

Autumn 2022 • Issue 197



# NEWS

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## ARTHRITIS APPEAL

Global recognition  
for animal welfare

Caring for working  
oxen and buffalo



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# WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.



I'm proud to share with you our news and updates because, in these difficult times, our teams have been working with courage and determination to improve the welfare of working animals. The complexity of the environments we work in can be extremely challenging, such as in East Africa, which is facing a devastating, ongoing drought. Despite this, our teams are continuing to work hard to ensure working animals receive the lifesaving treatment and care they need. In fact, in this SPANA News, you'll find updates from Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Zimbabwe – and more!

On page six, our **special appeal** focuses on the plight of the thousands of working animals who endure the agonising pain of arthritis every day. Sadly, arthritis is often an invisible condition for working animals, but, unlike us, they can't voice their suffering. With your help, our vets can provide early diagnosis, treatment and careful management of arthritis in working animals, and they can work to increase awareness of the condition through community training to help owners spot the signs early and know what action to take.

Also in this issue, on page eight, Mathilde Merridale-Punter, our Senior Veterinary Programme Advisor, provides a fascinating insight into SPANA's work helping working oxen and buffalo. In 2021, we provided essential veterinary care to 3,932 oxen in Guinea, India and Zambia. You can also find out about our new emergency project, which is aiming to protect 3,000 water buffalo from a deadly outbreak of septicaemia in eastern India.

On page 16, you can read about my recent trip to Mauritania, where I joined our hardworking team there to celebrate two fantastic achievements – the official naming ceremony of SPANA Road (Rue SPANA), a street near SPANA's centre in Nouakchott, and the signing of a new education agreement that will bring vital animal welfare lessons to 62 schools in Mauritania. Look out for more on SPANA Road on page four, too!

All the news and updates in this issue are important achievements for the welfare of working animals. As always, they wouldn't have been possible without your continued support, for which we are all so grateful. Thank you for your kindness.

**Linda Edwards**  
Chief Executive, SPANA

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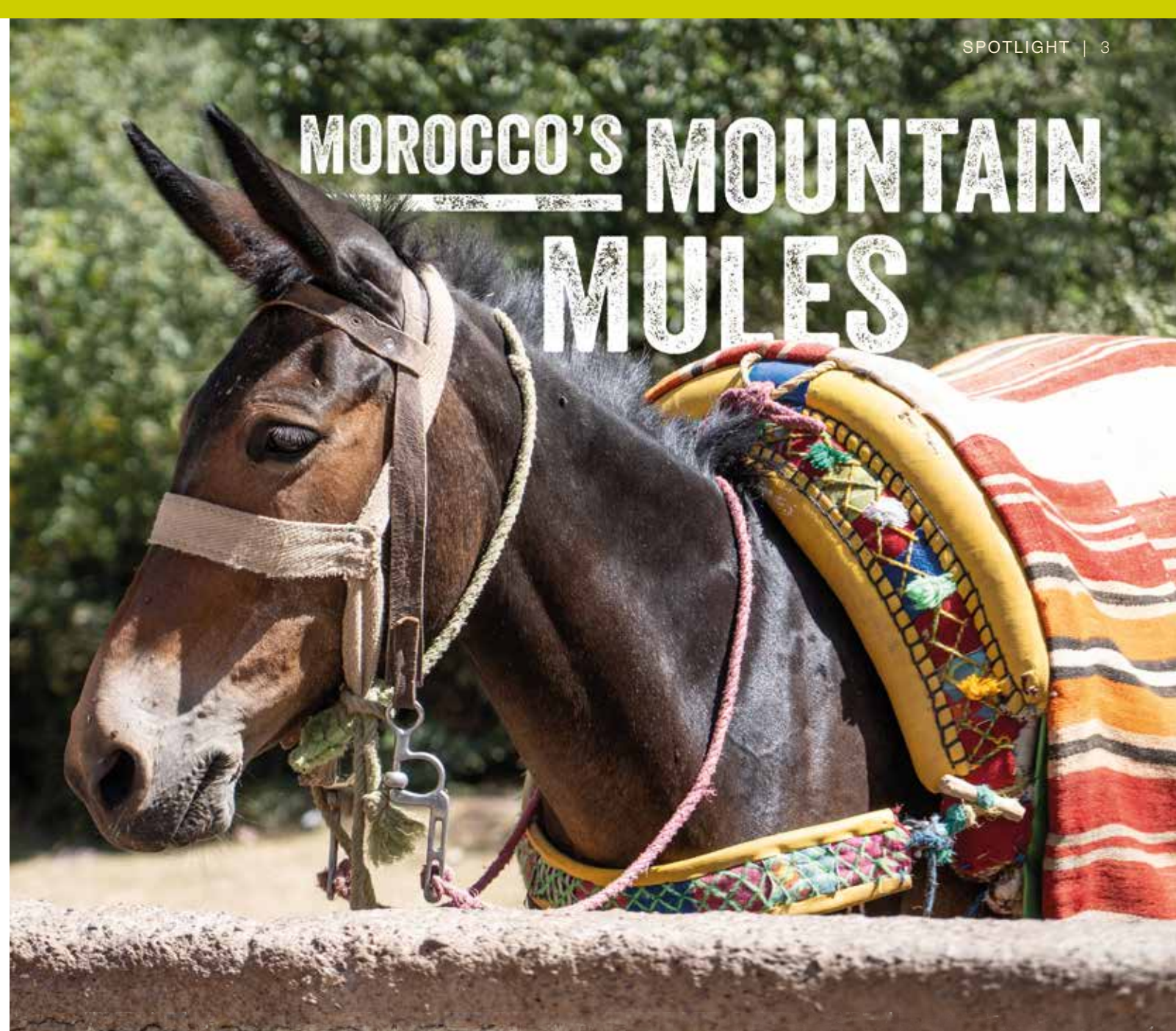
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# MOROCCO'S MOUNTAIN MULES



