Will you save him from an agonising death?

Support our urgent appeal to protect Mali’s rubbish dump donkeys from deadly tetanus
See page 10

Plus: Disasters Appeal | Mobile Clinics | Latest Updates
Dear Friends,

Welcome to Stablemate. I’m hoping that once you’ve read these articles you’ll be able to support our work again, with a donation today. Last year marked the 95th anniversary since SPANA began its vital work and I want to thank all of you who supported us so generously again in 2018.

With every gift, you are helping improve the long-term wellbeing of donkeys, horses, camels and many more working animals around the world. Thanks to you, our teams have been hard at work across Africa and the Middle East, treating thousands of animals and working closely with communities.

You can read more about the amazing work you’re helping to make possible in this issue of Stablemate. I’d like to draw your attention to the urgent appeals on pages four, eight and 10.

One of the appeals is asking for your help to prepare for disasters so that we can support working animals and the communities who depend on them in times of crisis.

Disaster preparedness is so important in preventing mass loss of animal life. Thanks to supporters like you, we constructed a solar-powered borehole in drought-stricken Turkana, in Kenya, last year. The borehole is now providing a reliable source of water for more than 7,000 working donkeys, camels, goats and cattle – every day.

On page six, you will find our mobile clinics appeal, featuring the remarkable story of Simba the donkey, who was found abandoned with a huge wound on his side. And, on page 10, you can read about the dangers faced by the brave rubbish dump donkeys of Bamako, Mali.

Together, we can do so much. There are so many working animals in desperate need of help that don’t have access to even basic veterinary care. Your support is changing that.

As we don’t receive any government funding, without your support we simply won’t be able to meet the challenges of the year ahead. So please, if you can, send a gift and help us ease the suffering of thousands more working animals.

Thanks again. We are so grateful for your continued support.

Geoffrey Dennis
Chief Executive

Registered charity no: 209015

In the vibrant city of Marrakech, Morocco, you’ll find 500 horses working through the heat of the day pulling heavy taxi carriages, known as ‘caleches’. They ferry tourists and locals around and often suffer from painful harness wounds, lameness and dehydration.

Thanks to trusted supporters like you, we’ve made exciting progress to improve the lives of these hardworking horses. We’ve built and maintained water troughs in the city’s streets to give them access to water. And, since 1988, we’ve worked with local authorities to set up a compulsory licensing scheme for caleche drivers. This runs from our veterinary clinic in Marrakech, where our experts offer free treatment to animals in pain.

Your support helps drivers make sure their animals are healthy enough to work. Through the licensing scheme, each caleche horse is microchipped – so they can be identified – and gets a health ‘passport’. Our experts give the horses a health MOT three times a year, assessing everything from eye problems to lameness, and awarding a score for different categories. They also advise drivers on how to care for their animals.

Some horses are retired after they’re checked. Others have their feet trimmed and get new shoes from local experts we train.

Drivers with horses that pass the MOT receive a passport stamp and coloured leg band for their animal. This proves that they’ve been given a clean bill of health and allows tourists to choose carriages pulled by healthy horses. Indeed, our team regularly tour the city with police to check unidentified caleche horses. Police officially warn unlicensed drivers.

Each year, MOT scores are added up and caleche owners attend a prestigious prize-giving ceremony. Owners receive brass plaques and well-deserving horses enjoy a sack of crushed barley.

In 2018, Geoffrey Dennis, SPANA Chief Executive, attended the ceremony, as did the British Ambassador in Morocco, Thomas Reilly. They both enjoyed the ceremony and discussed working together to grow future events and raise awareness of the importance of caleche horse licensing.

We couldn’t run this highly successful licensing scheme without you. Only with your support can we continue to help caleche owners care for their animals and keep their license to work.

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When disaster strikes, working animals are often the most vulnerable. With your support, we can react quickly when emergency situations happen, protecting working animals and the communities who rely on them.

They are the forgotten victims of disasters around the world.

Cows so thin you can see the outline of their ribs and so weak they can barely walk. Exhausted, they’restacked up with their owner’s possessions, staggering because they haven’t eaten in days.

