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stablemate

January 2012



With thanks for your support for the working animals of the world

Surviving
Mongolia's
savage winters

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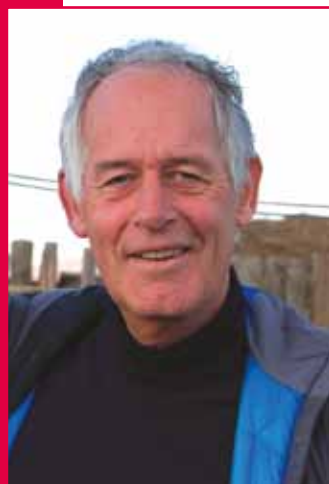
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Dear Friend



I'd like to begin your latest copy of Stablemate with a heartfelt thank you. The last 12 months have been an incredible year of work and progress for SPANA, some examples of which you can read about in the following pages. I want to show you our successes because you are a vital part of everything we do. Thanks to your compassion and generosity, we helped nearly 400,000 working animals in 2011.

For me, personally, last year left a permanent mark. When news reached us in May of the drought crisis affecting east Africa, I travelled to Kenya to see how SPANA could help livestock and the people who rely

on them. Seeing first-hand the suffering of the pastoralists and animals in an area ravaged by months of drought is something I will never forget.

As well as reflecting on 2011, I also want to look ahead to the challenges we face in 2012. On page 4, for instance, you can read about one of the most common problems our centres and mobile clinics will have to deal with this year – lameness. We see an incredible number of animals with deformities and disabilities, many of which can be prevented with proper farriery and effective treatment. Over the next few pages you will find out how we need your support to tackle these issues so that we can prevent more animals from suffering.

This year, we hope to help even more animals and to reach more communities that depend on donkeys, mules, horses and camels. Developing our education programmes in countries like Tunisia and Mali is high on the agenda. We must also be prepared to respond with emergency aid when natural disasters and conflict put animals and livestock at risk.

We simply can't meet these challenges without you. So please, if you can, start the new year with a donation to help working animals. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

PS On your donation form, you'll see that you can support many of the vital appeals featured in this edition of Stablemate – or you can give to 'wherever the need is greatest', which would allow us to use your gift in the most effective way. Thank you.



Improving vet skills in Mali and Jordan... with your help

It's our goal to improve the welfare of working animals around the world. To do this, we are constantly striving to provide an appropriate quality of care at our permanent and mobile clinics.

We depend on our dedicated and hardworking teams of vets and veterinary assistants to treat and save the lives of working animals in some of the world's poorest countries. Providing training opportunities to help our teams and local vets improve their skills will have a long term impact on animal welfare.

In spring 2011, we launched an appeal to raise £20,000 to cover the cost of CPD (continuing professional development) courses in Jordan and Mali for local vets and students. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to implement the courses and the feedback from attendees has been universally positive. The CPD courses have boosted commitment and motivation.

Many SPANA vets live and work in extremely challenging conditions and in areas of huge deprivation, which can be physically and emotionally draining. So maintaining motivation and job satisfaction is a crucial factor in keeping the standards of veterinary care as high as possible.



Veterinary training in Mali.

The training of local vets is an ongoing priority for us and we're currently planning new courses in Jordan and Mali. Amongst other things, the courses will cover examination and suturing techniques, lameness, dentistry and diagnosing infectious diseases. Many SPANA vets, plus those employed by the government and private practices, will benefit during 2012. They will then be able to take their new skills back into their

communities to enhance the care of injured and sick working animals.

We need your support to continue and expand these veterinary training programmes in Jordan and Mali, so please make a donation today. With your help we can keep local vets motivated and up to date with the latest veterinary techniques, so that they can provide the most effective care for the animals they treat. Thank you for any support you can give.

Please help us reach even more working animals

A gift of £20 will help us provide veterinary information resources for course attendees to support their learning.

A gift of £30 helps towards the cost of materials and equipment used by our course lecturers to demonstrate diagnostic and treatment techniques.

A gift of £100 will allow five local vets to participate in a CPD course, the benefits of which will be seen by thousands of animals.

