



NEWS

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HELPING HORSES IN MONGOLIA FACING A DEVASTATING DROUGHT

Building a better future for working
animals through community training

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suffering from malnutrition



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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

SPANA is currently working hard to maintain our operations despite the coronavirus (Covid-19) situation. This unprecedented global health crisis and its economic impact will put increased strain on working animals in the developing world. However, the difficulties of this spring follow a very successful 12 months. I am pleased to tell you that last year we treated more animals, trained more vets and taught more children than ever before.



We also worked hard to develop our community training programme. Late last year I was lucky enough to witness a project in Simanjiro, Tanzania, where a group of volunteer women work as community champions, actively advising animal owners in their area on how to look after their animals. The positive change in attitudes this has brought about is truly amazing. You can read more about how community training projects like this are creating a better world for working animals on page 16.

The **special appeal**, on page six, focuses on the terrible effects of malnutrition on working animals in developing countries. Many of the animals that our vets see are malnourished due to droughts and poor pastureland. If you can, please support our appeal so that our vets can treat more underfed and dehydrated animals that are suffering right now.

On page eight we hear about how respiratory infections are threatening Zimbabwe's working donkeys and what SPANA is doing to help them, while on page nine we look at how our education programme is bearing fruit by talking to a young animal welfare ambassador in Odisha, India. Lastly, on page 14 we focus on one of our recent emergency projects in Mongolia, where we built and refurbished wells to supply horses with water during a long and sustained drought that has killed many animals.

I was able to visit our emergency projects in Ethiopia and India last year and I am constantly amazed by the positive effect they have on animals facing extremely tough times. We are now in regular contact with my previous charity, the International Red Cross, so we can work together in times of emergency, with us saving the lives of working animals and them providing healthcare to the communities that depend on them.

Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful charity. I am very proud to be its Chief Executive.

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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WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD

In Kahama, northern Tanzania, working donkeys help labourers in the area's gold mines. The donkeys are mainly used to move rubble and soil away from the mine shafts, carrying packs on their backs and pulling carts.

It is hard work for both the workers and the animals, but the miners are careful to avoid overloading the donkeys and try to make sure that they are healthy and in good condition.

Far from making a fortune, the miners obtain very small quantities of gold that are only sufficient to provide them with a basic income. The younger men work for 12 hours every day of the week and earn around five dollars a day, depending on the amount of gold found.

SPANA runs a mobile clinic that visits the mines to provide free veterinary treatment for the donkeys and to advise on their care and welfare.

Read our exciting news about how we are helping more working animals in Tanzania on page four.

SPANNA IN THE NEWS



SPANNA launches permanent operations in Tanzania

We are delighted to announce that SPANA has launched a long-term project in Tanzania. We have been working with trusted partners in the country since 2013 and, thanks to your generosity, we are now able to make our operations there permanent.

Tanzania's economy relies on farming. The majority of the population is rural and depends on the country's 363,000 working donkeys for agriculture, trade and transport.

Life for a working donkey in Tanzania isn't easy. Disease, parasites, injury, persistent drought and the threat of the donkey skin trade are ever-present dangers. Sadly, harmful traditional practices and a

lack of basic veterinary care are also big causes of suffering. Although this is often not deliberate, many owners lack the knowledge and understanding to properly protect and care for their animals.

Having an ongoing SPANA presence is an important step to helping working animals in the country. It will allow us to create a better, more sustainable animal welfare programme by pooling the expertise, knowledge and commitment of our project partners, and by forging new relationships to have a deeper impact for greater numbers of working animals.

Frederick Urembo has been appointed as Regional Director East Africa and will oversee our operations in Tanzania. Frederick said: *'This is a really exciting time. Developing our operations in East Africa will benefit more working animals and communities who need our services the most.'*

ICHE now in French

SPANNA delivered its International Certificate of Humane Education (ICHE) course in French for the first time in Jordan in October 2018. THE ICHE is an internationally recognised qualification that gives teachers the theory and practical skills they need to guide children towards becoming more caring people.

We have since held two more French ICHE courses, in Morocco and Mali in 2019. Being able to deliver the course in French means we can reach more educators in these countries, which means we can teach more children about animal welfare.