Other cattle, donkeys and livestock are so deprived of food that their carcasses slowly turn to dust. A sad tragedy and a disaster for their owners. When working animals are lost, so are communities’ livelihoods.

Our vets have met all of these working animals when they’ve responded to emergency situations around the world.

They often find exhausted, starving and injured animals just in time – and save their lives. By doing so, they also support the communities that rely on working animals for their survival.

There are hundreds of thousands of working animals facing disasters that won’t be so fortunate – unless we act today.

Last year, thanks to supporters like you, we helped camels like Amani and donkeys like Jama, who live in the isolated and arid deserts of Turkana, Kenya. You may remember Turkana from our appeal in spring last year. After several years of poor and failed rains, this area has been ravaged by drought and is in a state of emergency.

As a result of your amazing response to our appeal, we’ve constructed a new solar-powered borehole and two animal watering troughs that are providing fresh, clean water for 15,076 dehydrated animals and over 4,000 people. Our disaster response work is vital so that working animals don’t suffer when there is an emergency.

We can only be ready to act when disaster strikes – and save the lives of working animals – with your support.

SPANA protects working animals and their dependent communities in some of the world’s most insecure and dangerous regions – including those affected by devastating floods, extreme droughts and brutal conflicts.

Across much of the developing world, the most marginalised people are also those most likely to depend on animals for their survival. Our teams work all year round to help families to cope as well as they can with the impact of disaster. By protecting working animals and livestock, we build stronger, more secure communities.

• During 2017, we fed 7,837 animals in Afar, Ethiopia, benefiting 1,148 farmers raising livestock and affected by drought. By planting 15 hectares of drought-resistant grass, we also left a legacy of hope for the future.

• In Mongolia, SPANA funds teams who travel thousands of miles to reach horses, cattle and camels struggling to survive summer droughts and freezing winters. Working with the local nomads, we’re repairing a network of wells to get lifesaving water to 31,680 animals.

• In 2018, we began a new project in Ethiopia where drought and conflict have had terrible consequences for local animals. Our teams are constructing special animal protection areas at local marketplaces. They offer shelter, food and fresh water. The new facilities will reach 4,961 livestock and 1,658 working animals in urgent need of help.

• When a devastating cyclone hit the east coast of India in autumn 2018, SPANA was quick to act, providing veterinary care, emergency feed, vitamin supplements, clean water and safe shelters for 5,400 animals in desperate need.

To be ready to act urgently, we need to plan ahead. We need your support today to help us protect thousands of working animals who are, or will be, affected by disaster – before it’s too late.

In the face of crisis, your support can provide animals with the emergency food and water they so desperately need.

This vital work can only be carried out with the help of our loyal supporters. We need you because, unfortunately, it can be easy for people to forget about working animals during times of crisis. But we know that the mass death of livestock and working animals often happens before humanitarian tragedy. You can help make sure fewer animals starve, die of thirst, or suffer in pain, by acting now.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Whatever you can give will help to ease the suffering of working animals affected by disasters.

£15 could go towards the cost of building a water trough and kiosk, which working animals can use to drink from every day.

£76 could equip our vets with a full emergency kit containing essential vaccinations, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, needles and syringes, plus a catheter, fluid giving set, thermometer and stethoscope.

£250 could contribute towards a mass feeding programme for thousands of working animals affected by drought in countries like Ethiopia.

Support SPANA today to help animals in need.
Many of the world’s most vulnerable animals are in remote and hard to reach places. They need urgent attention. Getting to them can mean crossing dangerous desert roads or negotiating steep mountain paths. This doesn’t stop our devoted vets. With your support, they use our specialist mobile clinics to travel hundreds of miles, in challenging conditions, to save animals’ lives.

**Simba’s story**

After years of tirelessly pulling a heavy cart loaded with firewood, 10-year-old donkey Simba had been injured and abandoned by his previous owner. A bad harness had caused a wound on his back nearly half a metre long that had become seriously infected.

Simba’s new owner, Claire, took him to an animal sanctuary outside of Bulawayo in the west of Zimbabwe. She called in our vet, Dr Erick, who came to treat Simba using our mobile clinic, stocked with vital medicines and equipment.

