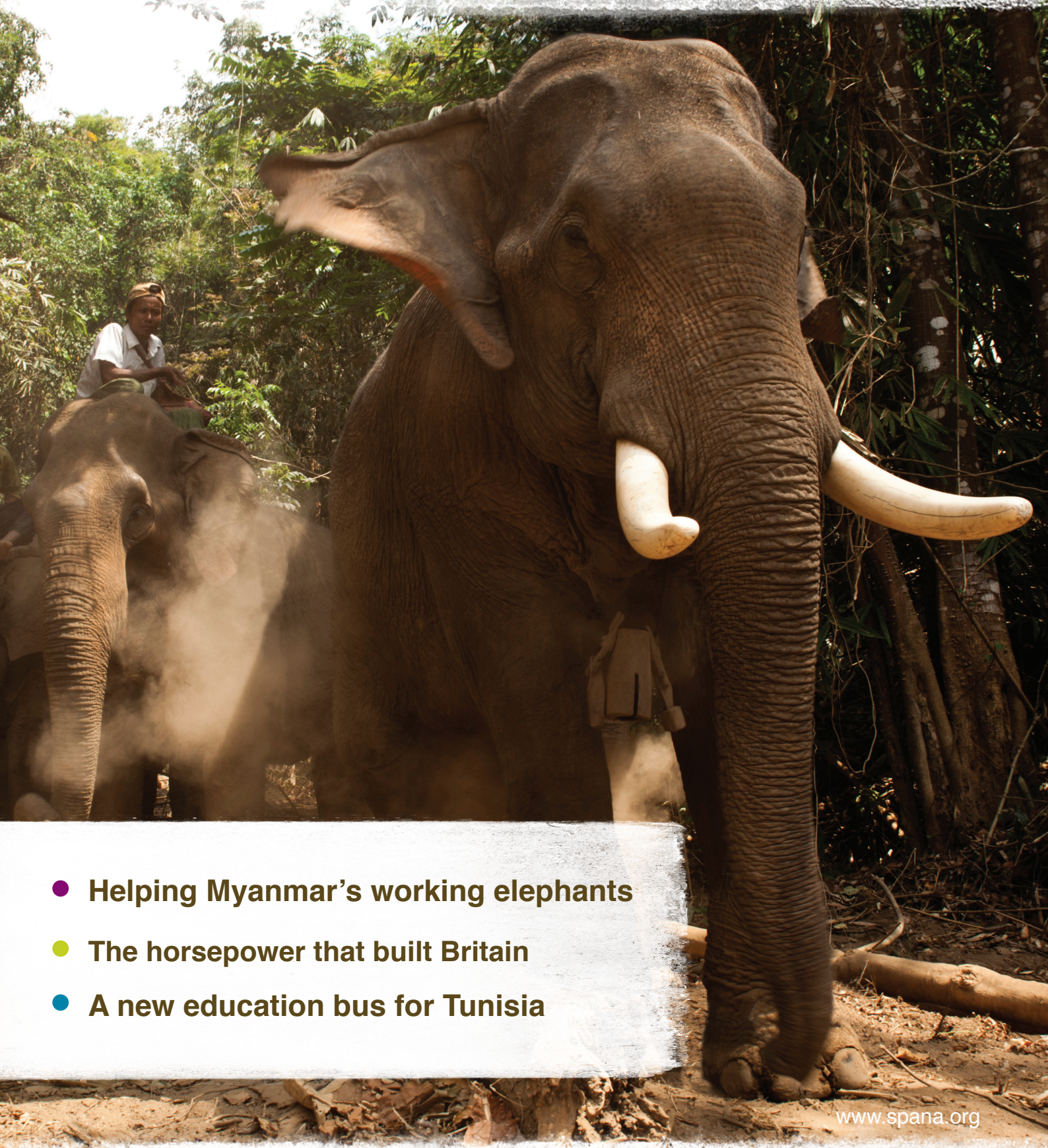




NEWS



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For the working animals of the world

WELCOME

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

In this issue, we shine the spotlight on the tremendous work being done by our team in Mali. You can find out more about the progress they are making and the many animals they are helping on page 10.

In our appeal, on page six, we're asking for your help to improve the health and wellbeing of Myanmar's timber elephants. With your kind support, SPANA will be able to improve the country's only elephant hospital, ensuring it is supplied with the right equipment and resources, so that our vets can treat many more sick and injured animals.

There is also a focus in this issue on the considerable difference that leaving a gift in your Will to SPANA can make to working animals worldwide. These generous gifts are helping us to transform the lives of hardworking animals and are a truly lasting legacy.

I also have some sad news to report. Diana Hulme, who did so very much to build SPANA's humane education programme, has passed away after a short illness. I joined many other SPANA representatives at an emotional funeral in July. You will know of Diana's extraordinary work through the pages of SPANA News and may wish to join us in marking her extraordinary life – find out more on page four.

Finally, I'd like to tell you about SPANA's ambitious plans to help more animals and communities that depend on them, both in the next five years and for the long term. We are determined to expand our reach significantly to improve the lives of as many working animals as we possibly can. On page 16, I have set out some of our key aims. But we'd love to hear your thoughts. We cannot accomplish anything without you, our committed supporters, and your opinions really matter to us. Together, I'm so optimistic about what we can achieve.

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

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

Registered charity no: 209015



SPANA'S MOBILE CLINIC TO THE RESCUE IN TUNISIA

Tourism is vital to the economy of Tunisia, providing as many as 430,000 jobs across the country. But the devastating terrorist attacks in Sousse and Tunis in 2015 led to a rapid fall in visitor numbers from which the country is yet to recover.