New centre opens in Mauritania

In October 2019, Geoffrey Dennis, SPANA Chief Executive, formally opened our new veterinary centre in Boghé, Mauritania. The ceremony was attended by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Rural Development, the Regional Governor and a representative from the British Embassy. The whole ceremony, including a speech by Geoffrey, was shown on national television that evening.

Three months after opening, the Boghé centre had treated 3,827 horses and 5,600 donkeys. Geoffrey said: *'The demand for veterinary care in Mauritania is enormous and we have an extremely positive reputation throughout the country, so it's fantastic to be able to open this new centre and reach more working animals that need us.'*



Camel clinic opens in Marrakech

In January, we started a new project providing veterinary treatment for camels used in the tourism industry in Marrakech, Morocco. A mobile clinic will visit the city every month, providing every working camel with two checks a year. Animals who are fit and healthy to work will wear a band on their leg so tourists can identify well-treated animals, similar to our caleche horse project in the city.

More than 350 camels have been seen since January. In time, we also plan to start training the camel owners of Marrakech on the proper treatment and welfare of their animals.

Combating the donkey skin trade in Mali

In November 2019, SPANA held a conference in Segou, Mali, to highlight and combat the deadly donkey skin trade in the country. This followed on from a conference we organised in Botswana earlier in the year, and is part of a broader effort to counter the horrific trade that threatens the lives of millions of donkeys across Africa.

The conference was opened by the Governorate of Segou and the local mayor, before local officials and veterinary professionals spoke about the global impact of the trade and what can be done to prevent it. The conference went on to hear from donkey owners and villagers affected, who offered practical solutions to protect working animals from being stolen.

We would like to thank all our supporters who donated to our appeal against the donkey skin trade last year. With your support, we've been able to help protect more donkeys and continue the fight against this terrible trade.

HELP ANIMALS SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION

Every day, working animals endure the horrifying effects of malnutrition. In developing countries, many animals struggle to sustain themselves on sparse pasture and little drinking water, especially during times of crisis. The lethal combination of malnourishment and dehydration can cause agonising colic and make animals extremely vulnerable to other issues, like infectious disease. But, with your help, the lives of malnourished working animals can be transformed today.

Bullo's story

Life is tough for Balljoint, known affectionately as Bullo. The horse works eight hours each day, laboriously helping his owner, Mr Hamu, round up cattle in Maun, Botswana. Every day, Bullo walks for miles over rocky, uneven ground that has dried up from frequent drought.

Mr Hamu depends entirely on his animals for income and survival. When his trusted horse suddenly collapsed one day, unable to move and clearly in a great deal of pain, Mr Hamu was distraught. If Bullo couldn't work, he would no longer be able to afford to keep him. Fortunately, SPANA's mobile clinic was able to come to his aid.

When our dedicated vets arrived, they carefully examined the horse and diagnosed him with a severe case of spasmodic colic. Bullo was highly dehydrated and malnourished from the drought. He had been feeding on dry, dead grass and plants that are difficult to digest. The painful blockages in his intestines were causing his bowel to contract abnormally, creating excruciating spasms.

Bullo was deteriorating fast, becoming listless as he lay immobile. The vet team needed to get him to stand as soon as possible. If left on the ground for too long, Bullo would be at serious risk of damaged blood supply and even irreversible muscle or nerve damage.

The vets eased Bullo's pain with anti-inflammatory and anti-spasmodic injections, and fed him gradual, small amounts of fresh water and nutritious food. Bullo was still too weak to move, however, and his heart rate had increased drastically. The resourceful team fashioned a hoist to help support his frail legs, but he just couldn't stand on his own. After careful deliberation, they decided to let him rest and reassess him the next day.

While Bullo rested, the team provided him with blankets and water, and worked with Mr Hamu and his son to ensure the vulnerable horse was kept safe overnight from predators.

The following morning, Bullo's heart rate had decreased and he was breathing more easily. The vet team lifted him again and, thankfully, this time his legs were able to support his weight. Over the following weeks, SPANA vets continued to visit Bullo to monitor his condition. The horse was soon eating, drinking and having normal bowel movements again.

Mr Hamu was grateful for SPANA's work. *'Without your help, Bullo would have suffered and died. I don't know what I would do without my horse.'*



SPANA instructed Mr Hamu and his son to keep Bullo hydrated once he was back on his feet



Bullo had spent a prolonged amount of time lying on his side, which can cause serious health problems in horses. After giving him pain relief and nutritious food, the team fashioned a hoist to carefully lift him.