Back on their feet

Lameness affects a huge number of working animals and is a visible sign that an animal is in pain. Here we look at the most common causes and how we're using your support to ease and prevent suffering.

Poor farriery is a major cause

Sadly, equines with badly trimmed or neglected hooves are a common sight for SPANA teams around the world. Many owners don't have access to farriers, or the ones they do use are unskilled. The result? Pain and suffering.

Donkeys' hooves wear naturally as they walk, however, animals that are worked for particularly long periods, or walked on rough surfaces, need shoes to protect their feet. In many developing countries though, unskilled farriers put on badly fitting shoes, sometimes using inadequate materials. Often shoes are too thin or uneven, and hammered on with masonry nails which can penetrate into the sensitive area of the hoof.



A mule with severely overgrown hooves.

It's also common for nails to be hammered into the wrong part of the hoof, causing terrible pain and the possibility of serious infection.

Your support is improving farriery

With the help of supporters like you, SPANA has set up farriery training courses in centres in Morocco and Ethiopia. These centres run workshops where animal owners can learn about farriery and how to spot if their

animal is suffering from poor shoes or an injury. In addition, SPANA is training farriers who provide shoeing and hoof trimming to ease suffering and prevent lameness for thousands of working animals every year.

We need your support to continue spreading awareness about the importance of good farriery amongst poor communities that rely on working animals. This vital area of animal welfare keeps working animals healthy, productive and free from pain.



Too many animals are crippled by arthritis

Many animals are born with or develop hoof deformities that only get worse over time without corrective trimming. As well as causing discomfort, if these problems aren't picked up they can lead to painful arthritis.

Arthritis is a common disease for humans and animals alike. However, the repetitive impact to a working animal's joints from long hours carrying heavy loads on hard or uneven roads can cause the early onset of arthritis. Once arthritis has developed there is little that can be done for an animal, other than to give it rest and pain relief.

With your help, SPANA is working to reduce the development of arthritis by making owners aware of the dangers of overworking their horses, donkeys and mules. Also in countries where we regulate the use of cart horses (horse and carriage taxis), it is key to check the animal is not suffering from an injury which may cause the onset of arthritis, before passing them as fit to work.

Even a simple sprain can cause lameness

Sprains, strains and injuries are an occupational hazard for



A lame donkey suffering from septic arthritis.

working animals — the result of slipping, overloading or working in a dangerous environment. They can recover well and fairly quickly from sprains or strains with a combination of anti-inflammatory treatment and rest. Many working animals, however, don't get the respite they need. Left untreated, these sprains and strains can develop into long term lameness.

Injuries, no matter how small, can leave working animals vulnerable to infection. Wounds that occur near joints are particularly dangerous, often leading to severe swelling and lameness.

Education is the key

We need your continuing support to spread a simple message: **animals only get better if they are allowed to recover.** Whilst it can be difficult for an owner to let their animal rest, we need to let them know that we're here to support them and speed the healing process with free veterinary treatment and appropriate medicine.

Whatever you can give today will help us to treat and prevent lameness and arthritis.

What you have made possible...

- Farrier training in Morocco and Ethiopia.
- Free farriery at SPANA centres.
- The provision of treatment and education to prevent lameness.

Please help more working animals suffering with lameness.

See over...



Case Study

Your support means a better life for working horses like Bola

When this cart horse was brought to our mobile clinic in Ethiopia, it was limping heavily and in pain. Our team immediately noticed the thin pieces of rubber crudely nailed on as shoes. As a result of this bad farriery, her front hooves had been growing abnormally for some time. Bola's reluctance to walk forward when encouraged was a clear sign of the pain caused by any movement. If left untreated and Bola was forced to work though her pain, the condition would only have got worse and could easily have lead to incurable damage.

To ease Bola's discomfort, a local SPANA vet first removed the makeshift rubber shoes, then gently filed away the excessive growth from the outside wall of Bola's hooves which would allow them to grow normally. She was then fitted with an appropriate set of shoes which would protect her hooves from working on hard ground all day. After some expert farriery, Bola was a changed animal, able to walk normally and free from pain.

