



NEWS

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SIGHT-SAVING APPEAL

**New Chief Executive
takes the reins**

**Emergency action
for working animals
in tourism**



- 3** Spotlight: A haven for working animals
- 4** Making headlines: All the latest news from SPANA

6 **Special appeal:**
Preventing sight loss



- 8** SPANA in action: The lifesaving role of mobile clinics

- 9** Education: Animal welfare clubs in Ethiopia

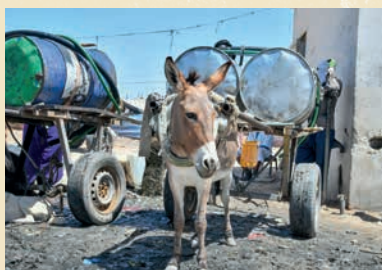
10 **SPANA up close: Mali**



- 12** SPANA around the world: Meet some of the animals you're helping

- 14** Focus: The impact of the global pandemic on working animals in tourism

16 **Opinion: Meet SPANA's new Chief Executive**



- 18** Your SPANA: How you can help working animals worldwide



WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

It is an extra special issue for me because it is my first as Chief Executive of SPANA.

I am delighted to have joined the charity and I want to say a heartfelt 'thank you' for your continued kindness and dedication to working animals. Whether you have made a donation, signed up as a Stable Sponsor, remembered SPANA in your Will or bought a special gift from our Happy Hooves catalogue, you are helping to relieve the pain and suffering of sick and injured working animals worldwide.

In this issue, our **special appeal** on page six highlights the plight of working animals with debilitating eye conditions. Every year, SPANA vets treat thousands of donkeys and horses suffering from eye problems. Sadly, even the most minor infections can easily develop into chronic problems and sometimes blindness, which is why our centres and mobile clinics need to remain well stocked with sight-saving medication. With your help, our dedicated teams can continue to protect the sight of working animals in need.

On page eight, Dr Ben Sturgeon, our Director of Veterinary Services, explains why SPANA's network of mobile clinics are a lifeline for working animals across the world. Thanks to your support, these vital clinics are providing free veterinary treatment to working animals in hard-to-reach locations and training their owners in humane care.

As the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on working animals across the world, on page 14 we focus on those animals working in the tourism industry.

From Tunisia to Indonesia, thousands of donkeys, horses and camels give rides to holidaymakers or transport their goods and belongings, but the collapse of tourism has meant these animals and their owners have been without work for more than a year. This has sadly led to increased instances of malnutrition and abandonment. However, thanks to you, we have been taking emergency action to help them.

Your commitment to working animals across the world gives me so much hope for the future. I am honoured and thrilled to be working for such an important cause. You can find out a bit more about me on page 16. And please do get in touch, as we love to hear from you.

Thank you for all your support.

Linda Edwards
Chief Executive, SPANA

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If you'd like to receive regular updates about SPANA's work, please sign up for our e-newsletter at spana.org.

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Registered charity no: 209015



A HAVEN FOR WORKING ANIMALS

SPANA is there for working animals when they need us most, from a donkey requiring lifesaving surgery after a road traffic accident to a horse suffering from tetanus.

Although many of the working animals we treat at our centres and mobile clinics can return home quickly after receiving the care they need, the most seriously sick and injured animals require longer periods of treatment and a stay at our stables.

We operate 15 stables across Africa, providing working animals with everything they need to make a full and healthy recovery. This includes expert care from SPANA vets, food, medicines, and clean

and comfortable shelter. Crucially, each working animal staying at our stables receives total rest and recuperation from their hardworking lives, so that they have the best chance of rehabilitation.

Thank you to all of our supporters, including our wonderful Stable Sponsors, for helping to provide a haven for working animals.

SPANANA IN THE NEWS

New CEO takes the reins

Linda Edwards has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of SPANA.

Linda joins from the international development charity United Purpose, where she was Interim Chief Executive. Her previous roles include Chief Executive of Build Africa and Executive Director of Operations at The Donkey Sanctuary.

She has lived and worked overseas extensively, from Africa, Asia and Australasia to Central America, Europe and the Middle East. After serving as Marie Stopes International's Country Director in Malawi, she moved to Australia to cover the organisation's work across the Asia-Pacific region.

Linda has also led international programmes as Country Director for Merlin and the Danish Refugee Council, based in Sudan, DR Congo and Iraq.