Our vets must continue their work, treating helpless working animals that are needlessly suffering from malnutrition. As the Covid-19 health crisis unfolds, animals like Bullo are more vulnerable than ever.

Malnutrition among working animals will inevitably increase. With depleted income, many owners can barely afford to provide food. Starving animals are forced to eat whatever they can find among the rubbish – sometimes even plastic bags. This can cause agonising colic and intestinal blockages. Already weak, they are even more susceptible to widespread issues such as infectious disease.

If left untreated, these malnourished animals will suffer gut-wrenching pain, debilitating exhaustion and the inability to eat or drink normally. Their deteriorating health can only lead to a life of misery and, in the worst cases, a harrowing death.

SPANA is committed to easing the suffering of malnourished animals through sustainable emergency preparedness schemes that help animals and communities in dire need. You can read about one of our recent projects in Mongolia on page 14 of this issue.

We provide high-energy feed for working animals and essential medicines such as rehydration, laxatives and pain relief. In more severe cases, lifesaving surgery is required to remove painful obstructions. We simply can't do any of these things without you.

To care for these poor animals, we urgently need your support. Your gift could help treat an underfed and dehydrated working animal and save many others from an agonising death. **If you can, please send a donation today** so animals like Bullo can receive the lifesaving care they need.

Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please donate today to help stop working animals needlessly dying from malnutrition.

£20 could provide two weeks' supply of nutritious food for a starving horse, helping them to recover from a severe lack of nutrients.

£60 could help six working animals like Bullo who are suffering with malnutrition, by paying for essential medication such as anti-inflammatories and anti-spasmodics.

£150 could go towards the cost of lifesaving surgery to remove an intestinal blockage, as well as four days of post-operative care for a working animal in need.



Bullo's colic was causing him agony; he was in desperate need of expert care

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

TREATING RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE'S WORKING DONKEYS



Dr Erick Mutizhe, one of our senior vets in Zimbabwe, tells us how SPANA is working to fight an outbreak of respiratory disease

A healthy donkey is an asset to farmers and their families in Zimbabwe's marginalised communities in Beitbridge, an area near the border with South Africa. However, these donkeys face a number of threats to their health, including respiratory infections, which in the worst cases can be deadly.



Shashe is a small farming village in the Beitbridge region of southern Zimbabwe. Due to the lack of rainfall, few crops grow, so the inhabitants of Shashe make a living by selling cattle at the local market. It can get as hot as 40 degrees in Shashe, and drinking water in the area is in short supply, so local families rely on their donkeys to carry water from far away.

Life for these hardworking donkeys is tough, trudging long distances and carrying heavy loads in the baking heat. And when a bout of respiratory disease that affects their breathing starts to spread through the town, it can get much harder.

Respiratory infections are a huge threat to the welfare of these donkeys, and to the livelihoods of the people in these communities. Donkeys are often forced to work when unwell, and they sometimes struggle to cope and recover from their illness. In some cases, these

donkeys do not recover, and sadly die. This places a further burden on the other donkeys that support the household.

That's why we recently ran a study looking into the infections in the donkeys in Beitbridge. By better understanding the conditions that the donkeys were suffering from, SPANA vets in the area could take action and improve the health and welfare of donkeys across the region.

We took samples from any animals that visited the mobile clinics in Lutumba and Shashe villages and showed signs of a respiratory infection – for example, coughing or nasal discharge. Six different bacteria were found. Of the diseases they cause, strangles was the most worrying. A common worry in the UK as well, this disease is highly infectious and can cause lots of animals to become very unwell.

If strangles is not treated correctly, the situation can become worse. Giving out antibiotics indiscriminately can cause the bacteria to develop resistance, so tests need to be carried out to make sure we're providing the correct medications.

Thanks to your help, we have been able to treat donkeys with a range of respiratory conditions across the region and educate owners about what signs to look out for. We have also talked to local government bodies about strategies to reduce the spread of respiratory diseases, such as limiting the mobility of donkeys across regions.

The impact of these diseases can be devastating for the animals and the communities that rely on them. But thanks to your support, the future for these donkeys is looking a lot brighter.

