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NEWS

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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.



In this packed issue, you can read all the latest news and updates on SPANA's lifesaving work. You will also learn about the real difference we are making to the lives of working animals across the world, thanks to your continued support.

On page six, our **special appeal** highlights the plight of animals suffering from deadly parasites. Across the countries where SPANA works, parasites are a constant threat to the health and wellbeing of working animals.

You can read the story of Mwoyo, a donkey from Zimbabwe, who was seen by our veterinary team after he'd become weak, unsteady on his feet and was barely eating. Like many working animals, Mwoyo was suffering from parasites. As the climate crisis leads to more extreme weather events like floods and droughts, the resulting environmental conditions allow parasites to thrive, spreading disease and suffering. With your help, we can continue to provide treatment and support for working animals with parasites.

Sadly, the climate crisis is causing much more suffering than parasites alone. Climate change is a significant issue and a fundamental threat to animals, people and the environment. On page 16, I look at the devastating impact recent extreme climate-related events have had on working animals and how we are doing everything we can to help those affected.

Meanwhile, one year on from the catastrophic earthquake that struck Morocco, on page 14 Professor Hassan Alyakine, SPANA's Country Director in Morocco, provides an update on the recovery effort. Morocco is SPANA's biggest programme, and we've been improving the lives of the country's working animals since 1925. That's why, a year on from the earthquake, we're ensuring working animals in the worst-affected communities continue to receive the care and support they desperately need.

Our earthquake recovery effort in Morocco – and all the critical work you will read about in this issue – is only possible because of our supporters. You're giving working animals, who are so often overlooked and undervalued, the recognition and care they deserve. Thank you so much and enjoy your copy of SPANA News.

Linda Edwards
Chief Executive, SPANA

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HELPING MALAWI'S WORKING DOGS

In Malawi, hundreds of dogs are hard at work. They provide security patrols for private homes and businesses and are trained to detect illegal wildlife trade.

Sadly, when they're not working, many of these dogs are confined to small, dark and crowded kennels. They are often starving, severely dehydrated, and suffering from painful sores because they have no comfortable bedding to lie on.

That's why SPANA is delighted to be supporting the working dogs of Malawi through an exciting new project. This project will provide vital veterinary care to working dogs when they are sick and injured, and improve their welfare through education and training.

As part of the project, we will ensure that dogs have access to nutritious food and clean drinking water, and we will vaccinate them to protect against diseases. We will also give guidance to owners and handlers on

providing appropriate housing and enrichment, including exercise, training and play time.

In addition, in partnership with LSPCA and the Government of Malawi, we have developed an accredited 'stamp of approval' for security companies and institutions that demonstrate good animal welfare practices. This will promote long-term changes in behaviour and attitudes towards working dogs.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said: *'We are so happy to be helping working dogs in Malawi. Our vital project aims to transform the living and working conditions of these dogs, improve their physical health, and encourage security companies to apply for, and obtain, stamps of approval in recognition of their adherence to animal welfare guidelines.'*

To support our working dogs project, please visit spana.org/malawidogs

SPANANA IN THE NEWS



SPANANA expands caleche horse programme to new city

SPANANA has expanded its caleche horse programme to a new city in Morocco to transform the lives of even more working animals.

SPANANA's caleche horse programme, which has been running for more than 30 years in Marrakech, monitors the welfare of carriage horses. The charity is also part of a licensing scheme in which all caleche horses must have regular veterinary assessments and be passed as fit and healthy before they can work.

Now, in partnership with local authorities, the programme has been rolled out to Essaouira, a coastal city 200km west of Marrakech. SPANA's veterinary team have developed a horse identification scheme in which all horses will be microchipped and wear SPANA bands on their fetlocks to show they are fit to work. SPANA vets will also visit three times a year to monitor the welfare of the horses, provide veterinary assessments and treatments, and train owners and veterinary professionals in animal care.

Earlier this year, SPANA's veterinary team visited Essaouira for the first time. Over a two-day period, they examined 98 horses and 89 caleches, and fitted 62 microchips.

As well as Marrakech and Essaouira, the programme is monitoring the welfare of working horses in Aït Ourir, tourist camels in Marrakech, and mules in Imilil.

SPANANA launches new project in Honduras

SPANANA is working to improve the welfare of working animals in Honduras through a new project that expands the knowledge and skills of local teachers and schoolchildren.

The project, run in partnership with Equinos de Honduras, trains teachers so they can deliver animal welfare lessons that change children's behaviour towards working animals.

Equinos de Honduras is based in the south of the country where, in rural areas, working animals – especially horses – play a key role collecting refuse, transporting fruits and dairy products to market, and collecting firewood. Children in these horse-owning communities usually accompany their parents to work before school, and some take responsibility for the care of their working animals at home. Despite this, many children do not know how to look after their animals properly.

