



news

For the working animals of the world

Spring 2017 • Issue 186



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It's a great honour for me to welcome you to the latest issue of SPANA News – my first as Chief Executive of SPANA.

In this issue, on page 14, you can read about how SPANA is preparing the vets of the future through our network of overseas clinical skills centres. By providing training to veterinary students in universities, we are equipping them with the skills, experience and confidence they will need for their entire careers. Through this approach, we are helping to ensure that, from the very beginning, the working animals they will go on to treat will receive the best possible care.

Our appeal in this issue focuses on the lifeline that is provided by our mobile clinics, which ensure that animals can benefit from our vital veterinary care in even the most inaccessible and isolated places. Many of these animals would simply have no hope of receiving treatment without our mobile clinic visits – meaning a life of pain and hardship that doesn't bear thinking about.

With your support we can ensure that our mobile clinics can keep on the road, equipped with the right medicines and surgical materials, allowing our tireless vet teams to reach working animals in need irrespective of where they are.

Also in this issue, on page 19, you can find out how you can join our 'Tin Soldier Campaign'. By hosting a SPANA collection tin at home or in a local store you'll be joining other SPANA supporters in a simple and enjoyable way of raising funds for our vital work.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for the kind words and encouragement you've shown to me since I joined SPANA. I've been completely overwhelmed by how generous, caring and committed our supporters are. With your support, I know that together we will continue to ease pain, foster compassion and build a kinder future for hardworking animals around the world.

Geoffrey Dennis

Geoffrey Dennis 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

Find us at www.spana.org |

f www.facebook.com/spanacharity | **t** www.twitter.com/spanacharity

Registered charity no: 209015

Delivering water to Zimbabwe's poorest families

Every two or three days, 20-year-old Wellington Jojo and his 11-year-old brother Henry travel with their family's donkeys – Budget, Hwishu and Maria – to collect river water.

In the rural Mwenezi district in southern Zimbabwe, most families don't have access to a supply of piped water close to home. As a result, Wellington must travel nine miles to collect the water that his family of six needs for drinking and washing.

As the river is such a long distance away, Wellington's task is only achievable thanks to his donkeys, which bring the water home on a cart. Prior to the use of donkeys and carts in poor communities, this role was performed by women, who would carry the water on their heads and transport it on foot. Women could carry one 20 litre bucket of water at a time, so it would involve constant daily trips. By contrast, the team of donkeys can comfortably pull a cart carrying 12 large containers of water.

Here, as in many other places, the lives of women would be radically different without working donkeys.

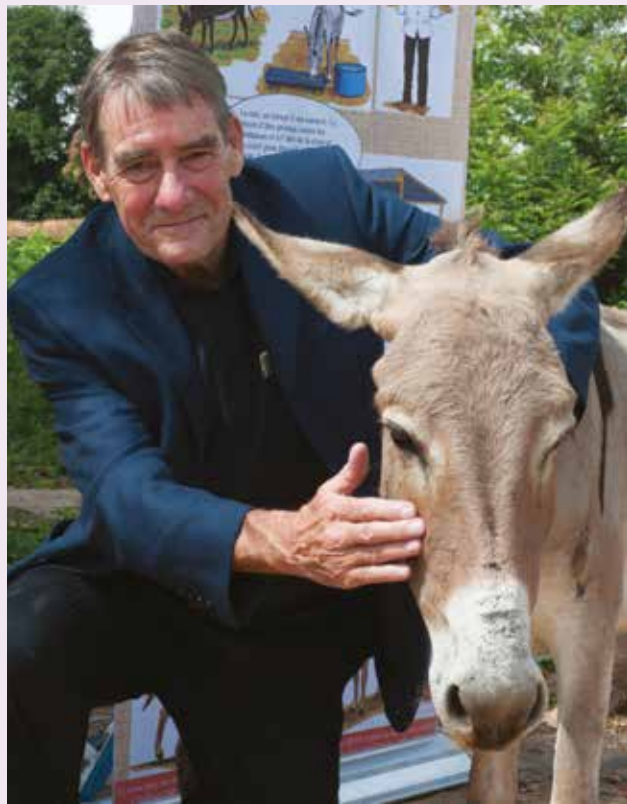
Since 2013, our fundraising runners have clocked up a total distance of 3,827 miles to help hardworking animals like Budget, Hwishu and Maria.



© Dylan Thomas

SPANA IN THE NEWS

New Chief Executive takes the reins



Geoffrey Dennis has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of SPANA.

Geoffrey joins SPANA from the Royal National Children's Foundation, where he was also Chief Executive, and he previously led the charity Care International UK for ten years.

After running a large multinational company, Geoffrey initially joined the British Red Cross as International Director, prior to being appointed as Country Director of the International Federation of the Red Cross in North Korea and then Regional Director for the entire South Asia region.

Geoffrey said: "I am extremely happy to be joining SPANA. I have always cared passionately about animal welfare, having seen dreadful situations for both local communities and working animals during crises in Somalia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and in Indonesia following the tsunami.

"Around one billion of the world's poorest people are completely dependent on their animals. But for too long these animals have been overlooked.

"SPANA will be working tirelessly to improve the welfare of working animals, to help communities to better look after their animals and to ensure that the international community gives them the recognition and the assistance they need."

SPANA Vice President honoured with Point of Light award

SPANA Vice President, Professor Derek Knottenbelt, has received a prestigious award from the Prime Minister, Theresa May, in recognition of his remarkable fundraising achievements for SPANA and other animal charities.