Hooves continue to grow throughout an animal's life, so appropriate shoes and regular trimming are essential to prevent injuries and deformities. The importance of proper farriery was explained to Bola's owner, who will now make sure she has regular check-ups.

Please help us prevent and treat lameness

Lameness is a huge problem affecting thousands of donkeys, mules and horses around the world. We urgently need your support to treat and prevent the condition in more animals. Please give today to help end the suffering of another working animal.

Thank you.

Your gift will make a difference

£23 buys padded bandages, antiseptic cream, three rolls of cotton and penicillin which allows us to treat the wounds of working animals.

£95 pays for a set of hoof knives, cutters and testers so that a professional farrier can correctively trim abnormal hooves of lame animals.

£270 pays for a mobile clinic for a whole month on the road, where it will travel large distances bringing specialised care to working animals in remote communities suffering from lameness and other diseases.

We need your support to treat and prevent more cases of crippling lameness. Whatever you can send today will make a difference. Thank you.



Nails penetrating hoof area.

Little Amina continues to make good progress

UPDATE:

Amina was the star of our recent Christmas appeal and, judging from the amazing response we had, her story clearly touched the hearts of many of you. As you may recall, she was born with a painful deformity to her joints which meant she was unable to straighten her front legs. When her owner brought her into our Khemisset centre in Morocco, the 15-day-old foal could only stagger painfully forward on her fetlocks – which were already badly wounded.

Our head vet, Dr Hinnach, cleaned Amina's fetlock wounds and applied antiseptic cream, and then strapped on splints to keep her legs in the correct position while they strengthened. Amazingly, Amina was able to walk properly just a week later!

Since leaving our centre in July, Amina has made a full recovery. Dr Hinnach recently visited her home and he was delighted with her progress. Amina was looking happy and healthy, and she was walking around perfectly normally. What's more, her owner Bouishak has learned a lot about animal welfare from SPANA vets which will help him to keep Amina in good health. He also plans to bring Amina to our veterinary clinic for regular health checks. If Amina needs any further treatment, Bouishak will have access to free veterinary care at our Khemisset centre.



Amina before and after treatment.

"I am delighted with Amina's recovery. Seeing her today you simply wouldn't know that she was suffering with such a serious disability only a few months ago."

Dr Hinnach, head vet at SPANA's Khemisset centre



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas appeal to help save the lives of working animals like Amina.

To see a new video of how well Amina has recovered, please visit www.spana.org/stablemate

Helping herding families prepare for winter

UPDATE:

Our emergency & outreach programme supports local partners around the world who share our passion and concern for working animals. The aim is to reach remote or rural communities who depend on animals, with emergency relief and long term solutions to protect their animals – and their livelihoods.

In Mongolia, rural herding families have recently been subjected to an extreme weather phenomenon known as the Dzud, where a summer drought is swiftly followed by a severe, long winter with heavy snow and temperatures plunging as low as minus 50°C.

In recent years the Dzud has had a devastating effect on animal populations and the livelihoods of thousands of herding families. In the winter of 2009-10, for example, 11 million animals, 25 percent of Mongolia's livestock, perished. Livestock herding is a traditional way of life in Mongolia, but many herders are fighting a losing battle against the weather. Severe summer droughts mean

that many of the country's 800,000 herders have insufficient fodder to feed their animals through the bitter winter. As a result, they are forced to watch helplessly as their animals die.

Saving animals and preserving a way of life

Thanks to supporters like you who gave to our April appeal, SPANA's outreach programme in Mongolia has funded the provision of grass cutting equipment and livestock fodder storage barns to enable herders to prepare for the Dzud. With your support, more herding families will be able to feed their livestock throughout these potentially devastating winters.

Currently very few other animal welfare charities have a presence in Mongolia, so SPANA has a real chance to make a long term difference to the lives of communities and their working animals and livestock in this fascinating country. In 2012, we are planning to dig 10 shallow wells around the edge of the Gobi desert to help animals and people survive in this incredibly hostile environment.



