transmit the disease on to other horses.

Dr Nigatu Aklilu, Country Director of SPANA Ethiopia, has experienced first-hand the effects of AHS on the equine population in Ethiopia and has been involved with investigations into AHS outbreaks across the country in order to research the disease further. Dr Nigatu describes AHS as "a very devastating and horrifying disease, which causes huge suffering to horses, particularly the pulmonary form; these horses present with the disease in the morning and may die by the afternoon."

Treatment options are limited, and in many cases horses deteriorate so rapidly that there is little that can be done to help them. There is however a vaccine, which can be used to protect horses from the disease. But further research into this disease is required to develop more effective vaccines.

A new project, launched by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) this year, is aiming to look into the benefits of developing a new vaccine that will allow vaccinated equines to be protected and differentiated from infected animals. SPANA's teams in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe



The devastating signs of African Horse Sickness

have taken an active role in this project by providing detailed information on the profile of AHS within equine populations in these countries. We hope that this will assist the OIE in future vaccine development – and ultimately help to control this devastating disease.

**"...a very devastating and horrifying disease, which causes huge suffering to horses, particularly the pulmonary form; these horses present with the disease in the morning and may die by the afternoon."**



# Kenyan schools club together to improve animal welfare

SPANA's new Education Director, Dr Stephen Albone, talks about the impact of our education programme in Kenya

Since 2012, SPANA has been educating schoolchildren in Kenya about animal welfare through a network of after-school clubs. The extra-curricular PAWS Clubs ("Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools") run a series of lessons to help children develop positive attitudes and compassion towards animals.

The education programme has proved so popular that many other schools have since contacted SPANA about forming their own animal clubs. Today, SPANA is working in 33 schools around Nairobi. This year alone, 1,650 enthusiastic children aged between nine and 12 have voluntarily signed up to take part.

Each club has 50 members, and we regularly see as many as 120 applications to join. Every child receives an activity book and the teachers running the clubs are equipped with a range of resources, including lesson plans. SPANA also holds annual workshops for these teachers to offer training and support.

The lessons focus on a range of topics, such as the five animal welfare needs, which are important in helping children to understand what animals need to remain healthy and happy.

Our evaluations show the programme is having a significant effect on the way children think and feel about animals – helping to build empathy, as well as concern and sensitivity to the welfare needs of animals.

SPANA Kenya's Education Officer Maryanne Kagai said:

"When we first started the PAWS Clubs in 2012, we anticipated strong interest from the children. But what we've seen is quite unbelievable. These children have become so passionate about animals. Some of the students used to have negative attitudes towards some types of animals, reinforced by stereotypes, but that's completely changed now.

**"In the schools in semi-rural areas around Nairobi, many of the student's families own working animals and these children will be the animal owners of the future. It's so important that they learn to care for animals at this age."**



