

# EMERGENCY TREATMENT APPEAL

Will you be there for working animals in need of urgent care?



*From terrible accidents to the agony of harness wounds, we need your support to provide emergency treatment for animals suffering from serious wounds. Thank you, Ben Sturgeon*

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



# WOUNDS CAN KILL

**Serious injuries can be a death sentence for working animals, but you can make sure our vets are ready to respond when an animal needs urgent care.**

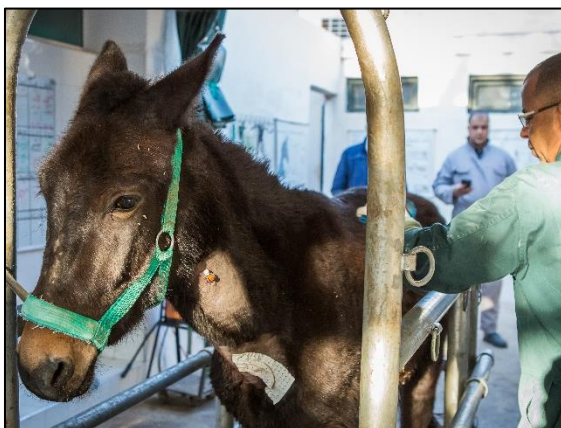
The shocking fact is that one in three of the animals SPANA treats is suffering from a wound. In the hot and dusty environments that many animals work in, even a small wound left untreated could go on to cause life threatening complications. An open wound leaves an animal susceptible to infection, sepsis and deadly diseases like tetanus.

When it comes to serious wounds, the consequences can be immediate and devastating. With torn flesh comes heavy blood loss, shock and possibly even death.

Only with your support can SPANA be there to provide emergency care to working animals in crisis.

## SPANA'S SOLUTION

SPANA vets are determined to reach as many wounded animals as possible with lifesaving treatment and care. With your support, we can provide urgent help to working animals in a variety of ways.



**Working animals suffering from serious injuries desperately need expert veterinary care**

**On the road** – every day our mobile clinics travel thousands of miles to get emergency care to working animals wherever they are. We need to keep these clinics stocked with essential medicines so lifesaving treatment can be administered immediately.

**Hospitalisation** – in the most serious of cases, wounded animals will need daily expert care while they recover. With your support we can keep our centres running and ensure working animals can recuperate in our comfortable stables.

**Community training** – to provide a brighter future for working animals, it's essential that we equip communities with the skills and knowledge they need to stop preventable wounds.

This report highlights the stories of Down, Jamil and Mahim; three hardworking animals who suffered terrible injuries that left them in excruciating pain.

Sadly, stories like this are all too common, but they illustrate the hazardous working conditions that animals often face, the main causes of serious injuries and how your support can help.

**Can working animals depend on you? Your gift can provide emergency treatment for an animal with a serious wound and help communities to stop preventable wounds.**



**You can be there for wounded working animals by making a donation today**



# DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

**Working animals often live and work in close quarters with each other, which can sadly have deadly consequences.**

Whilst donkeys and horses are generally docile creatures, fights are not uncommon, particularly when food is scarce, and space is limited. At busy marketplaces, donkeys are 'parked' close together and at night they can be seen roaming as they desperately search for food. Biting, kicking and chasing can all result in traumatic injuries.

There is also the added danger of wild animal attacks. Hyenas in particular are often known to hunt near villages where working animals can fall prey to a wild animal's hunger.

## Down's story

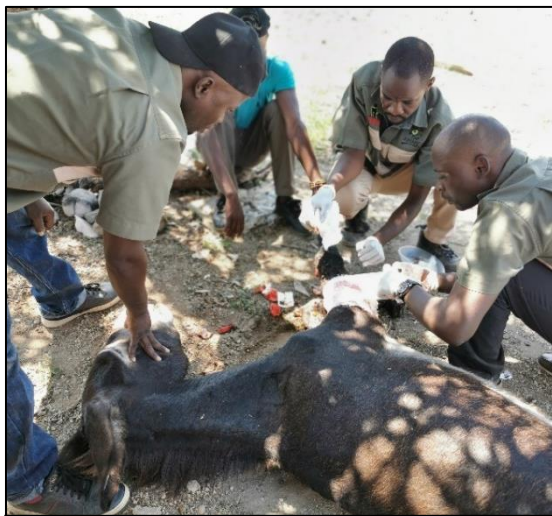
Down is one of four donkeys that live on a farm in Shashe, a small village in Zimbabwe. Six-year-old Down is essential to his owner, Aleck, who has a wife and four young children. The family rely on their donkeys for ploughing the fields and for transporting goods, water and firewood. Without their donkeys, the family couldn't earn enough to feed themselves and send their children to school.

One day Down was chased by another male donkey and ran into a sharp log. The pain this poor donkey experienced must have been horrendous as the skin and muscle of his right foreleg was torn by the jagged wood.

At first Aleck tried to care for Down at home, but his painful open wound wouldn't heal. Fortunately, Aleck heard about SPANA's mobile clinic and brought Down for treatment. Immediately our vets could see 'proud flesh' on Down's wound. This excess fleshy tissue formed as his body fought the injury – but unfortunately made it impossible for the wound to close properly.



**It took four months for Down to fully recover from his injury**



**SPANAs vets performed surgery on Down's painful open wound**

Our expert vets knew that surgery was the only option and they got straight to work, sedating Down right there and then in the field. Our team thoroughly cleaned the wound using zinc oxide and removed the excess tissue. A pressure bandage was applied to Down's leg to prevent 'proud flesh' forming again. They also gave Down antibiotics to prevent infection, an anti-inflammatory to reduce swelling and pain relief drugs.

