

2019 Issue



# NEWS

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## WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.



I've recently returned from Odisha, a poor state in eastern India that was hit by a devastating cyclone at the end of 2018. During my time there, I saw first-hand the significant impact of SPANA's emergency project in the region. By intervening quickly, and in the right places, we were able to save the lives of many animals that had been wounded during the disaster, or were under severe threat from disease. You can read more about our emergency response, which your support made possible, on the page opposite.

In our special appeal on page four of this issue, we are asking for your help to tackle a problem that our vets throughout the world encounter more than any other – harness wounds. These painful wounds are often the result of ill-fitting, inappropriate equipment, with owners frequently resorting to whatever materials they have available or can afford. The misery caused by harness wounds is widespread, but – with your kind support – we can treat these wounds and, every bit as importantly, stop them from occurring in the first place.

On a more positive note, on page six you can read the stories of just a few working animals you've recently helped us reach, providing lifesaving surgery and vital veterinary care.

Enclosed in this issue of SPANA News, you will find a flyer introducing our Gifts of Health & Happiness. These inspiring gifts allow our supporters to fund treatment and other assistance for animals on behalf of friends and family. With every gift you buy, you can receive a special card and gift certificate in a gift envelope, as well as a complimentary SPANA coaster as an extra thank you.

Gifts of Health & Happiness are a simple and personal way of supporting SPANA's vital work and make excellent presents for fellow animal lovers – whatever the occasion.

Finally, on behalf of our teams working to improve the lives of animals around the world, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity. SPANA could not achieve anything without you.

*Geoffrey Dennis*

**Geoffrey Dennis** Chief Executive

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# SAVING ANIMALS STRUCK BY NATURAL DISASTER IN INDIA

**Chief Executive Geoffrey Dennis visits Odisha, in eastern India, to see first-hand the impact of SPANA's emergency project following last year's devastating cyclone.**

In October 2018, a very severe cyclone moved across the Bay of Bengal and battered the east coast of India. In one of the worst hit states, Odisha, heavy flooding and landslides caused by the storm led to at least 77 people, and many animals, sadly losing their lives.

In the immediate aftermath of this appalling disaster, SPANA undertook an emergency project to save the lives of animals in the region and help affected communities to rebuild.

Working with a local partner organisation, APOWA, we ensured that veterinary care was quickly available after the disaster, treating animals wounded by debris and providing vaccinations against the spread of infectious and water-borne diseases.

We moved victims to higher ground where we built temporary animal shelters, and provided all-important food, water and vitamin supplements for starving animals. Our emergency team stayed in the area until villagers and their animals could safely return home and start rebuilding their lives.

Find out more at [www.spana.org/cyclone](http://www.spana.org/cyclone)

Earlier this year, I visited Odisha to see the impact of the project and assess the recovery that had been made. During the visit, I had the opportunity to interview many local villagers and animal owners. Two of the villagers, Abhi and Kalu Das, lost a number of goats in the storm, but all of their oxen were saved and, due to our assistance, are now fit and working in the fields again.

It was clear just how considerable a difference this project had made from the incredibly positive reaction of the villagers who came to greet me. The people in these very poor communities expressed their gratitude for the help we gave in saving their working animals – in turn ensuring that their livelihoods were protected.

SPANAs, rightly, has a reputation of being an effective, hands-on and practical charity. Our next step is to ensure that communities are better able to cope when disasters occur and that the welfare of animals improves in the long term. Providing advice on how to prepare for future emergencies in this cyclone-affected region is inexpensive, but will certainly reduce suffering in the future.

## 5,000+

the number of animals saved  
thanks to the emergency project



# BATTLING WITH HARNESS WOUNDS

SPECIAL APPEAL



Nutritious feed and three weeks of rest helped Raza on the road to recovery

Last year, an estimated one in four working animals treated by SPANA were suffering with wounds.

It remains the single most common clinical problem that our vets treat.