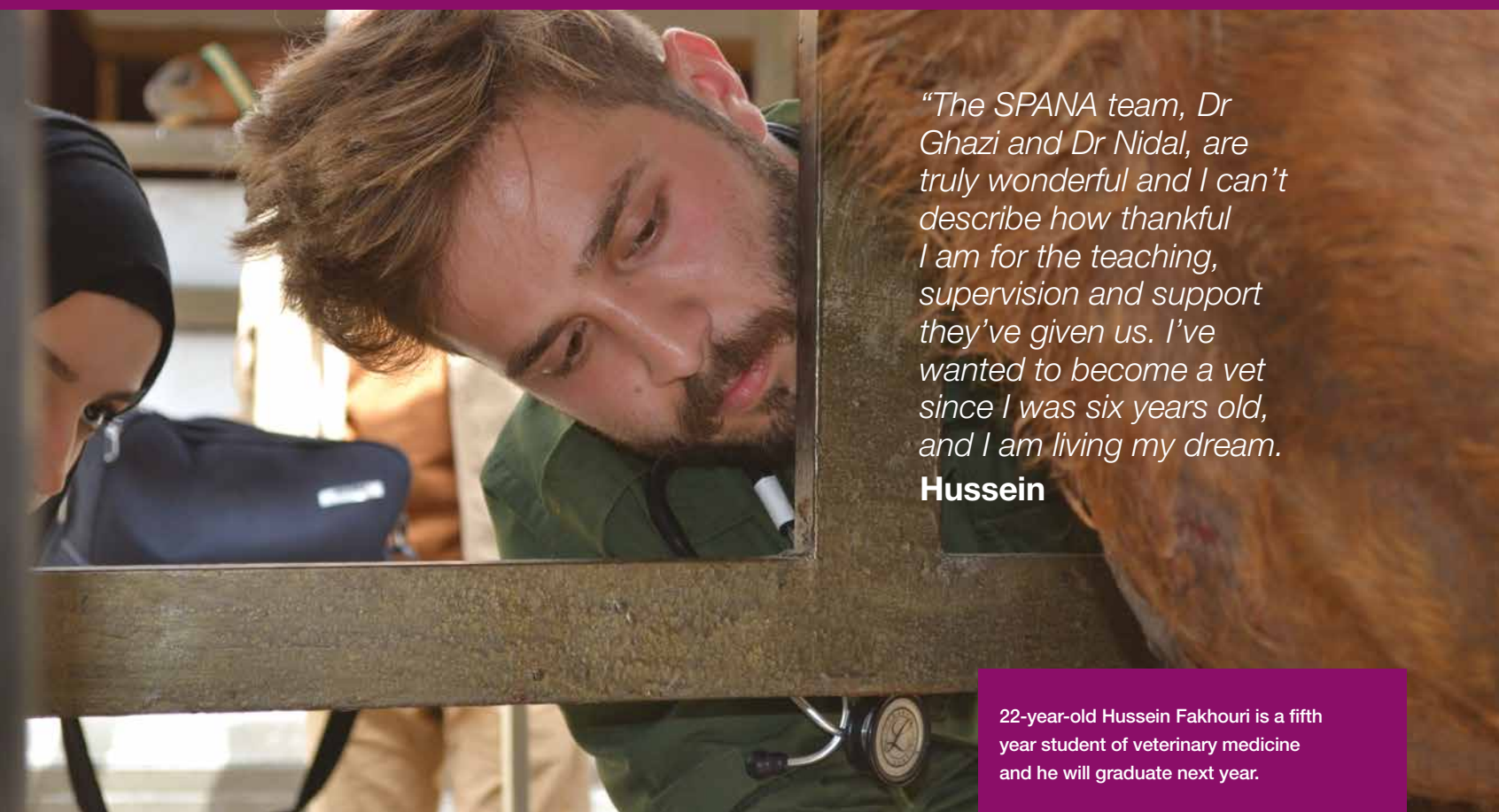
A number of teachers have also reported that children are so enthusiastic about the animal clubs that they are often very sad about leaving at the end of the year when their lessons are completed. To harness this passion and commitment, we have now made it possible for these older children to take on the role of mentors within the clubs, helping to teach and encourage the younger children entering the club. This has proven to be beneficial for the younger children, who look up greatly to the older children. And for the older students, this extra responsibility is serving to reinforce the positive feelings they have developed towards the clubs and animal welfare.

Twelve-year-old Faith said: "Every week I was so excited about the animal club and when the lessons were finished I didn't want to leave. I've learned so much from the animal club and I was very happy when I was told I could stay. Now I can help the teacher and pass on what I have learnt to younger children. My brother can't wait to join when he is old enough next year."

The level of demand for SPANA's animal welfare education is so high that, every year, we're launching clubs in new areas and in many more schools. The importance of instilling respect and kindness for animals amongst children is plain to see and the impact is proven. Animal clubs are a major step in the right direction for animal welfare in Kenya and the more children we can reach, the better.



# Training the vets of tomorrow



*"The SPANA team, Dr Ghazi and Dr Nidal, are truly wonderful and I can't describe how thankful I am for the teaching, supervision and support they've given us. I've wanted to become a vet since I was six years old, and I am living my dream."*

**Hussein**

22-year-old Hussein Fakhouri is a fifth year student of veterinary medicine and he will graduate next year.