When Dr Erick saw Simba, he cleaned and dressed his wound, which had become infected with bacteria. He suspected the infection may have harmed Simba’s bones. Dr Erick’s mobile X-ray machine showed that Simba had a piece of bone just below his wound. It had chipped off under the weight of the cart and poorly-fitting harness he’d worn.

Simba had surgery and antibiotics and was given daily care to help heal his wound. Today, following treatment, Simba had surgery and antibiotics and was given daily medicines and equipment.

**Offering hope and treatment to animals in need**

Sadly, Simba’s wound is a common one for donkeys in Zimbabwe’s countryside, where people rely heavily on animals for transport.

According to Dr Erick, wounds are mostly caused by ill-fitting, makeshift harnesses. Donkeys in the country have many other health problems too. ‘We frequently treat eye conditions, diarrhoea, lameness and respiratory problems,’ says Erick. ‘Many of the donkeys come into contact with other wildlife and bites pose a risk of infection, so we also give necessary vaccinations against rabies.’

Our mobile clinics are the only hope for many vulnerable working donkeys in Zimbabwe. And the only way for people to access veterinary care for the animals they rely on.

Dr Erick believes SPANA has helped educate owners and improve the welfare of Zimbabwe’s rural donkey population. ‘SPANA has made a big impact in Zimbabwe,’ he says. ‘The overall health and wellbeing of the working donkeys has improved in the villages we visit. The owners are more educated about how certain practices can be detrimental to their animals’ health.’

We treat hundreds of working animals every day, so there is a constant need for medicines, equipment and fuel to run our mobile clinics.

- We use mobile clinics in seven Ethiopian towns to reach many thousands of desperately sick and injured working animals.
- Our three mobile clinics in Tunisia treat donkeys, horses and camels working in remote, desert regions and souks. Without our clinics, they’d have no treatment or care.
- In Bamako, Mali’s capital city, hundreds of donkeys pull heavy carts up perilously high and, in some places, through burning mountains of rubbish. In this harsh environment, injuries, exhaustion and disease are common. Our mobile clinics offer the only appropriate veterinary care for these hardworking donkeys.

Without our mobile clinics, many thousands of sick and injured working animals simply wouldn’t receive urgent veterinary care that could save their lives. Please give what you can today.

**Reaching the working animals who need us most**

We have 16 mobile veterinary clinics, each clocking up around 350 kilometres a day, across Africa and the Middle East. Your kindness helps keep them on the road.

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Without our mobile clinics, many thousands of sick and injured working animals simply wouldn’t receive urgent veterinary care that could save their lives. Please give what you can today.

**How you can help:**

- £25 could go towards basic surgical materials, including syringes, bandages, needles, anaesthetic and sedatives.
- £130 can cover the cost of fuel and maintenance for a lifesaving SPANA mobile clinic for a day.
- £220 can help restock our mobile clinics with essential medication and relieve animals like Simba from pain and suffering.

Without you, we couldn’t be there for animals like Simba. But there are thousands more who need our help. Please support our appeal to fund more mobile clinics today — let’s go the extra mile together.

Without SPANA, Dr Erick says, the situation would be very bad: ‘These animals would otherwise be neglected and donkey welfare would continue on a downward spiral.’

**Find out more about our mobile clinics appeal at www.spana.org/mobile**
Every day in Tanzania hardworking donkeys, and other animals, suffer because they don’t get the veterinary care they need. Thanks to you, local vets will now reach more of these animals, treating them and easing their pain.

In July 2018, we opened a new clinical skills centre at Tanzania’s only veterinary school. Based at the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, the centre will support around 220 student vets every year to develop their skills and confidence. They’ll get practical experience of caring for working animals – including many of the country’s 187,000 donkeys.

Indeed, Tanzania’s working donkeys and horses will also benefit from regular training in equine veterinary care, which the centre will host. When it opened, for example, our experts trained 20 Tanzania-based vets in how to examine horses and donkeys, managing wounds and treating lameness. And, in July 2018, 20 vets attended a workshop about treating problems caused by carts and harnessing.

