



Working animal welfare since 1923

NEWS

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Transforming the
lives of working animals –
inside our new strategy

The pioneers of
working animal welfare

MALNUTRITION APPEAL

3 Spotlight: There for working animals since 1923

4 Making headlines: All the latest news from SPANA

6 **Special appeal:**
Help working animals suffering from malnutrition



8 SPANA in action: Caring for India's brick kiln camels

9 Education: Educating children in working animal welfare

10 **SPANA up close: Ethiopia**



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

14 Your SPANA: How you can help working animals worldwide

16 **Opinion: Looking to the future**



18 Focus: The pioneers of working animal welfare



Working animal welfare since 1923

WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.



This is a special edition of SPANA News, as it's the first to be published during our centenary year. Throughout this year, our charity is marking 100 years of improving the welfare of working animals around the world.

We know that we're only able to celebrate this historic milestone due to the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Everyone at SPANA is so grateful for your support.

SPANA's centenary comes at a time when the need for our work is greater than ever. Working animals and their owners in low-income communities across the world face many challenges, but the global cost-of-living crisis has hit them particularly hard. As a result, many animal owners are struggling to feed and care for their working animals.

On page six, our **special appeal** focuses on the plight of working animals suffering from malnutrition. We highlight the heartbreaking story of Cissoko – a horse from Mauritania. When he arrived at our centre in Boghé he was thin, weak and inflicted by colic due to malnutrition. With your help, our vets can treat more working animals like Cissoko and ensure that they receive the lifesaving veterinary care and emergency feed they need.

Also in this issue, I'm very proud to share details of our new five-year strategy. Launched in January, our strategy is a roadmap for how we plan to transform the lives of working animals in the years ahead. With your support, we are committed to improving the welfare of more working animals, to make training in animal care available to more owners, and to reach more children with animal welfare education than ever before. You can find out more on pages four and 16.

SPANA was established in 1923 by our founders, mother and daughter Kate and Nina Hosali. They were pioneers – forming the world's first global charity dedicated to supporting working animal welfare in areas of greatest need. I hope you will be as inspired as we are when you read about their incredible legacy and their commitment to animal welfare, which remains at the heart of SPANA's work today. See page 18.

SPANA has come a long way in the past 100 years. From our roots in North Africa, we now operate across the world, transforming the lives of working donkeys, horses, mules, camels and oxen. Thank you so much for your continued 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.

Find us at www.spana.org

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Happy 100th birthday to SPANA!

Thanks to the compassion and dedication of wonderful supporters like you, SPANA has been able to make a difference to the lives of working animals across the globe since 1923.

The world has changed so much in the past 100 years. But what hasn't changed is our unwavering commitment to improving the welfare of working donkeys, horses, mules, camels, oxen and other working animals in need.

We'll be celebrating our centenary throughout 2023. In January, supporters and stakeholders officially marked the start of our centenary and the launch of our new five-year strategy at a special event held at the House of Lords, in London, hosted by SPANA's President, The Lord de Mauley. Our country team in Morocco also held a special celebration, with more events to follow across the globe.

Thank you so much for being part of our 100-year history, and for your continued support for working animals. You can find out more about our strategy on pages four and 16, and our centenary on page 18.



THERE FOR WORKING ANIMALS SINCE 1923

SPANANA IN THE NEWS

Transforming the lives of working animals



SPANANA will work to transform the lives of more working animals than ever before as part of our new organisational strategy.

Launched this year, our strategy, Transforming the Lives of Working Animals: SPANA Strategy 2023–27, sets out how the charity will support the welfare of working animals across the world over the next five years.

As part of our strategy, we will strive to make a lasting impact on working animal welfare – through new projects and partnerships that will deliver sustainable change. In response to greatly increased need, SPANA will also expand its emergency capacity, enabling us to provide more help to working animals facing crisis situations, such as droughts, floods and other issues linked to climate change. We will also support and equip communities to look after their working animals by helping to build up local expertise and services dedicated to improving animal welfare.

The strategy has three core goals: to improve the quality of life for working animals globally, at a greater scale than ever before; to inspire people across the

world to recognise and value the contribution of working animals; and to ensure the world of working animals thrives and grows sustainably, as part of the nexus between animals, people and the environment. These goals are underpinned by a fourth, enabling goal: that SPANA builds its reputation and effectiveness as a pioneering, modern and truly global organisation, while delivering transformative change for working animal welfare.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said: *'One hundred years on from SPANA's foundation, the need for our work is greater than ever. Rising global poverty and inequality, zoonotic diseases, growing political and economic instability, the ongoing impact of climate change, and welfare threats like the global donkey skins trade, are proving particularly difficult for communities that rely on working animals. Our new strategy explains how we will rise to these challenges – and achieve more for working animal welfare. Above all, our strategy will enable SPANA to deliver a lasting transformation in the lives of working animals across the world.'*

You can find out more about our strategy on pages 16–17.

Protecting donkeys and horses in Ethiopia

Working animals are using special face masks to protect them from a painful infection, thanks to innovative SPANA veterinary staff in Ethiopia.

