

# MALI CENTRE APPEAL

Will you help to build a better future for working animals in Mali?



For hardworking animals in Ségou, Mali, it's 150 miles to the nearest vet. You can save the lives of thousands of animals by helping to build a new veterinary centre. Thank you, Ben Sturgeon

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



# LIVES ARE AT RISK

**Without access to veterinary care, hardworking animals are at risk of suffering and dying. We need your support to build a new centre and ensure sick and injured animals are cared for.**

Life in Mali is unrelentingly hard. Ranking amongst the poorest nations of the world, the country relies on working animals – they can be the difference between a livelihood and abject poverty for so many families. Working animals help generate vital income and also provide access to essential services such as schools, hospitals and water points. But, despite the importance of working animals, there is a severe shortage of veterinary services.

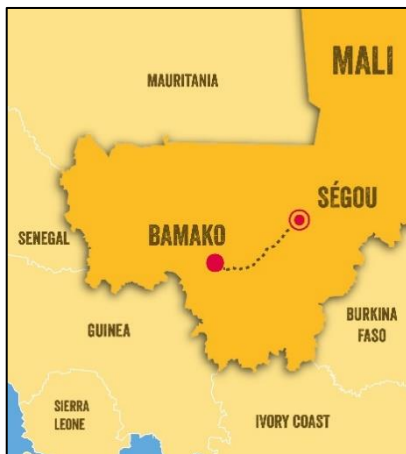
Working conditions are hot, dusty and can be very dangerous. On the rubbish dumps for example, the ground is littered with broken glass and scrap metal, which can lead to painful wounds. Even a small wound or mild illness can go on to cause life-threatening complications if left untreated.



**Animals work in dangerous conditions to help their owners earn a living**

To make matters worse, the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has had the biggest impact on the poorest. Unable to earn a living, many animal owners can't afford to feed their hardworking animals and have left them to scavenge for food or have been forced to abandon them entirely.

## SPANAS'S SOLUTION



**The new centre will be 150 miles north east of Bamako**

SPANAS has been working in Mali since 1996. Based in Mali's capital city of Bamako, our dedicated team reach more than 50,000 working animals in need during a typical year. Our two mobile clinics allow SPANAS vets to treat working animals outside of the city and make regular visits to Bamako's rubbish dump donkeys.

One of the places our mobile clinic visits is the bustling market town of Ségou. One of the country's largest towns, Ségou sits on the bank of the river Niger, where much of life and work takes place. A central market acts as an economic lifeline for the town's inhabitants and neighbouring villages. Donkey carts are relied on for transport to and from the market, often travelling over 50 miles a day.

When our team saw the vast number of working animals suffering from wounds caused by poorly made equipment, as well as terrible foot conditions and other illnesses, they knew they had to act.

They set up monthly mobile clinic visits to treat the worst cases and employed two technicians for interim care. The technicians use motorbikes to respond to urgent local cases, but can only do so much with the limited kit they can carry. Our team have recently undertaken a needs assessment, which confirmed a large-scale issue that needs a significant intervention to tackle the root causes.

That's why we're asking for your help to construct a new veterinary centre within the town. Together with a mobile clinic, approximately 60,000 working animals a year can be helped.

**Please consider making a donation today. Your gift can save the lives of working animals for many years to come.**



# A NEW CENTRE FOR WORKING ANIMALS

Seriously wounded and sick working animals need a safe and clean environment for treatment, or they face the risk of deadly infections.



**Meleke was suffering from a haematoma on his leg and needed urgent treatment**

## Meleke's story

Meleke, whose name means angel, works long hours transporting materials and merchandise to be sold at the market in Ségou. Yaya, a 19-year-old student whose older brother owns Meleke, brought Meleke to SPANA's monthly mobile clinic after noticing the donkey had swelling in one of his back legs and was clearly in pain.

Our expert team soon saw the root of Meleke's pain was a swollen bruise and blood under the skin on his leg, known as a haematoma.

Our mobile clinic vets had to carefully drain the haematoma right there and then in the dusty streets of Ségou, making it very difficult to ensure the site didn't become infected. They prescribed Meleke antibiotics to try to prevent any infection, and anti-inflammatories to ease his pain. Thankfully, Meleke went on to make full recovery.

