Can you help ease his suffering?
Support our appeal to eliminate harmful traditional practices
See page six
Dear Friends,

Welcome to Stablemate 2020. I want to start by saying a huge ‘thank you’ for your remarkable support over the last year. With every gift you make to SPANA, you are helping to ease the suffering of working animals around the world. You can read about some of the amazing work you’re making possible in this issue of Stablemate.

Together, we achieved so much in 2019. You helped transform the lives of over 300,000 working animals. In fact, thanks to trusted supporters like you, SPANA vets provided a record number of treatments last year.

We were heartened by your generous response to our sight saving appeal last spring, which helped provide almost 8,000 treatments to working animals with eye conditions. Sadly, thousands more working animals are still facing avoidable blindness because demand for sight saving medicine is so high. On page four, read the powerful story of eighty-year-old horse Buna and find out why we still need your support to stop working animals like him going blind.

We are also preventing the suffering of working animals in the long term. As you know, education is key to tackling the root cause of animal suffering, which is why we support communities to invest in a kinder future for hardworking animals. You may feel shocked by the focus of our appeal on page six, putting an end to dangerous traditional ‘cures’. If, like me, you want to stamp out these misguided practices, please consider donating to this appeal today. A kind gift from you will help treat the animals affected by these harmful traditions and educate owners. This will support owners to develop positive beliefs, respect and compassion towards animals.

Lameness continues to be one of the biggest problems facing working animals. Yet, many of the cases of agonising lameness seen by our vets could have been easily prevented. This is extremely upsetting and a huge problem – with a simple solution. Read about how you can help on page 10.

Too many working animals live short, painful lives. SPANA can help – but only with your support. So please, if you can, send a kind gift today and help ease the suffering of thousands more working animals.

Thank you for your compassion and continued support. We are so grateful for all that you do for working animals.

Geoffrey Dennis Chief Executive

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In rural Myanmar’s thick, humid jungle, around 5,500 elephants are hard at work. The world’s largest population of domesticated elephants is busy pulling backbreaking heavy logs for the timber industry. Many will develop painful skin sores caused by ill-fitting harnesses, as well as harmful infectious diseases, making daily working life even tougher.

Thanks to caring supporters like you, our Myanmar mobile elephant clinic has been providing free veterinary treatment to these working animals since 2016. The clinic has been fundamental in relieving their suffering and helping to make their hard lives more comfortable.

But these animals now face another threat – to their very existence. Sadly, the growing trade in products made from elephant skin and body parts has led to an alarming increase in poaching. What’s more, elephants are being taken from their families at a very young age and shipped over the border illegally to Thailand, Laos or China to be used for tourist entertainment. This separation is awfully traumatic for the calf and family they leave behind.

Thanks to your donations, our mobile clinic vets are protecting these animals from poaching and illegal exportation through an innovative microchipping scheme.

In November 2019, SPANA vets began a project to microchip all of Myanmar’s domesticated elephants. Each elephant is being fitted with a microchip so they can be identified and entered onto a database. This will help reduce poaching and cross-border activities because it will be easy to see if a new elephant has been illegally imported or taken from the wild.

Data from the microchips could also be used to monitor elephant movements and identify areas for breeding and re-wilding projects. Monitoring elephants through this programme will provide security for owners anxious about their animals’ safety and their own livelihoods.

Your support helps protect and care for vulnerable elephants.

Your donations help to support important projects like these and provide our expert teams with the tools and medicines they need to treat working elephants suffering from common ailments like abscesses, wounds and skin conditions.

This support is vital because our mobile clinic provides the only access to free veterinary care for these vulnerable elephants.

Only with your help can we continue to care for the elephants of Myanmar and protect them from poaching and other illegal activities.

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**Microchipping the Elephants of Myanmar**

Your support changes lives.

