



Working animal welfare since 1923

# NEWS

[spana.org](http://spana.org)

## 100 YEARS OF WORKING ANIMAL WELFARE

**SPANNA: then and now**

**Saving animals from  
deadly diseases with  
pioneering programmes**



- 3** Spotlight: 100 years of working animal welfare
- 4** Making headlines: All the latest news from SPANA
- 6** **Special appeal: Saving animals from deadly diseases with pioneering programmes**



- 8** SPANA in action: Helping working animals with habronemiasis
- 9** Education: Animal welfare lessons in Mali
- 10** **SPANA up close: Tunisia**



- 12** SPANA around the world: Meet some of the animals you're helping
- 14** SPANA Centenary: Supporting working animals in an ever changing world
- 16** **Morocco earthquake: Emergency relief for working animals after catastrophic earthquake**



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



# WELCOME

**to the latest issue of SPANA News.**



Happy 100th birthday SPANA! Throughout this year, we have been celebrating an incredible century of caring for donkeys, horses, mules, camels and other working animals in need.

In this special centenary issue, we've delved into our archive to take a look at how the pioneering spirit of our founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, shines brightly in everything we've done – and continue to do – to help working animals.

On page six, our **special appeal** highlights how, with your support, we are pioneering new approaches in our programming to transform the lives of working animals suffering from devastating disease. You can find out more about Biruk, a 12-year-old carthorse from Ethiopia, who was diagnosed with a deadly disease called African Horse Sickness. With your help, we can continue to pioneer new work, treat and prevent disease, and save animals like Biruk from living short and painful lives.

Today, 100 years on from SPANA's formation in 1923, the need for our work is greater than ever – and we continue to respond quickly to help the working animals who need us most. Thanks to your support, in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Morocco in September, SPANA teams were able to react swiftly to provide lifesaving treatment, feed and water to animals in desperate need across affected areas. You can read more about our emergency response in Morocco on page 16.

On page 14, join me as I look back at how our charity has embraced innovation over the past 100 years. From progress in veterinary research and medication to the latest communications technology, it's clear that SPANA is a modern organisation that belies its 100 years.

With grateful thanks, we dedicate this issue of SPANA News to every single supporter who helps, and has helped, our charity care for working animals. Together, we are making a real difference. Thank you!

**Linda Edwards**  
Chief Executive, SPANA

**Address:** SPANA, PO Box 79509, London, EC4P 4ND

**Telephone:** 020 7831 3999

**Email:** [hello@spana.org](mailto:hello@spana.org)

If you'd like to receive regular updates about SPANA's work, please sign up for our e-newsletter at [spana.org](http://spana.org).

**Find us at** [www.spana.org](http://www.spana.org)

[www.facebook.com/spanacharity](https://www.facebook.com/spanacharity) | [www.twitter.com/spanacharity](https://www.twitter.com/spanacharity)

Registered charity no: 209015. Registered address: SPANA, 2nd Floor, 55 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7JW





# 100 YEARS OF WORKING ANIMAL WELFARE

On 2 October 1923, our charity's founders, Kate Hosali and her daughter Nina, gathered with like-minded individuals in a small room in London to hold the inaugural meeting of SPANA. That meeting was the starting point for 100 years of practical, proactive and lifesaving working animal welfare.

One hundred years on, we're celebrating our centenary. This special centenary issue of SPANA News looks back at our charity's work over the past 100 years. You'll find out more about our history and how, as a modern, global organisation, we are continuing to transform the lives of donkeys, horses, mules and other working animals.

We have only been able to reach this historic milestone thanks to supporters like you – kind and compassionate people who've helped us reach hundreds of thousands of working animals in need every year.

**You can read more about our centenary on page four and pages 14–15. You can also find out more and watch a short film at [spana.org/history](https://spana.org/history)**



# SPANANA IN THE NEWS

## Celebrating 100 years of working animal welfare

**SPANANA was founded in 1923 as the world's first global charity dedicated to supporting working animal welfare.**

We have marked this historic occasion with a series of local and national events across the globe. These events included a SPANA centenary celebration in Tozeur, Tunisia, in July. The event was attended by the SPANA Tunisia team, including its Country Director Dr Sami Mzabi, SPANA Mali Country Director Dr Amadou Doumbia, and team members from the UK. A number of special guests also attended, including the Governor of the city of Tozeur, the Mayor of Tozeur, the Director General of Education and a representative from the National Veterinary School. They were joined by working animal owners from the local community alongside their camels, horses and donkeys.

Similarly, SPANA held a special event at its veterinary centre in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in June. The centenary event encompassed speeches and video presentations, the cutting of a celebratory centenary cake, and a tour of the centre. It was attended by SPANA Mauritania Country Director Bebaha H'meiditt, members of the Mauritania team, SPANA Morocco Country

Director Hassan Alyakine, and SPANA's Chief Executive, Linda Edwards. Also in attendance were the Mayor of El Mina, representatives of the Mauritanian Ministry of Education and the Moroccan Ambassador to Mauritania.

