



NEWS

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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the death of Kate Hosali, SPANA's inspirational co-founder. Earlier this year, I visited Kate's grave in Marrakech with our Vice President, Lady Odile Slyn, and felt very deeply about how much we owe to her and her daughter, Nina.



Kate and Nina travelled to North Africa in the 1920s and witnessed the appalling conditions and distress facing working animals. From that moment, they felt compelled to act. They rallied support back in Britain and set up SPANA in 1923, with Kate remaining in Marrakech to treat animals until her death in 1944.

Their legacy is so far-reaching and, almost one hundred years later, it is clear to see in every one of our veterinary, education and community training projects in over 26 countries today.

One of our newest projects launched recently in Botswana, where our team is now providing animal welfare education to children through after-school clubs. Kate and Nina firmly believed that education was essential in changing attitudes and improving the lives of animals in the long term. You can read about how the next generation of animal owners in Botswana is benefiting from their legacy on page nine.

Our special appeal in this issue, on page six, focuses on the infectious diseases that cause misery for working animals worldwide. Diseases such as EZL, a harmful fungal infection affecting horses, donkeys and mules in Ethiopia and elsewhere, can often be fatal without urgent treatment and can spread rapidly. Please, if you can, support our appeal and help SPANA vets to ease the unimaginable pain of infectious disease and protect other animals from suffering.

On page 10, you can find out more about our work in Zimbabwe, where our dedicated vets travel thousands of miles each year to reach working animals in remote, rural communities. Facing a very unstable economic and political situation, the team overcomes significant difficulties to keep our operations running and ensure that they never let down the animals and families that depend on them so greatly.

Thank you so much for your kindness and continued support.

Geoffrey Dennis

Geoffrey Dennis 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

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Registered charity no: 209015

WORKING OXEN OF MYANMAR



Oxen have a central role in rural Myanmar. The animals are used extensively in villages for ploughing, particularly in the rice fields, and for pulling carts.

The oxen, which are essential for daily work and as a source of income for the poorest people, are well treated and are regarded as a symbol of pride and prestige by their owners.

SPANA's mobile veterinary clinics treated more than 10,000 oxen last year. Visiting around 150 villages in the Nay Pyi Taw area, the team helps to tackle a range of problems, such as lameness, wounds and infectious diseases.

SPANANA IN THE NEWS



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A Royal Visit

The SPANA team was delighted to meet The Duke and Duchess of Sussex during their visit to Morocco earlier this year.

SPANANA's Country Director in Morocco, Professor Hassan Alyakine, spoke with Harry and Meghan about the charity's history and our work in the country. They expressed particular interest in SPANA's project providing horse riding classes for children with special needs.

Professor Alyakine said: *'I was thrilled to receive Meghan and Harry in Rabat and tell them more about SPANA. I explained how we provide veterinary care for animals in need, train on the ground and teach children compassion and empathy towards animals. I was proud to tell them that this work spreads across 26 countries in total, and I hope their interest will help to raise SPANA's profile in the UK and around the world.'*

SPANANA's programme for children with special needs, based in the Casablanca centre, gives the children the opportunity to take part in riding activities and is very beneficial in helping to build their confidence. SPANA also runs a similar project in Mali.

Protecting donkeys from the skins trade in Botswana

SPANANA organised a major conference in Botswana in July this year to raise awareness about the horrific donkey skins trade.

The conference, held in the capital city Gaborone, highlighted the incredibly harmful long-term impact of the skins trade. Botswana's donkey herd has declined from 383,000 to 141,000 in 10 years as a direct result of the trade, which is fuelled by demand for 'ejiao', an ingredient used in traditional Chinese medicine and cosmetics.

At the current rate of slaughter, it is anticipated that the donkey population will become unsustainable, if not extinct, within three to four years. This is a huge concern for the many people who rely on their working donkeys as a means of survival.

The urgent need for updated legislation and regulations to protect donkeys was agreed at the conference, which was attended by government officials, influential village chiefs, industry leaders and media outlets. Steps were taken to set up an advocacy group to demand, and push forward, these vital changes.

Pippa Young, Country Director of SPANA Botswana, said: *'Donkeys play a vital role in providing livelihoods for rural communities.'*

'There must be legislation put in place for the welfare of donkeys and equids, in line with that set out by the World Organisation for Animal Health.'

Thank you to everyone who supported our donkey skins appeal this year. Your support is helping us to fight this brutal trade and save the lives of donkeys in many countries.



Dame Vera Lynn lends her support

SPANANA was thrilled to receive the support of Dame Vera Lynn for our campaign marking 80 years since the re-formation of the Women's Land Army (WLA) in 1939.

The Land Girls played a vital role in feeding the nation during the Second World War, supported by more than half a million working horses on Britain's farms.

SPANANA Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis, was interviewed on BBC News and ITV News about this campaign, which also highlighted how working animals continue to play a crucial part in producing and transporting food in many developing countries today.

Dame Vera said: *'The women of the WLA are without question among the unsung heroes of the Second World War. When the WLA was reformed at the start of the war, Britain was producing less than a third of its food, but – thanks to the enormous efforts of the Land Girls – this rose to 70 per cent by 1943.'*

'Horses outnumbered tractors by 30 to one on Britain's farms – and the Land Girls couldn't have succeeded without their horsepower.'