The masks were designed by our vets following an outbreak of habronemiasis – a parasitic condition transmitted by flies that affects the area around horses' and donkeys' eyes. In December alone, our vets treated 600 animals for habronemiasis. The masks cover an animal's face completely and act as a preventative barrier against flies.

Our vets have also organised community training sessions to show animal owners how to make the masks using accessible and affordable materials, such as old clothes and mosquito nets.

Gebra Tefera, SPANA's Community Training Officer in Ethiopia, said: *'We made sure that as many people as possible knew about the outbreak by holding community training sessions in marketplaces and schools. We also displayed posters at our mobile clinics so that owners could find out more about the infection and how to protect their animals.'*



Spreading the word about the importance of working animals

SPANA highlighted the vital role of working animals and how important it is to protect their welfare at a recent high-level international conference.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, gave a presentation at the Africa Animal Welfare Conference, held in Botswana, to demonstrate how working animals around the world support the livelihoods of families in low-income communities. She told delegates that by training owners about the basic needs of their animals and when they should seek professional veterinary care for them, working animals could live healthy and valued lives.

Linda Edwards said: *'At SPANA, one of our key goals is to ensure that the contribution working animals make to people across the world is recognised and valued. This is a vitally important message, and one that we will ensure is spread far and wide so that we can transform the welfare of working animals.'*

The annual conference is held in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme. It was also attended by other members of SPANA's Senior Leadership Team.



MALNUTRITION: HELP WORKING ANIMALS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

Working animals on the front lines are continuing to suffer the impacts of ongoing global issues, especially during times of emergency. Your support can help animals like Cissoko, who once a healthy horse for his age, was brought to our centre terribly weak, malnourished and in need of urgent care.

Cissoko's story

Poverty remains a huge challenge faced by working animals worldwide, and this is only exacerbated by extreme weather. In Mauritania, the impact of intense heat and drought on food security and rural livelihoods makes it one of the most vulnerable countries. When blistering heat, drought and economic uncertainty collide, the outlook is grim. Despite these conditions, thousands of working animals are still depended on to support their communities. Without adequate amounts of food or water to keep them healthy, their work is even harder. But with your support, we can ensure the lives of starving and malnourished working animals are not forgotten.

Cissoko ploughs fields alongside his owner Sidi, in the small rural village of Dar es Salam, Mauritania, generating a small income to sustain his farm. Even in the 40°C heat, Cissoko toils in the fields for up to nine hours per day. It's backbreaking work. But when the 19-year-old horse was brought along to SPANA, he was unable to work – in fact, he was so weak, his legs buckled under the weight of his own body.

Sidi was extremely concerned when his trusted horse became lethargic and started losing weight. When they arrived at our Boghé centre,

the SPANA team carefully examined Cissoko – who had now become so dangerously malnourished and underweight that his ribs and hip bones were visible. They first checked the state of his teeth to rule out any dental issues. The horse was dehydrated, and the team had been informed that his diet consisted of dry straw and grain, which is hard to digest. Not only was Cissoko severely underweight, but his poor diet had led to spasmodic colic, when the bowel becomes overactive and causes agonising intestinal cramps.

To treat Cissoko's colic, the team administered anti-spasmodic medication, which would help to relieve the painful cramps. They also administered a deworming treatment and a multivitamin injection to improve his general condition. To ensure he made a full recovery, Cissoko was hospitalised at the centre, where his progress was closely monitored and he was given gradually increasing amounts of high-quality feed and water to help him recover.

As Cissoko recovered, Sidi was advised on the best diet for his



Cissoko's diet had consisted of hard-to-digest dry straw and grain. During the examination, the team checked his teeth to make sure he could chew his food properly.



Extreme weather has made it hard for animals to graze, while owners struggle to afford enough good-quality feed.

horse to improve his health, body condition and energy levels. To increase his horse's fluid and nutrient intake, Sidi was instructed to wet Cissoko's food and introduce green grass into his diet. After two weeks, Cissoko began to show steady signs of improvement.

Without your support, Cissoko would not have received the essential treatment he needed. Instead, he would have endured gut-wrenching cramps, leaving him starved, exhausted and unable to eat properly. His deteriorating health would have only led to a life of misery and, in the worst-case scenario, an agonising death.

During this time of economic hardship, so many working animals around the world are suffering from malnutrition, leaving them desperately weak as they fight for survival. Could you make a donation today, so that animals like Cissoko can receive the lifesaving care they need?



Cissoko's pain eased after receiving urgent treatment to relieve his agonising intestinal cramps. SPANA's vets see the terrible effects of malnutrition on working animals like Cissoko every day, and thousands more are at risk.

'Rising global poverty and inequality are leaving owners struggling to care for and feed their animals. Right now, thousands of working animals are vulnerable to malnutrition. That's why SPANA's work is critical in providing a lifeline to animals in dire need.'

– Dr Linda Evans, BVetMed MRCVS (Director of Global Animal Welfare)

HERE'S HOW YOUR SUPPORT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE



£15 FOOD

Your gift could feed a starving working animal for 10 days, helping them to recover from a severe lack of nutrients.