A celebratory event was also held in Marrakech, Morocco, earlier in the year, while a gathering of our global teams in London marked our 100th birthday on 2 October.

These events enabled SPANA to thank its global teams for their incredible work over the years and to strengthen connections with local communities, government officials and ambassadors.

Linda Edwards said: *'I was delighted to join our global teams to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime milestone. Our global teams are on the front line – often working in extremely difficult conditions to improve the welfare of working animals in dire need. In 2022, our teams in Tunisia, Mauritania and Morocco alone provided vital care and support to more than 100,000 working animals.'*

*'Our charity has been able to help working animals and their owners since 1923. But as we celebrate our centenary, the need for our work has never been greater. I would like to thank all our supporters for their continued care and compassion for working animals.'*







## Quenching the thirst of Morocco's caleche horses

**Thirsty caleche horses in Marrakech, Morocco, are benefiting from a new SPANA water station where they can access clean, cool drinking water throughout the day.**

The water trough, in the Menara district of the city, is the ninth water station to be built by SPANA in Marrakech. The water stations provide a refreshing break for the caleche horses who offer tourist rides, as well as for other working animals.

In addition, SPANA's existing water stations in Marrakech have recently been restored and refurbished, with work including repairing tiling and overhauling drainage.

SPANA constructed its first water trough in 1937, at a SPANA centre in Algeria, to serve thirsty working animals. Since then, we have been providing clean, fresh water to hundreds of thousands of working animals at sites globally each year.

Dr Linda Evans, SPANA's Director of Global Animal Welfare, said: *'Ensuring that working animals stay hydrated is vitally important to their health. Thanks to our kind supporters, our water stations are making a real difference to the lives of working animals in Marrakech, and across the world.'*

## Helping working animals and farriers in Ethiopia

**SPANA is trialling the use of locally made bits and farriery tools in Ethiopia.**

Historically, many of these essential pieces of equipment have been sourced from the UK. However, SPANA's veterinary team in Ethiopia has been collaborating with a professional college of metalworkers in Bishoftu to develop prototypes for bits and hoof cutters.

Prototypes have been trialled by SPANA's farrier and rolled out as part of an ongoing pilot project. If successful, the programme will improve sustainability by reducing the need to import these items, while ensuring that working animals in Ethiopia have access to safe and comfortable equipment.

Dr Hanna Zewdu, SPANA Ethiopia Project Leader, said: *'Our latest prototype of the hoof cutter has undergone several modifications to reach its current model. We have distributed a few of these prototype cutters to selected local farriers in order to gather their feedback.'*

*'The response has been very positive, with all of the local farriers expressing satisfaction with the new prototype, which they find to be significantly better than the tools they have been using. This project is part of our ongoing work to transform the lives of Ethiopia's working animals.'*





# SAVING ANIMALS FROM DEADLY DISEASES WITH PIONEERING PROGRAMMES

SPECIAL APPEAL



Skilled veterinary care is hard to access and expensive in Ethiopia. SPANA ensures working animals receive expert advice and treatment regardless of owner income.

In many of the countries where SPANA works, the risk of infectious disease for working animals is increasing. To combat this issue and prevent working animals from facing a lifetime of struggle, SPANA is developing new projects along with innovative preventative measures. With your help, the lives of working animals suffering from devastating disease can be transformed today.

## Biruk's story

Your support could help save the lives of animals like Biruk. Every day, the 12-year-old carthorse pulls a cart piled high with produce through uneven, cobbled streets in the bustling town of Bishoftu, Ethiopia. It's heavy, hot and unforgiving work.

Every morning, Biruk dutifully helps his young owner, Debele, to take his family farm's produce to market. This allows Debele to make a meagre income to support his family; without Biruk, he would have no way of making a sustainable living.

Recently, Biruk began dragging his feet and was struggling to keep his head up. By the end of Biruk's gruelling day of work, the horse had become so listless and lethargic that he barely had the strength to make the journey home.

Seeing his horse become increasingly slow and weak, Debele began to worry. Biruk was struggling to breathe due to nasal discharge and refused to eat, despite carrying out demanding work. When Biruk started to show abnormally large swelling above his eyes, it became clear that he was in a great deal of pain – and his suffering could soon get a lot worse.



*'Thank you very much, SPANA, for treating my horse for this killer disease. Thanks to them, I have been given hope to continue my livelihood.'* – Debele

Sensing Debele's growing concern, a neighbour recommended that the young owner visit the SPANA centre in Bishoftu to seek expert veterinary advice and treatment. At the centre, Biruk was given a full examination by the SPANA veterinary team, who diagnosed him as suffering from African Horse Sickness (AHS).