In the south, many of those working in tourism earn a small income from camel tours. As the tourist industry collapsed, families relying on income from their camels saw their livelihoods ruined. Owners were unable to afford to take proper care of their camels, leaving painful injuries untreated.

But, thanks to your support, there's hope for the camels of Douz, a popular tourist town known as 'The Gateway to the Sahara', from where many tourists take camel tours into the desert.

SPANA's mobile clinic frequently visits the town, so local camel owners can ensure their animals get the vital medical attention they need in the unrelenting desert environment, including dentistry work, parasite treatment and wound dressing.

It's just another example of how your kindness is making a real difference to the lives of hardworking animals around the world.



SPANA IN THE NEWS

Diana Hulme – 1948-2017

Everyone at SPANA is deeply saddened by the news that Diana Hulme passed away this summer, following a short illness. Diana served as SPANA's Education Director for 27 years and was the wife of the charity's former Chief Executive, Jeremy Hulme. She retired with Jeremy in 2016.

In her three decades with SPANA, she transformed the education programme and made an enormous contribution to improving animal welfare in developing countries.

In 1989, when Diana started leading SPANA's education programme, it consisted only of talks in schools in Morocco. Diana quickly built up the Moroccan programme, working with the government to create extra-curricular materials, animal welfare lessons for schools and humane education training for teachers.

Two years later, Diana established an education programme in Jordan, and this was the start of rapid expansion into many other countries. This growth included the building of classrooms and exhibition spaces, as well as the launch of mobile exhibition units and animal handling centres. She also developed an educational outreach programme, helping to carry SPANA's message of humane care to remote communities worldwide.

By the time of her retirement, the SPANA education programme was reaching more than 58,000 school



children each year and operated in 16 countries, from Ethiopia to Costa Rica.

Professor Tim Greet, Chairman of SPANA, said: *"We are shocked and saddened by this devastating news. Diana's warmth, compassion and energy changed so many people's lives."*

SPANA is launching a bursary scheme in Diana's name to continue her vital work. The Diana Hulme Fund will support the training of humane education teachers in the developing world, leaving a legacy of animal kindness for years to come.

Please, if you can, join us in marking Diana's incredible achievements with a donation to The Diana Hulme Fund. To make a gift, please call 0300 033 4999.

Dental care for the donkeys of Antigua

SPANA vets recently travelled to Antigua in the Caribbean to give dental treatment to the island's donkeys, in a trip that was funded entirely by SPANA supporters Animal Friends Pet Insurance.

Following a visit to the local donkey sanctuary, the founder of Animal Friends, Elaine Fairfax, asked SPANA to help after seeing the urgent need for dentistry. Elaine recommended SPANA to the Antigua and Barbuda Humane Society, which runs the sanctuary.

The SPANA team gave dental care to the sanctuary's 150 donkeys, carrying out teeth rasping, and ran a dentistry training course for all the vets on the island.

As well as funding the visit, Animal Friends also purchased dental equipment for the sanctuary.

Donkeys played a significant part in Antigua's history, working for hundreds of years in the sugar cane industry. However, following the industry's decline, many of these animals became redundant and roamed the island, so the sanctuary was set up to protect them.

A huge thank you to Elaine and Animal Friends for making it possible for SPANA to help the donkeys of Antigua.



New education bus takes to the road in Tunisia

A new education bus in Tunisia will teach children about animal welfare and help them to develop compassion and respect towards animals.

The mobile exhibition bus will reach over 11,000 schoolchildren every year. It will tour the entire country, including visiting remote communities in mountainous and desert areas where ownership of working animals is very common.

The bus will enable children to learn about animals and their needs through a series of interactive stations. They will also receive lessons and supervision from a full time SPANA Education Officer.

The official launch event for the bus was held at a primary school in Tunis. Along with children and staff from the school, the event was attended by the Director General of the Tunisian Education Ministry, the Regional Director of the Education Ministry and SPANA Chief Executive Geoffrey Dennis.

Geoffrey Dennis said: *"The new mobile exhibition bus will be an important part of our education programme in Tunisia. By encouraging positive attitudes and practices from a young age, we can significantly improve the health and wellbeing of animals for generations to come."*



SPANA's calèche horse programme wins award from Moroccan Ministry of Tourism

SPANA has received a prestigious award from the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism for the charity's work protecting and improving the condition of calèche horses in Marrakech. SPANA was announced as the winner of the Moroccan Trophy for Sustainable Tourism for its work helping the hundreds of calèche horses that transport tourists around the medina.

Working with the local authority, SPANA oversees a licensing scheme, ensuring that every calèche horse must be regularly inspected and passed as fit and healthy before they can work.

These animals were previously in a very poor condition, often malnourished and dehydrated, with untreated wounds. However, since SPANA's intervention, the condition of the horses has improved dramatically. They are now well fed, well cared for and have access to essential farriery, dentistry and veterinary care.

The award was accepted by SPANA Morocco Country Director Professor Hassan Alyakine and vet Dr Lamrini.

The calèche horse owners were also commended at SPANA's own annual awards ceremony held in Marrakech this summer. The awards reward owners for keeping their animals in excellent condition and embracing good welfare practices.

The awards were presented by SPANA trustees Odile, The Lady Slynn of Hadley, Dr Mary-Lorraine Hughes, who was making her first overseas visit with the charity, and Chief Executive Geoffrey Dennis. Funding for the awards is provided by SPANA and SOREC, an industry body for racing, training and breeding organisations in Morocco.