ANIMAL WELFARE CLUBS IN INDIA



Suman Das, 15, a student at Samanta Singhar Kelucharan Government High School in India, tells us how humane education has changed his view on animals

'Before attending SPANA's education programme, I did not know about the important role animals play in our society,' says Suman, from Patrapur, Odisha. 'But thanks to the education programme, my attitude towards animals has changed a lot.'



'Oxen are my favourite animals. They work hard in the fields – during winter or summer, in heavy rain – and they help us produce food, so they are my favourite.'

SPANAs education programmes try to break the cycle of people seeing animals as just economic tools to be exploited. We do so by teaching children about the importance of animals and how to care for them. By educating the next generation of working animal owners, SPANA hopes that future generations of working animals won't have to suffer from overwork, poor treatment or easily preventable conditions.

'I now know that animals should not be overworked, and that they need a balanced diet, clean drinking water and treatment when they are ill. I learned that animals are sensitive and that they can feel pain, fear and stress.'

After the education programme, Suman was selected to be the school's animal welfare ambassador. He undertook training as part of this role and now leads the animal welfare club at his school in Patrapur.

Together with the club's members, he has been maintaining the drinking water pots for animals and birds, planting and looking after trees on the school campus, feeding stray animals, and looking out for signs of illness in animals in his village and nearby areas.

He also tries to spread his knowledge to other children and people in his community, explaining the five freedoms of animal welfare. *'Animals provide many things for us. They help people and our society in many ways, so it is our ethical responsibility to look after them. They cannot speak or let anyone know their pain, so it is also my job*

to speak for them and educate other people about animal welfare.'

For his outstanding efforts, Suman was awarded the Best Animal Welfare Ambassador medal from Dr Stephen Albone, Director of Education Programmes at SPANA, and Veterinary Programme Advisor Dr Sophie Parratt.

Children like Suman and his friends are the future of their community. If we can reach more young people with their energy and enthusiasm, we can build a world where all working animals are treated with dignity and respect.



Tunisia is one of the first countries where SPANA began operating. We continue to work hard there to protect and care for working animals and build the foundations of a better future.

SPANA OPERATIONS

We have been working in Tunisia since 1925, when Kate Hosali first started treating animals in the local souks. In the past 95 years, our operations have expanded hugely.

We currently have three veterinary centres in Bou Salem, Kasserine and Kebili, as well as a new base in Siliana. We also have four mobile clinics, which can reach animals that live in more remote and inaccessible locations.

Tunisia has a large population of working equids and camels. Common problems our vets see include injuries caused by inappropriate harnessing and shoeing.

Our education programme is delivered through a mobile exhibition bus that travels the country, giving

PROFILE
TUNISIA

schoolchildren an interactive learning experience, and through a series of animal clubs in schools.

Last year, we treated 23,855 working animals, taught 17,028 children about animal welfare and gave training to 4,791 working animal owners.



TUNISIA AT A GLANCE

Population: 11,694,719
Area: 63,170 km²
Location: North Africa
Capital city: Tunis
Estimated working animal population: 619,497

PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Dr Sami Mzabi, SPANA Tunisia Country Director



What particular challenges do working animals face in Tunisia?

Sadly, one of the major problems for working animals in Tunisia is inappropriate care from owners who don't know how to properly look after them. Misguided traditional

practices are also common, such as nose slitting and putting engine oil on wounds, which is something we are working hard to correct.

What are you most proud of about the work you and your team have done in Tunisia?

Thanks to our community training work, we have seen a big decrease in the use of traditional practices. It's still a problem, but we're making a big difference. Aside from that, I'm most proud of the trust and reputation the

SPANA Tunisia team have built up with working animal owners.

How have things changed in the last few years?

In recent years, we've put a lot more focus on training. So many of the problems we see in our clinics are avoidable. By training communities and working animal owners, we can stop harm and suffering happening in the first place, rather than waiting to treat animals once it has.

What are your ambitions for SPANA's work in Tunisia in the next few years?

In the next few years, we'll be working really hard to improve our education programme. We're trying to increase the number of educators we have by training teachers across the country to deliver animal welfare education to children.

We also hope these teachers can run their own animal welfare clubs. We have some clubs run by students, but we would like to have at least one club in every region of the country.