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**WHAT YOUR DONATIONS CAN DO:**

£12 could pay to treat eight elephants for a painful and itchy skin condition

£38 could microchip 15 working elephants, helping to keep them safe from poaching and other illegal activities

£85 could help keep our mobile elephant clinic on the road, so we can continue treating and protecting hardworking elephants
Every year, SPANA vets treat thousands of working animals facing sight loss. We urgently need your support to prevent more working animals from going blind.

**Buna’s story**

If you glanced at eight-year-old horse Buna when we first met him, you might think that he was sleeping. He may have looked peaceful, but Buna, which means ‘coffee’, wasn’t resting. Far from it. He could barely open his eyes because they were so painful, so sore and so sensitive to light. They wept constantly, were unbearably itchy and Buna was in excruciating pain.

He was on the brink of blindness.

The eye infection Buna contracted was making his desperately hard life even more challenging. Pulling a cart laden with passengers for his owner Amari’s taxi service in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, was almost impossible when Buna couldn’t even see where he was going. If he tripped or fell on the dangerous Bishoftu roads, his life could have been at risk.

Sight is something that working animals simply can’t afford to lose.

For humans, vision loss can be improved through glasses, contact lenses or laser surgery. Unfortunately, the prognosis for working animals facing blindness is bleak. Dirty, dusty and hazardous working conditions cause eye injuries and infection, which can quickly develop into devastating disease if left untreated. This can lead to terrible suffering for animals like Buna, and mean that owners and their families struggle to survive.

When Amari brought Buna to our SPANA clinic, the horse was in so much discomfort, he’d flinch if anything came near his face. Our vets quickly flushed his eye with saline to remove any foreign bodies and worked with Amari to apply antibiotic eye drops twice a day, for five days.

‘I don’t know what I’d do without this treatment,’ says Amari. ‘It’s just invaluable for me and my family as we depend on Buna so much.’

Fortunately, Amari brought Buna to SPANA just in time. If his eyes had been left untreated much longer, the infection could have spread, causing uncontrollable inflammation, unbearable pain and, ultimately, blindness.

Eye problems are one of the most common conditions seen by our vets. This year, thousands more owners will bring animals facing blindness to SPANA clinics for emergency treatment. We need your continued support to help these animals avoid irreversible sight loss.

With your help, SPANA vets will continue to treat all eye conditions as an emergency. For us to act quickly and efficiently, our stocks of medical supplies and equipment need constant replenishing. We need your support to stop minor infections developing into disease and devastating blindness.

Please help us save their sight today.

With your help, SPANA vets will continue to treat all eye conditions as an emergency.

Too many working animals are facing sight loss

- Eye problems are the seventh most common case type seen by our vets.
- A quarter of the animals treated by our vets for eye conditions suffer from painful, squinting and teary eyes, just like Buna.
- Eight per cent of SPANA’s clinical cases involve a working animal with an eye problem that, left untreated, could lead to blindness.
- From January to August 2019, we provided almost 8,000 treatments to animals with ocular conditions, thanks to your generous response to our spring appeal.

Find out more about our sight saving appeal at www.spana.org/sightsaving

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

If you can, please send a donation today to save the sight of working animals like Buna.

Thank you so much.

- £18 could help SPANA vets assess and treat three working horses who, like Buna, are at risk of losing their sight.
- £60 could buy antibiotic ointment and medicines to save the sight of 10 working animals.
- £250 could pay for essential surgical equipment and devices for vital procedures to alleviate pain and save the sight of more working animals.
From pouring engine oil into an open wound to pressing scorching hot irons onto a working animal’s skin, traditional ‘cures’ seem barbaric. But owners that carry them out are trying to treat their animals in the only way they know how. You can help end the horrendous suffering caused by these misguided practices with a donation to our special appeal today.

