He’s starving and needs your help
Support our appeal to tackle the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 crisis
See page six

Plus: Reach working animals in remote locations | Stop the spread of infectious diseases
Dear Friends,

Welcome to Stablemate 2021. I want to start by saying a huge 'Thank you', on behalf of the world’s most vulnerable animals. In an extremely challenging time, you have been amazingly generous. Thanks to you, we have kept our veterinary centres open to treat sick and suffering working animals around the world, during the global Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Your donations provided starving working animals with emergency food. Lockdown restrictions have decimated economies and owners are struggling to feed their animals. So, it’s vital that, in countries like Morocco, we are able to feed working animals forced to graze in the streets (see page three).

Free-grazing like this puts working horses, donkeys, mules and others, at risk. On page 10, you can read how more working animals, like 12-year-old horse Izara and her foal Fantu, are developing infectious respiratory diseases in the pandemic. Their story is heartbreaking and we are relying on your donations to stop the spread of these dangerous diseases.

We also need your support to reach working animals in remote locations that are suffering as a result of the pandemic. On page four, you’ll find three-year-old donkey Aya’s story and discover how working animals like her are not getting basic veterinary care, simply because of where they live. A gift from you can help us reach these animals and keep our mobile clinics on the road.

Of course, recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 crisis will be a long process. For the poor working animals of the world, your support is critical to this. Our clinics are being inundated with working animals like Gora, a starving donkey from Mauritania with painful harness wounds. Only with your continued support can we continue to help animals like her. Find out more about our ongoing efforts to help working animals who are suffering terribly as a result of the crisis on page six.

We’re there for working animals affected by this crisis because of you. I’m so grateful for your support and so proud to help the working animals of the world through SPANA.

Thank you again for your compassion. If you can, please consider sending a kind gift today to ease the suffering of hardworking animals like Izara, Aya and Gora.

Dr Ben Sturgeon  Director of Veterinary Programmes

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If you’d like to receive regular updates about SPANA’s work, please sign up for our e-newsletter at wwwSPANA.org
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Registered charity no: 209015

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**FEEDING WORKING HORSES MULES AND DONKEYS IN MOROCCO**

Heads down, the desperately thin mule and donkey are exhausted as they search through the rubbish of the deserted Moroccan souk to find something to eat. Sadly, as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic, their owners can no longer afford to feed them and are forced to turn their animals out to graze in the streets. But when they graze on rubbish, these vulnerable animals risk eating plastic or toxic chemicals which can be life-threatening.

Thanks to supporters like you who responded generously to our Covid-19 appeal, we’ve been able to offer a lifeline to working donkeys, mules and horses.

Your donations are paying for emergency relief programmes across the countries where we work. In Morocco, for example, your kind gifts are providing emergency food to working animals in three areas of the country.

In the capital Marrakech, and the town of Aït Ourir, carriage horses used to cart tourists around cobbled streets. This heavy work dried up overnight because of the pandemic and many horses were starving or abandoned. Thanks to you, for two months from April 2020, we fed nearly 600 of these desperate working animals. And, in October 2020, we distributed food to more than 300 working horses.

In rural Chemaia, locals rely on hardworking animals to do everything from carrying wood, to transporting goods to market. But lockdown changed this. ‘Now with Covid, there is no available work,’ says Elbadaoui Abdelfattah, a donkey owner in Chemaia. ‘I have nothing to feed my donkey or my family with.’

Your donations have allowed our teams to distribute over 9,600 kilograms of barley to 169 starving working animals in Chemaia, like Elbadaoui’s donkey. These animals support over 1,065 family members.

Mules in Imil, in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, do dangerous work, carrying food, water and building materials to remote towns in treacherous terrain. But when the virus struck, their owners couldn’t make a living or afford to feed their animals. Your donations helped provide 200 hungry mules with grain during the lockdown period.

Your support has helped working animals in Morocco to survive the crisis. But now, more working animals need our help.

Dr Youness Elousabi, SPANA Vet at our Chemaia centre in Morocco, says the situation in the country, where the tourist industry has been destroyed by lockdown restrictions, is really scary. ‘We are expecting to have lots of animal welfare issues and abandoned animals,’ he says. ‘More than ever, we really need your help.’

Only with your support can we continue to feed and treat working animals that are suffering as a result of this crisis. We’ve set up emergency feeding programmes in Mauritania, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mali, as well as Morocco.

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**WHAT YOUR DONATIONS CAN DO:**

- **£20** could feed a starving working animal for two weeks.
- **£48** could pay for vital medicines, such as painkillers and anti-parasite treatments for sick working animals.
- **£150** could help train more working animal owners so that they are better prepared for future crises.

