



# NEWS



- Saving donkeys from the global skins trade
- The brick kiln camels of India
- Educating children in South Africa

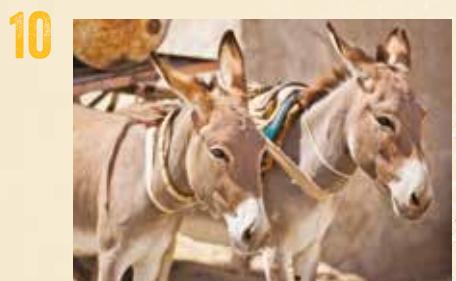
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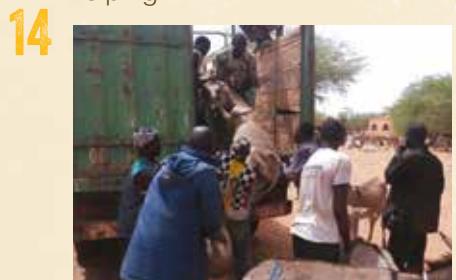
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For the working animals of the world

# WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

You may have recently read about the horrifying trade in donkey skins, which is currently threatening the survival of donkey populations worldwide – and particularly the working donkeys of Africa.



Please be aware that this is a sensitive topic, but I felt I had to share what is going on with you. This grotesque trade, which is driven by huge demand in China for a cosmetic product called 'ejiao', is the focus of our special appeal on page six in this issue. This is one of the most serious crises facing donkeys around the world that we've ever seen and we're urgently asking for your support to help us protect animals from theft and brutal slaughter.

On page 14, you can find out even more about the work SPANA is doing – working with national governments, local communities and our international partners – to put a halt to the skins trade. Our work lobbying and advising governments has already helped successfully bring about restrictions and bans in several countries, but there is a considerable amount of work to do to eradicate this global trade.

On a more positive note, on page 12, you can read about a few of the thousands of animals we've recently been able to help through vital veterinary care thanks to your support.

On page nine, find out more about how SPANA's education outreach programme is having a dramatic impact in South Africa. In the villages of the Eastern Cape, children are being taught by trained local 'Working Donkey Champions' and their entire relationship with animals is changing for the better.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to each and every SPANA supporter. We have made great strides in the past 18 months and, although there are huge challenges ahead, I am excited and optimistic about what we can achieve with your help.

*Geoffrey Dennis*

**Geoffrey Dennis** Chief Executive

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

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Registered charity no: 209015

# CARRYING A COMMUNITY

In Turkana, a remote and arid region in northern Kenya, the inhabitants are mostly nomadic pastoralists.

They move between areas in search of grazing land for their goats, which provide milk, an essential source of protein for local people.

In this incredibly isolated place, the Turkana people often live several hours away from the nearest settlement by foot. With such large distances involved, they depend greatly on the donkeys that accompany them. These animals are used to transport baby goats and children in specially designed saddle baskets. The journeys undertaken by families would be virtually impossible without the assistance of their working donkeys.

After years of poor or failed rains, most natural water sources in the vast, drought-ravaged Turkana region have dried up. Many communities have lost the animals upon which they rely. To ensure the survival of animals and people, SPANA has recently undertaken an urgent appeal to fund a solar-powered borehole and provide a reliable source of fresh water.

This work is only possible thanks to the generosity of SPANA supporters.

# SPANA IN THE NEWS

## SPANA's ambitious plans to help working animals

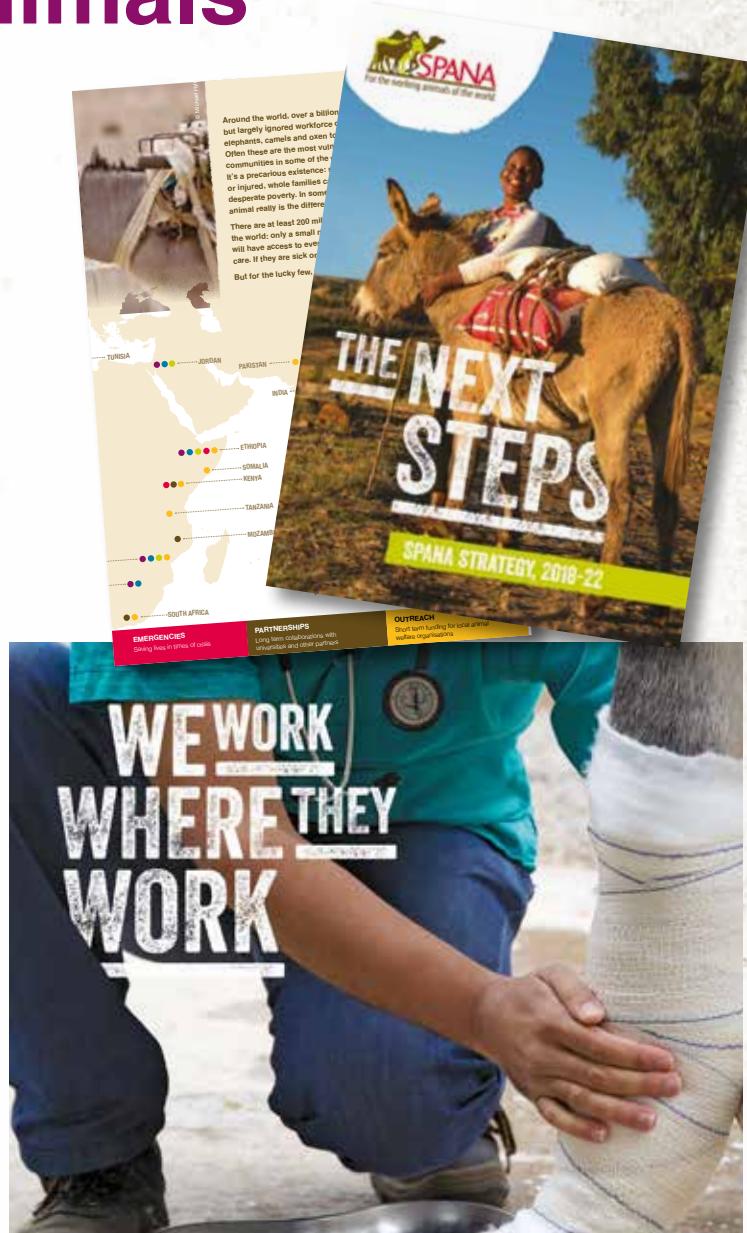
**SPANA has launched its new five-year strategic plan, outlining the charity's ambitious vision to transform the lives of many more animals in need and the communities that depend on them.**

The plan was launched at a House of Lords event on 8 March, attended by nearly 200 guests. SPANA President The Rt Hon The Lord de Mauley and Chief Executive Geoffrey Dennis were among the key speakers at the event.