Elham Al-Omari graduated in 2015 and has been volunteering at the SPANA centre since January 2016.

*"Every day begins at 8.00am. We check each animal, reviewing their medical record and giving them the required care, such as wound management or the right medication."*

**Elham**

*"I feel like I'm a part of the SPANA family and I would like to say thank you so much to this amazing organisation. SPANA gives poor people around the world the chance to get treatment for their animals, and students like me the opportunity to gain experience and quality training."*

**Hamza**

**Training local vets in SPANA's countries of operation is an important part of our work. This training provides a lasting legacy, improving the quality of veterinary services across an entire country and ensuring that animals receive the proper care they need in places well beyond the catchment areas of our centres.**

Reaching young vets is arguably an even more important task. Training vet students and recent graduates enables SPANA to instil best practice while they learn – the most crucial phase in their professional development. Offering expert teaching to young vets means we can equip them with the critical skills and knowledge needed from the outset, eliminating bad habits before they can develop, and benefiting them – and the animals they treat – for their entire careers ahead.

Our clinical skills centres in university veterinary schools are a key component of this training. But SPANA also offers local vet students and graduates the opportunity to receive on-the-job training and teaching in our centres through volunteer placements. In many countries this is a unique opportunity for new vets to gain hands-on experience – particularly in treating equines – prior to taking up first, full-time posts.

In our centre in Amman, the SPANA Jordan team welcomes vet volunteers throughout the year. Here are some of the young vets currently making a significant contribution:

23-year-old **Elham** said: "As a new graduate, it is very difficult to gain experience if you are interested in helping equines and working animals. SPANA is the best place to start from, and I love it."

Elham has always wanted to be an equine vet. She said: "I love horse riding and I have a passion for equines. I'm also allergic to cats, so treating small animals wasn't an option!" Following her time with SPANA, Elham will be applying for roles as an equine vet, after which she would like to study for a master's degree in equine surgery.

**Hussein** said: "SPANA is the only organisation that offers students the chance to learn how to handle cases, deal with animal owners, and put into practice what we are studying at university."

"The most difficult case we've encountered was a mare with colic. Dr Ghazi decided that surgery was necessary and we discovered the cause was a blockage, resulting from the accumulation of sand, dirt and other indigestible materials."

After the surgery, we stayed with the horse at the clinic all night and for a further two days to watch her and make sure she was recovering well. Thankfully she survived."

**Hamza** said: "For vet students in Jordan, SPANA is the best place to help animals in need and for gaining professional experience."

"Every day is different and we learn so many new skills, such as bandaging, giving injections and medication, running tests using the microscope, and more complex tasks such as assisting with surgery."

"For farmers and working animal owners, SPANA is so important because they cannot afford veterinary services elsewhere and it is also the most trusted place where animals can get the best treatment and care."

Young vet volunteers certainly benefit greatly from SPANA's teaching, but they also provide valuable support for the charity, assisting the SPANA teams in their daily work. Armed with the skills and experience they acquire during their placements with SPANA, these vets will go on to help countless working animals throughout their careers – a clear and very pleasing legacy.



Fourth year veterinary student Hamza Harb has spent the last four months volunteering with SPANA.





© Ruben Salgado Escudero

# An incredible journey

## In his last ever SPANA News column as Chief Executive, Jeremy Hulme reflects on his three decade mission to improve working animal welfare – the challenges, successes and the future

I must admit I can't believe it's twenty eight years since I walked through my sheep flock in Scotland saying "Sorry girls, we're leaving. We're off to work for SPANA in North Africa." They were slightly mollified when they discovered that SPANA was an animal welfare charity, and I took our

border collie aside and whispered in her ear "Don't you worry, old thing, you're coming with us."

So although it seems like yesterday, I also know a lot has happened since – and I'm really proud to say there have been huge changes for the better.

Let's start with our veterinary care – then as now, the foundation of what we do.