CASE FILE



'The SPANA team are great. They treat animals and give medicines. They are so helpful.' Eljiya

Taking the load off

A hard life spent carrying heavy loads day after day has taken its toll on one poor donkey.

In Ouled Boughanem, in western Tunisia, Eljiya lives with her husband and their donkey, Salma. Eljiya and her husband are farmers, and Salma helps them in the fields, transports their produce to market and carries water for them.

They depend on Salma to be able to make a living, so they were extremely worried when one day, Eljiya noticed that Salma wasn't walking properly.

Luckily for them, a SPANA mobile clinic was due to be visiting the village, so Eljiya took Salma along to be looked at by the vets.

At almost 10 years old, a life spent looking after Eljiya and her family was starting to take its toll. Our vets examined Salma and diagnosed her with arthritis in her front legs.

They gave her anti-inflammatory medication to help with her arthritis, and advised Eljiya on how to care for her properly, including letting her work for shorter periods and lessening the amount of weight she has to pull.

Thanks to your kind donations, which allow our mobile clinics to reach remote villages, Salma should no longer have to work in pain. And thanks to everyone who donated to our mobile clinics spring appeal, we're able to go on helping more animals like Salma.



SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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

BOTSWANA

SPANNA's mobile clinic in Botswana was called out to a small subsistence farm outside Maun to help some working horses who were struggling to cope with the country's devastating drought.

The SPANA team arrived at Katarelo's remote farm with emergency food and water. With little rain having fallen in the past 18 months, the horses who work on the farm were weak and malnourished, and Katarelo was desperately worried about their health.

After feeding the animals, the team examined each of them to check their health. When they got round to Munchy, one of Katarelo's horses, they found he had an eye infection that needed treating.

The team sprang into action and, as they treated Munchy, Katarelo told them the sad story of Munchy's young foal, Crunchy, who had been killed in a leopard attack a month earlier. With food and water becoming scarce in these harsh conditions, leopard attacks are growing more common.

Luckily, the SPANA team knew an ingenious way to protect animals from leopard attacks, and once they had applied ointment to Munchy's eye and told Katarelo how to administer eye drops, they showed him.

The vet team took out some non-toxic paint, which is safe for skin, and drew a pair of big eyes on Munchy's side in reflective paint. In the dark, leopards and other



A VISIONARY IDEA TO KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

predators would see these big eyes staring back at them as a challenge, and be ward off approaching.

With regular treatment, Munchy's eye condition will improve, and thanks to a bit of creative thinking and a little paint, he should stay safe from wildlife attacks in these dry times. Katarelo said: *'SPANNA has made all the difference for our horses. We don't know what we'd do without them.'*



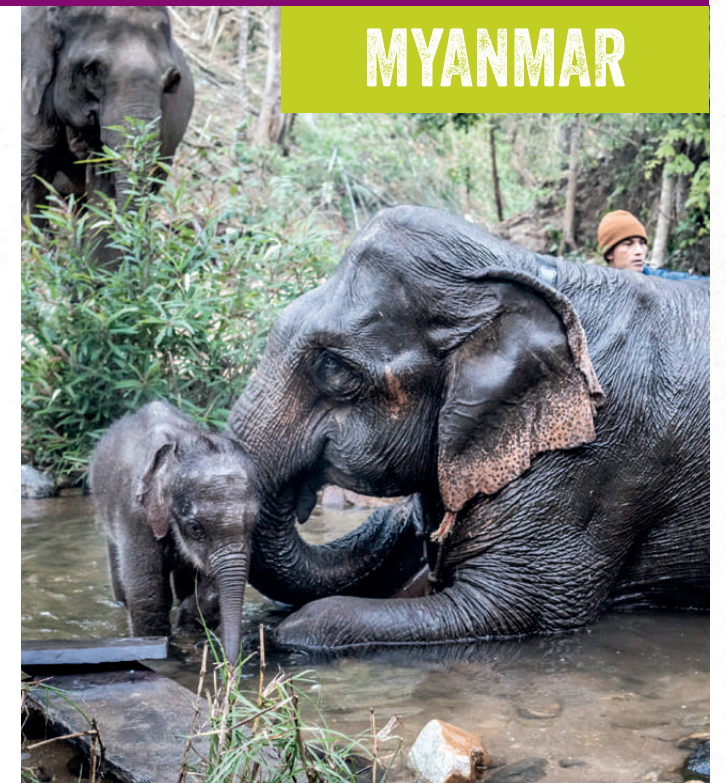
In the Sin Gu township in the Mandalay region of Myanmar, our mobile elephant clinic visited the Ohm Pune camp, named after the river that flows through the jungle there.

