

# stablemate

January 2014

Helping the working animals of the world with your support



## If we don't help them, who will?

Mali's rubbish dump donkeys depend  
on SPANNA...and we depend on you.  
See page 10.

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*Dear friends*

**I would like to start the New Year with a big thank you, not only to those of you who have supported our work so generously for many years, but also to all our new supporters who have joined in the effort to improve the lives of working animals around the world.**



As you may be aware, last year was our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and there was certainly plenty to celebrate, including the launch of a new country of operation, Zimbabwe. This is just one of the achievements you can read about in this issue of Stablemate.

During 2013 I travelled to a number of countries to see some of the work your support makes possible. In Mali, I visited Bamako's rubbish dumps where hundreds of donkeys pull backbreaking loads up mounds of rotting, burning waste. Life for these donkeys is incredibly tough, but thanks to SPANA, conditions have vastly improved since my first visit there nearly 18 years ago.

With your help we are working hard to tackle the root causes of animal suffering. On page four you can read about workshops in Ethiopia that are inspiring communities to improve the lives of their animals, and prevent needless suffering.

The lengths our wonderful supporters go to in order to raise funds for SPANA never fails to amaze me, and on page 12 you can read all about the advantages to fundraising as part of a group of like-minded individuals. Not only is group fundraising a brilliant way to raise even more vital funds for working animals, it's also a great way to meet new people and have a lot of fun!

Since we don't receive any government funding, without your support we simply won't be able to meet the challenges of the year ahead. So please, if you can, send a gift and help us ease the suffering of thousands more working animals. On your donation form you'll be able to choose which of the important appeals you'd like to support – or if you prefer you can give to wherever the need is greatest, allowing us to use your gift where we feel it will have the most impact.

Many thanks for your continuing support,

Jeremy Hulme  
Chief Executive



Join us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/spanacharity](http://www.facebook.com/spanacharity)

Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/spanacharity](http://www.twitter.com/spanacharity)

Watch SPANA films on YouTube [www.youtube.com/spana1923](http://www.youtube.com/spana1923)

# MOTs for horses

**If you have seen working animals whilst on holiday, you may know that their health and well-being can vary greatly.**

More than 400 horses are used to pull taxi carriages of tourists, known as 'caleches', around the popular holiday destination Tozeur, an oasis town in south west Tunisia. The horses work through the heat of the day, and often suffer from painful harness wounds and lameness.

However, we have made exciting progress in improving the lives of these hardworking horses, thanks to supporters like you. Working with local authorities in Tozeur, we have managed to establish a licensing scheme for caleche drivers.

## Encouraging owners to care for their animals

SPANA staff are working alongside the caleche drivers to ensure their animals are healthy enough to work. Each horse is microchipped for future identification and issued with a 'passport'. Drivers are also given advice on how to care for their animals, as their health will be regularly assessed as part of the licensing process. MOT check ups will commence shortly after, where horses will be assessed for a range of conditions including overall body condition, eye problems and lameness.

Drivers with horses that pass the MOT will receive a stamp in their passport and a coloured leg band for their animal, proving that they've been given a clean bill of health and allowing tourists to choose carriages pulled by healthy horses. A gift of £17

could buy leg bands for 10 healthy horses.

Those drivers who fail the MOT will need to rest their horses until they are healthy enough to start working again, and may require veterinary care to ensure their horse remains fit to work.

The Tozeur scheme is based on our highly successful programme in Marrakech, Morocco, where caleche horse owners care for and keep their animals healthy in order to maintain their license to work.

The total cost to SPANA to fund the first year of the Tozeur project is £5,430 and we are appealing to our loyal supporters and trusted partners to raise this. Any funds raised over this amount will help wherever the need is greatest. With your help today the Tozeur scheme will be as successful as the one in Marrakech, and will

improve the lives of hundreds of working horses.

