



NEWS



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WELCOME

to your first edition of SPANA News.

First of all I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' for recently deciding to support SPANA. Without donations from kind supporters like you, we would not be able to reach the hundreds of thousands of working animals that we help each year.

You may have recently read about the horrifying trade in donkey skins, which is currently threatening the survival of donkey populations worldwide – and particularly the working donkeys of Africa.

Please be aware that this is a sensitive topic, but I felt I had to share what is going on with you. This grotesque trade, which is driven by huge demand in China for a cosmetic product called 'ejiao', is the focus of our special appeal on page four of this issue.

This is one of the most serious crises facing donkeys around the world that we've ever seen, and we're urgently asking for your support to help us protect animals from theft and brutal slaughter.

On a more positive note, on page six you can read about a few of the thousands of animals we've recently been able to help through vital veterinary care thanks to your support.

To commemorate, on page three I remember our founders, Nina and Kate Hosali who embarked upon an adventure that would last a lifetime. As SPANA supporters, I'm sure you will relate to their unwavering passion and dedication to improving the lives of working animals around the globe.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to each and every SPANA supporter; to friends old and new. Over the past two years since I joined the charity, I have been astounded by the hard work and passion that goes into this important work, and am delighted at the great strides we have made. None of this would be possible without our supporters.

Although there are huge challenges ahead – I am excited and optimistic about what we can achieve together.

I hope you enjoy reading your first ever issue of SPANA News!

Geoffrey Dennis

Geoffrey Dennis Chief Executive

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KATE AND NINA

OUR INSPIRATIONAL FOUNDERS

Geoffrey Dennis on the remarkable women that founded SPANA.

Even by today's standards, SPANA's founders, Kate and Nina Hosali were rather fearless women. I often wonder if the mother and daughter had any idea that their trip to North Africa in 1921 would change both their lives forever. Just a few years later they would start a charity that would go on to treat millions of working animals worldwide.

Their great adventure involved travelling across Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Back then there was little choice other than to use donkeys, horses and camels to get around. The pair became enamoured with the region, falling in love with the people and diverse, vivid scenery.

However, alongside the beautiful landscape, their trip was blighted by the sight of mistreated and malnourished working animals being overloaded, beaten, and living with open wounds. On arriving back in England, Kate and Nina could not

forget the suffering of these animals.

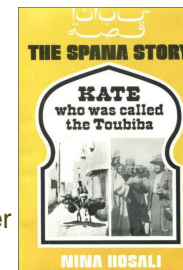
Nina, who kept a journal and enjoyed sketching animals, wrote in her autobiography: 'We often thought of the tired mule I had been given to ride at Biskra, and wondered how many others were carrying tourists all day and turning wells at night...'

'How many other tourists had glimpsed at this hidden world and, like us, had done nothing about it?'

Tormented by the memories of the animals they had left behind, Kate decided she needed to do something practical. She started writing letters about their experiences to journals and magazines, and with such strong public interest in the issue, SPANA was formed in 1923.

It was agreed that the charity would provide free veterinary treatment for working animals rather than punishing their owners; the mistreatment was a result of extreme poverty, not cruelty. The charity then started looking for the 'right sort of man' to start treating animals, only to find their ideal candidate was there all along and was, in fact, a woman: Kate.

In 1924, Kate went to Algiers to start a year of active veterinary work at her own expense. She travelled alone across the region, treating working animals at weekly souks. She wrote to Nina about the horrific cases she was seeing, including horses with abscesses full of maggots and donkeys half bald with mange.



Nina Hosali on news of her MBE
Above left: Nina's autobiography, published in 1978

The communities Kate helped immediately trusted her after seeing her treat their animals successfully, naming her the 'Toubiba', meaning the 'lady doctor'. Kate was overwhelmed at the numbers of animals needing treatment, and decided to continue her work for another three years.

She then moved to Marrakech permanently where she treated animals with the help of an assistant.

Nina remained working at SPANA for the rest of her life, overseeing the building of our first veterinary clinics and devising our education programme for schoolchildren.

Some of her most testing years were during the Second World War when she was unable to visit North Africa, meaning she never got to say farewell to her dear mother, as Kate died in Marrakech in 1944. After half a century of selfless devotion to SPANA, Nina was awarded an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen in 1976 for her services to the welfare of animals. She died in 1987, aged 89.