Noor’s story

Noor, an elderly mule, spends her days carting bricks around hectic and hot Marrakech. She works long hours carrying building supplies for her owner Mettat and his family. As Noor ages, her work becomes heavier and more exhausting. Sadly, in the last few months, daily life has become more than difficult for Noor – it’s been unbearable. Crippling arthritis has caused Noor to become lame in her front left leg. Putting any weight on it is agonising pain. To ease her pain, Noor has begun walking with a limp, only using her front right leg. This has caused her left hoof to grow much longer than the right, which is making walking even more difficult and unimaginably painful.

Mettat hasn’t ignored his animal’s suffering. He believes his ‘cure’ was meant to heal, but only caused further misery for poor Noor. He has helped to treat it. But, sadly, the traditional oil he applied to alleviate Noor’s lameness only intensified, pressing scorching hot irons onto a working animal’s skin. This practice can leave raw, sore burns that increase the risk of infection, putting a working animal’s life at risk.

Please help us stop these misguided practices – and save working animals from agonising pain.

When Mettat brought Noor to the SPANA centre, the mule could barely move. First, our expertly trained vets asked Mettat to clean the oil from his mule. Then they carefully trimmed Noor’s hooves to a healthy length and prescribed a course of anti-inflammatories to treat her immediate pain. When the anti-inflammatory medication had worked its way through Noor’s skin, the oil burned through her skin. This practice can leave raw, sore burns that increase the risk of infection, putting a working animal’s life at risk.

Imagine the suffering caused by these outdated practices. Eliminating these practices will prevent the agonising pain inflicted on animals like Noor.

Traditional ‘cures’ are used in many of the developing countries where SPANA works. In Mauritania, for example, burning engine oil is used to ‘heal’ wounds. In Tunisia, some owners slice their donkeys’ nostrils open with a knife, as they think it will help them breathe easier – and work harder. And in Indonesia, when a horse is crippled, they might have their leg perforated with a bamboo stick in the tragically mistaken belief that it will help them walk again.

SPANA needs your support to treat animals affected by these dangerous practices and to educate owners to stop carrying them out.

Tragically, too many working animals are suffering as a result of these harmful traditions. By donating to this vital appeal, you could relieve their pain today – and help stop tomorrow’s misguided practices.

Other shocking traditional practices

- Using burning battery acid or engine oil on wounds in Mauritania
- Cutting off whole ears to use as a traditional ‘medicine’ in Jordan
- Using wooden nose pegs, which can splinter, for camels in India
- Putting ash on open wounds in Mauritania
- Slitting donkeys’ nostrils in an attempt to make them breathe better in Tunisia.

We are working hard to show owners why some traditional practices are harmful and what treatment can be given instead. We also run animal welfare education programmes for children and communities. These programmes are vital in changing the mindset of animal owners, and improving the welfare of working animals long-term.

With your support, traditional ‘healing’ practices will die out and we will stamp out the needless suffering they cause.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- £15 could pay for medicine and bandaging to treat a wound that’s been ‘healed’ with acid or engine oil
- £88 could treat three donkeys that have undergone a dangerous nostril slitting procedure
- £220 could pay for animal owners to attend an education workshop and learn about the dangers of traditional practices, preventing future suffering and maintaining lasting change

Find out more about our harmful traditions appeal at www.spana.org/traditions
Life is incredibly tough if you’re one of the 62,000 horses and donkeys working in the rural communities and bustling city centres of Indonesia. These animals might suffer from debilitating heat stress due to inadequate access to shade, food and water. And they could be in agony from a road accident injury, harness wound or poor basic care. But thanks to your support, many more of these working animals will receive the treatment and care they need from trained vets.

In September 2019, we opened a clinical skills centre at the Nusa Tenggara Barat University in Lombok, located in one of the areas of greatest need for working equines. The centre is the first of its kind in Indonesia, and is giving future vets practical experience of examining, diagnosing and treating working animals like Sigit, whose story you can read about on page 10.

Skilled and knowledgeable vets mean healthier, happier animals.

