

Spring 2025 • Issue 202



NEWS

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**WORKING ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT: ONE HEALTH EXPLAINED**



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with essential dental care**

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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.



The start to the year has been one of remarkable progress and perseverance for all of us at SPANA, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. In this update, you'll see how we've launched new partnerships, expanded our education programmes and reached more working animals than ever before – but our journey is far from complete.

With your generous backing, our dedicated teams are pushing boundaries, often under the harshest conditions, to bring lasting change to the lives of working animals around the world. Every day, we witness their resilience and determination, and with your help, we can continue to be there when they need us most.

I witnessed the challenges our teams face when I visited Morocco recently. While travelling, we were caught in a 'haboob' – a ferocious sandstorm that covered our vehicle and temporarily reduced visibility to practically zero. It was a stark reminder of the lengths our dedicated teams go to be there for the working animals who need our help.

This year marks a significant milestone for our colleagues in Morocco: a century of working animal welfare. During my visit, I returned to the High Atlas Mountains for the first time since the catastrophic earthquake in 2023. I was heartened to see the incredible rebuilding efforts underway and the renewed hope within the communities. Working animals, especially mules, were indispensable in the immediate aftermath, and they continue to be a lifeline for these resilient communities. The invaluable role of working animals in disaster relief was also recently recognised by the United Nations – read more about this historic moment on page five.

Meanwhile, in Tsholotsho, Zimbabwe, we're building a new animal health and welfare centre. Tsholotsho is facing its worst drought in decades, and the need for veterinary care is more urgent than ever. Without this centre, animals in the area will continue to suffer. Through the establishment of a permanent animal health and welfare centre in Tsholotsho, SPANA will provide a lifeline to animals in desperate need. Thank you to everyone who supported our recent appeal.

I hope you enjoy reading your copy of SPANA News. Thank you once again for standing with us and for the animals who depend on us. Together, we are creating a future where every working animal lives a healthy and valued life.

Linda Edwards
Chief Executive, SPANA

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HELPING CAMELS IN INDIA

A vibrant puppet show, lifesaving cart reflectors, educational leaflets and essential veterinary care were all part of India's biggest camel fair recently, thanks to SPANA and our partner Help in Suffering.

Help in Suffering, a SPANA partner in India, held a week-long mobile veterinary clinic at Pushkar Camel Fair ('Pushkar Mela') in November. This lively annual event takes place in Rajasthan and is attended by nearly 8,500 camels and as many as half a million people from across northern India.

New to the fair was an innovative puppet show – written and performed by Help in Suffering to improve the welfare of camels and provide help and advice to

camel owners. The show told the story of camel owners Dukhi (sad) and Sukhi (happy). Sukhi, who has a healthy camel, helps Dukhi seek treatment for his poorly camel.

More than 700 sick and injured camels received vital veterinary treatment from Help in Suffering during the fair. Common ailments seen by the vets included skin infections, lameness, digestive problems and wounds.

Help in Suffering also distributed 1,000 animal welfare leaflets, replaced 600 traditional nose pegs and fitted 500 reflectors to carts so that working camels will be more visible to other road users at night.

Dr Abhinav Swami, who oversees SPANA's camel project at Help in Suffering, said: *'This engaging puppet show not only entertained but also spread awareness about animal welfare and the free veterinary services available, leaving a lasting impact on the community.'*

SPANANA IN THE NEWS



SPANANA continues to expand its global reach

We're transforming the lives of even more working animals through new partners across Africa and South America.

In recent months, SPANA has welcomed partners from countries including Guatemala, Kenya, Peru and Tanzania.

Our new partners are all supporting SPANA's vision to create a world where every working animal lives a healthy and valued life. They provide life-changing veterinary treatment, help owners improve their animal care skills, and teach animal welfare lessons to children in communities where working animals play a vital role in daily life. Our continued global expansion is part of our charity's 2023–27 strategy, in which we promised to work in more countries where working animals would benefit most from our support.

One new partner is the Voluntary Education and Relief Initiative for Tanzanian Society (VERITAS), which teaches local communities in the Kigoma region of Tanzania about donkey and oxen care and disease prevention.

Nuhu Jacob, VERITAS' Executive Director, said: 'We're so pleased to be working with SPANA, and we'd like to

extend our sincere thanks to all SPANA's supporters for making our work possible. Because of their generosity, we can support 823 donkeys in communities around Kasulu District Council, and we're truly grateful for the impact this has made.'

Another new partner is Equitarian Initiative (EI), which provides training in donkey welfare to communities in the Maras district of south-central Peru.

Annie Henderson, EI's Executive Director, said: 'We're deeply grateful to collaborate with SPANA in advancing the health and welfare of working equids in the remote villages of the Andean Mountains of Peru. Thanks to SPANA supporters, this shared project has already improved the lives of 876 horses, donkeys and mules across five communities that depend on these animals for their daily survival.'