Thank you. Your support changes lives.

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Find out more about our projects www.spana.org/our-work
It’s early morning in the hot and humid Mali forest and three-year-old donkey Aya is starting her working day. Soon, she will be in searing pain. Aya’s harness is rubbing against open wounds and big red, fleshy lumps on her side. The wounds sting as Aya pulls a heavy pile of wood which she has collected with her owner Nassoun. It’s the beginning of their long day in the dusty village of Kanadjiguila and Nassoun wonders how her donkey will carry on. Aya is suffering. She is unable to reach the nearest vet and Nassoun doesn’t know when her donkey’s pain will end.

For working animals, like Aya, that live in the world’s poorest and most remote locations, life is incredibly tough. They must battle harsh terrain and unforgiving climates, working long hours to support their owners’ families. For them, illness and injury are all too common.

Sadly, with animal welfare declining because of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and restrictions on movement caused by the virus, many more working animals now need our help. Living in the world’s most hard-to-reach places, working animals are suffering because they don’t have access to critical veterinary care. Unchecked, even minor ailments can quickly escalate into far more serious – and even fatal – illnesses.

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Aya’s story

It was several weeks ago that Nassoun noticed fleshy lumps on Aya’s side. She saw how her donkey was beginning to struggle. Aya and Nassoun have the essential job of delivering wood to people in their local community to use for cooking and warmth. Nassoun could see that this daily work was becoming harder for Aya, who was showing visible signs of discomfort. At the end of their long working days, the donkey’s wound looked bigger and rawer. But every day that Aya worked, there was an increased risk that her open wounds would become infected. This would become agonizingly painful and attract flies carrying diseases. As Aya lives so far from a vet, she had little hope of receiving the treatment she desperately needed.

Fortunately, thanks to your support, we were able to reach Aya, despite it being lockdown in Mali. Our vets travelled to the remote town of Kanadjiguila in their mobile clinic, a specially designed van, stocked with vital medicines and surgical materials. Nassoun heard that our vets were in town and brought Aya to be treated. Our trained veterinary team saw immediately that Aya had sarcoids on her side. These are a type of skin tumour that can appear suddenly and grow quickly. The team knew that they had to carry out surgery there and then. They gave Aya an anaesthetic so they could carefully remove the sarcoids and stitch her wounds.

SPANA mobile vets advised Nassoun that Aya needed two weeks of rest and to keep an eye out for other sarcoids as they could come back. Nassoun was relieved. ‘The donkey feeds my whole family,’ she says. ‘SPANA is very important to me. When SPANA takes care of the animals, they work very well.’

It’s heartbreaking to think about other working animals in Aya’s position who – just because of where they are in the world – are not getting basic veterinary care.

With your help, we will reach more working animals in remote locations who’ve missed out on vital veterinary care because of the pandemic. Whatever you can give today will help keep our mobile clinics on the road and stocked with lifesaving medication and equipment. We will not abandon working animals like Aya to suffer or die needlessly.

Thanks to you, SPANA vets examined over 60,000 working animals at mobile clinics from January to July 2020.

A kind gift from you today could help our specialist mobile clinics reach working animals like Aya and provide critical veterinary care.

£25 could pay for anaesthetic so that animals like Aya can receive urgent treatment for skin tumours and other painful conditions.

£50 could keep a mobile clinic on the road for a week.

£120 could help stock a mobile clinic with essential medicines and equipment to treat working animals that live far from veterinary care.

Thanks so much for your continued support.

Find out more about our mobile clinics appeal at www.spana.org/ontheroad
Life is a struggle for Gora and his 13-year-old owner Daouda, he’d work 10-hour days transporting rubbish in extreme heat. When Covid-19 caused businesses to close and households to have less money, Daouda’s income was cut drastically. Now, Gora works three-hour days – which means there’s less money to feed him. His day is shorter, but his suffering has increased.

The effects of the global pandemic are ongoing for Gora and thousands of animals like him in the world’s poorest communities, where basic survival is a struggle.

Lockdowns around the world have meant that many animals have not received veterinary care and conditions that can normally be managed have become more severe. Routine appointments, including vaccinations and anti-parasite and hoof treatments, have been missed. Infectious diseases are on the rise (see page 10). And cases of malnourishment and famine-related illnesses, such as colic, are at the highest level our vets have ever seen.

Sadly, this means that hardworking animals are experiencing unprecedented suffering. Their recovery will be a long process. Only with your support can we make sure working animals like Gora survive the ongoing effects of this crisis.