Making sure working animals get the best care

Dr Ben Sturgeon, SPANA’s Veterinary Director, says the centre will provide much-needed support for new vets in Tanzania. ‘The vets of the future will be using this facility,’ he says. ‘It is important that – from the very outset of their careers – they have the training, knowledge and hands-on experience they need to provide high-quality care to donkeys and other working animals.’

Our training centres give student vets the rare opportunity to learn and practise vital clinical skills in a safe and controlled environment. Without them, many aspiring vets would never get the chance to learn how to give lifesaving treatment and care to working animals.

We can only keep training vets and opening centres like this with your support. Thank you.

Working animals in Botswana are often exhausted, in pain, and without enough to eat and drink. Thanks to your support, SPANA is educating schoolchildren to change this.

In Botswana, under the hot sun, working animals, like donkeys and horses, spend their days doing arduous work, including ploughing and pulling heavy carts. It often leaves them aching, dehydrated and exhausted.

Sadly, there is a widespread lack of concern for their welfare. Changing people’s attitudes – and giving them the skills to care properly for their animals – is vital.

Where better to focus our efforts than on the animal owners of tomorrow?

Your support is helping children learn about animal welfare

Thanks to you, we will soon launch a new programme in Botswana’s Maun region to teach children about animal welfare in 22 after-school clubs. We’ve trained local teachers to run the clubs, supported by an Education Officer overseeing all the schools.

We developed the curriculum by working closely with local teachers and animal welfare experts to make sure children enjoy and engage with the teaching resources – and go on to treat animals well.

This work included holding two workshops to get teachers’ feedback on the programme and adjusting it to respond to children’s needs.

We also set up an advisory committee to make sure the education programme is delivered to a high standard. A local chief, a wildlife expert and teachers are some of the committee members.

Thank you for making this important work possible – we’re sure there will be exciting updates to come.

Thanks to you...

Children in 22 Botswanan schools will have the chance to learn about animal welfare – so they grow up to treat their donkeys, horses and other animals with the care and compassion they deserve.

We’re supporting Botswanan school children to treat animals well
HELP HEAL WOUNDS AND STOP ANIMALS DYING FROM TETANUS

Working animals can die in agony from the preventable deadly disease tetanus without treatment for cuts and scratches. You can stop their pain today by helping to pay for this treatment and simple injections.

Peanut’s story

Life doesn’t get any tougher for a donkey than working on the rubbish dumps of Bamako, Mali’s capital. Peanut, a three-year-old male we met this year, knows this only too well.

For six hours a day, seven days a week, Peanut staggered through mounds of waste with a back-breaking load of rubbish weighing him down. Stumbling through knee-deep rubbish, Peanut makes their way to the top of the dump. Donkeys around them collapse and die from starvation and dehydration. Once their cart is emptied, they go back down to get another load.

Desperately hungry, sometimes Peanut resorts to eating cardboard, rotting waste and plastic bags, which often results in painful colic. He faces having terrible burns on his back and hindquarters from rolling in burning rubbish, an attempt to get some relief from the flies and heat. He is also at risk of being cut and stung by the endless mountains of broken glass and twisted metal.

Our mobile vets met Peanut when his cuts and scratches had developed into raw open wounds. The cart he carries day after day had rubbed and rubbed his skin.

SPANA vets in Mali cleaned Peanut’s painful wounds, sprayed them with antiseptic and carefully dressed them. They also gave him an injection to prevent him developing tetanus.

This urgent treatment helped Peanut heal. Our vets also provided the owner with better equipment to prevent painful sores, like harness padding and cushioned breast collars and showed him how to fit it properly.

Seydou was grateful for the help our vets gave him and Peanut.

‘I am delighted that my donkey was healed. I thank SPANA,’ he says. ‘Thanks to my donkey, I am able to feed myself and send the money to my family in the village.’

An agonising death: how tetanus affects animals like Peanut

Working animals with tetanus face an agonising death. An animal who has the disease will suffer with:
- difficulty getting up and down and walking
- eyes which show a ‘third’ eyelid
- stiff muscles
- stiff ears
- seizures
- no appetite

We saw Peanut just in time

Tetanus can be fatal. Without our help, Peanut could have faced an agonising death.