Linda said: *'It's a privilege to have been appointed as SPANA's new Chief Executive. Since 1923, the charity has provided essential and often lifesaving support to*

working animals and the communities that depend on them.

'As the charity approaches its centenary in 2023, I am looking forward to working with an incredible group of colleagues, ensuring that SPANA can continue to grow and develop its vital work to advance the welfare of working animals in many of the world's most poverty-stricken communities.'

Dr Mary-Lorraine Hughes, Chair of Trustees at SPANA, added: *'I am very pleased that Linda Edwards has joined SPANA as Chief Executive. Linda is a proven leader and strategist who has strong values which align closely with those of SPANA. She cares deeply about working animals and the communities which they support, and I feel sure that she will successfully advance SPANA's ambitions to significantly improve the lives of those animals on whom so many people rely.'*

You can find out more about Linda and her vision for SPANA on page 16.

Hands-on animal welfare education



Mbwana the donkey was the special guest at a recent SPANA animal welfare club in Tanzania.

Mbwana attended the club with his owner, Namayan, following a request by Namayan's grandson and club student, Lomnyaki. The donkey provided invaluable hands-on experience for the students, helping them learn how donkeys behave and how to handle and care for them correctly.

Lomnyaki said: *'I thought it would be good to bring Mbwana to school so that my friends and I could learn a lot of things in practice. I am hoping that I will one day be a good donkey welfare ambassador in my village and my community.'*

Celebrating the successes of 2020

Our work has been more important than ever during the global pandemic. It is only thanks to our incredible supporters that we have been able to prevent terrible suffering and save the lives of animals across the world.

Thanks to your support, our veterinary work continued in every country where we worked last year. We provided 283,552 working animals with veterinary treatment, trained 47,400 owners in animal care, and taught 50,888 children about animal welfare.

We also launched special emergency projects that provided lifesaving veterinary care, feed and shelter to animals who, without this intervention, wouldn't have survived the crisis. This was only made possible thanks to the legacies and donations we received from our supporters around the world.

Read our Annual Review 2020–21 at www.spana.org/publications.



'I could not forget these poor animals in my Will. The work you do is so loving, caring and so, so important.'

SPANA supporter Irene Hillan



Reaching more working animals in South Africa

SPANA's South African project has been expanded to provide free veterinary treatment to even more working animals.

The project runs mobile clinics that visit townships around Johannesburg to reach working animals in need of veterinary care and to provide training to animal owners.

South Africa was hit particularly hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet despite the impact of lockdowns, social distancing and restrictions on gatherings, we treated 548 horses, donkeys and mules in 2020. In addition, we provided animal welfare training to 222 owners.

Previously, we were operating in six townships in South Africa, working with local partner organisation Highveld Horse Care Unit, but this year we expanded to cover an additional township – Sasolburg.

Sasolburg, which is 83km south of Johannesburg, has about 60 working equids and 48 working animal owners. The mobile clinic will provide emergency veterinary treatments, farriery and harness repair. We will also provide community training to teach owners basic farriery skills and hoof care.

Dr Ben Sturgeon, Director of Veterinary Services at SPANA, said: *'This project is making a considerable difference to the lives of working animals in South Africa's poorest communities and is a vital lifeline during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Its expansion will improve the welfare of many more working animals in need of SPANA's help.'*

SAVE WORKING ANIMALS FROM THE AGONY OF SIGHT LOSS

Obel the carthorse arrived at one of our mobile clinics with a painfully swollen eye. His condition was so severe that he was losing vision in the affected eye. Sadly, many animals like Obel are at risk of eye problems and sight loss due to the harsh climates and hazardous environments in which they live and work. Without treatment, even minor infections can quickly develop into debilitating diseases or worse, blindness. Thousands of working animals are suffering from preventable ocular conditions. But thankfully, sight-saving treatment is possible. With your donation, you can help prevent suffering and sight loss today.

Obel's story

Obel provides invaluable support to his owner, Mengiste, and helps him earn a small income to support his struggling family. Every day, the eight-year-old horse tirelessly travels with Mengiste from rural Angolela to the bustling town of Debre Birhan, Ethiopia. As a 'gharry' or taxi horse, Obel hauls groups of people and their goods to and from the market for six hours a day along busy, dusty and uneven roads.

In these conditions, it is easy for debris to enter a horse's sensitive eyes. If it doesn't leave the eye naturally, this can cause infection or other serious conditions. When Mengiste noticed Obel's left eye was looking painfully inflamed, he became deeply concerned. Despite Mengiste's efforts to rinse Obel's weeping eye with water, the condition only seemed to worsen.