Yaya said: *'SPANA helps take care of donkeys in Ségou. We need them because there are a lot of donkeys in our town who get sick.'*

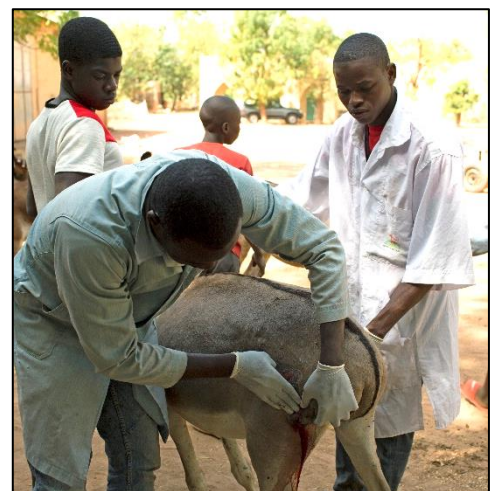
## SPANA's solution

Permanent veterinary centres provide a haven for working animals in busy towns and cities across the world. This is exactly why we want to establish a new centre in Ségou – a place where animals can receive expert veterinary care, and rest and recover in peace and comfort.

In the new centre, working animals like Meleke could be treated in a clean environment followed by a stay in the stables for ongoing care. Each day, expert vets would have cleaned the wound, drained the haematoma further, and continued to administer medication to reduce the risk of infection.

To provide expert care, we propose the new centre has:

- An examination area to diagnose and treat working animals
- A fully equipped surgery where expert vets can operate on the most serious of cases
- An onsite laboratory to enable vets to run tests to diagnose complex diseases
- 12 stables for animals who need rest and ongoing care
- A paddock for injured animals to exercise and build up their strength.



**The new centre will provide a safe place to provide treatment**

**You can ensure donkeys like Meleke get the treatment they need. Your gift can help SPANA build a new centre in Ségou.**

# THE MOBILE CLINIC

**In remote and rural places around Ségou, working animals are suffering without access to even the most basic of veterinary care.**

## Amou's story

Amou is a lifeline for her 30-year-old owner, Brema. Living in a remote village about an hour away from Ségou, Amou helps Brema to work in the fields and transport produce to the market. She also carts the food and water that people and animals in their local community rely on.

Sadly, Amou is prone to sarcoids. These lumps are a type of skin tumour that can continue to grow and spread to other areas if they are not removed. Unfortunately, even after being removed, it's possible they will return.

A year ago, Amou was treated by our mobile clinic team for sarcoids on her body and nose. When Brema recently noticed a lump growing on Amou's front leg, he feared the tumour had returned. While waiting for SPANA's monthly clinic to arrive, the lump continued to grow until it was red raw and Amou could barely walk, she was in so much pain.



**Living in a remote village in Mali, Amou faced terrible suffering without SPANA's mobile clinic**



**A new centre and mobile clinic will help many animals like Amou**

When our mobile clinic visited Djenina (another small village in the area), Brema brought Amou for treatment. Our expert team examined Amou, soon realising that surgery would be the best option. The long surgery and general anesthetic would be very risky for Amou. Yet without expert treatment, Amou would be living in intense pain – the swollen lump eventually breaking through the skin and turning into an infected bleeding mass that would be impossible to treat.

The procedure was too complicated to perform in the field, so our team helped to arrange transport for Amou to a makeshift theatre at a nearby vocational secondary school.

Thankfully, the long and complex surgery was a success. With no stables for Amou to recover in, our team showed Brema how to keep Amou's wound clean. Fortunately, with Brema's vigilant aftercare, Amou's wound healed and she made a full recovery.

## SPANAs solution

The centre in Ségou will enable a new mobile clinic to be based there. The modified truck will be fully equipped with everything needed to treat suffering animals. A team of expert vets will be able to reach more remote villages, bringing quality care to working animals who may have never seen a vet before. With complex cases like Amou's, sick and injured animals could be transported to the centre for treatment at the specialist facilities, followed by time to recover in the stables.

**Your support could help fund a new mobile clinic so we can reach animals in remote locations, preventing the untold suffering of working animals like Amou.**



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

**There are thousands of working animals suffering the daily agony of harness wounds in and around Ségou – suffering that could be prevented through the new centre.**



**Dembele and Biskiti's old and worn harnesses were rubbing their skin raw with every step**

## **Dembele and Biskiti's story**

Young donkeys, Dembele and Biskiti, work together each day pulling carts heavily laden with wood. Their 45-year-old owner, Madou, sells the wood to earn a small income for his family.

Unfortunately, as with many donkeys in the Ségou region, Dembele and Biskiti's harnesses are old and worn, and don't fit properly. Most owners can't afford better harnessing and don't always know how to fit their donkey's harness correctly. Consequently, for Dembele and Biskiti, their harnesses have been rubbing at their delicate skin causing painful open wounds.