This disease is caused by a type of bacteria which produce microspores – microscopic particles. The dirty environment of the Mali rubbish dumps are full of tetanus spores.

When animals like Peanut develop wounds, from standing on sharp objects in rubbish or even scratching themselves on something, they are at risk of getting the disease if tetanus spores get in to it.

If they receive the antibiotics, fluids and treatment they need, some animals with mild forms of tetanus may live. But 100 per cent of animals with severe cases of the disease will die – in the most horrendous way.

This shouldn’t happen – tetanus is entirely preventable through vaccination.

Thousands of hardworking animals like Peanut have open wounds that can lead to deadly tetanus. Our teams in Mali, and elsewhere, are working hard to treat wounds and ease the suffering of working animals.

SPANA vets treat over 100 preventable wounds every single day.

But too many that we don’t reach are needlessly dying. We need your help. Your donation could vaccinate working animals against tetanus and treat their wounds, saving their lives. If you can, please send a donation today so animals like Peanut can survive.

Thank you.

How you can help:

Please donate today to stop working animals’ deep wounds developing into deadly tetanus.

£8 can help cover the cost of a tetanus vaccine for one wounded donkey

£50 can pay for 24 hours of lifesaving treatment for one rubbish dump donkey, like Peanut, suffering from painful colic

£160 can help treat an animal suffering from tetanus with antibiotics, fluids, vaccines, and hospital care for four days

Thank you for your support.

Find out more about our tetanus appeal at www.spana.org/tetanus

www.spana.org

Donation Line: 0300 033 4999

£160

£50

£8
What would you like your legacy to be?
That might be a difficult – and daunting – question to answer.

As you’re receiving this newsletter, you’re obviously passionate about improving the lives of sick and injured working animals around the world today.

We’d love you to consider how you can continue to help look after them long into the future by leaving a gift to SPANA in your Will.

Unfortunately, the poverty of the countries we work in is horrendous and won’t completely change any time soon. This means, sadly, there will be more donkeys like Peanut, working the rubbish dumps of Mali (page 10). And more like Simba, needlessly in pain every day as they work (page six).

Thankfully, SPANA vets are on hand to care for Peanut and Simba, treating their illnesses and wounds and educating owners to prevent unnecessary suffering.

Indeed, everything we do at SPANA is working towards a future where animals are free from suffering.

Making the world a better place for working animals
Gifts in Wills are so very important. They fund half of our lifesaving work. They help provide free veterinary treatments for sick animals. They also keep our children’s education projects running. By challenging negative attitudes and encouraging empathy and understanding, these projects help us build a kinder, more humane future for working donkeys, horses, mules, oxen and camels.

Get involved in the Big Knit!
Over the past five years, an amazing 13,800 knitters have taken part in the Big Knit for Vet Kit. We’re so grateful to every one of you.

Will you join our knitting community this winter and get sponsored to knit your own Hattie the horse, Duncan the donkey, Emma the elephant or crochet Clarence the camel? All the money you raise will help our vets relieve the pain of working animals overseas.

‘All the patterns are simple to follow. It’s a lovely way to help this worthy charity.’
Marie Robinson, Big Knitter

You can also ask your friends to donate in return for one of your creations, or send your knitted animals to us. We’ll use them to teach children how to treat animals compassionately.

Sign up now at www.spana.org/knit

Drink tea, eat cake – stop animals suffering
What could be better than enjoying a nice cup of tea and tasty slice of cake at the same time as raising money to stop working animals’ pain.

Every year, our wonderful supporters host SPANA World Tea Parties with a variety of themes from Moroccan mint tea parties to traditional British ones, inviting friends, family and colleagues to come along and help support our work.

Thank you to everyone who took part in 2018. You raised a tremendous £3,200.

Thinking of hosting a SPANA World Tea Party in 2019? Sign up at www.spana.org/teaparty for our free fundraising pack, including scrumptious recipes.

SPANA fundraiser Jan Coleman’s Guys and Girls Club held a tea party with treats from around the world

Fundraise for SPANA
If you’d like to join our fundraising community and raise much-needed funds for SPANA through these events or in other ways, please contact Jessie on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org.