**In the remote village of Imlil, in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains, there's an indispensable form of transport – mules. Across steep, narrow and rocky mountain passes that are inaccessible to motor vehicles, mules carry essential goods, such as food and water for local people. They also enable their owners to earn a basic income by providing transport to tourists who visit the area.**

The global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic was an incredibly difficult time for Imlil's mules and their owners. When international travel was banned and the tourism industry collapsed, the loss of income had a devastating impact – with owners struggling to feed their families and the animals they depend on. But thanks to your support, we have been able to provide lifesaving care and feed for these working animals throughout the pandemic.

Tourists are now returning to Imlil, and life is gradually becoming easier for people and animals in this mountainous region. With your help SPANA is continuing to ensure that the welfare of Imlil's mules is protected through our mobile veterinary clinic, which regularly visits the area. Thank you for making this possible.



# SPANA IN THE NEWS

## SPANA Road unveiled in Mauritania

**SPANA is delighted to announce that a road in Mauritania has been officially named after the charity, in recognition of its critical contribution to animal welfare and lifesaving work helping working animals across the country.**

SPANA's Chief Executive, Linda Edwards, attended an inauguration ceremony in Mauritania's capital city, Nouakchott, to mark the naming of the new Rue SPANA (SPANA Road). The prestigious event was also attended by local officials, including the Mayor of El Mina and the Chief of Police, as well as hundreds of donkey and horse owners who have relied on SPANA's essential work.

The naming of the road, situated close to SPANA's centre in Nouakchott, was carried out to acknowledge the charity's work improving the welfare of working animals in Mauritania. Last year alone, despite the impact of the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the SPANA team in Mauritania provided vital veterinary

treatment to 70,238 sick and injured working animals, animal welfare training and advice to 23,909 animal owners, and humane education lessons to 5,412 children.

Linda Edwards said: *'We are honoured that SPANA's work in Mauritania has been recognised through the naming of the new road. I am incredibly proud of the significant difference SPANA has made across Mauritania over the past two decades. Our vital veterinary treatment is ensuring that many animals can live a life free from suffering, and the training we provide to owners is improving the care they are giving to their animals and preventing often entirely avoidable problems.'*

In November 2021, SPANA celebrated 20 years of working in Mauritania. Prior to the launch of SPANA operations in the country, there was no veterinary assistance available for working equines in Mauritania.

Today, SPANA operates three veterinary centres in Mauritania – in Nouakchott, Rosso and Boghé. The charity also runs mobile clinics, which provide treatment to animals in more remote, rural areas.

You can find out more about SPANA Road and Linda Edwards' visit to Mauritania on page 16.



## Teaching humane education in Guinea

**For the first time, SPANA has established an animal welfare education programme in Guinea, West Africa.**

The programme – which teaches children about the basic needs of working animals, the important role these animals have in their communities, and why they should be looked after carefully – is currently reaching 3,000 children in 10 schools.

Working animals are an integral part of daily life in Guinea. However, despite their importance, there is little awareness of animal welfare. The students taking part in the lessons are from communities that largely depend on donkeys and cattle for their livelihoods.

Hannah Meese, SPANA's Education Programme Advisor, said: *'We are thrilled that our animal welfare education programme is reaching children in Guinea. Our lessons foster empathy and respect for animals. By promoting positive behaviours, we can bring about long-term improvements in the welfare of working animals.'*

## SPANA honoured at Charity Film Awards

**SPANA was among the winners at the Charity Film Awards 2022.**

Our film, which highlighted the essential role of working animals around the world, won the People's Choice

## Improving the welfare of Indonesia's carriage horses

**SPANA has helped launch a new pilot scheme to improve the welfare of the working carriage horses and carthorses in Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta.**

Through the Care for Carriage Horses scheme, which has been endorsed by the Indonesian government, each carriage horse owner is issued a licence, so that the veterinary care and vaccination record of their horse can be tracked. During the pilot stage, more than 100 horses received vital veterinary care and preventative treatments.

Mathilde Merridale-Punter, SPANA's Senior Veterinary Programme Advisor, said: *'This initiative is the first of its kind in Indonesia and will help to improve the working lives of Jakarta's carriage horses and their owners. I'm delighted that the scheme has been embraced by the government and that they are working to improve the welfare of horses in Indonesia.'*



Award in our category after gaining the most votes in the public vote. We were also bronze winners in the vote by the panel of judges.

We're so grateful to everyone who voted for us and helped to raise vital awareness of SPANA's work. Thank you for your kind support.

**You can watch our award-winning film at:**  
[youtube.com/spana](https://youtube.com/spana)



# HELP SAVE WORKING ANIMALS FROM AGONISING ARTHRITIS

SPECIAL APPEAL



Arthritis can often be an invisible condition. Cheikh's owner was unaware that the strenuous daily work had started to impact Cheikh's joints.