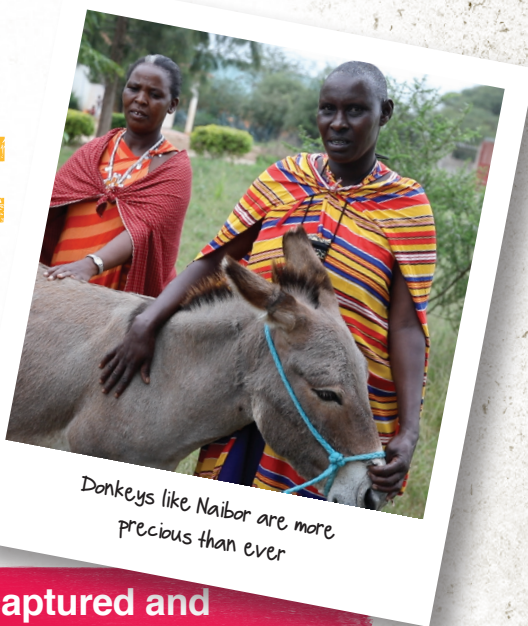
Today, 95 years on from SPANA's inaugural meeting, Kate and Nina's core principle of free treatment for working animals owned by the very poorest in society remains at the centre of what we do.



Kate Hosali tends to a donkey's wounds

FIGHTING THE DONKEY SKIN TRADE

SPECIAL APPEAL



Donkeys like Naibor are more precious than ever

Millions of helpless donkeys are at risk of being captured and slaughtered for their skins. The Masai people of Tanzania are just one of many communities devastated by the brutal ejiao trade.

By now you've probably heard about the growing demand for 'ejiao' – a substance derived from donkey skins that is used in traditional Chinese medicine and cosmetics. Poachers are swarming Africa and have cut donkey populations by as much as 38 per cent in just two years.

SPANAs has already made important steps towards halting this trade, which you can read about on our website. But despite these successes, work still needs to be done, and fast.

Thousands of donkeys are being slaughtered for their skins on a weekly basis, and the millions that remain are increasingly vulnerable.

Mama Ne'ema lives in a Masai community in Tanzania. Her six donkeys were her lifeline, helping

her collect water, carry heavy loads, and transport villagers to hospital when they became sick.

Unaware of the risks, she left her donkeys to roam overnight as many donkey owners do. Poachers captured all but one donkey. His name is Naibor.

'I'm just left with one donkey as the others were stolen. Before we were just leaving donkeys to roam. We didn't know the importance of confining them to stop them being stolen.' – Mama Ne'ema, Donkey Champion.

With fewer donkeys in the village, Naibor now has to make the 16km round trip to collect water once a day instead of once a week. If he becomes injured, sick or overworked, his suffering will be felt by an entire village.

But it could be worse. Donkeys that are stolen are often forced into the back of trucks and taken on the long and dangerous journey to the abattoir. They are then left to starve and – if the operation cannot be legally shut down – are brutally killed and skinned.

With your help, we can prevent the precious donkeys that remain from meeting the same devastating fate. Furthermore, their daily working life – and that of future generations – can be greatly improved in the process.

Training is critical in fighting this issue. With your support, we can train owners to become 'Donkey Champions', empowering them to act as the first line of defence against disease, injury and donkey theft in their community.

During a two-day training session, we can show Donkey Champions how to build a corral enclosure – essential for keeping their donkeys safe each night. We can teach owners fundamental donkey care and management, and provide them with first aid kits to treat common donkey wounds. Champions are also trained in the production of humane harnesses and saddle padding, providing instant relief and preventing future injuries.

Without these crucial measures, the donkeys will remain defenceless. Please can you support this special appeal, and safeguard the futures of these animals and their communities?



Starving donkey found abandoned at an abattoir



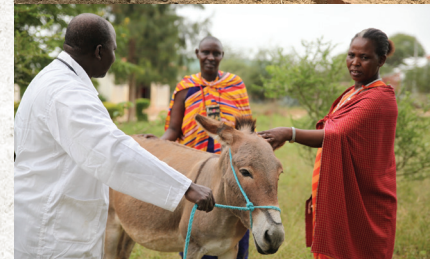
Donkeys huddled in their new corral enclosure, built in the heart of the Masai village

HERE'S HOW YOUR SUPPORT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE:



\$35

Emergency food – Your gift could save the life of a starving donkey rescued from an abattoir by providing a two-week supply of nutritious food.



