



NEWS

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SUPPORTING THE WELFARE OF WORKING ANIMALS

**Celebrating 200 issues
of SPANNA News**

**Protecting working
animals from the deadly
donkey skin trade**



**Save working animals
from agonising lameness**



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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

This is a milestone issue because it's the 200th edition of SPANA News!

Throughout our charity's long history, SPANA News has offered the latest details of our work across the world and has updated you on our achievements – all of which were only possible thanks to our supporters. You can find out more about the history of SPANA News, and how the newsletter has reported our charity's successes, on page 14.

On page six, our **special appeal** highlights the plight of working animals suffering from lameness. Sadly, lameness is a huge problem that our veterinary teams see every day. Lameness can be absolutely agonising for working animals, leaving them at risk from permanent injury, and often too weak to graze or stand.

You can read the story of Dondi the horse who, thanks to your kindness, received treatment from our vets in Mauritania for a severe muscle strain that left him unable to walk. With your help, we can continue to provide crucial care and support for working animals so that they do not have to suffer from the agony of lameness.

Meanwhile, on page 16, join me in celebrating a historic Africa-wide ban on the horrific donkey skin trade. Hundreds of thousands of donkeys have been slaughtered because of this appalling trade, which has devastated communities. A moratorium was recently agreed by the African Union, which represents a momentous win for donkeys, and for everyone who fought so hard to protect them. It's thanks to you, and supporters like you, that leaders have taken this historic step towards ending the donkey skin trade.

SPANA News was made for sharing news like this. Our archive issues contain numerous messages asking readers to pass on their copy of SPANA News to family and friends. I wholeheartedly recommend this! By sharing your copy – or by directing your friends and loved ones to our website where they can download a digital version – you're helping to spread awareness of the importance of working animals, and our charity's critical work.

I hope you enjoy reading this special SPANA News and sharing it with those who are dearest to you.

Linda Edwards
Chief Executive, SPANA

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

Telephone: 020 7831 3999

Email: 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.

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REBUILDING LIVES AFTER MOROCCO'S DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

More than six months have passed since Morocco was struck by a powerful earthquake, but SPANA is continuing to provide critical help and assistance to working animals and communities whose lives were devastated by the disaster.

The epicentre of the 6.8-magnitude earthquake was in the High Atlas Mountains – a remote area south of Marrakech where working animals are relied on to transport essential goods to isolated communities. Many small villages were completely destroyed by the earthquake.

Within days of the earthquake, SPANA launched the most ambitious emergency response project in the charity's history. SPANA's veterinary teams provided lifesaving treatment and care to thousands of animals who had been injured and displaced by the earthquake.

Our work continues long after the immediate aftermath. Over a three-day period in February, our mobile clinic visited four affected communities and treated 590 working equines. Between September 2023 and December 2023, our veterinary teams provided 3,628 treatments to sick and injured working animals in eight communities. During the same four-month period, our emergency feed programme also distributed 62,500kg of feed to 1,798 working donkeys and mules.

Professor Hassan Alyakine, SPANA's Country Director in Morocco, said: *'Thank you to everyone who responded to our emergency appeal. Your support is ensuring working animals and their communities are able to survive and rebuild from the devastating earthquake.'*

SPANANA IN THE NEWS



SPANANA launches new project in South Africa

SPANANA has launched an ambitious new project to improve the welfare of working donkeys in South Africa.

The project, called VillageHealth, is part of SPANA's pursuit of its five-year strategy for 2023 to 2027. The strategy outlines our ambition to extend our support for working animal welfare in areas of greatest global need.

VillageHealth is based in South Africa's Limpopo area, in the north of the country. In this rural province, donkeys are used for transporting people, water, firewood and building materials, and for farming tasks. Specific donkey health challenges include harness-related wounds, musculoskeletal injuries and poor nutrition. There is just one state veterinary clinic, with limited resources, which serves a large area.

Working across nine villages, VillageHealth has established a network of Donkey Care Workers, who have been trained to assist owners with basic animal care. Crucially, the project is also empowering communities to

start local enterprises based on donkey welfare, such as making harnessing equipment with appropriate designs and materials, or selling reflective tags to help reduce road accidents. To date, VillageHealth has reached 1,750 donkeys and 650 households.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said: *'Our global needs framework is a key part of SPANA's strategic decision-making – informing our work in order to ensure we reach the areas and working animals in greatest need. VillageHealth is just the first of many new SPANA projects which will deliver transformative change for working animal welfare. I am looking forward to keeping our supporters updated with our progress in South Africa.'*

Dr Isabel Mayer, from VillageHealth, said:

'We are delighted to be working with SPANA to help donkeys in South Africa. Donkeys are so important to the communities in Limpopo province. By training Donkey Care Workers and supporting local enterprises, we will be able to make a positive impact on the lives of working donkeys.'