In a desert climate, the rubbish Gora carries attracts flies which are also drawn to his painful harness wounds. The more the makeshift harness rubs against them, the deeper they become. With every weak step Gora takes, his open wounds sting. If they become infected, he risks developing a fever and becoming even more exhausted. In some cases, severe infections can be deadly.

In a global pandemic in one of the poorest countries in the world, Gora is in a desperate situation. He needs veterinary care before his condition becomes much, much worse.

Fortunately, thanks to supporters like you, we’ve managed to keep our Mauritanian mobile clinic on the road in the pandemic. Daouda heard about our free veterinary care and when our team travelled to Rosso, near his home, he took Gora there to get urgent treatment.

Our trained vets started by giving the hungry donkey something to eat and cleaning his wounds so they were free of dead skin and dirt. Then the vets sprayed Gora’s wounds with antiseptic to sterilise and keep them clean. Finally, they gave Gora a treatment to kill internal parasites, which were making his malnourishment worse.

The team advised Daouda to use soft padding over Gora’s chest strap to prevent the harness wound reoccuring. They showed Daouda how to keep Gora’s wounds clean and dry and advised him to give them time to heal.

If SPANA vets hadn’t provided this treatment, Gora’s wounds would have been deeper and more painful.

Only with your support, can we keep our clinics open to help thousands of animals like Gora. As we all know now, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic will take a long time to recover from. With the lifting of lockdowns, SPANA clinics around the world have seen an influx of animals who have not had basic veterinary treatment. Many are starving and some have been abandoned. Our aim is to treat them all.

Your support will mean we can reach more desperate working animals that need help now to recover from the global pandemic. Thank you so much.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

£100 could pay for deadly parasites.
£40 could pay for antiseptics and painkillers to treat harness wounds on a severely malnourished animal.
£20 could treat six working animals for deadly parasites.
Gallons of water. Huge baskets of bricks. Stack upon stack of fish and crops. In parts of Tanzania, working donkeys carry extremely heavy loads like these for huge distances, every day. This work leaves donkeys with painful injuries and skin sores on their bodies. Some are so severe that, without treatment, the injuries could prove to be fatal.

The donkeys of Tanzania face other threats too. They could be stolen and slaughtered for their skin, which is sold in neighbouring Kenya. And, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has meant many owners have lost their income and can no longer afford to feed their donkeys, or pay for them to be treated by a vet.

With so many challenges, these poor working animals need our support more than ever. Thank you, we’ve worked with local communities in Tanzania to build their knowledge and understanding of the threats to their animals. This will reduce their suffering today and protect them in the long-term.

Improving donkeys’ long-term welfare

In August 2020, around 150 donkey owners and local government officials took part in nine practical community training sessions. Using poems, songs, and traditional dance, they shared information and knowledge and discussed animal welfare. Participants learnt how their donkeys’ pain and suffering could be easily avoided with better fitting harnesses and lighter loads. The sessions also addressed how to keep donkeys safe from poachers.

The work was a great success. Sessions helped improve the welfare of 5,000 donkeys. They reduced the number with injuries caused by poor equipment and overloading by over 20 per cent, from 224 in July to 177 in August 2020.

Indeed, training communities in animal welfare has both immediate and long-term benefits. Many of the working animals that our vets see have preventable illnesses and conditions. Training owners in basic animal care, and promoting compassion can help prevent working animals from suffering in the first place.

The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the importance of this vital part of SPANA’s work. The people we have trained have better skills and more knowledge to take care of their animals when our veterinary teams can’t travel due to restrictions.

We can only keep educating communities and improving the long-term welfare of donkeys with your support. Thank you.
The pandemic has caused respiratory diseases to increase in working animals like Izara and her foal Fantu. To prevent a lifetime of struggle, they urgently need your help.

Izara and her foal’s story

Fantu follows his mum Izara everywhere she goes. For the foal from Angolela, Ethiopia, the world can feel like a scary place. Izara provides the comfort, safety and love he needs. Sadly, at six months old, twice a day, the young foal sees his mum, carrying 100 litres of water on her back, struggling more than normal, as he trails after her. Izara has to carry water to feed her owner’s cows but she can’t stop coughing.

Her whole body heaves as she struggles to inhale. Izara’s airways are so constricted by mucus that it’s like she is trying to breathe through a straw. Sadly, Izara’s awful struggle to breathe is becoming all too common for working animals.

Worryingly, more working animals, like Izara, are developing infectious diseases in the current Covid-19 crisis, especially respiratory ones. In the countries where we work, we often see working animals toiling through clouds of dust, or with sealed sacks of feed covering their mouths and noses, struggling to catch their breath. These conditions make the airwaves of working animals like Izara swollen so it’s harder for them to resist infection.