**AHS is a deadly disease that is transmitted by midge bites and causes severe harm to a horse's cardiovascular system. If left untreated, poor Biruk would have continued to suffer and eventually succumbed to this terrible illness.**

Our vets worked quickly, administering pain relief medication to soothe his symptoms. Anti-inflammatories were also given to bring down the swelling and with it, Biruk's fever. To ensure he had sufficient rest and that his appetite and energy levels improved, the team hospitalised Biruk at the centre. Most importantly, once recovered they vaccinated Biruk to help him build long-term immunity against AHS. To protect Biruk from other strains of the disease, the team advised that he should be vaccinated annually, preferably before the rainy season. Thanks to SPANA's intervention and diligent care, Biruk



made a full recovery and returned to work, providing a stable future for his committed owner.

Sadly, preventable diseases like AHS take the lives of many working animals around the world. The contagious fungal disease epizootic lymphangitis (EVL) is also a deadly threat to working equines. Recently, habronemiasis, a parasitic skin disease transmitted by flies, has swept through the countries where SPANA works. Following the outbreak, our innovative team in Ethiopia designed comfortable, protective masks for working animals, giving them the best chance of avoiding the painful disease. You can read more on page eight. Similarly, the development of a new bio-security policy that spans our global programmes is also playing a key role in keeping working animals safe from infection.

Unfortunately, it is believed that in extreme climates, the spread of infectious disease is a considerable threat. Potential disease-causing bacteria and viruses thrive in humid environments. And high rain levels and warm climates can lead to an increased population of midges, allowing diseases like AHS to spread further.

**SPANA is committed to protecting as many working animals as possible against infectious diseases. But we can't do this without you. With your support, our vets can continue carrying out vital work to ease the suffering of infected animals and prevent the spread of deadly disease.**

Our dedicated teams must continue to administer vaccinations, working in collaboration with local vets and the government to reach as many working animals as possible. We also need to provide essential medicine to animals like Biruk who are suffering with infectious disease. In Ethiopia, SPANA helped develop the national 'revolving medicine scheme' through extensive work alongside the local government. This innovative scheme



ensures that a steady and sustainable supply of quality veterinary medicine and equipment is available for SPANA staff and their partners to purchase.

In many low-income communities, it is hard to access skilled veterinary care. But pioneering initiatives like the revolving medicine scheme mean animals like Biruk can receive the treatment and the essential lifesaving medicine they need.

Community training also plays an important role in protecting working animals from disease. By distributing information and training to owners about recognising the signs of disease, we can reduce the spread and treat animals in the early stages of infection, giving them the best chance of survival.

Only with your support can we continue to pioneer new work to treat and prevent disease, saving animals like Biruk from living short and painful lives. SPANA estimates that thousands of working animals are dying needlessly every year due to a lack of owner awareness, simple vaccinations, preventative measures and veterinary care.

**Could you make a donation today, so that animals like Biruk no longer have to face devastating disease alone? Thank you.**

**SPANA's veterinary teams have seen a rise in working animals suffering from infectious diseases. Pictured, a horse struggling to keep its eyes open while being treated for debilitating habronemiasis.**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Please donate today to alleviate the suffering of working animals like Biruk, who are devastated by deadly diseases.**

**£15**

could vaccinate two working animals against infectious diseases like African Horse Sickness.

**£45**

could provide working animals like Biruk with essential medication such as painkillers, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs to help fight the symptoms of disease.

**£150**

could help prevent the spread of infectious diseases by training more working animal owners or funding innovative projects like the revolving medicine scheme.

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

**Or visit our appeal page:  
[www.spana.org/disease](http://www.spana.org/disease)**



# HELPING WORKING ANIMALS WITH HABRONEMIASIS



Dr Linda Evans BVetMed MRCVS, SPANA's Director of Global Animal Welfare, explains how, with your help, SPANA is treating and protecting working animals suffering from an agonising infection called habronemiasis.

**In December last year, an outbreak of a parasitic condition struck working animals in Sheno, a town in central Ethiopia. The condition was cutaneous habronemiasis – a painful parasitic infection transmitted by flies that affects the area around the eyes or mouth of horses, mules and donkeys.**

Habronemiasis is common. In fact, you may know it as 'summer sores'. The infection is mostly found in temperate and tropical climates, and is a condition that SPANA's founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, would have known well, as it was first recognised in 1911.

The infection causes small but incredibly itchy sores to develop, which can be extremely painful and irritating for working horses, donkeys and mules. If working animals try to relieve their discomfort by rubbing their faces against objects such as trees and fences, this can increase the irritation, lead to complications such as

conjunctivitis, or cause injury to their faces and eyes.

December's outbreak coincided with the start of Ethiopia's dry season, when the fly population increases dramatically. During the month, our veterinary team provided vital care for 600 working animals with habronemiasis.

To treat habronemiasis, our vets administer an anti-parasitic treatment called Ivermectin. They gently clean and debride the animal's wounded skin. The vets also advise owners to rest their animal and to keep the sores clean while they are healing.

Crucially, as part of our work, we provide and fit working animals with special masks and fringes to act as a preventative barrier against flies, and we give advice on how to keep flies away. During last December's outbreak, our vet team in Ethiopia designed masks using accessible and affordable materials, such as sanitised old clothes and mosquito nets, and then trained local communities in how to make them.

