

# TETANUS APPEAL

Will you help protect working animals from the horrors of tetanus?



Donkeys and horses must work in dangerous and dirty conditions that could kill them. Please send a gift today to save them from the daily threat of deadly tetanus. Thank you, Ben Sturgeon

Content approved by:  
Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Ben Sturgeon



**SPAN**  
For the working animals of the world

# THE AGONY OF TETANUS

**Many working animals face the very real threat of tetanus on a daily basis – a debilitating disease that can cause an agonising death.**

Tetanus is a deadly disease caused by a bacterial toxin that can enter the body through the smallest of wounds. Whilst tetanus is extremely rare in the developed world due to routine vaccination, sadly it's still all too common in many of the countries where we work. Dirty environments, like the rubbish dumps in Mali, are a breeding ground for bacteria and the animals that work there are especially prone to infection. All day they walk over rubbish, including scrap metal, wood and broken glass – as a result, many get wounds and cuts on their bodies, limbs and feet. So perhaps it's no surprise that over 30 per cent of the tetanus cases SPANA treats each year are in Mali.

## Salomon's story



**Salomon could have died in agony from tetanus**

Salomon works long hours with his owner, Karamoko. Together, they collect rubbish from around Mali's capital city of Bamako to take to the local dumps. There are hundreds of donkeys that brave these dirty and dangerous scrapheaps on a daily basis, helping their owners earn a meagre living. When Salomon's legs became stiff and he was having difficulty walking and eating, Karamoko knew he needed expert help. He used a friend's donkey and cart to bring Salomon to the SPANA centre.

When our vets saw Salomon's stiff gait and constantly erect ears, they feared Salomon had tetanus. Severe muscle stiffness and contractions are typical symptoms caused by the tetanus bacteria attacking the central nervous system. Salomon had no obvious wounds but the bacteria can enter through even a tiny scratch.

Without treatment, Salomon would develop hypersensitivity to light, noise and touch. His muscles would become progressively paralysed – making eating, drinking and eventually even breathing impossible. The chances are Salomon would have faced an agonising death through starvation, dehydration or suffocation.

## Treatment for tetanus

Thankfully Salomon got the help he desperately needed in time. Treatment for tetanus includes antibiotics and an anti-toxin to fight the disease, while painkillers help relieve the agony of contracting muscles.

Salomon was also kept in a darkened stable with cotton wool in his ears to dull the sounds of the stable yard. It was crucial to keep Salomon calm and relaxed while he recovered as the slightest movement can be extremely painful. In severe cases, a tranquilizer would also be used to sedate the animal.



**Salomon received expert treatment at our centre and made a full recovery**

Salomon was soon eating again and moving more normally. Sadly, without receiving specialist vet treatment at an early stage, the mortality rate for animals with tetanus can be up to 80 per cent.

**Please make a donation to stop donkeys like Salomon from dying in agony. Your gift could pay for essential medicines like antibiotics and anti-toxins to help their weary bodies fight deadly tetanus.**

# PREVENTION – VACCINATE

**Danger surrounds the developing world's working animals at every turn. Even a small scratch can be a death sentence.**



**Mory urgently needed treatment for a painful wound on his back**

## **Mory's story**

Mory and Ayiba work six days a week carting rubbish to the Lafiabougou dump in Bamako. It's backbreaking work made even more difficult by the scorching heat and hazardous environment of the rubbish dump.

For Mory, his daily work has become excruciatingly painful. The heavy cart he pulls keeps bashing into his back every time he goes downhill.

A terrible wound has opened up that continues to worsen with each bash of the cart.

Mory's wound is in serious danger of becoming infected, and worse; he's susceptible to catching deadly tetanus.

## **Lifesaving mobile clinics**

A SPANA mobile clinic is often the only hope for hardworking donkeys like Mory. Our mobile clinics are well-equipped, modified vans, operated by fully qualified vets and technicians.

The Bamako mobile clinic makes weekly visits to the four major waste depots around the city, so thankfully it's not long before Ayiba can bring Mory for treatment.

As soon as they saw Mory, SPANA's expert team carefully examined, cleaned and dressed his painful wound. They explained to Ayiba how to make adjustments to the cart to prevent future injuries.

