

stablemate

JANUARY 2015

Helping the working animals of the world with your support



Saving their sight can save their lives

We urgently need your support to replenish our stocks of sight saving medicines. **See page four**

PLUS...

Mbera Well
Appeal Update

Saving lives
in Egypt

Urgent Lameness
Appeal

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Dear friends

With so much going on in the SPANA world, it's difficult to know where to start.

The most important thing I'd like to do is thank all of you who supported our work so generously in 2014. I'd also like to welcome our new supporters who have joined us in our effort to improve the lives of working animals around the world.

Thanks to your help, our teams have been hard at work across Africa and the Middle East, treating many thousands of animals and working closely with communities to improve the long term wellbeing of donkeys, horses, camels and livestock. You can read more about the amazing work you're helping to make possible in this issue of Stablemate.

I'd like to draw your attention to the urgent appeals featured on pages four, eight and 10. I'm hoping that once you've read these articles, you'll be able to support our work again with a donation today. We depend almost entirely on people like you to tackle serious issues like sight loss and lameness – and to reach working animals in remote locations through our mobile clinics.

I would also like to take this opportunity to officially welcome our new vet, Cecilia, who came on board in June 2014. You can find out more about her on page six – and the important part she is playing in improving life for working animals.

Thank you so much for sharing our compassion for the world's working animals. So please, if you can, send a gift and help us rise to the many challenges facing us in 2015. On your donation form you'll be able to directly support one of the important appeals featured in Stablemate – 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.

Thanks for your continuing support.

Jeremy

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive



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If you'd like to receive regular updates about SPANA's work, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.spana.org/news

Find us at www.spana.org |  www.facebook.com/spanacharity

 www.twitter.com/spanacharity |  www.youtube.com/spana1923

Registered charity no: 209015



Mbera Well Appeal UPDATE!

Great news! Thanks to a wonderful response to our Christmas 2013 appeal, we reached our £42,855 target to renovate six wells in the Mbera refugee camp, deep in the Mauritanian desert.

If you supported this crucial appeal, thank you

When we launched the appeal, the situation in Mbera was desperate. Around 470,000 animals and their owners were fighting for survival. Natural resources like water and pasture had been exhausted by the huge influx of animals that had been brought into the area by refugees fleeing conflict in Mali.

We needed to act fast to save lives and thankfully, SPANA supporters responded generously. The funds raised by the appeal

enabled our experienced partner in Mbera, Desert SOS, to repair six traditional pastoralist wells that had fallen into disrepair.

The operation to renovate the wells was logistically challenging, requiring the transportation of building materials and equipment across barren desert to the remote refugee camp. What's more, the physically demanding work of reconstructing the well shafts, some to a depth of 40 metres, was carried out in a region where temperatures can reach 50°C.

The renovated wells are keeping animals and people alive

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Desert SOS – and the generosity of our supporters – all six wells are now providing safe drinking water for refugees and their animals. With an estimated 53,000 Malian refugees

still in Mbera, the wells are serving a vital purpose. And when the refugees can eventually return home, the wells will provide water for working animals from the permanent local communities for many years to come.



You helped to save...

50,000 donkeys

35,000 camels

385,000 livestock

75,000 people

The six repaired wells have helped to save all these animals and people!



A completed well, providing safe water for many people and animals in desperate need

Saving their sight can save their lives



Working for long hours in dirty, dusty environments – it's no wonder many thousands of working animals suffer with agonising eye conditions. If these problems aren't spotted early – and treated effectively – the consequences for the animal can be devastating.



As you know, life's extremely tough for animals and their owners in all the countries where we work. Families rely on donkeys, mules, horses and other animals for their very survival: to work as taxis, carry produce or goods to market, plough the land or transport water.

Animals are needed for one purpose and one purpose only – to work

When working animals lose their sight and can no longer work, the harsh reality for many is that they are abandoned which can lead to them starving to death. It's easy to blame the owners for this tragic loss of life, but losing an animal can have a devastating impact for them too, and can plunge a family further into poverty. The sad truth is, when animal owners are already struggling to provide for their families, it's unrealistic to expect them to provide for an animal that cannot work.

There are a couple of key reasons why so many working animals go blind: owners may not recognise the potential severity of the problem or, very often, they don't

have any access to even basic veterinary care.