'Many women formed close bonds with the animals that worked side by side with them – and this important relationship is still evident in the world's poorest countries. Millions of women and families still rely on working animals today – and SPANA is there to help them.'



International award honours the work of SPANA vet

The work of SPANA vet Professor Mohammed Ouassat received international recognition

at the World Veterinary Association's Global Animal Welfare Awards 2019.

An award was presented to Professor Ouassat for his excellent work promoting animal welfare. Ouassat,

who has worked with SPANA since 1989 and is based in Morocco, is a technical advisor overseeing the charity's veterinary programmes in Mauritania.

Professor Ouassat, who is a faculty member and former Dean of the veterinary school in Rabat, Morocco, was described as a 'credit to the veterinary profession'. He has also edited several books related to veterinary medicine and is a researcher on working equines and camelids.

Everyone at SPANA would like to send their thanks and congratulations to Professor Ouassat for his fantastic contribution.

HELP STOP ANIMALS DYING FROM CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Working animals are dying alone and in agony as a result of highly contagious diseases. An outbreak of equine influenza spread rapidly in West Africa over the beginning of the year, and epizootic lymphangitis (EZL) continues to be endemic in East Africa. These infectious diseases are causing untold suffering to thousands of innocent, hardworking animals. You can help deliver lifesaving treatment to infected animals and help stop the spread of disease today.

Dama's story

Life isn't easy for Dama. For eight hours a day, seven days a week, the 10-year-old horse tirelessly pulls a heavy cart over the dry and rocky roads of rural Ethiopia.

Without his trusty horse, 22-year-old Digave would have little hope of earning an adequate living. After the passing of Digave's parents, Dama is the lifeline that enables him to send his four younger siblings to school each day.

When the horse began to develop a collection of ulcers below his left eye, Digave's heart sank. This was a tell-tale sign of a crippling fungal infection, EZL, that the young owner had witnessed in other horses in the community.

In the oppressive Ethiopian heat, contagious disease spreads fast. EZL can affect up to 30 per cent of cart horses in certain regions, leaving thousands in pain, miserable and too exhausted to work. Many infected animals are too sick to work and are left abandoned. Their final days are agonising.

If Dama had to stop working Digave knew he could no longer afford to

keep him. Thankfully, a neighbour told Digave where he could find help. Our dedicated vet team runs a weekly clinic exclusively for EZL infected horses to help protect other animals from contracting the disease, and relieve them from their pain and suffering.

When our vets met Dama he was standing very still, his head lowered and his eyes glazed over. Dama's face was covered in excruciating ulcers that he was



Dama's painful ulcers were treated by our vets before the infection could spread further to the horse's lymph nodes.

not able to soothe himself. Being in constant pain was clearly causing him severe distress.

The vet gently cleaned and disinfected the wounds and gave the horse potassium iodide to kill off the infection. Digave was shown how to keep the lesions clean and continue administering the course of treatment. The vet also explained how the owner must stop other horses from catching the contagious disease. We gave Digave a clean new headband for Dama along with basic cleaning supplies to keep his equipment and living quarters disinfected. Dama was also given his own water container to drink out of while he was recovering, as drinking from communal tanks could easily pass on the infection to other horses.

Digave did a good job of caring for his horse, and when the pair returned two weeks later, Dama was in brighter spirits. Without intervention, Dama would have continued to suffer unimaginable pain while the cruel disease was slowly taking his life.



Digave was grateful to see Dama's condition improve after a week of treatment for the fungal infection



Owners often use communal food and drink containers for their horses, which can cause EZL and other infectious diseases to spread. Our teams need to train owners and provide extra containers, cleaning supplies and equipment to stop the spread of disease.

Outbreaks of disease can happen at any time

Elsewhere in Africa, as many as 60,000 donkeys are reported to have died as a result of the recent equine flu outbreak.

You can read more about SPANA's response to this crisis on page eight of this issue.

The flu virus is airborne, making it extremely contagious and harder to contain than fungal diseases, like EZL, that are passed on through skin-to-skin contact or infected materials. Torturous symptoms include a dry cough, nasal discharge, high fever, weakness and exhaustion. Without expert treatment there is little protecting these vulnerable creatures. In the worst case they face a harrowing death.

But, with the right supportive treatment, infected animals can be saved.

Our vet teams work on the frontline where they can identify serious infections and give the appropriate

treatment. Last year, our vets treated more than 20,000 animals with contagious diseases such as fungal, viral and bacterial infections, easing them of their pain and misery.

Not only do our teams deliver immediate relief to these poor animals, they come face-to-face with owners every day and can train them in biosecurity – important practices to keep animals safe from contagious disease.

Our vets must continue their work, treating helpless infected animals. They need to train owners, replace infectious equipment, and distribute extra water containers to restrict the spread of disease. But they can't do it without you.

Too many animals are needlessly dying. We urgently need your help. Your gift could help treat an infected working animal and save many others from a devastating fate. If you can, please send a donation today so animals like Dama can survive.

Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Please donate today to stop working animals dying from contagious disease.

£20 could treat **three** working animals suffering with equine flu by paying for anti-inflammatories and disinfectant to fend off the virus.

£60 could pay for **five** weeks of potassium iodide treatment to kill EZL fungal infection in horses like Dama.