We also provide training in areas where the condition is common by holding community training sessions and displaying posters at our mobile clinics so that owners can find out more about the infection and how to protect their animals.

**All this is only possible thanks to your dedication. With your help, we're able to relieve working animals from the misery of infectious diseases like habronemiasis. On behalf of our global veterinary teams, thank you so much for all your support.**



# ANIMAL WELFARE LESSONS IN MALI



*Mahawa Guindo, SPANA's Humane Education Officer, explains how our animal welfare lessons are reaching more children than ever before in Mali.*



**In my role as Humane Education Officer for SPANA in Mali, my week usually starts in a pre-school class. On Monday mornings, my team and I give animal welfare classes to the very young children (four to seven years old) to help develop their understanding of animals. We play fun and simple games and arrange for the children to come into contact with animals.**

This initiative is just one of the many ways that we are continuing to grow our animal welfare education programme in the country. As well as teaching the children, we train teachers so that they can carry on the lessons after our visit. We give the teachers education resources and suggest interactive teaching methods – which they might not be as familiar with, but which they have embraced and are delighted with.

I'm pleased to report that our education programme continues to grow. In 2022, we reached 6,427 children across Mali – that's three times as many as 10 years ago! Most importantly, about 50 per cent of the children we teach have working animals at home. This means that

they will be able to take everything they have learned, put it to practical use in their local community, and become ambassadors for good working animal welfare.

In 2022, we worked with 59 schools. Many pupils from these schools have visited our veterinary centre in Bamako. Visits to our centre take two hours, during which the children receive a lesson on animal welfare and a tour of the centre, along with practical advice from our veterinary team.

In the future, I would like to integrate our work with other local charities that are focused on the environment, expand our pre-school visits, and distribute our resources to more schools.

**Of course, none of our work would be possible without your help. The smiles on the children's faces and the regular messages we receive from parents thanking us and explaining how the attitude of their child has changed towards animals really proves just how much your support is making a difference.**

**Thank you!**

**Tunisia was one of the first countries in which our founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, started SPANA's lifesaving work in the 1920s, helping sick and injured working animals.**

#### SPANA OPERATIONS

**Tunisia has a large population of working equids and camels. These working animals help people living in rural communities with agricultural work and transporting essential items, such as firewood and water. Camels are also used in the tourism industry.**

We have been carrying out our vital work in Tunisia since 1925. We currently have four local veterinary centres – in Bou Salem, Kasserine, Kebili and Siliana. We also have four mobile clinics that travel to treat working animals in markets and rural communities.

Common problems our veterinary team encounter include hoof problems and injuries caused by inappropriate harnessing. To overcome these problems, we provide humane equipment, practical help and advice to the owners of working animals – teaching them how to

look after their animals and when they should seek professional assistance.

We also provide animal welfare education for children through a network of animal clubs in schools. Our hands-on mobile exhibition, an interactive education bus, tours the country to bring engaging, interactive displays and information to schoolchildren.



#### TUNISIA AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 12.3 million  
**Area:** 163,610 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Location:** North Africa  
**Capital city:** Tunis  
**Estimated number of working animals:** 621,000



#### PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Dr Sami Mzabi, SPANA Tunisia Country Director

**Tunisia was one of the first countries that SPANA started work in and the location of the charity's first veterinary centre and first mobile clinic. What do you think SPANA's founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, would think of your team's work today?**

Since the arrival of Kate and Nina in Tunisia, SPANA has continued to evolve. We have had enormous veterinary and educational successes. Our local relationships are excellent, and we have signed many agreements with the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Agriculture. I think Kate and Nina would be very happy.

**How did you and your team celebrate SPANA's global centenary?**

We celebrated the centenary of SPANA with a special event in Tozeur, in southern Tunisia. The event was

attended by SPANA's Chief Executive, Linda Edwards, national and local authorities, animal welfare partners, vets, teachers, and owners of working animals. There were speeches, discussions on animal welfare and a ceremony of traditional song and dance.

**What achievements are you and your team most proud of?**

We are proud of all our work across the country, but we are especially proud of our four veterinary centres, which are doing good work to help working animals, and of our close contact and strong relationships with the owners of working animals, teachers, and students.

**Are there any cases that you remember where you and your team made a real difference to a working animal's life?**

We once treated a mule who was suffering from lameness and an infection in his lower leg. We gave the mule an X-ray, which revealed a foreign object under his skin. We made an incision to remove the object – it was a piece of wire that had been embedded for a very long time under his skin and was invisible to the naked eye. The treatment was successful, and the mule made a full recovery.



# CASE FILE

## Habib the horse's sore mouth

**Ahmed said:** *'Thank you, SPANA, for helping my horse. He is very popular with the tourists. Without him, I would be unable to earn a living.'*

**Habib the horse and his owner, Ahmed, live in Douz, a small town on the edge of the Sahara Desert in southern Tunisia. Douz is a popular destination for tourists, and Habib supports Ahmed by transporting visitors around the town in their colourful, decorated cart. This daily work enables Ahmed to earn a small income and provide for his family.**

Habib and Ahmed visited SPANA's mobile clinic in the town centre after Ahmed noticed small sores had developed around Habib's mouth. The sores were causing Habib some discomfort, and he had become reluctant to eat.