Helping horses in drought-stricken Tunisia

SPANA has distributed emergency feed to working horses in Tunisia, as the country struggles through a four-year drought.

The working animals who received emergency feed earlier this year included 79 carriage horses in Tozeur, a popular tourist city in the south-west of the country. These horses help their owners earn a basic living by transporting visitors around the city. However, the ongoing drought has made working life extremely difficult for the carriage horses and their owners.

As part of our charity's five-year strategy, SPANA has committed to helping working animals affected by the growing impact of climate change. Extreme weather patterns, natural hazards, and food and water shortages are all increasingly affecting working animals and their communities.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said: *'Climate change is having a catastrophic impact on the lives of working animals. SPANA teams have travelled the length and breadth of Tunisia to ensure working animals receive the food and water they need, as they support the livelihoods of their communities. Thanks to your help, SPANA will do everything it can to ensure working animals can access the food and water they need.'*

Children's books inspire animal care

More than 6,000 animal welfare-themed storybooks for children have been distributed by SPANA across five countries, to inspire care and compassion for animals.

The stories in each book have been written to encourage children to form a bond with the characters while learning about the needs of animals. They were illustrated by local artists and written by SPANA's education teams in Botswana, Ethiopia, Mali, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Accompanying resources have also been provided so that children can discuss the topics developed in each story and take action.

To produce the books, SPANA received a generous grant from the QATO Foundation, which supports the promotion and safeguarding of animal welfare, health and wellbeing.

The final book was distributed in Botswana earlier this year. Titled 'Where Are You, Mama?', it tells the story of a cat called Velvet Paw who is raising her kittens.

Christelle Chenard, SPANA's Education Programmes Adviser, said: *'We are so pleased that children are enjoying our SPANA books. Storytelling is a powerful way of educating children and changing behaviour.'*



SAVE WORKING ANIMALS FROM AGONISING LAMENESS

In many of the countries where SPANA works, lameness is a huge issue that causes suffering for thousands of working animals every year. The ongoing impact of growing global poverty has put unprecedented pressure on many animal owners leading to more animals being overworked and in danger of becoming lame. With your help, we can treat and prevent debilitating lameness in working animals today.



Dondi's painful limp was a visible sign that the carthorse was suffering from debilitating lameness.

Dondi's story

Your support will ensure a better life for working animals like Dondi. Every day, Dondi the horse pulls a taxi cart around the dusty and uneven streets of Mauritania's capital city, Nouakchott.

Dondi's owner, Alioun, relies entirely on his 17-year-old horse to earn a basic living to support his family. Taxi horses like Dondi provide a lifeline to their local communities; without their services many would struggle to travel to the market, work, school and hospital.

Recently, Alioun became concerned when his beloved animal developed a limp. The horse was unable to bear any weight on his right front leg. He lost his appetite and became progressively more listless. Every step was agony. Alioun was devastated to see Dondi in such intense discomfort. It was clear that his horse had become lame. Thankfully, Alioun knew the one place he could bring his horse for help: the local SPANA centre.

At our Nouakchott centre, SPANA's veterinary team gave Dondi a full check-up and carefully examined his leg. First, they checked for signs of fracture or injury and made sure that his hoof was in good condition, free from any injury or foreign material. After a full examination, Dondi was diagnosed with a muscle strain, which was causing his lameness.

As the economic crisis in the country worsened, Alioun has been left little choice but to increase Dondi's working hours and load to make ends meet. As a result, Dondi had been overworked, and to make things worse, Alioun was struggling to provide the nutritious feed that his hardworking horse so desperately needed.

If left untreated, injuries like Dondi's can become so severe that animals are left permanently lame and unable to work. They are often too weak to stand and graze – and, in the worst cases, their condition can be fatal.



'I am truly grateful for the exceptional care provided by SPANA. Dondi's condition has improved remarkably, showing the incredible impact the team have on the lives of working animals.' – Alioun

Our vets administered an anti-inflammatory to reduce the swelling on the affected leg and relieve Dondi's pain. Dondi's overloaded cart had also been causing his harness to dig into his skin, causing painful wounds to develop. The team gently cleaned Dondi's wounds with disinfectant before applying a special ointment to help them heal.

