

LAUNCHING SPANA TANZANIA



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Introducing Tanzania

For many of Tanzania's population of 58 million, life is unrelentingly hard. Over half of Tanzanian people are living below the poverty line, with 34 per cent of children under the age of five suffering from malnutrition. Many adults will have had patchy, if any, education when they were young.

The majority of people live in rural communities and depend on their animals for their livelihoods. Tanzania's economy relies on farming, with around half of the workforce employed in the agriculture sector.

In agriculture, and in Tanzania's hazardous gold mines, construction sites and brick kilns, hardworking animals are used to carry packs and pull backbreaking loads in the scorching heat. In the Mtera Dam region, submerged up to their necks in water, donkeys also transport goods directly from boats to the shore.

Donkeys are used extensively for both domestic and economic activities as they can get to places that vehicles can't, and can cope with poor road conditions.

There are estimated to be over 363,000 donkeys in Tanzania. This large population, and the fact they are not farmed for meat or milk like cattle, leads to donkeys not being highly valued.



Donkeys pull heavy carts laden with cargo through deep water in the Mtera Dam



Hardworking donkeys play a crucial role to the livelihoods of Tanzanians, yet their status in society remains low

The low status of donkeys is compounded by poverty, a lack of education and a lack of access to basic veterinary care. In a country where people are desperately poor and struggle to provide for their own families, animals are often low on the priority list.

Untreated injuries, illnesses, sight problems and poor dental health are devastating for donkeys, horses and mules in Tanzania. Open wounds and fractured bones left uncared for are a constant source of pain and distress for working animals.

For animals working in hot, dusty environments, eye infections are almost inevitable. As well as being extremely painful, even minor ocular cases can lead to blindness if left untreated.

Abandoned when they can no longer work, blind and sick donkeys face a slow and lonely death from starvation.

Thankfully, with your support, SPANA can help put an end to these terrible practices and provide hope for working animals and the people who depend on them.

Since 2013, SPANA has been working with local animal welfare partners to save lives and reduce the suffering of thousands of working animals in Tanzania. To date, we have made good progress, but we must do more. The impact of poverty, lasting droughts and the donkey skin trade is worsening, which means more working animals than ever before are in desperate need of our care and protection.

Read on to find out more about the key problems facing working animals in Tanzania, and how your support can provide the solutions.



The problem: preventable wounds

Inappropriate harnesses

The majority of the wounds seen on working animals in Tanzania are inflicted by dangerous and badly-fitted harnesses.

Donkeys have become much cheaper and easier to buy than oxen. The heavy wooden beams that originally fitted the thick necks of a pair of oxen are commonly used across two or more donkeys. They cause horrendous friction wounds that become deeper as the donkey continues to work. Taganya was suffering excruciating pain when she was seen by our mobile clinic. Unable to heal, the severity of these wounds can lead to chronic and life threatening infections.



Donkeys suffer horrific friction wounds caused by thick wooden beams originally designed for oxen



Donkeys' ears are cut as a form of identification

Desperate poverty also means that cheap scrap materials like metal, wood and plastic are used for homemade harnesses. Often sharp and abrasive, they can chafe, cut and mutilate the delicate skin of animals as they work. Taganya was lucky to receive the treatment she needed, but thousands of donkeys and horses battle through their working lives in untold misery from sores, wounds and lacerations.

Branding and ear cutting

There is widespread use of branding and ear cutting identification techniques in Tanzania, which often leads to multiple wounding. Each time an animal changes hands, it is harmed with new brands and new cuts to its ears.

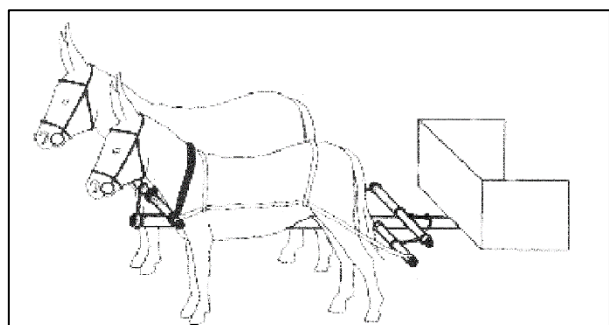
The solution: working with communities

Safe harnessing

It's vital that work gets started straightaway on producing safe carts and harnesses for donkeys in Tanzania.

Some initial drafts of designs have already been produced and, with your support, we can get these into production.

By employing local craftspeople and materials, not only will these carts prevent untold misery for donkeys, but will also support the local economy.



Producing safe carts and harnesses will prevent avoidable harness sores and wounds

Donkey welfare champions

In the meantime, the great news is that our donkey welfare champion project has started well. Almost 100 donkey welfare champions have been trained so far about basic equine health and husbandry. The champions are providing essential relief to suffering animals. They also provide vital information to animal owners about good animal welfare to stop harmful practices like branding and ear cutting.