£150 could help **40** working animals by training their owners in biosecurity and provide them with a kit that includes cleaning supplies, a noseband, a girth band, and a water container.

To make a donation, please use the donation form enclosed, call 0300 033 4999 or visit our appeal page at www.spana.org/disease

FACING AN EQUINE FLU CRISIS

Earlier this year, a serious outbreak of respiratory disease or 'equine flu' struck donkeys and horses across West Africa. This outbreak was widespread in Niger, Nigeria and Burkina Faso, as well as in Mali, where SPANA works. Symptoms included a dry cough, nasal discharge, high fever, weakness and exhaustion. The disease is highly contagious and can be fatal to some of the more vulnerable animals.

Some West African governments announced almost 60,000 donkey deaths resulting from the disease.

When the first suspected cases were seen in Mali, SPANA vets immediately set to work treating thousands of donkeys through mobile clinics, often working throughout the night to help as many animals as possible.

Treatment of affected animals was vital, but preventing the spread of the disease to other animals was as high a priority. In response to the crisis, an emergency meeting was held with veterinary professionals from across Mali, including the government veterinary department, to share information and devise actions plans to manage and contain the disease. SPANA provided training to vets on recognising and treating respiratory diseases, in addition to biosecurity measures to stop the outbreak from spreading.

Thermometers were distributed to animal health technicians to help



Dr Mathilde Merridale-Punter, Veterinary Programme Advisor, talks about the response to an infectious disease outbreak

them monitor suspected cases. The SPANA team also trained animal owners in how to avoid other animals becoming infected, through community training on the risks of disease transmission, teaching owners to recognise and isolate animals early.

Many countries initially declared the outbreak to be the common respiratory infection called 'strangles'. However, SPANA noticed that the outbreak behaved more like a respiratory virus. Achieving a correct diagnosis was important, so a number of crucial samples were sent by SPANA to the Animal Health Trust laboratory in the UK. This led to the first official diagnosis of 'Equine Influenza Virus' (equine flu), which was a vital step in ensuring the most effective treatment and management of the disease.

In the aftermath of the epidemic, SPANA has been meeting and training veterinary professionals, engaging communities, and working towards developing national and

international strategies to prepare for possible similar situations in the future.

The impact of this infectious disease was devastating, but - due to your support - we were able to act quickly and thankfully were able to save many animals' lives. Through our work identifying the disease and the measures we have put in place, we hope that working animals and the people who depend on them will be better protected should a similar outbreak ever occur again.



BRINGING HUMANE EDUCATION TO BOTSWANA

It feels like a long time ago now that my colleague and I made the long trip from London to Maun, a town on the edge of the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Maun is known as 'Donkey Town' locally, due to the sheer number of animals, and it was an obvious location for launching SPANA's newest education programme for schoolchildren.



Hannah Meese, Curriculum Advisor, visits SPANA's new humane education programme for schoolchildren in Botswana

SPANA's presence here started as a veterinary project with a single person, Pippa Young (SPANA Botswana Country Director) in 2015. Our work has grown significantly since then and the operation now consists of five people, including Alfred Mosewu, who we employed last year as a Humane Education Officer. Alfred attended our International Certificate in Humane Education training course in 2018, passed with flying colours, and has since been helping to establish the education project here.

So many families depend on working donkeys in Maun and the surrounding areas - with children coming into daily contact with the animals - that the need for animal welfare education was clear.

In February this year, we officially launched a pilot curriculum for after-school clubs - known as Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools (PAWS) clubs - aimed at children aged from eight to 16.

The SPANA team developed the curriculum and worked closely with teachers from 21 local schools to ensure that the lessons are tailored and relevant to animal welfare issues in the area. Engaging with the teachers who deliver the lessons has also helped to give them genuine ownership over the content and fostered real enthusiasm about the clubs.

The lessons are designed to be highly engaging and interactive for the children - using fun games, debates and creativity to talk about the serious issue of animal welfare. They teach children all about animals and help develop empathy with them.

The PAWS clubs have so far been attended by over 430 children this year and the plan is for the programme to be expanded to reach many more children in more schools. Every child receives multiple animal welfare lessons, which is really effective, as

the learning can be deepened and embedded over time.

The programme is still new, but the early signs are that it is proving to be a great success. Alfred, who has observed many of the lessons, has reported how much the children have enjoyed them: 'You could sense their excitement and their response was overwhelming. When they were taking part they gave their all, and showed a lot of enthusiasm.'

We are excited about this promising start, and will continue working closely with Botswanan teachers to help children develop compassionate behaviour towards all animals. Longer term, we hope that Botswana provides a successful model to replicate in many other countries, to allow even more children to benefit from humane education.

'I hope my legacy will help you to continue until these lovely animals are treated the way they should be.'

Mrs Jean Lofthouse

PROFILE

ZIMBABWE

Despite the challenges posed by hyperinflation, fuel shortages and political unrest, the SPANA team shows great determination in helping Zimbabwe’s working donkeys

SPANA OPERATIONS

SPANA has had a permanent presence in Zimbabwe since 2013.

The team in Zimbabwe provides treatment to working donkeys throughout the country, and SPANA’s three vets, Dr Erick, Dr Andy and Dr Tawanda, travel thousands of miles every year in the mobile clinics to reach small towns, villages and rural communities. Access to free veterinary care is vital in these areas, where around three-quarters of people live in poverty.