Before our centre opened, vets had few practical opportunities to learn or develop their skills. Now, student vets can practice everything from bandaging to basic dentistry, caring for wounds to catheter placement. They also learn technical skills, such as calculating drug dosages and injection techniques, and will benefit from using interactive anatomy software, which brings their training to life.

Each year, 130 students will benefit from the centre and, once qualified, will use the skills and experience they gain to improve the lives of Indonesia’s working animals. Their competence and confidence in performing essential veterinary procedures will improve animal welfare standards across the country.

In the town of Shashamane, Ethiopia, donkeys are used to transport food, water and firewood. Their work is exhausting and made especially difficult as it’s an area that’s been particularly hard hit by the terrible drought, flood and conflict of recent years.

In times of crisis, working animals are often hit the hardest. Donkeys in Shashamane frequently go without food and water and are regularly overworked. Many are also subjected to harmful traditional practices, which you may have read about in our appeal on page six.

Sadly, in Ethiopia, there is a widespread lack of concern for animal welfare. ‘The biggest challenge facing working animals in Ethiopia is the inhumane treatment by people due to lack of awareness,’ says Teferi Abebe, SPANA’s Ethiopia Country Director.

Changing attitudes and giving owners the skills to properly care for their animals will help stop their suffering.

This is why, in March 2019, we opened a humane education centre at Burka Gudina Primary School in Shashamane. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the centre is helping to promote positive perceptions and attitudes towards animals, and changing hearts and minds across the community. It is being used to educate children, and train communities and vets. Every year, around 120 children will benefit from weekly animal welfare lessons, as part of new animal welfare clubs. SPANA is training teachers to run the clubs and providing activity books, storybooks and stationery to inspire the children.

The centre will promote community-wide compassion for working animals, preventing their suffering now and in the future.

We can only keep educating communities and opening centres like this with your support. Thank you.

Thanks to your ongoing support, working animals across Indonesia will benefit from expert veterinary care.

Together, we are building a kinder future for hardworking animals.
WILL YOU HELP THEM WALK AGAIN?

Lameness is misery for thousands of working animals and is most commonly caused by problems in the feet. This suffering could be avoided with a simple solution – proper farriery. We need your support today to provide crucial treatment and prevent crippling lameness.

Sigit’s story

For carriage horses like Sigit (pictured right), working life in hot, humid and hectic Jakarta is unimaginably tough. For up to 16 hours a day, 10-year-old Sigit pulls a heavy cart for his owner Farel. As he works, the nails in Sigit’s makeshift shoes cut into him. The ill-fitted shoes leave his feet exposed to the impact of the bumpy Jakartan roads.

Without proper shoes and farriery care, Sigit’s feet aren’t protected at all. Every step is agony – his feel are killing him.

Sigit is in unbearable pain from lameness. We need your support to stop working animals like him suffering needlessly from this debilitating condition.

There are at least 500 working horses in the Indonesian city of Jakarta and 2,000 on the island of Java. They are used predominantly for transport, pulling heavy taxis or carts piled high with building materials. Like Sigit, most have shoes that don’t fit their hooves properly – and an estimated one in three suffers from agonising lameness.

Sadly, many of Indonesia’s working horses develop crippling lameness simply because they don’t have proper care for their feet. But that means their suffering can be prevented – with your support.

Imagine the agony Sigit must feel when his shoes are hammered into the sensitive parts of his feet with masonry nails. Nails that aren’t cut, but are bent over, left to stick out to cause unthinkable damage.

Or when his feet aren’t trimmed properly and he grows excessively long toes and sore heels, developing painful bruises, corns and abscesses. Suffering and disorientated, Sigit is more likely to trip over, which is incredibly dangerous when you’re working all day on busy roads.

Poor farriery practices like these have grave consequences for working animals. Eventually, the pain they cause will stop Sigit in his tracks. Will you save working animals like Sigit from this misery?