SPANAs veterinary team examined Habib carefully. They found that Habib's bit was ill-fitting, causing wounds to the sides of his mouth. The vets carefully cleaned the sores and administered anti-inflammatory medication. They advised Ahmed that Habib should not wear a bit until his sores had healed, and then showed him how to fit Habib's bit properly so that it would not cause similar problems in the future.

While Habib was with the vets, he was also given a general health check. A quick test revealed that Habib was also suffering from a lot of internal parasites, so the vets gave him some anti-parasite medication. Ahmed was encouraged to bring Habib back to the mobile clinic for regular check-ups.





# 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

**Zanjabil the horse and her owner, Abdelatif, transport construction materials in Chemaia, Morocco. Every day, they work together hauling heavy loads so that Abdelatif can earn a basic income.**

Lately, the three-year-old horse had stopped eating and had started to lose weight. Abdelatif was extremely concerned for his young horse, so he took her to SPANA's busy centre in Chemaia to find out what was wrong.

At the centre, SPANA's veterinary team checked Zanjabil all over and soon discovered the source of the problem. The remnants of Zanjabil's milk teeth, known as caps, were preventing the growth of her adult teeth. Horses' teeth grow continuously throughout their lives and if they don't lose their caps, the new erupting teeth can cause pain and swelling, making eating agonising.

Our vets carried out extensive dental work on Zanjabil. They administered pain relief and anti-inflammatories to make her more comfortable. Then, they removed the caps that were causing her such discomfort and rasped her teeth to ensure there were no sharp edges that had caused painful ulcers in her mouth.

The team advised Abdelatif to keep a close eye on his horse and suggested the correct food to minimise tooth problems in the future.

**Abdelatif said:** *'Thank you to everyone at SPANA. Without you, my animal's life would have been in danger.'*



**ZANJABIL THE HORSE'S  
AGONISING TOOTHACHE**



## MALI

**Aminata the donkey helps her owner, Daouda, transport firewood around Nyènguékoro, a small village south of Mali's capital city, Bamako. This important work enables Daouda, who is a farmer, to look after his young family.**

Aminata is well cared for by Daouda – he always makes sure that his donkey is in good condition. That's why, as soon as he noticed that Aminata's hooves were starting to become overgrown, he took her along to SPANA's mobile clinic when it made its next visit to their village.

At the mobile clinic, SPANA's veterinary team skilfully trimmed Aminata's hooves to ensure that they were all well balanced. It is important that donkeys' hooves don't become overgrown because, as well as being painful and uncomfortable, overgrown hooves can lead to health issues, such as abnormal or additional strain on tendons, ligaments, muscles and joints further up the leg. Our vets praised Daouda for the care he gives to his donkey and his concern for her welfare.



### AMINATA THE DONKEY'S OVERGROWN HOOVES

**Daouda said:** *'Our village is always grateful for SPANA's work. SPANA intervened during a donkey flu that affected our village a few years ago. You saved many of our donkeys.'*

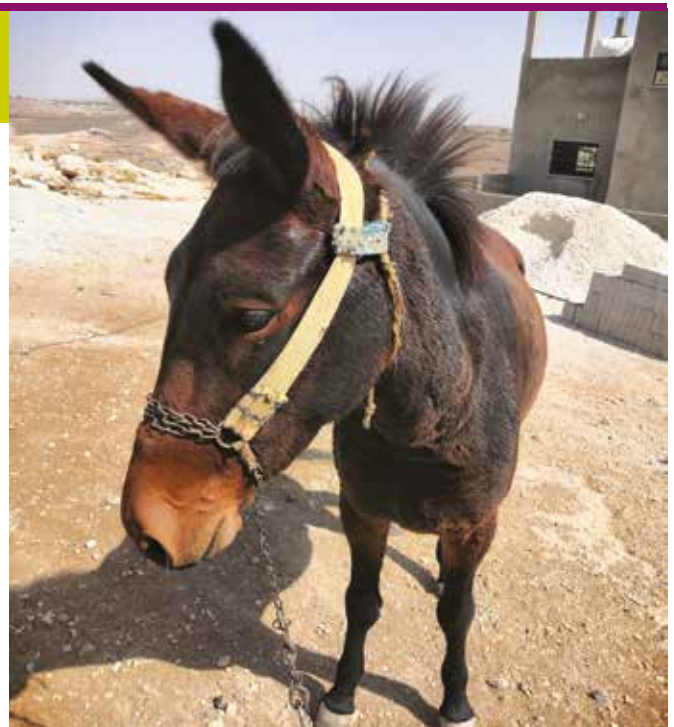
## JORDAN

**Nadim the mule helps his owner, Awad, plough a small patch of land near their home in Kerak, Jordan. The 10-year-old mule has a strong bond with his owner, and they work closely together.**

One day, Nadim and Awad were hard at work when Nadim accidentally caught his right hind leg on a broken fence post. A concerned Awad guided Nadim back to his shelter and contacted SPANA's mobile clinic for help.