In 1988, not only was our treatment pretty bland – in some cases, untrained 'dressers' travelled to souks and markets on the bus. They carried a little box or bag, with a pot of methylene blue and a brush, and – if they were really progressive – a few sachets of wormer. Though the spirit was very willing, realistically what they could do to relieve sickness, pain and suffering was very limited. And at the newly opened veterinary school in Rabat (and pretty well all over Africa and the developing world), it was possible to qualify as a veterinary surgeon without ever having handled an animal.

Well, just look at them today.

Firstly, we now use only well-trained professional vets and technicians. They are confident and competent – able to conduct proper diagnosis and then appropriate treatment. In some countries we use X-ray machines and scanners – not only to help identify the problems, but to train the vets and vet students that nowadays have to work with SPANA in order to qualify. We can now do the very best for working animals, from tiny donkeys to strapping mules and horses, camels, oxen and even elephants. And still, as always, completely free – a real lifeline for the animals of some of the poorest people in society.

I'm also really proud of our other fundamental and unique work – the education programme.

When we started in Morocco, we inherited some posters made of photos cut out of English newspapers with Arabic captions scribbled in Biro. That was it – the entire education programme, and even that, only in Morocco.

Now we have major programmes in all our established countries – all with agreements with the various Ministries of Education. We have thousands of children visiting our clinics and specialist education centres, mobile exhibitions buses travelling the length and breadth of countries and hundreds of animal clubs where trained teachers inspire children, change attitudes and instil empathy. We produce work books, story books, lesson plans and films – all in local languages. Better still, we know this works. Over the last five years, we have developed a scientific method of measuring the effect of our programmes, and can prove that not only does it produce change, in attitude, behaviour and empathy, but that change endures – even when the children have finished our programmes by several years.

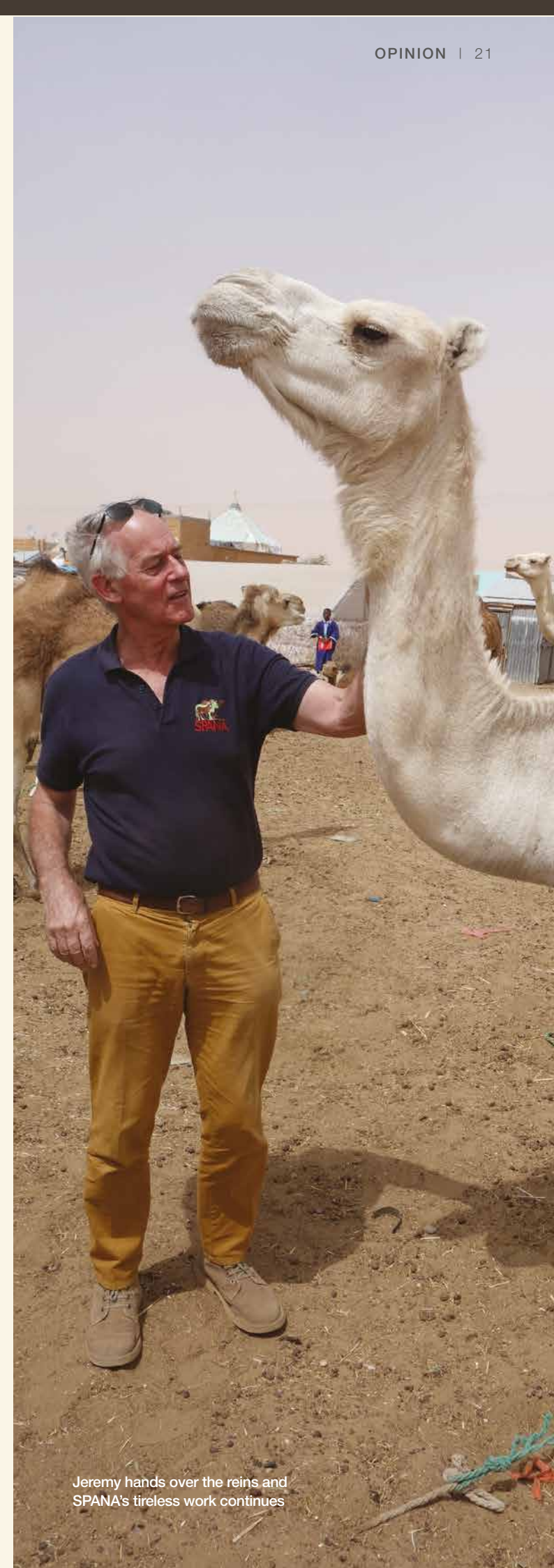
I can't finish without mention of our very special emergency programme.

