



For the working animals of the world

NEWS

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SAVING LIVES DURING COVID-19

Treating animals
involved in
traffic accidents

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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.



You won't be surprised to hear that almost everything we've been doing since the last issue has been in response to the global Covid-19 crisis. The measures put in place by governments around the world to stop the spread of the virus are having severe economic consequences for working animal owners – some of the poorest people in the world – and as a result are causing untold suffering to these brave animals.

Working animals are no strangers to hardship. They work day in, day out, often in intense heat with poor equipment and very little rest. And when they become sick, they often can't get the treatment they need. Struggling at the best of times, they are now fighting for their very survival. Malnutrition, dehydration and abandonment are sadly all too common right now.

We know that you, like us, are committed to bringing about a better world for working animals. They need us now more than ever. It is no exaggeration to say that SPANA's support is the difference between life and death.

Our **special appeal**, on page six, is about abandonment, something we're seeing a lot as impoverished owners become simply unable to provide food for their animals. If you can, please think about donating to this appeal.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about how we've been helping animals through the crisis, thanks to your support. On page four we talk about the emergency feeding programme we have launched in many countries to feed some of the hardest hit working animals. On page eight we hear from Ben Sturgeon, our Director of Veterinary Programmes, about the worrying rise in road traffic accidents during the crisis and how we've been treating injured animals.

We are always grateful to our wonderful supporters, but right now your support is providing a real lifeline for the working animals of the world, so thank you.

Geoffrey Dennis

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If you'd like to receive regular updates about SPANA's work, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.spana.org.

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Registered charity no: 209015

In our Chemaia veterinary centre in Morocco, a member of staff takes the temperature of a local man who has brought his donkey in to be seen by our vets.

Although many restrictions have been put in place by the government to stop the spread of Covid-19, we have been able to stay open to provide emergency treatment to animals in need, with strict guidelines in place to protect the health of staff, owners and animals. These include social distancing, temperature checks, regular disinfecting and facemasks.

In this issue, you can read more about what your support has meant to working animals suffering as a result of this crisis.



TAKING ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS



SPANANA IN THE NEWS



As Covid-19 continues to spread across the world, many of the countries we work in have introduced strict lockdown measures to limit the spread of the virus. Unfortunately, this means that many of the poorest people in these countries – those who rely on working animals to survive – can no longer work.

Without an income, owners are struggling to feed their families and their animals. As a result, many animals are being let out to forage for food, where they risk eating rubbish and plastic or falling victim to road traffic accidents. Some are even being abandoned altogether.

At SPANA, we are committed to doing whatever we can to prevent animal suffering during this crisis. Thanks to your generosity this summer, we've been able to launch an emergency relief programme, funding food and water distribution to reach the animals most in need across five countries.

SPANANA Covid-19 emergency relief programme

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, we are providing emergency veterinary care, as well as food and water, to animals used to collect rubbish in the districts of Basona Werana and Debre Birhan, and working equids in Shashamene.

Mali

On the outskirts of Bamako, groups of women, among the most marginalised in this low-income country, earn a meagre living collecting and selling wood, charcoal and forest fruits with the help of their donkeys. These animals now increasingly face abandonment, so our emergency project is providing them with feed and supporting the women to care for them, meaning both will have a future once the crisis passes.

Mauritania

We are supporting a feeding programme for working animals in Rosso and Boghé, where our veterinary clinics are based. In addition to the impact of the pandemic, the area has been affected by a long period of drought, meaning food is extremely hard to come by.

Morocco

With many working animals close to the SPANA centre in Chemaia already facing malnutrition caused by a long and severe drought, the lockdown is having a catastrophic impact. Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide food and water to animals in the region.

Tanzania

Our project in Tanzania is reaching 900 working animals in three communities that are in desperate need of veterinary care, feed, water and shelter. We are rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing abandoned, undernourished, severely ill and wounded animals, as well as providing advice to owners on animal welfare.

A year to remember

We are pleased to report that, in 2019, SPANA provided more treatment, training and teaching than ever before. In the year prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 crisis, SPANA provided 388,702 working animals with vital veterinary care, trained 57,619 owners and local vets in animal care, and educated 76,898 children in animal welfare.

At time of writing, our financial figures are still being finalised and will be made available via our website. To find out more, visit spana.org.uk/ourfinances or email hello@spana.org.

The growth of our work last year was entirely due to the generosity of our donors. Thank you so much for making this possible.



A new partnership to tackle African horse sickness

Earlier this year, the first outbreak of African horse sickness was identified in the Asia-Pacific region for more than 50 years. This highly infectious disease can have death rates of over 90 per cent and there were concerns about it spreading from Thailand to neighbouring countries like Cambodia, home to 30,000 working ponies.

SPANANA and other members of the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE), teamed up with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and local partners to prevent this. Together we organised a series of webinars on protective measures and worked with remote communities to raise awareness about the disease and support practical prevention measures, such as covering stables with netting soaked in insecticide.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and we hope that, together, we can protect the working horses of South East Asia from this terrible disease.

Working animals suffering from collapse of tourism

Tourism is the lifeblood of the local economy in several places where we work. However, due to travel restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19, many countries have seen the tourist trade collapse completely, which is threatening the survival of working animals.

Calèche horses in Marrakech, which give carriage rides to tourists, suddenly have no one to take around the city. Similarly, in places such as Douz in Tunisia, 'the Gateway to the Sahara', there are no holidaymakers for the working camels of the area to take on tours of the desert.