## How you can help

**Your donation today could help us make the Tozeur project a success.**

**£10.50** could buy microchips to register seven new horses to the project

**£17** could buy leg bands for 10 horses that have passed an MOT

**£72.50** could provide the fuel, microchips, leg bands and staff costs to run the licensing clinic for a week



Caleche horses pull heavy loads all day long

# Preventing suffering

**SPANA community development advisor, Macaulay Olagoke, reports on SPANA's work to improve the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of animal owners, which will help to prevent pain and suffering for countless animals.**



Cart horse owners learn how to clean a wound at a SPANA workshop in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia

SPANA is working hard to tackle the root causes of suffering for working animals around the world. Badly fitting harnesses, for example, are one of the most common causes of painful wounds we treat.

## SPANA vets treat around 500 preventable wounds every single day

Of all the countries where we work, the situation is particularly chronic in Ethiopia, where 80 percent of the equine wounds our vets treat can be avoided. To help reduce this staggering number of wounds, I travelled to Ethiopia last September to run a three-day workshop for 19 cart horse owners in the town of Debre Zeit. In addition to providing general advice about animal care, a key focus of the workshop was inspiring the owners to plot action

plans, which they will use to improve their horse's health in the long-term.

I found that all the participants were very engaged and enthusiastic about putting their new knowledge into practice. Before attending the workshop many of the owners were reluctant to even touch an animal's wound. As a key part of the course, we encourage owners to get hands-on experience, so each owner learnt the proper way to clean a wound to prevent infection, and had a go for themselves.

I feel confident that owners will pass on what they have learnt about animal welfare to other owners in their community. As one of the workshop participants told me, "I will train other members of my community about what I have learnt here".

Having seen how well received our support has been in Debre Zeit, in 2014 we will replicate the workshops in the other six Ethiopian communities SPANA work in.

It would be wonderful if you can support this crucial community development work by making a donation today. A gift of just £32 will pay for an Ethiopian cart horse owner to attend a three-day course.

## Inspire and motivate

It's my job to develop good relationships with local people and work with them to build strong communities that are willing to address animal welfare issues. With your support I am aiming to inspire and motivate more people to improve the lives of their animals and prevent needless suffering.

SPANA workshops are a vital part of our community development programme: to empower people and communities to take greater responsibility for their animals. This is one of the best ways to generate widespread and sustainable changes for the world's working animals.

**Your support this year is crucial as we plan more practical workshops for groups of owners, designed to develop their knowledge of animal care and improve their animals' lives. Thank you.**

*Macaulay Olagoke*

## How you can help

**Whatever you can give will help to prevent suffering and improve animals' lives. Thank you.**

**£10** can provide padding to stop a harness from rubbing and causing wounds

**£24** could buy antiseptic spray and bandages to treat the wounds of three working animals

**£64** can pay for a three-day training course for two Ethiopian cart horse owners

## ABEL'S STORY

Abel was brought to one of our mobile clinics by his young owner with a horrific wound to his back. The painful sore had been caused by prolonged rubbing and pressure from his harness — something that the owner was unaware could lead to such serious health issues.



A cart horse, called Abel, being treated by SPANA vets for a severe harness wound

Our vets gently cleaned the wound, applied an antibiotic spray and administered an injection to ease the pain. They also gave antibiotics and a tetanus injection. Finally, to allow Abel's wound to heal properly, our vets used soft padding to protect the wound from further rubbing.

**"This training has helped me to know how to plan for the well-being of my horse."**

*Samuel, SPANA workshop participant*



Hauling huge loads with inappropriate harnesses is a common source of injuries

## Thanks to you...

Our workshops are helping to educate owners about the dangers of overloading their animals.

# Funding local experts to help animals

Thanks to your support we are able to fund partner organisations who are experts in their field. Supporting local projects is an excellent use of funds, and allows us to reach out to thousands more animals in need.