SPANA's work with the calèche horses of Marrakech can only happen thanks to support from people like you. Thank you for making this possible.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MYANMAR'S ONLY ELEPHANT HOSPITAL

SPECIAL APPEAL



The dirt road quickly turns to thick mud in the rain



Our vet team treating Wilbur's cracked toenail

No elephant should suffer because they can't access veterinary care. Simply building a road to the hospital means they won't have to.

Imagine for a moment not being able to visit your hospital because your life could be at risk just by attempting to reach it. It's difficult to even grasp, but for elephants in Myanmar it's a disturbing reality.

Please will you make a kind gift today to improve access to the elephant hospital?

SPANA believes that no working animal should suffer needlessly. That's why we're committed to helping Myanmar's elephants receive the veterinary assistance they urgently need. Will you be there for them too?

Our vet team in Myanmar sees many elephants that require urgent assistance to prevent further suffering. Wilbur was one of the elephants they treated. He was in so much pain with a cracked toenail. Every step he took was agonising. The team regularly see foot problems and knew they had to act quickly to minimise Wilbur's suffering. They thoroughly examined

Wilbur's foot and identified that the cracked nail had led to infection in the deeper tissues of the foot. The infection was flushed out with an antibiotic solution and then treated with an antibiotic cream. His mahout (elephant keeper) was trained to apply the treatment correctly, as this was needed for a few days to treat the infection completely. After the course of treatment, Wilbur was again brought to our vets to fill the gap in his nail with a hard filler to prevent further infection.

We believe that all elephants deserve the same right to treatment as Wilbur. That's why we're asking if you can help give Myanmar's working elephants the veterinary care they so desperately need.

There is only the one elephant hospital in Myanmar, in the region of Bago, but unfortunately, it's a basic facility and ill-equipped to help those that need our support.

SPANA plans to rebuild and extend the hospital so that our

dedicated vets have the capacity to treat many more sick and injured elephants from across the country. And to ensure it's properly resourced to treat elephants with many different ailments and provide the best possible care, your support could also provide additional equipment such as a microscope and weighing scales.

Having a hospital is a crucial lifeline for Myanmar's elephants, which can typically suffer from skin conditions and infectious diseases. However, they are unable to access the hospital during the rainy season. It's situated on a long, winding road through the jungle, but part of the road, over a mile long, is made of dirt. When the heavy rains occur between June and September, the road quickly turns to thick mud. Attempting to reach the hospital in this slippery mud is virtually impossible and risks greater harm to the elephants.

Myanmar is home to 6,000 Asian elephants. Life is hard for them,

pulling heavy logs through thick, humid jungle. Without access to veterinary care, every injury goes untreated, every agonising harness sore is left to cause constant suffering, and avoidable conditions can make a tough working life unbearable.

With your help, we can end this suffering.

Something as simple as building the road to the hospital will make such a positive difference to thousands of working elephants across Myanmar, like Wilbur. It will mean they have access to free veterinary care all year round. No elephant should be left to suffer in agony because they can't reach the hospital.

The elephants of Myanmar are viewed as valuable members of their owners' families. These wonderful creatures are depended upon to prevent vulnerable families slipping even further into poverty.

Please will you help support both the elephants and some of the poorest families by making a donation today?

Wilbur needed urgent treatment for his cracked nail

HERE'S HOW YOUR SUPPORT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

£20

could pay for the medicines and bandages to help treat the painful foot problems of more elephants like Wilbur.

£60

could pay towards essential equipment such as weighing scales and an ophthalmoscope to help properly resource the hospital and provide better veterinary care.

£100

could pay towards the resources, including the stones and cement, to help build the affected parts of the road and ensure elephants' access to the hospital for many years to come.

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

CARRYING ON CAMPING TO HELP ZIMBABWE'S DONKEYS

As Veterinary Programme Advisor for SPANA's core countries, I travel to all our projects, providing training and support for our skilled and dedicated veterinary teams. SPANA's work is slightly different in Zimbabwe. Rather than busy, urban centres, our work focuses on two mobile clinics that travel out into the country's rural communities and are run by our two Zimbabwean vets, Drs Andy and Erick.

On my latest trip to Zimbabwe, I spent two weeks on the road with Dr Erick in Masvingo Province, located 340 miles to the south of the capital city, Harare. Erick visits this province every three months, camping in different districts to provide lifesaving veterinary care to the working donkey population.

Despite the huge number of donkeys in Zimbabwe, veterinary resources for these animals are largely lacking. Government vets

provide treatment for some of the cattle and sheep, but donkeys do not qualify and, as a result, disease and injuries in the donkey population go largely untreated.

Over the course of the two weeks, we saw many different diseases and conditions such as wounds related to poorly-fitting and inappropriate harnesses, respiratory disease, colic, and lameness. Not only does SPANA provide veterinary treatment for animals that are sick, but we also focus on prevention through owner education and vaccination. We spoke with many owners about harnessing and how to prevent harness wounds, and we also provided rabies and tetanus vaccinations to all of the donkeys that we saw.

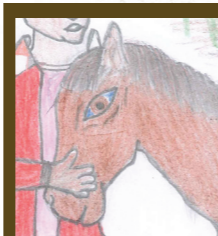
Donkeys are so vital for supporting livelihoods here. With no running

Veterinary Programme Advisor, Hannah Davies, reports on a camping trip with a difference in rural Zimbabwe



water, a rather temperamental electricity supply and long distances to the nearby towns, life is hard. Working donkeys provide huge support for their owners, as a means of transportation and draught power. I met many families who explained that their donkeys were essential for collecting food and water and providing transport for their children to get to school. Without their donkey, life in this already challenging environment would be significantly harder.