The plan sets out the key priorities that will enable SPANA to deliver sustained improvements in the health and wellbeing of working animals worldwide by 2022 and beyond. These include:

- The development of veterinary and education programmes in SPANA's core countries – such as strengthening the teaching of local veterinary surgeons and students
- The expansion of services into new countries where there are significant numbers of working animals in need of support
- A greater focus on community training, equipping owners with the knowledge and skills to look after their animals in order to avoid preventable problems
- Development of our children's education work in rural areas, ensuring that the programme is directly reaching the communities where animals work
- Increased activity in response to emergency situations – helping animals in desperate need that are facing drought, conflict, natural disasters and other crises

SPANA supporters have played a key role in helping to shape the new strategy and the future of the charity. Many people offered their valuable feedback following a request in the autumn 2017 issue of SPANA News.



Geoffrey Dennis, SPANA Chief Executive, said:

*'Over the next five years, we have very ambitious plans to help more animals, extend our support to new countries and deliver a better future for working animals and communities across the developing world. With the wonderful backing of our supporters, we will bring about a kinder, more compassionate future for working animals.'*



## Blooming great success for SPANA

A garden inspired by SPANA's work was voted the favourite charity display at the Southport Flower Show 2017. SPANA was entered into the competition at the show having been nominated by the charity's Patron, John Craven.

The beautiful garden was created by TV gardener David Domoney, whose design highlighted the different environments faced by working animals around the world, including very arid conditions. A rope path was used to represent the harnesses that many animals wear, and the water droplet shape of the border symbolised 'the perspiration of their toil'.

Up against strong competition from a Macmillan Cancer Support display, the SPANA garden won the highest number of votes from visitors and online viewers, and received a £2,000 donation from show sponsors Everest Home Improvements.

Geoffrey Dennis, Chief Executive of SPANA, said: '*We are so grateful to Everest for their very kind donation and to David Domoney for designing a stunning garden that showcased SPANA's work so fittingly. We would also like to thank John Craven for nominating us as his chosen charity – and, of course, every single person who voted for the SPANA garden.'*



**Work begins on Tanzania's new clinical skills centre**

## New education programme in Botswana

SPANA is planning to launch a new education programme in Botswana. The charity will be setting up after-school clubs in the Maun region to teach schoolchildren about animal welfare.

SPANA will provide training for local teachers to help them run the clubs and deliver humane education lessons. A new Education Officer will be appointed to support the clubs, which will initially be established in 22 schools.

Dr Stephen Albone, SPANA's Education Director, said: '*Our new Botswana education programme will transform the attitudes and behaviours of schoolchildren towards animals, helping to improve the welfare of animals in the long term.*'



## New clinical skills centre to benefit Tanzania's working donkeys

SPANA is opening a new clinical skills centre in Tanzania, designed to train vet students and improve their practical skills and confidence.

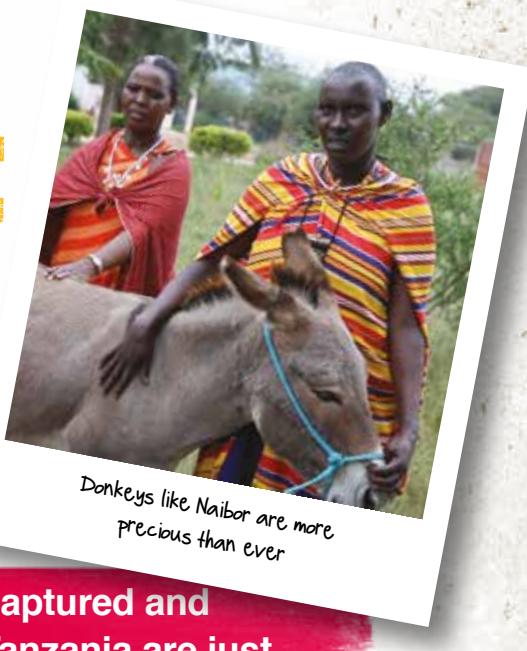
The centre is under construction at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, which is home to the only veterinary school in the country. Once the facility opens in July, it will be used by around 220 vet students each year.

There are more than 187,000 donkeys in Tanzania, which play an essential role in rural communities, and many of these vet students will be treating working animals following graduation.

Dr Ben Sturgeon, SPANA's Veterinary Director, said: '*The new centre will provide a significant boost to the quality of veterinary services available across Tanzania. The vets of the future will be using this facility, so it is important that – from the very outset of their careers – they have the training, knowledge and hands-on experience they need to provide high quality care to donkeys and other working animals.'*

# FIGHTING THE DONKEY SKIN TRADE

SPECIAL APPEAL



*Donkeys like Naibor are more precious than ever*

**Millions of helpless donkeys are at risk of being captured and slaughtered for their skins. The Masai people of Tanzania are just one of many communities devastated by the brutal ejiao trade.**

By now you've probably heard about the growing demand for 'ejiao' – a substance derived from donkey skins that is used in traditional Chinese medicine and cosmetics. Poachers are swarming Africa and cutting donkey populations by as much as 38 per cent in just two years.

SPANA has already made important steps towards halting this trade, which you can read about on page 14. But despite these successes, work still needs to be done, and fast.