This was all started by a supporter phoning us in 1999, complaining that she'd seen animals on the BBC News the night before being abused in Kosovo, and "What was SPANA doing about it?"

Since then we have been to many hotspots around the world – I can honestly say I've never seen any other British animal charities in those places. We've been in war zones like Kosovo and Somalia. We've been mortared (at the airport) in Baghdad, and had to run from a suicide bomber while we were teaching vet technicians in Afghanistan. We've fed thousands and thousands of head of livestock during droughts in the Horn of Africa, Chad, Ethiopia and North Darfur, and built water holes in the Sudan, Mauritania (in bandit country), the Gobi and Turkana. Maybe that didn't change the whole world, but we certainly must have made a difference to an awful lot of animals.

But now that's all over for me – time to call it a day and head off into the sunset. Legacy is an often-heard term these days, and I hope the changes and advances we've made since I started here in 1988 will, with your outstanding support, provide a springboard for continued and even greater success in the years to come.

**Someone said 'we give our hearts unrestrainedly to very few things' – I certainly gave my heart and soul to SPANA. The most wonderful of charities. I wish it all the very best for the future and its vital, unique work.**



Jeremy hands over the reins and SPANA's tireless work continues



# GIVEN WITH LOVE



**When animal lover and SPANA supporter Linda Cameron-Bell told us that she had kindly included a gift to SPANA in her Will, she explained why:**

*"In some places in the world, it seems people don't matter and life is cheap, so what chance for the animals on whom they depend? I so admire the work SPANA do on my behalf because I want to ease their suffering but cannot do it myself. I will continue to support SPANA during my lifetime and beyond, through a legacy in my Will. It is a modest amount but I could not overlook your fantastic work."*

Her words seemed to sum up the motivation of so many SPANA supporters – her compassion for suffering animals and her wish for SPANA to be the "feet on the ground" treating the animals in need where she herself couldn't go.

Last year, sadly Linda passed away. Linda's husband Alex made a donation to SPANA's work in her memory and a

plaque to Linda was added to our memorial wall in SPANA's Marrakech centre. One year later, Alex visited the centre to see for himself the work that had meant so much to his wife. Having watched our vets treating the daily outpatients, Alex said: "Linda would have been thrilled to know that her legacy is making a difference on behalf of the animals that she dearly loved."

SPANA continues to be a very practical charity doing the good, humane and compassionate work that it always has. Nearly half of everything we do for working animals is only possible because of the kindness of people like Linda who leave a legacy to SPANA.

**Legacies like Linda's are given with love and spent with care and dedication.** If you feel that you are able to include a gift to SPANA in your Will, your gift – whatever its size – would always be needed and appreciated, however far in the future it may arrive. If you've already included SPANA in your will, we'd love to hear from you as it gives us a chance to say a special "thank you".

**To request a copy of our free legacies guide or to find out more, you are welcome to contact Penny or Caroline in our friendly legacy team on 020 7831 3999 or by email at [hello@spana.org](mailto:hello@spana.org)**

**We would like to thank Mr Bell for his kind permission to feature his wife's story.**



# 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

## Your chance to say farewell to Jeremy

As you've read in this issue of SPANA News, we'll be saying a fond farewell to our Chief Executive, Jeremy Hulme, at the end of this year. After 28 years of service to working animals, we think it's only right to send him off in style! We'll therefore be hosting a special supporters' party for Jeremy in the grand setting of the Law Society in central London and we'd love for you to join us.