Every day, thousands of working animals endure the unbearable pain of arthritis. Arthritis is a common disease for humans and animals alike – but it is particularly prevalent in working animals. The repetitive nature of their work, which often involves carrying heavy loads for long hours on rough terrain, can cause massive strain on their joints and lead to the early onset of the disease. Sadly, once arthritis has developed, there is no cure. But with your support, we can provide early diagnosis, treatment and careful management of the condition. We can also educate owners to help prevent or slow its advance, and ease the pain that working animals face.

## Cheikh's story

Cheikh – meaning 'wise' – works tirelessly for his owner, Mahmoud, transporting construction materials around Douboungué, a region of Mauritania. Every day, the six-year-old horse hauls a heavy cart full of sand, brick, iron or wood, in intense 40°C heat. Once his cart is emptied, Cheikh goes back to get another cartload. Without the faithful carthorse's help, Mahmoud would have no way of making an income and supporting his family. Life is extremely tough for both Cheikh and Mahmoud.

Mahmoud started to become worried when he noticed his horse was having trouble walking more than even a few steps at a time and showed significant discomfort when pulling his cart. After inspecting his horse's legs and finding a wound on Cheikh's right front limb, the concerned owner borrowed a neighbour's pickup truck and went to SPANA for help.

When Cheikh and Mahmoud arrived at our centre in Boghé, the team helped Mahmoud gently coax the startled and sore animal out of



Swollen, tender joints can make every step agony. Left untreated, arthritis can develop into long term crippling lameness.

the vehicle and into the veterinary treatment area. Once there, they gave Cheikh a full physical examination, first checking the leg wound and then feeling his joints for any abnormalities.

**As one of the trained vets gently examined Cheikh's legs and flexed the fetlock joints, the horse visibly flinched and tried to pull his front right leg away in discomfort.**

The affected joint was swollen and tender, so our vets first gave Cheikh an anti-inflammatory injection to relieve the soreness and reduce the inflammation. They then treated the wound on his right front leg by

gently removing the dead tissue and cleaning the area with antiseptic solution to prevent infection.

The vet team took an X-ray of Cheikh's legs to find the root of the problem. They also asked his owner about Cheikh's medical history. Mahmoud recalled that there had been times prior to the injury when his horse was listless and reluctant to work. After reviewing the X-ray results and the horse's medical history, the team diagnosed Cheikh with arthritis.

**Arthritis occurs when the soft cartilage between bones begins to deteriorate, leading to excruciatingly painful, stiff and swollen joints.**



A lifetime of pulling heavy loads means that working animals risk developing crippling arthritis. Without treatment, these animals can suffer painful and permanent damage to their joints.

**On the days that Cheikh was slow and lethargic, his owner was unaware that he was suffering from an unbearable flare-up of arthritis. His body had seized up, making it hard to move, let alone haul a heavy cart along the hard, dusty roads of Mauritania. With no rest, his joints became tender, hot and inflamed, and he risked severe lameness.**

Thankfully, the X-ray showed that Cheikh's arthritis was still in the early stages. This meant that, with the right management, Cheikh could lead a comfortable life and the disease could be slowed down.

Before Cheikh was discharged, the vets prescribed a course of anti-inflammatories to ease his discomfort. Mahmoud was advised to let Cheikh rest for two weeks before gradually reintroducing him back to work, with reduced hours and a decreased load. The team also stressed the importance of good farriery and adequate equipment so as not to overwhelm Cheikh's joints.

Mahmoud listened carefully to the vets' advice and promised to introduce more breaks during Cheikh's work and reduce his workload. He said: *'Thank you, SPANA, for helping Cheikh. The vets always give our animals the best treatment possible.'*

The sad reality is that arthritis is often an invisible condition for working animals, just like it is in humans. But, unlike us, these animals cannot voice their suffering. If you or someone you know suffers from arthritis, you can imagine how uncomfortable and stressful it would feel to work all day when your joints are swollen and seizing up.

Fortunately, SPANA vets were able to intervene before Cheikh's arthritis worsened or he faced permanent lameness. But for every horse like him, there are a thousand more arthritic working animals who are tormented daily by their painfully inflamed, tender joints and desperately need expert care.

With your support, our vets can provide early diagnosis, treatment, and careful management of different forms of the condition, to slow its advance and ease the pain of hardworking animals. We will also work to reduce the development of arthritis by making owners aware of the dangers of overworking their animals, the importance of good farriery and appropriate work equipment, and the risks of injury in certain environments. This will mean that horses like Cheikh can live longer, healthier and more comfortable lives. But we can't do this without you.

**Please, if you can, donate today and help working animals suffering from agonising arthritis before the disease becomes too severe. Thank you.**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please donate today to help alleviate the suffering of working animals like Cheikh, who are living with agonising arthritis.

**£20**

could buy painkillers, anti-inflammatories, and other vital medicines for an animal like Cheikh suffering from painful arthritis.

**£60**

could allow a working animal being treated for arthritis to stay at a SPANA centre for three days, paying for food, bedding, daily care, and follow-up treatments.

**£150**

could help fund lab analysis and specialist equipment, such as X-rays and microscopes, so that different types of arthritis can be accurately diagnosed, monitored and treated.

**DONATE NOW**



# THERE FOR ALL WORKING ANIMALS



Mathilde Merridale-Punter, SPANA's Senior Veterinary Programme Advisor, outlines our work helping oxen and buffalo, which are vital to many families around the world.