Despite the challenges of two weeks under canvas, I had the privilege of experiencing true rural Zimbabwean life and its daily trials. I was in awe of Dr Erick, who copes impressively well with the ups and downs of life as a SPANA vet on the road, and I met some wonderful people and donkeys along the way.



How could this drawing help working animals? See page 18

TRAINING TEACHERS TO SPREAD THE ANIMAL WELFARE MESSAGE

In 2015, SPANA launched a new professional qualification – the International Certificate in Humane Education (ICHE) – for teachers educating schoolchildren about animal welfare. Developed and run by SPANA and the Academy of Prosocial Learning, the ICHE is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge and tools they need to provide effective and engaging animal welfare education, including developing their own lesson plans and teaching materials.

Following the successful launch of the ICHE course in Ethiopia, which saw 47 teachers graduate in 2016, the SPANA education team this year visited Nairobi to deliver the course to a group of teachers from Kenya and other African countries.

The five-day course emphasised the fundamental principles of humane education, which is about encouraging empathy, an understanding of the need for compassion, and respect for animals, people, and the environment.

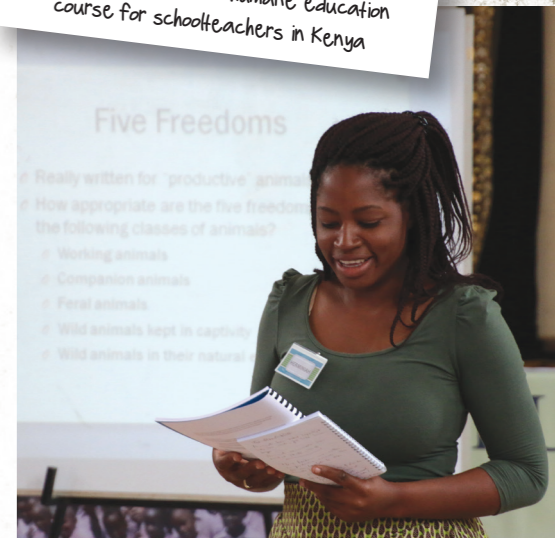
Herminah Simoyi, SPANA's Education Officer in Zimbabwe, also travelled to Kenya to take the ICHE course. She said: "Taking the course was a rewarding experience for me. I now feel excited and inspired to start delivering humane

education lessons to children across Zimbabwe. Visiting Kenya was a great experience, and I enjoyed the rich conversations we shared as we took the course with fellow Kenyan teachers."

Having a professional qualification increases the status of animal welfare education among teachers and governments. In collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) SPANA has been working towards getting animal welfare concepts introduced into the Kenyan national curriculum.

Susan Wanjiku Mwai, Humane Education Officer for SPANA in Kenya, said: "It's impossible to help children learn effectively if we do not empower teachers. The ICHE arrived at the right time, just as the education system in Kenya is on the verge of changing for good. Training teachers in humane education is a big milestone."

Outreach and Impact Advisor, Kate Scruton, reports from SPANA's humane education course for schoolteachers in Kenya



As its reputation grows, demand for the ICHE is increasing rapidly around the world. In a relatively short period of time, the course has made a significant impact and has helped put humane education in the spotlight. Our plan now is to build upon this success and ensure that, across Africa and elsewhere, animal welfare becomes a key part of children's education – paving the way for a more compassionate future.



PROFILE MALI

In this landlocked country, one of the poorest in the world, 70 per cent of people rely on working animals to make a living

SPANA OPERATIONS

SPANA has operated in Mali since 1996, improving the health and wellbeing of working animals, including the donkeys that haul carts on Bamako’s towering rubbish dumps.

SPANA vets have transformed these animals’ lives, ensuring that they receive the veterinary treatment they need and vaccinations against deadly diseases, such as tetanus. The donkeys now finish work each day in the early afternoon, retiring to a purpose-built shelter that keeps them out of the intense sun, with access to feed and water.

Alongside our veterinary programme, SPANA Mali delivers a children’s education programme, which reached 743 schoolchildren last year. The programme is designed to foster empathy for animals amongst young people.

In Bamako, the SPANA team also work to improve the lives of children with severe disabilities through our riding school for disabled children rehabilitation programme, which is having a significant impact.