Thousands of donkeys are being slaughtered for their skins on a weekly basis, and the millions that remain are increasingly vulnerable.

Mama Ne'ema lives in a Masai community in Tanzania. Her six donkeys were her lifeline, helping

her collect water, carry heavy loads, and transport villagers to hospital when they became sick.

Unaware of the risks, she left her donkeys to roam overnight as many donkey owners do. Poachers captured all but one donkey. His name is Naibor.

*'I'm just left with one donkey as the others were stolen. Before we were just leaving donkeys to roam. We didn't know the importance of confining them to stop them being stolen.' – Mama Ne'ema, Donkey Champion.*

With fewer donkeys in the village, Naibor now has to make the 16km round trip to collect water once a day instead of once a week. If he becomes injured, sick or overworked, his suffering will be felt by an entire village.

But it could be worse. Donkeys that are stolen are often forced into the back of trucks and taken on the long and dangerous journey to the abattoir. They are then left to starve and – if the operation cannot be legally shut down – are brutally killed and skinned.

**With your help, we can prevent the precious donkeys that remain from meeting the same devastating fate. Furthermore, their daily working life – and that of future generations – can be greatly improved in the process.**

Training is critical in fighting this issue. With your support, we can train owners to become 'Donkey Champions', empowering them to act as the first line of defence against disease, injury and donkey theft in their community.

During a two-day training session, we can show Donkey Champions how to build a corral enclosure – essential for keeping their donkeys safe each night. We can teach owners fundamental donkey care and management, and provide them with first aid kits to treat common donkey wounds. Champions are also trained in the production of humane harnesses and saddle padding, providing instant relief and preventing future injuries.

Without these crucial measures, the donkeys will remain defenceless. Please can you support this special appeal, and safeguard the futures of these animals and their communities.



Starving donkey found abandoned at an abattoir



Donkeys huddled in their new corral enclosure,  
built in the heart of the Masai village

## HERE'S HOW YOUR SUPPORT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE:



**£20**

**Emergency food** – Your gift could save the life of a starving donkey rescued from an abattoir by providing a two-week supply of nutritious food.



**£68**

**First aid kits** – Your gift could provide first aid kits and training for four Donkey Champions, equipping them to treat up to 60 hardworking and vulnerable donkeys like Naibor.



**£127**

**Corral enclosures** – Your gift could help to build five corrals, protecting as many as 60 donkeys from being poached and slaughtered for their skins.

To make a donation please use the donation form enclosed, call **0300 033 4999**, or visit us at [www.spana.org/skins](http://www.spana.org/skins) to donate and watch our appeal video ►

# CONFRONTING THE DEADLY THREAT OF COLIC

**So many of the conditions I treat when I'm in the field with working animals are unheard of outside the developing world. In developed countries, horses and donkeys are, thankfully, spared the misery of killer diseases like EZL and African Horse Sickness.**

But colic is a condition equally dreaded by equine owners around the world and is a major cause of equine deaths globally. Colic isn't a specific condition, but a general term indicating an abdominal pain that usually originates from the gastro-intestinal tract.

In equines, the gastro-intestinal tract includes a relatively small stomach and a very long intestine (nearly 30 metres!) that is loosely attached to the abdominal wall, predisposing equines to conditions such as blockages, displacements and torsions.

While this means colic can be a threat to all equines, working animals

in many of the countries where SPANA works are at particular risk due to a poor diet, worm infestation, dehydration and dental problems.

In developing countries, especially in urban and desert environments, horses and donkeys struggle to find a balanced diet due to the lack of pasture and forage. SPANA teams often attend underfed and dehydrated animals.

Another frequent cause of colic is the ingestion of foreign bodies, such as plastic bags or nylon ropes, as hungry animals look for food among the rubbish. These foreign bodies cannot be digested and end up getting stuck in the intestine, creating painful obstructions.

The symptoms of colic vary greatly depending on the severity of the condition. Mild colic may simply leave an animal listless and with no appetite, while an animal in extreme pain may sweat profusely, kick at the abdomen and roll on the floor.

SPANA-supported vets in India are also experienced in dealing with cases of colic among camel populations. Many working camels in urban areas do not have access to grazing and are fed a diet high in

Marta Ferrari, Veterinary Programme Advisor, on a common condition that can prove fatal if left untreated

concentrates and lacking sufficient fibre, which can lead to digestive problems. Also, as with equids, dehydrated camels can suffer painful impactions.

Our expert vet teams are well trained in assessing a colicky animal and, by carrying out a thorough examination, are able to determine the best treatment option. Sometimes this is medical, such as pain relief, rehydration and administration of laxatives. In more severe cases, surgery may be required, for instance to remove a foreign body that the animal cannot pass.

Colic is a killer but, for many working animals, SPANA's experienced vets provide hope of recovery. Thanks to your support, SPANA teams are on hand to get the right treatment to animals in need. And, thanks to you, many can also look forward to a comfortable recovery in one of our centres, where they will be in the best hands to receive the lifesaving care they need.



## 3,614

the number of colic cases treated by SPANA worldwide in 2017

# WORKING DONKEY CHAMPIONS: THE PERFECT ROLE MODELS FOR CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Since 2016, SPANA has funded a children's education programme in rural areas of the Eastern Cape in South Africa. The programme is run by partner organisation amaTrac uluntu (formerly The Farm Animal Centre for Education), which has been working with SPANA for several years, training 'Working Donkey Champions' (WDCs) in local communities.

These WDCs – respected members of the community who care for working animals, advise owners and promote positive attitudes towards donkeys – are also teaching local children about animal welfare, helping them to develop empathy and change their behaviours.

The need for animal welfare education in the Eastern Cape is great. Traditionally, young boys take care of livestock and working animals. However, they often lack the knowledge needed and problems such as overloading are common. Many of the boys also do not attend school, play sport or get to spend time with friends, and – sadly – some take out their frustrations on the donkeys. Through education, this situation is changing.

