Easing their pain

Your support is helping elderly working horses who suffer from arthritis. See pages 10 and 11.
First of all, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make our work possible in 2015. Whether you are a long-standing supporter, or someone who has recently rallied to the cause, your kindness has helped transform the lives of thousands of working animals.

It’s thanks to your generosity that SPANA has been able to open several new veterinary clinics over the last 12 months. In Mauritania, for example, a permanent centre is now up and running on the country’s southern border. As you’ll see on page 10, the new Rosso clinic is a lifeline to the constant flow of frail, elderly horses who arrive daily from Senegal.

What’s more, as you can read on pages 14 and 15, our hard-working teams are going further than ever to ease the suffering of animals in need. Treating working camels in India. Repairing wells for animals in Mongolia. Helping children in Liberia learn how to treat animals with compassion. Of course, we can only reach so far around the world thanks to the dedication and kindness of supporters like you.

I’d also like to point you in the direction of our appeals on pages four, eight and 10. These are the most pressing challenges we face and we urgently need your help to make a difference. Could you help with another kind gift? On the donation form you’ll be able to choose which appeal you’d like to support, or you can simply give to wherever the need is greatest. That would allow us to use your gift wherever it will have the most far-reaching effect.

Many thanks again for your compassion and support.

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

PS Do you have a friend or loved one who might share your concern about the working animals of the world? If so, please pass on this issue of Stablemate once you have finished with it. Thank you.

Saved from deadly diseases

Last winter, we asked supporters for help in fighting potentially fatal diseases like EZL and AHS. Your response to our appeal was wonderful, raising almost £150,000. Thanks to you, hundreds of horses have been saved from slow, agonising deaths.

Preventable diseases take the lives of too many working animals around the world. The contagious fungal disease, Epizootic Lymphangitis (EZL), kills up to 39% of cart horses every year in Ethiopia. Even deadlier is African Horse Sickness (AHS).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that too many working animals around the world are suffering from deadly diseases like AHS and EZL. SPANA’s vets and dentist are going further than ever to ease the suffering of animals in need.

Of course, we can only reach so far around the world thanks to the dedication and kindness of our supporters. Last winter, we asked supporters for help in fighting potentially fatal diseases like EZL and AHS. Your response to our appeal was wonderful, raising almost £150,000. Thanks to you, hundreds of horses have been saved from slow, agonising deaths.

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Which is the best treatment for EZL?

Generous donations from our supporters are helping our Ethiopian team conduct some research to find out which is the best possible drug to tackle EZL. Currently, the early stages of the disease can be successfully treated with oral Potassium Iodide, but it’s expensive. The purpose of our new study is to test the effectiveness of a much cheaper 4% tincture of iodine.

A SPANA vet treats Mita’s lesions with iodine solution.

10-year-old Mita works in Adama, Ethiopia, hauling passengers and goods through the dusty streets every day. Recently, his owner Abu noticed lesions appearing on Mita’s right hind leg. They were red, raw and painful-looking.

Fortunately, Abu knew about SPANA’s mobile clinic that was visiting the town. There, the vet immediately diagnosed early-stage EZL. He sedated Mita, drained the pus from the lesions and cleaned them with iodine solution. Abu was then given iodine tincture to treat the affected areas at home every day, plus some potassium iodide to put in Mita’s feed.

‘I started my cart business two years ago and have been coming to SPANA’s clinic ever since. I am so happy with the treatment they gave my horse. They saved his life. Without Mita, I could not support my wife and three children.’
Saving lives through better nutrition

A combination of malnutrition and dehydration means that many horses suffer excruciating, life-threatening conditions such as colic. For eight-year-old Bullo from Ethiopia, it meant hours of terrible pain until his owner took him to a SPANA centre.

Bullo works as a gharry horse in the bustling town of Debre Zeit, 30 miles south-east of Addis Ababa. Six hours a day, every day, he hauls people and their goods to and from the busy market. The life of a gharry horse is tough and exhausting, and as a result Bullo suffers from lameness in one of his front feet.

When Bullo fell ill with serious abdominal pains, it meant that he couldn’t work at all for his owner, Fikru.