Common problems treated by the team include harness wounds, hoof problems, eye conditions and parasites.

Humane education is currently delivered at the SPANA Wild About Animals exhibition in Harare, with children visiting from almost 40 local schools. 500 lesson packs were also distributed to schools across the country last year.

In addition to training communities in how to better look after their animals, SPANA also trains professionals in

Zimbabwe. The charity operates a clinical skills centre, improving the technical and practical skills of hundreds of veterinary students at university each year.

- Two mobile veterinary clinics visit smaller towns, villages and rural communities in six provinces
- 51,964 working donkeys were treated last year
- 15,625 children were taught about animal welfare



ZIMBABWE AT A GLANCE

Population: 14,030,368

Area: 390,757 km²

Location: Southern Africa

Capital city: Harare

Estimated working animal population: 625,421

CASE FILE



‘SPANA does such a good job at treating donkeys and ensuring fast recoveries. I was feeling lost when I found out about this attack, as we have no other means to make money and she is precious to us. But thanks to SPANA I now have hope again.’ Kalipeni

A snappy rescue

Wild animals often pose a threat to Zimbabwe’s working animals, and unfortunately attacks are not uncommon.

Kalipeni Moussiba was devastated when he found out that his donkey, Poppy, had been attacked by a crocodile near the Limpopo River. He rushed to his injured donkey and then went by bicycle to call for help from the SPANA mobile clinic.

SPANA vet Dr Erick quickly travelled to see Poppy and examine her injuries. Thankfully, they were not fatal, but they required urgent attention. The team cleaned the wound and removed some fragmented skin, before shaving around the injury and applying antiseptic cream. They then injected penicillin and an anti-inflammatory to prevent infection and promote healing.

Poppy is Kalipeni’s only donkey and he relies on her to carry sand and bricks, enabling him to earn enough to feed his family of four. Thankfully, Poppy made a full recovery.



PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Dr Keith Dutlow, SPANA Zimbabwe Country Director



How long have you worked for SPANA?

We started working with SPANA as a partner project in 2009, and I was appointed Country Director when Zimbabwe became a permanent programme in 2013.

What are the main challenges facing SPANA in Zimbabwe?

The economy is very unstable and annual inflation is currently around 200 per cent, which makes it difficult to buy drugs, fuel and the other things needed to keep our projects running.

The donkey skins trade is a major problem. Working with the government veterinary department and others, we led a successful movement to stop a donkey abattoir being opened. But the threat is still clear.

How important are working animals in Zimbabwe?

For most people in rural areas, working animals are the sole form of income. They rely on them completely for transporting water and fuel, and for farming practices like ploughing. People’s lives would be inestimably harder without them.

What is your proudest achievement at SPANA?

We’re expanding the reach of our work constantly every year to help many animals and communities. In 2009, we treated 300 donkeys, and last year this had grown to almost 52,000. We’re providing humane education to thousands of children and are running over 30 community training workshops each year. This makes me very happy.

What are your main goals for the coming year?

My priority is signing a permanent agreement with the Ministry of Education so that we can consolidate our role in primary school education, train teachers, run our mobile classrooms and start animal welfare clubs in schools.

SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

Introducing just a few of the tens of thousands of animals we've helped recently, thanks to your kind support.

MOROCCO



HORSE CAN BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF

A horse named Naima suffering from breathing problems was brought to the SPANA centre in Chemaia, Morocco.

Her owner, Fatima, supports her children and her sick husband by collecting plastic for recycling. The work, for which she earns as little as two Dirhams a kilo (around 16 pence), is only possible with the help of Naima the horse.

The team examined Naima and assessed that she had chronic respiratory problems and also required treatment for parasites.

They dewormed Naima and advised Fatima on how to manage the issues with her breathing. They recommended that she should keep her horse away from dust and that she should stop using a plastic feedbag, which can force her to breathe in particles and aggravate the problem. Fatima promised to feed her horse from a trough from now on.

She said:

'My animal would have died if SPANA was not here for us. I really appreciate SPANA and think they are doing a great service to me and the whole of the community here.'

SPANA's mobile clinic in Myanmar treated an elephant with a nasty harness wound and curved toenail.

27-year-old elephant Yu Yu Htike was showing signs of distress due to an abscess on her shoulder that kept flaring up, so her handler (known as an 'oozie'), Zaw Myu, knew she needed veterinary attention.

The SPANA vet team set to work providing her with a local anaesthetic to numb the pain and then lanced and sutured the abscess. They flushed the affected area thoroughly, removed all pus and used iodine to disinfect the area before suturing the wound. While treating her, the vets also noticed Yu Yu had a very long toenail with an abnormal curve, which risked becoming ingrown, so they trimmed this right back.

As the shoulder wound was caused by rubbing from an ill-fitting harness while pulling logs, the team explained to Zaw Myu how best to prevent this from reoccurring.



MYANMAR

YU YU THE ELEPHANT SHOULDERS A PAINFUL INJURY

After being given a painkiller, anti-inflammatory medicine and a vitamin injection, Yu Yu was well on the road to a full recovery.