Derek, who is a senior veterinary professor at the University of Glasgow, received the 'Point of Light' award for his work leading the 'Vets with Horsepower' – a group of senior vets who go on motorcycle tours overseas to raise funds and deliver veterinary training to staff at international animal charities.

The first 'Vets with Horsepower' tour took place in 2010 and was followed in 2012 by a 3,000 mile ride through Europe

and Africa. In total, Derek and his team have raised over £220,000 for SPANA, helping to fund the veterinary centres in Mali and Mauritania, as well as supporting the riding school for disabled children in Bamako, Mali.

The Point of Light award is presented to individuals who make outstanding contributions in their community and inspire others.

Prime Minister Theresa May said: "Your initiative, 'Vets with Horsepower', takes a brilliantly innovative approach to raising funds for some very worthy causes across the world, as well as supporting charity staff with your team's professional skills."

SPANA named 'Best Animal Welfare Charity' in 2016

SPANA has been named 'Best Animal Welfare Charity' (for Europe, the Middle East and Africa) at the 2016 Animal Health Awards. SPANA Ethiopia has also been recognised, picking up the 'Best in Prevention of Cruelty to Working Animals' award.

The annual awards, run by GHP (Global Health & Pharma), acknowledge and reward organisations that have gone beyond their duty of care to improve the welfare, care and health of animals.

Geoffrey Dennis, Chief Executive of SPANA, said: "We're honoured to receive these international awards. They are a testament to the hard work and dedication shown every day by our teams around the world. SPANA staff are deeply committed to improving the health and wellbeing of working animals, and I'm proud of their achievements."



Marrakech hosts the inaugural SPANA Working Animal Congress

The first ever SPANA Working Animal Congress will take place this October, aimed at developing the skills and knowledge of vets and technicians from SPANA and other partner organisations. The four-day conference in Marrakech, Morocco, will be attended by more than 50 veterinary professionals, including staff from all of SPANA's core countries. The event will consist of lectures, discussions and practical workshops that will boost the expertise of attendees by providing clinical veterinary training and adult learning, as well as enabling staff from different organisations to share their knowledge and experiences. The sessions will focus on key areas such as dentistry, neurology and humane education.



New water troughs for working animals in Tunisia

Two new water troughs built by SPANA will provide a constant supply of fresh water to animals in Tozeur and Nafta in Tunisia. More than 160 carriage horses will use the troughs every day, along with many other horses, donkeys and mules in the surrounding areas. Temperatures in the towns, which are both tourist destinations on the edge of the Sahara desert, reach an average high of 40°C during the summer months, meaning the troughs will be a lifeline for thirsty animals.



Glow in the dark camels

SPANA has started a new initiative in India and Tunisia to protect camels from road accidents at night. Reflectors are being provided for camels in areas where they are very vulnerable to collisions with vehicles. In Tunisia, there is no fencing in desert areas to prevent camels from wandering onto the roads, while in Rajasthan, India the sheer volume of traffic poses a great danger to camels pulling carts. Reflective collars have been designed for camels in Tunisia and in India the reflectors are attached to carts to increase their visibility. The reflectors are already having a positive impact: 369 were distributed in India last year and there have been no reported road accidents involving these camels since they were introduced.

New clinical skills centre to improve the treatment of Mozambique's working animals

SPANA has opened a new clinical skills centre in Mozambique to improve the skills and confidence of vet students who will be treating donkeys and other working animals following graduation. Around 180 students each year are expected to use the centre, which is based in the veterinary school at the university in Mozambique's capital city, Maputo. These students currently receive no practical training in treating equines and, at present, they could graduate without ever having come into contact with a horse or a donkey. The centre will help overcome this problem. It will ensure that newly-qualified vets, under close supervision by a clinical tutor, are equipped with the essential skills and experience they need to provide good quality treatment to working animals.

A huge thank you to SPANA supporter Lucille Brown, who very generously funded the new clinical skills centre and its running costs for the first two years.

Mobile Clinics Appeal



Imagine living in a vast remote area with no access to nearby healthcare, where your nearest hospital is miles away from your home.

Unfortunately, this bleak situation is all too real for animal owners like Mr Mudemba who lives in Kasvisva, a small village in Zimbabwe, with no permanent veterinary services close to his home.

He grew very worried when his donkey, Mheri, developed a sarcoid, a painful swollen ulcerated tumour, on her lip that made it agonising for her to open her mouth and affected her ability to eat properly. Like many owners, Mr Mudemba's livelihood depends on his animals. Mheri works hard every day pulling carts loaded with goods, but if she is unable to work, life would become even more difficult for her owner's family. Thankfully, SPANA's mobile vets were making one of their visits to Mr Mudemba's community and so he immediately took his donkey to be seen by them.

Dr Andy was at hand to help and carefully assessed the sarcoid on Mheri's lip. The tumour had to be urgently removed to prevent Mheri's condition deteriorating any further. Dr Andy first gently cleaned around the area of the sarcoid with an antiseptic solution and placed a rubber ring around it to remove the blood supply to the sarcoid, so that it would eventually come away from the mouth. Our team then applied zinc oxide cream on the tumour and gave Mheri some pain relief to help her recover from the procedure. Her owner was relieved knowing his donkey would now get better. If our vets hadn't been in the area, Mheri would have continued to struggle in pain and her condition would have worsened.