‘My horse was writhing in agony’

‘Fikru was distraught when he saw his horse in pain. He was sweating and rolling around on the ground. He kept biting and kicking at his abdomen. I didn’t know what to do as I could not afford to get the vet to look at him. I became so worried because I have to work to feed my wife and three children. Then my friend told me about SPANA, so I walked Bullo over there to see what could be done.’

At SPANA’s permanent clinic in the town, the vet quickly diagnosed that Bullo was suffering from colic. Bullo was dehydrated and had been feeding mainly on straw that’s hard to digest so there were painful blockages in his intestines. The state of his unrasped teeth hadn’t helped his condition, either. These were sharply pointed, which meant that Bullo couldn’t chew his food properly.

Bullo couldn’t chew his food properly.

Three days of intensive treatment

Using a nasogastric tube, the vet began by giving Bullo seven litres of fluid mixed with paraffin oil and Epsom salts. This procedure was repeated three times a day to hydrate his gut contents and get the intestines moving to clear his system. During this time, Bullo’s teeth were rasped, he was fed only small amounts of green grass and was given medicines to control his discomfort. Finally, after three days of treatment and observation in the clinic, the blockages passed. The pain was gone and Bullo was on the road to recovery.

Fikru was so grateful for SPANA’s help. He listened carefully to the vet’s advice about making changes to Bullo’s diet. Lots more green grass. No more straw or woody materials. Water four times a day to prevent dehydration. Plus, Fikru was told he needed to bring Bullo back to the clinic in three months’ time to have his teeth checked.

Changing nutrition for the better

As you may recall from our Spring Appeal, SPANA’s vets see the terrible effects of malnutrition on working animals like Bullo every day. That’s why we work tirelessly to improve people’s knowledge on diet and animal care, wherever and whenever we can. With your help, we’ve been able to run feed and nutrition workshops in Ethiopia, plus we’ve got two mobile clinics in addition to our permanent centre in Debre Zeit. This means we’re reaching out to more owners like Fikru than ever before, across the wider community.

Over 6,000 kind people like you sent a gift to our Malnutrition Appeal in Spring – thank you so much for your wonderful response! Adding in a generous matching-giving donation, our supporters raised £241,099 for our work for malnourished working animals.

Just as important, however, is the need to reach the owners of the future – children. If we can instil good animal welfare habits in the next generation, thousands of horses like Bullo will escape a life of pain and misery. The great news is that we now have three classrooms and a dedicated education centre in Debre Zeit. Thanks to you, teachers are bringing the message of good nutrition, proper hydration and respect for animals to hundreds of children every year.

Over 6,000 kind people like you sent a gift to our Malnutrition Appeal in Spring – thank you so much for your wonderful response! Adding in a generous matching-giving donation, our supporters raised £241,099 for our work for malnourished working animals.

Please support our Malnutrition Appeal today

Eight-year-old Bullo arrived at our clinic in Debre Zeit with painful colic caused by a poor diet of straw and woody, hard-to-digest materials.

How you can help

Your donation today could help transform the lives of working animals in Debre Zeit and beyond.

£25 could help ease the painful symptoms of colic in another horse like Bullo.

£50 could provide a month’s supply of nutritious food to other recovering working animals.

£116 could help run a feed and nutrition workshop, to show 10 owners how to keep their animals healthy.

Thank you for your support!
Dedicated to the cause

Across the world, SPANA’s staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ease pain and suffering at our mobile clinics and veterinary centres. We asked three of our dedicated staff about the vital jobs they do every day for working animals in need.

Q. What’s the most inspiring place you’ve worked?
A. Mali, where so many of the animals have tough working lives in rubbish dumps. I was so impressed by how hard the Mali SPANA staff work to treat the constant stream of wounds, lameness and colic. It’s fantastic that the team are on hand to help.

Q. What’s the biggest difference you’ve made?
A. I’d have to say it was running the farriery training in Ethiopia. Lameness is such a huge issue there, and the only way to change that is to teach the owners how to look after their animals properly.

Q. How important is it to pass on your knowledge to local people?
A. Extremely important! Knowledge is everything, and many of the owners we work with have no concept of animal welfare at all.