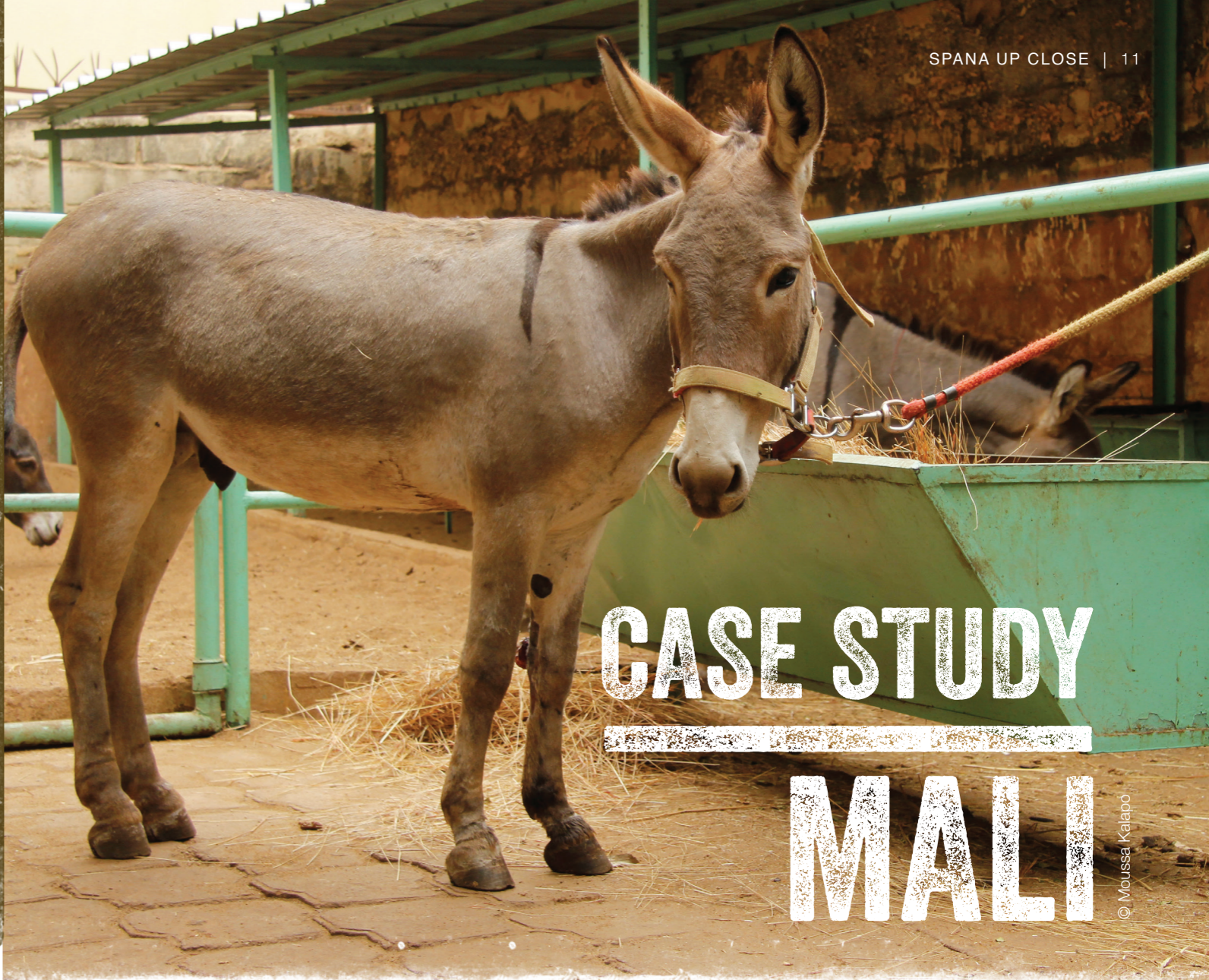
In recent years, SPANA has introduced a community training programme in Mali, working with animal owners to tackle the root causes of wounds, injuries and other preventable problems our vets see each day.

- One permanent veterinary centre in Bamako
- One mobile clinic, visiting smaller towns, villages and rural communities
- Almost 42,000 veterinary treatments were provided to working animals last year



MALI AT A GLANCE

Population: 14,517,176
Area: 1,240,192 km²
Location: West Africa
Capital city: Bamako
Estimated working animal population: 2,436,416 donkeys, horses and camels



CASE STUDY MALI

© Moussa Kalabo

PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Dr Amadou Doumbia, SPANA Mali Country Director



Can you tell us about your background?

I graduated as a vet in Kiev in 1988 and worked in several countries, including France. I started working with SPANA 20 years ago and was appointed Country Director in 2003.

How important are working animals in Mali?

Working animals are the backbone of life in rural areas and they play an important role in urban centres too. They support 70 per cent of the population. Working donkeys transport water, firewood and goods: in short, they are essential for people’s livelihoods and survival.

What are the main problems facing working animals in Mali?

The main challenges are poor animal welfare, neglect and a lack of basic care, which are exacerbated by poverty and ingrained attitudes towards animals. The

most common problems are wounds and trauma, which account for 65 per cent of health issues among working animals. Education and training are so important in reducing preventable problems.

Is the situation improving for working animals in Mali?

Yes, thanks to SPANA. One clear improvement is the situation of Bamako’s rubbish dump donkeys. In 2001, their life expectancy was six to eight months. It has now risen to nine years in some places. Where we work we see far fewer injuries while the nutrition of the animals has improved significantly. Thanks to SPANA, a 2012 animal welfare law is also improving the wellbeing of working animals.

What are your main goals for the coming year?

I plan to extend vet student training and our education programme in schools. My main priority is to work to banish forever the trafficking of donkey skins in Mali: without action, this will increase poverty while risking the disappearance of Mali’s donkeys altogether.

Removing a painful tumour

In Bamako, Joseph and his family rely completely on his donkey Sidy to help earn enough money to put food on the table. Sidy pulls a cart, transporting construction materials around the city, which helps Joseph make just enough to get by.

Conditions can be harsh in Bamako, which has a population of 1.8 million, and Sidy often has to walk many miles during the day in sweltering heat.

Joseph recently noticed an unusual growth on his donkey’s leg that was affecting his ability to walk and he took him to SPANA’s veterinary centre to be checked over.

“My donkey is a really important part of my family, so we were upset to see him suffering. Thank you very much for treating him.” Joseph

SPANA vets assessed Sidy and diagnosed the growth as a sarcoid tumour. Although not life-threatening, the tumour was large and was causing Sidy pain when he walked. The team decided to remove it surgically under anaesthesia.