Sight is something that working animals simply can't afford to lose. That's why we urgently need your help today

SPANA treats over a thousand working animals every single day and, in some countries where we work, almost half the animals we help are suffering with eye problems. Even a minor eye infection can lead to blindness if left untreated.



Gomura's owner learns how to apply antibiotic drops to his eye



Please support our Sight Saving Appeal today

This donkey was brought into our centre in Mali and needed sight saving surgery to remove a sarcoid and urgent treatment for chronic corneal ulcers

It only takes a small amount of antibiotic ointment to save an animal's sight, but such is the demand for lifesaving medicines like this, supplies at many of our centres can run low. That's why your support today is absolutely crucial to preventing potentially fatal sight loss.

By sending a gift today, you can help to replenish our vital supplies of ophthalmic medicines. You can also enable us to educate more owners, helping them to spot the early signs of eye disease and making them aware of the devastating consequences that eye problems can have.

You can save the sight of more working animals like Gomura

When Gomura was brought into our centre in Ethiopia by his worried owner Brehan, he

had already lost the sight in one eye and now his other eye was weeping and sore.

"My horse carries the rope and cord I sell", explained Brehan. "If he goes blind I won't be able to earn money to support my family."

Thankfully, Brehan had brought him to SPANA just in time. Had it been left untreated much longer, Gomura's eye condition would only have worsened and could have led to permanent sight loss. After detecting a large ulcer which was making the eye very painful to open, our vet administered painkillers and antibiotic eye drops, then a doughnut bandage was used to protect his eye from any rubbing whilst it healed. Our vet also showed Brehan how to keep Gomura's eye clean to prevent further problems in the future.

Please save an animal's sight...

We urgently need your support to save the sight of more working animals. Please help if you can.

£12 could help SPANA vets to assess and treat two donkeys at risk of losing their sight.

£40 could help us train more animal owners – making them aware of the signs and dangers of eye problems.

£205 could buy a ophthalmoscope used to diagnose eye conditions.

Thank you for your support!

Welcome to a new member of the SPANA team

We are always looking to strengthen the team of passionate professionals who coordinate SPANA's work and who turn your kind support into action for the world's working animals. Here you can read an interview with Cecilia Gath, our new Veterinary Programme Advisor, who joined us in June 2014.

Q: Please tell us a little about your life before joining SPANA

A: I graduated from the Royal Veterinary College of London in 2009. Following this, I moved to Scone in Australia, where I pursued my love for horses by completing an internship in equine surgery. I then returned to the UK and took up a first-opinion role in an equine veterinary practice near Stratford-upon-Avon. After 18 months, however, I wanted to expand my knowledge and gain some more experience of working with companion animals and this brought me to the Cotswolds then back to London for a post in Hampstead.

When I heard about the position with SPANA, I absolutely had to go for it! I was attracted by the opportunity to do something truly worthwhile, to travel to a multitude of far-flung places and to help improve the health and welfare of animals in the greatest need around the world.

Q: How are you finding the job so far?

A: It's amazing! I have already visited the SPANA centres in Ethiopia, Jordan, Morocco and Mali – and I've been so inspired by the teams of enthusiastic and dedicated people who work there to give what is often lifesaving care to huge numbers of working animals.

I've also been involved in organising some very exciting projects. For example, we recently ran a seminar for 42 vets in Ethiopia, which aimed to tackle some of the issues that we face in controlling African Horse Sickness – a particularly horrible disease transmitted by insects bites which kills large numbers of working horses in Ethiopia every year.

Q: How will you be helping SPANA respond in a crisis to save the lives of working animals?

A: SPANA has always responded effectively to help animals in a crisis. We're often alerted to emergency situations by local animal welfare organisations that are already on the ground – working hard to save lives. They may call on our support because their resources are stretched by the severity of the situation or the sheer number of animals involved.

The highly successful well renovation project in Mbera featured on page three is a wonderful example of how we work with in-country partners that understand local affairs and have experience of providing the most effective solutions for animals in need.

Q: How is SPANA using supporters' donations to create a better future for working animals?



A: What we all want is a future where every working animal is cared for and treated with respect. That's only going to happen if we work with communities to develop their capacity to provide and sustain good quality animal healthcare services. We train local service providers, such as farriers, so that they can prevent lameness by ensuring that horses and donkeys are properly shod.