Our donkey welfare champions are also hard at work producing soft padding to prevent friction-inflicted injuries and wounds on donkeys who spend most of their time carrying heavy loads.



Donkey welfare champions provide advice, care and support to donkeys and their owners in their communities



Donkey welfare champions are trained how to make soft padding and ensure it is fitted properly, tackling harness problems at their root cause

'I am heartened to hear senior veterinarians and village leaders talking about SPANA's impact on working animals... They tell me that since the clinics and donkey champion training began, there have been zero donkey deaths from neglect in these areas. We desperately need more donkey welfare champions throughout Tanzania and it's only with more support that we can build on the initial success of this programme.' Geoffrey Dennis, SPANA Chief Executive, Tanzania Trip Report, July 2019

The problem: lack of empathy

Due to desperate poverty and a poor understanding of good animal welfare practices, thousands of animal owners work their animals too hard, for too long; risking lameness, injury and collapse. Due to sheer overwork and exhaustion, donkeys and horses are injured in trips or falls on a daily basis. A working animal is often the only means a person will have to earn a living to feed their family. Even when their animal is desperately sick or injured, they are forced to press on without rest or relief.

Wounds from whipping and beatings are commonplace. Helpless donkeys are repeatedly hit with sticks, plastic tubes and even metal poles to make them turn and go faster. Donkeys that are rented out are at particular risk. The motivation to get as much work from them as possible means there is little or no regard for the donkey's welfare.

'Welfare problems in Tanzania are rife... we saw donkeys being beaten and worked too hard, and everywhere I went I saw oxen yokes on donkeys.' Geoffrey Dennis, Tanzania Trip Report, July 2019

The solution: teaching children

'From this lesson, children have developed a heart of compassion and love for the animals after they have realised that we display the same physical signs of life, emotions and freedoms.' Dr Aida, Vet and Education Officer, Tanzania



To protect and care for generations of working animals, SPANA's education projects teach children that animals feel pain and suffer when treated cruelly

The only way to make a difference to working animals for generations to come is to increase empathy for animals among children. Thanks to a fee-free basic education policy introduced by Tanzania's government in 2016, enrolment in basic education has increased, providing the perfect opportunity for SPANA to reach children.

Education projects are especially important in remote regions of Tanzania where children are often responsible for tending their family's animals. By reaching them at a young age, educators are able to instil kindness, empathy and respect for animals.

'I have learned how to improve the welfare of the animals. I have been telling my grandmother to follow what we have been taught here. Our donkeys mainly carry water and firewood for using at home and for selling in different locations. That really supports our livelihood, so it's very important to help them.' Rosemary, aged 13

In SPANA lessons, children learn about animal welfare while having fun. Drawing pictures and singing songs brings their learning to life. If you can, please take some time to watch the video at spana.org/tanzania. The footage of the children is so moving and inspirational.

'I was extremely impressed with the SPANA supported education programmes that I saw. At donkey clubs, in schools and at workshops for teachers, these vital education projects also provide educators with the skills, tools and support they need to create a legacy of compassionate animal owners.' Geoffrey Dennis, Tanzania Trip Report, July 2019

The problem: prevalent diseases



Makam was suffering from diarrhoea and loss of appetite when he arrived at SPANA's mobile clinic. if untreated, he was at risk of death

Parasites

Gastrointestinal parasites are a huge problem for working animals across Tanzania. A recent study undertaken by one of our trusted partners, The Sokoine University of Agriculture, found that 100 per cent of the donkeys they tested were infected.

Infected donkeys included Makam, who was in excruciating abdominal pain when he arrived at the mobile clinic in Migole. Stumbling under the weight of a heavy wooden cart harness, Makam was listless and painfully thin. He had been suffering diarrhoea and loss of appetite for several weeks.

Makam is one of the two donkeys that his owner, Joshua, relies on to provide for his wife and two children. Each day Makam carries heavy loads of water and bricks to earn a small income. Losing Makam would be devastating and lead the family further into poverty.

After gently examining Makam, our vet team diagnosed intestinal parasites. These parasites cause weight loss and, if not caught in time, can cause anaemia and painful colic. Untreated, Makam's infection could have caused lasting damage and potentially an agonising death for this hardworking donkey.

Vet assistant, Emmanuel, administered relief for Makam's abdominal pains and a deworming treatment. He also treated both of Joshua's donkeys for infected harness wounds. Joshua was given cotton padding to protect their delicate skin from the painful harnesses.

'I'm very thankful because these animals were dying... I lost some donkeys that were sick because I had no money. We have seen a real improvement in this donkey thanks to the free medicine.' Joshua, Makam's owner

Skin conditions

In the Mtera Dam region of Tanzania, donkeys are performing a vital role on a daily basis. They wade, often up to the top of their necks, into deep water to carry goods from the boats to the shore.

