

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WORKING ANIMAL WELFARE



SPAN

Working animal welfare since 1923

**100
YEARS**



Kate Hosali

'Early on my first morning, I went to the marketplace and treated a donkey's sore. Before I had finished, two more were at my elbow and before I had done those, I was in a crowd of donkeys. From that moment I never raised my eyes from donkeys' backs... The next day, exactly the same thing happened, and I expect this will continue until they all get cured.'

Kate Hosali, Marrakech, Morocco, 1925



Kate Hosali in Fez, Morocco, 1925



Linda Edwards

WELCOME

When British mother and daughter Kate and Nina Hosali embarked on a tour of North Africa in the early 1920s, Nina had a feeling that life for them would never be the same again. She was right. Their adventurous trip covering Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria led to the foundation of SPANA in 1923 – and a lifelong journey to improve the welfare of working animals. Thanks to Kate and Nina's dedication and commitment – and the kindness and compassion of our supporters – SPANA has now been improving the lives of countless working animals for 100 years.

As we celebrate our centenary, there are many extraordinary achievements to look back on. In this special brochure, you will read about our charity's history, our vital work, and our expansion from North Africa to across the globe.

The world has changed so much since Kate and Nina began the work that we continue to this day. But what hasn't changed is our determination to build a better future for working animals. Today, SPANA is actively focused on delivering a sustainable and lasting transformation to the lives of working animals, in a world where animals, people and the environment thrive. Our mission involves a more ambitious programme of work than ever before, as we work to expand our global reach and impact.

The journey Kate and Nina started 100 years ago has made such a difference to the lives of hundreds of thousands of working animals around the world. I would like to thank every single person who has been a part of that journey, and I invite you to join us as we write the exciting next chapter for SPANA and working animals.

Thank you so much for your support.

Linda Edwards

Chief Executive, SPANA





A SPANA mobile clinic, Algeria, 1940s

**OUR 100-YEAR
JOURNEY**

**1923
2023**

Improving the welfare of working animals for 100 years

In the early 1920s, two adventurous and compassionate women from Britain, Kate Hosali and her daughter, Nina, embarked on a lengthy tour of North Africa. Their ambitious trip involved travelling across Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. But as they toured beautiful landscapes and fascinating communities, they also saw widespread suffering and malnourishment of working animals. These animals included donkeys, horses, mules and camels being overloaded, neglected and worked with open wounds.

On arriving back in England, Kate and Nina could not forget the suffering of these animals. Together, they resolved that working animals deserved better than a life of suffering. This led them to develop a charity that would support the welfare of working animals across the world.



Nina Hosali



Algeria



Nina Hosali checks on a working animal, 1950s



Tunisia

OUR 100-YEAR JOURNEY



Kate Hosali in Algeria



Nina Hosali in Algeria

1923 • 1924 • 1927 • 1930 • 1939 • 1944

1923

The inaugural meeting of SPANA – originally The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa – was held in London on 2 October 1923. As launched by Kate and Nina Hosali, the charity would aim to improve the welfare of working animals through a range of activities, which included combining the treatment of animals with the training of owners in animal care and the teaching of animal welfare lessons to children. This remains the foundation of SPANA's work today.

1924

While Nina continued to co-ordinate SPANA's global activities from London, Kate travelled to Algeria to develop SPANA's animal welfare programme. It proved to be a life-changing trip, as Kate never returned to live in England again. Her mission was all the more remarkable when you consider she was a woman working alone. Visiting market towns, Kate worked in the fondouks (the local stable yards), where there could be up to 100 donkeys and mules in need of treatment each day. Astonished, but mostly grateful owners, would watch as she removed the animals' harnesses to treat their wounds.

In 21 months, Kate criss-crossed Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, visiting 58 towns. News of her good work spread; people even started to call her The Toubiba – 'The Lady Doctor'.

1927

SPANA's first veterinary centre was formally opened in Tunisia's capital city, Tunis, on 26 June 1927. Centres across Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia quickly followed. By 2023, SPANA would be operating through a global network of 28 centres.

1930

SPANA's first motorised mobile clinic was established in Tunisia. A converted Ford van, it allowed SPANA vets to visit more places and care for more working animals in need. By 2023, SPANA would be operating 34 mobile clinics across the world.

1939 - THE SECOND WORLD WAR

During World War II, SPANA's activities were limited by local restrictions caused by the invasion of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Nevertheless, we continued to provide treatment and care to working animals in need throughout the war.

1944

Some 20 years of selfless work in scorching heat and testing conditions had taken its toll on Kate Hosali's health. Weak after contracting malaria, she passed away on 25 April 1944, aged 67. Kate never stopped caring for animals. The day before she died, she was treating animals in the fondouks.