## Afghanistan

**Inflatable saddle lightens the load for donkeys**

**SPANA funding – £4,550**

In Afghanistan, one woman in every 11 dies of pregnancy related causes\*, making it one of the highest mortality rates for pregnant women in the world. In many remote communities, donkeys are the only means of transport to hospital for these women. Unfortunately, traditional methods of saddling donkeys sees a pair of stuffed sacks attached crudely with ropes to the donkey's back. This method adds unnecessary weight and offers little protection for the spine of the donkey, leaving them vulnerable to harness injuries. The traditional saddles also offer little support for the women, so for both mother and donkey it's a desperately difficult ordeal.

That's why SPANA is funding the design of a lightweight, inflatable donkey saddle currently being developed by HealthProm and inventor Peter Muckle. The saddle will relieve the pressure on a donkey during long journeys over treacherous terrain, helping to reduce discomfort caused by inappropriate saddles. The saddle will be tested this winter in the Balkh province, and as part of the scheme participating communities will receive training in donkey healthcare. This exciting project will improve the lives of many working donkeys, as well as saving the lives of mothers and their children.

\*UNICEF figures, 2011



The new saddle will relieve the pressure on working animals in Afghanistan

photo © HealthProm



photo © HealthProm

**Before:** Makeshift saddles, made from stuffed sacks tied to the donkey's back with ropes, can potentially cause painful harness wounds.



photo © Peter Muckle

**After:** The new inflatable saddle offers far more protection to the donkey's spine and is more comfortable for both donkeys and pregnant women.

**“This saddle will not only help expectant mothers reach vital health centres, but will also be comfortable for the donkey that has to transport her across rough terrain, possibly for hours.”**

Laura Higham, veterinary programme advisor at SPANA

## Mauritania

**Protecting vital water sources**

**SPANA funding – £42,855**

Following a recent appeal, SPANA is now working with SOS Desert to repair six wells near the Mbera refugee camp on the Malian border. Since the outbreak of conflict in Mali over 75,000 people have sought refuge at the Mbera camp, bringing with them over 470,000 animals. Renovating and protecting the wells will ensure that the animals and their owners have access to vital water supplies.

The first well has now been refurbished and is already providing much needed, fresh water. The well is 66 metres deep, 43 metres of which needed relining by hand before it could be used. Drinking troughs were also constructed around the well, allowing animals who had gone for days without water to finally quench their thirst. In addition to refurbishing wells, SPANA is also employing community animal health workers in the camp to administer lifesaving medicines and vaccinations to the animals that so many people are dependent on.



Parched cattle crowd around a newly refurbished well

## Romania

**Increasing road safety**

**SPANA funding – £4,970**

SPANA is supporting the Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation (RCHF) to fit light reflectors on to 4,250 horse carts in Suceava county. Road traffic accidents involving horses and carts belonging to rural peasants are very common in the area, with devastating consequences to animals and the livelihoods of their owners. Working in collaboration with the local police force, RCHF will distribute and fit the reflectors free of charge. Once fitted, we expect to see a dramatic reduction in injuries to horses caused by road traffic accidents.



Road traffic accidents are a daily threat to horses in Romania

photo © RCHF

### How you can help

**£11.70** could fit reflectors to 10 carts in Romania, helping horses stay safe on the road

**£30** could help us to continue protecting vital water sources in Mauritania

**£50** could help train an Afghan community on how to use an inflatable saddle

### Thanks to you...

We've been able to give over £52,375 to fund dedicated local partners to continue their vital work.

These projects are helping to make a difference to more than 474,250 animals.

# Launching SPANA Zimbabwe

You may remember reading about our new permanent SPANA services in Zimbabwe. This project is now up and running, providing vital animal welfare services in a country that is desperately short of veterinary care.

The launch of SPANA Zimbabwe could not have happened at a time of greater need. Due to unrest, political instability and controversial land reforms, many of Zimbabwe's farming communities have been plunged into poverty. As a result, people's dependency on working animals has increased but there are few vets to help care for them.

## Reaching animals in remote communities

By setting up SPANA Zimbabwe we can be there for working animals and the communities that rely on them. SPANA now directly employs Erick Mutizhe,

the dedicated vet whose mobile clinic we were funding through our partnership with the AWARE Trust. This means Erick is now working full time in the mobile clinic, visiting remote communities and treating even more sick and injured animals than before.