Chronic waterlogging of the donkeys' skin, which often already has open wounds caused by poor harnessing, allows dangerous bacteria to enter. The result can be a range of painful foot and skin conditions such as ringworm and bacterial dermatitis causing unbearable irritation for these hardworking animals.



Waterlogged skin and open wounds cause unbearable irritation from skin conditions like ringworm and dermatitis

The solution: free veterinary treatment and training



Last year, SPANA's partners in Tanzania provided free treatment to over 7,000 donkeys through mobile clinics – but thousands more still need our help

Veterinary treatment

When SPANA was founded in the 1920s, we made a promise to help suffering working animals, even if their owners were so poor that they couldn't pay. Thanks to your support, we still provide veterinary care for working animals free of charge and that is what makes SPANA unique.

Thanks to our partners in Tanzania, we were able to treat over 7,000 donkeys through four mobile clinics in 2018, but with 363,000 donkeys in the country, there are so many more animals who need our help.

This new investment in Tanzania will open up tremendous opportunities for collaboration and joint working between existing projects.

By sharing resources and expertise across existing teams, we can treat, protect and care for many more suffering animals.

Veterinary training

To improve the standards of veterinary care in the long term, it's so important that vet students get to practice the skills they will need.

In July 2018, SPANA was proud to welcome the first cohort of veterinary students to our new clinical skills centre at the Sokoine University of Agriculture. As the only veterinary training centre in Tanzania, this vital educational facility is crucial in our shared fight to end the suffering of working animals in Tanzania. The clinical skills centre will ensure that, each year, around 220 students receive the theoretical and practical training they need to provide life-saving expertise and care for Tanzania's working animals.

Your support will ensure we can keep the centre running and stocked with the equipment and materials that the students need.



SPANA runs Tanzania's only clinical skills centre to improve technical and practical skills of vet students

The problem: long periods of drought

Pastoral communities are adept at survival in harsh climates and travel vast distances with their animals in search of food and water. But the deep cracks that stretched across the parched and barren Kahama district heralded a devastating and prolonged drought in western Tanzania earlier this year. Natural wells, shallow rivers and sand dams that animals rely on for water, had vanished or evaporated into toxic salt beds. The result was catastrophic crop failure and widespread water shortages.

Despite their resilience, the drought meant desperate owners had no choice but to watch the animals they depend on collapse and die from dehydration, starvation and disease.

The solution: drought preparedness

Due to the extensive drought, we mobilised urgent supplies of animal feed, water and mineral blocks. Mobile clinics have been working hard to reach 4,000 stranded animals and pastoral communities in 20 villages with the care, treatment and support they desperately need.

The intensity and impact of the region's dry seasons vary greatly from year to year. By launching SPANA Tanzania as a core country, we can:

- be prepared to move quickly in times of intense drought.
- have one central point of contact to coordinate SPANA's lifesaving response across all our projects and with the local and national authorities.

This means bringing lifesaving food, water and veterinary care to animals at risk of dying from disease, thirst and starvation.

A long-term coordinated response will bring sustainable and lasting change to save lives and ease suffering in the drought-stricken regions of Tanzania, not just today but for many years to come.



As a result of the drought in the Kahama district of western Tanzania, oxen and other working animals were thirsty, hungry and vulnerable to disease



SPANA provided emergency feed to starving animals



Launching SPANA Tanzania means we can move quickly when intense drought endangers lives

A strategic approach

To have a greater impact on animal welfare in Tanzania, it's essential we develop a coordinated and strategic approach to our work.

The launch of Tanzania as a core country for SPANA means we can bring in a new Director to be based in the country. The new Director will thoroughly assess the existing projects and look at ways to coordinate and make efficiency savings – such as bulk-buying equipment and medicines for all our projects.

The new Director will produce an expansion plan for how to make a difference to the lives of working animals in the long term. This will include increasing our work with communities and establishing more children's education projects.

Alongside this, our new Director will drive a coordinated approach to tackle the donkey skin trade and the droughts that are devastating Tanzania's working animals.

By coordinating all of our activities, we can ensure the whole is greater than the sum of our parts – to bring more sustainable treatment, care and protection for working animals across Tanzania.



Our expansion plan will detail how your support will make a difference to the lives of working animals in the long term

Your impact

This is an exciting new chapter for SPANA, our local partners in Tanzania and, most importantly, for the thousands of working animals we will be able to help with your support.

As a Founding Partner, you will be involved from the beginning. You will help us put our exciting expansion plans in motion, so we can reach and treat many more working animals in Tanzania.

Tanzania core country expansion - year one budget	Cost in sterling
Working with communities and running mobile clinics to provide free treatment for working animals	£30,000
Education projects for children	£15,000
New Director salary	£35,000
Sokoine University - clinical skills centre	£2,000
Programmatic development	£30,000
Total	£112,000

There is no doubt it's going to take time, but with determination, commitment and your support, we can inspire and lead dramatic changes in animal welfare in Tanzania.



Thank you