First veterinary centre opens in Tunisia



Our mobile clinic in Algeria



Kate Hosali

1923 • 1924 • 1927 • 1930 • 1939 • 1944



Humane bit fitting



Treatment at SPANA's centre in Marrakech



Nina Hosali

1966 • 1969 • 1976 • 1987 • 1991 • 1996 • 2001

1966

We launched our humane bit campaign in 1966, which enabled the owners of working animals to exchange old, worn, rusty and ill-fitting bits for comfortable new ones. At exchange, we also trained owners in the importance of safe, well-fitting equipment. Our work to ensure working animals are provided with suitable equipment continues today. In 2021, we distributed 9,099 pieces of humane equipment, including 190 humane bits, to improve the welfare of working animals.

1969

We expanded our reach in Morocco by opening a veterinary centre in the northern town of Khemisset. A few months later, we opened a large centre in Marrakech. Today, our work continues in Khemisset and Marrakech, with the busy centres there helping thousands of working animals in need every year.

1976

After 53 years at SPANA, Nina was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List with an MBE for her services to animal welfare. The commendation for her award read: *'Miss Hosali's dedication, determination, self-sacrifice and endurance has assured the steady progress and expansion of the society's work in North Africa'*.

1966 • 1969 • 1976 • 1987 • 1991 • 1996 • 2001

1987

Nina dedicated her life to SPANA and the care of working animals. After many years of devoted service, she passed away on 14 January 1987, aged 89.

1991

In 1991, SPANA's name was updated to 'The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad', to reflect the global nature of our work.

1996

Recognising the increasing need for our work, we expanded our activities into West Africa by establishing an animal welfare programme in Mali. In the years that followed, we would make a huge difference to the welfare of thousands of working animals in the country. These working animals include the donkeys working on the rubbish dumps in Bamako, Mali's capital city, and at risk of deadly tetanus. The continued generosity of our supporters has enabled our vets to provide lifesaving vaccinations to thousands of donkeys each year, protecting them against this agonising disease.

2001

The global expansion of our work continued, with SPANA launching in Mauritania. Today, through three centres and three mobile veterinary clinics in Mauritania, we make a critical contribution to the country's animal welfare.



Our first mobile clinic in Mali



SPANA's updated name



Our first veterinary centre in Mauritania



A SPANA centre in Ethiopia



Treating working animals in Zimbabwe



Mobile clinic in Botswana

2003 • 2004 • 2015 • 2020 • 2022 • 2023

2003

We started working in Ethiopia – a country with more than 2.1 million working horses. One of our continuing successes in Ethiopia has been the impact that SPANA-funded owner workshops and research has been having on reducing cases of epizootic lymphangitis (EVL) – a highly contagious and agonising disease affecting equines, which can be fatal without urgent treatment.

2004

We began working in Zimbabwe. Today, in addition to providing essential veterinary care to working animals in urban and rural areas across the country, we also provide animal welfare education to children and teachers in Zimbabwe through a partnership with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

2015

The expansion of our activities continued with SPANA starting new projects in India, Tanzania and Botswana. Today in Botswana, our team provides vital support to donkeys and other working animals in remote villages, using a mobile veterinary clinic, which travels hundreds of miles each week. We also provide one-to-one informal training and advice in animal care to owners, and our animal welfare education programme reaches children through lessons and fun activities.

2020

The impact of the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic had devastating consequences for working animals in low-income countries around the world. Faced with record demand for our help, SPANA teams across the globe successfully worked within local safety restrictions to continue our provision of vital support to working animals in need. We also undertook a series of emergency projects in some of the hardest hit locations, providing lifesaving feed, water, shelter and veterinary care to animals in desperate need. Our projects included emergency feeding programmes in Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Tanzania and Tunisia, which distributed more than 267,000kg of emergency feed.

2022

In Mauritania, the local impact of our work was officially recognised when a street near our centre in the capital, Nouakchott, was named 'Rue SPANA' – SPANA Road. We were also chosen by the Mauritanian government to be part of a new national education initiative, which would bring animal welfare lessons to schools in Mauritania.

2023

In 2023, SPANA celebrated 100 years of vital support for working animals, and unveiled its ambitious plans for a long-term transformation in working animal welfare.



Emergency feeding programme



Education in Mauritania



Buffalo in India

2003 • 2004 • 2015 • 2020 • 2022 • 2023

WE WORK WHERE THEY WORK



SPANAs has come a long way since Kate Hosali left London for North Africa, on a mission to help sick and injured working animals in souks and markets across Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Since 1923, our global reach has spanned nearly 60 countries worldwide – improving the lives of working animals when and where they need us.