Every step had become agony for Dembele and Biskiti as the straps of their harnesses continued to rub while they worked. Additionally, Dembele had recently begun to limp – making it even harder for him to pull his heavy load.

Fortunately, Madou knew about the monthly SPANA mobile clinic. So, the next time the SPANA team was in town, Madou brought both donkeys to be treated.

Our vets carefully examined Dembele and Biskiti, cleaning each wound with antiseptic spray. They also found that Dembele's tendon was very inflamed, which was causing his painful limp. They administered anti-inflammatories to reduce the inflammation and ease his pain. They explained to Madou that he would have to bring Dembele back for another dose.

The team also spent time with Madou going over the donkeys' harnessing, helping Madou make adjustments so Dembele and Biskiti could work more comfortably in future. They spoke to Madou about how to stack the cart correctly to make it easier for the donkeys to pull their heavy loads.

Madou said: *'Every donkey that gets sick in Ségou relies on SPANA for treatment, they don't have other options.'*

## **SPANAs solution**

Many of the injuries we see, including harness wounds, could be prevented by a better understanding of basic animal care. That's why whenever we treat, we also train. The new centre will provide more access to local animal owners, helping improve standards of animal care.

Our long-term plans for the new centre also include facilities for community training and educating children. This means more formal training workshops and animal clubs can be held, to help build a more compassionate future for working animals.

**Your donation can help to build a brighter future for working animals like Dembele and Biskiti, by improving standards of animal care in the community.**

# YOUR IMPACT

**This is your chance to make a direct impact on the welfare of working animals for many years to come. By helping fund a new centre and mobile clinic, you can make a positive change for the future of animals in Ségou.**

Your donation could help to:

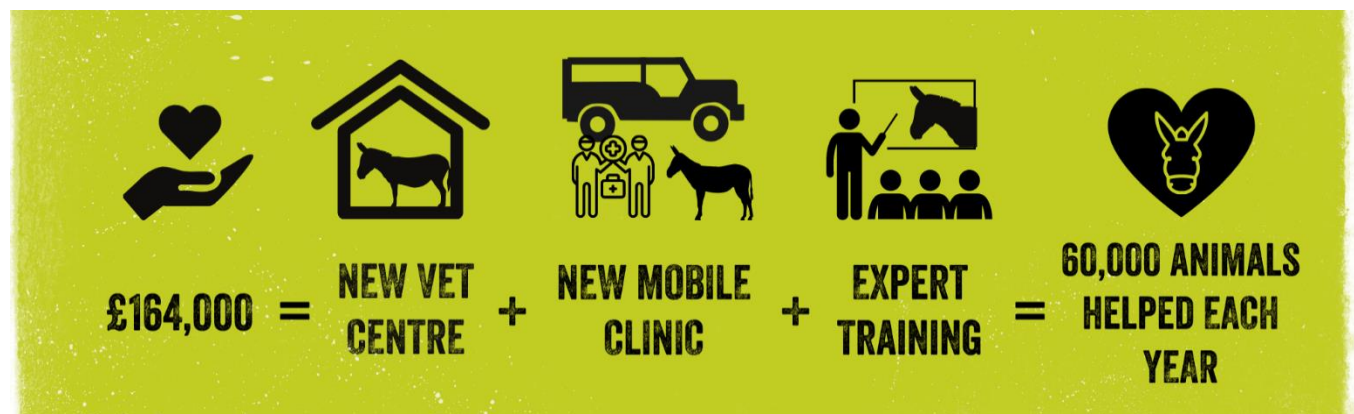
- Build a new centre in Ségou so working animals like Meleke can be treated in a safe and clean environment.
- Fund a new mobile clinic so more suffering working animals like Amou, who live in remote and rural areas around Ségou, can be reached.
- Create a brighter future for working animals like Dembele and Biskiti by improving standards of animal welfare through community training and education.



We expect the new centre and mobile clinic will cost approximately £120,000 to set up, and the first year's running costs will be around £44,000.

Capital costs	Cost in sterling*
Ségou centre – building costs	£90,000
Mobile clinic	£30,000
Operating costs for year one	
Staffing costs	£13,000
Medicines & medical supplies	£10,000
Food and fodder	£5,000
Ségou centre running costs	£4,000
Mobile clinic running costs	£12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£164,000</b>

\*Please note that costs may vary, especially with changes in exchange rates.



**Please join us on this exciting new journey to transform the lives of working animals and the communities that depend on them. Thank you.**