**Did you know that SPANA provides vital veterinary treatment to working oxen and buffalo? Just like donkeys, horses and camels, these hardworking animals play a crucial role in low-income countries.**

When compared with horses, oxen and buffalo can pull heavier loads and have more draught power. They're mostly used in agriculture and are typically fitted to a yoke – a large wooden beam across their neck or withers – so that they can plough fields.

In 2021, SPANA provided essential veterinary care to 3,932 oxen in Guinea, India and Zambia. We also ran community training sessions so that owners could learn how to look after their working animals and receive practical training in skills such as harness repair. This training is crucial because our vets often treat working oxen for yoke and other harness-related wounds.

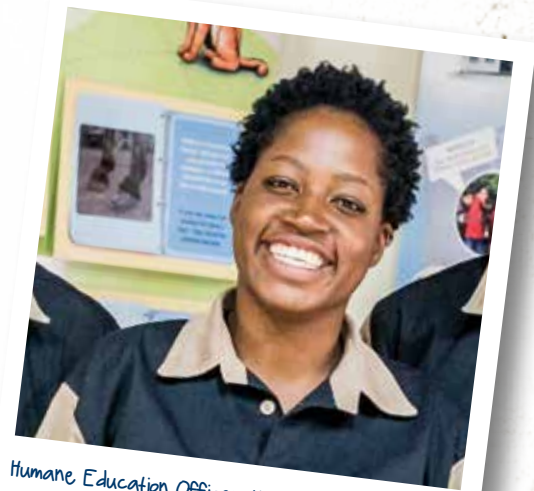
Other conditions common to bovines are lameness, nutritional problems and parasites. As they can be kept in herds, there is an increased risk from infectious diseases, so our vets also administer preventative treatments and vaccinations.

SPANA recently launched an emergency project to protect water buffalo from an outbreak of septicaemia in Manipur, a state in eastern India. In Manipur, 80 per cent of people depend on agriculture and forestry for their livelihood, and in some areas water buffalo are exclusively used to plough fields and to carry timber. In a two-month period earlier this year, nearly 1,000 buffalo died because of the septicaemia outbreak. Working with a local partner, we're aiming to protect 3,000 buffalo from contracting the contagious disease through vaccination and community training.

Thanks to your support, SPANA also provides feeding programmes for livestock during times of emergency to help avoid famine. In East Africa, where people and animals are fighting for their lives due to a devastating drought, we have been providing emergency water, food and veterinary treatment to thousands of working animals, including oxen.

We're proud to be an organisation that helps all working animals in need, whatever their species. Working oxen and buffalo are vital to many families and, with your support, we're able to improve the welfare of these animals across the world. **Thank you for your kindness.**

# LESSONS THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME



Humane Education Officer, Herminah Simoyi, explains how SPANA is reaching more children in Zimbabwe thanks to the launch of animal welfare clubs.



**This year has been incredibly exciting for our education activities here in Zimbabwe. Earlier in 2022, SPANA signed a five-year agreement with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to run and support Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools (PAWS) clubs in primary schools across the country.**

Our animal welfare education programme is already well established and is helping children develop their knowledge of animals and their basic needs. Despite the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic causing periodic school closures, our education centre in Harare welcomed 3,735 children in 2021. That's why we're so excited that we'll be able to reach even more children through PAWS clubs and, as a result, help improve the welfare of working animals across the country.

SPANA's PAWS clubs are for children between the ages of eight and 11 years old. Students attend the clubs once a week to learn about animal welfare. The lessons are split into three topics – animals; animal emotions; and animals and people – so that children can find out why working animals are so important, that

animals have feelings, and what animals need for their survival and wellbeing. The clubs teach children in a fun way through activities such as music, drama and art. The families of many children taking part in our education programme rely on working donkeys and other animals for their livelihoods.

We're also training teachers in providing animal welfare lessons. I recently held a refresher course for 18 teachers at our education centre. They will be running the clubs and will be supported by SPANA through lesson plans, resources, school visits and professional development.

To date, we've successfully launched 12 PAWS clubs with 24 teachers in 12 schools. Each club is attended by around 30 children. We're planning to expand to more schools in the next academic year.

These launches were only possible thanks to your kindness, for which we are so grateful. At the start, many children who come to us have no idea that animals feel pain or need to be looked after. **Thanks to your support, we're building compassion and respect for all animals among the next generation of animal owners.**



**SPANA’s founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, started working in Morocco in 1925. We’ve been helping working animals there ever since.**

**SPANA OPERATIONS**

**From bustling city souks to isolated mountain communities, donkeys, horses, mules and camels are the backbone of daily life in many parts of Morocco. They transport food and water and act as taxis – often in areas that would be impossible for vehicles to access.**

In Morocco, we operate five veterinary centres, in Casablanca, Chemaia, Had Ouled Frej, Khemisset and Marrakech. Our team also helps working animals in remote communities with our mobile veterinary clinics. In 2021, thanks to your support, we were able to treat 22,378 sick and injured working animals across Morocco.

**PROFILE**  
**MOROCCO**

We also provide training to animal owners about proper animal care, training 5,869 people in 2021. Meanwhile, our animal welfare education programme reached 16,598 children in 2021 through visits to our veterinary centres and our mobile exhibition unit, which travels to schools in rural areas.