Q. What’s the most fulfilling part of your job?
A. Easing the pain of the animals and seeing the relief in the owners’ eyes. It means all our efforts are worth it.

Q. What’s your greatest achievement so far?
A. When we came across cases of colic far away from the clinic, we had no equipment to give them the IV fluids they needed. That’s when I had the idea of inventing a portable fluid-giving set. Now we use this equipment all the time to relieve the painful symptoms of colic.

Q. What’s the most urgent need you see now?
A. Where I work, we are seeing more and more harness injuries. Every day we also have to replace many ill-fitting bits.

Q. Do you see an improvement in the attitude of owners?
A. Yes, there is positive change. Owners are more aware of the importance of healthy food and the need to bring in their animals at once if they are sick or injured.

Q. What effect do you think the clinic has had on owners?
A. I have seen a lot of positive change in the behaviour of owners. Now they return to the clinic as soon as they notice something is wrong with their animals, and thank us for the treatment they receive.

With your support, SPANA is equipping many of its clinics with X-ray and ultrasound equipment, helping our vets to diagnose serious conditions that could otherwise go untreated. Here’s an update on the latest countries to receive these important pieces of kit.

Mauritania – The first X-ray and ultrasound machines have now arrived in our Nouakchott clinic. Once all of our staff are trained, the plan is to move the machines to our new clinic in Rosso. They will be used to teach students on placement from the vet school in Dakar, Senegal.

Mali – Our Bamako clinic received its first X-ray machine at the end of last year. Local staff have been tasked with using the equipment to research radiographic indicators of fistulous withers. This key investigative work is already improving their skills, both clinical and diagnostic.

Morocco – In September 2015, our vet team ran a workshop using Casablanca’s X-ray machine, giving our vets and Moroccan vet students invaluable training. Thanks to the generosity of a donation from Godolphin Stables in Newmarket, our Casablanca centre has also recently taken delivery of an ultrasound machine.

In 2016, our senior vet team will be travelling to the countries that now have X-ray and ultrasound machines, giving more advanced training on these exciting pieces of diagnostic equipment.
The hidden despair of dental disease

Most of us would head straight to the dentist the moment the pain of toothache or a dental abscess struck. Working animals, however, can’t tell their owners they’re in agony. They suffer in silence, sometimes for years.

Dental problems are a cause of terrible suffering for many thousands of working animals. In many cases, their owners are unaware of their pain. It’s not because they don’t care, but because they don’t realise anything is wrong.

This lack of awareness can have a terrible impact on animals. Often, it’s only when symptoms develop into something more obvious, such as not eating, weight loss or bad breath, that owners realise there is a problem. As a result, many of the dental problems our vets see are already chronic. In some cases, these problems prevent animals from working again altogether.

Every day, our skilled veterinary teams across Africa and the Middle East treat a wide range of painful dental conditions. As well as easing the suffering of animals, our vets show owners how to spot the early signs of dental disease. If teeth aren’t regularly rasped, for instance, sharp edges can appear and cause painful sores to develop on the insides of the cheeks or tongue.

Your support can end this terrible suffering

By making a donation today, you can help tackle the consequential health issues associated with dental disease. Your generosity could provide the essential dental equipment needed to examine and treat working animals like Farook. For example, your donation could help fund a powerfloat that rasps teeth faster and more effectively than a hand rasp. Though it’s expensive at £2,250, it’s a priceless piece of equipment for staff under pressure.

We also need your help to run free dental awareness training sessions for owners at our clinics. These vital sessions will make them aware of the importance of dental health, and the need for regular check-ups.

Thank you for whatever support you can give.

Farook’s story

Farook pulls heavy cartloads of bricks along the dusty roads of Nouakchott in Mauritania. His worried owner, Bilal, brought him to our centre when he noticed that his horse had lost weight and was becoming too weak to work.

Our vet, Fran, gave Farook a thorough oral examination. Using a head torch, she could clearly see the source of his problem. Some of his teeth had worn away, while others were overgrown. As a result, he couldn’t chew his food properly to extract the nutrients he needed. As well as being in constant discomfort, Farook was losing weight dramatically and growing weaker by the day.