Following the initial treatment, Dondi was kept in the centre for two weeks so that his care could be continued. During his stay, he was given some much-needed rest, nutritious feed and access to clean water. When the horse's condition began to improve, his hooves were trimmed by a skilled farrier so that his feet could better distribute the weight of the cart.

As Dondi was discharged to his grateful owner, the team explained to Alioun the importance of good nutrition, regular hoof trimming and improving the working conditions for his horse to prevent future injury. The team showed Alioun



Working animals suffering from lameness can only get better if they are allowed to recover. Dondi was hospitalised for two weeks, during which time he was supported through the healing process with follow-up treatments, medication and nutritious feed.

how to correctly fit and maintain his harness to avoid it causing wounds again. They also gave Alioun a plan for reintroducing Dondi's work gradually and safely. Lastly, the team invited Alioun to our community training classes, where basic hoof care techniques are taught to owners.

The importance of expert treatment and community training cannot be overstated. A working animal's legs are constantly busy and highly vulnerable to injury. Horses, donkeys and mules have very delicate and complex hoof structures, which require specialist care. Yet skilled hoof care is often hard to access and unaffordable for owners in the countries where we work. Through our centres and mobile clinics, SPANA seeks to make expert farriery and veterinary treatment available to as many working animals as possible. Without our presence in these areas, animals like Dondi would be left to face lameness alone.

By making a donation today, you can help prevent the agony of lameness for years to come. Thousands of animals require treatment for lameness each year; but we also need your support to prevent this agonising problem by promoting good farriery among vulnerable communities that rely on working animals.

Sadly, lameness is one of the most common issues that working animals face. The good news is that there is a solution to this widespread problem. Whether they are providing treatment, expert farriery, owner training or holistic care at our stables, SPANA vets, technicians and farriers are committed to treating and preventing lameness in as

many working animals as possible. With your help, we can ease their suffering.

Could you make a donation today, so that more working animals can be saved from the misery of lameness? Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please, if you can, donate today and help save working animals like Dondi from agonising lameness:

£15

could feed a starving, overworked animal at one of our centres for 10 days, helping them to rebuild their strength and recover from crippling lameness.

£45

could help treat two working animals like Dondi who are suffering from lameness, by paying for essential medication and treatments including bandaging, anti-inflammatories and hoof picks.

£150

could pay towards a farrier's tool kit, farrier training, and hoof care lessons for animal owners, preventing the misery of lameness.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO HELP SAVE WORKING ANIMALS FROM LAMENESS TODAY. THANK YOU.



Seyum Firew, a Community Training Officer in Ethiopia, on how a unique SPANA programme is tackling the debilitating disease EZL.

FIGHTING DEADLY DISEASE THROUGH COMMUNITY TRAINING



Epizootic lymphangitis (EZL) is one of the major welfare problems facing working animals in Bishoftu, central Ethiopia. The disease affects the skin and lymphatic system, causing skin nodules to develop that can result in open ulcers. If EZL is caught early enough, the infection can be treated successfully. But without treatment, the highly contagious disease can cause excruciating pain, debilitation, and even death.

Thanks to our supporters, SPANA runs a unique programme dedicated to the prevention, treatment and control of EZL. Our bespoke training programme combines treatment and training to prevent suffering and save lives.

Early detection of EZL is vital for the effective treatment of the disease. That's why our bespoke training helps owners to recognise the signs early, know that treatment is available, and know where to go for help. Our community training uses banners, live demonstrations and lively discussion.

Crucially, owners are also encouraged and empowered to take part in treatment. Our veterinary staff train owners in how to continue treating their working animal

at home. They also advise them how often they need to bring their animals to our centres for follow-up treatment, check-ups and additional medication.

We have found that collaboration between community trainers, owners and veterinary activities plays a great role in the effective treatment of EZL – not just in Bishoftu, but also in Gondar and the surrounding areas reached by our mobile clinics.

One working animal helped by our bespoke training was Shole. His owner, Mandefro, brought Shole to our veterinary centre in Bishoftu as soon as he recognised symptoms of the disease. Mandefro said: *'During bespoke training, I learnt a lot about EZL. I followed the advice of SPANA's community trainers and vets strictly. I washed Shole's wounds carefully and applied iodine regularly. I visited the clinic every two weeks for follow-up treatment. After six weeks of continuous treatment from SPANA and at home, my horse had fully recovered. I now understand how to prevent this killer disease, and I will advise my friends, too.'*

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our recent infectious diseases appeal. Your kindness is making a real difference to working horses like Shole.