We have also set up a second mobile clinic and recruited a new vet, Andy Garura, to staff it. With Andy's appointment we can cover a far larger area, reach more communities and care for thousands more working animals all year round.

We are currently working with the University of Zimbabwe on

proposals to provide curriculum development for veterinary students and improve training for veterinary extension assistants (VEAs). In the past VEAs were lacking the skills necessary to care for equines, so this move will help to improve the health and welfare of Zimbabwe's animals long into the future.

Creating permanent animal welfare services in Zimbabwe is a vital step in improving animal welfare in the country. We're sure there will be plenty more exciting developments to share with you over the coming months.



Erick Mutizhe checks a donkey's teeth for signs of dental problems

# Water for life

An update from SPANA chief executive, Jeremy Hulme, on the new dam that will provide lifesaving water to animals and communities in Turkana, Kenya.

Great news from Turkana! Thanks to supporters like you, work has now started on a new rock-catchment dam. Like many parts of Africa, water is in desperately short supply in Turkana. Droughts have ravaged the area in recent years and had a devastating impact on the lives of many thousands of people and animals.

That's why we appealed to you in last year's SPANA News, to help fund the construction of a new dam capable of holding up to 20 million litres of water. The dam is situated between two settlements and when complete it will benefit thousands of animals, including the many donkeys used for transport.

I've seen how much a reliable water supply means to the lives of people and animals in the region, so a big thank you to all those who contributed to our Turkana dam appeal.

## Thanks to you...

Thousands of working animals in this drought-ravaged area will soon have access to water.



Your support has helped us buy the materials needed to construct the new dam



The new dam will provide thousands of animals with a reliable source of water

# If we don't help them, who will?

The hundreds of donkeys working on rubbish dumps in Mali's capital city, Bamako, are amongst the hardest working animals in the world. SPANA is still the only animal welfare charity helping these overloaded and overworked animals. In short, we are their only hope.

Life for the rubbish dump donkeys is fraught with dangers. Staggering through mounds of waste, they suffer cuts to their legs from broken glass and twisted metal. Working for many hours each day, with very little food and water, they are prone to exhaustion and dehydration. Desperately hungry donkeys resort to eating cardboard, rotting waste and plastic bags — which can lead to agonising colic and without treatment can cause a slow, painful death.

These donkeys strain against their harnesses to pull backbreaking loads up

perilously high mountains of rubbish. If their harnesses don't fit properly, or aren't padded well enough, the constant rubbing causes sores to their shoulders and hindquarters.

## The dumps are dangerous places

Our vets in Bamako recently treated two donkeys with wounds that demonstrate just how dangerous the dumps are. They were brought into our clinic with terrible burns to their backs and hindquarters caused by unwittingly rolling in burning rubbish; an attempt to get some



SPANA vets successfully treated this donkey with serious burns to his back

relief from the flies and heat. Sadly it was too late to save one of the donkeys, but after expert treatment and care, the other made a full recovery.

SPANA's dedicated team in Mali is working hard to treat injuries and ease the suffering of working donkeys, but we need your help. If you can, please send a donation today. Just £25, for example, could help us provide harness padding and cushioned breast collars to prevent painful sores.

owners on the importance of properly fitting harnessing, nutrition, hydration and regular rest periods.

## Helping animals and people

With your support we also fund local community initiatives, making a lasting difference

to working animals and people. For example, SPANA employs a group of women at one of Bamako's main rubbish depots to make cushioned harness pads, which are distributed to the donkey owners. This worthy project is helping to reduce the number of wounds caused by poor harnessing.