Mheri receiving urgent treatment

Many of the families in Zimbabwe's rural areas live in poverty and depend on the mobile clinics to help treat their animals. Without them, they would have nowhere to turn to and their animals would surely suffer as a result.

Thanks to kind supporters like you, our vet team travelled thousands of miles across Zimbabwe to treat over 28,000 animals in 2015 alone. But there's still more to be done.

With your support, we can save more animals like Mheri from a lifetime of agony. You could help keep our mobile clinics fully stocked with medicines and surgical materials, so the vets are equipped to provide vital treatment for the hundreds of injured and sick working animals they see every week.

When the vet team arrives in the villages early in the morning, there are already long queues of animals and their owners waiting patiently. More and more will come throughout the day. The vets will regularly see animals with various health problems requiring urgent assistance, from painful eye conditions to lameness. Our team won't stop working until late in the day.

A SPANA vet is often the only chance animal owners have of accessing veterinary services, so the team are dedicated to seeing as many working animals as they can. They know that it can be a matter of life and death



The many donkeys that greet our SPANA vets on their visits

Here's how your kind gift could help more animals like Mheri:

for some of these animals. We believe that all of the world's working animals should be entitled to see a vet, irrespective of where their owner lives or their current circumstances. Your support today will make a world of difference to the most vulnerable working animals.

Our mobile clinics are a lifeline for working animals like Mheri in some of the poorest and most remote towns in the world. Please make a donation today and help us to continue our vital work. Thank you.



£20 Medicine and treatment

This gift could pay for medicine and lifesaving treatments to help treat animals like Mheri from life threatening conditions.

£60 Surgical materials

This gift could pay for basic surgical materials including bandages, sterile gloves, sedatives and syringes to help supply the mobile clinic vets with everything they need to care for working animals in need.

£100 Fuel and maintenance

This gift could pay towards the fuel and maintenance costs to keep a mobile clinic on the road for a week, so we can reach sick and injured working animals.

To make a donation please use the enclosed donation form, call **0300 033 4999** or visit us at www.spana.org/mobile

Reaching schoolchildren in isolated parts of Costa Rica



SPANA's Education Director, Dr Stephen Albone, talks about our exciting outreach programme in Costa Rica

This year, SPANA has funded an education outreach programme teaching schoolchildren about animal welfare in Costa Rica, Central America.

The programme is taking place in La Casona and Conte Burica, two villages within a remote indigenous territory. In this mountainous area, families are heavily reliant on their horses for agriculture and for transporting materials and crops, such as coffee and palm seed. With just a single road locally, these communities would not be able to travel around without their horses in such challenging terrain.

Reaching these poor, overlooked villages is important, as working animal owners – who often struggle to look after their own basic needs – have little knowledge or information about how to provide the best care for their animals, and no access to veterinary and farriery services. As a result, preventable problems such as harness wounds and overgrown hooves are common.

Reaching these poor, overlooked villages is important. Many working animal owners are struggling to look after their own basic needs and have little knowledge or information about

how to provide the best care for their animals. They also have no access to veterinary and farrier services. As a result, preventable problems such as harness wounds and overgrown hooves are common.

Since June 2016, SPANA has worked with outreach partner CREW (Costa Rica Equine Welfare) to deliver animal welfare classes to over 1,400 schoolchildren, aged between six and 15.

The lessons, which are taught in Spanish, cover a number of topics, including understanding the needs of animals. There is a particular focus on horses and this involves some practical demonstrations, such as showing children how to groom their animals.

For many children in the area, their education would not be possible without their horses. The distances involved mean travel by horse can often be the only realistic way of getting to school, with some children having to ride for up to two hours. If children had to undertake these long journeys by foot they would be exhausted, which would have a very negative effect on their learning. Without horses to assist with daily tasks, the reality is that most children would also have to work before and after school.



Education is valued highly in Costa Rica and this enthusiasm for learning has been very evident in the children, many of whom have expressed that the animal welfare lessons are the highlight of their month.

From the children's feedback, it is clear that the programme is already changing their attitudes and behaviours towards animals.

11-year-old Irena Montezuma Rodriguez is one of the children taking part in the programme. Her family has a horse called Estrella (meaning 'Star'), which is used for transporting agricultural produce and carrying wood and water.

"I've learned that my horse has feelings like I do, and how to better communicate with her. I know when she is hurting and how to care for her, and now I know the things she needs from us to be healthy. It makes me sad to see when people treat their horse like it doesn't matter, and it has open sores on its back. When I grow up it will be different. I will know what my horse likes and we will be friends. She won't have that sad face." Irena

By reaching many more children like Irena, SPANA and our partners hope to bring about a lasting legacy – and secure a happier and healthier future for Costa Rica's 140,000 working horses, donkeys and mules.

In 2016 we received £8,666 from our collection tins around the UK, helping to fund our outreach programmes across the world!



The fight against rabies



Veterinary Programme Advisor, Hannah Davies, on a disease that is still prevalent and affecting equines

Have you had your rabies vaccinations?

I was first asked this question when I was a veterinary student at the University of Glasgow and was about to embark on a four-week student placement in India. Having lived in the UK all my life, rabies was not a disease I had ever given much thought.

But working as a Veterinary Programme Advisor for SPANA, I soon realised the harsh reality of this disease and I have to admit, nothing quite prepared me for it. Rabies is a zoonotic disease, which means that it can be transmitted from animals to humans, and sadly, once clinical signs have developed, rabies is almost always fatal. 59,000 human deaths occur due to rabies each year around the world, and 95 per cent of these occur in Africa and Asia.