The camp is home to 32-year-old elephant Chit May Win and her two calves. When the vets found them, four-year-old calf Si Win Htay was healthy, but Chit May Win had also just given birth, and the newborn wasn't doing so well.

The calf was very weak. He was unable to stand up and walk about when SPANA vets found him, but thankfully they were able to help.

The family of elephants stayed in the Ohm Pune camp, where the vets gave the little calf food supplements to help build his strength. Day by day, he got a little stronger, and after a couple of weeks he was strong enough to get on his feet and walk about the camp.

Thanks to SPANA's mobile clinic, he is now a happy and healthy little elephant, and mother and calves have been doing well ever since.



MYANMAR

HELPING A BABY ELEPHANT FIND HIS FEET

Last year, we ran an appeal to raise money to help working animals that were suffering as a result of a devastating cyclone in Odisha, India – animals like Abidase's oxen.

Abidase, 75, a farmer from Odisha, relies on his oxen to plough his fields. Without these hardworking animals, he wouldn't be able to provide for himself and his wife. But when the cyclone hit – the second major storm to hit the area in six months – he struggled to look after his precious animals.

When the flooding started, Abidase led his oxen to the top of the nearest hill to escape the floods, but even out of the worst of it, lots of the animals became sick due to the stagnant rainwater. With his fields covered in water and all his crops damaged, Abidase had no source of income and struggled to buy food to feed his beloved oxen.

'Our animals became so weak due to illness and lack of grass. Some of our oxen developed foot and mouth disease, coughing or fever, and sadly some of them died,' Abidase told us.

Abidase was devastated, but thanks to the money we raised through our appeal, we were able to be there to help his oxen and many other working animals. Abidase's animals were taken to one of the shelters

OXEN GET SHELTER FROM THE STORM



INDIA

we built, where they were treated and cared for by the vets until they were well again.

Abidase said: *'Without SPANA's intervention, the animals would have got sicker and sicker before dying. We could have lost everything. Thanks to SPANA, our cattle have recovered.'*



Life on the Mongolian steppe can be hard and unforgiving for the horses that live there. They travel long distances each day, and in these high open plains there is no shelter from the elements. And things can become much harder due to a weather phenomenon known as the ‘dzud’.

The dzud can occur anywhere in the country, causing very hot, dry summers and extremely cold winters. The dry summers cause the grazing lands to dry up, which means the horses can’t put on enough weight to prepare them for the harsh winters, which can be as cold as -43 degrees.

The dzud in 2000 killed over eight million animals, and since then it has become more common – the winter of 2017/2018 was the country’s third consecutive year of dzud. With this extreme weather becoming more common and animals getting little respite, the horses of Mongolia needed SPANA’s help.

That’s why we launched an emergency project to help Mongolia’s herder families and their animals. Working with our partner organisation, CAMDA, we funded the construction of wells in the regions of Sükhbaatar, Khentii and Arkhangai – the parts of Mongolia that are most affected by this deadly weather phenomenon.

Before, herders had to cluster around the few working wells, which meant the land became overgrazed. Rehabilitating broken-down wells and providing new ones opens up new areas for grazing, meaning all of these horses will have enough to eat.

‘The land around this well had been abandoned for many years because the well was unusable,’ a herder from Mujig told us. ‘We had to travel long distances with our animals to the nearest watering points, which were always overgrazed. Now the well is back in use and there is enough grass for all the animals – we are very happy.’

So far we have helped 65,374 animals, including horses, camels, cattle, sheep and goats, and we are providing ongoing support to the herders and their working animals.

‘I appreciate you for building a really good well for us and helping us to take care of our livestock and our horses. On behalf of all the other herders and our animals, I would like to say thank you very much.’



From the horse’s mouth

‘My name is Tuyama Ulziibayar. I am 39 years old, and I live with my husband and our son and daughter. We have around 700 animals – 600 sheep and goats, around 40 cattle and more than 80 horses. We love our animals, especially our horses.