Obel was treated for a painful corneal ulcer and his owner was given ointment to continue Obel's treatment

Obel's vision blurred as his sore eye continued to weep. He was in agony, disoriented and risked stumbling or harming himself as he listlessly pulled his cart over cobblestone roads. Over the course of a few days, he began frantically turning his neck, rubbing his face against his body to try to soothe his swollen eye. The persistent pain was causing Obel severe distress.

Seeing the poor horse's rapid deterioration, Mengiste became worried that Obel would suffer from

debilitating sight loss. If his horse couldn't work, Mengiste could no longer afford to keep him. Thankfully, a friend told Mengiste where he could find help. As soon as the SPANA mobile clinic arrived in the remote community of Debre Birhan, Obel and his owner were at the front of the queue waiting to be seen. When our dedicated vets met Obel, he could barely keep his eye open in the intense sunlight.

Our vets carefully examined his eye, applying fluorescein, a special, harmless dye, to check for



'Thank you, SPANA. I was so worried about Obel. I knew that without treatment my horse may lose his eye.' - Mengiste

SPECIAL APPEAL

Extreme climates and dangerous working environments put working animals at high risk of painful eye problems. Without treatment, animals can be left blind and alone, unable to work.



damage to the eye's surface. They diagnosed that Obel was suffering from a severe corneal ulcer, likely caused by dust, debris or ill-fitting equipment. Corneal ulcers are abrasions to the surface of the eye, which cause excruciating pain. If left untreated, the ulcer would lead to scarring, chronic inflammation, ruptures and eventual sight loss. In tremendous discomfort, Obel squinted to shield his irritated eye, which only caused further damage and worsened the infection.

The team knew they needed to act fast to save Obel's sight. After flushing his eye with saline, they gave the brave horse anti-inflammatory medication and antibiotic ointment to treat the infection. The relief seemed almost immediate, as Obel became visibly calmer. Mengiste was advised to correct the position of Obel's blinders to prevent rubbing against his skin. They were sent home with a course of anti-inflammatories, and Mengiste was also shown how

to gently apply the ointment twice daily until Obel was no longer at risk of losing his sight.

Sadly, cases like this are far from unusual. In Ethiopia, ocular conditions are among the most common that our vets treat. This means our stocks of sight-saving medication need constant replenishing – especially in mobile clinics, where our vets must carry absolutely everything they need, as they can't afford to run out in remote locations. We need your support to stop minor eye infections developing into chronic problems, disease and life-changing blindness.

That's why your support makes a crucial impact – without our dedicated teams, there would be no hope for animals like Obel.

Please, if you can, donate today and help prevent the needless sight loss and pain of working animals around the world.

Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please donate today to help prevent vulnerable working animals like Obel from going blind.

£20 could pay for fluorescein and anaesthetic to help SPANA vets assess three working animals suffering with eye conditions.

£60 could buy painkillers, antibiotic ointment and other vital medicines to treat five working animals who are at risk of losing their sight.

£150 could help fund our mobile clinics so they can reach more working animals like Obel and save their sight.

To make a donation, please use the donation form enclosed, call 0300 033 4999 or visit our appeal page at www.spana.org/sight.

WE WORK WHERE THEY WORK



At SPANA, our mission is to improve the welfare of working animals in the world's poorest communities. Most communities don't have access to veterinary care, or they face long and difficult journeys to get their animals the help they need. That's why, since the charity was founded almost 100 years ago, we have worked where they work. Through our network of mobile veterinary clinics, we're able to deliver free, lifesaving treatment to working animals who need our help – even in the most remote of locations.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on movement, last year we operated 36 mobile clinics across 20 countries. Our clinics are stocked with essential supplies, including antibiotics, antiseptic, vaccinations and bandages, so that our vets are ready to treat anything – from eye conditions to life-threatening diseases. And they don't just treat. Our vets also train owners in animal welfare and distribute much-needed humane equipment, such as soft harness padding.

In some countries, our mobile clinics cover vast distances. For example, in Zimbabwe and Botswana, our vets can travel up to 250 miles a day and will camp overnight so that they can reach even more working



Dr Ben Sturgeon, Director of Veterinary Services, on why SPANA's mobile clinics are a lifeline for working animals across the world

animals. In other countries, our clinics make regular visits to specific areas, such as to check up on the donkeys who work on the rubbish dumps of Bamako in Mali, or to keep watch on the tourist camels in the Palmeraie area of Marrakech in Morocco.