Thankfully, the operation was a complete success and, after seven days of rest, Sidy was back on his feet and had made a full recovery.

Joseph was really appreciative of the care and kindness the SPANA vets had shown his animal. He said: *“My donkey is a really important part of my family, so we were upset to see him suffering. Thank you very much for treating him.”*

SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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

ETHIOPIA



PUTTING AN END TO PAINFUL HARNESS WOUNDS

21-year-old Mesfin Muluneh from Ethiopia needs his 13-year-old horse Zineb to pull a cart and provide him with his only means of income. With the small amount of money he earns from transporting goods and people, he is able to support his younger brother while he studies.

Sadly, Mesfin didn't realise that Zineb's harness and girth strap were not fitted correctly, and the friction from pulling the cart along cobbled, uneven roads led to a wound developing on his left side. Mesfin lives two hours away from the SPANA veterinary centre in Debre Zeit, but he made the long journey to ensure that his horse received the treatment he needed.

The SPANA team got to work cleaning the wound and applied zinc oxide cream to help protect it and promote healing. They advised Mesfin to rest Zineb for at least a week to recover. To prevent this type of wound from occurring again, they showed Mesfin how to fit the harness correctly and also provided harness padding to reduce rubbing. SPANA is considerably strengthening the community training part of our work to advise whole communities on how to better look after their animals.

Mesfin was grateful for all the support he'd been given. He said: "Thank you SPANA, this is wonderful help. I'll make sure that my horse's harness is always fitted properly in the future."

JORDAN



CURING A LAME DONKEY

The rural areas surrounding Jordan's capital city Amman are steep and hilly. In this inaccessible terrain, where tractors cannot be used, poorer families depend on working animals to help plough fields and carry agricultural materials.

Omar and his family rely on their donkey Karam for the help he provides on their small plot of land. They noticed that Karam had trouble walking on his left leg, so they brought him to the SPANA centre in Wadi Al Seer.

SPANNA Jordan's Country Director, Dr Ghazi gave Karam's leg a thorough examination and found swelling around the knee. It was thought that the injury may have been caused when Karam slipped on a rocky hill path. Dr Ghazi prescribed him with anti-inflammatories to reduce the swelling and admitted him to the centre to rest.

Thankfully, after a few days of rest and care from the SPANA team, Karam was back on his feet and had made good progress.

Omar was happy to be able to take his donkey back home. He said: "I'm so grateful for all the help SPANA have given my animal. He's so important to me. It's really great work that you do – thank you all."

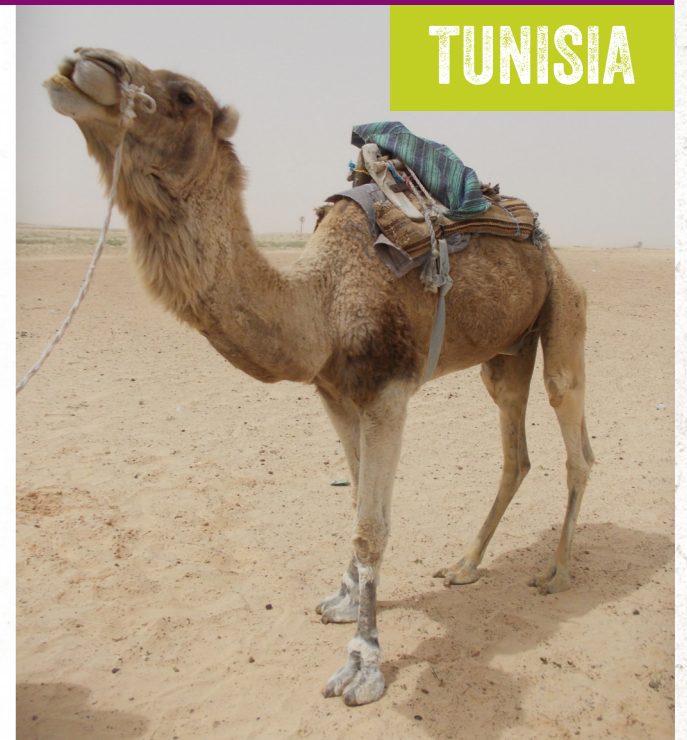
Adel the camel was brought to the SPANA mobile clinic in Douz, Tunisia. His owner Touhami Benmoussa was concerned that the five-year-old camel had lost his appetite.

SPANNA vets examined Adel and diagnosed a digestive disorder, caused by a diet too high in concentrate. Concentrate feed is grain-based and is very high in energy. It is usually provided as a supplement on top of a normal fibre-based diet (such as grass and hay) and too much concentrate risks digestive problems.

The team advised Touhami to feed Adel more fibre, which is essential to help animals maintain a healthy gut, but recommended a gradual change in diet over a two week period to allow the gut to adapt.

Touhami said: "I thought I was giving Adel the best food to keep him healthy, but it has made him sick. I am grateful for this advice from SPANA. Now I know what is right to feed him."

TUNISIA



A GUT REACTION HELPS ADEL

THE HORSEPOWER THAT BUILT BRITAIN

Whitehall, London
in the 19th century

SPANA News readers understand just how important working animals are to millions of poor families in developing countries worldwide today. But many people in Britain aren't aware about the vital role that working animals played in our own country's past – even throughout the 20th century.