**MOROCCO AT A GLANCE**

**Population:** 36.91 million  
**Area:** 446,300 km²  
**Location:** North Africa  
**Capital city:** Rabat  
**Number of working equines and camels:** 1,563,776



**How long have you worked with SPANA?**

I started working with SPANA in 1991 at our veterinary centre in Rabat, located about 320km (200 miles) north of Marrakech. I was then responsible for the SPANA centre in Casablanca between 2008 and 2013. I was appointed Country Director for Morocco in January 2014.

**What role do working animals play in Morocco?**

As in many other African countries, donkeys, horses and mules continue to play a crucial role in the life of often impoverished communities and in the country’s economy. They remain an important means of traction in agriculture and are also used to transport goods and people, both in rural areas and around major cities.

**Why is SPANA’s work important in Morocco?**

The work that SPANA has been doing in Morocco for

**PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A**  
**Professor Hassan Alyakine,**  
**SPANA Morocco Country Director**

decades is invaluable, helping working animals and the communities that depend on them. This has contributed a lot to improving animal welfare.

**What have been your biggest achievements?**

Working animals face very significant problems, such as harness injuries and lameness, but these problems are often compounded by the lack of appropriate animal welfare legislation. That’s why one of SPANA’s greatest achievements in recent years was to contribute to the development of local laws for the protection of carriage horses in Aït Ourir, near Marrakech, and mules used in tourism in Imlil, in the High Atlas Mountains. These two initiatives have greatly improved animal welfare. Similarly, SPANA was able to help working animals and their owners throughout the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic by providing emergency feed.

**Do you have a message for SPANA supporters?**

Enormous thanks to all SPANA supporters! Without your help and support, none of our work could be accomplished.

**CASE**  
**FILE**

**Help for Touria**  
**the donkey**



*‘Thank you, SPANA, for helping Touria. I don’t know what we’d do without our donkey.’* **Maymouna**

**Touria is essential to her family.**  
**The eight-year-old donkey transports goods and water to help her owner, Maymouna, and her family.**

One day, Maymouna noticed some small, sore-looking wounds on the sides of Touria’s mouth. Touria shied away when Maymouna tried to fit her bit, which made Maymouna even more concerned. She decided to take Touria to the SPANA mobile veterinary clinic when it made its regular visit to their small village near Chemaia, in Morocco.

At the clinic, SPANA vets gently examined Touria’s wounds. They explained to Maymouna that Touria’s bit – which had become old, worn and rusty – had caused the wounds and was rubbing against the sides of her mouth. The vets set about carefully cleaning the wounds, then applied a soothing ointment to encourage healing. Finally, Touria was given a comfortable new bit.

Our team advised Maymouna that Touria should not wear a bit until her wounds had healed and explained the importance of using safe and comfortable equipment to prevent wounds in the future. Maymouna was also given some ointment and shown how to clean Touria’s wounds and continue her treatment at home.



# SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

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

## TUNISIA

**Abyad helps her owner, Zouheir, earn a small income by carrying out agricultural work in Siliana, a farming town in northern Tunisia. The 14-year-old horse has an important role and makes it possible for Zouheir to support his wife and children.**

Abyad, which means 'white', had developed a swelling on her right shoulder. Abyad did not appear to be in pain, but the mass showed no sign of subsiding and was starting to rub against her harness collar and preventing her from moving normally. Zouheir decided to take Abyad to SPANA's centre in Siliana to see if the veterinary team could help.

At the centre, SPANA vets examined Abyad carefully. They noted that the mass was firm and measured about 20cm in diameter. When they gently touched the area, Abyad did not react, and when they did further diagnostic tests, they found that it was solid, rather than filled with fluid.

After careful consideration, the vets decided to surgically remove the mass so that it would not impede Abyad's movement or be awkward for her in any way. Abyad was administered a general anaesthetic and the area was expertly cleaned, shaved and disinfected. The vets made an incision to remove the mass and then stitched the muscle and skin back together. Abyad stayed in the centre's stables for a week following the surgery. During her stay, she received daily post-operative care and treatment.

When Zouheir came to take Abyad home, the vets advised him to rest his mare for another two weeks and to ensure that her wound was kept clean.



### ABYAD THE MARE'S SWOLLEN SHOULDER

**Zouheir said:** 'I am very grateful to SPANA and your role in helping the animals of Siliana. Thank you.'

## INDIA

**Dholee the camel transports goods for her owner, Hemraj, in Bagru, near the city of Jaipur, in India.**

Dholee is usually a healthy, docile camel, but one day Hemraj noticed that she couldn't stop itching. She kept rolling on the ground in an effort to scratch her irritated skin and was starting to lose her hair. Hemraj hated to see Dholee in such discomfort, so he took her to SPANA's mobile clinic the next morning.

Dholee and Hemraj were first in line at the busy clinic. SPANA vets quickly diagnosed Dholee with mange – a parasitic skin disease caused by an infestation of mites. To tackle the problem, they gave her an anti-parasitic injection. They also applied a topical treatment to the areas where Dholee had started to lose her hair and gently rubbed a soothing cream on the skin that was most inflamed to encourage healing and give her some relief. Hemraj was advised to clean Dholee's bedding thoroughly and to keep her away from other camels until she had fully recovered.

Thank you to everyone who supported our parasites appeal earlier this year; your kindness is relieving animals like Dholee from daily torment.



### DHOLEE THE CAMEL'S RELIEF FROM PARASITES

**Hemraj said:** 'I don't know what I'd do without Dholee. It's good that we can come to SPANA for help because I would not be able to buy expensive medication. Thank you.'