The SPANA mobile clinic set out to visit Nadim straight away. When our veterinary team arrived, they examined Nadim's injury carefully. Luckily, the injury suffered by Nadim was a superficial wound and had not caused damage to any tendons, ligaments or joints. Our vets cleaned the wound and applied a soothing ointment to encourage healing. They gave Awad a supply of the ointment and showed him how to apply it so that he could continue Nadim's treatment himself.

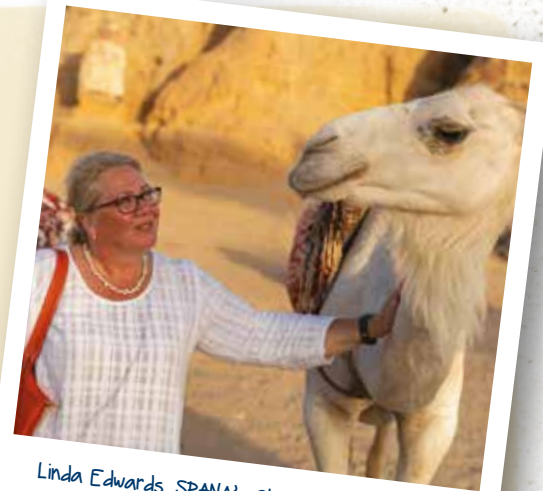
The team also reminded Awad about the importance of ensuring that Nadim's working environment is safe, including checking equipment and ensuring that there are no hazardous objects.



### NADIM THE MULE'S PAINFUL LEG WOUND

**Awad said:** *'You are the only clinic that reaches this area and has the ability to treat large animals. Thank you for your help.'*

# SUPPORTING WORKING ANIMALS IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD



*Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, on how throughout our charity's 100-year history we have continued to adapt and evolve to help working animals.*

**SPANA is now 100 years old. Although the core of our work remains the same as it was in 1923 – to support working animals and ensure their care and wellbeing – the practical aspects of making that happen have moved on considerably. If our founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, were alive today, I think they would be astounded and excited by the new technology and equipment that enable our veterinary teams to diagnose and treat working animals in need.**

When Kate Hosali first headed into the souks of North Africa, her medicine bag was little more than a first aid kit. Penicillin was still five years away from being discovered and X-rays were in their infancy. Today, thanks to your help, our vets can

treat working animals with a wide range of medication and equipment. Medical innovation in the past 100 years has included the invention of deworming drugs, new antibiotic classification and safer sedation. Laboratory machines enable the rapid analysis of blood samples, X-ray machines are safer and more portable, and images and results can be shared digitally within minutes.

Progress in veterinary research has also led to improved understanding of diseases and parasites, and the species, countries or areas they can be found in. SPANA has contributed to veterinary research from its early days. For example, in the late 1930s, a SPANA centre in Algeria conducted research into mange, a parasitic skin disease, in camels. Our vets took samples for microscopic examination from 200 camels by following camel trains into the Sahara Desert. Today, SPANA is working with the University of Liverpool and others on a long-term study to better understand a fungal infection called epizootic lymphangitis (EZL) and, eventually,







result in more effective treatments for affected working animals. Our eight clinical skills centres also develop the technical and practical skills of hundreds of vet students at universities each year.

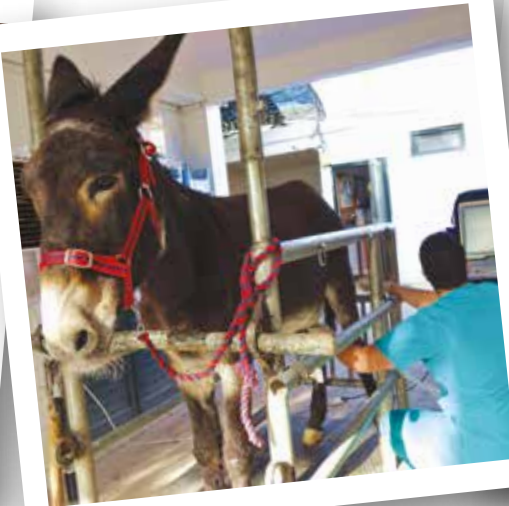
Another key innovation is communication. For SPANA, during World War Two, communication was nothing short of impossible. Nina Hosali later recalled that *'letters often took several months... many did not arrive at all'*. In 2023, Wi-Fi and video calls allow our veterinary teams across the world to meet virtually to share and discuss cases, photos and videos. Improvements in international shipping and transport have made it easier to send much-needed equipment or supplies that aren't available in a country quickly and efficiently. These innovations have made the world smaller, so we can continue to expand our global reach and facilities.