The project is aiming to train 43 teachers so that they can reach 1,019 children from 12 schools across southern Honduras. The teachers undertake six training sessions and are supplied with all the information and materials they need for their lessons. Follow-up monitoring and evaluation is also provided.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said:

'As part of our organisational strategy, we are developing and broadening our approach to SPANA's educational activities to inspire long-lasting and positive behaviour changes towards working animals. Empowering teachers and educating future generations, like this wonderful project in Honduras, will have a long-term, positive impact on the welfare of working animals.'



SPANA joins the World Federation for Animals

SPANA has joined the World Federation for Animals (WFA) as a full member.

The charity will be working as part of this influential federation of more than 50 organisations to ensure animal welfare is recognised as part of the sustainable development agenda. SPANA will support the WFA's efforts to integrate animal welfare into international health, food and environmental frameworks, as well as trade and development policies.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, has also been appointed to the WFA Board. She said:

'In our five-year organisational strategy, launched last year, we committed to being the voice of working animals around the world. By joining the WFA, we will put working animals on the global agenda – highlighting their value to humanity and the benefits of high-quality animal welfare standards.'



Celebrating the successes of 2023

2023 was a year like no other for SPANA. In a year which marked the charity's centenary, the need for SPANA's work was greater than ever.

Thanks to the charity's supporters, SPANA's veterinary teams were able to transform the lives of sick and injured working animals across the world.

During 2023, the charity's global teams reached 336,018 working animals and provided more than half a million veterinary treatments. The charity also trained 75,239 owners in animal care and taught 68,662 children about animal welfare.

SPANA also launched emergency response programmes to help working animals and their communities affected by flooding in Tanzania, drought in Tunisia and a devastating earthquake in Morocco.

Find out more by reading our Annual Review 2023–24 at spana.org/review



SPANA appoints new Chair of Trustees

Marianne Davies has been named as SPANA's Chair of Trustees.

Marianne, who is Global Head of People Services at pharmaceutical company GSK, joined SPANA's Board of Trustees in September 2021. In 2023, she ran the London Marathon for SPANA.

Marianne said: *'During my three years as a Trustee of SPANA, I have been inspired by the charity's extraordinary support for working animals. I am excited and honoured to be appointed Chair of Trustees during a time when the charity is significantly developing its work to meet the growing challenges it faces, from issues such as rising global poverty, political instability and the climate crisis. Our future plans will be truly transformative for working animals and the communities they so loyally support.'*





PROTECT WORKING ANIMALS FROM DEADLY PARASITES

Across the countries where SPANA works, parasites are a constant threat to the health and wellbeing of working animals. As climate change brings extreme weather events like floods and droughts, the resulting environmental conditions allow parasites to thrive, spreading disease and suffering. Unless we act, parasites can severely harm or even kill working animals, leaving vulnerable communities without their lifeline. Help us prevent and treat deadly parasites today.



Mwoyo's mottled coat was a visible sign that the donkey was suffering from external parasites.

Mwoyo's story

Mwoyo (meaning 'heart'), is a loyal and hardworking donkey, and the heart of his owner, Patrick's family. The older and more experienced of Patrick's two donkeys, Mwoyo provides a vital lifeline for the family, helping them earn a meagre income by ferrying people, water and goods around the village of Davira, Zimbabwe. While they were carrying out their work under the harsh Zimbabwean sun, Patrick started to notice that Mwoyo was struggling to pull his cart. He was becoming weak and unsteady on his feet, and he was barely eating.

Earlier this year, Zimbabwe declared a state of disaster over the devastating El Niño-induced drought that swept across much of southern Africa. The extreme weather scorched crops, and with more than 80 per cent of the country receiving below normal rainfall, thousands of communities and the animals they depend on had been left more vulnerable than ever.

Worried for Mwoyo's health, Patrick took him to the SPANA mobile clinic that was visiting the nearby Chivi district. Our vet examined Mwoyo and diagnosed him with digestion problems and severe malnourishment. Like many working donkeys across the region, Mwoyo was having difficulty obtaining the nutrients he needed from the drought-stricken land. When the vet checked a sample of Mwoyo's faeces with a microscope, he found a very high worm egg count, indicating that internal parasites were exacerbating his malnutrition.

Additionally, with a lack of available drinking water, many animals are drinking from smaller, stagnant water sources, which are more likely to be contaminated with parasites.

Further examination revealed that Mwoyo was also suffering from external parasites which, along with the



A microscope examination revealed a shocking 1,500 worm eggs per gram of faeces – with 500 being considered high, this meant that Mwoyo had a severe parasite infection.

malnutrition, were contributing towards his mottled coat and excruciatingly itchy skin.