At the watering hole, Izara travels to each day, weak and wheezing working animals huddle together while their owners pick up supplies. As they graze together and interact, contagious respiratory diseases quickly spread.

Now, because of the pandemic, respiratory diseases are reaching epidemic proportions. Healthy and unhealthy abandoned animals are mingling even more as they desperately search for food or water. There are more wheezing animals at the watering hole and they are looking weaker. With a lack of food and veterinary care, animal welfare standards are low, as are the immune systems of working animals. As a result, they are more at risk of developing diseases.

Respiratory diseases are particularly dangerous to younger or sick animals. Their lower resistance to disease means bacteria can rapidly multiply in the airways. This can lead to pneumonia. A respiratory illness could be fatal for little Fantu.

Working animals like Izara urgently need your help to prevent them experiencing a lifetime of struggle.

For nine years, Izara has fetched water for her young owner Kassahun and his family of five. They love her horse very much. ‘She is the backbone for our family,’ says Kassahun. Twice a day, in rural and dusty Angolela, the horse carries huge containers of water to the family’s cows so they have enough to drink. She has done this heavy work during each of her three pregnancies.

Now 12 years old and a new mum again, Izara needs energy to carry on working and tend to Fantu. But as Izara’s airwaves are inflamed, she can barely breathe. Just as she manages to recover some energy, a coughing attack makes her weaker once again. Each time Izara coughs, Fantu is more at risk of catching his mum’s harmful illness. But, for him, the outcome could be a lot worse.

Without treatment, Izara’s lungs could grow weaker. Bacteria could then take hold and lead to her developing pneumonia. She’d be unable to work and to look after her foal, who would be at high risk of getting pneumonia too – and have a low chance of surviving.

When Kassahun noticed Izara’s symptoms he knew he had to act quickly. When he heard the SPANA mobile clinic was coming to nearby Angolea, he walked three kilometres with Izara and Fana to reach it. After examining Izara, our trained vets diagnosed her with a bacterial respiratory disease. They gave her antibiotics in some feed and an anti-parasite treatment, another cause of respiratory disease.

The SPANA team asked Kassahun to continue adding antibiotics to Izara’s feed for five days and quarantine her away from healthy animals until she recovered. Very sadly, this meant they had to advise Kassahun to keep Fantu separate from his mum because the foal was at risk of catching the contagious respiratory infection.

Kassahun was so relieved that his beloved horse had received treatment and would get better. ‘During Covid-19 we were worried that SPANA may discontinue their services, but you are here to help,’ he says. ‘Thank you very much for all your support, even in difficult times like this.’

More working animals like Izara need our help. In 2019, our Ethiopia-based SPANA vets found that respiratory diseases were the third most treated condition in working animals. These diseases will thrive in the Covid-19 crisis when more working animals have lower immune systems and are at risk because of poorer animal welfare standards. They’re also more likely to catch the contagious diseases when they mix with abandoned animals searching for food in crowded places.

With your support, we will stop these diseases in their tracks and prevent working animals suffering a debilitated life.

Working animals’ lives are already such a struggle without them being left to fight for their very breath.

STopping THE SPread of CONTAGIOUS RESpiratory Diseases

What your donations can do

If you can, please send a donation today to help stop infectious respiratory diseases destroying the lives of working animals like Izara and Fantu.

£16 could vaccinate two working animals against equine flu.

£48 could provide a working animal with antibiotics and anti-parasite drugs to fight respiratory disease.

£80 could help prevent the spread of infectious respiratory diseases by training more working animal owners.

Thanks so much for your support.

Find out more about our respiratory diseases appeal at www.spana.org/izara

www.spana.org
Donation line: 0300 033 4999
Despite the huge challenges of 2020, our amazing supporters continued to raise money to ease the suffering of working animals around the world. A huge ‘Thank you’ to every one of you. Your support is providing a lifeline for working animals, making sure we can be there when they need us most.

Create your own event

Longstanding SPANA supporter Margaret Farley has hosted an annual World Tea Party for a number of years. When lockdown put paid to her 2020 event, Margaret got creative. If people couldn’t come round for tea, Margaret would take the party to them. She put together 50 bags, packed with delicious scones, for tea, Margaret would take the party to them. She

Fundraise from your hobbies

For keen seamstress Debbie Wilson, September 2020 was dedicated to dressmaking. She hosted a month-long sponsored sew-a-thon, with friends and family donating to SPANA to spur her on. Her stunning garments (see the picture on the right) were auctioned off to the highest bidder. So far, she has raised £1,655 to help working animals suffering as a result of the pandemic.