SPANA is no stranger to expansion. In 1970, for example, we opened a veterinary centre in Marrakech, Morocco. At the time, the centre was the largest in

North Africa. Today, we operate 17 veterinary centres and 39 mobile clinics in 23 countries worldwide.

The work of our pioneering founders in 1923 is all the more remarkable when you consider the limitations they faced. In 2023, however, our work is arguably even more complicated and challenging. Rising global poverty and inequality; increased political and economic instability; global health risks, such as zoonotic diseases; the increasing impact of climate change; and volatility and uncertainty within the global economy mean that working animals are facing a wider range of complex threats than ever before. As a pioneering, modern and global organisation, I am confident that, with your support, we can tackle these issues head on.

A lot has changed in the past 100 years, but Kate and Nina's passion and commitment to working animals remain at the heart of our work today. And, like our founders, our teams across the world are driven by their desire to make a real difference. **Thank you for being part of our 100-year history – and our future.**





# EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR WORKING ANIMALS AFTER CATASTROPHIC MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE



On Friday 8 September, a devastating 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Morocco. Its epicentre was in the High Atlas Mountains, a remote area south of Marrakech where working animals – especially mules – are relied on to carry essential goods to local communities along steep, narrow, rocky passes.

The earthquake destroyed tiny mountain villages and blocked crucial access roads. As SPANA News went to print, more than six million people had been affected and an estimated 3,000 people had lost their lives.

Following the disaster, thanks to your support, SPANA was able to respond rapidly and effectively to provide lifesaving care and support to working animals affected by the deadly earthquake. From Monday 11 September, just days after the earthquake and while aftershocks were still being felt, our local teams began to deliver vital assistance to animals in desperate need – and save lives.

At first, our teams focused on ensuring immediate lifesaving treatment was available for working animals. Visiting the area around the epicentre of earthquake, our teams successfully treated hundreds of injured and wounded working donkeys, horses and mules, as well as other animals, in villages including Ouzid, Moulay Brahim, Asni, Amizmiz, Amaghras, Amazi, Anougal and Oulad Mtaa.

Among the many animals we have been able to help, SPANA had a key role in the ambitious rescue of a donkey who had been trapped in dangerous ruins of Imi N'Isli for six days – without access to any water (pictured top right). Our team learned of the donkey while visiting the earthquake area and worked with the UK International Search and Rescue (ISAR) team to coordinate the rescue.



SPANA vets treated Amghrass the donkey for a severe neck injury. Following initial urgent treatment, Amghrass has been recovering at our SPANA centre in Marrakech.





**SPANA vets played a key role in rescuing Solene the donkey, who had been trapped for six days.**

Following a very careful assessment, the ISAR team carried out a two-hour rescue operation, supported by SPANA. Thankfully, the donkey was safely retrieved – to a rapturous round of applause – and reunited with his owner. The SPANA team provided vital treatment and a full bucket of water for the donkey – and the water was quickly consumed. In recognition of his stoic heroicism during his plight, the hitherto nameless donkey was given a new name by the leader of the ISAR team – Solene, meaning solemn.

Our relief effort has also concentrated on providing working animals with much-needed food and water. In cut-off communities, many working animals have lacked these basic necessities, putting their survival under severe threat. In the first weekend after the disaster, our teams distributed 20 tonnes of animal feed across seven villages – reaching 400 mules and many other working animals. Since then, we have reached thousands more.

As our relief work has continued, SPANA has increasingly provided vital support to working animals supporting the rescue effort across the region. During the third week of our response programme, on Wednesday 27 September, SPANA vets treated 60 mules and 23 donkeys who were suffering from harness wounds and lameness.

Chief Executive Linda Edwards visited Morocco just days after the earthquake to support SPANA's rescue effort. She said: *'Alongside the authorities and partners, SPANA's teams have been working tirelessly to ensure that lifesaving help is available to working animals. The relief effort has also seen the*



**Working animals – especially Morocco's mountain mules – have been crucial to the rescue effort.**

*dependency on working animals, as the invisible heroes delivering lifesaving aid to communities who have been cut off, with roads destroyed or blocked with debris.*

*'Thanks to your support, SPANA is providing critical support for these working donkeys and mules, and for the many other animals affected by the earthquake. We will also continue to be there for working animals in the time ahead, as local communities across Morocco work to recover from this disaster.'*

**You can help provide lifesaving food, water and treatment for working animals affected by the devastating earthquake. To find out more about our ongoing emergency response in Morocco and to make a donation, visit [spana.org/morocco](https://spana.org/morocco).**

**Thank you to everyone who has already donated!**



# A HEARTFELT LEGACY FOR WORKING ANIMALS

**SPANA's founders, Kate Hosali and her daughter, Nina, cared deeply for working animals. They were so moved by their plight that when they returned to England from their trip across North Africa, they set out to improve the welfare of as many working animals as they could.**

One hundred years on, their care and compassion are still going strong. Their heartfelt legacy is evident in everything we do – from teaching children in Mali the importance of good animal welfare (page nine) to providing life-changing dental treatment to Zanjabil the young horse (page 12). Through SPANA, the kindness and courage of our remarkable founders lives on by transforming the lives of working animals globally.