Herding families depend entirely on animals.



Barns allow farmers to store fodder for the winter.

Thanks to you...

- **SPANA has provided grass cutting equipment to make hay.**
- **SPANA built fodder storage to help herders feed their animals throughout the bitter winter.**
- **We are currently looking at ways to expand our work in Mongolia.**

East Africa drought crisis

UPDATE:

Your generous support allows SPANA to save working animals caught up in natural disasters and conflicts – providing immediate relief such as food, water and shelter, as well as addressing long term solutions to help communities prepare for future emergencies.

With your help, we can act quickly to save working animals and livestock in a crisis, we can protect a family's livelihood and prevent them falling deeper into poverty.

The Horn of Africa experienced its worst drought in 60 years, with 12.4 million people affected by food shortages. The impact on livestock was devastating, with an estimated eight million animals lost in Kenya alone.

Your support has helped to save lives

Thanks to the wonderful support we get from people like you, SPANA responded to the emergency in Africa with a trusted local partner to provide 100 tonnes of feed for 50,000 animals. We also supported the vaccinations of thousands of livestock against potentially life-threatening diseases. Saving livestock protected the lives and livelihoods of many pastoralists in the region.



SPANA has provided 100 tonnes of feed.

Thanks to you SPANA has:

- **Provided 1,800 bags of livestock feed for 50,000 starving animals at a cost of £23,014.**
- **Vaccinated 80,000 goats against contagious diseases at a cost of £8,571.**
- **Facilitated 10 livestock health clinics to provide veterinary treatment to 36,000 sheep and goats at a cost of £3,500.**

Education will transform the future for all animals

The key to creating a future in which animals are treated with respect and compassion is educating children.

Our education programme is vital in all the countries in which we work, demonstrating our commitment to achieve long-term improvements in the welfare of working animals.

In most SPANA countries, our staff are welcomed by schools to teach children, motivate teachers and to distribute books and leaflets on animal welfare. Lessons also take

place in SPANA's centres, where children have the opportunity to experience animals at first hand.

Last year over 700 schools visited SPANA's education centres, and our interactive buses reached more children in remote locations. Many of the children we teach in developing countries could grow up to be animal owners in the future, while others may become tomorrow's teachers, councillors and vets – all of whom can influence animal welfare.

Educating Tunisia's children

We've been working in Tunisia since 1925 and our three permanent

centres and three mobile clinics treat around 23,000 animals each year. We have exciting plans to develop our educational facilities at one of our Tunisian centres by equipping a classroom and building an animal enclosure to educate children visiting from local schools.

With your support, our Kasserine centre will be fully equipped with tables and chairs for 30 children, a magnetic whiteboard, flip chart, activity books, DVD player and computer. We also plan to build an animal enclosure next to the classroom, providing children with hands on experience of handling guinea pigs and rabbits. Groups

of children will also have the opportunity to see animals being treated by SPANA vets, giving them an understanding of the types of illnesses and injuries that affect all animals.

The newly equipped classroom and animal handling facilities will give around 1,750 children each year an appreciation of animal welfare and encourage a love and appreciation of animals. We also need to recruit a local teacher who can work with the vets at the centre to give children an informative, interactive and inspirational learning experience.



SPANA is teaching thousands of children how to care for animals.

"A really important part of our education programme is the animal handling facilities where children can touch and handle tame animals under trained supervision. In this safe environment, children develop a natural empathy for animals. This is key in learning about animal welfare and creating a future where animals are treated with care and compassion."

Diana Hulme (Director of Education)



In 2011 we educated over 46,000 children across all the countries we work in. Please support our education appeal and help us to reach even more children in 2012.

Please support our Tunisian education appeal today

Education is essential in creating a brighter future for working animals. But we can't teach the next generation an empathy and respect for donkeys, mules, horses, camels and other animals without supporters like you. Please support this appeal today and help us inspire a love and appreciation of animals in more children.