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, added: 'At SPANA, we know that to have the greatest impact possible on working animal welfare, we need to work with partners who not only share our vision and mission but also carry out their work to the highest of standards. By working together, we can significantly increase the number of animals whose lives will be transformed across many more countries and locations.'

Working animals recognised for disaster work

When an emergency strikes, working animals offer a lifeline by transporting resources, evacuating people and accessing disaster zones when vehicles can't. Yet, until recently, this lifesaving work had been widely overlooked.

But now, the United Nations (UN) has formally acknowledged the importance of working animals in disaster relief, in line with its Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

This recognition follows years of campaigning by SPANA and other organisations that are part of the International Coalition of Working Equids (ICWE).

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said: *'In the aftermath of a disaster, working animals can play a critical and often lifesaving role. I personally witnessed donkeys and mules delivering essential aid following the Morocco earthquake which struck in 2023, reaching isolated communities that might otherwise have not received support.'*

'These extraordinary animals are invaluable assets to their communities, yet their contributions during humanitarian

responses are often disregarded, and they're typically the last to receive assistance. Working animals are sentient beings, deserving of lives free from pain and suffering. The inclusion of working animals in the UN resolution is a monumental step towards a future where every working animal is not only recognised, but valued and respected.'

When a disaster happens, SPANA provides on-the-ground support, emergency feed and veterinary treatment to working animals in need. We're also working with at-risk communities to ensure they're prepared to face emergencies. **Find out more at spana.org/emergency**



Buffalo protected from deadly infection

Working water buffalo in India will continue to be protected from haemorrhagic septicaemia after the government recognised the benefits and importance of a SPANA-funded vaccination programme – and are now funding the vaccines themselves.

In SPANA News Issue 197, we reported on the launch of an emergency project to protect water buffalo from an outbreak of haemorrhagic septicaemia in Manipur, a state in eastern India. In Manipur, 80 per cent of people depend on agriculture and forestry for their livelihood. In some areas, water buffalo are exclusively used to plough fields and to carry timber.

Sadly, nearly 1,000 buffalo died from haemorrhagic septicaemia over a two-month period in 2022. That's why, working with local partner the Institute of Social

Research and Development (ISRD), SPANA launched a vaccination programme and provided training to local communities.

Throughout the partnership, SPANA encouraged ISRD to liaise with local government about the vaccine and its benefits for water buffalo. As a result, the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services of the government of Manipur has now agreed to fund the vaccines in future – protecting around 19,000 water buffalo in the region.





FIGHT PAIN AND MALNUTRITION WITH ESSENTIAL DENTAL CARE

Across the countries where SPANA works, dental problems are a cause of terrible suffering for thousands of working animals. Unfortunately, these issues are often hidden and owners are unaware of their animal's pain. Without access to dental treatment, these animals face malnutrition, as the damage caused by overgrown, sharp teeth makes it too painful to chew. No animal should be in pain or unable to eat due to poor dental health. Please help our expert teams provide essential care to alleviate their suffering.



Dental problems were the main reason for Djambar's suffering. His teeth had become uneven, causing painful ulcers.

Djambar's story

In the sweltering Mauritanian heat, Djambar toils on his owner Ahmed's farm. Six hours a day, the hardworking horse ploughs fields, transports agricultural tools and carries harvested crops to market. His labour is crucial for Ahmed and his family, who rely on him for their livelihood. Losing Djambar would severely jeopardise their future.

Recently, as they were carrying out their work, Ahmed noticed a troubling change in Djambar. Each morning, when he prepared his horse for their daily tasks, he found Djambar was eating less. As the days passed, the horse lost significant weight and grew listless and depressed – becoming far too weak to work. He was clearly suffering.

Deeply concerned, Ahmed realised he had to act quickly. Fortunately, he learned that SPANA's mobile clinic was coming to his local town of Oum El Koura, much closer than the 30-mile (50km) trek to the nearest city of Rosso. Eager to help his loyal companion, Ahmed brought Djambar to the clinic as soon as it arrived in town.

At the clinic, the veterinary team began by conducting an initial examination and making a thorough record of Djambar's diet and health. Using a special dental speculum, they gently opened his mouth to better assess the condition of his teeth. With a head torch to illuminate inside his mouth, the vets quickly discovered that Djambar's teeth had become overgrown and uneven, the sharp edges causing painful mouth ulcers. The horse was in severe discomfort; his dental issues were making it nearly impossible for him to chew properly, leading to significant weight loss.

