5 January 2016

**SOUTH LONDON RESIDENTS CELEBRATE RAISING OVER £3,000 TO SAVE WORKING ANIMALS ABROAD**

Local residents from South London are celebrating after raising over £3,000 for international working animal charity SPANA in the past year.

In its first year the London Fundraising Group has raised funds for SPANA by holding street and train station collections all across the capital.

All of the funds raised by the group will help SPANA to provide free veterinary treatment for working animals, such as donkeys, horses and camels, in developing countries across the world. Many of the world’s poorest people rely completely on these working animals – which do the jobs of tractors, trucks and taxis – for their livelihoods and sometimes their survival. However, without SPANA, there would be no veterinary care available for these animals – or the means to pay for it.

Balham resident Lizzie Chambers, Leader of the London Fundraising Group for SPANA, said: “We’re so proud to have raised these funds for SPANA and we’d like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated in the past year. Working animals are vital to many of the world’s poorest families, making it possible for them to earn a living. But there is often no help available for these animals if they are sick or injured. That’s why SPANA’s work is so important – they provide much-needed veterinary treatment that means these hardworking animals get the care they need and don’t have to suffer.”

To join or support the group, call 0207 831 3999 or email events@spana.org

For more information about SPANA visit [www.spana.org](http://www.spana.org/)

**ENDS**

For further information please contact: marysia@spana.org

**Notes to editors:**

**SPANA (the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad)**

SPANA has been the charity for the working animals of the world since 1923, providing free veterinary care to horses, donkeys, mules, camels and other animals in some of the world’s poorest countries. The charity improves the welfare of working animals in three ways: free veterinary treatment, education and training, and emergency and outreach projects.  Please see the charity’s website, [www.spana.org](http://www.spana.org) for more information.

**Working animals worldwide**

It is estimated that there are around 200 million working animals worldwide that do the jobs of trucks, tractors and taxis, many of which work to support impoverished communities in developing countries.