It's a sad fact, but 40 per cent of people in the UK now don't even know what a working animal is, according to SPANA research. Once a familiar sight in the streets, fields and workplaces of Britain, these working horses, oxen and other animals have now disappeared from our daily lives and are a distant memory for most.

Yet we mustn't forget that, for thousands of years, they were our main source of power – for agriculture, transport, mining and warfare. Through their 'horsepower' they were the driving force of our economic and social development. From carriage

and cart horses, to pit ponies, plough horses and war horses, these animals transformed our lives.

Our relationship with working animals goes back a very long way. As early as 2500BC, evidence shows that horses were domesticated and were being used to pull vehicles in Britain, while the Domesday Book of 1086 recorded that 95 per cent of draught animals on the land were oxen.

The sheer size of Britain's historic animal workforce is astounding. In 1901, there were estimated to be more than three million working horses in Britain, with half used on farms. In the same year, almost every vehicle in London was horse-drawn and 300,000 horses were needed to keep the world's busiest city on the move.

The presence of this vast animal population wasn't without its problems. In 1894, London faced The Great Manure Crisis, an unsurprising consequence perhaps when you consider that each horse produced up to 35 pounds of manure every day. The crisis led The Times newspaper to predict that: *"In 50 years, every street in London will be buried under nine feet of manure."*

This unappealing prediction did not become a reality however. Little did they know at the time, but within twenty years – by 1915 – horse buses and trams had vanished from the streets of London, and the days of horse-drawn vehicles as the dominant form of transport had come to an end.

Throughout the 20th century working animals were gradually replaced by mechanised vehicles such as cars, buses, tractors and trains. In some cases, this was a rapid transition. Across Britain as a whole, for instance, there were 2.5 million cars by the mid-1930s, compared to just 15,000 twenty years earlier.

However, the replacement of working animals didn't happen overnight in all areas, industries and aspects of daily life. Many readers alive in the 1950s and 1960s will remember regular visits from the 'rag and bone man', while house-to-house deliveries of milk and coal were still commonly made by horse and cart up and down the country in the period after the war. Britain's railways were continuing to use over 11,000 horses in 1940 and the last horse wasn't retired until 1967. Even in 1942, horses outnumbered tractors on British farms by 30 to one, although tractor numbers overtook horses in the 1950s.

Perhaps most astonishing is the fact that pit ponies were still working underground in British coal mines up until 1999.

Today, people living in poverty in developing countries depend on working animals as we once did. Without the presence of tractors, vans and other machines, or the ability to afford them, backbreaking labour in factories, fields, docks and mines fell to the working classes in Britain and the working animals on which they relied. The parallels in the countries in which we now work are very clear.

Similarly, many people in Britain had a strong bond with their working animals and tried to keep them in good condition. However, this was often very challenging for poorly paid British labourers in agriculture and other industries, who struggled to feed their own families. People relied on their animals to earn a living, but the cost of buying a horse and paying for its upkeep and stabling would have been a huge strain. It's a situation we see for desperate families around the world today.

In Britain, it's so important that we always remember the immense and invaluable contribution of working animals in our history – and our debt to them. One of the best ways we can show our gratitude is by



Victorian Edinburgh



A pit pony in Nottinghamshire, 1913



Tottenham Court Road, London

making sure that the working animals facing extremely hard lives around the world today always receive the recognition, care and compassion they deserve. Through your generous support, we are working hard to ensure that better lives await these animals.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

WITH YOUR HELP, SPANA HAS ACHIEVED SO MUCH – BUT THERE'S SO MUCH MORE STILL TO BE DONE...

I'm writing to you today from Nouakchott in Mauritania, an impoverished country on the edge of the Sahara that still relies completely on working animals. There's almost no piped water so, for most people, every drop of water arrives on a donkey-pulled cart.

There are tens of thousands of these hardworking animals across the city. With the desert surrounding Nouakchott on almost all sides, it's obvious that it is working animals that make this city's existence possible.

It's a tough life – but these animals at least have a chance of a life free from pain and suffering, thanks to SPANA. They are vaccinated, there's dentistry and farriery available, owners are instructed in proper care, our water points keep animals hydrated, painful bits and equipment are replaced, and if they are injured they have access to free vet care.

But imagine a life without all that. Without adequate water, with painful harnesses rubbing open sores every minute of each day, injuries left untreated and always at risk of disease. Without SPANA, when working animals are sick, they stay sick – and they work on anyway.

I am so proud of what our teams achieve every single day – thanks to you. But we cannot rest while we know that there are animals still suffering.

So, we have already begun extensive work on SPANA's next five year plan, getting help to many more animals, relieving suffering and building a more compassionate future.

With over 200 million working animals around the world, we can't be everywhere so we must decide our priorities. Which is why I'm writing to you today: this is your charity, so I want you to be involved in shaping the next five years and beyond. Every penny we receive comes from those who share our passion for working animals, so it's only right you should help shape our future.

SPANAs always been led by our supporters and I don't ever want that to change. So I'm asking you to let me know more about your priorities.

Here's what I think. We need to grow – which means reaching more supporters. With more income, we can help more animals. We can't rest while there are animals that need us, still in pain – our goal should be to work in every developing country where there's a large working animal population.

Over the next few years, we should grow the number of countries where we provide free SPANA veterinary care, and expand outreach programmes around the world so that we can work with partners to get care to animals in the remotest corners of the world.

I believe it's also really important to extend the training we give to owners in communities. So many of the problems our vets see could be prevented with a better understanding of animal care.