Costs of equipping the education centre

£40	will provide worksheets for one term, a vital resource in helping children learn about the importance of animal welfare.
£130	will buy a magnetic whiteboard for the classroom.
£200	will help us to build an animal enclosure – giving children hands on experience of animals.
£460	will provide a computer, which is so important for learning in today's world, and a projector.
£583	will pay a teacher's salary for a month (teachers are employed by the Ministry of Education but SPANA pays them a supplement for teaching at the centres).

A new challenge

Thanks to a wonderful response to our campaign last July, we were able to appoint a much needed outreach and emergency programme vet in September. Here, Laura Higham talks about her first four months in post...

"First of all I want to say a huge 'thank you'. I know that my post with SPANA has been funded thanks to the generosity of supporters like you and I'm so grateful for having this wonderful opportunity. My first four months in the job have been fascinating, challenging and incredibly rewarding. As a life-long animal lover, it's so exciting to be part of a dynamic charity that's making

a life-saving difference to many thousands of horses, donkeys and other working animals around the world.

I want to tell you a little bit more about my role so, hopefully, you will see that SPANA is using your support effectively to reach out to even more animals in crisis. It's my responsibility to mobilise and co-ordinate SPANA's emergency assistance in disasters and to initiate programmes that reach out to working animals in remote communities around the world.

The terrible drought in east Africa during 2011, for example, really highlighted the importance of SPANA's outreach and emergency work and the pressing need to fill the position I'm now in. In some areas of Kenya, families lost 90 percent of their livestock.



Laura with two bactrian camels in Mongolia.

It would've been even worse without SPANA's response, helping to provide 50,000 animals with 100 tonnes of feed.

It's been a very busy four months

In October, I flew to Ethiopia to meet SPANA staff and to initiate the preparation of SPANA's emergency response plan for this troubled region. Later that month, I travelled to a remote community in Mongolia to evaluate SPANA's work in action. My previous veterinary experience has taken me to far-flung places like Ecuador, Malaysia and New Zealand, but I'd never been anywhere like this. Mongolia's livestock herders follow a unique, traditional and fascinating way of life. It's also a fragile existence for herders – and their animals. A severe winter weather phenomenon called the Dzud has claimed the lives of millions of livestock in recent years and left herders helpless to save them.

It was incredibly inspiring to see how SPANA is having a practical and positive impact on their lives by providing grass cutting equipment and livestock fodder storage barns to enable herders to prepare for the Dzud. Thanks to supporters like you, more herding families will be able feed their livestock during the harsh winters.

SPANA will only be able to respond effectively to emergency situations around the world this year with your help. As well as providing immediate life-saving aid in response to an emergency situation, I want SPANA to also initiate long term solutions like the fodder storage barns in Mongolia. That way we can make a lasting difference to working animals, livestock and the people who depend on them."



Animals or rubbish trucks?

Walking over broken glass, twisted metal and splintered wood, toiling in the heat and stench with tonnes of rubbish weighing them down... life doesn't get any tougher for a donkey than working on the rubbish dumps of Bamako, Mali's capital city.

Even worse, the donkeys are in real danger of catching potentially fatal tetanus through cuts and wounds on their legs. It's a grim life for humans and animals. People and cattle scavenge through the rubbish for scraps, and starving livestock often die from eating plastic bags.

SPANA is there to help

We are hard at work in many places around the world like Bamako, treating injured and exhausted animals and vaccinating them against deadly diseases like tetanus. We're also giving advice to owners and providing free padded saddles to ease the suffering of hard working animals.

We want a world where working

animals are treated with respect and compassion – and not just as machines. Animals may have to do the job of rubbish trucks, but that doesn't mean they have to be overloaded, neglected or forced to work long hours even if they're sick or injured.

Change won't happen overnight

We are passionate about improving the lives of the world's working animals. But it's going to take time for our message – and our life-saving work – to reach every community that depends on donkeys, horses, camels and other animals. We are also working hard to educate thousands of children in schools and at our centres in developing countries.

That's why we launched our Stop Treating Animals Like Machines campaign in September 2011 – to focus our fundraising message and to encourage more supporters to make a difference to working animals. During the first few months of 2012, we plan to use our Stop Treating Animals Like Machines campaign to raise awareness of the suffering of working animals.