As a SPANA supporter, you will be aware of the challenges working animals face. The majority of horses, donkeys and mules are depended upon in their communities to pull back-breaking loads. Without adequate harnessing, their job is even harder.

10-year-old Raza is a Marwari horse, a breed native to the Jodhpur region of India. Raza works on a farm in the eastern state of Odisha, India, helping his owners, Ali and Sita, harvest just enough crops to feed their family of four.

When the opportunity arises, the carthorse also transports guests at wedding ceremonies, enabling Ali to make a small but meaningful wage.

In some of the world's poorest regions, proper equipment is either unaffordable or simply not available to buy. With only a make-do harness at Ali's disposal, each time he halted

Raza, the cart would collide into the horse's tail end.

**When hauling hay one afternoon, Raza stumbled on the uneven path causing the cart to crash into his rear where an open sore was already festering. Overloaded and unable to keep his balance, he fell hard onto his frail front legs and wounded both knees.**

Fortunately, SPANA's mobile clinic was there to help. The vet carefully cut away hair and dirt that had become matted in his tail wound, and thoroughly cleaned and sterilised Raza's injuries. He then gently applied antibiotic ointment to fend off infection, and instructed Ali to clean the wounds twice a day while his horse was recovering.

The vet stressed that Raza's injuries could have easily been prevented with improved harnessing. He replaced the broken breeching strap

and showed Ali how to modify the harness, adding soft padding to protect sensitive areas of the horse's body.

Raza is just one of tens of thousands of animals treated by our vets for agonising harness wounds every year. Common injuries our vets encounter include wounds on the chest and back, where straps are pulled tight and cut into the animal's neck. Abrasive makeshift materials, such as rags, metal and plastic, chafe and rub the skin raw. This can develop into serious – even fatal – infections.

**Hundreds of thousands of equids battle through their working lives with unsafe harnessing. Deep wounds, chronic infections and painful sores that have no chance to heal; this is the reality for animals working under these conditions.**

While we will continue to provide immediate treatment, we know that prevention is key in tackling this issue in the long term. SPANA's community training programme educates owners in correct husbandry and humane practices, equipping them to provide a safer and more comfortable life for the animals they so desperately rely upon.

Many more animals need to be treated, their owners educated, and humane equipment widely distributed. SPANA's skilled teams are on the ground and need help to put these practical measures in place.

**Please, if you can, support this special appeal and help stop the suffering caused by poor harnessing.**



Harness wounds make working life miserable for donkeys, horses and mules alike





Raza's festering harness wound needed urgent treatment before infection set in

## HERE'S HOW YOUR SUPPORT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE:



**\$44**

**Comfort** – Your gift could provide soft padding for one animal, protecting its body from harness wounds and making each working day more comfortable.



**\$82**

**Treatment** – Your gift could relieve the suffering of a horse like Raza, by providing essential treatment for painful, non-healing wounds on its back, chest and legs.



**\$220**

**Protection** – Your gift could help protect ten or more working animals by funding one community training session, equipping owners to harness their animals humanely, and empowering them to spread knowledge in their community.

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.

**When five-year-old mule, Mounir, was brought to the SPANA centre in Marrakech, our team of vets knew that the problem was serious.**

His owner, Omar, had become concerned about some growths that had developed on his mule's chest and groin.

Luckily, despite living 40km from the centre, Omar's neighbour recommended SPANA after our vets had previously performed a successful surgery on his own foal.

On arrival at the centre, the vets examined Mounir and identified numerous tumours – known as sarcoids – which would require urgent attention. Without surgery, the tumours could grow very large, risking trauma that could lead to ulcers and infection.

The team prepared for surgery and put the mule under general anaesthetic. SPANA vet Dr Boubker, who led the surgery, had to be very careful in ensuring that all of the tumour cells were removed. Fortunately, there were no complications, and Mounir was able to make a full recovery during his two-week stay at the centre.