In the first year of the programme, eight WDCs educated over 250 children in six villages and two townships. Each child received up to 12 hours of teaching, delivered in their local language, isiXhosa. In practice, the teaching is constant, as the WDCs work closely with the children in their villages every day.

The education programme has been a huge success so far. The children taking part now understand that donkeys feel pain like people and that working animals are very important to their families. As a result, these children are looking after their donkeys well and damaging behaviour, such as hitting the donkeys, has thankfully become a thing of the past.

11-year-old Ovayo Mazinyo has benefited from the programme and is now very enthusiastic about educating other people. Ovayo said: 'We have learnt how to look after our animals and that we should treat donkeys as we treat ourselves. It is important that we tell everyone. We should not beat donkeys, we should not put harsh bits in their mouths and we should never let them be scared of a human.'



Kate Scruton, Outreach and Impact Advisor, talks about SPANA's education outreach programme in the Eastern Cape

This year, 10 donkey owners from 10 new villages will be trained and, working alongside the current WDCs, they will be supported to approach local schools to provide humane education. The aim is for 10,000 children to learn about compassionate behaviour towards animals. SPANA and amaTrac uluntu will continue to support the WDCs in educating and mentoring children, changing their views and improving the treatment of working animals to create a sustainable, long lasting change in the villages of the Eastern Cape.



# PROFILE MAURITANIA

## SPANA OPERATIONS

**Since 2001 SPANA has worked in Mauritania helping the country's working animals and the communities that work with them.**

Working animals have a crucial role in Mauritania. In the capital, Nouakchott, there is no piped water supply and the people rely on a workforce of 70,000 donkeys to deliver their water every day. A further 30,000 donkeys are used to transport food, charcoal, construction materials and even rubbish. Day-to-day life in the city literally depends on these animals.

However, despite their vital importance, the animals endure many problems and SPANA is alone in providing veterinary assistance to Mauritania's working equines. SPANA vets offer a lifeline to animals that would otherwise suffer, without the treatment they need.

Alongside the work of the veterinary team, our education programme reaches children in a number of schools

in Nouakchott and in a designated classroom at the SPANA centre. The programme promotes caring behaviour towards animals.

- Two permanent veterinary centres in Nouakchott and Rosso, plus two mobile clinics
- 592 children benefited from our education programme in 2017
- More than 83,393 veterinary treatments were provided to working animals last year



## MAURITANIA AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 4,301,018

**Area:** 1,030,000 km<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** West Africa

**Capital city:** Nouakchott

**Estimated working animal population:**

393,427 donkeys and horses

## PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Bebaha Hmeiditt, SPANA Mauritania Country Director



### Can you tell us about your background?

I have worked with SPANA Mauritania since 2001, originally as a volunteer. In 2006, I was appointed Country Director.

### How important are working animals in Mauritania?

Mauritania is a very poor country and working animals are the main means of transport in urban and rural areas. Drinking water is also a rare commodity in Nouakchott and over 70 per cent of people access water thanks to donkeys pulling barrels on carts between neighbourhoods.

### What are the main problems facing working animals?

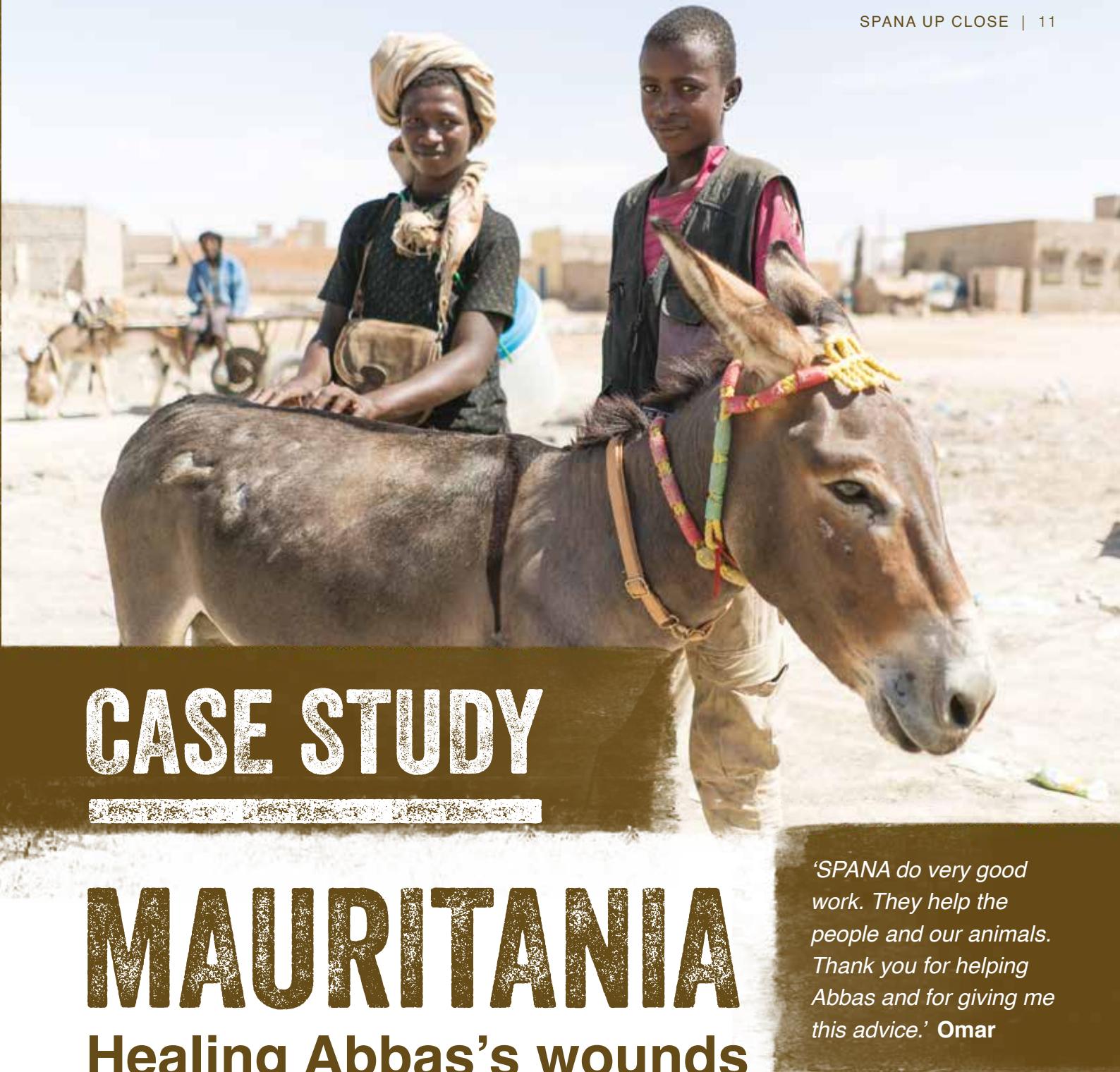
Malnutrition, abuse, infections, lameness, parasites, poor farriery and road accidents are just some of the key problems. The low status of the donkey in society is a major obstacle we are working to overcome.