Caused by a virus, domestic and stray dogs are the most common reservoir of the disease and transmission usually occurs through infected saliva when a dog bites. All mammals are at risk of contracting the disease, and at the SPANA clinic in Marrakech, we unfortunately see four to five cases of rabies each year in donkeys who have been unlucky to cross the path of a rabid dog.

After infection, the virus travels from the bite site to the central nervous system, where it multiplies in the brain. Once clinical signs have developed, the virus is usually so widely disseminated that little can be done and the infection is invariably fatal. In donkeys, rabies presents in a similar way to colic, with the animal showing signs of distress, extreme agitation and kicking or rolling. As the disease

progresses, donkeys become 'furious' and may bite and kick viciously including biting themselves, causing self-inflicted wounds. With this violent and aggressive behaviour, if SPANA vets are suspicious of a rabies case, the animal has to be put into isolation in order to protect the safety of staff members and other animals within the veterinary centre.

Protection of public health doesn't stop there, SPANA vets play a vital role in notifying suspected rabies cases to the Moroccan government authorities. Rabies has been a notifiable disease in Morocco for over 10 years now, which means that any suspect cases are legally required to be reported to the authorities. This is a great step forward in disease control as it allows cases to be identified, and once accurately diagnosed, ensures that community members who may have come into

contact with that infected animal can receive essential lifesaving rabies prophylactic treatment.

Rabies is 100 per cent preventable through vaccination and this therefore provides the key to ultimate control and elimination of the disease. With wide-scale, coordinated vaccination programmes, the hope is that in the future no animals, including donkeys, will have to endure the shocking effects of this disease again.

In the meantime, SPANA vets continue to educate donkey owners about the dangers of rabies and to inform the authorities urgently about any suspect cases, playing their part in helping to protect public and animal health.



PROFILE **Tunisia**

In a country that has seen major political changes in recent years, as the birthplace of the Arab Spring in 2011, working animals are as important as they have ever been for people in deprived areas

SPANA OPERATIONS

SPANAs founder Kate Hosali first started treating animals in Tunisia in 1925. Since then the charity's work has expanded dramatically and, in the areas where SPANA works, the attitudes of owners and the condition of working animals have been transformed.

Today, SPANA operates three veterinary centres in Bou Salem, Kasserine and Kebili, along with three mobile clinics that travel to rural areas.

Our education work currently consists of a network of animal clubs in schools and a hands-on exhibition installed in an interactive education bus, which tours the country.

Tunisia has been left shaken by the devastating terror attack of 2015, in which many tourists tragically lost their lives. Following this event, the number of overseas visitors travelling to the country has collapsed, and the impact of this sharp decline has been felt by the owners and animals that rely on income from the tourism industry. SPANA is working in hard hit areas to help

maintain the welfare of animals while their owners try to find alternative employment.

Over 17,800 schoolchildren were reached by our education programme in 2016

More than 18,200 veterinary treatments were provided to working animals last year



TUNISIA AT A GLANCE

Population **10,982,754**

Area **163,610 km²**

Location **North Africa**

Capital city **Tunis**

Estimated working animal population
616,700 camels, donkeys, horses and mules

PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A **Dr Sami Mzabi, SPANA Tunisia Country Director**



Can you tell us about your background?

I studied at the National School of Veterinary Medicine in Paris, France, before beginning work in my private clinic in Tunisia in 1980. I started working for SPANA in 1984 – back then I still had brown hair, now it is all white. I initially helped to train young English and Tunisian

vets. In 2006, I was appointed Technical Director and then I became General Manager of SPANA Tunisia in 2011.

What is a typical day like for you?

My role is to supervise and train our teams of vets, technicians and educators, as well as overseeing the administrative and financial management of the SPANA Tunisia programme. When I am in the field I accompany my teams to the souk early in the morning to treat the animals and then with the mobile clinics we visit remote areas, often in the mountains, where many people have working animals. Later, we return to the veterinary centre to care for hospitalised animals, and perform surgery where necessary. At the end of the day, we have a team meeting to discuss the cases and offer advice and training.

How important are working animals in Tunisia?

Working animals in Tunisia are very numerous and are vital to

people in deprived regions. These animals are indispensable for transporting drinking water, working the land and carrying all kinds of goods and agricultural products. Without the animals, families in poor areas cannot survive.

What are the main problems facing working animals in Tunisia?

The worst problems we see are the traditional 'cures' performed by some animal owners who do not realise the harm they are doing. These include slitting nostrils, putting dangerous chemicals on wounds and using fire marks. These distressing acts are now less common, but they still occur today, which makes our role educating owners even more important.

Is the situation improving for working animals in Tunisia?

The situation has improved considerably in the areas where SPANA works. We see far fewer major injuries in the regions regularly visited by our teams. However, in other parts of the country, the situation remains critical. A very encouraging sign for the future is that, thanks to the efforts of our team, children have been very keen to create animal welfare clubs. We're making real progress and we're striving to do even more.

Since its launch in 2015, 55 of you have held a SPANA World Tea Party across the country - raising £8,213 and helping fund our vital work in countries like Tunisia!

CASE FILE:

Tunisia



© Mohamed Krit

Yasmine the camel is back on form

A young camel named Yasmine was brought to see the SPANA team during a mobile clinic visit near Kebili in southern Tunisia, which is known as the 'Sahara Gate'. Yasmine's owner Omar had noticed a large lump on her neck, which he thought was getting larger, so he asked the vets to take a look.

