

# KEY WORKERS APPEAL

Will you help these key workers in their time of need?



Working animals struggle on through pain and sickness to help their communities survive. Please support them with a gift today.

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# PLEASE HELP STOP THE SUFFERING

**Thousands of sick and injured animals are working in agony.**

In poverty stricken countries around the world, donkeys, horses and other animals work day in and day out to support their communities. They get no holidays to rest and if they get sick or are injured, they must continue to work, sometimes through excruciating pain.

The work these animals do is absolutely essential. In fact, these working animals are the **key workers of their communities**.

**Water** – across Africa and the developing world, access to clean drinking water can be many miles away. Donkeys, horses and camels walk for hours, often in burning heat, to carry the water an entire family depends on for their survival.

**Transport** – working animals often work from dawn until dusk providing the only available means of travel. They are relied on to take goods to market, sick people to hospital and children to school.

**Food** – trucks and tractors may seem like a simple solution. However, in countries where vehicles and fuel are unaffordable, and spare parts impossible to come by, working animals take on this exhausting agricultural work.



**Many animals walk for miles carrying heavy loads – even if they are injured**



**Working animals are essential to their communities**

## **Every day is a struggle**

Life is hard for working animals. Every day they walk for miles and miles, carrying backbreaking loads, often in scorching heat. **But if they get sick or injured, life becomes unbearable.**

It's impossible for them to stop working so they must struggle on through their pain. Often their owners can't afford veterinary care or live too far from a vet. The coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdowns have made life even harder, with many people losing their livelihoods overnight.

Please read on for the stories of three working animals who are key workers in their communities. And you can **find out how you can save working animals from unbearable suffering.**

**Your support today will be a lifeline for working animals in their hour of need.**

# WATER

**Working animals can walk for miles every day in search of the essential water that their communities need to survive.**



***Eight-year-old donkey Smart needed expert veterinary treatment***

Eight-year-old donkey Smart pulls a cart carrying the water that her owner, Kufakunesu, his wife and three young children rely on each day.

Smart lives in the hot, semi-arid district of Chivi in southern Zimbabwe, where rainfall is minimal and uncertain. Many families like Kufakunesu's face a daily struggle getting water for both domestic use and for their livestock. They must travel long distances in search of lifegiving water, and their donkeys are essential for transporting it. Without their animals, families face going thirsty, or the women and children would spend many hours carrying water, putting their safety, health and education at risk.

So when Kufakunesu noticed fleshy lumps appearing on Smart's shoulder and side (or flank), he was very worried. The lumps grew quickly and were positioned so that they were being rubbed raw by the harness. Smart was in agonizing pain and the area was becoming increasingly raw and infected. Smart continued to work on through the searing pain until the lumps became so big and infected that Smart could no longer wear a harness.

When SPANA's mobile clinic made its regular visit to a nearby school, Kufakunesu walked for several hours with Smart to get her the expert treatment she desperately needed. SPANA's vet diagnosed fibroblastic sarcoids; a skin tumour, which fortunately does not spread to other organs.

Our team sedated Smart so that they could safely remove the sarcoids. Afterwards they gave her antibiotics to fight the infection and applied zinc oxide paste to the wounds to help them heal. They advised Kufakunesu how to keep the wounds clean and to ensure that Smart rested until she had fully recovered.

Kufakunesu said: *'Thank you SPANA. The wounds on my donkey meant I was no longer able to use Smart. Getting water had become difficult as my wife and children had to carry water on their heads over long distances in this Covid-19 lockdown. With Smart's recovery, life will be normal again.'*



***SPANA vet, Dr Erick, saved Smart from pain and suffering so she could continue to work for her family who rely on her***

**Please donate today to save donkeys like Smart from working through unbearable pain. Your donation could pay for essential medicines like sedatives, antibiotics and zinc oxide paste.**



# TRANSPORT

**Working animals must fight exhaustion to carry backbreaking loads in scorching heat to help their owners earn a small income.**

In the humid Mali forest, four-year-old donkey Mina and her owner, Maimouna, collect firewood from dusk to dawn. Mina carries the heavy load back to the village so that Maimouna can sell the wood in front of their home. The money she earns pays for food for her and her nine children. But too often they still don't have enough to eat.