Fran carefully rasped the horse’s teeth with a powerfloat – a specialist piece of equipment which is particularly effective for reducing larger dental overgrowths. She took great care not to remove too much tooth and expose the pulp – the living part of the tooth – which would result in pain and infection. Farook was eating normally again within hours and well on his way to recovery.

Relieved and grateful, Bilal agreed to bring his horse back for a check-up in six weeks’ time. He said, ‘Without my horse my family would struggle to bring in enough income, so I am thankful to SPANA for helping make him better.’

How you can help

Whatever you can give will help to ease suffering by improving the dental health of thousands of working animals. Thank you.

£22 could buy a head torch to help a vet thoroughly examine and treat working animals with dental disease.

£88 could help pay for a dental awareness training session, helping 10 owners to understand the importance of dental health and the need for regular check-ups.

£225 could help contribute towards the cost of a powerfloat to help our staff treat more complicated conditions of working animals’ teeth, in cases like Farook.

Thank you for your support!
Seizing up

With so many elderly horses in Mauritania working in their final years, treating arthritis has become one of the biggest challenges faced by SPANA’s vets.

Every month, hundreds of frail, older horses are shipped across the river from Senegal to Mauritania. Sadly, they don’t come here to retire – they come to work harder than ever before. The harsh truth is that, because people in Mauritania are much poorer than in Senegal, they can only afford the horses that their neighbours don’t want any more.

As you might remember, this tragic situation was the subject of our Elderly Animals Appeal we sent out in July last year. Our aim was simple: to raise funds for our new, permanent veterinary clinic in Rosso, on the border between the two countries – and bring desperately needed care to older animals.

Now, thanks to your wonderful support, the new clinic is treating hundreds more elderly working animals with road injuries, ill-fitting bits and – most common of all – arthritis. But it doesn’t end there.

Many, like 14-year-old Fallou, arrive from their long journeys suffering excruciating pain.

Even though he’s elderly, Fallou still labours seven hours a day, hauling carts along dusty, uneven roads. Often, he works in temperatures up to 45 degrees. His owner, Cheikha Labeida, noticed recently that Fallou was finding it harder to pull heavy loads, sometimes slowing to a complete stop.

“His back legs were seizing up,” Cheikha told the SPANA team. “He looked like he was in pain and I worried if he would be able to work again.”

After a thorough examination at the clinic, our vet diagnosed arthritis of the hock joints, probably caused by years of pulling heavy loads over hard ground. What’s more, Fallou’s gait was uneven and his left hind limb was lame. It was clear that he needed immediate rest and treatment.

‘His back legs could barely move’

Firstly, Fallou was given an anti-inflammatory injection to relieve his pain and reduce the inflammation in his joints. The vet also told Cheikha to rest Fallou for three days until they had eased. When he returned, Fallou was moving a lot more freely. Importantly, the vet also gave Cheikha advice on how to manage Fallou’s arthritis in the weeks and months ahead. Allow plenty of rest. Give Fallou enough space to walk around and lie down when not working. And return for regular check-ups by SPANA’s staff.

‘Without SPANA, we would have no one to help us when our animals get sick.’

Cheikha Labeida, Fallou’s owner

You’ve helped treat an array of frail, arthritic horses like Fallou in recent months. With your continuing help, many more elderly working animals in Mauritania will receive the care they urgently need.

Over £213,000 raised for Rosso!

Thanks to your amazing generosity once again, our summer Elderly Animals Appeal was a great success. With hundreds of frail, elderly horses arriving from Senegal, we urgently needed funds for our new, permanent veterinary clinic in Rosso, Mauritania. As ever, our supporters responded magnificently. Donations have so far totalled £213,192 – so thank you from everyone here at SPANA. Your kind gifts have already helped to build the new shaded area above, look out for your update next year to see what else we’ve achieved with your help.

How you can help

Your donation today could help us care for even more frail, elderly animals in Mauritania:

£25 could buy anti-inflammatory medicines for 60 horses suffering from arthritis.