### What impact is SPANA having in Mauritania?

We are seeing very significant and tangible results. Through word of mouth and particularly the mobile clinic, more than 100 animals are brought for treatment every day and this number continues to rise as awareness grows. Changing attitudes takes time, but through our training and education work, we have seen a remarkable improvement in the behaviour of animal owners towards donkeys. There has been a reduction in wounds and injuries caused by the use of sticks, and traffic accidents have decreased, as drivers are more conscious of working animals on the road.

### What are your main goals for the year ahead?

We are planning to construct a new veterinary centre in Boghé, a very agricultural area. We will start providing internships to vet technicians from two schools to develop their skills and experience. We will also be training a large number of schoolteachers to deliver animal welfare lessons to many more children.



## CASE STUDY

# MAURITANIA

## Healing Abbas's wounds

In Nouakchott, five-year-old donkey Abbas is an important part of his owner Omar's life. By transporting water by cart to be sold in the city, Abbas makes it possible for 20-year-old Omar to earn a small income and support his parents and four siblings.

Without Abbas, life would be extremely difficult for Omar, who came to Nouakchott from Senegal to look for work.

Omar brought Abbas to the SPANA mobile clinic, as his donkey had become thinner and was suffering from some wounds. The team examined Abbas and identified parasites as the reason for his weight loss, along with poor nutrition. It was immediately obvious to

them that inappropriate harnessing was the cause of the wounds.

The SPANA vets carefully attended to Abbas's wounds and told Omar to give him plenty of rest to allow them to recover fully. They showed Omar how to fit the harness correctly to prevent it rubbing against his donkey's skin and leading to painful injuries in the future. They gave the donkey an injection to treat the parasites and advised Omar on the food needed to ensure that Abbas was receiving a nutritious diet.

Omar said: 'SPANA do very good work. They help the people and our animals. Thank you for helping Abbas and for giving me this advice.'

*'SPANA do very good work. They help the people and our animals. Thank you for helping Abbas and for giving me this advice.' Omar*

# SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

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

ETHIOPIA



## A NASTY FALL FOR DAMA

For Gezahegn Mammo, few things are more important than the health and welfare of his 20-year-old horse Dama.

27-year-old Gezahegn lives in the small Ethiopian village of Dabe Soloke, where he runs a passenger cart business. He relies upon Dama to pull his cart around the community, earning him an income that provides food and housing for himself and his sister.

When Dama fell on the tarmac road, causing a large wound on his knee, Gezahegn immediately took him to the SPANA mobile clinic in Adama.

The SPANA vets cleaned and treated Dama's wound, but they also diagnosed that he was suffering from epizootic lymphangitis (EVL) – a contagious equine disease that causes painful lesions to develop across the skin.

EVL is a major problem for working horses and donkeys across Ethiopia. Left unchecked, it can lead to lameness and severe arthritis and, in the worst cases, horses may need to be euthanased.

Luckily, the SPANA team was able to treat Dama's EVL lesions by applying and infusing a tincture of iodine, as well as providing an oral dose of potassium iodide.

Recovery from both the EVL and wounds would not be a quick process, so the vets also advised Gezahegn on the follow up treatment and the rest time Dama would require.

Gezahegn was extremely grateful that his beloved horse was on the way back to full health.

Gezahegn said: 'Our horse's health is crucial to us. Please continue helping us. We love you!'

## MALI



### HELPING A LONG IN THE TOOTH DONKEY

**In the small town of Douz in Tunisia on the edge of the Sahara, camels help provide an income for many local people, both through tourist rides and transporting goods to market.**

The SPANA mobile veterinary clinic heads to Douz each week. On one visit, the team met Antonio, a male dromedary camel that had been brought along by Ali, his owner.

The nylon rope around Antonio's nose was pulled tightly, and the friction had caused a wound to develop across the camel's nose, which was at risk of becoming infected.

The team applied iodine to the wound to clean it and eliminate bacteria, before dressing it with a bandage. They provided Ali with a comfortable, padded noseband for Antonio, which would help prevent this type of injury from occurring again.

Ali expressed his relief at the outcome. He said: 'On behalf of my family and the people in Douz, thank you SPANA.'

**Dozens of working donkeys are brought to the rubbish dumps of Bamako in Mali every day, hauling heavy carts up mountains of rotting waste and sharp objects.**

Ozo the donkey leads a difficult life helping his young owner Bakary to make a meagre living.

Bakary was very worried to see that his donkey was steadily losing weight and getting weaker.