One day, Maimouna let Mina out to graze for food in the streets around the village as she couldn't afford feed for her. As Mina searched for food, something sharp – a piece of wood or metal – pierced her skin. It caused a sore, painful open wound near her eye. If the wound had been any higher, it could have blinded her.

Every time Mina wore her harness to collect wood, it rubbed against her open wound, leaving her in excruciating pain. The wound wasn't healing and was at risk of becoming infected. Mina needed urgent veterinary care to prevent infection and relieve the daily pain caused by her harness rubbing against the wound.



***Maimouna relies on her donkey, Mina, to carry heavy loads of firewood to sell to feed her family***



***Thanks to expert treatment, Mina made a full recovery from the wound near her eye that was causing her excruciating pain***

Fortunately, it wasn't long before our mobile clinic travelled to Maimouna's village. She brought Mina to the clinic and our skilled team immediately got to work flushing Mina's wound with saline solution to clean it. They then gave her a sedative to calm her down, and a local anaesthetic so they could repair the wound.

Our team also fitted Mina with a new harness that wouldn't rub against her tender skin. After a week of rest and recovery, Mina was finally free from intense pain and ready to go back to work supporting Maimouna and her family.

Maimouna said: 'SPANAs are very important because they take care of the animals for free. Sometimes we don't have money to take care of them.'

**Your support could save other donkeys like Mina from working with intense pain. Your kind donation could pay for the surgical materials needed to suture a wound including needles, suture material, sterile gloves and surgical scissors.**

# FOOD

**Ploughing fields by donkey power is relentlessly hard work for the animals, but it is often the only reliable method families in the developing world have of growing food to feed themselves.**

During the summer months in the remote regions around Chemaia in Morocco, temperatures regularly peak over 30 degrees centigrade. Rainfall is scarce and when the coronavirus pandemic hit, the region had already been suffering from a prolonged drought.

15-year-old mule Salma works on through these perilous conditions. Together, Salma and her owner, Esoufi, plough the land and travel to the weekly market. Salma also carries their daily rations of water.

When Esoufi noticed Salma's cheek was swelling and she was struggling to eat he didn't know what to do. Esoufi saw there was a fleshy mass in Salma's mouth, and soon it had grown so big that she could hardly eat at all. Salma kept working even though every day was a struggle.

When Esoufi found out about our centre in Chemaia, he knew he needed to take the risk and travel the 26km to get there in lockdown. Fortunately, our expert veterinary team were quick to diagnose a tumour and knew they needed to operate straightaway to save Salma's life.



**Salma couldn't eat because of the large tumour in her mouth. Fortunately, the tumour was benign and after surgery, Salma made a full recovery.**

Esoufi said: *'I am grateful to SPANA for your help and delighted to see Salma in good shape now. I was horrified to see the big mass in her mouth and feel terrible that she was so uncomfortable.'*

SPANAs expert vets are absolutely critical to save the lives of animals like Smart, Mina and Salma. Ensuring they have the latest training means we can save the lives of more animals. Similarly, training the next generation of student vets, and providing practical placements where they can learn, will mean working animals can be cared for in years to come. We desperately need more funds to keep these training programmes running and ensure a brighter future for the working animals of the world.

**Please help to save working animals like Salma. Your donation could give SPANA vets, and the vets of tomorrow, the most up to date training to ensure they have the expertise to successfully operate on suffering animals.**



# YOUR IMPACT

**We urgently need your support to save working animals like Smart, Mina and Salma. Together, we are their only hope.**

Your donation today could:

- stock SPANA clinics with essential medicines like sedatives, antibiotics and ointments to ensure that suffering donkeys like Smart get the treatment they need.
- equip our vets with surgical materials like needles, suture materials and surgical scissors so they can treat the wounds of donkeys like Mina so they don't have to work every day in excruciating pain.
- ensure SPANA vets, and the vets of tomorrow, have the most up to date skills to perform lifesaving surgery on working animals like Salma.



***Without SPANA, thousands of working animals face a life of suffering***

It costs approximately £5,000 per month, or £61,000 a year, to keep one of our countries stocked with medicines and equipment, and to run our veterinary training programmes. The budget below shows the average annual costs per country. We desperately need to raise more funds today to keep our vital services running over the next year.

2021 annual average budget per country	Cost
Essential medicines	£48,000
Surgical materials	£4,000
Vet training	£9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£61,000</b>



**Please give a kind gift today and stop working animals from having to work though their pain and suffering. Thank you**