## ETHIOPIA

**Megal the horse pulls a cart around the outlying towns and villages south of Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa. The seven-year-old horse walks the hot and dusty roads with his owner, Ayenew, so that Ayenew can earn a basic living to support three generations of his family.**

One day, Ayenew noticed that Megal's left eye looked sore and swollen and was weeping a thick discharge. Concerned, he travelled an hour and a half to SPANA's veterinary centre in Bishoftu to seek help for his beloved horse.

At the centre, SPANA vets carefully stained Megal's eye with a harmless fluorescein dye to check for damage to the surface of his eye. They also looked for any foreign material trapped under the eyelid – which could be causing irritation. After clearing Megal's eye for any damage or foreign material, they diagnosed an eye infection and applied an eye ointment to treat the infection. Ayenew was shown how to administer the ointment to Megal's eye twice a day for the next 10 days.

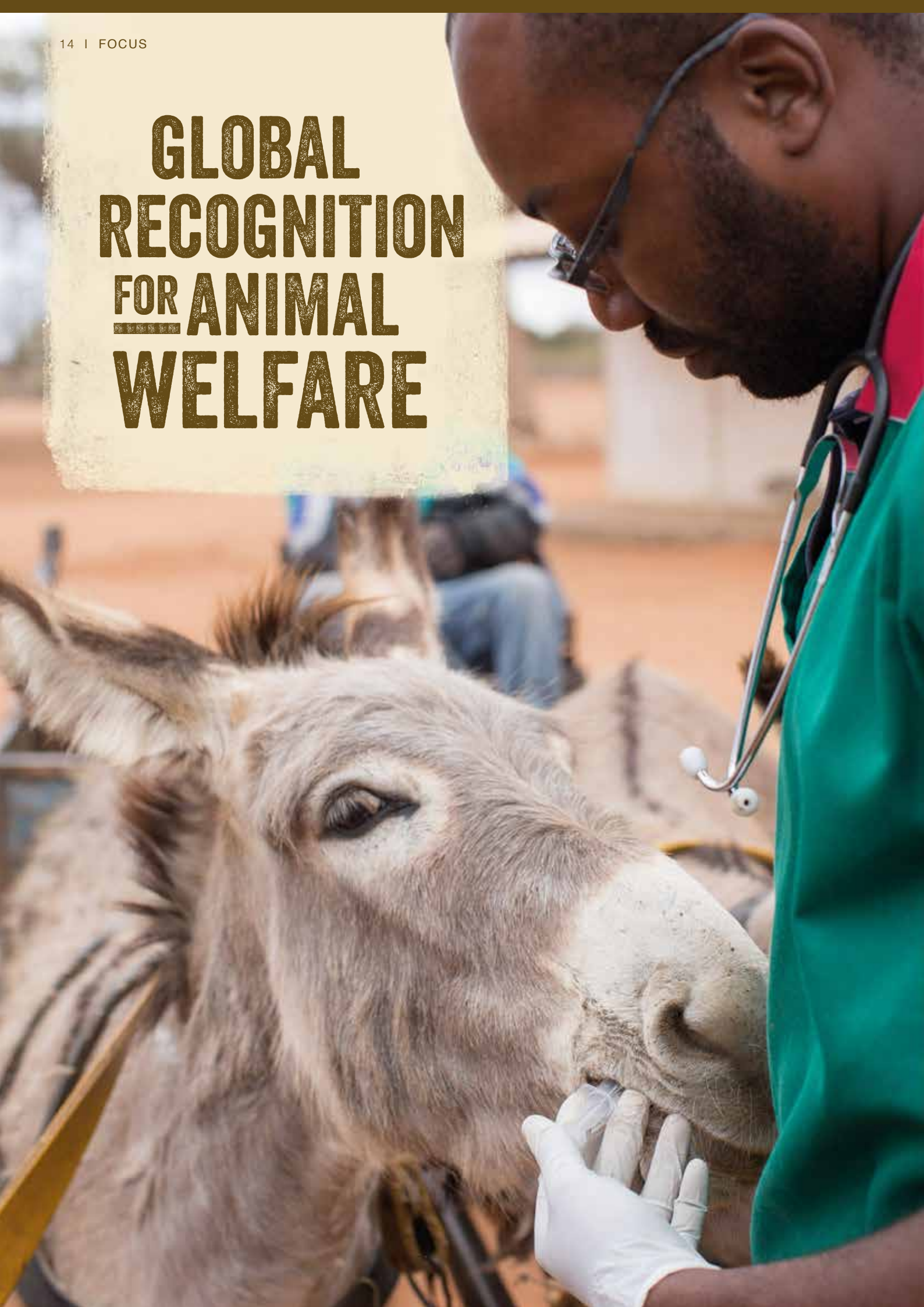


### MEGAL THE HORSE'S EYE INFECTION

**Ayenew said:** 'Thank you SPANA for treating my horse free of charge. His eye must have been very painful, so I am glad he has received this treatment.'



# GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



The United Nations has officially recognised the link between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. Find out why this recognition is so significant and what it means for the world's working animals.

## What has the United Nations agreed?

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is made up of 193 countries who meet every two years to address the world's most critical environmental challenges. At the UNEA's latest meeting, they voted to adopt a resolution that recognised the link between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. The resolution said that *'the health and welfare of animals, sustainable development and the environment are connected to human health and wellbeing'*.