Mory was then given a lifesaving vaccine to prevent him from developing deadly tetanus. Mory would need to return to the mobile clinic for a booster in four to six weeks, and again in a year's time.



**Mory's wound was cleaned and he was given a lifesaving tetanus vaccine**

Boosters are then needed every two years to ensure continued immunity for these vulnerable animals.

The tetanus vaccine is not available in any of the countries where we work, so we must pay extra to import it. We have vaccinated thousands of working animals over the years, but many more are still at risk. Only with your help can we keep our clinics stocked with lifesaving tetanus vaccines to save animals from the agony of this awful disease.

**Your support could prevent donkeys like Mory from developing deadly tetanus. Your kind donation could pay for lifesaving tetanus vaccines to provide protection to working animals at risk of terrible suffering.**

# PREVENTION – COMMUNITY TRAINING

**Hardworking animals are dependent on their impoverished owners to keep them safe from harm and protect them from tetanus.**



**Bonbon's makeshift harness could kill him**

## **Bonbon's story**

Bonbon and Kouniba's day starts at 5am when they begin their many hours of walking Bamako's streets; piling the five-year-old donkey's cart high with rotting rubbish to take to the dump.

Bonbon is the only chance his 25-year-old owner has of earning a living. Kouniba's elderly parents live in a small village far from Bamako and they rely on Kouniba to send money for them to live on.

With no money to spare, Kouniba has patched Bonbon's harness together with old pieces of rope. Slowly but surely, the rope behind Bonbon's front legs has been rubbing away his skin.

Each step has become agony for Bonbon as the rope digs into an increasingly large wound. The excruciating wound isn't Bonbon's only problem though, as it's also created the perfect opening for deadly tetanus bacteria to enter his weakened body.

## **Raising awareness for a brighter future**

Thankfully Kouniba had heard about SPANA's mobile clinic so he brought Bonbon for free treatment. Our expert vets carefully treated Bonbon's wound and vaccinated him against tetanus.

Whilst treating Bonbon, our team also spoke to Kouniba about how to make improvements to Bonbon's harness to prevent future wounds and stop tetanus in its tracks.

To help more working animals like Bonbon in the long term, it's essential we raise awareness amongst owners about the dangers of tetanus and how to ensure their animals can work comfortably.



**Whenever SPANA treats, we also train; to equip owners with animal welfare skills**

That's why we run regular community training workshops to ensure people understand the importance of getting their animals vaccinated, and of swift treatment for even the smallest of wounds. We also demonstrate how they can ensure their harness and cart are safe for their donkeys, preventing countless animals from unnecessary suffering.

Working animals are entirely reliant on their impoverished owners to care for them. It's essential we equip communities with the skills and knowledge they need to keep their animals safe from harm and from the agony of tetanus.

**Please donate today to help stop tetanus in its tracks. Your kindness could help to fund a community training workshop, ensuring that working animal owners learn how to protect their animals from this deadly disease.**

# YOUR IMPACT

**Your support can save the lives of working animals like Salomon, Mory and Bonbon. Without people like you, working animals in Mali and other developing countries around the world are at risk of dying in agony from tetanus.**

Your donation could:

- pay for essential medicines like antibiotics, anti-toxins, painkillers and tranquilizers to treat working animals, like Salomon, suffering from tetanus.
- pay for lifesaving vaccines to prevent working animals like Mory from contracting deadly tetanus.
- raise awareness about deadly tetanus through community training workshops – helping owners learn how to protect their working animals and stop tetanus in its tracks.



**Your donation could be a lifeline for a working donkey at risk of deadly tetanus**

We desperately need your support to protect working animals around the world from tetanus. The budget below shows SPANA's annual budget for tetanus treatment and prevention. Please help us raise £34,867 and your contribution will help towards saving so many working animals from unnecessary suffering.

Annual budget	Cost
Hospitalisation, veterinary care and tetanus treatment	£22,477
Tetanus vaccinations	£3,750
Community training workshops	£8,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>£34,867</b>



**Please make a kind donation today and save working animals from the horrors of tetanus. Thank you so much for your support.**