£45 MEDICATION

Your gift could help six animals like Cissoko by paying for essential medication, such as anti-inflammatories, multivitamins and anti-spasmodics.



£150 SHELTER

Your gift could allow a working animal recovering from malnutrition to stay at a SPANA centre for a week, paying for food, bedding and daily care.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO MAKE A DONATION TODAY. THANK YOU.

Or visit our appeal page:
www.spana.org/malnutrition

CARING FOR INDIA'S BRICK KILN CAMELS



Dr Adhinav Swami, who leads a SPANA project in Rajasthan, on the vital care we're providing to thousands of camels each year.



At 2.00am, most of us are tucked up in bed. But for the brick kiln camels of Rajasthan in northern India, it's time to start work.

In temperatures reaching a sweltering 50°C, thousands of camels toil for eight to nine hours a day. They pull cartloads of bricks back and forth from burning hot ovens so that their owners can earn a meagre income. The small-scale kilns produce bricks that are used in the local building trade. Seasonal workers and their camels are relied on to move the heavy loads.

It's an incredibly tough job for the camels and their owners. To avoid the hottest times of the day, work starts in the early hours of the morning and will often continue until 11.00am. The camels will pull 800–900 bricks at a time, with each cart weighing up to two tonnes.

The brick kilns are located away from villages and there are no veterinary centres nearby. Access to local vets is difficult because the vets have limited experience in working with camels. The owners of the camels are also unable to afford the cost of treatment. However, thanks

to your support, SPANA's mobile clinics regularly visit the brick kilns to provide essential care and improve the welfare of the camels there.

The most common injuries our vets treat are foot pad wounds, saddle sores and nose peg wounds. Other common ailments include lameness, colic, diarrhoea, skin conditions and respiratory problems. Our mobile clinics visit eight to 10 kilns every week, treating around 4,500 camels each year.

Crucially, we also provide community training to camel owners. Using posters, leaflets and training sessions, we show local communities in the area the importance of clean water, food and proper rest. We also educate them in wound and disease prevention.

Thanks to your support, the lives of these working camels are improving. Our training is helping owners to recognise health problems at an early stage and when to seek veterinary assistance. **Thank you so much for caring for the brick kiln camels of Rajasthan.**

EDUCATING CHILDREN IN WORKING ANIMAL WELFARE



Michelle Griffith, who leads a SPANA project in South Africa, explains how children living in communities that rely heavily on working animals are learning how to care for donkeys.



Working animals are crucial to the livelihoods of people living in the rural villages of South Africa's Eastern Cape. In this vast area, donkeys are used to carry vital resources such as water and firewood, and to plough farmland.

Despite their important role, donkeys have a lowly status in these communities. Myths and stories about donkeys have been passed down from generation to generation, and many people do not know how to care for them properly.

Thanks to your support, this is changing. We're working directly with communities to increase children's knowledge and skills in basic animal welfare knowledge and animal husbandry. We're training working donkey owners to become Village Donkey Champions, and we support them to teach local children, other donkey owners and community members about animal welfare.

Before we introduced the animal welfare education programme, many children didn't give much thought to animals or if they were being treated well. Now, as a result of this work, children are realising that animals have basic welfare needs that must be met.

One of our Village Donkey Champions is Mr Ntloko, from the rural community of Melani. He was concerned about the way some people in his village were treating their donkeys. We supported Mr Ntloko to educate his community and he is now teaching 10 children in donkey behaviour and welfare needs. For example, he recently taught the children how to use voice and hand commands to guide their donkeys, and that whips are harmful and should never be used.

He said: 'I love my donkeys and used to get very sad and angry when people were cruel to them. I am so happy to have the training in animal welfare education. I now have the information and words to teach the children in my village.'

Mr Ntloko is a worthy Village Donkey Champion, and he is able to make a valuable difference, educating children and owners in his community with the passion he feels for his donkeys.

Due to your kindness, we can reach rural villages across the Eastern Cape to deliver our unique education programme, so that we can transform the lives of South Africa's working donkeys. Thank you so much for your support.

SPANA isn't just celebrating its centenary this year. It is also celebrating 20 years of working in Ethiopia.

SPANA OPERATIONS

In Ethiopia, we ensure thousands of working animals receive the lifesaving veterinary treatment they need each year through our veterinary centres and our mobile clinics, which help sick and injured working animals in remote and rural locations. The main problems we encounter are animals with wounds, lameness, respiratory disease, and the fungal infection epizootic lymphangitis (EYL), which can be fatal without urgent intervention.

We also provide training for working animal owners. We hold training sessions in the local community and give one-to-one practical advice to owners while their animals receive treatment. To help improve the quality of life for the animals we treat in Ethiopia, we distribute humane equipment and teach owners how to pad their harnessing to prevent avoidable injuries.

PROFILE

ETHIOPIA

Meanwhile, our educational activities in Ethiopia reach thousands of children every year, teaching the next generation of working animal owners and community leaders about animal welfare and the value of working animals. Our education programme, which takes place in schools and animal clubs across Ethiopia, teaches children in a fun and engaging way.



