5 January 2016

**LEICESTER RESIDENT CELEBRATES RAISING ALMOST £30,000 TO SAVE WORKING ANIMALS ABROAD**

A Leicester resident is celebrating after raising almost £30,000 for international working animal charity SPANA in over 25 years of support.

Chris Seal and his friends in the Midlands Fundraising Group have raised the funds for SPANA through street collections across the region.

All of the funds raised by the group 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.

Chris Seal said: “I’m proud to support SPANA and I’d like to thank everyone who has kindly donated to the charity in my 25 years of fundraising. Working animals are so important and about a billion of the world’s poorest people completely depend on them. But these hardworking animals often have no help when they are sick or injured. Thankfully, SPANA’s work means these animals get the care they need and don’t have to suffer.”

To join or support the Midlands Fundraising 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.