Djambar's dental overgrowth was so pronounced that the little food he had simply fell out of his mouth, leaving him unbearably hungry and distressed. Horses and donkeys, unlike humans, have teeth that continue



With your help, we can help tackle the devastating health issues associated with lack of essential dental care. Your generosity could provide the essential dental equipment needed to examine and treat working animals like Djambar.

to grow throughout their lives. In Mauritania's dry landscape, working animals often lack access to quality forage or are unable to find plants. Without regular dental checks or natural grazing and foraging, this can lead to teeth overgrowing significantly.

Fortunately, SPANA's expert vets were equipped to help. They used a dental rasp to carefully file down the sharp points of Djambar's teeth. They also administered anti-inflammatory medication to soothe the ulcers, relieving his pain. Further assessment revealed that Djambar was suffering from internal parasites, which were exacerbating his malnourished state. The team provided deworming treatment and a multivitamin injection to improve his overall condition.

Lastly, the vets provided Ahmed with practical guidance on proper nutrition, advising him to give Djambar soft, wet feed while the mouth ulcers healed. They emphasised the importance of scheduling routine check-ups and dental care for his horse to prevent future dental issues. Thanks to SPANA's timely intervention, Djambar can now eat



A donkey receives essential dental treatment at one of our SPANA centres. Working animals can't tell their owners they're in agony due to a toothache or when an uncomfortable dental abscess strikes. Often, it's only when symptoms develop into something more serious that owners realise there is a problem.

comfortably and has returned to work, securing a stable future for Ahmed and his family.

Djambar's case is not an isolated one; as severe droughts cause food scarcity in the regions where we work, the risk of untreated dental issues increases. This puts working animals at risk of severe conditions like 'choke' (when unchewed food blocks the oesophagus), colic, and even starvation.

Dental treatment is crucial, and veterinary intervention is often the only chance to alleviate the pain working animals with dental problems face. Unfortunately, lower standards of animal welfare and limited access to veterinary care in vulnerable communities often leave many suffering needlessly, leading to devastating outcomes.

With your help, our dedicated teams can provide direct support to working animals in need of vital dental care. Your donation can help supply essential medicines and dental kits to deliver effective treatment. Additionally, we can educate animal owners about the importance of good dental health and proper nutrition, as well as the necessity of routine check-ups.

By making a donation today, you can help ensure more working animals receive the essential dental treatment they deserve, preventing the overgrown, chipped and rotting teeth that put their health and welfare at risk. Together, we can make a significant difference to the welfare of many more animals like Djambar.

Could you support us today to help provide essential dental treatment to more working animals, saving them from unrelenting pain and starvation? Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please, if you can, donate today and help us prevent malnutrition in working animals like Djambar with lifesaving dental treatment:

£15

could provide 10 days of feed for a malnourished animal, helping them to rebuild their strength and recover from dental pain.

£45

could pay for a new dental rasp, so that hundreds of working animals can benefit from basic dental care that will prevent pain and hunger.

£150

could help pay towards a full dental toolkit and essential medicines including pain relief and antibiotics for treating and preventing dental illness and malnutrition.

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



HEALTHY HOOVES FOR WORKING ANIMALS



Dr Anna Bowker, SPANA's Veterinary Adviser, explains how we're improving the hoof health of working animals through farriery treatment and training.



Have you ever experienced sore or painful feet? If you have, you'll know that the pain can seriously affect your day-to-day activities and may even force you to limp, or walk much slower than normal.

Sadly, our vets encounter many working animals who are suffering from crippling pain because of preventable problems with their hooves. Good hoof health is crucial for the welfare of working animals. The care of horse, mule and donkey hooves is called farriery. It's a specialist skill that involves tasks including shoeing, shaping, trimming and balancing.

Working animals need regular farriery care so that their hooves don't become overgrown. This is because overgrown hooves – as well as being uncomfortable and painful – can lead to lameness due to pain and, in severe cases, long-term damage to tendons and ligaments. Working animals may also need farriery care following an injury, for example if a sharp object has become stuck in their hoof.

At SPANA, the kindness of our supporters helps us improve hoof health in working animals in three ways: treatment, community training and professional training.

If a working animal is brought to a SPANA veterinary centre or mobile clinic in need of farriery care, a SPANA vet or farrier will examine the animal's lower legs and hooves. They will then trim their hooves with specialist farriery tools until they're all well-balanced and in good condition. We'll advise the owner to bring their animal to SPANA for regular farriery treatment.

Owners may also be invited to attend our community training sessions. These sessions, held worldwide, help owners learn about the importance of good farriery so they know when to seek professional veterinary care. The sessions involve practical demonstrations, posters, leaflets and discussions.

In many countries where we work, we're also training local farriers so that they have the knowledge, skills and equipment they need to ensure good hoof care. For example, in Ethiopia there's no formal education or training centre for farriers. Our team in Ethiopia fills this skills gap by running regular training sessions for local farriers.

All this is only possible because of our supporters, whose kindness is improving the hoof health of working animals around the world. Thank you!