ETHIOPIA AT A GLANCE

Population: 115 million
Area: 1,104,000 km²
Location: East Africa
Capital city: Addis Ababa
Number of working equines: 13.3 million



PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Teferi Abebe Kidane, SPANA Ethiopia Country Director

How long have you worked with SPANA?

I have worked with SPANA for just over five years, since January 2018.

What difference has SPANA made to the welfare of working animals since the charity started working in Ethiopia?

The major achievement has been changing the attitude of communities, government bodies and schoolchildren about how working animals are important to the livelihood of Ethiopians. Also, veterinary colleges weren't teaching equine medicine, but thanks to SPANA's influence, equine medicine is now a valued part of courses for vet students. SPANA's established clinical skills centres at three colleges are pioneering – serving as practical skills centres for equines and other species of animals.

How will you and your team celebrate SPANA's centenary, along with 20 years of SPANA working in Ethiopia?

We are planning to celebrate SPANA's centenary and to mark 20 years of SPANA's work in Ethiopia at a special event in Addis Ababa later this year. The celebration will recognise our past achievements and, above all, we will share where SPANA is planning to go in the next decade and the new century. Further events are planned in central and northern Ethiopia.

What achievements are you and your team most proud of?

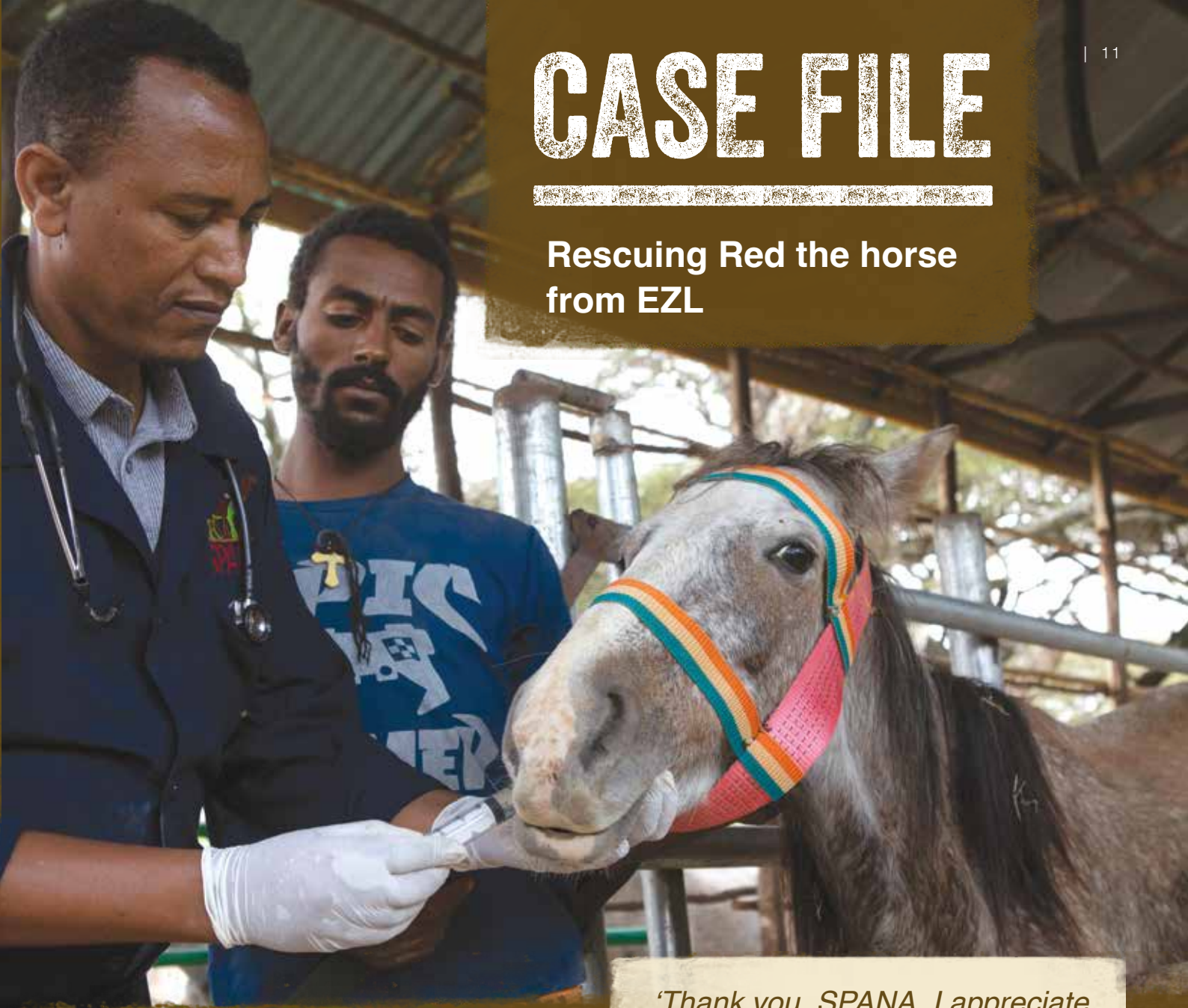
We are proud of our services that have reached the neediest community members who cannot afford veterinary services for their working animals. I'm also proud of SPANA's intervention in times of emergency. This work improves the resilience of communities and their working animals, who face recurrent drought and the impact of climate change.