## A better future for working donkeys

As well as treating injuries and providing harness padding, it's crucial that we also spread awareness of animal welfare issues amongst owners. That's why, with your help, we run animal welfare workshops for



SPANA employs a group of local women who make harness pads to ease the suffering of donkeys

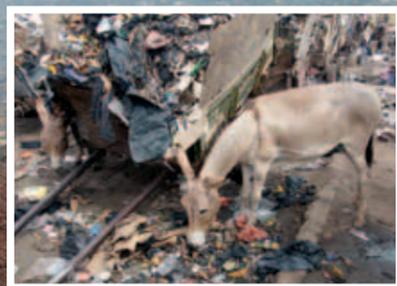
## How you can help

Whatever you can give will help to ease the suffering of Bamako's rubbish dump donkeys. Thank you.

**£10** can buy material to be used by local women to make harness padding to help prevent painful sores

**£24** can provide lifesaving veterinary care, like the medicines and equipment needed to treat a donkey with a severe burn

**£36** can help us run educational workshops about animal welfare



Rubbish dumps in Bamako can be on fire most of the year, causing terrible injuries to working donkeys



Donkeys often do not have enough to eat and resort to eating rubbish

## Raise more money as part of a supporter group

It is only down to the tireless fundraising efforts of supporters like you that SPANA is able to continue to help working animals around the world.

From sponsored knits to selling cakes, shaking a tin to organising a coffee morning, there are loads of ways you can raise money for SPANA.

We know that fundraising on your own can sometimes be a bit daunting, so why not get together with friends, family or work colleagues and form your own fundraising group? We can even help you get started by linking you up with fellow supporters in your area.

There are loads of great reasons for fundraising as part of a group. For a start, it's a brilliant way to meet like-minded people who share a passion for helping the working animals of the world. You'll also have a network of support for your fundraising efforts, raise more money, and as you're not on your own, you'll have a lot more fun too!

Being part of a group means your fundraising can draw on everybody's skills and contacts, meaning you can make the most of each event you plan. So whether it's a coffee morning, quiz night or even running your own



Amanda's 20km walk raised £485

village fête, you'll have even more success fundraising with others.

If you're interested in setting up or joining a fundraising group we would love to hear from you. SPANA can give you lots of advice and provide branded fundraising items like T-shirts, collection buckets and posters. We'll give you the ongoing support you need to make your fundraising a success, and you may even be lucky enough to have your event attended by our chief executive, vets or education team!

For more information about fundraising groups, please contact Nic Van Gelder on **020 7831 3999**, email [events@spana.org](mailto:events@spana.org) or go to

[www.spana.org/events](http://www.spana.org/events).

You can also return the slip on the letter that came with your copy of *Stablemate*. And remember — every penny makes a difference!



Bake sales are a great way to fundraise



### Handy hints to help you make the most of your fundraising

'You Can Do It For SPANA' is our new booklet brimming with hints and tips for would-be fundraisers.

The booklet is packed full of fundraising events you can do on your own or as part of a group. It also shows you how to order SPANA T-shirts and running vests, posters, stickers and anything else you might need to hold a successful fundraiser.

To request your copy please call us on **020 7831 3999** or email [events@spana.org](mailto:events@spana.org). For more fundraising inspiration go to [www.spana.org/events](http://www.spana.org/events).



Last year our amazing supporters raised £66,000 to help working animals. How much will you raise this year?

## A better future for working animals

In developing countries like Ethiopia children often grow up without even basic knowledge of animal welfare. Many injuries and illnesses our vets treat aren't due to deliberate cruelty but are the result of a lack of knowledge. Education is the best way to ensure that children, the animal owners and decision makers of tomorrow, will treat their animals with the kindness and empathy they deserve.

In the last edition of *Stablemate* we launched an appeal for our education programme in Ethiopia, and the response was overwhelming. Thanks to your kind donations we have supplied three SPANA education centres with inspirational books about animals that will educate children for years to come. Most of the books are in local languages, and tell stories of brave and interesting animals that will help the children understand that animals have feelings too.