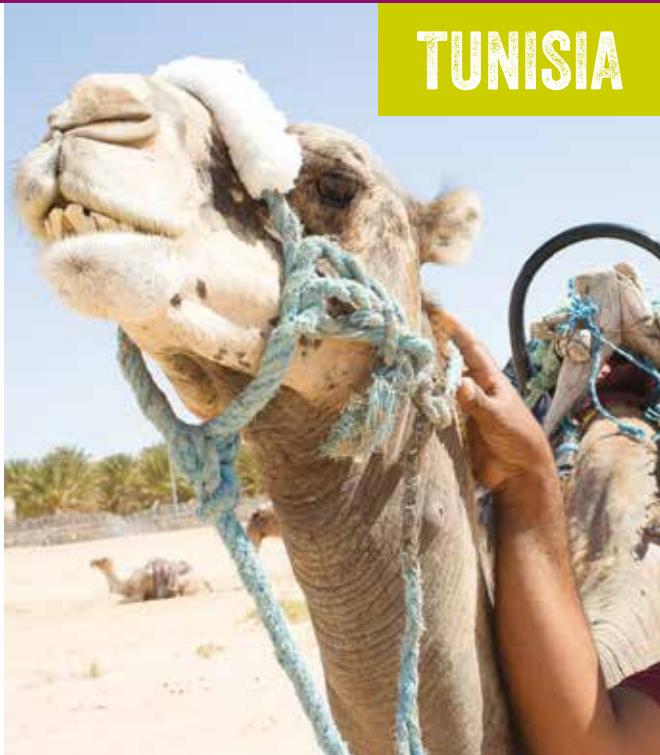
He brought his donkey to the SPANA mobile clinic, where the team diagnosed parasites and poor dental care as the causes of Ozo's malnutrition, which would only worsen if left untreated.

Ozo was taken to the SPANA veterinary centre where he was immediately given anti-parasitic medication. The team also rasped the donkey's teeth, ensuring that he could eat comfortably. Like horses, donkeys' teeth grow continually throughout their lives, but if the teeth do not wear down evenly, it can be difficult for them to grind and digest their food properly.

Thankfully, following the treatment, Ozo made a swift recovery, gaining weight and energy.

Bakary was advised to bring Ozo to the centre at least once a year to have his teeth rasped. He said: 'Thank you SPANA. Ozo is eating again and I know what I must do in the future.'

## TUNISIA



### HEALING A PAINFUL WOUND



# THE SHOCKING IMPACT OF THE DONKEY SKIN TRADE

**SPANA CHIEF EXECUTIVE GEOFFREY DENNIS REFLECTS ON THE INDUSTRY THAT IS POSING THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE SURVIVAL OF AFRICA'S DONKEYS**

**Please be aware, you may find some of the content of this article distressing.**

**Imagine waking up one morning and finding out that your livelihood was gone. Your means of providing for your family, sending your children to school, and paying the mortgage: it had all simply disappeared overnight.**

That's the reality facing people all over Africa who rely on working donkeys.

Across the continent, thefts of these hardworking animals – which underpin the livelihoods of the poorest communities – have skyrocketed over the past three years. And it's all down to seemingly insatiable consumer demand for a product made from donkey skins known as 'ejiao' that is used in traditional Chinese medicine, which you will have read about in the special appeal in this issue.

Many consumers in China wrongly see the product as a miracle 'panacea', with ejiao manufacturers claiming it has a huge range of health benefits, from smoothing wrinkles to curing anaemia.

Previously, manufacturers sourced the donkey skins from Chinese farms, but the surge in consumer demand has outstripped local supply, with the country's donkey population dropping from 11 million in 1990 to just 5.4 million in 2016.

Manufacturers seeking new sources of raw materials turned their attention to Africa, which has seen a steep rise in the trade of donkey skins, sending the price of an animal soaring and leading to widespread donkey thefts. Nations from the north-west of the continent to South Africa have been affected. Our SPANA staff report that people are almost too scared to sleep in case their donkeys are stolen and slaughtered at night.

The new demand has also caused rapid price increases for donkeys, throwing communities into economic chaos. In Kenya, the price of a piece of donkey skin rose from 100 Kenyan Shillings in 2016 to 1,000 in 2017, while Mali has seen prices double in less than a year.

Poorer animal owners are sadly being misled and seduced into selling their donkeys for the vastly inflated prices on offer. Understandably, the equivalent of £150, cash in hand, for a subsistence farmer in a country such as Ethiopia may seem

# 38%

**decline in Botswana's donkey population since 2014**

(source: FAO official statistics)

impossible to turn down, particularly if they are struggling to feed themselves and their families. But the longer term consequences of selling their means of generating an income are unthinkable.

What's more, the donkeys that are traded or stolen are often transported and slaughtered in absolutely appalling conditions. The sickening reality is that animals are regularly starved before they are slaughtered – making it easier for their skins to be removed. On a recent visit to Zimbabwe, I visited a shut-down abattoir that had been preparing donkeys ready for slaughter, and I was horrified by the condition of the animals.

Thankfully, we were able to save the lives of at least 28 donkeys, which would otherwise have starved, and our dedicated SPANA Zimbabwe team is now overseeing the care of the surviving donkeys.

The situation is alarming and disturbing. However, there is hope.

Across Africa, we have been engaging with governments to highlight the urgent need to bring an end to the industry before donkey populations are completely decimated. We are seeing a growing push

towards bans on the slaughter and export of donkeys and donkey products. At least 10 African countries have now announced bans or restrictions on the trade, which is very positive, but there's still a long way to go.

The abattoir in Zimbabwe, which I mentioned previously, was fortunately shut down following lobbying from SPANA and other organisations. It had proposed to slaughter about 12,000 donkeys a year. If it had succeeded, that would have equated to a loss of almost one tenth of the country's donkey population in just 12 months.

SPANA is also working directly with communities – advising animal owners about the long term economic impact of selling their working animals and providing practical support, including funding the construction of secure fencing and corrals to help people keep their donkeys safe from theft.

Please, if you can, support our special appeal on page six, and help us protect many more donkeys in this way from a dreadful fate.

The scale of this problem is immense and it can't be solved alone. We are working closely with governments, communities and organisations that share our aims to coordinate a global response. And, as is the case with everything we do, we simply cannot achieve anything without your support.

There is a huge amount of work ahead, but one thing is certain – we are absolutely determined to tackle this trade head-on and we won't stop until the future of the donkeys of Africa is secure.