What do you like most about your job?

My life is full of excitement! As Country Director, I'm privileged to lead the expansion of our programme and to be able to support working animals and their communities with emergency relief. **It's only made possible thanks to our amazing supporters – thank you!**

CASE FILE

Rescuing Red the horse from EZL



Every day, Red the carthorse walks the streets of Batu, a lakeside town in central Ethiopia, to help his owner, Warku, earn a basic income transporting goods.

One day, Warku noticed some small sores underneath Red's harness. When SPANA's mobile clinic made its next regular visit to Batu, Warku decided to take Red along for treatment.

At the clinic, Red was examined by SPANA's veterinary staff. They immediately isolated him from the other animals because Red was suffering from epizootic lymphangitis (EZL) – a highly infectious skin disease that can be deadly if it isn't treated in time. Red's sores were painful nodules that can spread over an animal's body.

'Thank you, SPANA. I appreciate your services, and I am very happy that you are treating my horse.' – Warku

Thankfully, Red was at the early stages of EZL. Our vets cleaned Red's nodules with water and antiseptic, carefully prepared the affected areas, then applied iodine to prevent the disease from spreading. Warku was advised to rest Red, keep him away from other animals and to bring him back to the clinic regularly over the next few months for further treatment. Red was also given some new harness padding to prevent any further discomfort, and deworming medication to improve his general condition.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent EZL appeal. Your kindness is helping to save animals like Red from the life-threatening consequences of this horrific disease.

SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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

MOROCCO

Aisha the foal is five months old and lives with her owner, Abdultive, in Morocco. When she is old enough, Aisha will help her mother pull Abdultive's fruit and vegetable cart around the streets of Marrakech, so that he can support his family.

One day, Abdultive noticed a small lump on Aisha's navel and decided to take her to the nearby SPANA veterinary centre, in Marrakech, for a check-up. When Aisha arrived at the centre, SPANA vets examined her carefully and diagnosed an umbilical hernia. This common condition is caused when the muscles around the navel fail to form together properly after birth.

As umbilical hernias can lead to complications if they are left untreated, our vets decided that the young foal needed surgery. During the procedure, the vets made a small incision in Aisha's abdominal wall and put everything back where it was supposed to be. They then closed the incision with a few stitches and dressed the wound.

Aisha was soon up and about after the surgery, but she stayed at the centre with her mother for two weeks so that our vets could monitor her progress. Thankfully, Aisha recovered well and returned home, without any complications.



Abdultive said: *'Thank you, SPANA, for performing surgery on my foal. My two horses are very special to me.'*

AISHA THE FOAL'S VITAL SURGERY

MALI

Aoua the three-year-old donkey and her owner, Bocar, work side by side transporting firewood to sell in Mali's capital city, Bamako. Aoua's hard work enables Bocar to look after his wife and three children.

Aoua and Bocar transport their firewood three days a week, but on one of their trips into the city, they had an accident. The accident caused the cart Aoua pulls to run into her, wounding her right hip. Thankfully, SPANA's mobile clinic regularly visits Kanadjiguila – the Bamako suburb where Aoua and Bocar live – so Bocar took his donkey there as soon as he could.

At the mobile clinic, SPANA vets gently cleaned Aoua's wound and applied a disinfectant spray. They provided Bocar with a supply of the spray and showed him how to use it so that he could keep Aoua's wound clean until it had healed. The vets also helped Bocar install a simple device on Aoua's cart to prevent it from running into her again.



AOUA THE DONKEY'S CART ACCIDENT

Bocar said: *'I feed my family with the work I am able to do with my donkey. We need the care that SPANA provides. Thank you.'*

MAURITANIA

Dimi transports goods to markets in Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital city. The seven-year-old donkey helps her owner, Yahya, to earn a small income and support his wife and young child.

The cart that Dimi pulls through Nouakchott's busy streets is old, and her harnessing is a makeshift collection of ropes and strings. These ropes had started to rub against her skin and had caused agonising wounds to develop. Dimi needed urgent treatment from SPANA vets at our Nouakchott veterinary centre.

At the centre, our team set to work cleaning and disinfecting Dimi's wounds. They applied an antiseptic spray and administered painkillers, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to ease Dimi's pain and prevent infection.

The vets took their time to explain to Yahya how to prevent wounds in future by adding soft padding to Dimi's harnessing. They also advised him to rest Dimi until her wounds had fully healed. Thank you to everyone who supported our recent harness wounds appeal!



DIMI THE DONKEY'S HARNESS WOUNDS

Yahya said: *'Thank you, SPANA. I appreciated the services provided by the vets.'*



A 100-YEAR LEGACY OF CARING FOR WORKING ANIMALS

When Kate and Nina Hosali founded SPANA 100 years ago, little did they know that they were planting the seed for a charity that would go on to change the lives of many thousands of working animals and their communities around the world.