SPANAs vets performed a clinical examination, both feeling the lump and taking a small sample. Two-year-old Yasmine appeared healthy and, thankfully, the sample showed that the mass was not a tumour. Instead, it was identified as an abscess, which could have been caused by a fly bite or an infection in a small wound. Omar was right to bring in Yasmine when he did since, if an abscess bursts on its own, it can attract flies and lead to more serious problems.

The team treated Yasmine by lancing the abscess to flush out the pus and provide drainage. They gave Yasmine an injection of painkiller to keep her comfortable and applied fly spray to keep them away from the healing area. They then

"I would not have known where to turn without SPANA. We owe so much to them. Yasmine is healed and happy again." Omar

showed Omar how to clean the wound with iodine solution and water. Vaseline was used to stop any draining material from burning Yasmine's skin.

The vets checked on Yasmine three days later and were pleased with how the healing was progressing. Yasmine is now helping Omar and his family to make a living by transporting dates and other produce to market.

"It's a great buzz to spend the day with other people who care about animals and then bring home a tin of money and know that it's going to help animals who really need it."

Gail Needham, SPANA collector

SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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

JORDAN



RESCUING AN ORPHANED FOAL

SPANNA Jordan Country Director Dr Ghazi recently welcomed an unexpected new addition – a newborn donkey foal whose mother had sadly died the previous night during the birth following complications. Dr Ghazi knew the foal would need constant care and attention, including being bottle-fed through the day and night, so he and his family took him in and gave him around-the-clock care.

Dr Ghazi's six-year-old son Abood became particularly attached to the foal, helping with the feeding duties whenever he had the chance.

The young foal needed a name and so the SPANA Jordan team turned to our social media community for help. We were inundated with suggestions, but the one that was most popular was Lucky or 'Ayman' in Arabic.

After a couple of months, Ayman was strong enough to be moved to the SPANA Jordan education centre, where he joined the other animals that are cared for there. Local schoolchildren regularly visit the centre to learn about animal welfare and the importance of demonstrating compassion and kindness towards working animals.

Happily, Ayman has settled in well and is popular with staff and children alike. But his favourite visitor is still young Abood, who checks on him whenever he can.

When Jacob noticed that his donkey Drissa wasn't his usual, lively self, he took him to get checked out at SPANA's veterinary centre in Bamako, Mali.

Drissa supports Jacob and his family by pulling a cart that carries construction materials around the busy city, helping him to earn a small income.

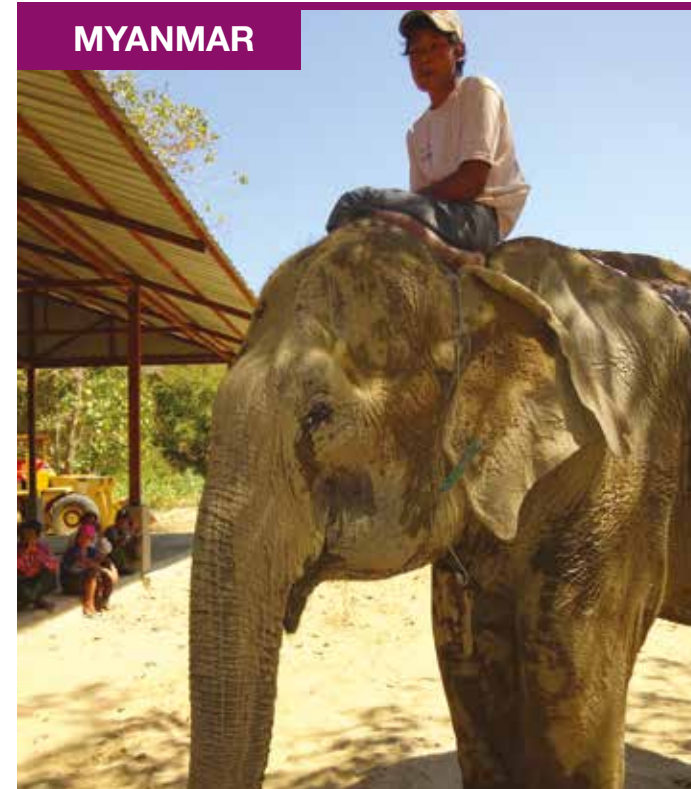
SPANNA's vet team got straight to work assessing Drissa to find out what was wrong. They discovered that he was suffering from colic, caused by an impaction in his large intestine. To relieve the problem, the team gave Drissa oral lubricants and fluid therapy to help rehydrate him and clear the blockage. Soon Drissa was feeling much better and Jacob was extremely grateful to the SPANA Mali team for their help. He said: "My donkey is very precious to me and my family. I'm so happy that he's healthy again. Thank you for all you do for animals like mine."



PROVIDING RELIEF FOR A CONSTIPATED DONKEY

MALI

MYANMAR



HELPING AN ELEPHANT WITH AN ITCH

The SPANA team in Myanmar (Burma) recently helped Sien Nen, a 58-year-old elephant. Sien Nen, which means 'Diamond Palace' in Burmese, helps her owner by pulling logs through the jungle.

Her owner noticed small bumps covering Sien Nen's skin, which was causing her irritation. Our vets examined Sien Nen and diagnosed a skin disease, caused by a blood born parasite. This disease was transmitted by a fly bite and is most common during the rainy season when flies are breeding. Although thankfully the disease is not life-threatening, Sien Nen had started scratching as a result, which can lead to far more serious skin wounds over time.