NURTURING EMPATHY AND COMPASSION



Christelle Chenard, SPANA's Education Programme Adviser, on how our PAWS learning package is promoting animal welfare worldwide.



In a classroom in Mauritania, a teacher is playing a game of ‘Simon says’ with their students. The teacher holds up a cuddly donkey and says: ‘We’re going to try and ask the donkey to do things for us, but it doesn’t always hear or listen. So, we’re going to give the donkey a name and use their name to get them to move. We’re also going to use simple words like “stop” and “come here” for the donkey to learn.’

This is just one of the fun learning activities included in SPANA's new PAWS (Promoting Animal Welfare and Sustainability) learning package. The game, which is aimed at pre-primary schoolchildren aged three to four, helps them build positive relationships with donkeys and other working animals.

The PAWS learning package helps educators promote working animal welfare by delivering engaging lessons. The programme has been designed to encourage empathy and compassion for animals, people and the environment.

Children often have a natural interest in animals and their world. By harnessing this interest, we can inspire and support children to make responsible decisions.

Students take this learning home with them – passing on their knowledge to their family and community.

Crucially, the lessons and activities included in the PAWS learning package also cover issues that reflect best practices and trends in international, environmental and animal welfare education. These are known as cross-cutting issues and include environmental education, global citizenship and One Health (which you can find out more about on p16).

The PAWS learning package celebrates diversity and seeks to create a climate that is welcoming and inclusive for all students. Creating a positive learning environment is crucial to ensure all students feel safe, valued and ready to progress. Learning in a healthy and happy environment will also develop students’ creativity and curiosity, their respect for themselves and others, and their sense of belonging.

We’ve worked with SPANA educators across three continents to develop the PAWS learning package, and we’re looking forward to updating you on its progress. Thanks to you, our education programme is creating a positive future for children and working animals worldwide. Find out more at spana.org/teach

SPANA has been providing essential support to the working animals of Mali since 1996.

SPANA OPERATIONS

Mali is in the midst of an ongoing crisis, grappling with the devastating impacts of climate change, relentless conflict and frequent natural disasters. These compounding challenges have created an environment where working animals and the communities that rely on them face immense hardship and struggle for survival.

Daily life for many families in Mali is dependent on working animals. In this hot, vast country, donkeys and horses work day in, day out – transporting goods, acting as taxis and minibuses, or carrying out vital agricultural work. In Mali's capital, Bamako, donkeys

are used to haul heavy cartloads of waste to the mountainous rubbish dumps across the city.

In Mali, we work from two fixed centres – in Bamako and Ségou – and three mobile clinics. Our clinics allow our teams to reach working animals in outlying towns and villages, but ongoing security risks restrict travel beyond Ségou.



MALI AT A GLANCE

Population: 23.29 million

Area: 1,240,192 km²

Location: West Africa

Capital city: Bamako

Estimated number of working animals (FAO): 1,871,007



PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A **Dr Amadou Dombia, SPANAs Mali Country Director**

How and why did you become SPANA's Country Director for Mali?

I became a vet because I had close contact with animals from a young age, particularly my uncle's ox. I used to take his ox to the vet, and I really appreciated the care the vet gave him. There was no veterinary school in Mali, so I obtained a scholarship for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Ukraine, where I got my degree in veterinary medicine. I then returned to Mali to help animals. I have worked for SPANA since October 1997 and became Country Director in 2003. I am very hands-on in this role and provide lots of assistance to the veterinary team.

Why is SPANA's work so important in Mali?

SPANAs work is so important because working animals are crucial to communities in Mali – both in urban and rural areas. They are used for agricultural work and for transporting people, goods, sanitation and water. They help many people to survive. So, the services that SPANA provides are vital.

What plans does SPANA have in Mali over the next few months?

The rubbish dumps in Bamako present a dire and hazardous reality for people, the environment and critically for SPANA, the welfare of donkeys, with substantial risks to their health and well-being. We're urgently collaborating with local leaders to improve these dangerous working conditions, while also expanding our community education efforts in 40 villages in the Ségou region, using Social and Behaviour Change Communications to drive meaningful, lasting change.

Is there anything you'd like to say to SPANA supporters?

I'd like to say a big thank you to SPANA supporters for all their help, without which we wouldn't be able to make positive changes to the lives of working animals.



CASE FILE

Baba the donkey's debilitating lameness

Baba is an eight-year-old donkey from Bamako, the capital city of Mali. Like hundreds of other donkeys in Mali, Baba works tirelessly every morning, hauling heavy cartloads of refuse to one of the city's many rubbish dumps. His work is notoriously difficult because the rubbish dumps that surround Bamako are piled high with mountains of waste that contain multiple hazards, including dangerous shards of glass and razor-sharp pieces of rusting metal.