£100 could help buy a new surgical kit including syringes and sterilisation equipment.

£200 could contribute towards the yearly salary of a vet technician for the Rosso clinic and treat even more frail, elderly horses.

Thank you for your support!
Super supporters

From running multi-marathons to throwing tea parties, dedicated supporters like you get involved in all sorts of activities to raise money for SPANA. Here’s a selection of the amazing things you’ve got up to recently, all in the name of working animals in need.

Running total

Last year, lots of supporters took to the fresh air to raise money for SPANA’s work. Vets Danny and Aaron trekked the 205-mile Offa’s Dyke Path, while Lizzie Hall travelled the length of the South Downs Way – on the back of her pony. Most impressive of all, however, was Alice Burch, who completed 60 marathons in 60 days.

The trip of a lifetime

In October, 27 intrepid supporters set off on an exciting trip to Morocco. It was a unique chance to visit SPANA projects, see our vets working in the field, and witness the incredible difference that donations make to animals in need. Over five exhausting days, they visited our centres from Marrakech to Casablanca, ending with a spectacular trip with our mobile clinic to the High Atlas Mountains. If you’re interested in joining the next trip, please ring Kirsty on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org or go to www.spana.org/events

If you have a brilliant fundraising idea that you’d like to get up and running, please call Jessie on 020 7831 3999, email events@spana.org or go to www.spana.org/events

Marathon maestro Alice hopes to raise lots of donations for working animals.

Refresh ing sum

No less than 170 supporters signed up to host a SPANA World Tea Party in 2015. Hundreds of people all over the country happily tucked into tea and cake, while serving up vital funds for our work. In fact, our super snackers raised over £4,000. Thank you to everyone who took part.

If you’d like to host a World Tea Party next year, make sure you send for our fun-filled fundraising pack in late spring.

Change the future for the world’s working animals

Imagine a world where every working animal is well treated and receives the veterinary care they need. This is the world that SPANA is working towards – and by leaving us a gift in your Will, you could make a lasting difference.

Disease. Malnutrition. Injury. Dehydration. Exhaustion. Every minute of every day, SPANA’s vets reach out to working animals in urgent need of care. Animals who have no one else to help ease their distress.

It’s thanks to the actions of people like you – giving kind donations or organising fundraising stalls – that we can react so rapidly to relieve pain and suffering. Many communities across the globe simply don’t have the knowledge or resources to care for the animals on which they depend. But there is a way you can help change that. A way you can help transform the future for working animals everywhere.

By remembering SPANA in your Will, you can help change animal welfare for generations to come.

The gifts that kind supporters leave in their Wills are vital to creating long-term change. For example, they help run animal welfare programmes in communities across the world. These are key to changing attitudes towards working animals. By training owners how to care properly for their animals, our vets will see fewer and fewer cases of neglect. What’s more, encouraging schoolchildren to have feelings of empathy towards animals will mean they are more respectful owners in the future.

To find out more about the amazing effects of gifts in Wills, please get in touch with our friendly legacy team on 020 7831 3999. or email penny@spana.org or carolinefrancis@spana.org. We appreciate your Will is a sensitive subject, and we promise to respect your privacy and wishes. You can also visit www.spana.org/legacies for more details.

If you’ve already told us that you intend to remember SPANA in your Will, thank you so much. We couldn’t do so much for working animals around the world without your incredible kindness and support.
Your support goes further than you might think

From Tanzania to Liberia, your donations work hard in so many places around the world. Here are a few examples of where you’re helping to ease the suffering of working animals through our local outreach partners.

**Ethiopia (Education for Development Association)**

In western Ethiopia, thousands of refugees who have fled from the conflict in Sudan live in camps along with their working animals. Thanks to you, SPANA is spreading vital animal welfare messages by distributing educational leaflets and running workshops for animal owners. What’s more, your support will provide dedicated equine healthcare training to 20 local veterinary professionals.

**Ghana (Donyaepa)**

Your donations are helping to spread vital healthcare expertise across the Tamale district of northern Ghana. A new project is providing equine welfare training to 300 community veterinary volunteers from 10 different villages. What’s more, each trainee receives a first aid kit that they can use to treat working animals’ wounds and injuries.