Our children's education programme does incredible work – but let's get out from the centres and take our

work into those communities where animals work. We must build a more caring and compassionate attitude among children - and across society as a whole.

We also need to do more to protect working animals affected by conflict and natural disaster. Our emergency response team will help us get help to animals whenever and wherever we're needed.

That's what I think - but what do you think? We'll respond to you all and everything we receive will be valued and considered. Thank you for making SPANA what it is today – here's to the future!

Geoffrey Dennis

Geoffrey Dennis - Chief Executive

Be part of the conversation today – email us at hello@spana.org, visit us on Facebook or drop us a letter addressed to SPANA, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB





BUILDING A MORE COMPASSIONATE FUTURE WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Educating children is key to a kinder future for working animals. Of course, there is no doubt that our free veterinary care is vital, as it provides immediate relief for suffering animals. But we know that long term improvements depend on instilling respect and kindness for animals amongst children.

Earlier this year, our colleagues in Ethiopia arranged a drawing competition for schoolchildren attending our animal welfare lessons. They drew pictures on the themes of “animals have feelings” and “what animals need”. We were delighted with the results as the pictures are good evidence that the children are learning their SPANA lessons about kindness to animals. Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words!

It is so rewarding to see children respond enthusiastically to SPANA’s message of respect and kindness for animals. SPANA supporter Anne Paul was lucky enough to watch local schoolchildren learning



more about animals on a visit to our Marrakech clinic. She told us: *“I could see they were so interested and engaged. That work is really going to make a difference.”*

We have exciting plans to take our animal welfare education out to where

children live in more remote areas. These children may never have the chance to visit a SPANA education centre, yet they will take on the responsibility of looking after their own animals. As always, so much of our work today and in the future is only possible because of the kindness of people who leave us gifts in their Will.

If you are planning on writing or updating your Will any time soon, could you consider including a gift to SPANA? Of course, we appreciate that making a Will is a personal matter and family and friends come first. But if – once they are taken care of – you are able to leave a gift to SPANA, we can promise you that your legacy will be spent wisely. Your gift will not only enable us to treat injured or sick animals, it will also ensure that education can be provided to the animal owners of the future, helping animals that deserve their care and compassion.

If you have a question about how to leave a gift in your Will or you would like a copy of the SPANA legacies guide, please feel free to contact Penny in our friendly legacy team. Just call on 020 7831 3999 or send an email at giftsinwills@spana.org

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

Chris dons the donkey costume

SPANA’s famous giant donkey costume has been plodding the streets once again! Chris Oak, who works in our head office, donned the costume in July to help celebrate two SPANA World Tea Parties being held in his local town of Stevenage. Chris said, *“I’m really proud of the Stevenage community for getting together to help working animals. The donkey costume was heavy and uncomfortable, but it was nothing compared to the backbreaking loads that many working animals have to carry day in, day out. I’m also really proud to have been able to raise awareness of an issue that I’m so passionate about.”*



Thank you Chris!



Thank you Helen!

Three half marathons in two weeks!

Huge congratulations go to Helen Mortimer who completed an amazing three half marathons in just two weeks! Helen took on the Torbay Half Marathon on 25 June, the Birmingham Black Country Half Marathon on 1 July and then finished with the Wales Half Marathon on 9 July. At the time of printing, Helen had raised £191 with more money coming in – **you can sponsor Helen at www.justgiving.com/Helen-Mortimer6**.



Thank you Sarah!



Thanks Grace!

Cakes for school friends

Grace Travers and her friends at St Bartholomew’s Church of England school in Haslemere raised a fantastic £208 for SPANA with a delicious cake sale. Grace also did a brilliant presentation to the whole school assembly to raise awareness of SPANA’s work.

Plants help working animals

Green fingered Sarah Haine from Weston under Wetherley had been busy for many months growing plants in her garden. Sarah and her helpers then hosted a plant stall at their local

Village Open Gardens event and raised a wonderful £200 for working animals.



Thank you Joy!

Bunny cuddles

Joy Lambert has been hosting annual bunny cuddling days at her home in Bexleyheath for many years now. At this year’s event, the star bunnies were Amber, Harvey and Ettie who helped to raise a cuddly sum of £100. The bunny cuddling days have brought in £795 for animals in need over the years.

Big thanks to Joy, Amber, Harvey and Ettie!

How could you help working animals? Could you host a stall, put on your running shoes or give a talk to make a big difference to animals in need? Whatever you decide, we’re here to help. Call our friendly community fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org

Help working animals this festive season

Happy Hooves



FREE gift
when you
spend over
£25!*

Be inspired by this year's Happy Hooves shop! Bursting with wonderful new gift ideas, there's something special for everyone. Choose from our range of luxurious sweet treats, thoughtful stocking-fillers and creative gifts for children. You can also shop our Gifts of Health and Happiness, and make a personal contribution towards the care and comfort of working animals in need. With crackers, cards and gift wrap at your fingertips, we have all the finishing touches you need to make it a year to remember. All proceeds will ease pain and suffering in hardworking animals.



£9

Assorted Christmas Shortbread Tin

Gift code: M17CST



£3

Inky Donkey Blank Greetings Card

Gift code: M17IDC



£9

SPANA Mini Wall Calendar

Gift code: M17SWC



£18

Laughing Donkey Jug

Gift code: M17LDJ



£10

On the Farm Pouch Puzzle

Gift code: M17FPP



£13

Booja-Booja Champagne Truffles

Gift code: M17BBT



£4

Luxury Fudge Bites in Westie Tin

Gift code: M17LFB



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