Their legacy lives on today in all the vital work that you've read about in this issue of SPANA News. Their determination to ensure working animals receive the help they so desperately need is evident in our expert care of sick animals, such as Aisha the foal on page 12. And their compassion lives on in our animal welfare education programmes, teaching knowledge to generations of children.

Could you consider planting a seed of your own today? By pledging a gift to SPANA in your Will, you can take pride in the knowledge that your own legacy will live on, many years from now, in happy and healthy working animals who are valued by their communities.

If you are yet to make a Will, then our free legacy pack contains all the information you'll need to get started. If you already have a Will, then a codicil form may be all you need to add your gift to SPANA without having to rewrite your Will.

We're so grateful for legacies of all sizes, and even a small gift can go on to make a big difference. In fact, over half of all SPANA's work during this special centenary year will be funded by the kindness of supporters who remembered working animals in their Will. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful legacy pledgers – from everyone at SPANA and the animals and communities we help.



To request your free legacy pack or codicil form, please visit www.spana.org/legacy.

You can also call our friendly legacies team on 020 3855 0161 or email giftsinwills@spana.org to let us know you have included SPANA in your Will – so we can say a special thank you and ensure we communicate with you appropriately in future. Thank you.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

THE SPANA WORLD TEA PARTY IS BACK

It's time to get out your cake tins, put the kettle on and invite your friends round for a tea party with a twist.

You can keep it simple and have a traditional afternoon tea, or spice things up with one of our special World Tea Party themes. Whatever you choose, it's a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with friends, family, neighbours and colleagues while helping to improve the lives of working animals in need.

Get your free pack now for everything you need to host the perfect party. We have eight delicious recipes to tickle your taste buds, plus special invitations, posters and much more. **Call 020 7831 3999 or go to spana.org/teaparty to get your pack today.**



RUN FOR WORKING ANIMALS

The Royal Parks Half Marathon takes in London's world-famous landmarks in four of the capital's royal parks – Hyde Park, Green Park, St James's Park and Kensington Gardens. This year's event takes place on Sunday 8 October. **If you would like to take on a challenge this year knowing you are helping working animals in need, join the SPANA team by emailing events@spana.org or calling 020 7831 3999.**

RECYCLE TO HELP WORKING ANIMALS

Please find enclosed your special envelope for our annual recycling appeal. You can recycle any old or unwanted jewellery, plus UK and foreign banknotes (even ones that are out of circulation, but no coins please), and the funds raised will help working animals. Go to spana.org/recycle to learn more or call us on 020 7831 3999. Don't forget, your old postcards and stamps can all be put in the post and turned into valuable funds to help working animals too:

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

Stamps: SPANA, PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA

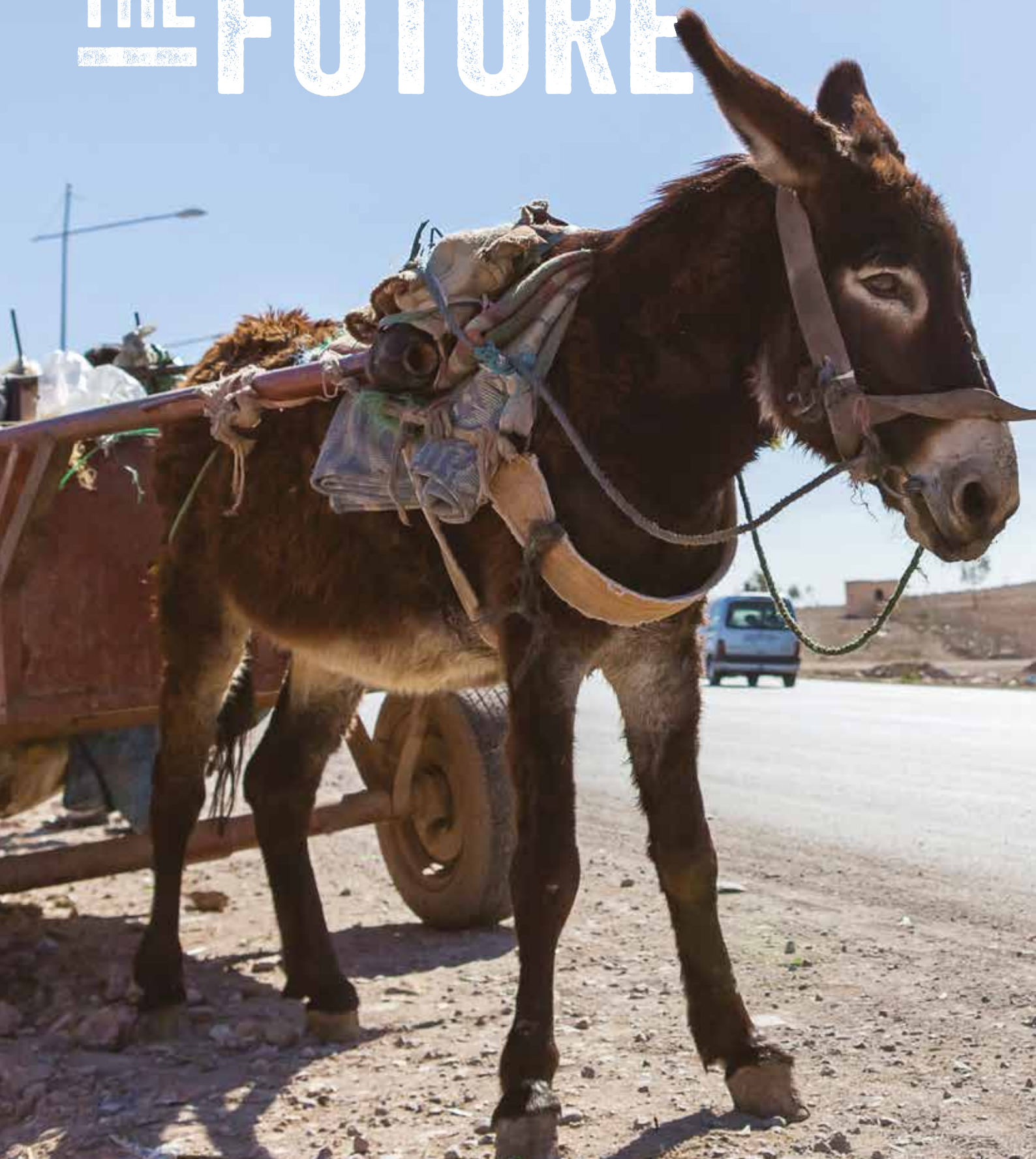
MARK SPANA'S CENTENARY WITH THE 100 FOR 100 CHALLENGE