Mobile clinics have always been a crucial part of our work, and they simply wouldn't be able to operate without your help. Thanks to your generosity in supporting our appeal last year, we continue to introduce more. Earlier this year, we started running more mobile clinics in South Africa (see page five) and in Ethiopia. In collaboration with the Ethiopian government's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, mobile clinics were added in four rural working districts – Wolmera, Basona Worena, Shashamane and Sheno. In Mauritania, where we already operate two busy mobile clinics, we are planning to open a third, in Boghé, later this year. Further expansion is planned, so watch this space!

By expanding our mobile clinics, more working animals will have access to vital veterinary treatment, which will improve the welfare conditions of horses, donkeys, mules and camels in these hard-to-reach communities. None of this would be possible without your help. On behalf of all our vet teams overseas, thank you.



NURTURING ANIMAL WELFARE IN ETHIOPIA



Lamirot regularly takes her donkeys to a SPANA mobile clinic

SPANA has been teaching children to develop feelings of compassion and respect towards animals in Ethiopia since 2005. Our education programme runs Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools (PAWS) clubs across the country for children aged between eight and 11 years old.

Students enrol in the club for one academic year and attend a PAWS club lesson, taught by a volunteer teacher, every week. They each have their own activity book containing 20 lessons about the basic needs of animals, why animals need to be cared for, and how to look after them. The lessons promote positive attitudes towards animals through art, poetry and drama, as well as traditional classroom teaching.

I'm delighted that the number of children who learn about animal welfare through PAWS clubs is increasing every year. Last academic year, 9,105 students attended 127 clubs in 91 schools! It is so rewarding to see how their attitude and behaviour towards animals is transformed by attending the clubs.

Lamirot Dereje is 11 years old and attends PAWS club lessons at Bakelo primary school, which is in a district where SPANA works. Her family have many animals, including four donkeys and a horse. Before joining the club, she was scared of animals because she thought

they would bite her. But now, Lamirot spends a lot of time looking after her family's animals. She asked her parents to keep their donkeys in a separate shelter and takes them to SPANA's mobile clinic for regular health checks when it is visiting the area.

Lamirot said: *'Before attending SPANA PAWS club, I never thought animals were valuable or had feelings like humans. But now my feelings have changed and I love them so much! I like all animals, but I love our donkeys the most because they carry our load for us, without complaining. Writing and reading poems about animals are my favourite activities because the knowledge I learn through these activities can stay with me forever.'*

Our team visited Lamirot's home, and her dedication to caring for her animals is inspiring. She is also passing on her new animal welfare knowledge to her family and community. Lamirot is proof that our education programme is having a significant impact. The programme is helping to create a young generation that is kind and caring towards animals, and it is building a better future for working animals. Thank you to all SPANA supporters for enabling this programme to flourish.



'I especially admire the aim of education that SPANA advocates, teaching youngsters that kindness and consideration for animals is so important. I am pleased to support SPANA and have included the charity in my Will.' **SPANA supporter Louise Bunting**

SPANA has been providing essential free veterinary care to working animals in Mali since 1996.

SPANA OPERATIONS

Daily life for many families in Mali is dependent on working animals. In this hot, vast country, donkeys and horses work day in, day out – transporting goods, acting as taxis or carrying out vital agricultural work. In Mali’s capital, Bamako, donkeys are used to haul heavy cartloads of waste to the mountainous rubbish dumps that circle the city.

In Mali, we operate one SPANA centre, in Bamako, and three mobile veterinary clinics. The mobile clinics allow SPANA vets to make regular visits to treat working animals who need our help, including in more remote, rural locations and the rubbish dumps of Bamako. Last year, our team provided free veterinary treatment to more than 21,000 working animals in the country.

In addition to veterinary care, we operate an education programme from our Bamako centre, which helps children to learn kindness and empathy towards animals.



MALI AT A GLANCE

Population: 19.6 million
Area: 1,240,000 km²
Location: West Africa
Capital city: Bamako
Number of working equines: 1.7 million

PROFILE
MALI



How has the global pandemic affected working animals in Mali?

The pandemic has had a major impact. Because of movement restrictions and social distancing, there have been fewer job opportunities, so the income of working animal owners has greatly decreased. Some owners could barely afford to support their families, or the maintenance and wellbeing of their animals, so they had to look for other work and some animals were abandoned.

PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A
Dr Amadou Doumbia, SPANA Mali
Country Director

What are the most common problems you encounter?

Sadly, we encounter a lot of work-related injuries, such as harness wounds. Back wounds caused by ill-fitting saddle pads account for 50 per cent of our treatment. We distribute humane equipment and do a lot of community training to show owners how to fit harnessing correctly.

Describe your typical working day.

My working day begins by checking, treating and feeding the animals staying at our centre. They have serious injuries or require longer treatment. After that, I go out in our mobile clinic to help the donkeys working at the rubbish dumps. Cases requiring hospitalisation are transported back to the centre, where they are then treated.

What is the most rewarding part of your role?

What I love most about my role is providing assistance to suffering working animals in order to bring them relief. I also enjoy talking to children who visit our centre and answering their questions about animals, so that they can be encouraged to become good animal owners.

CASE
FILE

Molla’s
mystery limp



Molla the donkey works tirelessly at Bamako’s vast Badalabougou rubbish dump for his owner, Sabré. Every morning, seven days a week, the four-year-old donkey pulls carts laden with refuse between the city and the dump. It’s a very difficult task and Molla is at constant risk of injury from hazardous materials and debris, including sharp scraps of metal and shards of glass.

One morning, Sabré noticed that Molla was struggling and was clearly in pain. He was walking much more slowly than usual and had developed a limp on his left front leg. Extremely worried, Sabré took his donkey straight to the SPANA centre for help.

‘My donkey is very important to me and I would not have been able to afford vet treatment for him. Thank you, SPANA, for all your help.’ Sabré

At the centre, SPANA vets carefully examined Molla for any fractured bones, hoof damage or muscle injuries. He was diagnosed with muscle trauma, most likely caused by the strain of pulling his cart. Molla was admitted to the centre for two weeks for treatment and rest.

During his stay, Molla received a daily anti-inflammatory injection to relieve his pain and reduce any tenderness, and a nutritious feed to help his recovery. Thankfully, Molla responded well to treatment and recovered quickly.

SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

Introducing just a few of the tens of thousands of animals we've helped recently, thanks to your kind support.

INDIA

Gobi the camel usually gives rides to tourists in the city of Pushkar, India, 145km south-west of Jaipur. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the collapse of the tourist industry, 10-year-old Gobi has been carrying out a variety of manual jobs to support his owner Happu and his family.

After Gobi lost his usually very healthy appetite and began scratching himself frequently, Happu became increasingly worried about his camel's health. Gobi had also developed some small sores where his saddle was rubbing into his delicate skin.

Happu took Gobi to the SPANA mobile clinic in Pushkar for a full check-up and treatment as soon as he possibly could. At the clinic, SPANA vets were able to see Gobi straight away and diagnosed him as suffering from harness wounds and external parasites. The vets carefully cleaned and covered each of his small sores with an antiseptic solution, and administered an antibiotic injection to prevent infection. Gobi was then treated with an anti-parasite spray and given a nourishing feed.

The vets showed Happu how to secure and fasten Gobi's saddle correctly, using new, soft padding, so that it would be comfortable and not cause Gobi any further discomfort.



GOBI THE CAMEL GETS THE HELP HE NEEDS

Happu said: 'I was very worried about my camel. This is the first time I have brought him to a SPANA mobile clinic. It is a blessing that there is no charge for this treatment at such a difficult time.'

MAURITANIA

Demba is a 10-year-old donkey who, for the past six years, has been working on a small farm alongside his owner, Mbareck. Demba helps Mbareck to support his wife and their children. Mbareck brought Demba to the SPANA centre in Boghé after Demba was having difficulty breathing.

When Demba arrived at the clinic, he was suffering from heavy discharge from his nose and eyes. He was also refusing to eat, and because of this, he was very weak and had started to lose weight.

SPANAs vets diagnosed Demba with a respiratory syndrome. They cleaned Demba's eyes and nose with water. They then administered antibiotics to treat his infection, an anti-inflammatory injection to help relieve his symptoms, and vitamins to improve his diet. Demba was encouraged to eat some nutritious feed to help build up his strength.

Mbareck was advised that Demba would need complete rest until he had fully recovered. The vets also asked Mbareck to bring Demba back for a check-up and further treatment two days later.



TREATING DEMBA'S RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

Mbareck said: 'My donkey was very weak, so I am glad that SPANA vets were able to help him. Thank you for your work.'