*Omar said: 'Mounir is very precious to our family and you have saved him. Thank you SPANA.'*



*Mounir at the Marrakech centre*

## MOROCCO

## MAURITANIA

**When 36-year-old Mohammad leaves for work in the morning in Nouakchott, Mauritania, he's never without two trusted workmates – his donkeys, Mejibir and Artugro.**

The pair pull a cart of construction materials for around six hours each day, providing an income for Mohammad and his four children. When the cart hit into a large piece of metal, the vehicle overturned, causing Artugro to stumble and fall.

The donkey was limping and seemed unwell, his skin hot to the touch. Mohammad quickly took him to the SPANA centre where our vets found Artugro's shoulder to be twisted and inflamed, causing him severe pain and discomfort. They gave him painkillers and anti-inflammatories and kept him in the centre for five days where he made good progress. The team told Mohammad to continue resting Artugro and advised him not to overload his cart, to prevent similar accidents occurring in the future.



*Artugro after treatment for his shoulder injury*



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

## TUNISIA

**Five-year-old horse Rayen was brought to the SPANA mobile clinic at the Feriana souk in Tunisia after a vehicle clipped him by the roadside.**

The accident had left Rayen with a nasty, eight-centimetre wound on his left cheek – just missing his eye.

Rayen's owner, Sami Rached, had waited anxiously for the SPANA mobile clinic to arrive, but the wound had worsened by this time. On inspection, SPANA vets found that the open wound was swollen, and was surrounded by pus and dead tissue.

The team responded immediately to prevent any infection from spreading further, cleaning the wound and using an antiseptic spray. They then prescribed a six-day course of antibiotic injections for Rayen. The vets advised Sami that Rayen would need to rest for three weeks while the wound healed fully.

Sami was extremely grateful to SPANA for helping Rayen. He said:

*'I am very thankful to SPANA for their efforts in helping our animal's health.'*



Treatment for Rayen's eye wound

## MYANMAR

**SPANAs mobile clinic in Myanmar recently met a one-month old baby elephant that was bathing in the river, enjoying splashing his 43-year-old mother.**

The elephant's oozie (a term for handler), Cwin Naing, explained to the vets that the baby was suffering with skin problems. After examination, the vets identified both urticaria and pruritus – an itchy rash caused by parasites from fly larvae that causes constant discomfort and frustration.

Despite its thickness, elephants' skin is very sensitive and susceptible to parasites and other conditions. Elephants often use mud and baths to get rid of insects, as well as to cool off.

To treat the baby elephant, whose name was Htay Phyu Naing, the vets gave him an injection of anti-parasitic medication. They also gave him vitamins to assist with his recovery and growth, as he was very small for his age. Standing at around two feet, he was not able to reach his mother's teats for milk. His oozie had built a small step so that he could reach.

Cwin Naing thanked SPANA for helping the calf. He was extremely proud of his elephants and the strength of the mother. Thankfully, the calf's skin problem was quickly relieved and, before long, he was able to concentrate on playing in the river again, with no itchiness to spoil his fun.



One-month old Htay Phyu Naing

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# GIFTS OF HEALTH & HAPPINESS

## Caring gifts for working animals

Working animals provide vital support to some of the most impoverished families in the world. Without access to veterinary care, these animals' lives are at risk.

That's where SPANA steps in. Thanks to your support, our vets are on hand to provide free treatment to hundreds of thousands of working animals every year, helping to save lives and ease their suffering.

When you buy a Gift of Health & Happiness for yourself or a loved one, you are helping us care for vulnerable working animals in desperate need.

### DOUGHNUTS FOR DONKEYS

\$22



Pay for 20 doughnut bandages for injured donkeys

### DINNER TIME

\$36



Pay for a two week supply of nutritious food for starving animals

### YOUR SPECIAL GIFT PACK

With each gift you buy, you can receive a special gift certificate, presentation card and gift envelope. **Plus,** as an extra thank you, every pack contains a complimentary SPANA coaster!



Find more gifts and your order form in the leaflet enclosed!



**SPANA**  
For the working animals of the world