## Why is this resolution important?

The resolution finally gives animal welfare the global recognition it deserves. It is the first resolution to be tabled and approved by the United Nations with explicit reference to animal welfare.

The ongoing global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has forced many leading decision-making organisations, like the United Nations, to re-examine our relationship with and our impact on, nature. This is the link between human, animal and environmental health and is known as the 'One Health approach'. Critically, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the UN Environment Programme and the World Organisation for Animal Health have all now committed formally to the process of implementing the One Health approach, in line with this resolution.

## What does it mean for working animals?

This is a significant and positive commitment to all animals worldwide, including the working animals who mean so much to the people who rely on them. It will encourage everyone – from governments to animal owners – to re-examine their relationship with working animals and to understand why they should be treated with compassion and respect.

At SPANA, our mission is to improve the welfare of working animals in the world's poorest communities. Working animals make invaluable contributions to people's livelihoods and wellbeing, which is why, for nearly 100 years, we have provided them with vital veterinary treatment, trained their owners in humane care, and taught children lessons in animal welfare.



## What is SPANA doing to improve animal welfare?

Despite SPANA's essential work, the lack of animal welfare legislation is one of the major obstacles that has been holding back progress globally. There is often no animal welfare legislation in countries where SPANA works; or if there is, it is not enforced or promoted. But times are changing internationally.

For example, SPANA worked with the Moroccan government to develop local laws to improve the welfare of caleche horses in Marrakech. We are working in countries throughout Africa to prevent the horrific global donkey skins trade – successfully stopping the opening of abattoirs, lobbying and assisting governments on legislation to protect animals, and holding training sessions with communities at risk from the trade. We are also working with governments to include animal welfare education in the school curriculum. You can find out more about our latest education achievements on pages five, nine and 16.

As we approach our centenary in 2023, we're focusing our work on delivering a lasting, transformative change in animal welfare. In the countries where we work, we're developing a strategy focused on the One Health approach to significantly improve the welfare of working animals across the globe on a sustainable, long-term basis. Animal welfare has always been, and always will be, our number one priority.

## What happens next?

The resolution called on the UNEA to produce a report on the link between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. This will provide the basis for the future development of this vital work.

Just as SPANA has recognised for nearly 100 years, there is now formal, global recognition of *'the urgent need to fundamentally reorientate our relationship with animals from one of exploitation to one of promoting their welfare'*. **The future is bright for working animals, and thanks to your support, SPANA will always be there for those who need our help.**



# ALL ROADS LEAD TO SPANA



On her first visit to SPANA in Mauritania as Chief Executive, Linda Edwards celebrated two very important achievements for the charity.



I was walking down a road in Mauritania's capital city, Nouakchott. Hundreds of donkey and horse owners lined the street, waving the national flags of Mauritania and the UK. There were even SPANA flags flying, and a banner that read 'Merci la SPANA' – thank you SPANA.

This scene sounds like an amazing dream, but it really happened when I visited Mauritania for an inauguration ceremony to mark the naming of the new Rue SPANA (SPANA Road). Even now, I still have to pinch myself that our charity was recognised and honoured in this way!

As well as the hundreds of people who came to thank SPANA, the prestigious event was also attended by local officials. The new road sign had been draped in a billowing red curtain, which we opened to reveal 'Rue SPANA' in all its glory.

This was the first time since joining SPANA last summer that I had been able to travel to meet one of our country teams. I had, of course, held virtual meetings with our Mauritania Country Director, Bebaha Ahmed, but I had

not been able to witness first-hand the wonderful work that our incredibly dedicated team is doing there.

During my whistle-stop tour of Mauritania, I visited our busy veterinary centre in Nouakchott, near SPANA Road, and met the working animals receiving longer-term treatment in our stables. I also headed out with our mobile clinic to see the working animals needing SPANA's help. Due to the considerable demand for our services, our mobile clinics can be particularly busy. I stood in the market with working animals all around me and listened to the stories of animal owners. Each one told me how important their animal is to their livelihood and family. Their individual stories highlighted how vital our veterinary treatment and animal welfare training are to them. I was also able to visit our centres in the towns of Rosso and Boghé. Again, the tales shared and the dedication of our team brought home the appreciation for our work in Mauritania over the past 20 years.

Another extremely important part of SPANA's work is, and always has been, education. While I was in Mauritania, I met with the country's Minister of Education. An official signing ceremony took place to confirm SPANA's selection as the animal welfare organisation for a new 'Green Schools' pilot project, which will bring animal welfare lessons to 62 schools in Mauritania. Students taking part in the new project will be taught about topics relating to the environment and sustainable development, and the need for good animal welfare. To deliver the project, SPANA

is partnering with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, the United Nations Development Programme and the German Development Corporation, to name but a few.

This agreement is truly groundbreaking and will have an extremely positive impact on the lives of working animals. Our animal welfare education programmes are helping the next generation of owners and policy makers; by developing young people's knowledge about animals, we can inspire the next generation and create a future that's kinder to animals.

I was lucky enough to meet children attending one of our animal welfare lessons at a school in Nouakchott. Sitting alongside them in their classroom, it was impossible not to be caught up in their infectious love and respect for animals. We taught animal welfare lessons to 5,412 children in Mauritania in 2021. With this new agreement, we will be able to reach even more.