TANZANIA

Jaga does many jobs for his owner, Baba. The seven-year-old donkey works long hours hauling cartloads of bricks, timber and mining materials in Mukombe, Tanzania. The loads are heavy, and his homemade harness had begun to rub painfully against his sensitive skin.

Over time, the unsuitable harness had caused an agonising open wound to develop on Jaga's back. Baba knew Jaga needed treatment but didn't know who to turn to for help. Luckily, a friend told him about SPANA's mobile clinic that was visiting Mukombe, so Baba took Jaga along as soon as he could.

SPANAs vets carefully washed Jaga's wound with an antiseptic spray to ensure all dirt, dust and other debris had been removed. They then dressed the wound with a large, padded bandage. They also showed Baba how to fit Jaga's harnessing properly and gave him soft padding to make Jaga comfortable and avoid any further injuries. The vets checked up on Jaga regularly over the next two months until the wound had fully healed.



JAGA'S RELIEF FROM PAINFUL HARNESS WOUNDS

Baba said: 'Thank you, SPANA. I would not be able to work without my donkey, so I am very thankful for your help and advice.'



WISH YOU WERE HERE

The impact of the global pandemic on working animals in tourism has been devastating. Find out how, thanks to you, SPANA has been taking action to help them.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on animals and people worldwide. One of the most seriously affected sectors is tourism. Due to global lockdowns and restrictions on movement and travel, many animals working in the tourist industry have been out of work for more than a year.

The slump in tourism was sudden and dramatic. According to a United Nations report, in 2020 the number of tourists arriving in countries where SPANA works plummeted – down by as much as 79 per cent in Tunisia and 74 per cent in Indonesia, for example.

Almost overnight, working animals found themselves in a dire situation. No tourists has meant no income, meaning animal owners have struggled to feed their families and their animals. Horses, donkeys and camels who are usually strong and healthy have been suffering from malnutrition. Some owners have had no choice but to let their animals loose to forage for their own food, putting them at risk of dangers ranging from colic to

road accidents. Animals have also been sold or even abandoned by desperate owners in some cases.

Dr Sami Mzabi, Country Director for SPANA in Tunisia, said: *'The dramatic fall in tourism in Tunisia is a catastrophe. It is a big problem because many destitute animal owners are unable to feed their animals. We have treated many animals suffering from malnutrition, or who have been abandoned.'*

That's why SPANA acted quickly, from the outset of the crisis, to help as many working animals as possible and ensure they received the food and treatment they needed at such a difficult and unprecedented time.

For example, in Tunisia, we have been carrying out an emergency feeding programme for the carriage horses in Tozeur, a tourist city on the edge of the Sahara. The programme has been extremely well received by owners desperate to ensure their horses remain in good health.

On the Gili Islands in Indonesia, horses are used to pull taxi carts for people and their luggage. Local laws forbid the use of motorised vehicles, so the horses are used to transport absolutely everything, including building materials, supplies for hotels and restaurants, drinks

and goods for shops, and machinery for infrastructure. They are also used to collect up to 20 tonnes of rubbish a day. But the island all but closed when the pandemic hit, leaving working animals hungry and alone.

A SPANA project with the Gili Eco Trust was launched to distribute much-needed supplies of nutritious feed. In the first two days of the project alone, 215 bags (41 tonnes) of rice bran reached 86 horses in need.

In eastern India, an emergency feeding project in partnership with Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) has been operating in the Puri district of Odisha state. In January and February this year, 71 bags of feed were distributed to working horses and camels. Meanwhile, in Morocco, we continue to help the calèche horses and tourist camels in Marrakech, along with working mules in the Atlas Mountains, through emergency feeding and the provision of vital veterinary care.

The tourist sector will take time to recover, which is why, thanks to your kindness and generosity, we will continue to support working animals in tourism and make sure they receive the feed and essential veterinary treatment they so desperately need.



'As a lifelong horse owner and an ex-animal care lecturer (now retired), I have always supported and admired the work done by SPANA. I can think of no better cause to donate money to in my Will to ensure the continued care of hardworking equines in impoverished countries and also to educate their owners.' **SPANA supporter Jill Thrower**



Helping tourist camels in India

The number of tourists arriving in India dropped 54 per cent during 2020 due to the pandemic. One of the many working animals affected was Moti, a nine-year-old camel from a small village near Pushkar in north east India. Before the pandemic, Moti supported his owner, 71-year-old Mogru, by giving rides to tourists. They have been out of work since then.