When our Jakarta mobile clinic vets met Sigit, his hooves were in an awful condition. He needed urgent, expert attention. SPANA vets treated Sigit’s lameness with a much-needed course of painkillers and anti-inflammatories. They removed his inadequate shoes and corrected his imbalanced feet. Then they fitted new shoes to protect Sigit when he works on hard ground all day.

Next, they advised Farel about proper hoof care and safe levels of loading, to help prevent future injury and to delay the onset of arthritis. Our vets also recommended that Sigit rest for one or two weeks and urged Farel to reduce his workload.

Sigit was one of the lucky ones. Thousands of horses suffering from crippling lameness still desperately need your help.

Lameness is one of the biggest problems facing working animals today. In the first eight months of 2019, our vets treated over 11,500 cases around the world. Your continued support will help us tackle animal suffering from this debilitating condition.

Lameness is misery for thousands of working animals

Lameness is the third most common condition our vets see across the countries where we work. In the first nine months of 2019:

- We treated 11,504 cases of lameness – that’s almost 50 a day
- One in 10 clinical cases involved a working animal suffering from this debilitating condition
- 4,333 horses, 4,155 donkeys and 2,895 mules received vital treatment for lameness
- Almost a quarter of lameness cases we treated were caused by foot or hoof imbalances, like Sigit’s. Conditions which, with your help, can be prevented through good farriery.

How you can prevent their suffering today:

Thanks to you, we were able to treat Sigit’s lameness. But thousands of working animals are still in agony because of this excruciating, yet preventable, condition.

£9 could pay for a routine foot trimming for two horses, helping to prevent lameness in the first place.

£45 could provide immediate pain relief for a horse like Sigit, suffering from lameness, with a course of painkillers and anti-inflammatories.

£160 could pay for five days of vital training for a farrier, to reduce lameness in the long term.

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

SPANA vets saved Sigit from permanent lameness

Unskilled farriers leave nails sticking out of horses’ feet, causing unimaginable damage

Overgrown hooves make every step agony

SPANA vets saw on average almost 50 a day
SUPPORTER NEWS
GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

Every single animal we treat, vet we train, child or owner we teach and life we save depends on the support of people like you who share our love for working animals. Thank you to every one of you who dedicates your time to raising money to care for the world’s working animals.

Challenge yourself

Could you or someone you know go the distance for working animals? Every year, our incredible supporters take on walks, runs and treks to raise much-needed funds for SPANA. Whatever your ability, there will be a local walk or challenge you could do to raise money for working animals. We’re always looking for runners to take one of our spots in the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon or the Brighton Marathon.

Do pass this information on to friends or family who might be interested in taking part. And get in touch if you need help registering for an event.

Organise an event

Who wouldn’t want to give this gorgeous fluffy bunny a cuddle? SPANA supporter Joy Lambert has held bunny cuddling days for the last nine years, raising over £1,000 for working animals.

Could you get your pets involved in fundraising for working animals around the world? Organising an event is a fun and rewarding way to make life better for working animals.

Join a group

Every year, our London fundraising group are out and about collecting donations at the capital’s train stations. If you have some spare time, you could join, or start a SPANA fundraising group too.

Sometimes fundraising on your own can feel daunting, so it can help to get together with friends, family or work colleagues. It’s a great way to meet like-minded people too, while you help working animals and have fun!

How to get involved

Could you organise a stall, shake a tin, put on your running shoes or give a talk to make a big difference to animals in need? Or maybe you have your own novel ideas to raise funds for working animals, using a special skill or hobby?

We’d love you to join our SPANA fundraising community. We’re here to support you every step of the way. Call our friendly community fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org. You can also visit www.spana.org/get-involved

In the remote villages of northern Tanzania, you’ll find groups of local women called ‘Mama Punda’, or ‘mother of donkeys’. Thanks to your support, SPANA trains these women to become donkey welfare champions – and it’s saving lives.

Women volunteer to become donkey champions and villagers vote for who they want to take on the role. This gives the champions great authority in the community.

Last year, our Chief Executive Geoffrey Dennis visited the Toret area of Tanzania and met some of the donkey champions.