EDUCATION IS FUN IN TANZANIA



Diana Msemo, who leads a SPANA education project in Tanzania, on how children and adults are learning about animal welfare in fun and engaging ways.



There are an estimated 1.5 million donkeys in Tanzania. These donkeys are most commonly used for transport and farm work. The focus of our education project is in the Arusha region, in the north of the country, where there are many donkeys who need our support.

To help these donkeys, we enhance the awareness, behaviour, attitude and practices of schoolchildren towards animals through animal welfare lessons. We engage with the community about understanding donkeys and improving their welfare. We also reach the wider population by broadcasting radio talk shows about animal welfare.

Children really enjoy our lessons, which are always engaging. We create fun educational materials and encourage the children to draw pictures, write poems and perform songs and dances. For example, last year, we held a special Donkey Day. We taught the children about donkey nutrition, correct harnessing, how to recognise donkey behaviour and how to gain their trust

and friendship. These activities helped the children see donkeys not just as working animals, but also as friendly and beautiful.

Our training sessions with communities are also extremely popular. We create brochures, pictures and flyers in Swahili and English. We know these are well read, because people always come to our training sessions with previous brochures and answer questions by referencing the leaflets.

Meanwhile, our radio talk shows on donkey welfare have helped us reach a wider audience. Knowledge of animal welfare is increasing, and we receive lots of messages and calls from the radio programmes.

We hope that everyone who benefits from our animal welfare lessons will practise what they have learnt and become role models for others in the Arusha region. The demand for expansion of our animal welfare programme is very high, and we continue to reach a large number of children through clubs and visits to schools.

This would not be possible without your support. Thank you for helping us transform the lives of working donkeys in Tanzania.

SPANA has been improving the welfare of working animals in Zimbabwe since 2004

SPANA OPERATIONS

Our veterinary team in Zimbabwe provides vital treatment to working donkeys throughout the country, travelling thousands of miles every year in four mobile clinics to reach small towns, villages and rural communities. Common problems treated by the team include harness wounds, hoof problems, eye conditions and parasites.

We also provide community and one-to-one training for working animal owners in how to look after their animals in the best possible way. In addition, SPANA trains veterinary professionals across Zimbabwe. We operate a clinical skills centre, improving the technical and practical skills of hundreds of veterinary students at university each year.

PROFILE

ZIMBABWE

Our animal welfare education programme is helping children throughout Zimbabwe to develop their knowledge of animals and their basic needs. Through an agreement with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, we run and support PAWS (Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools) clubs in primary schools across the country.



ZIMBABWE AT A GLANCE

- Population:** 16 million
- Area:** 390,757 km²
- Location:** Southern Africa
- Capital city:** Harare
- Estimated number of working animals:** 566,934



PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A
Dr Keith Dutlow,
SPANA Zimbabwe
Country Director

What roles are working animals used for in Zimbabwe?

Working animals are used for ploughing fields for small-scale subsistence agriculture, pulling carts as a taxi service, and transporting materials ranging from goods and merchandise to water, firewood and food for individual families.

What is the main welfare issue faced by working animals in Zimbabwe?

The main issue is overwork. This is not because of negligence or cruelty, but simply because families need their animals for vital work on a daily basis. We are educating owners that their animal's life will be better, and they will work better, if they are adequately rested, fed and watered and that good, appropriate equipment is used.

Why is SPANA's work so important in Zimbabwe?

There is no other animal welfare organisation in Zimbabwe that is focusing primarily on donkeys and providing free veterinary treatment, training veterinary students and technicians, training owners in aspects of animal welfare and productivity, and teaching schoolchildren animal welfare.

What plans does SPANA have in Zimbabwe for 2024?

We plan to start developing our work in Tsholotsho district during 2024 by increasing our veterinary, community training and education activities in the area. The area has one of the densest donkey populations in the country, so there is a clear need for SPANA's help.

Is there anything you would like to say to SPANA supporters?

Thank you for your unwavering enthusiasm and support! We continue to face new challenges, like climate change, in some of the lowest income communities in the world. If those people lost their donkeys, they would have to do the work that donkeys do – and other activities like going to school would be lost. I am incredibly proud of what we do. SPANA's work is not flashy or glamorous, but it is extremely important and makes a huge difference to the lives of donkeys and their owners.