Could you create your own lasting legacy for working animals? By including a gift to SPANA in your Will, you will help relieve the pain and suffering of working animals long into the future.

Your legacy could be providing lifesaving veterinary treatment to seriously sick and injured working animals at our busy veterinary centres. Or it could be the vital and practical training we offer the owners of working animals. Or it could be the inspiring, interactive lessons we teach children so that they grow up to respect and care for working animals for the rest of their lives.

We're so grateful to everyone who chooses to pledge a gift to SPANA in their Will, as legacies – no matter what their size – really do make a difference to the welfare of

working animals. In fact, during our centenary year, around half of everything we do for working animals will be funded by gifts in Wills.

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

**On behalf of the working animals and communities that we help, thank you so much to every single one of our legacy pledgers.**



If you would like to find out more about how to leave a gift in your Will to help working animals, please visit [spana.org/legacy](https://spana.org/legacy) or email [giftsinwills@spana.org](mailto:giftsinwills@spana.org). Please do let us know if 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

This year, our wonderful supporters have been busy raising vital funds for working animals, come rain or shine.

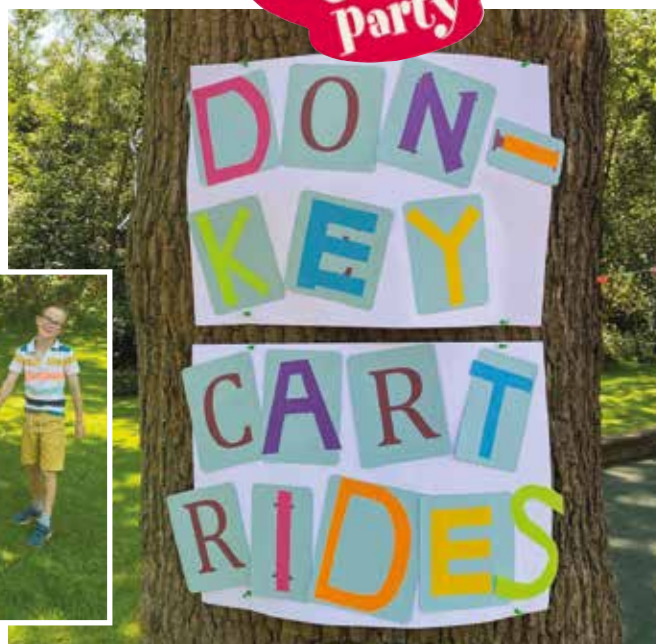
SPANA is very lucky to have such wonderful, dedicated fundraisers. Here's what just a few of them have been up to:

### CREATIVE WORLD TEA PARTY

Aleid and her children, Rowie, Raffy and Teddy, held a SPANA World Tea Party in their garden for Rowie's nursery friends. Aleid said: 'We made a little donkey cart and some donkey ears for the "donkey" to give garden rides. We

also ran a little craft table to make donkeys with clothes peg legs and googly eyes.' We love how creative the family got.

**Thank you!**



### HORSEY BITS

Leone Martin, from Somerset, with the help of her husband and friends, regularly sells tack, riding gear and other horsey accessories at local equine events, local horse shows and online auctions, such as eBay. So far this year, her stalls have raised £2,161.

**Thank you for your wonderful support for working animals, Leone!**



### WINCHESTER STALL A CONTINUED SUCCESS

Jean Smith, from Southampton, has been supporting SPANA since 1998. With the help of her daughter, Karen, and granddaughter, Abbie, she holds stalls in Winchester, which are a huge success. This year, they have already raised over £2,000 for working animals in need. **Thank you for your commitment and wonderful support.**



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



# Shop exclusive gifts and help working animals

CENTENARY EDITION  
**HAPPY  
HOOVES**

**2023  
GIFTS**

Get your hands on a special edition centenary gift today, commemorating 100 years of SPANA's support for working animals around the world. We also have a fantastic range of Fairtrade, vegan and ethical gifts, including sweet treats, homeware, garden accessories, toys and stationery. Plus, browse our inspiring selection of virtual gifts that enable you to provide essential food, care and equipment to working animals in need.

Browse our full range today, and order soon to receive your gifts in time for Christmas!



**£32**

**SPANA Centenary Donkey and Foal Figurine**

14 x 14 x 7cm  
Gift code: M23DAF



**SPANA Centenary Jigsaw Puzzle**

Completed puzzle measures 26 x 26cm  
Gift code: M23CHP

**£32**



**SPANA Centenary Tote Bag**

Fairtrade, 41 x 37.5cm  
Gift code: M23CTB

**£10**



**SPANA Centenary Cuddly Toy**

Suitable from birth  
24 x 25cm  
Gift code: M23CTY

**£20**



**SPANA Centenary Mug**

Vegan Fine China  
Gift code: M23CM

**£14**

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

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

**100 YEARS**  
**SPANA**  
Working animal welfare since 1923