The team gave anti-parasitic medication to Sien Nen and advised her owner to give her regular baths to relieve the irritation. Much to her owner's relief, within days Sien Nen's skin had started to clear up and she had stopped trying to scratch her skin, a positive sign that her discomfort had eased.

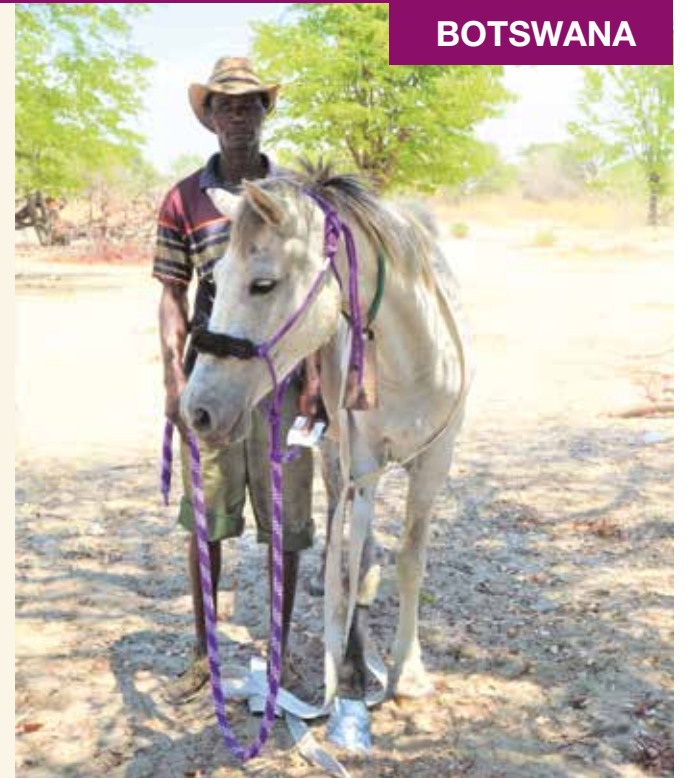
SPANNA's mobile clinic in Botswana travels hundreds of miles every week to treat working animals in remote rural villages.

They recently helped 12-year-old horse Blessing and his owner Mr Segale. Blessing works on Mr Segale's farm, helping to round up the cattle. He had started suffering from lameness in his front right leg, so Mr Segale had tried resting him, but the problem was not improving.

Our vets examined Blessing's leg and found that a sharp thorn had punctured his hoof, causing a painful abscess.

The team gave Blessing anti-inflammatories to help reduce the swelling inside his hoof and then carefully removed the thorn and drained the abscess, giving the horse instant relief. They then applied a mixture of sugar and iodine to the wound to help draw out any infection. Following this, they bandaged the foot to keep dirt out of the wound and to make sure another abscess didn't form.

Mr Segale was relieved to see that Blessing was no longer in pain. He said: "I heard about SPANA from my neighbour after you helped their horse. My horse is really important for finding my cattle. I don't know what me and my family would do without him. Thank you for helping him, SPANA."



A BLESSING IN BOTSWANA

BOTSWANA

"Love, love, love the fundraising pack!
It's amazing thank you."
Angela, SPANA supporter

Why not start a SPANA fundraising group with local, like-minded animal lovers?
In 2016 our fundraising groups raised over £6,200!

Preparing the next generation of vets



SPANA Zimbabwe vet Dr Andy Garura with veterinary students

© Dylan Thomas

Around the world, SPANA has set up a network of clinical skills centres in university veterinary schools. These centres enable vet students to gain practical experience and fine-tune the skills that will be so essential when they graduate and begin treating animals as qualified vets. Reaching young vets at this key stage of their training means they can be equipped with the confidence, knowledge and skills they need from the very beginning.

SPANA currently operates clinical skills centres in eight countries. This includes places where SPANA does not operate a veterinary service at present, such as Senegal, which is helping to extend our reach and maximise the numbers of working animals that can benefit from the expertise of SPANA vets. Discussions are now taking place with universities and governments in several other countries about potential future centres, such as has been their success.

In Zimbabwe, our clinical skills centre was opened in February 2015 and is already having a profound impact on the development of veterinary students close to graduation. The centre is based in the Veterinary Sciences Faculty at the University of Zimbabwe in the country's capital, Harare. It is open twice a week and can be used by up to six students at a time, under the supervision of SPANA vets Dr Andy Garura and Dr Erick Mutizhe.

There are a number of different 'stations' at the centre that allow students to practice clinical skills, such as suturing ('stitching'), bandaging and examining blood samples under a microscope. A wide range of learning resources are also available to students, including books and DVDs.

The students who use the centre are all in their final years. There are currently 50 students in the fourth and fifth years, all of whom can access the centre free of charge. Following graduation, these vets will be taking up their first full time roles, providing hands-on treatment to animals, meaning that the practical experience they gain at the centre is absolutely crucial.

Here are some of the veterinary students in their fifth and final year who are currently benefitting from the centre.

24-year-old **Flora Zhou** from Harare regularly visits the centre and her favourite station is suturing.

Flora said: "The centre has been so useful for me – it's given me my first practical experience. I got to hold a needle for the first time in the centre, for instance. Most of our study is theory, so this chance to practice is very valuable and prepares us well for treating animals."