Parasites drain working animals of the nutrients they desperately need to survive, leading to fatigue, malnutrition and a range of debilitating health issues that can be fatal. If left untreated, the number of parasites in the environment will also increase, placing other vulnerable working animals at risk.

Thankfully, treatment is simple. The vet team provided Mwoyo with ivermectin, an anti-parasite medication that treats both internal and external parasites. They also gave him a vitamin injection to replenish lost nutrients and help rebuild his strength. Our vet advised Patrick to rest Mwoyo and give him wet, softened, nutritious feed to support him in this period of severe drought.

Thanks to SPANA's intervention and diligent care, Mwoyo could recover and return to work, providing a livelihood for his



One in three treatments delivered by SPANA vets is for parasite-related issues. Working animals in the countries where we work are currently at even greater risk of parasites due to extreme climates – from unrelenting drought in Zimbabwe and western portions of North Africa like Tunisia, to devastating floods in Tanzania.

grateful owner. At a follow-up visit three weeks later, Mwoyo had made a full recovery. His coat's poor condition had dramatically improved, and he was looking much healthier overall. Patrick promised to follow our advice and attend routine parasite check-ups. He also signed up to join our community training sessions to learn more about caring for Mwoyo.

Living on or inside animals, parasites can cause severe distress. Working animals carry out exhausting tasks in extreme climates and need every ounce of their strength. Therefore, it's essential that our vet teams can diagnose and treat parasites effectively.

Treating parasites is simple and inexpensive. However, lower standards of animal welfare and lack of access to essential veterinary care can mean many working animals don't receive the treatment they need.

Our expert vet teams are also acutely aware of the issues that can arise from the overuse of anti-parasite treatments. That's why we're committed to having a responsible, strategic approach to deworming, decreasing parasite burdens by improving husbandry and environmental management, and by running community training sessions where owners learn the consequences of parasitic infestations, how to recognise them and how to take preventative steps.

Without intervention, more affected animals will suffer needlessly. Your support today could help pay for vital medication that will stop parasites in their tracks, meaning they won't harm defenceless working animals like Mwoyo. With a gift today, you can also protect them from the rising threat of parasites through preventative care and

education. As extreme climates cause more devastation, you can help protect working animals while supporting the vulnerable communities who rely on them for survival.

Could you make a donation today, to protect more working animals from deadly parasites? Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please, if you can, donate today and help treat and prevent deadly parasites in working animals.

£15

could treat four working animals like Mwoyo for internal or external parasites, providing instant relief and protecting them from further health risks.

£45

could pay towards diagnostic equipment such as microscopes and egg floatation kits, as well as laboratory testing to help detect, treat and monitor deadly parasites in working animals.

£150

could help run community training sessions where working animal owners are equipped with the knowledge to combat the threat of parasites, ensuring future generations can better protect their animals.

To make a donation, please use the form enclosed or call 0300 033 4999.
To donate online, please visit www.spana.org/parasites or scan the QR code.





Dr Anna Bowker (second from left), SPANA's Veterinary Adviser, on how an innovative community project is transforming animal welfare in Zimbabwe.

HARNESSING COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO SAVE LIVES



In rural southern Zimbabwe, donkeys are a lifeline for their communities. They plough fields and transport people and essential goods, including water, food and firewood. Thanks to the kindness of SPANA supporters, a new community group is transforming the lives of these hardworking donkeys.

The project, in Takavarasha, was formed when SPANA's mobile clinic team identified a need for safe, affordable, durable and reflective harnesses. Previously, donkeys had been wearing harnesses made from rubber strips or webbing. These harnesses caused problems because the edges were often sharp and cut into an animal's skin; the materials were often secured with large nuts and bolts, which rubbed and caused injuries; and sweat collected under the rubber, causing skin damage and infections.

With SPANA's help, community members set out to make new harnesses that were more breathable, dried quickly, and were reflective so that donkeys would be more visible to other road users.

SPANAs provided funding for the initial set up, including the purchase of a sewing machine and solar power.

Solar power is vital for the project because communities in Zimbabwe suffer from frequent and prolonged power cuts. The renewable power source enables the group to work through power outages and means they don't have to worry about electricity payments.

The harnesses will last two to three years and are greatly appreciated by animals and their owners.

As well as encouraging entrepreneurship, the project is empowering women. Three of the group's 10 members are women, and they have equal say in all decisions and activities.

SPANAs is actively supporting local sales and distribution, but we hope the project will become self-sustaining and that the group will expand its reach across Zimbabwe with support from our veterinary team, local councillors and district veterinarians. The initial results are very encouraging. Earlier this year, for example, 165 harnesses were distributed in the border town of Beitbridge.

This project would not be possible without your compassion for working animals. Thank you so much for helping Zimbabwe's working donkeys and for supporting our recent road traffic accidents appeal!

INSPIRING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE



Christelle Chenard, SPANA's Education Programme Adviser, on how the charity is developing and broadening its approach to education.