### Your support helps children learn about animal welfare

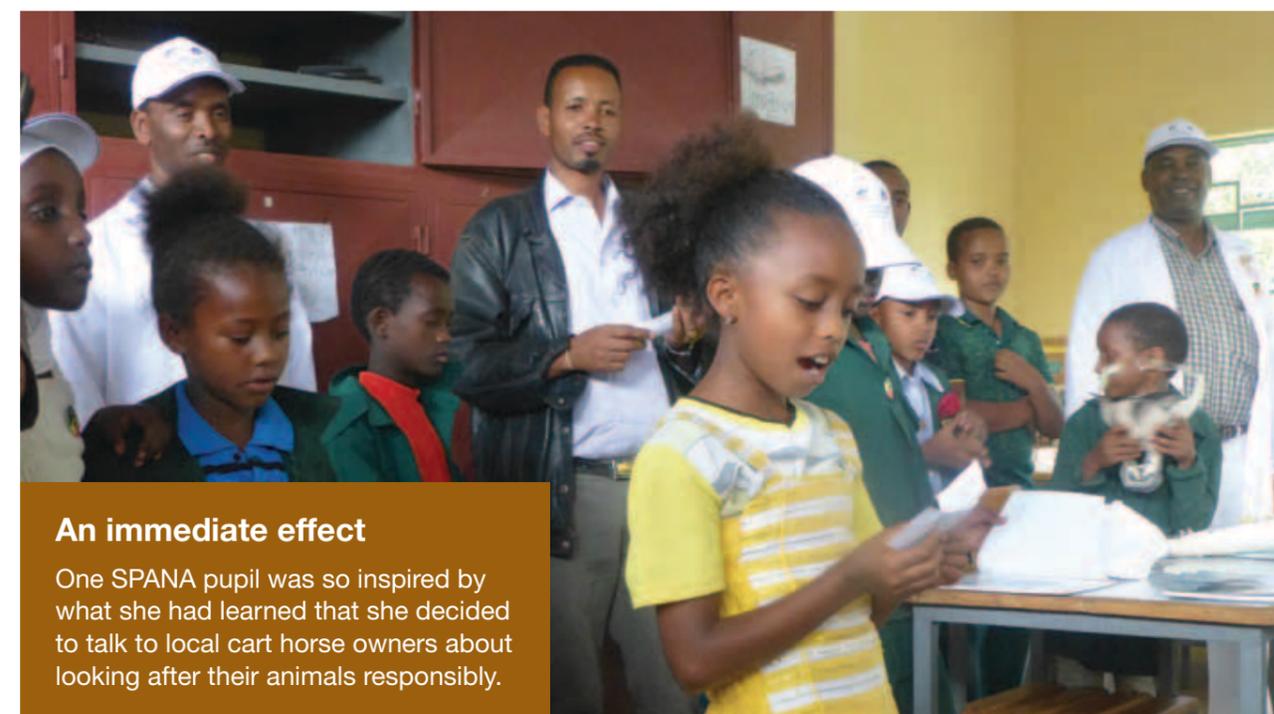
Thanks to your support, hundreds of children are now able to learn from resources such as reference books, animal folk tales and other animal welfare books, from which they can develop their natural interest and learn to care for animals. The children and their teachers are so grateful for their new books, and their delight was evident on a recent supporter tour. The children performed a



### Thanks to you...

We've equipped three education centres with a wealth of books, meaning hundreds of children can learn to care for animals.

play for the SPANA supporters to demonstrate what they have learned about animals. They also read aloud the messages of encouragement that were sent to them by supporters who responded to the appeal in *Stablemate* last year. Did you send a message?



### An immediate effect

One SPANA pupil was so inspired by what she had learned that she decided to talk to local cart horse owners about looking after their animals responsibly.

A supporter's message is read out by a child from a local school

# Your support goes a long way

Thanks to your generosity we are helping to ease the pain and suffering of working animals. Here are just a few examples of how your support is making a difference.