To celebrate our special year, why not raise money for working animals by doing a fundraising challenge that involves the number 100? You could make 100 cupcakes for your World Tea Party, walk 100 laps of your garden, give up something you love for 100 days, knit one of our knitted animals for 100 minutes a day, or take on a challenge for 100 days straight. Do it your way and have fun!

It's easy to set up your 100 for 100 Challenge on justgiving.com/spana or get in touch for a paper sponsorship form by emailing events@spana.org or by calling 020 7831 3999.

There are so many ways you can make a difference to animals in need. Could you host a tea party or put on your running shoes, or maybe you have your own ideas to raise vital funds? We'd love to hear from you. Call our friendly community fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org. You can also visit spana.org/get-involved.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE





Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, shares details of the charity's exciting new strategy, which will transform the lives of working animals worldwide.

SPANA has been working to improve the lives of working animals for 100 years. The charity has a proud heritage, and the pioneering spirit and unfailing commitment of our founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, continues to inspire everything we do.

But 100 years on from SPANA's foundation, life for working animals is more perilous than ever.

Rising global poverty, exacerbated by rising costs and economic uncertainty, is particularly affecting working animals. Owners are finding it harder than ever before to care for the animals who support them. Climate change is also having a severe impact on communities that depend on working animals. Extreme weather patterns, natural hazards, and food and water shortages are all threatening the lives of people living in poverty and their animals. These combined issues mean that demand for our work is greater than ever.

Due to all these factors, and more, SPANA's work has never been more relevant or more important, and we remain undaunted by these challenges. Earlier this year, we launched our charity's new five-year strategy, as we strive to improve working animal welfare – now and long into the future.

In line with the United Nations' Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution, our strategy reflects the intrinsic link between animals, people and the environment.

Our strategy has three core goals, themed around Welfare, Worth and World.

Welfare: We will improve the quality of life for working animals globally, at a greater scale than ever before. SPANA will work to radically build and extend our reach – not only in terms of the numbers and species of working animals whose lives we improve but also in terms of geographical reach, where there is greatest need.

Worth: We will ensure the contribution that working animals make to people across the world is recognised and valued. SPANA will achieve this by developing a range of new activities that reinforce and build awareness of how important working animals are to people's lives.

World: We will ensure that the world of working animals thrives and grows sustainably, as part of the nexus of animals, people and the environment. SPANA will build on its support of local veterinary services and working animal welfare.

These goals are supported by one enabling goal – **to harness our global potential**. To achieve this, we will build SPANA's reputation and effectiveness as a pioneering, modern and global organisation.

In everything we do, we will be driven by SPANA's updated vision and mission. Our vision is a world where every working animal lives a healthy and valued life. Our mission is to transform the welfare of working animals in a world where animals, people and the environment are respected and thrive.

We officially launched our strategy in January. Since then, my dedicated colleagues and I have been working hard to put it into action. I hope you share my excitement about our ambitious plans, and I am looking forward to updating you on our progress in future issues of SPANA News.

SPANA may be 100 years old, but we will always continue to adapt and evolve in this ever-changing world. Our strategy will allow us to build on everything we have achieved in the past 100 years to enhance our impact on the welfare of working animals. Above all, with your continued support and dedication, it will enable us to deliver a true and lasting transformation in the lives of working animals across the world.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

You can find out more about our new strategy at spana.org/strategy



THE PIONEERS OF WORKING ANIMAL WELFARE



Kate Hosali in Algeria, 1920s

100 years on, the contribution of SPANA's founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, to the welfare of working animals continues to inspire.