Because there is no work for Moti, he has been kept at home. He has been getting less exercise and had become listless. Mogru started to worry about Moti's health – especially as he was struggling to afford good feed for him.

Moti was taken along to SPANA's mobile clinic for a general health check. SPANA vets carefully examined Moti all over, including checking that his hooves, teeth and eyes were in good condition. They diagnosed Moti as suffering from malnutrition and external parasites. He was treated with an anti-parasite spray and was prescribed a vitamin supplement.

Mogru said: *'Before the pandemic, I had three camels, Moti and two others. One is still at home, but I had to sell the other because there is no business because of coronavirus. In Pushkar, we use camels to ferry tourists who come here. But now my camels are sat at home. We are very happy with SPANA. They give us free medicines, which because of the pandemic we would not be able to afford at our own cost from a private vet. Thank you.'*

WORKING HARD FOR WORKING ANIMALS

**Linda Edwards,
SPANA's new Chief
Executive, on her
first few weeks in
the role and her
vision to help even
more working
animals in need**



Hello, everyone! It is so wonderful to be a part of SPANA, and it is an absolute honour to introduce myself to you all in my first SPANA News column.

I joined SPANA as the charity's new Chief Executive just a few weeks ago. Since day one, I have been overwhelmed by the compassion and generosity of you, our supporters. Your unwavering dedication to animal welfare is truly appreciated and incredibly heart-warming.

Just like you, I care deeply about working animals and the communities that they support. There are more than 200 million working animals around the world whose vital role transporting goods, ploughing

fields, helping children get to school, and doing so much more, is often sadly overlooked. Without SPANA, many working animals wouldn't receive veterinary care in their entire lifetime. Thanks to your help, we are providing the essential and lifesaving support they often so desperately need.

I have seen first-hand many times just how hard so many donkeys, horses, mules, camels and other animals work – it is humbling that just one donkey can support up to 30 people. I have lived and worked overseas extensively, including in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Oceania and Central America. I was most

recently Interim Chief Executive of the international development charity United Purpose, and I have also worked for many organisations you may know, including Build Africa and The Donkey Sanctuary.

I want to ensure that SPANA will be there for working animals when they need us. To do this, I want SPANA to continue to grow. We currently work in 28 of the world's poorest countries, but there's so much more that we need to do, from providing essential veterinary treatment to more working animals, to passing on our skills and expertise, training veterinary professionals, and supporting owners of working animals, whose



livelihoods often depend on them. Critically, we need to teach more children to understand the importance of respect and compassion towards these wonderful animals, providing a platform for future generations to come.

I have spent my first few weeks meeting my new colleagues, who are so committed to SPANA's vision of a world where every working animal lives a life free from suffering and is treated with compassion. It is clear that absolutely everybody – whichever country they work in or whatever role they hold – is dedicated to transforming the lives of working animals for the better.

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic which continues to have such a devastating impact on so many animals and people around the world, I am excited and positive about the future of SPANA. There is so much to look forward to – not least 2023, when SPANA will reach its centenary. It's incredible that it's nearly 100 years since SPANA's founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, started out on their journey to North Africa and set our charity on the path to where we find ourselves today. I am sure they would be very proud to see the positive impact SPANA continues to have on the welfare of working animals. And I hope they would smile knowing that, once again, two women have taken up the reins – myself and Dr Mary-Lorraine Hughes, SPANA's Chair of Trustees. But most of all, just like me, I am sure they would be extremely grateful for your continued support.

I will be spending the next few months learning the ins and outs of this incredible organisation and looking at ways to take us forward. I look forward to keeping you up to date with our progress and working with you together to improve the lives of working animals, everywhere.



'I have the comfort of knowing that SPANA is there for those hardworking animals and to help relieve any pain and discomfort they may endure.'

**SPANA supporter
Patricia Blythe**

LET YOUR LOVE LIVE ON

For people who care about the suffering of working animals, it is often a great comfort to know they can go on helping for many years to come. A gift to SPANA in your Will, of any size, will mean your love and compassion for these animals will live on.

A common concern we hear from supporters about leaving a legacy to SPANA is that they don't know how much, if anything, there will be available to give. This can make it very difficult to decide how much to leave. One solution is to consider leaving a residuary gift. After you have provided for your loved ones and all expenses have been paid, you can leave a share of what is left to SPANA. What is more, as a share rather than a set amount, your gift is much more likely to retain its value over time – so it will help even more animals in the future.