\$91

First aid kits – Your gift could provide first aid kits and training for three Donkey Champions, equipping them to treat up to 60 hardworking and vulnerable donkeys like Naibor.



\$181

Corral enclosures – Your gift could help to build four corrals, protecting as many as 60 donkeys from being poached and slaughtered for their skins.

To make a donation please use the donation form enclosed or call **1300 149 080**

YOUR SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY

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

Sidy the donkey helps his owner, Joseph, transport construction materials around the city of Bamako in Mali, earning Joseph just enough income to get by. Environmental conditions can be harsh, and Sidy often has to walk many miles during the day in sweltering heat.

Joseph recently noticed an unusual growth on his donkey's leg that was affecting his ability to walk and he took him to SPANA's veterinary centre to be checked over.

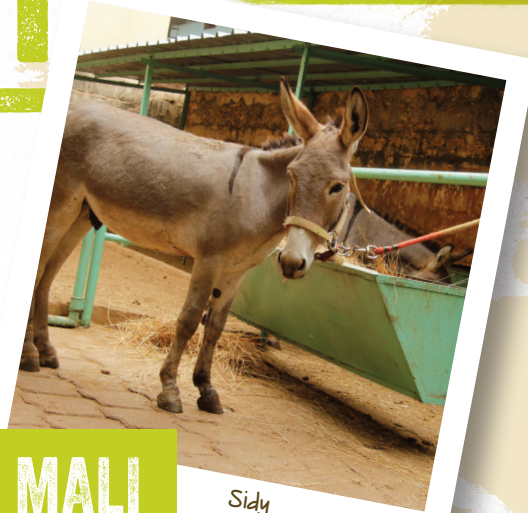
SPANA vets assessed Sidy and diagnosed the growth as a sarcoid tumour. Although not life-threatening, the tumour was large and was causing Sidy pain when he walked. The team decided to remove it surgically under anaesthesia.

Thankfully, the operation was a success and, after seven days of rest, Sidy was back on his feet and had made a full recovery.

'My donkey is a really important part of my family, so we were upset to see him suffering. Thank you very much for treating him.' - Joseph

MALI

Sidy



MAURITANIA

Five-year-old donkey, Abbas, is an important part of his owner Omar's life. By transporting water to be sold in the city of Nouakchott, Abbas makes it possible for 20-year-old Omar to earn a small income and support his parents and four siblings.

Omar brought Abbas to the SPANA mobile clinic in Nouakchott, Mauritania, as the donkey had become thinner and was suffering from some painful wounds. The team examined Abbas and identified parasites as being the main reason for his weight loss.

The SPANA vets administered an anti-parasitic injection and carefully attended to Abbas' wounds which were caused by inappropriate harnessing. The team told Omar to allow Abbas plenty of rest so his wounds could heal, and showed the boy how to fit the harness correctly to prevent it causing future injuries.



Abbas and Omar

Key: ● Treatment ● Training ● Teaching ● Emergencies ● Partnerships ● Outreach

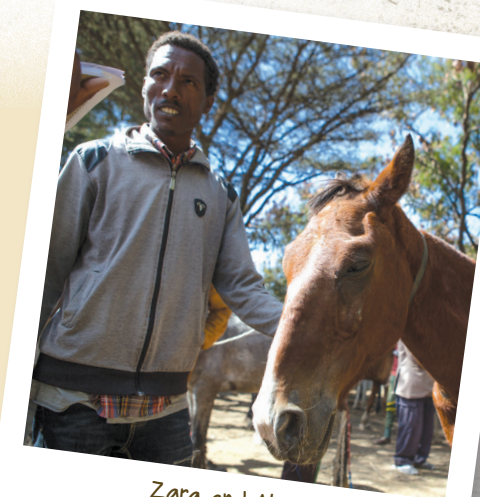
MOROCCO

Carthorse Zara was taking her owner's children to school when she slipped and wounded both her knees. Thanks to SPANA's training programmes, her owner Abdel knew of the charity's work and took his horse to the Chemaia centre in Morocco.

The vet was not able to suture Zara's wounds straight away due to the swelling around her joints. The horse was placed on a course of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and painkillers, and her wounds were cleaned with salt water. Abdel was also trained how to do this at home to continue the horses's healing process.