Aleck was advised to rest Down until he had fully recovered, and our team promised to visit to check on Down's progress. After four months, we are really pleased to report Down's injury had completely healed.

**Please donate today to pay for essential materials and medicines like bandages, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to treat donkeys like Down.**

# TRAUMATIC TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

**In developing countries around the world, bustling roads are a dangerous place for working animals.**

In busy towns and cities, working animals jostle for space amongst the hordes of motorbikes, cars, trucks and buses. Horns are constantly blaring whilst headlights flash in all directions. Infrastructure is often poor and the unfinished roads, covered with potholes and debris, are a hazard to vehicles and animals alike.

It's no wonder that traffic accidents are common and can have fatal consequences.

## Jamil's story

Seven-year-old donkey Jamil lives near Chemaia in Morocco with his 43-year-old owner, Yatim. When Yatim lost his parents a few years ago, he became responsible for Jamil and the family's small plot of land. Together they support Yatim's wife and two boys, plus Yatim's five younger siblings. Jamil often toils from dawn until dusk. He helps the family to work the land, as well as collecting their water and helping the neighbours out too.

When Jamil was involved in a terrible accident with a horse and cart, he was lucky to survive. The sharp and rusty metallic corner of the horse cart ploughed into him from behind, cutting deeply into his left rump. Jamil was left in horrendous pain and bleeding heavily from a gaping wound. Yatim was terrified that he would lose his precious donkey.

Thankfully Yatim knew about SPANA's nearby centre. Yatim hired a pick-up truck, into which he gently loaded Jamil for the 18km journey.

When Jamil arrived at the clinic, the SPANA team leapt into action. First they deeply sedated Jamil to put an immediate stop to his agonising pain. They carefully cleaned, stitched and bandaged the massive wound before administering antibiotics and painkillers. When Jamil came around, he was led to a comfortable stable to rest.



**Jamil suffered a traumatic wound in a traffic accident**



**Jamil received expert care at SPANA's centre**

Jamil stayed at SPANA's Chemaia centre for four weeks so our team could monitor the wound and manage Jamil's pain. Yatim was then delighted to bring his recovered donkey home.

*Yatim said: 'When Jamil was injured, I thought: "He will definitely die like our neighbour's donkey." He is not only a working animal but a living remembrance of our parents, so I didn't want to lose him. Thank you SPANA for saving our precious donkey.'*

**Your support can provide expert care for a donkey like Jamil who needs to be hospitalised at a SPANA centre, due to the seriousness of their injury.**



# THE AGONY OF HARNESS WOUNDS

**Every step is torture for a working animal wearing a makeshift harness.**

Wounds caused by poor harnessing account for over two thirds of those that SPANA treats. From backs to girths, tails to mouths, every part of a horse or donkey's body can be rubbed raw by old or ill-fitting harnessing and equipment.

Sadly, in developing countries where families often struggle to afford daily necessities, patching up their animal's harness with old rope or rusty wire can seem like their only option.



**Mahim's chest was rubbed raw by his makeshift harness**

## **Mahim's story**

Mahim works 12-hour days carting backbreaking loads of heavy construction materials in Boghé, Mauritania. The nine-year-old horse helps his owner, Iselmou, earn a small income to support his wife and eight children. Every day is a struggle for the family to make ends meet and sadly Mahim's old harness has been cheaply patched up many times over the years.

Recently, the strap that reaches across Mahim's chest has started to rub at his skin. Every day as Mahim strained to pull his heavy load the strap kept cutting deeper, until all that was left was a red raw wound across his chest. Every step must have been agony for this poor horse, but he forced himself to keep going.

Without SPANA, Mahim would have continued to suffer in excruciating pain. But thankfully a friend of Iselmou's told him about our centre in Boghé, which opened just two years ago.

Our expert team gently cleaned and dressed Mahim's open wound. He was given antibiotics to prevent infection and vitamin injections to help him gain strength as he was so thin.

Just as importantly, they also spoke to Iselmou about how to prevent harness wounds in future. They showed Iselmou how to fit Mahim's harness more comfortably and how to load the cart correctly to make it easier for Mahim to work.

Too many working animals are suffering needlessly due to poor harnessing. We desperately need to train more animal owners, and also local harness makers, how to make affordable harnessing and fit it correctly.

With your support we can run specialist community training workshops about harnessing and wound prevention. We must equip impoverished communities with the skills they need to stop this terrible cycle of suffering.



**SPANA's vet treated Mahim and trained his owner in how to prevent future injuries**

**Please make a donation to fund community training workshops. With your help we can prevent working animals like Mahim from developing harness wounds and stop so much pain and suffering around the world.**

# YOUR IMPACT

**Working animals like Down, Jamil and Mahim desperately need your support. You can soothe the pain of seriously wounded working animals and help prevent more animals from suffering unnecessarily.**

Your donation could:

- pay for essential materials and medicines so our mobile clinic vets can treat the wounds of donkeys like Down, who was injured in a clash with another animal.
- provide expert care for working animals like Jamil, who was in a traumatic traffic accident and needed to be hospitalised at a SPANA centre.
- fund specialist community training workshops so animal owners and harness makers know how to make affordable harnessing and fit it correctly, preventing the suffering of horses like Mahim.

Your support can make a huge difference to the lives of seriously injured working animals, your gift of:

- £250 could stock our mobile clinics with materials and medicines so our vets can provide emergency treatment for 6 wounded animals.
- £600 could pay for 8 working animals to be hospitalised at a SPANA centre for three days, ensuring they get daily care while they recover from a traumatic wound.
- £1,250 could fund 7 specialist community training workshops, each reaching 36 attendees on average.



**Your kindness will make the world of difference to working animals that are suffering today. Thank you.**