‘My father was a herder. He wanted me to take care of his livestock after him, so I chose to become a herder. It feels great to look after these animals and see them grow. We go through a lot of things together.

‘Heavy snowfall happens a lot in winter. After it has snowed one or two times, it gets hard. When the snow falls, the most needed supply is hay. Unfortunately, it’s nearly impossible to supply enough hay for every animal.

‘During heavy snowfall, we spend most of the day outside taking care of our livestock. In 2002, we were young and just married. That year, the winter was really hard. We had to work hard and try not to lose many animals, but we lost a lot.

‘This well used to be filled with dirt and flood water. It didn’t produce enough water. Now it is the most usable well we have in this area. If this well wasn’t made, it would have been really hard for us and our animals. Last year, it didn’t rain a lot during summer, and many

herders had to move close to this well so their animals could drink. This summer there were many herders too. Many animals are brought here for water.

‘I appreciate you for building a really good well for us and helping us to take care of our livestock and our horses. On behalf of all the other herders and our animals, I would like to say thank you very much.’

Help in times of crisis

When disaster strikes, working animals are often on the front lines. Whether it’s the horses of Mongolia facing the dzud, the working donkeys of Botswana facing a horrific drought, or the working oxen of Odisha, India struggling to survive after a series of cyclones, there are animals around the world who are suffering as a result of devastating crises.

Thanks to your dedication and commitment to working animals, we’re able to fund projects that help these animals when they need it most, providing food, water, shelter and vital veterinary care.



A BETTER TOMORROW FOR WORKING ANIMALS



SPANA Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis, on how we're building a sustainable future for working animals

The last year has seen fantastic growth in SPANA's work, expanding our operations into new parts of the world. For example, having worked on a range of projects in Tanzania since 2013, we are now establishing a permanent presence there, while our operations in Ethiopia are growing rapidly. I was thrilled to open a brand new centre in Boghé, Mauritania, in October last year, and we're planning on expanding our operations in Mali. We also had new projects starting all the time – for instance, in Jakarta, Indonesia, where we're running a project to treat working horses.

Thanks to your support, over the past year we've treated 81,988 more animals, trained 398 more vet students and professionals, and reached 2,423 more working animal owners with our advice and training than we did in 2018. Going into the new decade, we're doing more work in more places than ever before – and making more of a difference to the lives of working animals.

But spreading out geographically isn't enough to ensure that working animals across the world get treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. In some of our centres, around 70 per cent of all the conditions and injuries we see are preventable. That's why it's vital that as well as providing free veterinary care, we educate and train owners and communities on how to properly care for their animals. If we can prevent working animals becoming ill or injured, not only will it allow us to spend more time treating those that need it, but we'll also be creating lasting change – and ensuring that no working animals suffer unnecessarily.

Making these kinds of changes requires the involvement of local people – whether they're animal owners, veterinary professionals or children. By training local vets, we give them knowledge that they can then pass on to their successors, and their

successors after them. By teaching children about animal welfare, we're creating a whole generation of adults who will come to see animals differently. And by providing community training to the owners of working animals, we're ensuring that good practice is followed and avoidable conditions are kept to a minimum.

Making this a reality also means handing over real power and ownership to local people. I saw a great example of this when I was in Simanjiro, Tanzania, in July last year. There they have set up a community champions scheme, where local people are given the training they need to look out for and stand up for the welfare of working animals.

In Simanjiro, a group of women have become community donkey champions. It was amazing to see them in action. If they see an animal being mistreated, not harnessed properly or carrying too much weight, they are quick to intervene and let the owner know in no uncertain terms. Initiatives like this bode really well for the future.

The free veterinary work we do is vital and will never stop – there will always be working animals that have accidents or get sick and need treatment. It also provides us with a unique perspective on training animal owners. Because we see animals every day, we know what common problems they are having, and this in turn informs what their owners need to know.



A SPANA community training workshop

I remember being struck by how many donkeys in Mauritania had wounds above their tails from dragging carts that were too close to them. We built proper cart set-ups into our community training programme, and the next time I went back I was pleased to see how few donkeys were affected by this avoidable problem. Examples like this show how your support can help prevent working animals suffering in the first place, as well as treat those in need.