After a follow-up appointment two weeks later, it was determined Zara would no longer need stitches since Abdel had done such a good job of caring for his horse's injuries. Fully recovered, Zara could return to living and working alongside her family.

'I'm very satisfied, because I had no idea about the things you taught me. Some of the other animal owners had advised me to put engine oil and soap on my horse's wounds. I can now explain to them that this is wrong as it will hurt their animal' – Abdel



Zara and Abdel

ETHIOPIA

Gezahegn runs a passenger cart business in the small village in rural Ethiopia. He relies upon his elderly horse, Dama, to pull his cart around the community, allowing him to provide for himself and his sister.

When Dama fell on the tarmac road and suffered a wound to his knee, Gezahegn immediately took him to the SPANA mobile clinic in Adama. The SPANA vets cleaned and treated Dama's wound, but also diagnosed him with epizootic lymphangitis (EZL) – a contagious equine disease that causes painful lesions to develop across the skin.

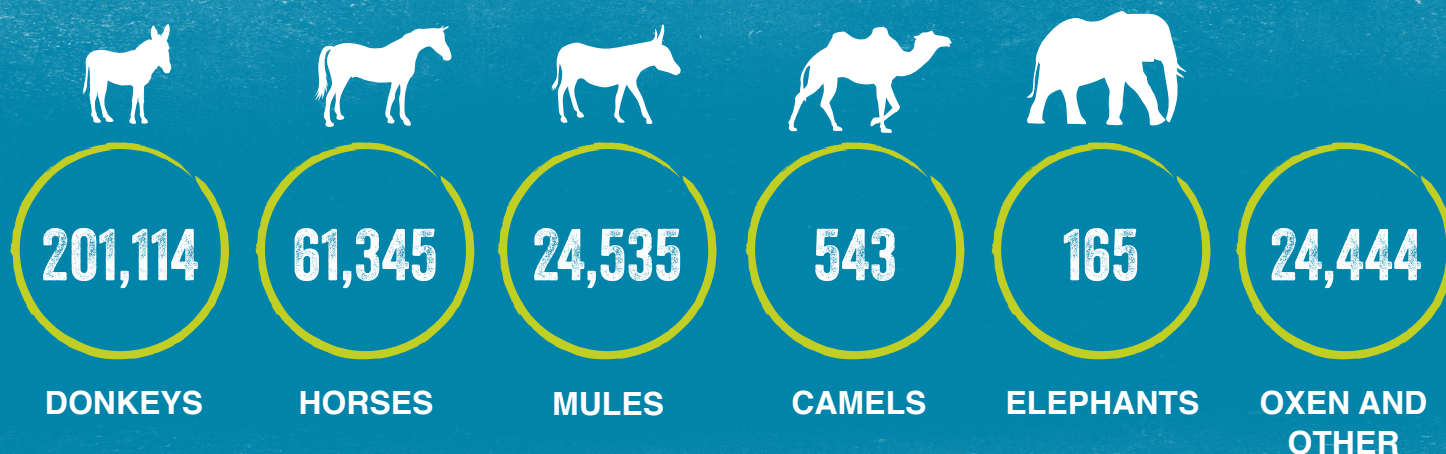
Fortunately, the SPANA team was able to treat Dama's EZL lesions by applying and infusing a tincture of iodine, as well as providing an oral dose of potassium iodide. The owner was thankful for the treatment, and promised to take good care of his horse while he recovered.



Dama and Gezahegn

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Thanks to supporters like you, last year we treated...



THE NEXT STEPS

SPANA's ambitious plans to help working animals.

For almost a century, SPANA has led a global mission to help the world's working animals and the communities that rely on them.

Over the next five years, we plan to help even more animals, extend our support to new countries, and deliver sustained improvements in the health and wellbeing of working animals worldwide by 2022 and beyond.

SPANA supporters have played a key role in helping to shape this strategy and the future of the charity, offering ideas and feedback along the way.



Geoffrey Dennis, SPANA Chief Executive, said:

'Over the next five years, we have very ambitious plans to help more animals, extend our support to new countries and deliver a better future for working animals and communities across the developing world. With the wonderful backing of our supporters, we will bring about a kinder, more compassionate future for working animals.'

Read our full five-year strategy at:
www.spana.org/next-steps