CASE FILE

Ruselva the donkey's thorny problem

Chivanga said:

'When my donkey was lame, I didn't know what to do. I am so grateful that the vets at SPANA found out what was wrong and that she will be better soon.'

Ruselva the donkey is very important to her owner, Chivanga. Together, they work a small patch of land next to Chivanga's home in the Chivi district, in south-east Zimbabwe. This work enables Chivanga to feed his family and to sell any excess crop to earn a basic income.

One morning, Chivanga was preparing Ruselva for their day's work when he noticed that she was limping heavily and would not put any weight on her right front leg. Chivanga was extremely worried and asked his neighbour for help. Luckily, his neighbour told him that SPANA's mobile clinic was visiting their district later that day.

At the mobile clinic, SPANA's veterinary team examined Ruselva and carefully checked her leg and hoof. They discovered that Ruselva had stepped on a sharp thorn, which had become stuck in her hoof. The vets removed the thorn, then cleaned the wound thoroughly to prevent infection. To complete the donkey's treatment, they gave Ruselva an anti-inflammatory injection to relieve her pain and dressed her wound to ensure that it would remain clean during the healing process.

Chivanga was shown how to clean and dress Ruselva's wound until it had healed. He was also advised to rest his donkey until she had recovered.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our recent mobile clinics appeal.



SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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

TUNISIA



VICTOR THE MULE'S PARASITES PROBLEM

Victor the mule transports water around the city of Aïn Draham, in north-west Tunisia. Tunisia is currently experiencing a prolonged drought, so Victor's role is especially important right now.

Recently, Victor's owner, Mouijri, had become concerned for his seven-year-old mule. He noticed that Victor had lost his appetite and seemed lacklustre and lethargic. When Victor's health did not improve, Mouijri decided to take him to SPANA's mobile clinic in Aïn Draham for a check-up.

At the mobile clinic, Victor was given a full examination by SPANA vets. They noticed he was weak and

underweight. After performing some tests, they diagnosed Victor as suffering from internal parasites. Some parasites can live in the gut and, if left untreated, can take vital nutrition and energy from working animals. This can lead to further complications and, in some cases, serious illness. The vets administered anti-parasite medication to treat Victor's problem and provided vitamins to boost his general health.

The vets told Mouijri to keep a close eye on Victor over the next few days and to make sure he had plenty of fresh water and a good supply of nutritious feed.

Mouijri said: *'Thank you, SPANA. I was concerned for my mule. I'm glad that your vets were able to help him.'*

MALI

Safiné the donkey helps his 77-year-old owner, Ali, in the fields near their home in Sikoro, southern Mali. Without Safiné's hard work, Ali would be unable to grow the food he needs to feed his wife and family.

Ali brought Safiné to SPANA's mobile clinic when it made one of its regular visits to Sikoro. He was concerned that Safiné was starting to lose weight. SPANA's veterinary team examined Safiné and found that his teeth had grown in an uneven way. This had caused some sharp points to develop, which were causing damage to his tongue and cheeks. Overgrown teeth can cause immense discomfort for working animals, and the animals can start to lose weight because it is too painful for them to chew their food.

The vets set to work rasping Safiné's teeth so that they were even, with all the sharp points smoothed down. When they had finished, the vets advised Ali to rest Safiné and give him good, nutritious food to gradually get him back to his normal weight.



SAFINÉ THE DONKEY'S OVERGROWN TEETH

Ali said: *'Thank you, SPANA. You visit our village regularly, which helps us keep our donkeys healthy.'*

MOROCCO

Mardiya the mule does a variety of jobs for her owner, Outaty, in western Morocco. Every day, they work side by side transporting water, moving goods to and from their local market and carrying out agricultural tasks. This work gives Outaty a small income so that he can support his wife and three children.

One day, Outaty was preparing to load their cart when it slipped from his hands. The edge of the cart hit Mardiya, cutting her front legs. Outaty calmed his frightened mule, then borrowed a van to take her to SPANA's veterinary centre in Chemaia, 30km away, for emergency treatment.

When they arrived at the centre, SPANA's veterinary team carefully washed and treated Mardiya's wounds. Thankfully, their examination revealed that there was no serious damage to Mardiya's legs. Her wounds were scrapes and cuts that did not require stitching. The vets administered anti-inflammatories to ease her pain, then dressed her wounds to keep them clean.

Outaty was advised by the vets that Mardiya would need to rest for at least two weeks to ensure that her wounds had healed fully.