Over the coming decade, we hope to expand our work into many more areas and countries, but just as important is making sure our work has a lasting impact on generations of working animals to come.



Vets Dr Erick and Dr Andy,
and teacher Herminah Simoyi

THANK YOU FROM ZIMBABWE



In Zimbabwe last year, the SPANA team faced huge difficulties because of the unstable economy. Lengthy power cuts, high inflation and difficulty obtaining the necessary medicines to treat animals were just some of the problems they faced. Yet despite these daily challenges, the SPANA Zimbabwe team managed to treat more working animals and teach more children than before. We are very lucky to have such dedicated people working for us. But perhaps even more than this, we know we are lucky to have you as a supporter.

In 2019, Dr Erick and Dr Andy travelled far and wide in our mobile clinics to treat over 66,000 working animals. Over half of these animals received the vital treatment and care they needed because of kind people remembering SPANA in their Wills. Plus, nearly 12,000 children learned about the importance of being kind to animals – from something as basic as learning that animals feel pain, through to developing a compassionate and humane understanding of the physical and mental needs of all animals.

Again, we were able to teach around half of these children purely because of the gifts we received from legacies.

While it is true that over half of all our work is made possible because of gifts in Wills, we are immensely grateful for every kind of support, whether you send a donation to help an urgent appeal, raise funds at coffee mornings or make a regular donation through your bank.

We are very lucky to have you, and we never forget that your kindness and love of animals is behind everything we do to help working animals in desperate need. You are part of the SPANA family. From Zimbabwe and all the other countries where we work, please accept a heartfelt thank you.

If you have recently included a gift to SPANA in your Will, please do let us know. We would sincerely love the chance to say thank you and keep you informed about our work and plans for the future.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

BAKING A DIFFERENCE

We want to give a huge shout out to nine-year-old Nayeli, who raised over £850 for SPANA by making and selling delicious cake pops! While on a holiday in Morocco earlier in the year, she went to visit our Marrakech centre, where she was able to meet some of the animals her amazing fundraising efforts have helped. **Thank you, Nayeli. Your kindness is an inspiration.**



GIVING FROM YOUR LIVING ROOM

Did you know you can shop online at your favourite retailers while earning money for working animals in need?

Sign up to AmazonSmile at www.smile.amazon.co.uk and you can shop for the same products, at the same prices, but SPANA will receive a donation of 0.5 per cent of each purchase you make.

There are also other schemes that work in similar ways, such as Give As You Live (www.giveasyoulive.com), Easy Fundraising (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and eBay (www.charity.ebay.co.uk/SPANAs).

Happy shopping!

smile.amazon.co.uk

ebay

A SEND-OFF FOR ALAN

Alan Gray, who generously volunteered his time sorting and selling stamps for SPANA for 10 years, has now stepped down from his role. Alan raised nearly £6,000, so we wanted to say a big thank you for all his hard work and dedication over the years!

We also have a new volunteer in place, so please send all future stamps donations to:

**The Stamp Appeal
10 Chestnut Avenue
North Walsham
Norfolk
NR28 9XH**



Miss Webb kindly continues to fundraise for us by selling old postcards. These can be sent to Miss J E Webb, 18 Hammonds Way, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO40 3HF.

Could you run a stall, hold a tin at a collection, put on your running shoes or give a talk for animals in need? Or maybe you have your own ideas for using a special skill or hobby to raise money?

We're here to help and we'd love you to join our SPANA fundraising community. Call our friendly Community Fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org.

Helping working animals in times of crisis

At this incredibly difficult time, SPANA is committed to continuing its vital services in some of the world's poorest and most deprived communities.

In countries that are facing local government restrictions as a result of Covid-19, we are providing emergency cover and prioritising urgent cases.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that working animals continue to receive the treatment and care they need.

But now, as the world suffers from the effects of this global health crisis, working animals are in desperate need of our help.

So, this summer, please can you spare an extra thought for the working animals of the world and give as generously as you can to SPANA?

With your help, we can make sure the working animals of the world are not forgotten during these terribly difficult and uncertain times.

Thank you for your continued support.



Contact us

We are still able to handle any enquiries you may have by phone and email. All letters and donations sent to our head office are being securely processed. We would love to hear from you.

Call us on: 020 7831 3999

Email us at: hello@spana.org

Visit: www.spana.org/donate