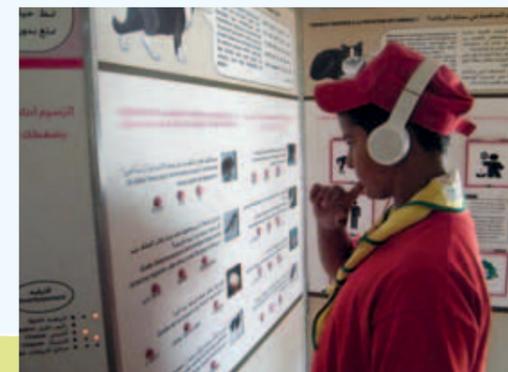
## Mauritania

Thanks to the generosity of supporters who donated to Project Water Trough in 2012, thirsty donkeys in Nouakchott now have access to clean water. A number of troughs have been built in the desert city, meaning working animals can stay hydrated. Thank you!



## Morocco

The new SPANA education bus has been doing the rounds in the Kenifra region of Morocco, delivering out-of-the-ordinary lessons to pupils that may never have been taught about animal welfare before. Teaching the next generation of animal owners the value of treating animals with respect and care should ensure a better future for working animals across Morocco.



## Egypt

Faced with reduced tourism as a result of civil upheaval, the owners of working horses that rely on the tourist trade are struggling to feed their animals. SPANA is funding the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends to provide working horses with daily food rations, helping to improve their health during this difficult time.



photo © David Degner

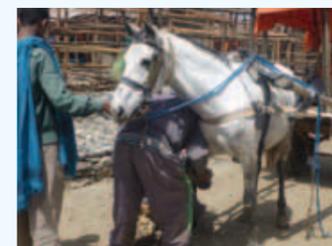
## Botswana

SPANA has been funding the Maun Animal Welfare Society's project to fit light-reflecting ear tags to donkeys in northern Botswana. Road traffic accidents are responsible for numerous deaths and injuries, and the tags help donkeys to be seen by vehicles at night. After the success of the original project, SPANA is funding an expansion that will ensure a further 1,000 donkeys will be visible to traffic at night.



## Ethiopia

The vast majority of working animals in Ethiopia are cart horses, and 80 percent of injuries that SPANA vets treat are preventable. Through education we are helping horse owners to understand how best to care for their animals and avoid many of the common wounds and injuries we see.



■ Current and previous outreach and emergency work

■ Our core countries of work

# Get involved with our Big Knit for Vet Kit

Get your knitting needles out and raise money for working animals from the comfort of your own home with our Big Knit for Vet Kit fundraiser.

Why not get involved and knit your very own Duncan the donkey, Hattie the horse or Clarence the camel and raise money to help working animals in need.

All you need to get started is our free fundraising pack, containing patterns for all three animals, a sponsorship form and donation envelope. There's a £20 sponsorship or donation

target for each animal you make, so grab your needles and wool and get knitting!

Order your free fundraising pack online now at [www.spana.org/knit](http://www.spana.org/knit) or by calling us on 020 7831 3999.

**Happy knitting!**



Here are some of the fantastic knitted animals we've received from supporters. Send in your own knitted animals and they will find a home at our animal clubs in Africa.



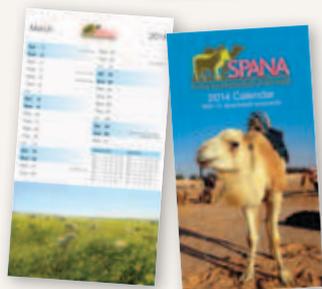
## Happy Hooves sale!

Pick up a bargain, get a head start on next Christmas or just treat yourself. You'll be doing your bit for working animals when you shop in the **Happy Hooves sale!**

### SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

**2014 calendar**

Now just ~~£5.50~~ **£3**



**Plum pudding**

Treat yourself to a spot of rich indulgence.  
Now just ~~£7~~ **£4**



**HALF PRICE DELIVERY!**

**Refuge in Egypt Christmas cards**

Now just ~~£4~~ **£3**



Visit [www.happyhooves.org](http://www.happyhooves.org) or order now on **0300 033 4999**

## Ways to keep in touch



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

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

**Enquiry line:** 020 7831 3999

**Donation line:** 0300 033 4999

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



Registered charity no: 209015