MARDIYA THE MULE'S PAINFUL ACCIDENT

Outaty said: *'I am grateful to SPANA. Without SPANA, I wouldn't be able to afford to keep Mardiya.'*

Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

80 JEREMY ST., LONDON, S.W.1, ENGLAND

Founded in October, 1910, by Mrs. Frances K. Russell



THE FIRST TEN MONTHS' WORK



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

A MILE OF PENNIES!

Will you be a VOLUNTEER and help us to complete the Mile by CHRISTMAS?

We are offering handsome prizes to those who collect the greatest number of yards

- 1st PRIZE: GOLD MOUNTED FOUNTAIN PEN, value £8 10s
- 2nd PRIZE: GOLD AND PEARL BRACELET, value £4 10s
- 3rd PRIZE: SILVER-PLATED EGG BOKER, value £1 10s

Send collecting form and any or three 1" x 6" or 6" x 6" photographs to Mrs. Russell, 80 Jeremy Street, London, S.W.1, E.C.1, England. Telephone: 01-235 1234. SPANA's MILE OF PENNIES PAGE MEASURES 1/4" x 1/4" (including postage) 1/4" x 1/4" (including postage)



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

RAPID EXTENSION OF SPANA WORK



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

WILL YOU PLEASE

Make a Christmas Collection for the North African Animals? WHY ABOUT A BOX ON YOUR DINING TABLE?



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

SPANANA LIVES ITS FOUNDER



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

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The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa

From the Editor...
It is my privilege to present myself to you as Editor and Organizing Secretary. I should like to welcome you to the new SPANA...
David Russell
Editor



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa



The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa



OF SPANA NEWS



SPANA News has brought our supporters the latest news, events and achievements throughout the charity's long history. Its current Editor, Beth Brooks, looks back on how the newsletter has changed between Issue 1 and Issue 200.

In the second issue of SPANA News, published in 1926, we gave *'our warmest thanks to those of our supporters who have sent us donations, subscriptions and Christmas gifts'*. That early message of thanks remains at the heart of SPANA News as we publish our 200th issue. Since Issue 1, the newsletter has let readers like you know how grateful we are for your support, and how your compassion is helping to transform the welfare of working animals around the world.

The first issue of SPANA News was published in 1925, approximately 18 months after SPANA was formed. Titled *'The First Ten Months' Work'*, this issue explained why SPANA had been established and what had been achieved so far. Back then, SPANA News was a very formal read. The early issues steadfastly contained details of the charity's administrative activities alongside lengthy reports on our work in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. But they also provide fascinating insights into SPANA's early achievements. In Issue 5 (June 1927), for example, we reported on the opening of four new veterinary centres *'in four entirely different directions in towns far apart and covering in all a stretch of 1,500 miles!'*

The early issues also reported on the activities of our fledgling supporters. These included supporter parties planned for 1927 to help raise funds for the first SPANA centres, and an invitation in Issue 9 (October 1928) to help build *'a mile of pennies'* to send to Africa – which the publication estimated would consist of 52,800 old pennies, making the grand sum of £220!

Sadly, in addition to celebrating the growth of the charity's work, the SPANA News archive records some of the challenges the charity faced. During the 1930s, at the height of the Great Depression, SPANA News was briefly discontinued, but when the Second World War began, it returned because *'so many requests... have been received that we feel obliged to issue it again in order to keep our supporters in touch with the progress of our work.'* Issue 37 (November 1944) broke the devastating news of the death of SPANA's co-founder, Kate Hosali, at just 67 years of age. In paying tribute to Kate Hosali's work, the publication stated: *'Her work*

was unique in that she searched out and treated the sick animals in the quarters where they were to be found... instead of waiting for them to be brought to her.' The publication would pay a similar tribute to Kate's daughter, Nina Hosali, in Issue 125 (June 1987) following her death in January of that year.

Flicking through the pages of SPANA News across the decades, it's clear that our charity's many achievements offered a beacon of hope in challenging times. In Issue 61 (November 1954), for example, SPANA News ran an article on the charity's emergency relief work following a powerful earthquake in Algeria. And Issue 81 (June 1965) reported on the opening of a SPANA farriery school in Meknes, Morocco, *'probably the first ever [in Morocco] to be available to train civilian farriers'*.