Getting creative

Patterned, stripey or plain, whatever your taste, SPANA supporter Caryn Wakelin can make you a colourful and practical face mask. She’s supported our work for 12 years and spent much of 2020 using her creative skills to make masks to raise much-needed funds for our work. She has raised over £850 to ease the suffering of working animals in these difficult times. You can buy one of Caryn’s masks at www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KittyroseMasks for £3.

How to get involved

Your fundraising plans may have been affected by the pandemic. But there are still so many ways you can make a big difference to animals in need. Call our friendly community fundraising team for ideas on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org. You can also visit www.spana.org/get-involved

Sponsors' celebration

When Nicola Brzeczek had her 50th birthday in lockdown, she wanted to turn the negative of not being able to celebrate with friends and family into a positive. She decided to embrace her new found love of Nordic Walking and raise money for SPANA at the same time. ‘I love animals and have had my eyes opened wide by the work you do,’ says Nicola.

Nicola walked 50km in just one day to celebrate her 50th birthday, taking 13 hours. Her latest fundraising total for working animals in need is £1,531.

SPANA has teamed up with Bequeathed to offer our supporters in England, Wales and Northern Ireland a free standard Will with legal advice from a solicitor. Bequeathed offers a free and convenient online Will service with legal advice from a solicitor. You start by completing an online interview which links to guidance and support if you need it. You then have a 30-minute appointment with a solicitor who is independent of Bequeathed. This can take place on the phone, online, at your home, or in the solicitor’s office. The solicitor will confirm your instructions with you, finalise your Will and provide the final document free of charge.

We all want our loved ones to be taken care of in the future. By writing a Will, you can make sure that your money, property and possessions go to the people and causes that you care about. But it can be one of those things we often put off. SPANA supporter Anne Paul told us that once she finally got round to writing her Will, it took a weight off her mind. ‘It took quite a bit of planning but once you’ve done it – actually you can relax,’ says Anne. ‘I’d say, bite the bullet and get on with it because it gives you peace of mind.’

Visit bequeathed.org/spana to start making your Will

You don’t have to include a gift to SPANA in your Will to use the Bequeathed service. But we do hope that you will consider a gift once you have taken care of those closest to you. A gift of any size would make the world a better place for hardworking animals.
When lockdown restrictions prevented SPANA vets from travelling to parts of Ethiopia, we were concerned that sick working animals would suffer. Thanks to your donations, we set up emergency support for government vets in rural areas to treat animals that needed urgent attention. We also organised a feeding programme for working horses in Debre Brehan and installed a permanent water trough in Shashamene. In July 2020, 597 horses and 927 donkeys received veterinary care through the emergency project.

Thanks to supporters like you, in the High Atlas Mountains, more than 200 owners received grain for their mules during lockdown. When horse-drawn carriage owners had to stop working in Marrakech and Aït Ourir, we fed nearly 600 horses for two months, until restrictions were lifted. We provided more vital emergency support in August 2020 after restrictions tightened again. In Chemaia, we distributed barley to 169 working animals, who support over 1,066 people and their families.

You helped provide 40 donkeys belonging to a women’s group in Bamako, Mali, with four months’ worth of food. The donkeys were hungry because their owners couldn’t afford to feed them as their incomes had decreased in lockdown. Our community training sessions, for the women and their families, helped to raise awareness of animal welfare.

When the pandemic coincided with a long period of drought in Mauritania, there was an urgent need for support. Thanks to your donations, we set up emergency feeding programmes for the working horses in and around the towns of Boghè and Rosso. Over 255 working animals received 19 tonnes of grain — enough to feed them until the grass lost to drought had grown back and they could graze again. We ran a second emergency project in September 2020 to provide food for the working animals in Nouakchott.

In Tanzania, the pandemic meant many working animals were left without food and care as their owners struggled to make ends meet. In July 2020, we worked to provide food, water and veterinary care. We also organised community training for owners on how to care for animals (see page eight). This simply wouldn’t have been possible without your support.
Enjoy up to 50% off in the Happy Hooves sale!

Treat yourself and your loved ones, and make a vital difference to the lives of working animals at the same time. Until the end of February 2021, receive up to 50 per cent off selected SPANA cards, gifts and goodies. We can guarantee that 100 per cent of profits raised through our shop go towards helping working animals in desperate need.

*Terms and conditions: Sale commences on 25 January 2021 and ends on 28 February 2021. Receive up to half off the original price on selected merchandise, plus 50 per cent off standard UK and international delivery. Next day delivery is excluded from this offer. Prices as marked. Please visit www.spana.org/shop or call 0330 332 2530 for current prices and stock availability. No adjustments to prior purchases.

Shop the full range at www.spana.org/shop or call 0330 332 2530