Baba's owner, Moussa, recently took his donkey to a SPANA mobile veterinary clinic that regularly visits the Badalabougou rubbish dump where Baba and Moussa earn their meagre living. Moussa was extremely worried because his donkey had become lame. Baba wouldn't put any weight on his right front leg and couldn't work.

Our vets carried out a full examination, carefully ensuring that Baba hadn't broken any bones and that nothing was caught in his hoof. Thankfully, there were no signs of a break, so they diagnosed a soft tissue injury, most likely caused by hauling heavy loads on uneven ground.

Baba was administered an anti-inflammatory injection to ease his pain. Our vets gave Moussa a course of painkillers so that he could continue Baba's treatment at home. They also advised Moussa to ensure that his donkey received complete rest for at least a week.

Moussa said: *'Thank you, SPANA. You help me because I can get care for my animals through SPANA.'*

SPANA AROUND THE WORLD

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



Sadalsuud, meaning 'luckiest', helps his owner, Mouloud, support his wife and young family by transporting construction equipment around Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital city. The pair work for eight to 10 hours a day, navigating the city's dusty roads and visiting busy construction sites.

Sadalsuud was brought to SPANA's centre in Nouakchott when the donkey developed a problem with his right eye. Mouloud had noticed that his donkey had difficulty opening the affected eye. It was also red and weeping.

Our vets examined the donkey's eye carefully. They used fluorescein dye to diagnose a corneal ulcer on the surface of his eye. This ulcer might have developed due to a piece of dust or grit scratching Sadalsuud's eye – a common problem when working

animals experience prolonged exposure to dust and dirt from roads and construction sites.

The vets cleaned and flushed Sadalsuud's eye thoroughly, then started him on a course of topical antibiotic eye ointment and painkillers. Mouloud was shown how to administer the medication so that he could continue his donkey's treatment himself. Mouloud was also advised to protect Sadalsuud's eyes from dust and debris by fitting him with a face mask or fringe, and to bring him back for a check-up to see if the ulcer was healing.

Mouloud said: *'The SPANA centre plays a vital role in ensuring the welfare of working animals in Nouakchott. I feel reassured knowing that our animals are always in good hands.'*

ETHIOPIA

Shasho is a hardworking horse from Angolela, a rural village in central Ethiopia. The 10-year-old horse carries out agricultural tasks for her owner, Abebe, and his family on their small farm.

Abebe brought his horse to their local mobile veterinary clinic after Shasho suffered a wound on her back while working one day.

The vets carefully shaved around Shasho's wound so that it would be easier to treat. They then cleaned the wound with a saline solution and administered anti-inflammatory medication to relieve any pain. Finally, they applied a topical zinc oxide cream to reduce inflammation and encourage healing.

Abebe was shown by the vets how to clean Shasho's wound with salt water during the healing process. He was given a supply of zinc oxide cream and shown how to apply it to Shasho's wound – something Abebe would need to do for the next 15 days. He was also advised to rest his horse until her wound had healed fully.



SHASHO THE HORSE'S SORE BACK

Abebe said: *'Thank you, SPANA, for treating my horse. During harvest time, she works a lot on the farm and helps me and my family.'*

IRAQ

Dilan the donkey watches over flocks of sheep in the hills surrounding the small town of Zawita, in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. This important job helps Dilan's owner, Hakar, who is a shepherd.

A SPANA mobile clinic run by our partner in the region, Kurdistan Organization for Animal Rights Protection, recently visited the 14-year-old donkey because Hakar had become concerned for Dilan's health. He'd noticed that some small wounds had developed on Dilan's skin that were red and painful and were attracting flies and mosquitoes.

The vet checked Dilan carefully and told Hakar that the wounds had been caused by the homemade saddle and harnessing that Dilan wears. Dilan's harnessing and saddle had rubbed into his skin, causing open wounds to develop that had been made worse by sweat and dirt.

The vets cleaned Dilan's wounds thoroughly and gave him pain relief. Hakar was advised to leave Dilan without a saddle for 15 days to allow his wounds to heal. He was also shown how to keep the wounds clean during the healing process and how to fit the saddle and harnessing to prevent harness wounds in future.



DILAN THE DONKEY'S HARNESS WOUNDS

Hakar said: *'It's the first time I've asked a vet to come to me to check my donkey. Thank you for your help.'*

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN MOROCCO

We're celebrating 100 years of working animal welfare in Morocco! Professor Hassan Alyakine, SPANA's Morocco Country Director, looks back at five key milestones.

Morocco is a large country at the very tip of North Africa. Roughly twice the size of the UK, it reaches from the Strait of Gibraltar in the north to Mauritania in the south.



From bustling souks to isolated mountain communities, donkeys, horses, mules and camels remain crucial to the livelihood of many people in Morocco. They transport food and water and act as taxis – often in areas that would be impossible for vehicles to access, like the High Atlas Mountains.