Zaw Myu said: *'Yu Yu is integral to my job and is very special to me, so I'm grateful for SPANA's help. My favourite thing is bathing her and watching her play in the water. Thanks to SPANA she is back to full health and able to enjoy this again.'*

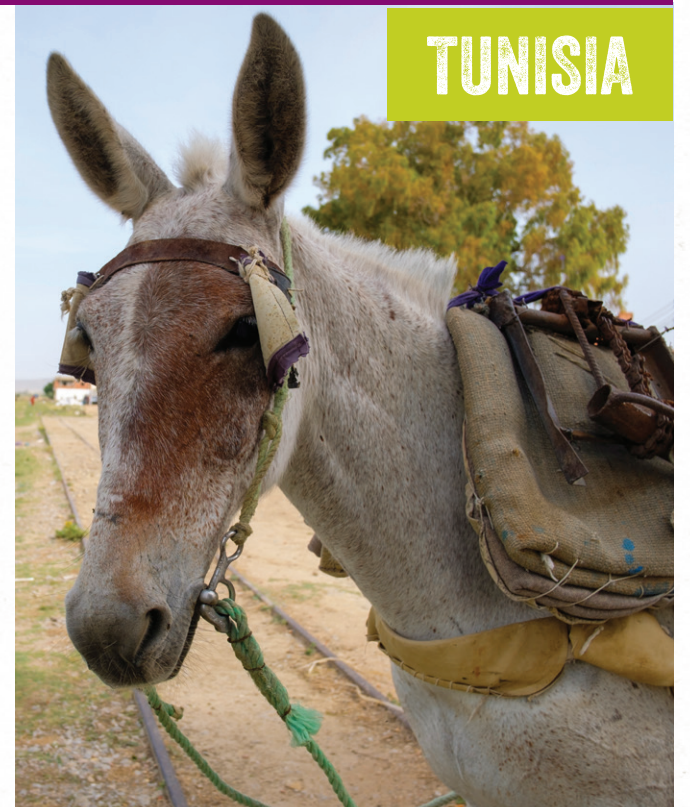
An owner travelled 30 kilometres to reach the SPANA mobile clinic in Foussana, Tunisia, with his sick mule.

Hamed had noticed that his mule, Samira, was eating less and was suffering from severe diarrhoea, as well as having a fever. He had visited the SPANA mobile clinic before and knew that Samira needed help.

The vet team diagnosed that the 15-year-old mule had a nasty parasite in her digestive system, which was causing her lack of appetite, stomach pains and other symptoms.

They treated her with anti-parasite medication, as well as an anti-inflammatory for the pain and antibiotics, to ensure a full recovery. Hamed, who uses his mule and cart to transport goods and make a living, was advised to rest Samira for at least three days and to give her plenty of water. The team told him to bring her back if she did not show signs of improvement.

Hamed said: *'SPANAs are doing great work – they are so helpful and kind. Week after week we know we can visit them and they will treat our animals, so that we can continue to feed our children.'*



TUNISIA

SICK MULE CAN STOMACH FOOD AGAIN

A BADGE OF HONOUR



In June this year, I had the privilege of travelling to Marrakech to visit our veterinary centre in the city for the first time, and to witness a very special event – SPANA's annual caleche horse awards.



Jo Rendell, Projects Support Officer, on her visit to SPANA's annual caleche horse awards ceremony in Marrakech

In the city, hundreds of horse-drawn caleche carriages transport tourists around the teeming and vibrant streets of the medina.

Since 1988, working closely with the local authority, SPANA has overseen a licensing scheme, ensuring that every horse must be regularly inspected and passed as fit and healthy before they can work. With access to SPANA veterinary treatment, dentistry, farriery and a good supply of food, the horses are in excellent condition. They are micro-chipped and have a numbered band so that they can be properly identified and monitored.

SPANA has hosted an awards ceremony in Marrakech every year since 1996 to recognise the caleche owners who take the best care of their horses. It has helped encourage an almost competitive spirit to keep their horses in the very best condition throughout the year.

This year, for the first time, the ceremony was held in Marrakech's main square – the bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa.

From early in the day, the excitement started to build and crowds gathered. As the horses and carriages were dressed for the ceremony, local musicians added to the atmosphere. Tourists from around the world stopped to watch pictures on the nearby giant screen

showing the fine work of SPANA. I felt proud of the logo on my T-shirt and to belong to this organisation.