Your support can transform an overworked 'machine' into a healthy working animal

£10 can replace a poorly fitting and painful harness.

£15 will buy tetanus antitoxin to protect 10 animals against tetanus.

£24 buys 40 padded doughnut bandages allowing wounds to heal while animals continue working.

Make a donation today. For more information and to watch our film visit animalsnotmachines.org



SPANA is stopping animals from being treated like machines by:

- **TREATING** injuries and illnesses, free of charge
- **EQUIPPING** harnesses and bits that don't cause injury
- **TRAINING** local vets and educating children and adults to look after their animals



Life is tough for Mali's rubbish dump donkeys.

Your support helps to fund permanent centres in eight countries as well as outreach & emergency programmes that respond to animals and people in crisis. Here are just a few examples from around the world to show you just how vital your support is.

-  Outreach & emergency work
-  Our core countries of work

Mauritania

We are establishing an adult education programme for owners of water-carrying donkeys in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Owners will be able to attend sessions at the SPANA centre to learn more about animal care. We are also working closely with the veterinary school in Senegal, who will be sending their students to the Nouakchott centre for their clinical work placements.



Morocco

Newly qualified vets from UK veterinary schools volunteer for a period of up to five weeks at SPANA centres around Morocco, sharing their knowledge and practices with local vets to improve animal welfare. With two volunteer vets working at a centre at any one time, the scheme has proved extremely popular; it has been fully booked since July 2011 and has bookings up until September 2012.



Mongolia

We've been turning your support into action to help herding families in rural Mongolia. We provided grass cutters and hay storage barns to help people protect their precious livestock throughout the savage winter. With your support, we are also planning to construct 10 wells in the Gobi desert – an area where people are heavily reliant on herding, but which is prone to severe drought.



Jordan

We're always striving to reach more animals in need – that's why we need your support to run training courses for vets, veterinary assistants and other local animal welfare professionals. We're currently planning new courses to help our teams improve their skills and save even more lives.



Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, your support has helped our team administer 7,000 doses of vaccine to protect horses against the deadly African Horse Sickness virus. Thanks to your help, the vaccination programme will continue throughout 2012. It is also now a regulation that the 2,000 licensed cart horses have to be regularly checked and approved by SPANA.



Kenya

Our outreach & emergency team are currently coordinating a rock catchment dam project in Turkana, Kenya – an area where working animals and livestock have suffered and perished as a result of severe drought. The dam, pictured left, will allow precious rainwater to be stored and used to protect animals from future droughts.

SPANAs 2011 roadshows are a great success

Our roadshows visited three cities in 2011 – Liverpool, Cardiff and Edinburgh. It was a chance for our fundraising team to get out and about to different parts of the UK to meet loyal supporters face to face and to spread awareness of our work for working animals.

The action packed weekends included presentations to supporters, bucket shaking in different locations and fun runs where supporters took part and raised money for SPANA.

SPANAs 2011 roadshows:

- Liverpool – 6th/7th August
- Cardiff – 27th/28th August
- Edinburgh – 22nd/23rd October

In each city we ran:

- A fundraising collection
- An information session
- A Big Fun Run

Our roadshows were a big success, raising £3,400 to help working animals around the world. Thank you to everybody who took part.

Let's make 2012 even bigger!

You could:

- Organise your own street or supermarket collection

We can help you get permission, provide you with collection tins, stickers and leaflets.

- Give a talk about SPANA

NEW – SPANA now has a specially designed pack to help you give a talk about our work in your community. It includes a DVD with a short film about SPANA, plus a PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes.

- Take part in a fun run

Get in touch with nic@spana.org to find out what fun runs are taking place near you. We'll provide you with a fundraising pack including a sponsorship form.



Our fundraising team and donkey costumes in action around the country.

Ways to keep in touch

Email us: enquiries@spana.org

Write to us: 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB

Call us: 020 7831 3999 **Fax:** 020 7831 5999 **Donation Line:** 0300 033 4999

We look forward to hearing from you!

www.spana.org Registered charity no: 209015