One hundred years ago, SPANA's co-founder, Kate Hosali, first began work in Morocco with just a simple medical kit. Today, we have five veterinary centres and a team of dedicated staff who help tens of thousands of working animals every year. Join me in celebrating five special moments from SPANA Morocco's fascinating history.

1925

KATE HOSALI ARRIVES IN MOROCCO

SPANA was officially launched in 1923 when Kate Hosali started treating working animals in Algeria. In

March 1925, she brought SPANA's work to Morocco for the first time. In her first three months visiting the country, she travelled to 10 towns and cities, improving the lives of working animals as she went.

Kate didn't just treat animals. She firmly believed that to make a long-lasting difference to working animal welfare, owners and children should have the knowledge and skills they needed to look after their animals. This approach led to the launch of SPANA's education programme in Morocco.



FARRIERY SCHOOL OPENS

In 1965, SPANA opened a farriery school in Meknes. The centre was the first of its kind in the country – empowering farriers to make a difference to the lives of working animals across Morocco.

Passing on our expertise is something we're very proud to continue today. Our veterinary centres host regular training sessions. Our clinical skills centre at the University of Rabat also helps vet students gain hands-on experience in working animal welfare.

1965

1970

SPANNA CENTRE OPENS IN MARRAKECH

In February 1970, we opened our animal health and welfare centre in Marrakech. Although we already had centres across Morocco, opening in Marrakech was special because there was great need in the area for a permanent centre. When the centre opened, it was the largest of its kind in North Africa and provided veterinary care for sick and injured working animals in Marrakech and surrounding towns and villages.



SPANNA'S CALECHE HORSE PROGRAMME STARTS

1988

Horses have played a significant role in the history of Morocco and have been used for centuries in Marrakech as a means of transportation. Horses pull caleches – carriages with retractable covers that protect passengers from the sun. Sadly, these horses often lived extremely difficult lives, with no access to veterinary treatment or care.

That's why, in 1988, we launched our caleche horse programme to support the welfare of the caleche horses who provide carriage rides to tourists in Marrakech. Run in partnership with the local authorities

and SOREC (Société Royale d'Encouragement du Cheval), our programme includes a licensing scheme in which all horses must have regular veterinary assessments and be passed as fit and healthy before they can work. In 2017, the programme was recognised by the Ministry of Tourism when we were awarded the Trophy for Sustainable Tourism.

Today, the programme also supports caleche horses in the cities of Aït Ourir, Essaouira and Taroudant, as well as camels in Marrakech and mules in Imlil in the High Atlas Mountains.

2023

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

On 8 September 2023, a 6.8-magnitude earthquake devastated communities in the High Atlas Mountains.