‘I was so impressed to see the women spreading the message of caring for animals among owners,’ says Geoffrey. ‘Explaining, patiently but quite forcefully, what should and should not be done. They are held in great respect by the villagers who listen to their advice. One of the donkey champions, Neema, told me she is very happy and proud to be a Mama Punda.

‘I was also delighted to hear reports of a noticeable improvement in donkey welfare since SPANA projects have been running. In the nearby Simanjiro region, there have been no donkey deaths due to neglect since SPANA started clinics and donkey champion training. That is fantastic news.’

Gifts in Wills

We’re increasing the number of community-led projects like this one because they make effective and long-lasting improvements to the lives of working animals for a relatively small amount of money.

Gifts in Wills from supporters like you play a vital part in funding these future projects. These special gifts will help create sustainable, long-term changes in attitudes and behaviour – leaving a legacy of a brighter, kinder future for working animals.

LEAVING A LEGACY OF A KINDER FUTURE

Find out more about legacies

www.spana.org/legacies

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You’re improving the welfare of working animals in the world’s poorest communities. Here’s a snapshot of the impact your support has had around the world over the last year.

**INDIA**

Thanks to SPANA supporters, life for poorly treated working animals in the Kendrapara region of eastern India is getting better. We’re funding a programme that’s teaching children and teachers about animal welfare. The programme reached 2,150 children at 14 schools from September 2018 to August 2019. Since then, 14 new animal welfare clubs have been set up and 140 students have become animal welfare ambassadors.

You’ve helped fund a mobile clinic that has visited 130 villages in Kurdistan, helping to alleviate the pain, suffering and sickness of working equids. The clinic also educated 111 owners about the welfare and basic healthcare needs of their animals in the last year. More than half were refugees or internally displaced people, who rely heavily on their animals for building, transport and farming.

**KENYA**

Rural communities in Embu County, Kenya, rely heavily on oxen for everything from transporting people to ploughing the land. Despite the large number of working oxen suffering from wounds and disease, there are hardly any vets in the area. You’re helping to change that. With your support, we provided 24 veterinary students and vet technicians with specialist training so they can care for oxen in Embu County. Our outreach programme also treated 540 oxen and provided 311 owners with information on how to treat their animals well.

**KURDISTAN**

Thanks to SPANA supporters, life for poorly treated working animals in the Kendrapara region of eastern India is getting better. We’re funding a programme that’s teaching children and teachers about animal welfare. The programme reached 2,150 children at 14 schools from September 2018 to August 2019. Since then, 14 new animal welfare clubs have been set up and 140 students have become animal welfare ambassadors.

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**ETHIOPIA**

Thanks to you, SPANA runs a permanent veterinary centre and two mobile clinics in Ethiopia. In the first eight months of 2019, our Ethiopia-based vets provided 8,092 treatments to working equids suffering with everything from wounds to fungal infections. To improve the welfare of working animals in Ethiopia long-term, we also trained animal owners on topics like preventing Epizootic Lymphangitis (EZL), controlling parasites and managing feeding.

Your support made this work happen – thank you.
Enjoy up to 50% off in the Happy Hooves sale!

Treat yourself, or a loved one, to a fantastic charitable gift at a bargain price. When you shop with SPANA, you help ease the suffering of working animals around the world as all profits go to funding our work. Order by the end of February 2020 to receive up to 50% off* selected cards, gifts and goodies.

Order by the end of February 2020 to receive up to 50% off* selected cards, gifts and goodies.

- **Into the Wild colouring book**
  - **WAS £12**
  - **Gift code: M19CBW**
  - **£10**

- **Impossible farmyard puzzle**
  - **500 pieces**
  - **WAS £10**
  - **Gift code: M19IPF**
  - **£6**

- **Dog lover teatime gift set**
  - **WAS £10**
  - **Gift code: M19TTG**
  - **£8**

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