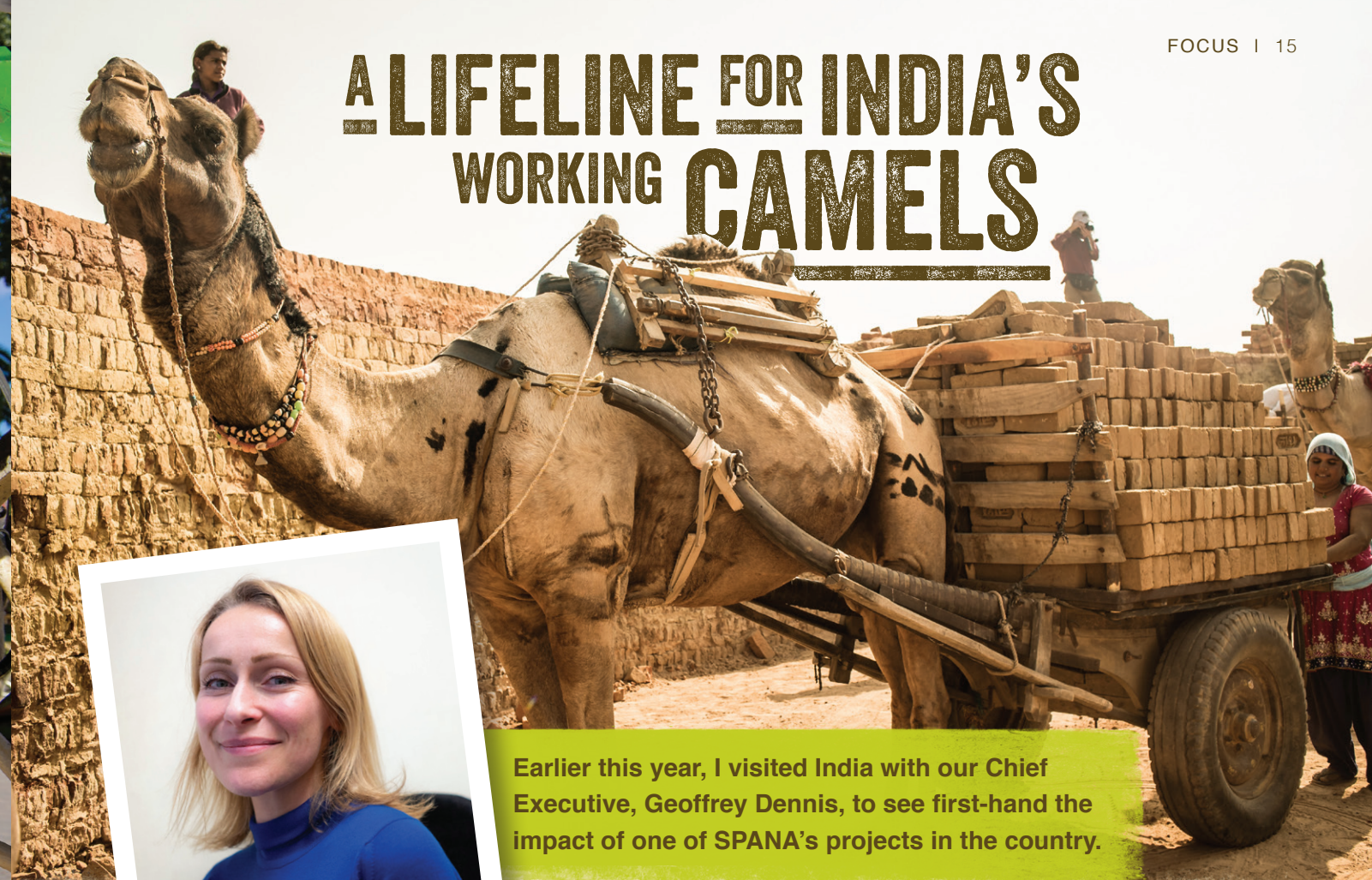
We were thrilled the event was supported by the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism and the British Embassy in Morocco, with Ambassador Thomas Reilly and his wife also attending on the day. Our Chief Executive, Geoffrey, was also interviewed twice on national television, along with the Country Director and President of SPANA Morocco.

It was wonderful to see the pride of the horse owners, who were celebrities for a day. They waited patiently as the winners of each category – including best horse, best carriage and best effort – were announced. All were rewarded with copper plaques, rosettes, and bags of barley for the horses. The press took photos as the owners led their colourfully-clad, majestic animals around the square, showing off their newly-won rosettes.

Life would return to normal the following day, but the work of SPANA in making sure that these horses are well cared for will continue all year round. For the owners, the plaques and rosettes are a real badge of honour – but it is the horses themselves that are their greatest source of pride.

200K In 2018, nearly 200,000 treatments for sick and injured animals were only possible because of legacies to SPANA

A LIFELINE FOR INDIA'S WORKING CAMELS



Earlier this year, I visited India with our Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis, to see first-hand the impact of one of SPANA's projects in the country.



Katy Cheney, Director of Operations, visits SPANA's outreach project to help working camels in Rajasthan

SPANA has been working with partner organisation, Help in Suffering (HiS), since 2015, helping working camels and their owners in Jaipur and the surrounding area. The team provides free treatment for animals at their veterinary centre and through two mobile clinics, which visit the local brick kilns and neighbouring villages.

The team aims to reach as many working camels as possible, providing preventative treatments, such as deworming medicines, carrying out emergency procedures and also distributing humane equipment, including nose pegs.

On our visit to the veterinary centre, we met Ghanshyam and his camel, which had been badly injured by another camel. In the breeding season, male camels can become territorial and aggressive, and Ghanshyam's camel had badly broken his jaw bone during a fight. This type of injury is very painful and would be fatal if untreated because camels cannot eat or drink.

Thankfully, the vets were able to act immediately, cleaning the camel's wounds, wiring his jaw and binding it so the bone would heal. The camel needed to stay in the centre for 12 days and Ghanshyam stayed with

him, so he could help care for his animal, tending his wounds and giving him exercise, food and water.

The vets also replaced the camel's thin metal nose peg, which burnt his nose in the 48-degree summer heat, with a comfortable plastic one.

Outside of the centre, the team also visits camels in their workplace – the brick kilns – and we joined them on their morning rounds. The brick kilns are unforgiving places – barren and very hot. Whole communities work and live on site and the poverty is extreme, with children participating in the work from a young age.