A gift of any size would make the world a better place for hardworking animals, and the families that depend on them. We do hope it’s something you might consider.

Keep in touch
Perhaps you’ve recently decided to leave a gift in your Will to SPANA? That’s amazing, thank you so much. We would love the opportunity to say thank you properly.

Telling us about your plans absolutely does not commit you in any way – we understand that circumstances change and are grateful for your kind thought.

We can also keep you informed about how your legacy will help create a world where animals are treated with compassion. We’ll only contact you if you’re happy for us to do so.

If you’d like to find out more about the amazing work that gifts in Wills make possible, get in touch with Penny in our friendly legacy team on 020 7831 3999 or email her at giftsinwills@spana.org.

SPANA vet Ben Sturgeon teaches dentistry skills to local student vets in Zimbabwe
With your help, SPANA and Sokoine University of Agriculture are working with 311 farmers on a three-year project in the Kilosa, Chalinze and Mvomero regions of Tanzania to improve donkeys’ health. This involves treating the animals (many of which have painful wounds due to ill-fitting harnesses) and training farmers on how to provide their donkeys with proper shelter and comfortable harnesses that fit.

Sometimes, antibiotics become less effective the more they’re used. It’s really important to know which antibiotics this is happening with, so our vets can give animals in pain the most effective treatments. Thanks to supporters like you, we’re funding a project in Myanmar where researchers are taking samples from elephants’ wounds to see which bacteria are present and which antibiotics are best to use. They then change treatment, if necessary, to make the elephants better.

Thanks to your generosity, we are improving the lives of working animals in desperately poor communities around the world. Here are just a few examples of how your support is making a difference.

**Mali**
We’re making great strides in relieving working animals’ suffering in the town of Segou in Mali – and it’s all down to support from people like you. Our vets and technicians saw 6,193 animals in the town in the first half of 2018, relieving their pain and giving their owners advice on keeping them well.

**Mauritania**
Teaching children to treat working animals with compassion and empathy means less pain and better lives for them now, and in the future. Thanks to SPANA supporters, our new pop-up classroom (in a 4x4 vehicle) travelled to remote parts of Mauritania to teach 2,340 children about animal welfare from March to May 2018.

**Somalia**
Somalia’s HORN Society for the Protection and Care of Animals, with SPANA’s financial support, has been alleviating the suffering of working donkeys in the city of Hargeisa since 2016. This involves treating animals, training vets and teaching owners and children about animal welfare. Last year, the initiative treated 282 donkeys and trained 43 owners, alongside running awareness campaigns about treating animals well.

**Tanzania**
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**Myanmar**
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**Thank you for your support**
Up to 50% off in the Happy Hooves sale!

Treat yourself, or a loved one, to a fantastic gift at a bargain price. Shopping with Happy Hooves is a great way to help SPANA care for working animals around the world.

Order by the end of February 2019 to receive up to 50 per cent off selected cards, gifts and goodies, and get standard delivery for half price too*. Happy shopping!

Limited Edition Notelets
Pack of 10, five of each design
WAS £4.50
Gift code: M18TKN £3

2019 kitten diary
WAS £5
Gift code: M18SKD £2.50

Farm Tin with Puzzle and Jelly Beans
WAS £10
Gift code: M18FTP £8

Donkey in the Snow Christmas cards
Pack of 10, glitter finish
WAS £4.50
Gift code: M18DIS £2.50

Luxury Chocolates
WAS £6
Gift code: M18BB £5

Limited Edition Giftwrap
Five sheets with matching tags
WAS £4.50
Gift code: M18TKG £3

Shop the full range at
www.happyhooves.org
Or call 0330 332 2530

*Terms and conditions: Sale starts on 24 January 2019 and ends on 28 February 2019. Receive up to 50 per cent off the original price on selected merchandise, plus 50 per cent off standard delivery. Standard UK delivery: now £1.95, international delivery: now £2.50. Next day delivery is excluded from this offer. Prices as marked. Please visit www.happyhooves.org or call 0330 332 2530 for current prices. No adjustments to prior purchases. = suitable for vegetarians.