Animal welfare education has always been a crucial part of SPANA's work. Our co-founders, Kate and Nina Hosali, recognised that providing veterinary care to sick and injured working animals wasn't enough to bring about lasting change. They formally established our education programme in 1925 to ensure that people could learn how to look after animals and understand their needs.

Fast-forward 100 years and we're at an incredibly exciting time for animal welfare education. As part of our organisational strategy launched last year, we're developing our approach so that SPANA can transform the welfare of even more animals than before.

Over the past year, we've been broadening our educational activities. Before, when we talked about education we only talked about schoolchildren, even though we were providing educational training to tens of thousands of owners, community groups and veterinary professionals every year. We know that to meet the needs of working animals, we must engage with the people who care for them. We're therefore aiming to support everyone involved with working animals – from a child who looks after their family's donkey, to a person who uses a horse for work, to a vet who looks after their

community's camels. We want to develop the essential knowledge, attitudes and skills that everyone requires to transform the lives of working animals.

Key to this is Social and Behaviour Change Communications. This means using communications strategically to inspire long-lasting and positive behaviour changes towards working animals. It's about understanding the learning needs of the people we encounter – influenced by local knowledge – and helping them to take positive action.

We're also focusing on the interdependency among people, animals and the environment to empower people to meet growing global challenges, such as the climate crisis, economic instability and health risks like zoonotic diseases.

My SPANA colleagues and I have been so excited to roll out our broadened approach. We've introduced peer-to-peer networks, regular group sessions and coaching to make this possible, and we're providing our educators with continuous professional development so that they can inspire positive change.

With your support, our education programme is reaching even more people and transforming the welfare of even more working animals across the world. Thank you!

Working animals play a vital role in Mauritanian life. In this Saharan country, there are severe water shortages and donkeys are often relied on to deliver water to households, including in the capital, Nouakchott.

SPANA OPERATIONS

We have three SPANA centres in the country – in Boghé, Nouakchott and Rosso. We also operate mobile veterinary clinics that help animals in more remote locations. Thanks to your support, our dedicated team provides vital veterinary treatment to tens of thousands of working animals every year.

Our local team also delivers formal veterinary and education training to veterinary professionals, including through our clinical skills centre in the country, as well as advice and training in animal welfare to working animal owners.

PROFILE

MAURITANIA

In addition, our school education programme teaches children about animal welfare. Through a partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Development Programme and the German Development Corporation, SPANA is teaching students about the need for good animal welfare as part of protecting the environment.



MAURITANIA AT A GLANCE

Population: 4.7 million
Area: 1,030,000 km²
Location: West Africa
Capital city: Nouakchott
Estimated number of working animals: 1,935,406



PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A
Bebaha Hmeiditt,
SPANA's Mauritania Country Director

How long have you been working for SPANA in Mauritania?

I helped establish SPANA in Mauritania and opened our first veterinary centre here in 2001. I initially worked here as a volunteer, then became Administrative and Finance Manager, and subsequently Country Director.

Why is SPANA's work so important in Mauritania?

Mauritania has many working animals. They are vitally important to the livelihood of many people. SPANA's work is therefore contributing to animal welfare and the fight against poverty.

What roles do working animals carry out?

Working animals are used for transportation. They haul drinking water from standpipes so that people can access fresh, clean drinking water. They also transport people, goods and refuse and, in rural areas, they are used for farming.

What is the biggest challenge facing working animals in Mauritania?

I'd say a key challenge is owners' lack of knowledge about good animal care and welfare – as much as 95 per cent of working animal owners here are illiterate. That's why we're educating owners and their children on good practices to improve animal welfare. In addition, without SPANA, many people wouldn't have access to veterinary care and medicines if their animal was sick.

What is your team's greatest achievement?

We have many! SPANA is the only provider of welfare services to most of Mauritania's working animals, so we are literally a lifeline for working animals. I am also very proud that SPANA's work was recognised by the country when, in 2022, the road on which our Nouakchott veterinary centre is located was named 'Rue SPANA' (SPANAs Road) in our honour.

What do you like most about your job?

Mauritania is a huge and wonderful country with many working animals, so I am pleased and proud that my team can reach so many animals in need. I would like to thank all SPANA supporters for their help. Our work would not be possible without them. Together, we are making a real difference – thank you!



CASE FILE

Jidou the horse's painful leg injury

Jidou the horse transports people around Boghé, a desert town in southern Mauritania, on the border with Senegal. His hard work in searing temperatures that regularly top 40°C enables his owner, Mohamed, to earn a small income and look after his young family.

One day, while making their way through Boghé's busy streets, Jidou was involved in an accident. The frightened horse suffered a painful injury to his right hind leg that needed urgent treatment.