- CURRENT SPANA PROGRAMMES
- HISTORIC SPANA PROGRAMMES

- MEXICO
- GUATEMALA
- EL SALVADOR
- HONDURAS
- NICARAGUA
- COSTA RICA
- BRAZIL
- PERU
- ARGENTINA

WE WORK WHERE THEY WORK



- ROMANIA
- KOSOVO
- ALBANIA
- TURKEY
- SYRIA
- LEBANON
- IRAQ
- MOROCCO
- ALGERIA
- TUNISIA
- JORDAN
- EGYPT
- MAURITANIA
- MALI
- NIGER
- SUDAN
- CHAD
- GUINEA
- GAMBIA
- NIGERIA
- SIERRA LEONE
- BURKINA FASO
- GHANA
- LIBERIA
- CAMEROON
- ETHIOPIA
- SOMALILAND
- KENYA
- UGANDA
- TANZANIA
- MALAWI
- ZAMBIA
- MOZAMBIQUE
- ZIMBABWE
- BOTSWANA
- NAMIBIA
- SOUTH AFRICA



WE WORK WHERE THEY WORK



- MONGOLIA
- AFGHANISTAN
- CHINA
- NEPAL
- PAKISTAN
- INDIA
- MYANMAR
- CAMBODIA
- SRI LANKA
- TAIWAN
- INDONESIA

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Anyone who supports SPANA shares a common goal: to create a more compassionate world for working animals





For 100 years, SPANA has been the charity for the working animals of the world. While our work has grown and developed significantly since Kate and Nina Hosali founded our organisation, our focus has always remained on improving the lives of working donkeys, horses, mules, camels, elephants and oxen that support low-income and often vulnerable communities.

Today, SPANA operates across approximately 30 low-income countries, spanning from Botswana and Cambodia to Uganda and Zimbabwe. For many communities, we provide the only source of veterinary treatment and care available to working animals.

A key element of SPANA's work today concerns supporting the day-to-day welfare of working animals. Through our global network of veterinary centres and mobile clinics, we ensure sick and injured working animals receive the treatment they need. Whether it's helping a donkey with colic, a horse with a wounded leg or a camel suffering from parasites, SPANA's provision of veterinary care is truly life-changing.

Many of the problems and conditions our vets in the field encounter could be prevented if more owners had a better understanding of animal welfare. So, another key element of SPANA's global programmes concerns our work to help owners develop their knowledge of animal welfare. Every year, we train thousands of owners globally to reduce preventable injuries and improve their care of animals.

Alongside this, we build expertise among vets. We have developed collaborative programmes with universities and training institutes across the world, training thousands of professionals annually. Many vets working in low-income countries have benefited from our training. They then take their new skills back into their communities to enhance the care of injured and sick working animals.

Our co-founder, Nina Hosali, began SPANA's animal welfare education programme in 1925. She recognised that many children in low-income countries would grow up to be animal owners in the future, while others would become community leaders, teachers, councillors and vets – all of whom could influence animal welfare in the future. Over the years, our animal welfare education programme has flourished. We have secured major education agreements with governments so that animal welfare lessons are taught in schools – most recently with the governments of Mauritania and Zimbabwe. Every year, thousands of children visit our centres to learn about animal welfare and how to provide proper care for animals.

Meanwhile, in times of crisis, our emergency projects are delivering help to working animals in desperate need. From the Second World War to the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, we have provided lifesaving feed, veterinary treatments and support to vulnerable working animals who are most at risk.



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Over the past 100 years, the unwavering kindness and generosity of our supporters has enabled us to improve the welfare of hundreds of thousands of working animals each year. But we're not stopping there. As we celebrate our centenary, we're launching our new five-year strategy for 2023-27. The central ambition of our new strategy is to expand the charity's reach and impact, and to deliver a sustainable transformation to the welfare of working animals. We will embark on an ambitious programme of pioneering projects and partnerships that

will build on everything we have achieved, to enhance our impact on the welfare of working animals.

Kate and Nina Hosali's commitment to improving the welfare of working animals remains at the heart of our work around the world today. Their pioneering spirit and unfailing passion continue to inspire everything we do, and we are more committed than ever to helping working animals in need. With your support, SPANA will continue to transform the lives of working animals across the world.



HELP TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF WORKING ANIMALS

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our supporters, SPANA now has a 100-year track record for improving the welfare of working animals.

Today, the need for SPANA's work is greater than ever. The long-term impact of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the global cost of living crisis are creating unprecedented hardship for low-income countries that depend on working animals. Climate change, and growing global economic and political instability, are also creating further challenges for the vulnerable communities that working animals so loyally serve.

In these difficult times, help us build a better world for working animals. With your support, we can transform the welfare of working animals and ensure that working animals lead healthy and valued lives.

Help us continue our vital work today and tomorrow.

Find out how you can support working animals at www.spana.org





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Working animal welfare since 1923

100
YEARS