Part of my role is to facilitate the training of more local vets, many of whom have little or no practical knowledge in equine healthcare. In Mongolia, we've recently supported equine healthcare workshops for 96 vets from all over the country.

We're also inspiring and influencing tomorrow's vets. We now run collaborative programmes with universities across Africa and the Middle East to make working animal welfare an important part of the curriculum. I organised and helped facilitate a SPANA workshop recently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The three day course aimed to improve the equine welfare knowledge of 20 university lecturers from six African countries and the knowledge they gained will be passed on to the next generation of graduating vet students.

A big thank you to Cecilia. We're sure that her experience and enthusiasm will have a huge influence on the welfare of working animals.

Saving lives in Egypt

Feeding Cairo's starving carriage horses

The unrest in Egypt over recent years has often been in the news. What hasn't been so well reported is the devastating impact the conflict has had on Cairo's working carriage horses.

As the tourist trade collapsed, already poor owners struggled more than ever to feed their animals – leaving many carriage horses on the brink of starvation.

Thanks to supporters like you, SPANA has been able to respond by funding a major feeding programme to reach these forgotten animals. With a SPANA grant of £9,682, our partner in Egypt, The Egyptian Society of Animal Friends, has provided regular feeds for 100 working carriage horses in desperate need.

We rely on your support in order to respond when an emergency threatens animals' lives. And if 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.



Thanks to you...

...many carriage horses in Egypt have been saved from starvation, preventing their already poor owners from falling deeper into poverty.



Hungry carriage horses enjoying a well deserved feed

The only vet for miles around

People in rural parts of countries like Mauritania, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe are hugely dependent on their animals. Many are already battling poverty, so losing their donkey or horse could spell disaster. By saving the lives of their animals, we stop families falling deeper into poverty.

SPANAs 22 mobile clinics cover around 400,000 miles every year – reaching remote towns and villages, often where there are no other professional veterinary services.

We need your help to keep our mobile clinics stocked with vital medicines and supplies

When our mobile clinics arrive in a community, they are usually greeted by large numbers of owners with animals needing treatment for a vast range of problems – including harness wounds, lameness, parasite infestations and eye and ear infections.

It's crucial that our vets have everything they need to treat these conditions – many of which will only get worse and more painful if left untreated. We rely on your help to ease suffering and save lives; protecting the livelihoods of families in the process.

We will do whatever it takes to reach and treat animals in need

Our vets are determined to go the extra mile to reach sick and injured animals, but they need your support. It costs just £90 to equip a mobile clinic with the fuel, supplies and staff that it needs for an entire day's work. Please, if you can, make another donation to our lifesaving work today. **Thank you.**

How your support will save lives...

A SPANA mobile clinic may treat up to 1,000 working animals each month. We depend on your support to keep our mobile clinics stocked with medicines, filled with fuel and staffed with dedicated vets to provide vital treatment for working animals in remote communities. **Please make a donation today.**



£11

buys a stethoscope, helping a vet to identify respiratory conditions



£100

helps with the fuel and maintenance costs for a month



25p

buys a pair of sterile gloves



£8.71

pays for a dose of sedative for a donkey



£250

pays for basic surgical materials including syringes, bandages, suture and needles, anaesthetic and sedative



£70

buys some basic farriery equipment



£19.20

buys 24 rolls of bandaging



Lameness can be a death sentence



For thousands of working animals, simple hoof problems can become so severe that they are left unable to work due to debilitating lameness and are often abandoned to face a slow, painful death. Please support our Lameness Appeal today and help us save more animals from this terrible fate.

Lameness is by far the most common problem affecting the wellbeing of working animals. It can also be one of the most devastating. That's why we launched a major appeal in Spring 2014 to tackle lameness in two key ways: by easing the suffering of more animals in pain, and by working with communities to prevent the agony of lameness in the future.

Millions of working donkeys, horses and mules worldwide are suffering with some degree of lameness, so it's clearly going to take time for us to make a difference, but we will. That's why we're hoping you can support this important appeal today.

One of the key reasons why so many animals are affected is the lack of skilled farriers. In many developing countries, unskilled farriers are hammering on unsuitable shoes with masonry nails that penetrate into the sensitive part of the hoof causing terrible pain and severe lameness. In places where there are no skilled farriers, many thousands more animals develop lameness from neglected and overgrown hooves – putting them in constant agony as they work.