# THE BRICK KILN CAMELS OF INDIA



© Alice Carfrae

In Kanota in Rajasthan, India, working camels have a key role transporting large stacks of bricks by cart at the local brick kilns.

Conditions are punishing for the animals and people who work in this harsh, dusty environment, where temperatures regularly peak at 41 degrees.

Without shade from the intense sun, the camels and 'patheras' – the people who make the raw bricks – carry out the arduous work at the brick factories for around eight hours each day.

The patheras are amongst the lowest paid workers in India and, on average, they produce one brick every minute during their working day. These bricks are produced and delivered for local construction.

SPANA funds an outreach project in the region, a mobile camel clinic, run by our partner organisation, Help in Suffering. The clinic provides free veterinary care to the brick kiln camels, which unsurprisingly suffer from a large range of injuries and problems in such a dangerous and inhospitable environment.

The clinic is helping to prevent suffering and is improving the lives of these hardworking camels.

# SUPPORTER NEWS

**GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE**

## LONDON MARATHON

In preparation for the London Marathon, which took place on 22 April 2018, one of SPANA's Trustees, Rob Gethen Smith, visited Ethiopia to see the difference SPANA is making.

Rob set himself a fundraising target of £5,000 for the event. Witnessing SPANA's work in person on his recent trip has made him even more determined to reach this incredible total:

*'I had the absolute privilege to see first-hand the work that SPANA does and the impact it has. I can really see how far our supporters' money goes to directly improve the welfare of working animals through veterinary treatment but also through educating owners and children how to care for and respect their animals on which they ultimately rely.'*



Thank you Rob!

To help Rob reach his London Marathon target, please visit his JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/robgethensmith](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/robgethensmith). All your support is hugely appreciated.

## ROYAL PARKS HALF



Thank you Dominic!

The run passes through four of London's iconic parks and huge crowds turn up to show their support.

This year, you could be one of 12 SPANA runners taking part in this wonderful event, while raising invaluable funds, and awareness, for the cause!

Dominic was part of Team SPANA in 2017: '*Last year's half marathon was my first ever, and I was a little nervous before the start, but actually enjoyed every minute. The support from SPANA was brilliant and I have already signed up again for 2018.*'

**SPANA will provide you with support and guidance throughout, for both your training and fundraising. To find out more visit [www.spana.org/royalparks](http://www.spana.org/royalparks), and to sign up for a place in this year's race, please call 020 7831 3999 or email [events@spana.org](mailto:events@spana.org).**

## WORLD TEA PARTY

With summer fast approaching, now is the perfect time to take part in the SPANA World Tea Party, which is even bigger and better in 2018!

You can now order your very own World Tea Party-themed balloons and cake flags to help bring your event to life. There are also new recipe videos for each party theme – from a British Afternoon Tea Party to an Ethiopian Coffee Morning.

Do you work at, or have links with, a local school or a company? This year, why not host a World Tea Party in your school or workplace? We can provide you with all the tools and support you need to make your event a success.

If you have little ones in the family who are keen bakers, we have some great suggestions to get kids involved – from baking ideas to toddler tea parties.



Join the Tea Party!

To find out more and to get started, visit [www.spana.org/teaparty](http://www.spana.org/teaparty).