To secure your place for Jeremy's farewell celebration call Jessie on 020 7831 3999

This is your opportunity to thank Jeremy for all his hard work and for us to say thank you to you for all of your fantastic support. We'll also be joined by many of our overseas country directors and, of course, Jeremy's wife Diana who retired as our Education Director earlier this year after 27 years with SPANA.

We'll be showing photographs and video footage of what has been achieved during Jeremy's time with SPANA – all made possible thanks to your kind support. We'll also be sharing our exciting plans for the future, so we really hope that you'll join us for this very special occasion.

**Tickets are limited, so please call Jessie now to secure your place on 020 7831 3999.**

**Date:** Wednesday, 16 November 2016  
**Time:** 12.30pm – 4.00pm  
**Place:** The Law Society, Chancery Lane, central London  
**Tickets:** £30 per person including lunch, with wine and an arrival drink.

## The Big Knit for Vet Kit is back!

We're very excited to announce exclusively that a brand new knitting pattern will be joining our Big Knit family this autumn. Can you guess what it might be?

With the evenings drawing in, it's time to get out your knitting needles and do your bit to help working animals. The free Big Knit for Vet Kit fundraising pack now includes five exclusive animal patterns. Using the patterns you can knit your very own donkey, horse, ox or our new mystery animal, plus there's a camel crochet pattern too! The funds raised will help to treat real animals in desperate need around the world. There's a sponsorship form included with your pack, so you could help animals in need while you stitch. You could even sell your creations to friends and family, or simply make a donation if you prefer – every penny helps.

These lovely little animals would make fantastic Christmas presents for your nearest and dearest, or if you send them to SPANA, we'll find them loving new homes with children who attend our animal clubs overseas.



**Get your free pack now and get knitting!  
Go to [www.spana.org/knit](http://www.spana.org/knit) or call 020 7831 3999.**

## Running for SPANA

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has pulled on their running shoes for SPANA this year and made a big difference to working animals! Patrick Sells and Emma Whiting took on the world-famous Virgin Money London Marathon in April, raising over £3,300 between them. Plus, we had a fantastic team of eight runners take part in the lovely Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on 9 October – thank you to Louise, Francesca, Will, Amy, Rachel, Steve,

Alan and Meredith. You and your fellow runners around the country are all SPANA stars! If you'd like to run for SPANA, call Jessie on 020 7831 3999 or visit [www.spana.org/events](http://www.spana.org/events) for information on running and other challenges you can take on for SPANA.







# Help give donkeys a very merry Christmas

Happy Hooves

GIFTS FOR 2016

**This year there are even more gifts in our Happy Hooves shop!** Treat your family and friends to some wonderful gifts and make this Christmas one to remember. Choose from our delicious, mouth-watering goodies, thoughtful gifts for the home, and some exclusive gifts designed by our Chief Executive, Jeremy Hulme. There's also a superb range of Christmas cards and even treats for your pets! If you're looking for something extra special, there's our inspiring selection of Gifts of Health and Happiness. These gifts really do make a difference to working animals, providing them with everything they need, from vital veterinary treatments to food and water. All the money raised from Happy Hooves will free working animals from a life of suffering in some of the world's poorest countries and help give them a happy Christmas!

£12



**Donkey Egg Cup**

Gift code: M16DEC

£4



**Cat Advent Calendar**

Gift code: M16CAC



£2.50



**SPANA Notelets**

Pack of 10

Gift code: M16ODN

**SPANA Magnetic Bookmarks**

Gift code: M16MB

£5



**Wild Kittens Shortbread Tin**

Gift code: M16WK



£6

**Gardening planner**

Gift code: M16GP



£12

**Grey Donkey Hand Puppet**

Gift code: M16DHP

£8



To view the whole range of gifts, please visit and order online at

**[www.happyhooves.org](http://www.happyhooves.org)**

**Or call 0330 332 2530** (8am-8pm, Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm, Sat-Sun)

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