Mohamed took Jidou straight to SPANA's veterinary centre in the heart of Boghé. Our veterinary team examined Jidou's leg. Luckily, Jidou hadn't broken any bones, but he was suffering from a soft tissue injury

Mohamed said: *'I'm very happy and grateful for the way SPANA's vets treated my horse.'*

which had caused a lot of inflammation and bruising. The vets administered an anti-inflammatory pain relief injection to Jidou to relieve the horse of any pain and to help reduce the swelling.

The vets were also concerned that Jidou's hooves were starting to become overgrown, so they trimmed his hooves with specialist farriery tools to ensure they were all even again and would not cause him any pain or problems.

Before Jidou and Mohamed left the centre, our vets took their time to advise Mohamed on Jidou's further treatment. Mohamed was told to rest Jidou for a few days and to make sure that his horse had access to plenty of fresh water and feed.

SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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



ETHIOPIA

K'EYI THE HORSE'S EZL TREATMENT

K'eyi, meaning 'red', is a 15-year-old horse from Batu, in central Ethiopia. K'eyi helps his owner, Melese, earn a basic living by transporting goods and helping people get to market, school and hospital.

Melese brought his horse to SPANA's mobile clinic when he discovered red sores on K'eyi's right hind leg. SPANA's veterinary team examined K'eyi and diagnosed epizootic lymphangitis (EZL), a highly infectious fungal disease that can be fatal if it is left untreated. The disease affects the skin and lymphatic system, causing skin nodules to develop that can result in painful open ulcers.

Our vets cleaned K'eyi's nodules with water and an antiseptic solution, carefully shaved the affected area, then applied a special solution of tincture iodine to disinfect the nodules and reduce the spread of the disease.

Next, the vets told Melese all about EZL, including how it is transmitted and how they would treat his horse. They gave him some of the iodine solution to take home and showed him how to apply it to the nodules every day. He would also need to bring his horse back to the clinic regularly over the next few months for monitoring and further treatment.

Melese said: *'Thank you, SPANA, for saving my horse's life.'*

MALI

Mamady the donkey and his owner, Madou, work alongside each other at the sprawling Badalabougou rubbish dump in Mali's capital, Bamako. Every morning, Mamady hauls heavy loads of refuse to and from the dump so that Madou can support his family. It's dangerous work, and Mamady and Madou are at constant risk of injury and illness.

Mamady was seen by vets at SPANA's mobile clinic, which makes regular visits to Badalabougou, when Madou became concerned for his seven-year-old donkey's health. Mamady had developed a cough that was clearly making it difficult for him to work.

The veterinary team carefully examined Mamady and found that he was not suffering from infection, so the coughing was likely caused by the dusty conditions. The vets administered an anti-inflammatory injection to provide Mamady with some relief.

They advised Madou to give Mamady plenty of rest and water, and to bring him back to the clinic in a week's time for a check-up.



MAMADY THE DONKEY'S EXHAUSTING COUGH

Madou said: *'SPANAs helps us. They are very good to us. Thanks to my donkey, I can provide for my family.'*

INDIA

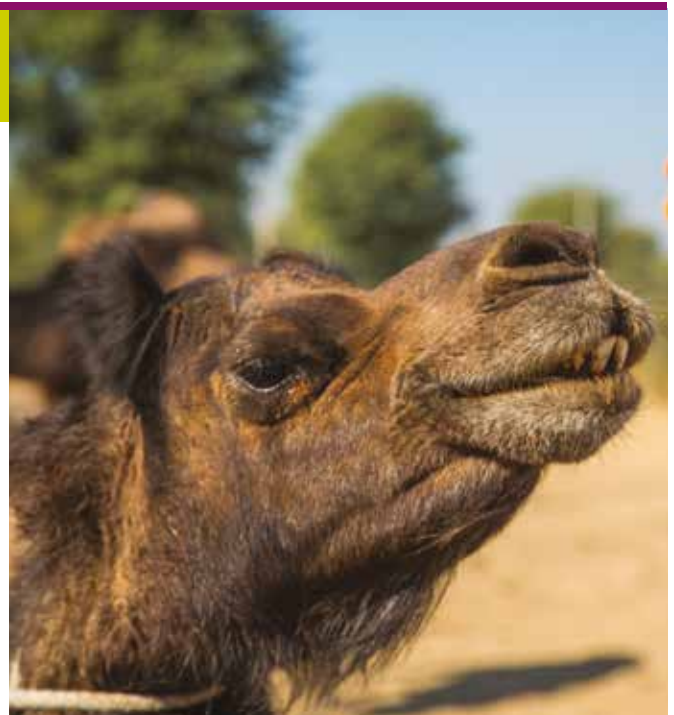
Pepper the camel's owner, Hemraj, depends on camels for his livelihood. Pepper provides small quantities of camel milk for Hemraj to sell.