The poorest families still rely heavily on camels to pull cartloads of bricks. The camels suffer from wounds caused by their harnesses or sharp objects on the ground. They are also prone to stomach issues and lameness.

Such is the deprivation that the free veterinary care on offer is vital. The team saw 18 camels on the morning we were there and, over the course of one month, they will treat approximately 450 cases through the mobile clinics.

The HiS team know the communities well and have built up trust with them. Thanks to the funding from SPANA, which is made possible by our supporters, they are clearly providing a lifeline and make a lifesaving difference to the animals and people in the areas they serve.

AHEAD OF THEIR TIME

Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis, on the enduring legacy of SPANA's inspirational founders.

2019 marks 75 years since the death of SPANA's founder Kate Hosali, who established the charity with her daughter, Nina, back in 1923.

Kate died in Marrakech in 1944, having spent the final two decades of her life saving the lives of the working animals of North Africa.

This year, I was honoured to visit Kate's grave and reflect on their immense achievements with SPANA Vice President, Odile, The Lady Slyn of Hadley, who was a friend of the charity's late co-founder, Nina Hosali.

The story of SPANA began in 1921 when Kate and Nina embarked on a trip across North Africa – an intrepid journey that would change their lives forever. Travelling through Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, they fell in love with the region and its beautiful landscapes.

However, throughout the trip, they were profoundly affected by the sight of mistreated and malnourished working animals, overloaded and with open wounds left untreated.

On returning to England, Kate and Nina could not forget the suffering of these animals and they felt compelled to act.

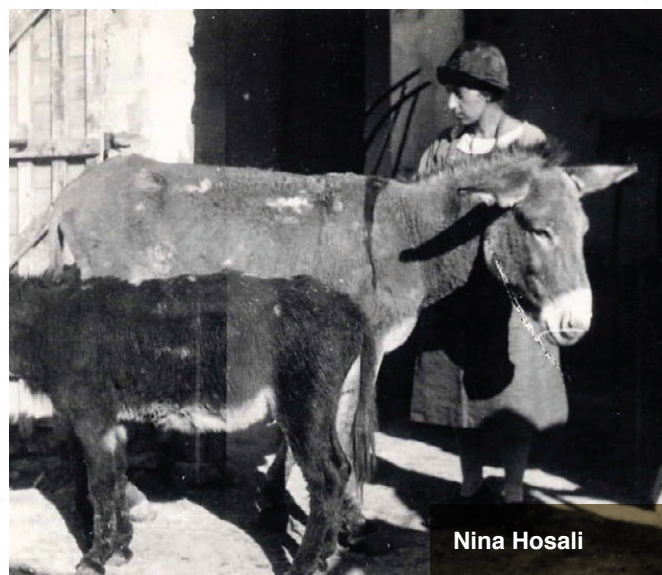
Kate decided she needed to do something practical and began to write letters about their experiences for journals and magazines. The public response was incredibly strong and, in 1923, SPANA

'I admire the excellent work that SPANA does and want it to continue as long as possible. My legacy will help you to do this I hope - for a little while at least.'

Mrs Anne Werrett



Kate Hosali



Nina Hosali



'I know that SPANA will use my donations wisely and that my legacy will help the good work continue when I'm no longer around.'

Ms Valerie Wallace

(originally named the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa) was formed.

It was agreed that SPANA would provide free veterinary treatment for working animals and the search began for the 'right sort of man' to start this work. As time went by, it became clear that the right sort of man was in fact a woman – Kate herself.

Demonstrating bravery and determination, Kate returned to North Africa alone in 1924 and set about undertaking what would become her life's work. On her arrival in Marrakech, she recounted: *'Early on my first morning I went to the marketplace and treated a donkey's sore. Before I had finished, two more were at my elbow... I counted to forty then lost count... I expect this will continue until they all get cured.'*

Providing treatment at weekly souks for wounds, abscesses, mange and other conditions, she earned the trust of animal owners, who named her the 'Toubiba', meaning 'the lady doctor'. The demand for this care would only increase as her reputation – and SPANA's – continued to grow.

Nina remained in London during this time, overseeing SPANA's development through the building of veterinary clinics and the establishment of an education programme for schoolchildren. She dedicated the rest of her life to SPANA, continuing this work until her death in 1987.



SPANA Vice President, Odile, The Lady Slyn of Hadley

Vice President, Odile, The Lady Slyn of Hadley, has been committed to SPANA for 40 years, having been first asked to help the charity in 1979. Odile shared her thoughts about Nina and Kate's considerable legacy:

Nina Hosali MBE in 1976



'I was invited to join the SPANA council in the late Seventies, when Nina Hosali was still honorary secretary. SPANA, then, was only operational in North Africa and whenever I returned from a visit, I would go and see Nina and let her reminisce about how it all began.'

'I could not fail to be filled with admiration for these two women, Nina and her mother, who whilst undertaking such a formidable journey, were so determined to do something about the plight of working animals.'

'Nina was such a forward-looking person. She realised that SPANA could not single-handedly look after all the donkeys in North Africa – and that education was vital. Over the years, as SPANA has expanded, I have always known how proud Nina would be at the way the charity is developing. She pioneered our first education programme in the 1930s and would have been thrilled to know that the programme is now such an important part of SPANA's operations.'