We need your help to ease their suffering

At many of our centres, lameness cases are a daily occurrence. With your help today, our trained farrier technicians can continue to ease the suffering of these animals by skillfully trimming



Every step was agony for Teka

overgrown hooves and repairing the damage caused by unskilled farriers.

We're also trying to prevent suffering like this from occurring

in the first place. That's why, with your support, we plan to run more farrier training courses that will give communities access to the professionals they so urgently need.



Billy needed urgent treatment for a deep wound on his leg

Teka's feet were killing him

In Ethiopia, Teka works as a cart horse for 10 to 12 hours every day. Can you imagine the pain he must have been in with such severely overgrown hooves?

Teka could barely walk by the time he was brought to our mobile clinic and, without immediate treatment, his chronic lameness would soon have led to incurable damage. His feet were, quite literally, killing him.

Our farriery technician skillfully trimmed the horse's hooves and asked the owner to rest Teka for at least two weeks. After proper farriery and some rest, Teka was a changed animal, able to walk normally and free from pain.

Billy is lucky to be alive

When Billy was presented at our mobile clinic in Zimbabwe by his owner, Gezi, he was limping heavily. Our vet, Dr Erick Mutizhe, soon identified the reason for Billy's agony: a deep axe wound to his leg, which had severed the skin and some muscle, but had

thankfully spared the tendon.

Dr Erick sedated Billy so that he could delicately remove all damaged and infected tissue. He then repaired the wound by suturing the muscle and skin, and also administered antibiotics for five days. Dr Erick advised Billy's grateful owner to rest his animal for at least six weeks to allow the wound to heal. Gezi said, "Thank you SPANA for the free veterinary treatment. I never thought my animal would be able to receive treatment."

Please support our Lameness Appeal today

By sending a donation you can help us provide crucial and potentially lifesaving treatment for working animals like Teka and Billy. Your kindness will have a long term impact too – enabling us to train more local farriers who can prevent the agony of lameness for thousands of animals. We also need your support to run workshops for more animal owners, making them aware of the importance of good hoof care.



You can prevent suffering today...

£10 could help provide local vets with the medications they need to treat horses suffering with painful lameness

£41 could buy a rasp, a wire brush and hoof knives to trim and clean a horse's hooves

£76 could pay for five days vital training for a farrier

Thank you for any support you can give.



A better future for horses in Ethiopia

In December 2014, we ran a community project on shoeing and farriery in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. Two people from the community received farriery training at our centre for a week, before sharing what they'd learned with other local farriers. This is a wonderful example of the long term difference your support can make to working animals and their owners.

The Big Knit is a big hit!

Our Big Knit for Vet Kit has been a big hit with fundraisers all around the country – raising an incredible £7,000 since its launch in September 2013.

Many supporters raised money through sponsorship or simply made a donation, but people have also fundraised by selling or auctioning their creations.

As well as raising vital funds for working animals, these cute knitted and crocheted animals have also been putting smiles on the faces of children in Ethiopia. In September 2014, 56 cuddly animals made by supporters were taken to Ethiopia, where they found loving new homes with children who take part in SPANA's animal clubs.

Why don't you get knitting?

Using one of our patterns you can knit your very own Duncan the

donkey, Hattie the horse or crochet Clarence the camel. And we're very excited to announce the launch of a brand new knitting pattern in 2015, Oscar the oxen. So if you've taken part before then make sure to get the new pattern and complete the set!

The free Big Knit for Vet Kit fundraising pack contains the animal patterns, a sponsorship form and donation envelope; so all you need to do is get your knitting needles out and select your wool. If you'd like to take part, call us on **020 7831 3999** or visit www.spana.org/knit



Fancy a Moroccan adventure?

This is your opportunity to experience Morocco's artistic, architectural and cultural riches – and to see your support in action at SPANA's truly inspiring veterinary and education centres in Marrakech, Casablanca, Had Ouled Frej and Chemaia.