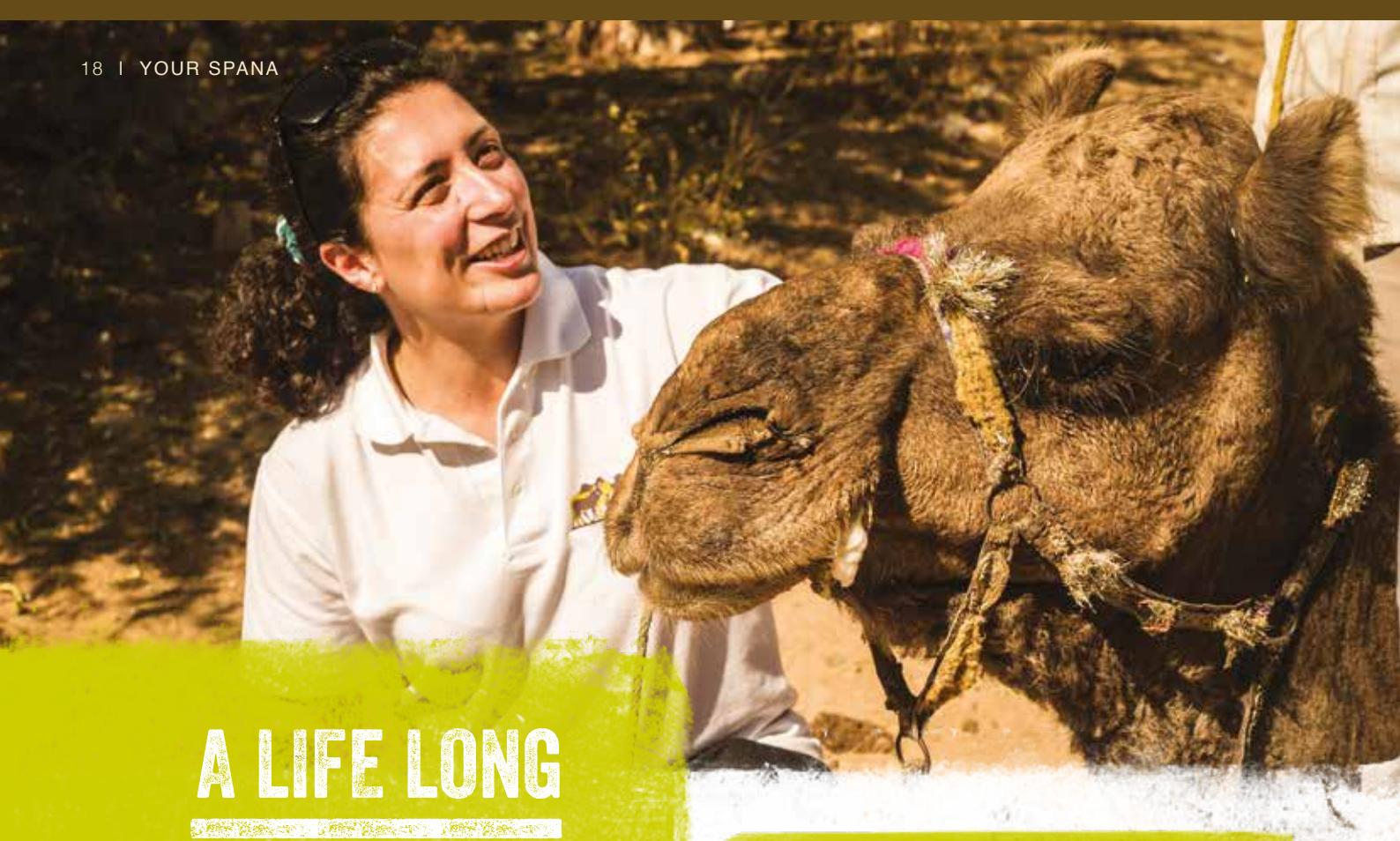
# A LIFE LONG PASSION FOR ANIMALS

Marta Ferrari joined SPANA's vet team in 2017. Here, she tells how she went from an animal-loving child in Italy to working as a vet for SPANA.

*'None of my family ever had horses. Now, as well as being a vet, I have my own horse, two donkeys, a Shetland pony, and not forgetting my cat!'*

*'As a recently qualified vet in 2007, I volunteered at SPANA's Marrakech centre and I loved my experience. It was the first time I had treated donkeys and I fell in love with them as much as horses. The work was so rewarding and I realised I'd love to work for SPANA in the future. 10 years later I'm happy to say I got my chance.'*

*'Of course, helping animals is what I do, but it is very important that SPANA also helps the people. I've seen the impact these animals have on the owners and their family. It is incredibly rewarding to help the animal and see just how grateful the owner is.'*



*I knew that the work we do is only possible because of the generosity of our supporters, but I was really surprised to find out that nearly half is funded by gifts in Wills.*

*I think it's a wonderful thing to do and I know first-hand the difference these gifts make.*

*The next time I treat a sick animal and reassure their worried owner, I will remember to say a special thank you to the people who kindly leave us a gift in their Will.'*

Gifts in Wills come in all shapes and sizes. Big ones, small ones and right-in-the-middle ones; we are truly grateful for all of them. They all matter and they all make a difference.

If you've recently included a gift to SPANA in your Will, do let us know as we'd love to say 'thank you'. If you'd like to know a little more about how to do this, or would like a copy of our legacies guide, you're welcome to contact Penny in our friendly legacy team for a confidential chat on 020 7831 3999 or send an email to [giftsinwills@spana.org](mailto:giftsinwills@spana.org).

# **SPANA PRIVACY STATEMENT**

**At SPANA, we take your privacy seriously. We know how important it is to you that we protect your personal information and we are committed to guarding your confidentiality and respecting your choices at all times.**

We know you place your trust in SPANA and we work hard to keep that trust, every day. So we have reviewed all our processes for how we collect, use, share, secure and store personal data, reflecting our commitment to ensuring we always follow the very best practice. Our processes are detailed in SPANA's Data Protection Policy and Data Storage & Retention Policy.

We will only mail appeals to supporters who have demonstrated an active interest in the charity. These supporters will have donated within the last two years or will have demonstrated a long-term interest in the charity (through such activity as pledging a gift in their Will). Our materials will always give an option for the supporter to opt out of SPANA marketing and communications; and we will never send appeals to anyone who has opted out.

We will only make fundraising appeals by email or phone to supporters who have asked to receive calls and emails from us. Each call or email will include an opportunity for a supporter to opt out of future communications. We will never call or email anyone who has asked not to be contacted in this way.

The information we collect helps us to give you the best possible experience with SPANA, from sending updates on the animals you're helping to alerting you to urgent appeals. To help us provide the best possible experience, we research our donor database and aim to maximise the impact and cost-effectiveness of our fundraising activities by tailoring appeals to the specific individual.

We will never sell or trade your personal information to anyone. Where we use information for fundraising purposes, it will only be shared where necessary and with appropriately trained SPANA staff, volunteers and contractors.

SPANA also works hard to put in place robust security measures to protect stored data, whether it is held in paper files or on our computer systems.

You can ask us at any time to provide you with a copy of the information we hold about you, including where and how we obtained it, why we are keeping it and what we are using it for. This is called a 'subject access request' and you can make one by contacting SPANA's Data Protection Officer using the details below. All requests will be dealt with within 30 days of receipt.

You also have a right to decide on the information you would like to receive from us – you can stop receiving direct marketing and communications about the vital work we do for working animals by using the details below. All requests will be dealt with within 28 days of receipt.

If you would like to know more about our commitment to your privacy, you can get in touch with our Supporter Care team or read the answers to frequently asked questions at [www.spana.org/privacy](http://www.spana.org/privacy)

**Get in touch**

**Write to us:**

SPANA, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB

**Email us:** [hello@spana.org](mailto:hello@spana.org)

**Call us:** 020 7831 3999



# This summer, organise a World Tea Party with friends, family or colleagues for working animals!

This year, join your loved ones for a World Tea Party and choose from one of our special themes, all with fantastic recipes!

The first 50 packs will include some  
fantastic animal-shaped  
cookie cutters!



Judy has been fundraising for SPANA for over a decade, organising an annual Strawberry Tea as her take on the British Afternoon Tea Party!

Judy has raised thousands for SPANA in that time, and continues to be as motivated as ever to support SPANA with an event that engages all her friends and family.

*'We make great use of the 'Pick your own' strawberry fields nearby, and deliver personal invitations for the event to friends locally! We make sure we have plenty of SPANA literature available on the day, and having seen SPANA at work abroad I really want to get across the message that the money raised from our World Tea Party helps support not just animals but entire communities.'*