Flora is also vice president of the Zimbabwean Veterinary Students' Association, which organises campaigns



Flora Zhou

"I've always wanted to be a vet. I had a dog when I was growing up and my mum collects cats! I am most interested in equines though." **Flora**



Ruffaro Dongo



Marvellous Sibanda

"The centre is really unique. Without it, we would not be able to practice our skills very often. We are grateful for the centre – it is a welcoming place and it is free to use, which makes it possible for all students to attend." **Ruffaro**

such as a rabies awareness day, and on World Vet Day last year they talked to owners in the community about caring for their pets and gave vaccinations.

Marvellous Sibanda from Bulawayo has two brothers and five sisters. He is hoping to become the first vet in his family when he graduates this year. Marvellous comes to the centre twice a week and he likes to study the anatomical models.

Marvellous said: "When I was growing up, I had two dogs which were like my companions. I came to like animals and working with them, and that is what has fuelled my desire to become a vet. I am fascinated by large animals, such as equines and cattle.

25-year-old **Ruffaro Dongo** would like to become a small animal practitioner when she graduates.

These are the vets of the future, who will go on to treat thousands of working animals during their careers. Through clinical skills centres, SPANA is helping to ensure that as many newly qualified vets as possible have reached the required level and are committed to best practice. Not all of these vets will go on to work for SPANA directly, but by guiding these vets at this critical point in their professional development, the charity is broadening its reach very widely. Ultimately, this is helping to deliver the most important outcome – that even more animals are receiving the very highest standards of care.



"The centre is very helpful, especially for preparing for exams. I'm currently revising for my equine medicine and surgery exams. Studying alone can be difficult, and I appreciate learning from the SPANA vets and using the DVDs – it's easier to see how things are done in practice." **Marvellous**

We would like to thank the following supporters who have helped to fund our clinical skills centres: Lucille Brown, Lord Barnby's Foundation, The Petplan Charitable Trust and The Serth and Gates Charity.



The hard work continues...

SPANA's new Chief Executive Geoffrey Dennis reflects on his new role, the outlook for the world's working animals and the vital role played by the charity, thanks to our supporters.

It's a real pleasure to be writing this SPANA News column for the first time – and to be a part of this great charity.

I wanted to join SPANA for two main reasons. Firstly, I care passionately about the welfare of animals in general – but specifically working animals around the world. In

my career at a senior level in the Red Cross (including as Regional Director for The International Red Cross for the whole of South Asia) and CARE International (as Chief Executive in the UK and International Board Member), I have seen animals suffer very badly in drought situations in northern Africa, during the war in Somalia and Rwanda, after the 2004 tsunami and more recently in Syria.

Secondly, over one billion of the world's population – many of the very poorest people – rely on around 200 million working animals for their livelihoods. Without animals they have no income, and will often tend to migrate to urban areas, or become international migrants. Tragically, in some cases, young people from these countries who have lost their animals – quite literally everything they have – are persuaded to join radical groups.

Since I have joined SPANA, I have visited Mali, Morocco, Ethiopia, Jordan, India and Myanmar. I am extremely impressed with what I have seen and our work is having an exceptionally strong impact on the lives of working animals in all of those countries.

SPANA is unique in that it offers a complete range of coordinated action, which I feel provides essential immediate assistance, but also builds very effectively for future generations.



Across the countries where SPANA operates, we provide a range of lifesaving services:

- Very effective free veterinary treatment in our headquarters – in Ethiopia, for example, approximately 90 animals a day visit our veterinary specialists.
- Our mobile clinics are highly valued in the villages we visit, again providing free veterinary assistance. Entire villages turn out on the allocated days – I have seen this in Mali, Morocco, Ethiopia and more recently in India and Myanmar.
- Practical welfare advice is provided verbally during veterinary treatment – the vet discusses with the owner the background behind the animal's problems – many of which can be avoided.
- Owners of animals are then told that they must attend community training as a condition of receiving free veterinary care – in many cases between 50-75 per cent of the problems are preventable, including incorrect harnessing and lack of dental care.
- Training of local, in-country, veterinary students, particularly in the more practical aspects of veterinary care – I have already seen this run very successfully in Morocco, Ethiopia and Myanmar. In the long term this obviously provides a much stronger level of local expertise.
- School education – targeted at teaching the next generation in order to build greater respect and kindness for animals in general, and specifically for working animals.
- Emergency operations – we are increasingly developing lifesaving programmes in response to crisis situations. For example, during the recent severe drought in Ethiopia, our emergency feeding programme saved the lives of around 8,000 animals belonging to vulnerable pastoralists and put in place sustainable solutions for the future, such as the planting of drought-resistant grasses.



We will now be concentrating hard on increasing our operations, as demand for our services is growing rapidly. We will also be developing our work on community training and emergency response as a priority.

In my first few months at SPANA, I have learned that there are so many people that feel as I do – I know that our passionate supporters cannot ignore the suffering of working animals.

SPANA is not yet a household name, but already I understand that the commitment of our supporters is exceptional, and can make all the difference in the world.

We receive nothing at all from governments – SPANA exists today, as it always has, thanks to people like you who can't turn their backs on working animals.

I am very impressed with the staff and the dedication of all our supporters. It is truly inspirational.

There is so much more to do and so many more animals to help. But, working together, I know that we can be, and will be, there for them.

It is a real privilege to join you on our mission to improve the lives of working animals. I look forward to working with you all in the years ahead, in order to make sure every working animal enjoys the care and compassion that SPANA makes possible.