**Tanzania (Tanzania Animal Welfare Society)**

Hauling heavy loads of extracted sand every day, many donkeys suffer ill health and injuries in the rubidium mines of the Mpwapwa district. Thanks to you, we’re providing extra training to hundreds of vet technician graduates and students in the local area by partnering with two technician training colleges. By improving their equine skills and knowledge, we can raise the quality of healthcare for thousands of these working donkeys.

**Mongolia (CAMDA)**

In the remote far-west of Mongolia, herders depend on animals to provide for their families. But many of the wells in the region were built 50 years ago and have fallen into disrepair. With your support, SPANA has funded the rebuilding of 13 of the worst affected wells, bringing essential water supplies to many thousands of working animals across the region.

**Afghanistan (HealthProm/SaddleAid)**

In mountainous areas of Afghanistan, a pregnant woman’s journey to hospital can be long and gruelling. Thanks to your gifts, SPANA has helped fund a unique maternity saddle project. Invented in the UK, but hand-crafted locally, these specially designed saddles provide optimum comfort for both woman and donkey, giving both the best possible chance of arriving at healthcare facilities safely.

**Liberia (LAWCS)**

Your generous support for SPANA’s educational projects has enabled us to train teachers who, in Liberia, have delivered lessons to nearly 7,000 children in primary schools. Children now understand that animals are sensitive beings, like us, and should be treated with care and compassion. SPANA believes this will have a long-term impact on the animals in the country.

**India (Help in Suffering)**

In the brick kilns of Rajasthan, camels are used to move heavy loads of bricks and sand. The arduous work means that many suffer from lameness, saddle sores and foot-pad injuries. Thanks to your support, however, a new mobile clinic is bringing free veterinary care to 55 villages in the area around the kilns, reaching more than 3,000 camels with vital healthcare.
Happy Hooves sale!

Bag a bargain and help working animals in need around the world.

Visit www.happyhooves.org or order now on 0330 332 2530

Happy Hooves gifts aren’t just for Christmas!

Buying a festive gift from our Happy Hooves catalogue is a wonderful way to treat a friend or loved one – while helping our vital work around the world. But we have lots of gifts that make perfect presents all year round. Choose one of our special Gifts of Health and Happiness, and you’ll make an extra-special difference to the lives of working animals in need. Plus there’s lots of discontinued stock at special prices on our website. Don’t wait – place your order today!*

*Products subject to availability

Registered charity no: 209015

SPANA 2016 Postcard Calendar WAS £6
Month-to-view calendar with stunning photography showing the work you support every day.
Gift code: M15PC

Cat cracker WAS £11
Packed full of gourmet treats, these cute crackers have no snap so they don’t bang.
Gift code: M15CC

Recovery SOS Tin WAS £9
Everything you need to unwind after working hard in the garden.
Gift code: M15GS

SPANA Limited Edition Coasters WAS £8
Charming prints of animals adorn this handy collection of coasters.
Gift code: M15JHCO

Chocca Mocca Hazelnut Chocolates V WAS £3.50
You’ll go nuts for these delicious, caramelised hazelnuts cloaked in dusted milk chocolate. 100g. Contains nuts, milk and soya. Made in a factory that uses other nuts and seeds.
Gift code: M15HA

SPANA Men’s Silk Tie WAS £19
Elegant, Italian silk tie featuring discreetly woven animals.
Gift code: M15MT

Chocca Mocca Strawberries V in Chocolate WAS £5.50
Indulge in delicious, real strawberries encased in smooth, creamy white chocolate. 100g. Contains milk and soya. Made in a factory that uses nuts and seeds.
Gift code: M15SAC

Chocca Mocca Strawberries V in Chocolate WAS £5.50
Indulge in delicious, real strawberries encased in smooth, creamy white chocolate. 100g. Contains milk and soya. Made in a factory that uses nuts and seeds.
Gift code: M15SAC

SPANA Surgery
This gift will help to buy essential surgical equipment needed for one of our lifesaving centres.

Bought on behalf of:

This Happy Hooves gift has been certified by:

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive

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