Hemraj became increasingly concerned for Pepper when he noticed that she couldn't stop itching and scratching herself. In a short space of time, Pepper started losing patches of hair and her skin started cracking and bleeding.

Pepper and Hemraj visited SPANA's regular mobile clinic near Jaipur, in northern India. Pepper was examined by SPANA's veterinary team, who diagnosed mange, a painful skin disease caused by mites. The vets administered an anti-parasite medication, then gently applied a soothing cream to the worst-affected areas of Pepper's skin.

The vets advised Hemraj that he should be extremely careful when handling Pepper, because mange can be contagious to both animals and people. The vets advised that he clean her harnesses, blankets and shelter thoroughly, and keep her away from other animals until she recovered.

Find out more about the devastating impact that parasites can have on working animals on page 6.



PEPPER THE CAMEL'S ITCHY SKIN

Hemraj said: *'SPANAs is doing good work. They give our animals medicine. I am happy that they are treating our camels.'*



Professor Hassan Alyakine, SPANA's Morocco Country Director, provides an update on the recovery effort following last September's devastating earthquake.

SAVING LIVES AND REBUILDING COMMUNITIES IN MOROCCO

A year has passed since a powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Morocco. The earthquake was the country's deadliest since 2004, and its impact was devastating – claiming the lives of 3,000 people and affecting millions.

The remote villages nestled in the High Atlas Mountains, right at the earthquake's epicentre, suffered the most substantial losses. To make matters worse, the continued risk of landslides and the long distances involved complicated the immediate rescue and relief effort because emergency services faced difficulties in reaching animals and people in need.

Just a few days after the earthquake struck, our Marrakech veterinary team headed to the epicentre to provide lifesaving veterinary treatment and care to working animals who had been injured and displaced. Two teams visited 31 villages over a 12-day period, treating 412 sick and injured animals. In total, during 2023 we treated 3,628 working animals and provided 62,500kg of emergency feed.

Our vital work continues. Earlier this year, during a three-day visit to the epicentre, we treated 590 working animals. During a further two-day visit in the summer, we treated 141 animals.

One of those working animals was Mezyan, a five-year-old donkey from the village of Imgdal. Mezyan has been incredibly important to the ongoing recovery effort. He has enabled his owner, Mr Kouri, to continue to earn a living and help their community by transporting



essential goods and carrying out agricultural tasks. Their village, which is high in the mountains and 74km south of Marrakech, was badly hit by the earthquake. Buildings were levelled, and boulders and rocks fell down the mountainside, crushing vehicles and blocking roads. In the immediate aftermath, many people in the community were forced to sleep in makeshift tents and to use open fires to cook and to keep warm at night.



Mezyan, a five-year-old donkey, has been incredibly important to the recovery effort for his village.

Mr Kouri brought Mezyan to our mobile clinic because his donkey had developed a wound on the top of his tail – a friction wound caused by his pack saddle. Our vets cleaned the wound carefully with an antiseptic solution and applied some soothing ointment. They gave Mr Kouri a supply of the ointment and showed him how to apply it so that he could continue Mezyan's treatment himself. He was also advised to rest Mezyan until his wound had healed, and he was given some helpful tips on how to avoid friction wounds in future.

It will take a long time for the hardest-hit communities in the High Atlas Mountains to fully recover from such a devastating event. But thanks to your support, SPANA will continue to be there so that working animals like Mezyan receive the food, water and veterinary treatment they so desperately need.

To everyone who donated to our emergency earthquake appeal, and to those who contacted SPANA with your messages of support at such a difficult time – thank you so much. Your kindness helped save lives and was very much appreciated by everyone at SPANA Morocco.



Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, on the devastating impact that the climate crisis is having on the lives of working animals and how the charity is helping them.

WORKING ANIMALS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Earlier this year, I visited SPANA's hardworking team in Mali. My visit, in sweltering heat, was just a couple of weeks after the country registered a temperature of 48.5°C – its hottest day ever. That record-breaking temperature was due to a deadly heatwave in which more than 100 people lost their lives.

Mali isn't the only country where our charity works that has experienced a recent extreme climate-related event. In the past year, severe flooding and landslides have caused terrible destruction in Iraq and Tanzania. Countries including Namibia, Tunisia and Zimbabwe are struggling through prolonged droughts. It's clear that the climate crisis is having a catastrophic impact across the world and making life more difficult than ever for working animals and their owners.

It's important to recognise that the climate crisis is a significant issue. At SPANA, our goal is for the world of working animals to thrive and grow sustainably as part of the nexus between animals, people and the environment. Recognising this link is known as the One Health approach. People have historically exploited animals and the environment, while failing to appreciate the critical interdependency between them. Sadly, the climate crisis is a result of that exploitation.