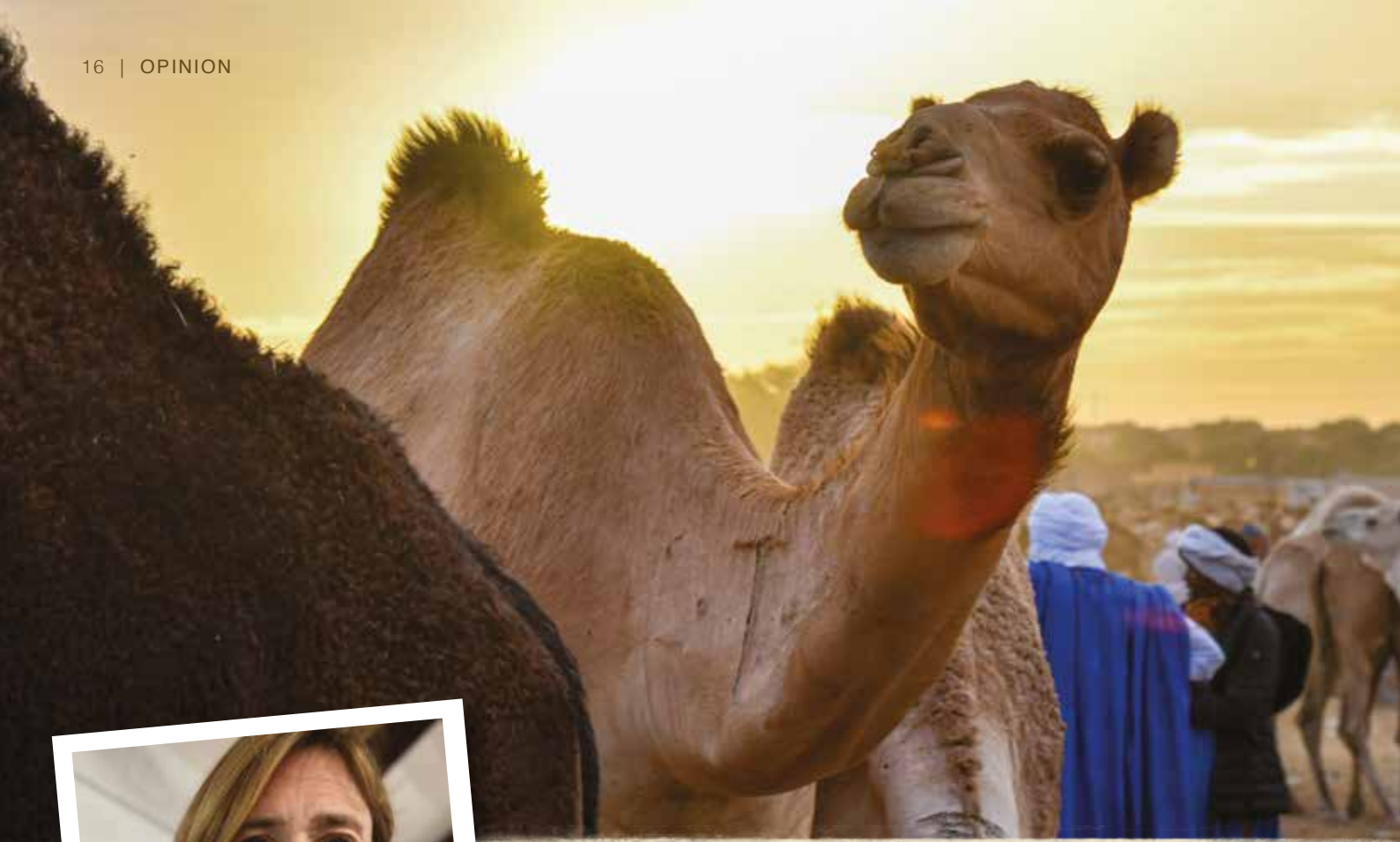
In the immediate aftermath, our Marrakech veterinary team headed to the epicentre to provide lifesaving veterinary treatment and care to working animals. Our team continues to visit affected communities regularly so that working animals receive the food, water and veterinary treatment they need.



SPANNA's century of work in Morocco is invaluable. We're helping working animals and the communities that depend on them, and we've contributed greatly to improving animal welfare in the country.

None of this would be possible without our amazing supporters.

Thank you for enabling us to continue this vital work.



Rebekah Sullivan, SPANA's Head of Animal Health and Welfare, on why One Health is so important for the welfare of working animals.

WORKING ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Animal, human and environmental health are interdependent. This is the basic tenet of the globally endorsed concept called One Health, which recognises that if the health of one of these areas suffers, the other two will also likely be impacted.

Sadly, people have historically exploited animals and the environment, while failing to appreciate this critical interdependency between them. The consequences of this exploitation and lack of understanding are severe. Human activities, such as deforestation, can have a profound effect on animals, who lose their shelter and food sources.

One Health was recognised at the highest level in 2022 when the United Nations Environment Assembly voted to adopt a resolution, known as the 'Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus'. The resolution was significant for SPANA as it recognises that by improving working animal welfare, we are supporting the environment and sustainable development.

One Health is vitally important for improving the welfare of working animals. At a global level, one of the most common examples of the approach in action is tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobials are medications that fight infections from micro-organisms, such as bacteria, viruses and fungi. If the micro-organisms develop resistance – for example, because of the overuse of antibiotics, leading to drug resistant bacteria – the antimicrobials used to treat diseases in animals and people become ineffective. This poses a

major problem worldwide and is already leading to animals and people dying from diseases that until recently, could have been treated by antimicrobials.

It's crucial that veterinary, public and environmental health professionals work together to reduce antimicrobial resistance. For example, at SPANA, our veterinary teams ensure that they only use the right antibiotics to treat diseases caused by bacteria, at the right dose and for the shortest possible time to prevent the bacteria developing resistance. In this way, we're treating animals while minimising any negative impacts on other animals, people and the environment.

In recent years, issues like antimicrobial resistance have forced many leading decision-making organisations to re-examine our relationship with nature. By working together on a One Health approach, organisations from different sectors, such as veterinary, public and environmental health, can detect, predict, prevent and combat One Health-related problems.

We've long pursued the One Health approach at SPANA. One Health is embedded in our strategy to significantly improve the welfare of

working animals in the long term. Our strategy is in line with the United Nations' resolution.

In everything we do, we 'do no harm' to the environment, people or the working animals we're here to support. Our aim is to pioneer new ways to inspire, educate, empower and collaborate, to ensure we respect our interdependency, with the ultimate focus of transforming working animal welfare.

We also work with key organisations, including the World Federation for Animals and the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE), to call for policy actions that focus on improving animal welfare and that follow the One Health approach.