Thank you so much for your support.



A life-changing gift



“Working animals in poor, developing countries are not going to disappear for a long, long time and they need our help. SPANA can provide that help and will continue to do so long after I have gone, and I am thankful to be able to contribute to that long-term work”, said one of our supporters, Sue Smorfitt, who kindly told us why she felt she had to include a gift to SPANA in her Will.

Legacies are the backbone of our charity. Thousands of working animals are helped each year only because of gifts in Wills.

Last year, Sue went on a SPANA supporter tour in Zimbabwe where she witnessed our work first-hand and she had a chance to get ‘hands on’ with this delightful foal. Afterwards, Sue said of her experience, “For all of us who love and care for our own animals, it can be distressing to see the pitiful plight of the donkeys, horses and mules in the developing world. However, I have also seen the real difference to animal welfare that SPANA can make.

“Time and again I watched the veterinary staff patiently explain treatment options to owners with the greatest courtesy, just as a vet in this country would do. All the staff invariably showed compassion without sentiment at the highest professional standard. The fact that owners bring their animals for treatment is, I think, almost the greatest achievement. Because if the owners felt they were being criticised without the chance to learn how to better look after their animals, they might not come – and the animals could not bring themselves!”

We hope you might consider remembering SPANA in your Will to help the working animals – a cause so many other people forget, ignore or simply don’t consider important. A gift in your Will, of any size, can make a significant difference where we work. As Sue saw in Zimbabwe, the poorest of the poor depend completely on their animals to earn a meagre living.

To request your free copy of our legacy guide, or perhaps a Codicil form to add a gift to an existing Will, you are very welcome to get in touch. You can speak to Penny in our legacy team on 020 7831 3999 or send her an email at giftsinwills@spana.org



Supporter News

Get involved, have fun and help working animals worldwide!



Tin Soldier Campaign

Your SPANA Needs You!

Star SPANA supporter, Michael Lemon from Stamford, has been helping working animals for over 20 years. In that time, he has raised many thousands of pounds, mainly by hosting collection tins in local stores. It’s such a simple and easy way to raise funds that Michael would like to call on his fellow supporters to join the Tin Soldier Campaign!

Michael said, “What better way to remember those animals still working hard and suffering, but lucky to have SPANA close by to give them relief and hope? What a difference you yourself can make when you ‘enlist’ in SPANA’s regiment of Tin Soldiers.”

Find a local store

Is there a shop near you that would be willing to host a SPANA tin? It could be a newsagents, petrol station, pub or pet shop that you regularly visit. Once you’ve found a location, simply request a tin from SPANA, leave it with the staff and then pop back in every few months. As if by magic, your tin will jingle-jangle with coins collected!

Street or station collections

You might like to follow in the footsteps of our ‘tin soldiers’ who organise street or station collections around the country. Our fab fundraising group in Middlesbrough, led by Carolyne Hurst, raised over £700 from four collection days in local town centres last year.

Collect at home

SPANA also has small cardboard collection boxes for ‘tin soldiers’ who would like to collect their spare change at home.



Selling for SPANA

Super supporter, Jean Smith from Southampton, has also been raising money for SPANA for over 20 years. Jean’s fundraiser of choice is a bric-a-brac stall – she collects items from friends, family and sometimes even other supporters in her area. Everything is packed up and taken to a local fair or fête, with the proceeds going to help animals in need. Could you follow in Jean’s footsteps?



Get together with friends

Or if you fancy something on a larger scale, you could organise your own charity bazaar like our Kent fundraising group, led by Linda Lisgarten. The group book their local community centre and hire out tables for local arts and crafts. All the table and entrance fees, plus proceeds from refreshments and the SPANA stall, add up to a fantastic sum to help animals.



Recycling is back

Please find enclosed your special envelope for our annual recycling appeal. Pop in any old or unwanted jewellery, plus old UK or foreign banknotes, and the funds raised will make a big difference to working animals. Make sure you keep collecting your old stamps and postcards too! Get in touch for details of where to send them. Did you know you can also recycle electronics, gadgets and collectables for SPANA? Simply request a free recycling box or sack, involve your family and friends, and arrange a free collection when it’s full.

SPANA Supporters’ Party

Tickets are on sale now for our annual Supporters’ Party. This is your chance to meet the SPANA team, hear more about the projects you make possible and chat to your fellow supporters.

When: Friday 30 June 2017 from 12.30pm

Where: Moorgate, London

Tickets: £25 including a light lunch

Thanks to the government’s Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, we can increase your collections by 25 per cent at no extra cost to you!

Call Jessie now on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org to get your fundraising materials or party tickets.

Tea and tails for working animals

July 2017



It's that time of year again to get together with friends and family, share a few tales over a cup of tea or two and make a big difference to working animals.

We were so inspired by the parties held up and down the country last year – particularly by Carol from Oxfordshire whose furry friends were the star guests and even had their own special cake! Why not involve your pets this year and make it a tea and tails party?

Get your free pack now for everything you need to host the perfect party including posters, invitations, special recipes from around the world and even a 'pupcake' recipe for your pooch!

Be quick! The first 50 packs will include some fantastic SPANA cupcake toppers!

A big thank you to all our wonderful tea party hosts from 2016. Here's a small selection



Carol's pets patiently await their treat



Jenny from Chelmsford was joined by the local vicar's cat



Jan from Walsall with the local Guys and Gals club



Margaret from Wigan held her party in the garden