The climate crisis is also a fundamental threat to the health of animals, people and the environment. When disasters strike, it's usually the most vulnerable in society who are most severely affected – including those in low-income countries where SPANA works. The climate crisis creates emergency situations, like Mali's heatwave, wildfires and hurricanes, which all put livelihoods at risk and leave working animals fighting for their lives.

Extreme events are increasing in frequency, intensity and scale. That's why SPANA needs to ensure that those affected are prepared – and that we are ready to act when needed to help working animals affected by the climate crisis. When an emergency happens, your continued kindness and generosity enable us to act swiftly. We provide on-the-ground support, emergency feed and lifesaving veterinary treatment to working animals in need.

A critical element of our organisational strategy is to expand our emergency response capacity. We are developing a comprehensive disaster, risk and resilience strategy that will aim to reduce risk, build resilience and respond to emergencies. We also encourage community projects to request help and relief through our emergency response funding initiative.

Meanwhile, at policy level, we're working with key organisations like the World Federation for Animals and the International Coalition for Working Equids to call for policy actions that mitigate climate change while benefiting animals.

As the voice for working animals around the world, we're also highlighting the devastating impact the climate crisis is having on working animals. Earlier this year, we conducted a survey for International Working Animal Day (15 June) which found that 78 per cent of people felt working animals were overlooked and forgotten in the climate crisis. Some 82 per cent of respondents also agreed that working animals deserve help and support when an emergency strikes.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our Tanzania floods and landslides appeal. Your support is enabling us to help working animals when they need us most, and to highlight their plight to the world.

The threat posed by climate change to working animal welfare is only going to grow if we don't act now. Together, we can create a world where animals, people and the environment are respected and thrive. Find out more at spana.org/climatecrisis.



REMEMBERING WORKING ANIMALS

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



Across the world, working animals support communities in a wide variety of ways – from ploughing fields and carrying vital supplies of food and water, to transporting goods, providing services and getting children to school. During times of crisis, they also help and rescue people in remote and difficult locations.

Yet despite the enormous difference they make to people's lives, working animals are often unrecognised. Overlooked and taken for granted, they are sometimes referred to as 'invisible workers'.

However, every year, many kind and compassionate people remember working animals by leaving a gift to SPANA in their Will. Thanks to them, SPANA is working to ensure that the contribution working animals make to people across the world is recognised and valued – and that they are remembered and respected.

Gifts in Wills currently fund more than half of what we do for working animals. By leaving a gift in your Will to SPANA, you can create a more compassionate future for working animals for many generations to come.

Your kind gift could inspire long-lasting and positive changes in behaviour towards working animals among schoolchildren and owners (page nine), ensure horses like K'eyi from Ethiopia receive lifesaving veterinary treatment for deadly diseases (page 12), or help our teams reach working animals and their communities in the immediate aftermath of an emergency (page 14).

Including a gift to SPANA in your Will is straightforward. All you need to do is give your solicitor our name, address and registered charity number, and your solicitor will do the rest. If you don't have a solicitor, we've teamed up with Bequeathed to offer you free advice and help with making a standard Will, using an accredited legal professional. On our website, there's also a handy guide to help answer some of the questions you may have. You can find more information in the box below.

At SPANA, we are so grateful to every single one of our legacy pledgers. Thank you for choosing to remember working animals with the ultimate gift of compassion.

There are many ways to find out more about leaving a gift to SPANA in your Will.

1. Call our friendly legacies team on 020 3855 0161
2. Email giftsinwills@spana.org
3. Visit spana.org/legacy
4. Tick the box at the bottom of the donation form included with this newsletter. You can also use the form 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.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

BIG KNIT FOR VET KIT IS BACK!

With the evenings drawing in, it's time to get out your knitting needles and do your bit to help working animals. Our Big Knit pack includes five exclusive animal patterns. Using the patterns, you can knit your very own donkey, horse, oxen or elephant. There's a camel crochet pattern, too!

These lovely little working animals would make fantastic Christmas presents for your friends and family. Or perhaps your loved ones would like to make a donation to SPANA in return for one of your creations? All funds raised from Big Knit will help working animals in desperate need around the world – every stitch helps.

To find out more and to download the Big Knit pack and patterns, please visit spana.org/knit. Happy knitting!



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR JOSÉ



José Stimpson, from Eastbourne, East Sussex, has been fundraising for SPANA for 11 years. Every year, she holds tea parties and sales from her home in aid of SPANA. Recently, she has also started selling goods in aid of our work on Facebook Marketplace.