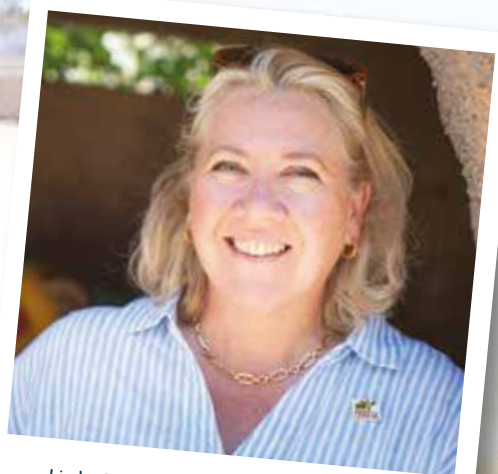
During the 1970s, SPANA News started to shake off its formal image. Rather than simply keeping readers up to date, the newsletter showcased other ways they could support working animals, such as by purchasing SPANA gifts. Stories and poems were included – like *'Camels'* by Nina Hosali, which described the beauty of a caravan of camels. By issue 115 (June 1982), 9,000 copies of the newsletter were being distributed to supporters.

Issue 131 (May 1990) heralded the start of a new era for SPANA News. Lady Odile Slynn, who had been involved with SPANA since 1979, became Editor. She went on to manage production of the newsletter for more than 20 years and is now the charity's Vice President. One of her tasks was to give SPANA News a radical revamp. Issue 134 became a full-colour magazine to coincide with SPANA's full name officially changing to *'The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad'* to better reflect the global scope of our work.

As SPANA's work grew and expanded across the world, SPANA News was there every step of the way, reporting on every major milestone and development – from the launch of our programmes in Ethiopia, Mauritania and India, through to our activities during the recent global Covid-19 pandemic. SPANA News was also made available to read online and, in 2018, a local edition of SPANA News was published for our supporters in Australia and New Zealand for the first time.

Today, this 200th issue of SPANA News will be sent to more than 30,000 supporters across the world – and will be shared with many more. Thank you so much for reading SPANA News, and for your continued support.

SPANA News is for you. If there is anything that you would like to see in SPANA News, please get in touch with us at hello@spana.org.



Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, celebrates an end to the horrific trade in donkey skins.

PROTECTING WORKING ANIMALS FROM THE DEADLY DONKEY SKIN TRADE

In what can often seem like a world full of bad news, it's wonderful to be able to share with our supporters a truly positive announcement. Working alongside our partners, SPANA has been instrumental in bringing about a historic Africa-wide ban in the donkey skin trade, saving the lives of thousands of donkeys.

The donkey skin trade is nothing short of horrific – and is something that SPANA has been actively lobbying to end for many years. The trade had been increasing dramatically in the past decade, due to rapidly growing demand for a product called ejiao, which is produced from the collagen extracted from donkey skins and is primarily used in beauty products and traditional remedies. Because of this often unregulated trade, large numbers of donkeys were sold or stolen, then inhumanely transported to abattoirs where they were kept in appalling conditions, starved and eventually killed.



In the countries where we operate, donkeys carry out essential tasks. Without their crucial work, many people would be unable to earn a livelihood and support themselves and their families. That's why the donkey skin trade started to have such a devastating effect on communities across Africa. Africa's donkey population decreased significantly, causing the price of a donkey to inflate by three to four times in some countries, and making donkey ownership unaffordable for many people. Donkey thefts also became rampant. Urgent action was desperately needed to stop the trade and protect working donkeys.

Following tireless campaigning by SPANA and our partner organisations in ICWE (the International Coalition for Working Equids), we were thrilled when, in November 2023, the African Union endorsed a report calling for an Africa-wide moratorium on the trade. The report, called 'Donkeys in Africa Now and In The Future', was produced by AU-IBAR (the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources) with support from ICWE. Not only did the report recognise the contribution working donkeys make to the livelihoods of communities across Africa, it also highlighted the alarming decline in donkeys due to the donkey skin trade and called for an urgent suspension. As a result, on 18 February, members of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, agreed to adopt an indefinite, Africa-wide moratorium.

This is a historic development and an enormous achievement for working animal welfare. The moratorium will save the lives of donkeys across Africa and will also help safeguard the future of the communities they support through their daily work.

SPANAs focus now will be on ensuring the moratorium is legislated and successfully enforced by governments across Africa. We are also aware that when restrictions on a trade are enforced, illegal operations can continue. That's why we will continue to work closely with communities and decision makers to ensure that the moratorium remains in place.

In our five-year strategy, launched last year, SPANA committed to being the voice of working animals around the world. Our strategy also said that we would ensure the critical interdependency between working animals, people and their environment is recognised – not exploited. By achieving this moratorium, we are ensuring the safety and security of generations of working animals and safeguarding the communities that they support. It is a huge win for donkeys, their communities and everyone who has worked so hard to bring an end to this heinous trade.