Gifts in Wills come in all sizes – large, small or somewhere in the middle – and we are hugely grateful for every single one. Added together, these gifts fund over half of everything we do to relieve the suffering of

working animals. Even a small gift can make a big difference to animals working in desperately poor countries like Mali. Nearly half of Mali's population live in extreme poverty and most animal owners simply don't have any money to pay the veterinary fees. SPANA's free treatments are literally a lifeline for the animals and their owners alike.

If you have recently included SPANA in your Will or you intend to do so when the time is right, we'd love to hear from you. This is so we can say 'thank you' and keep you up to date with what your gift could do in the future.



To let us know your intentions or to request a copy of our free legacies guide, please use the tick boxes on the bottom of the donation form enclosed with this newsletter. Alternatively, you can call Penny in our friendly legacies team on 020 7841 1631 or email her at giftsinwills@spana.org

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

THANK YOU SYLVIA!

Key worker and SPANA supporter, Sylvia Harwood, has been administering Covid-19 vaccines at her local vaccination centre in addition to her regular role as a Practice Nurse.

She has very generously donated the overtime pay she has received to various animal charities, including £1,000 to SPANA.

Sylvia said: *'I just felt it would be nice to give my overtime to various good animal causes because they are not able to receive as much money during the pandemic.'*



Thank you for your fantastic work and your support, Sylvia!

GIVING IN CELEBRATION

Whether it's a birthday, wedding or retirement, some supporters are choosing to celebrate by supporting their beloved charities.

This year, equine veterinarian Dr Neil Brimson had two reasons to celebrate – his retirement and 30 years of marriage! Instead of presents, he wanted his friends and family to donate to SPANA in celebration. So far, he's raised £953 for us via JustGiving!

Dr Brimson and wife Claire, both from the Garston Veterinary Group, are excited about the years ahead and are looking forward to new challenges. They even plan to volunteer with SPANA in Botswana as soon as the current travel restrictions are lifted.

Dr Brimson, we are so grateful for your support!

You can Give in Celebration through JustGiving, Facebook Birthdays and Virgin Money Giving. Get in touch for more information!

GIVE IT UP FOR SPANA!

Up for a different type of challenge? Why not 'Give it up for SPANA' as a way to raise vital funds for working animals?

Many of us have found ourselves indulging in our favourite treats for comfort during these difficult days, but one supporter decided to challenge herself by giving up sugar and alcohol for an entire month. Dedicated SPANA supporter Glenys Simpson raised £220 in April and had this to say about her sugar-free, alcohol-free month: *'I did enjoy doing my month, but was looking forward to a large glass of wine at the end. It was good to do something else to help the animals! Who knows, it may give others the same idea.'*

Why not try it? You could give up takeaways, alcohol, driving, chocolate or caffeine – there are so many ways to test your strength of will and raise vital funds for SPANA.



Glenys, you are a star, and we thank you!

GET IN TOUCH

We'd like to thank all of our supporters for getting creative in the last year and a half. Through difficult times, lockdowns and restrictions, thank you for continuing to be there for working animals! If you would like to discuss your fundraising ideas, please get in touch with our friendly Community Fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org

Animal gifts for animal lovers

HAPPY
HOOVES

2021
GIFTS

Discover our brand new gift range inspired by the working animals we treat and the countries where we work. Our collection includes Fairtrade, vegan, eco-friendly and plastic-free options, as well as sustainably sourced cards, gift wrap and decorations to make this year's festive season extra special. Order early to receive your gifts in time for Christmas!

100 per cent of profits raised will help working animals in desperate need.

Call us on 0330 332 2530 or browse our full range at spana.org/shop



£2.50

£4.50

£6.50

Gardeners' Soap

Gift code: M21GS

Gardeners' Hand Balm

Gift code: M21GHB

Handmade Gift Bag

Gift code: M21GBI



Build Your Own Bird Feeder

Gift code: M21BBF

£10



£8

NEW! Tunisian Bowls

Gift code: M21TBP

Rainbow Design

Gift code: M21TBR



£8

Donkey Face Mask

Gift code: M21DFM



£4

Vegan Meerkats

Gift code: M21FJM



Give the gift of Stable Sponsorship

Did you know you can sponsor SPANA's stables on behalf of a loved one? Your chosen gift recipient will receive a personalised welcome pack and regular updates about how they are helping working animals.

To find out more visit: www.spana.org/stablesponsor
or call 020 7831 3999



For the working animals of the world