You will also travel to the High Atlas Mountains to visit our mobile clinic in Imlil, where you'll be able to see the difference your support is making to the region's tourist mules. For the more adventurous there will also be the chance to take a two day mule trek through this breathtaking mountain range. We'd love you to join us for this amazing trip, so if you'd like to find out more please call us on **020 7831 3999** or email events@spana.org

SUPPORTERS' TOUR TO MOROCCO

October 2015

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

DAY 1: Arrive in Marrakech

DAY 2: Marrakech

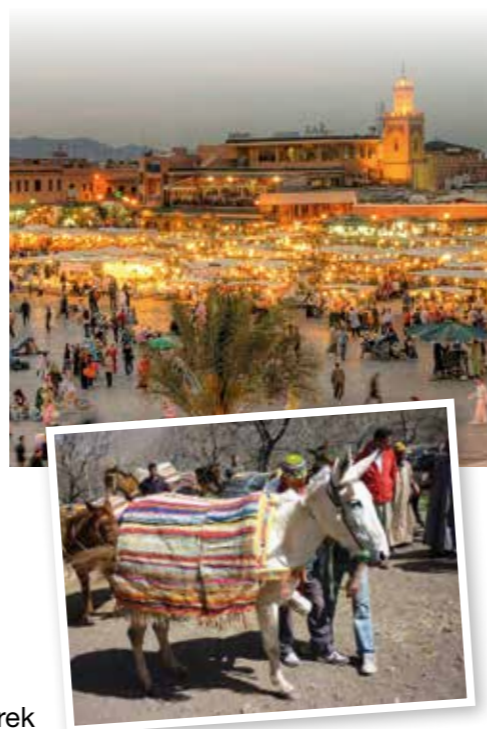
DAY 3: Casablanca & Had Ouled Frej

DAY 4: Chemaia

DAY 5: Imlil, High Atlas Mountains

DAY 6: Depart Marrakech - London

OPTIONAL: Two day extension for mule trek



Creating a better future

Most of the world's working animals will experience malnutrition, exhaustion, injury or disease during their lives. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we lived in a world where working animals didn't suffer – and where they received the care and compassion they deserve? That's a future you can be part of by leaving SPANA a gift in your Will.

Donkeys, horses, mules, camels and oxen support the livelihoods of impoverished families and influence the prosperity of whole countries. Their importance is undeniable, yet when people's survival is a daily struggle, the basic needs of animals often have to come second. What's more, the governments of developing countries are often unable to fund even basic veterinary health services.

As a result, many communities lack the ability to care for their working animals

SPANA helps by providing crucial veterinary care for around 1,000 working animals every single day. But as well as acting now to relieve the suffering of animals, we are also driving longer term change. To create a future where they are all cared for properly, we need to work closely with the communities that rely on them.

Understanding the challenges people face enables us to run suitable programmes that help communities develop and sustain services which will improve animal welfare for generations to come. What's more, by building the capacity of communities to maintain high standards of animal care on their own, we can focus our efforts on other places where we are urgently needed.

Would you like to help us create a better future for working animals?

We want to put working animal welfare at the very heart of

communities that depend on them. It's a huge task and it's going to take many years to achieve. But just imagine how wonderful it would be to live in a world where every single working animal is well treated, vaccinated regularly against disease and treated promptly if it needs veterinary care.

That's a future you can help to create by remembering SPANA in your Will

One of the crucial ways a gift in your Will could make a difference is by supporting animal welfare community programmes. As a result, more owners will know how to care for their horses or donkeys and

countless children will grow up with strong feelings of empathy towards animals. Your special gift will also help to train professionals like vets and farriers, increasing the number of people out there who care about working animals and can directly influence their wellbeing.

In time, we will see communities that truly value their working animals and have the capacity to maintain the services needed to keep them healthy.

By leaving a gift in your Will to SPANA, you could be part of a future where working animals don't suffer unnecessarily from hunger, thirst, exhaustion, injury or disease. So please, will you consider this very special way of supporting SPANA?



If you'd like to find out more about gifts in Wills, please call to speak to a member of our friendly legacy team on **020 7831 3999 or email penny@spana.org or carolinefrancis@spana.org. You can also visit www.spana.org/legacy or fill in the enclosed form and return in the envelope provided.**

Your support saves lives worldwide...

Thanks to your support 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 around the world.

Morocco

Despite being uniquely adapted for life in the desert, camels are prone to eye infections caused by sandstorms. Many also suffer from ticks and parasite infestations that cause skin inflammation and hair loss. Thanks to the donations that we receive from supporters like you, we are able to provide these magnificent animals with the treatment they need.