This year, José has raised £948.50 from holding three SPANA events – a World Tea Party, her birthday celebration, and a garden party involving a mini local steam train. This brings her total raised for working animals to £5,757.50. **Thank you, José. Everyone at SPANA is extremely grateful for your continued kindness and dedication to working animals.**

DANCING FOR DONKEYS

SPANA supporter Hilary Brown has organised charity circle dances since 2011. By dancing up a storm, Hilary's latest event raised a fantastic £300 for SPANA and working animals. **Thank you, Hilary, and all your fabulous dancers!**



There are so many ways you can help transform the lives of working animals. Could you host a stall, put on your running shoes, or do you have your own novel ideas for raising 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.

Shop today and help working animals

Our new collection of working animal-themed gifts has arrived! Discover our latest range, including Fair Trade, vegan, handmade and eco-friendly gifts. We also have a beautiful new range of Christmas cards, now in plastic-free recycled packaging, as well as reusable sari gift bags, Christmas crackers, and decorations to make this festive season extra special.

Order early to receive your gifts in time for Christmas!

All our gifts are inspired by the amazing working animals we help, and 100 per cent of profits go towards improving their lives.



Silver-Plated Horseshoe Stud Earrings

Gift code: M24HSE

£15



Silver-Plated Horseshoe Necklace

Gift code: M24HNE

£20



Tunisian Handmade Bowl – Aquamarine Design

Fair Trade

Gift code: M24HSN

£9

Reusable Sari Gift Bags

– Set of 4

Fair Trade

Gift code: M24GWB

£8



Dark Chocolate-Covered Dates

Vegan

Gift code: M24FND

£12

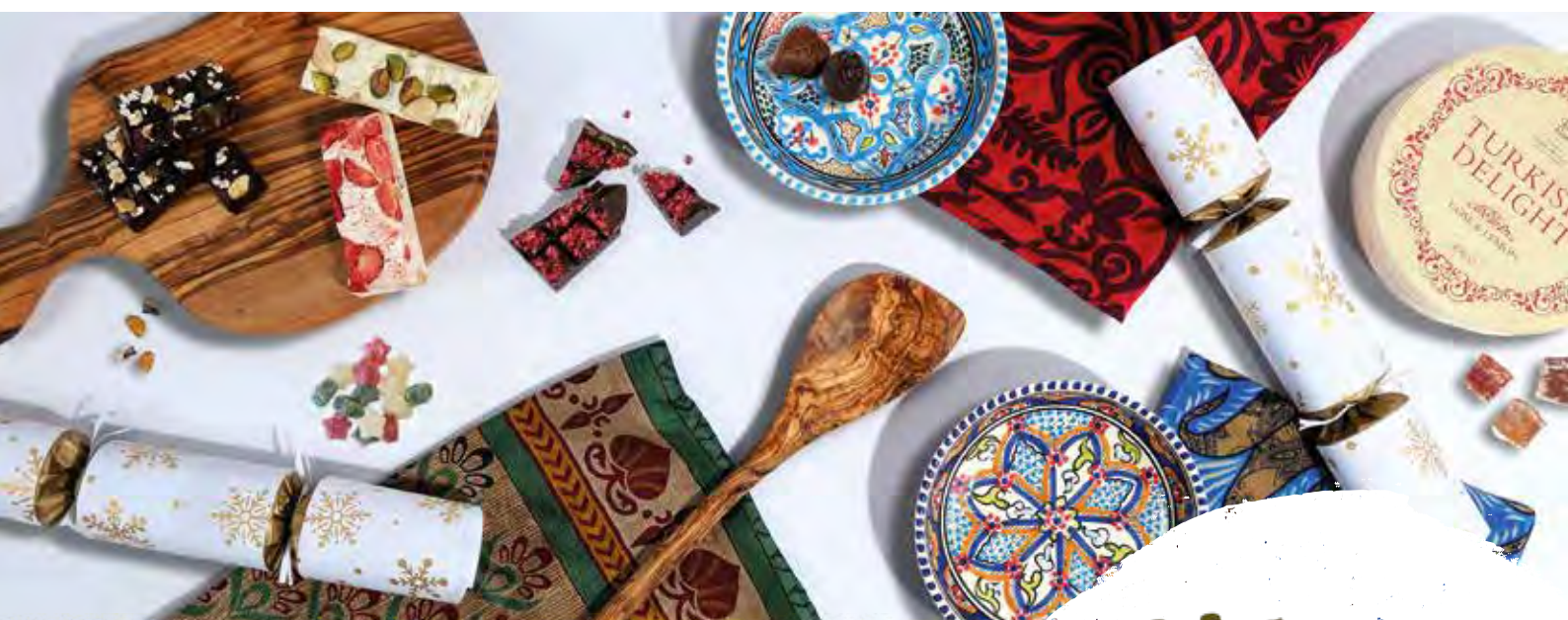


Swazi Mini Candles – Set of Six

Vegan, Fair Trade

Gift code: M24CS

£15



Call us on **0330 332 2530** or browse the full range at spana.org/shop

**SPAN**
Working animal welfare since 1923