It seems incredible to think about what this pioneering and far-sighted mother and daughter achieved – and the lasting impact their work has had on SPANA and the lives of working animals and communities worldwide.

This is particularly true of our education, community training and veterinary work.

Almost a century later, the principles and spirit of the work they began continue to be at the heart of everything SPANA does today.



SPANA vet Dr Youness El Ouasbi works at our Chemaia clinic in Morocco. He is part of the team treating working animals in the town and rural surroundings. After tending to the in-patients, there is always a stream of more sick or injured animals brought in by their worried owners. Recently he told us why he loves his job so much.

'It can get very busy here, but I'm passionate about helping animals. Whenever we manage to save an animal, I always want to celebrate! I also get the chance to help teach the owners. Talking with them while I treat their animal is a really effective way of educating them about good practices. This is what makes SPANA different and is one of the reasons I love working here.'

'Like everyone who works for SPANA, just over half of my work is only possible because kind people remember SPANA in their Will. Last year in my country, we treated over 37,700 working animals – and gifts in Wills funded the treatments of nearly 20,000 of those animals. I am so grateful to everyone who leaves a legacy.'

We have made a short film of Dr Youness at the clinic. He talks about his daily work and has a message of thanks for SPANA supporters. You can watch this film on our website at www.spana.org/legacy. If you don't have access to the internet, perhaps a friend or family member can show you the film on their computer or phone?

**YOUR GENEROSITY
CAN GO A LONG
WAY HERE**

'Thanks to kind people who remember SPANA in their Will, I can keep working just as these animals have to keep working. Your generosity can go a long way here.'

Gifts in Wills come in all shapes and sizes, but they all matter as they add together to make a huge difference for working animals. If you have recently included a gift to SPANA in your Will or you intend to, could you let us know? We'd love the chance to say 'thank you' and keep you up to date with what your gift could do in the future.



To let us know your intentions or just request a copy of our free legacies guide, please use the tick boxes on the bottom of the enclosed donation form. Or you can call Penny in our legacies team on 020 7831 3999, or email her at giftsinwills@spana.org.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

HELP WORKING ANIMALS IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE SPECIAL

At a time of loss, people often draw comfort from honouring the life of someone special by making a gift to a much loved charity. A donation to SPANA in memory of your loved one, or to mark an anniversary or special date, will ensure that their name will live on in happy, healthy working animals around the world.

A LASTING MEMORIAL

As a way of SPANA saying thank you for gifts in memory, for gifts of £250 or more, your loved one's name will be recorded with a plaque on our memorial wall, in the gardens of our centre in Marrakech.



MUCH LOVED PETS

For many of us, animals are a part of our family. Our pets receive all the love, care and attention they could ever want, but sadly not all animals are so lucky. A gift to SPANA in memory of your pet will honour their life in a very special way and we'll record their name on our Pet Memorial Wall on our website: www.spana.org/pet-memorial-wall

To make your gift in memory, please call Jessie on 020 7831 3999 or send a cheque made payable to SPANA to Gifts in Memory, SPANA, 14 John Street, London WC1N 2EB. Please include a covering note with your details and those of whom the gift is in memory.

DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

You'll have read in this issue of SPANA News about the importance of legacies. If you are thinking about updating your Will, you may also like to consider making your wishes known about donations in lieu of funeral flowers.

ANIMAL AID'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Join SPANA at the Animal Aid Christmas Fayre in London
Sunday 8 December 2019
10.00am to 4.30pm



Kensington Town Hall, W8 7NX

Come along to Animal Aid's 27th annual Fayre, where you will find a huge range of cruelty-free items on offer from vegan beers, dairy-free cheeses, chocolate and cake heaven, to animal-friendly footwear, clothing, toiletries, jewellery, artwork and much more.

Be sure to visit the SPANA stall for wonderful Christmas stocking fillers, gift ideas and merchandise from our Happy Hooves catalogue, or simply for a chat about our work with working animals.

SPANA WORLD TEA PARTY

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken part in the SPANA World Tea Party so far this year! We're thrilled that we've raised an incredible £5,000, helping so many animals in desperate need around the world. There's still time to host your very own tea party and help working animals! You could have a British, Moroccan, Ethiopian or any world-themed party of your choice.

Go to www.spana.org/teaparty or call us on 020 7831 3999 to get your free pack!



A huge thank you to everyone at Harris Hill for holding an office World Tea Party and raising over £190!

Our new Happy Hooves webshop is now open!

HAPPY
HOOVES

NEW
SHOP!

Visit our new and improved webshop at www.spana.org/shop and browse our exciting new gift collection!

Not only is our range bigger than ever, it includes biodegradable and 100 per cent recyclable packaging, as well as handmade, locally produced and Fairtrade gifts. All paper and palm oil used in our products is responsibly sourced, and we have more palm free and vegan options than ever before.

Shopping with SPANA is a fantastic way of treating yourself and your loved ones while raising vital funds and spreading awareness of this incredibly worthy cause.

ALL profits raised through our shop will go towards helping hardworking animals all over the world.



SPANA 2020
Calendar

£9



Artisan Chocolate
Squares

3 for
£12



Elephant Pot

£16



'I Want to be a
Veterinarian' Play Book

£12



Order your Christmas cards, gifts and more at www.spana.org/shop or call us on 0330 332 2530 to request a catalogue

**SPANNA**
For the working animals of the world