We'll be talking a lot more about One Health, and how SPANA is transforming working animal welfare using the One Health approach, in future. Thank you so much for making this important work possible.





A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

Our goal to transform the lives of working animals is at the heart of everything we do at SPANA. It's our unwavering mission, and one we know is shared by many like-minded people across the world.

Right now, demand for our work has never been greater. Sadly, this need is expected to become even more acute in the years to come as the world struggles to cope with the deepening climate crisis, economic turmoil and civil unrest. That's why, as well as focusing on our immediate work, we need to prepare for the future so that our charity can take swift action and help working animals when they need us most.

This is one of the many reasons why we're so grateful to all our supporters who've chosen to leave a gift to SPANA in their Will. Gifts in Wills currently fund more than half of everything we do for working animals. By choosing to leave a gift to SPANA in your Will, you're helping us work towards a world where animals, people and the environment are respected and thrive.

Your gift could provide lifesaving medicines, preventative vaccines and vital veterinary equipment to help our vets treat sick and injured working animals. It could also help our vets, teachers and trainers inspire owners and children with the knowledge and skills they need to look after their animals.

Planning for the future can seem daunting, but including a gift to SPANA in your Will is straightforward. If you're

just starting your legacy journey and need some more information, are planning to leave a legacy gift to SPANA, or have already included SPANA in your Will, we're here to help.

You'll find more information in the box below. And on our website there's a simple guide, which is a great first step to learning how to include a gift to SPANA in your Will and the lifesaving difference your gift will make.

We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to every single one of our legacy pledgers for remembering SPANA and working animals in their Will.

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

- Call our friendly legacies team on 020 3855 0161
- Email giftsinwills@spana.org
- Visit spana.org/legacy
- 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've 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

IT'S TEATIME!

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



RECYCLE TO RAISE MONEY

With this copy of SPANA News, you'll find a special envelope for our recycling appeal. Pop in any old or unwanted jewellery, plus UK and foreign banknotes (even ones that are out of circulation, but no coins please), and the funds raised will make a big difference for working animals. **Did you know you can also recycle electronics and gadgets for SPANA?** Simply call us on 0207 831 3999 or email hello@spana.org to request a free sack and arrange a free collection when it's full or weighs 10kg. Your old stamps can also all be turned into valuable funds for working animals. **Please send your stamps to: SPANA, PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA.**

THANK YOU, JUDITH!

We'd like to give a big shout-out to our wonderful volunteer **Judith Webb**. Judith has been raising money for SPANA since the late 1990s by selling stamps and postcards. Judith's incredible efforts have raised over £10,000 for working animals. **If you have any used or new postcards you'd like to donate to raise more money for working animals, you can send them directly to Judith: Miss J Webb, 18 Hammonds Way, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3HF**

HATS OFF TO RUTH

Our brilliant supporter Ruth Harrison used her talents to make and sell fleece berets, scarves and cushions at a craft fair. Ruth, with help from her friend George, raised £60 for SPANA. **Thank you, Ruth! We're so grateful for your dedication to working animals.**



FEELING INSPIRED?

There are so many ways you can make a difference to working animals in need. Could you host a tea party, run a stall, or maybe you've got a novel idea to raise funds? If you'd like to join our fundraising community, call our friendly Community Fundraising team on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org



Become a Stable Sponsor and help working animals like Tawil

For a century, SPANA has been dedicated to improving the lives of working animals in Morocco. Today, hundreds of animals receive treatment daily at our busy stables.



When Tawil, meaning 'tall', arrived at our Chemaia stables, he was in a desperate state. The gentle horse was severely malnourished and suffering from internal parasites, leaving him weak and in constant discomfort.

Fortunately, our expert team were there to help. They administered essential deworming treatment and trimmed Tawil's painfully overgrown hooves. While he rested safely and enjoyed some nutritious feed and water, his owner received practical advice to support his long-term welfare.

Across the world, working animals are struggling due to the increasing impacts of climate change and economic hardship. Demand for SPANA's services is growing, and there is a constant need for veterinary supplies and food. We are committed to meeting this demand – but we need your help.

When you sponsor our stables from just £6 a month, you will be providing a safe haven for working animals like Tawil around the world, giving them the best chance – often the only chance – of receiving the vital care they desperately need.

Receive a personalised **Stable Sponsor** welcome folder and certificate, plus exclusive updates from our stables to see how your sponsorship is helping working animals around the world.

*Receive a special edition fridge magnet gift in your Stable Sponsor welcome pack, while stocks last.

**FREE
GIFT***



Could you support SPANA in this special way? To help working animals as a Stable Sponsor, visit our website, scan the QR code or call us on the number below. Thank you for your support.



Visit www.spana.org/stablesponsor
or call **020 7831 3999**

**SPANA**
Working animal welfare since 1923