The achievements of our team in Mauritania, and the progress made, should be celebrated. But in this time of exceptional need for SPANA's help, we will continue to work tirelessly towards delivering a lasting transformation for working animal welfare. As I walked down the new SPANA Road, surrounded by so many people who are thankful for SPANA's work, I thought about you, our amazing supporters, who make it all possible. **Thank you so much for your compassion and kindness for working animals.**





# A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR ALL WORKING ANIMALS

SPANA is a unique charity because we care for all species of working animals. Whether it's caring for a horse with a swollen shoulder, like Abyad on page 12, or a camel suffering with parasites, like Dholee on page 13, we do everything we can to make sure that no working animal is forgotten.

**When it comes to writing your Will, we know you won't want to forget anyone either. So, once you've provided for your loved ones, would you consider a gift for working animals?**

More than half of SPANA's work is funded by gifts in Wills. This means that many of SPANA's achievements you've read in this newsletter – the stories of the working animals we've treated, the owners we've trained and the children we've educated about animal welfare – were all made possible thanks to the kindness of people who left a legacy to SPANA.

If you've never written a Will before, you may wonder where to start – and that is why we have created a free legacy pack. Our legacy pack has the key information

you'll need, including what to consider when writing your Will and answers to frequently asked questions.

Alternatively, if you've already written your Will and would like to add a gift to SPANA, this can be done by using a codicil form. Simply request our free codicil form and take it to your solicitor.

If you do decide to leave a legacy to SPANA, we would love the opportunity to say a special thank you, so please do let us know. This also helps us to communicate with you effectively and keep you updated about what your kind gift could achieve in the future.



**To let us know your intentions, or request your free legacy pack or codicil form, please tick the boxes on the bottom of the donation form included with this newsletter. Alternatively, you can call Kirsty in our friendly legacies team on 020 3855 0161 or email [giftsinwills@spana.org](mailto:giftsinwills@spana.org). Thank you.**



# SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

## DONATE IN MEMORY

**We are dedicating this issue's Supporter News to Rachel Rayner and her wonderful family.**

When SPANA supporter, Rachel Rayner, from Wargrave, in Berkshire, passed away in 2010 at just 19 years old, her parents decided to raise funds for SPANA in Rachel's memory. Mum, Jane, said of her daughter: *'She could not bear cruelty of any kind, either to people or animals, and she fully supported SPANA's aims of caring for the working animals who support some of the poorest communities in the world. Despite her young age, it was typical of Rachel to be so aware of the plight of these animals and to actively engage in helping them.'*

Since then, Jane and her husband, Adrian, have held many fundraising events in aid of SPANA. Adrian took on the Ride London challenge, cycling 100 miles, while Jane has organised several charity events. Each spring, she holds the 'Rachel's Bluebell Walk' in her daughter's memory at a pub just outside Henley-on-Thames, in Oxfordshire.

Jane said: *'I chose it because it brings back many happy memories of Rachel riding there on her horse Mario (pictured) with friends as youngsters. On a nice day they would stop for a quick drink before riding home through the woods. It's a beautiful setting and can safely accommodate all my friends and varied dogs who join the walk, in support of SPANA in Rachel's memory. We always receive a very warm welcome from the Dew Drop Inn, where the walk starts. They donate teas and coffees after the hour-long trek and there's a whole community of people who take part.'*

Although the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has hampered the walk in the last couple of years, Jane and her friends plan to hold it again next year. So far, an amazing £5,000 has been raised by the family and their community in memory of Rachel and we would like to give them a massive and heartfelt thank you from all of us at SPANA. **Your courage is astounding!**



**For more information on how to donate or fundraise in memory of someone special, please visit [spana.org/in-memory](http://spana.org/in-memory), get in touch with us on 020 7831 3999, or email [events@spana.org](mailto:events@spana.org). For tributes of £250 or more, your loved one's name can be recorded with a plaque on our memorial wall, in the beautiful gardens of our centre in Marrakech.**

**Don't forget to recycle your used stamps and postcards and raise vital funds for working animals! Please send your used stamps and postcards to:**

**Old postcards:** Miss J E Webb, 18 Hammonds Way, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO40 3HF

**Used stamps:** SPANA, PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA

Visit [spana.org/recycle](http://spana.org/recycle) to find out about all the unwanted items you can recycle to help animals in need!

**If you would like to join our fundraising community and raise much-needed funds for SPANA, please contact Jessie on 020 7831 3999 or email [events@spana.org](mailto:events@spana.org).**



# Shop today and help working animals



Our new collection of working animal-themed gifts has arrived! Discover our latest range of Fairtrade, vegan, handmade, and eco-friendly gifts that are perfect for animal lovers. We also have plenty of sustainably-sourced cards, as well as gift wrap and decorations to make this festive season extra special. **Order early to receive your gifts in time for Christmas!**



**Recycled Bird Nester**  
Fairtrade  
Gift code: M22BN

**£15**

**100 per cent of profits raised will help ease the suffering of hardworking animals.**



**Moroccan Rose Body Butter**  
Fairtrade, vegan, palm-free  
Gift code: M22MBB

**£8**



**Mountain Breeze Reed Diffuser**  
Vegan, palm-free  
Gift code: M22RDM

**£14**



**Luxury Butter Fudge**  
Vegetarian, palm-free  
Gift code: M22FB

**£5**



**Donkey Drops**  
Vegan, palm-free  
Gift code: M22DD

**£4**



Call us on **0330 332 2530** or browse our full range at **[spana.org/shop](https://spana.org/shop)**

 **SPANA**  
For the working animals of the world