'Everywhere there had been myriads of donkeys. Occasionally we had wandered into a fondouk [stable yard] and seen wounds on their backs when the heavy loads and saddles had been removed. We often thought of the tired mule I had been given to ride at Biskra [Algeria] and wondered how many others were carrying tourists all day and turning wells all night... We realised that behind the façade of picturesque beauty there existed a vast sea of neglected animal suffering.'

This moving recollection by SPANA's late founder, Nina Hosali, reveals the harsh reality of daily life for working animals in the early 1920s. When Nina and her mother, Kate, returned to London from a life-changing tour of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, they could not forget the pain and suffering of the donkeys, horses, mules and camels that they had witnessed. The Hosalis knew they had to do something

to transform the lives of a forgotten workforce who had no access to even the most basic veterinary care.

In 1923, they established SPANA and a commitment to working animal welfare that remains the foundation of our charity's work today.

Kate and Nina realised that, although many people had expressed concern for the welfare of working animals in North Africa, no on-the-ground help was available. So, as Nina later wrote: *'Then Kate came along and did things nobody had ever done before.'*

While Nina co-ordinated SPANA's work from London, Kate headed back to North Africa to establish the charity's animal welfare programme. *'She decided to scour the country and bring such relief as she could to the thousands of animals needing it,'* Nina later recalled. *'This in fact was her great contribution to practical animal welfare: to go out and find the animals instead of waiting for them to be brought to her. She went fearlessly into the fondouks [to help animals in desperate need].'*

Kate criss-crossed North Africa – visiting towns and villages on market days. Owners would leave their



Nina Hosali in Algeria, 1950s

animals in stable yards while they were in town, so Kate would visit the yards to treat the working animals who were waiting there.

Following the opening of our first centre in 1927, in 1930 SPANA established its first mobile clinic, so that SPANA vets could travel further and improve the lives of even more animals. When they reached an outlying village, Nina recalled that the vets would 'call out in a loud voice "Has anyone a sick camel, horse, mule or donkey?". It was most effective, and the people straight away brought out all the animals needing attention.'

Today, Kate and Nina's legacy lives on. We operate through a global network of 39 mobile clinics, which provide access to veterinary care for working animals in even the remotest of communities.

Just like Kate did 100 years ago, today SPANA's dedicated vets travel long distances to reach working animals in need. In Zimbabwe, our team provides vital support to donkeys and other working animals in rural villages, travelling hundreds of miles each week. In Mali, mobile clinics allow SPANA vets to make regular visits to treat the donkeys who work in the rubbish dumps of the capital city, Bamako. Meanwhile, in Morocco, our mobile clinics visit the working mules of Imlil, a remote village in the High Atlas Mountains.

Our mobile clinics are supported by our veterinary centres, which enable us to provide long-term specialist care to the most seriously sick and injured working animals.

A century on from the pioneering work of Kate and Nina Hosali, animal welfare remains at the heart of everything we do. **Your kindness and support are helping us to continue to transform the lives of working animals worldwide. Thank you.**

You can find out more about our centenary at spana.org/history.



Arti Kumar MBE is Kate and Nina Hosali's closest living relative. Kate was her grandmother and Nina was her aunt.

FAMILY CONNECTION

How do you feel about Kate and Nina's role in founding SPANA?

I'm very proud of them for what they have done. It just goes to show that you can plant a seed that can grow into something so enormous. The work is so needed, even now.

How do you think they would feel about SPANA's centenary?

I think they would be overwhelmed with the knowledge of how far it's come – and overjoyed that it has left such a big legacy. I don't know whether they would have expected it. I think they'd be surprised and overjoyed.

What would you say to Kate and Nina if they were here today?

That their actions show what individuals who are passionate about something can do. They were not just compassionate in what they saw. They turned that distress into something that they actually did – something so effective. They were absolutely amazing people.

Sponsor a stable and provide a haven for working animals

Thanks to you, and other compassionate people like you, SPANA has been improving the welfare of working animals for 100 years.

During that time, our centres have remained a lifeline to thousands of working animals in need of vital treatment, even through increasingly challenging times.



**FREE
GIFT***

To celebrate SPANA's 100th year, you can receive a special edition centenary fridge magnet, along with your personalised Stable Sponsor welcome pack and certificate. Plus, you will receive exclusive updates from our stables and get an inside look at how your sponsorship is making a difference!

Giving working animals a safe environment where they receive food, shelter and expert care has never been more important – and that is what you can provide as a Stable Sponsor.

When you sponsor our stables from just £6 a month, you are doing something amazing. You will be providing working animals with the treatment they desperately need, while making a sustainable improvement to their long-term health and happiness.



*Receive a centenary edition fridge magnet in your Stable Sponsor welcome pack, while supplies last.

Could you support SPANA in this special way?

To help working animals as a Stable Sponsor, [please click here or visit our website at www.spana.org/stablesponsor](http://www.spana.org/stablesponsor).