I hope this news has brought you as much joy as it has to everyone at SPANA. It was only possible due to your continued help and support. Thank you so much for protecting Africa's donkeys.



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WORKING ANIMALS

By leaving a gift to SPANA in your Will, you'll be helping generations of working animals long into the future.

In everything we do, SPANA aims to improve the lives of working animals – whether it's providing emergency feed to horses in Tunisia (page five) or treating an injured mule in Morocco (page 13).

Our work spans the globe, reaching working animals in greatest need and empowering their owners with knowledge to look after them. None of this vital and life-changing work would be possible without the kindness and compassion of supporters who remember SPANA and working animals in their Will.

Gifts in Wills have played a key role throughout SPANA's history and have always been critical to funding our work. In the very first issue of SPANA News, we offered guidance to *'benevolent individuals'* on making a legacy gift to SPANA – just like we're doing in this feature in our 200th issue!

Similarly, in Issue 117 (June 1983), we wrote that *'the greater part of the many improvements which we were able to make in 1981 and 1982 were only possible because of the generosity of those who remembered SPANA in their Wills'*. This remains true for our work today.

Clearly, there has been an incredible tradition of devoted supporters who, after taking care of their loved ones, have chosen to make a lasting difference to the welfare of working animals. Will you continue this tradition too?

Writing or updating your Will is actually much easier than it seems. To include a gift to SPANA in your Will, all you need to do is give your solicitor our name, address and registered charity number – 209015 – and they'll do the rest. Further details are below.

On behalf of the working animals and communities that we help, thank you so much to every single supporter who has remembered SPANA in their Will.



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

MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS REACH THEIR PEAK

In November 2023, Will Dorrell from Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World in Telford and his friend Malcolm Dawes summited Mount Toubkal, in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains, in aid of SPANA. The mountain was close to the epicentre of the recent earthquake, so the pair considered cancelling their trip. However, knowing how important tourism and trekkers are to the small mountain communities, they felt it was an opportunity to help working animals in the region. They raised an incredible £1,035. **Thank you for your support, Will and Malcolm!**



RUN FOR WORKING ANIMALS

Do you, or does someone you know, want to take on a challenge this year and help working animals in need? Join SPANA on 13 October in the Royal Parks Half Marathon and take in

the capital's world-famous landmarks in four of London's royal parks – Hyde Park, Green Park, St James's Park and Kensington Gardens. **See spana.org/get-involved.**

RECYCLE TO RAISE MONEY

Your old postcards and stamps can all be turned into valuable funds for working animals – more than £8,000 was raised in 2023 by recycling for SPANA.

Stamps and postcards can be sent to:

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

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



HOST A SPANA WORLD TEA PARTY

The SPANA World Tea Party is back! It's time to get out your cake tins, put the kettle on and invite your friends over for a fundraising tea party for working animals. You can keep it simple and have a traditional afternoon tea, or spice things up with one of our special World Tea Party recipes and themes. Whatever you choose, it's a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with friends, family, neighbours and colleagues while transforming the lives of working animals. **Visit spana.org/teaparty for your free fundraising pack.**



There are so many ways you can make a difference to working animals in need. Could you host a stall or 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. You can also visit spana.org/get-involved.

Become a Stable Sponsor and help working animals like Dondi

Today, working animals are suffering due to the growing impact of climate change and global economic inequality. The demand for SPANA's crucial work is greater than ever, which is why we urgently need more Stable Sponsors.



Our stables are a lifeline for horses like Dondi, whose touching story you can read in our appeal on page six. Due to the rising cost of living, Dondi and his owner had been forced to work longer hours, struggling to make ends meet. When they arrived at our Nouakchott centre in Mauritania, Dondi was weak, lame and malnourished.

Not only did Dondi receive expert treatment to soothe his pain, but he was also given some much-needed rest in our comfortable stables, where he received follow-up care, nutritious feed and clean water to aid his recovery. His owner was also given training and support to improve Dondi's welfare in the long term.

When you sponsor our stables from just £6 a month, you'll be providing vital care to animals like Dondi, giving them the best – often the only – chance of a life free from pain and suffering.

**FREE
GIFT**

Receive a personalised Stable Sponsor welcome folder and certificate, plus a free special edition fridge magnet, while supplies last. You'll also receive exclusive updates from our stables so you can see how your sponsorship is helping working animals around the world.

Could you support SPANA in this special way?

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