Ghana

With your help we're supporting a partner organisation in Ghana called Donyaepa who is training community representatives in basic equine care. These local people will then go out into their communities to share what they've learned with other animal owners and also to distribute basic first aid kits that will help them treat minor injuries.



Zimbabwe

Since we made Zimbabwe a core country of operation in 2013, our team there has expanded to include another full time vet called Andy who is helping us reach even more animals in remote locations. We also have a new full time member of staff who will be working closely with local communities to help them address animal welfare issues by developing sustainable animal health services.



Mongolia

In Mongolia, vets often graduate from university with little or no practical knowledge in equine healthcare. Thanks to supporters like you, we've provided a funding grant to enable a trusted local partner, CAMDA, to run a veterinary training programme in equine welfare and healthcare for 96 vets from all over the country.



Romania

In Romania, we are supporting the efforts of The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation, who are trying to reduce the number of working animals injured and killed in road traffic accidents on busy unlit roads at night in the north east of the country. With the help of a SPANA grant and the local police, they are fixing reflective strips to the rear of carts pulled by horses and donkeys, making them more visible at night and hopefully reducing devastating accidents.



Tunisia

Educating children is vital to improving working animal welfare in the future. Two of SPANA's three centres in Tunisia deliver animal welfare lessons to hundreds of local schoolchildren each month. The third, however, is situated a short distance from the town of Kesserine and none of the local state schools has its own bus to transport children there. In 2015, with your support, we hope to provide funding for bus hire, enabling local schoolchildren to visit our centre twice a week. This will boost the number of children we teach by a third, from 800 a month to over 1,250 a month.



■ Current and previous outreach and emergency work

■ Our core countries of work

Happy Hooves sale!

This is your chance to pick up a bargain in the Happy Hooves sale!

HALF PRICE DELIVERY



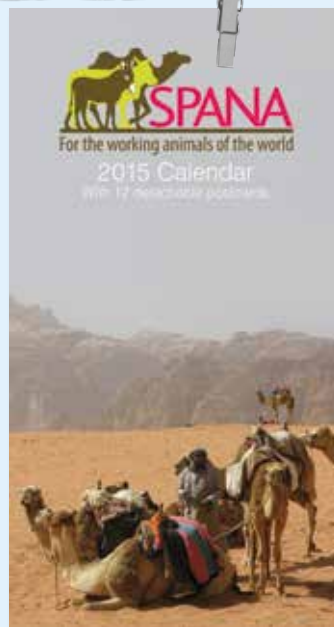
HURRY!
Sale ends
28 February 2015



Now JUST £3
In a Pear Tree
(Pack of 10) **WAS £4**
Greeting: Season's Greetings
and a Happy New Year



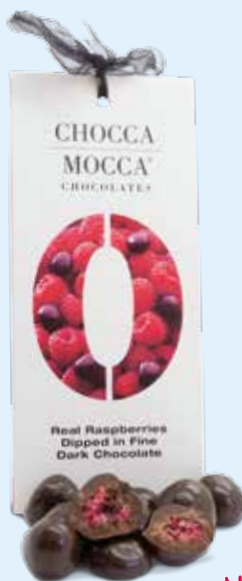
Now JUST £3
Over the Wall
(Pack of 10) **WAS £4**
Greeting: Season's Greetings
and a Happy New Year



Now JUST £3
SPANA 2015 Postcard Calendar
It's still early in the year, so it's not too late
for this handy month-to-view calendar. **WAS £5.50**



Now JUST £6
Handcrafted Tunisian Bowl **WAS £8**
Lovingly handmade in Tunisia this shallow
bowl is perfect for olives, nuts and fruit.



Now JUST £4
Real Raspberries Dipped in Fine Dark Chocolate **WAS £5.50**
Why not spoil yourself with these luxurious
little treats.



Now JUST £4
SPANAs Ultimate Plum Pudding **WAS £7**
Treat yourself to a spot of rich indulgence.



Happy Hooves

A big thank you to Happy Hooves shoppers!

If you've bought a gift from our Happy Hooves catalogue, thank you for making a difference in this special way. But our Happy Hooves gifts aren't just for Christmas, they make great presents for people of all ages – all year round. And our special Gifts of Health and Happiness are such a wonderful way to improve the welfare of working animals in need. So why not place your order today?



Visit **www.happyhooves.org** or order now on **0300 033 4999**