Without tourists, these animals have no work, and without work many owners cannot afford to feed them. As a result, these poor animals are facing severe malnutrition, colic, parasites and other health problems.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to team up with SOREC, the industry body for horse breeding and training, and Alf Sahel, a feed manufacturer, to distribute feed to nearly 600 horse-drawn carriage horses in Marrakech and Aït Ourir in Morocco for two months. This has seen these desperate animals through extremely difficult times, but there is still much to be done to ensure more hardworking animals do not suffer as a result of the crisis.

HELP SAVE WORKING ANIMALS FACING ABANDONMENT

Working animals are being abandoned and left to suffer and die in record numbers this year, following the outbreak of the global coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis. With their income lost, many owners simply cannot afford to keep their animals and are abandoning them to fend for themselves.

Although accustomed to lives of hardship, thousands of loyal working animals are now facing even greater challenges as they are left to fight for their lives, defenceless and alone. Without emergency feed, lifesaving treatment and expert care, they have little hope of survival. You can help save working animals faced with abandonment today.

Khadija's story

In March 2020, Khadija the carthorse was spotted wandering around unattended near our SPANA centre in Marrakech, Morocco. The grey mare was struggling with lameness and unhealed wounds, and was visibly emaciated from lack of food in the empty streets.

On seeing Khadija, our veterinary staff were immediately concerned that she had been abandoned. Many

owners believe that if they cannot feed their animals, the kindest thing to do is release them to forage for themselves so, at the very least, they have a fighting chance of survival.

The SPANA team immediately came to her aid, carefully helping her into their truck to take her to the Marrakech centre for treatment. Once she arrived, the frail animal was gently coaxed out of the vehicle by the vet team. Khadija had a fresh, deep cut on her thigh, likely caused by a collision with a moving

vehicle or cart. To make things worse, her shoulders and chest were covered with painful sores – a sign that the cart harness used by her previous owner wasn't adequately padded.

Our expert vets got straight to work, cleaning her delicate skin and disinfecting the wounds to minimise any chance of infection. After fully assessing the situation, the vets decided that the mare would need stitches on her thigh. To calm Khadija, the vets administered a sedative and general anaesthetic so they could carefully suture the painful wound. Khadija was lucky to have escaped the ordeal without any broken bones or more long-term issues.

During her recovery, Khadija was given nutritious feed to help rebuild her strength, as well as antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to soothe her discomfort. She will now recuperate at the centre until she is rehomed with a responsible and compassionate owner chosen by a SPANA vet.

Thankfully Khadija will be found a good home, but for other abandoned animals the outlook is not so bright.



Khadija was found abandoned during lockdown, weak, emaciated and badly injured

SPECIAL APPEAL



An abandoned donkey searches for food in the streets in Tunisia. Working animals across Africa are struggling to survive the crisis alone

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here's how your support could make a difference:

£20 Nutritious food
This gift could feed a starving animal for two weeks, at a time when no other food is available, and help them recover from a severe lack of nutrients.

£60 Medicine supplies
This gift could pay for essential medicines for sick and injured working animals that are suffering as a result of abandonment, including vaccines, anti-parasite drugs, antibiotics and painkillers.

£150 Emergency surgery
This gift could provide emergency surgery for an abandoned animal like Khadija that's suffering with life threatening injuries caused by a traffic accident or animal attack.

Across Africa, our teams have seen a rise in traffic accident cases since lockdown measures have been put in place as more animals are roaming freely. You can read more about this on page eight.

Abandoned animals are being found and brought to our centres with sometimes life-threatening issues, such as colic caused by scavenging for food and eating inedible materials like plastic and rubbish. The spread of infectious disease and parasites has also increased due to animals gathering together and mixing where they normally wouldn't. One of the most notable issues has been the increasing number of animal attack cases, caused by stray dogs or abandoned equids attacking each other out of frustration and hunger.

'Every day, we're getting a lot of calls about abandoned animals. We are rescuing all that we can.'

**Morocco country director,
Dr Hassan Alyakine.**

Without our help, working animals will be left to fend for themselves with little hope of survival.

With your support, we can distribute emergency feed to owners so that they can take care of their animals, helping to prevent abandonment in the first place. We can continue to reach abandoned donkeys, horses and camels that are in desperate need of vital treatment and emergency surgery, and protect them from the deadly threats they face. During this time, we are also taking all appropriate measures to provide extra accommodation and rehome animals where we can.

Animals like Khadija are at risk of dying, isolated and distressed, and we urgently need help to stop this from happening. **Please, if you can, send a donation today** so working animals faced with abandonment can survive this crisis.

Thank you.

To make a donation, please use the donation form enclosed, call 0300 033 4999 or visit our appeal page at www.spana.org/abandonment



Once Khadija recovers she will be found a new home, but other abandoned animals still urgently need our help

TREATING ANIMALS INVOLVED IN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Working animals are facing severe challenges due to coronavirus, such as malnutrition, dehydration and lack of access to veterinary care. Sadly, we are also seeing a worrying rise in animals involved in traffic accidents.

As you know, many animals are being let out to forage for themselves as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Being left to wander freely means many of these donkeys, horses and camels will stray close to roads and be at risk of traffic accidents.

During the pandemic, we have still been able to provide emergency care to animals in serious need at our veterinary centres, and many of them have seen a big increase in the number of animals injured in road accidents.

These accidents have devastating consequences, if they are not immediately fatal. Those that survive usually need multiple complicated procedures. Bandaging and casting fractures, wound dressings, supportive antibiotics and analgesics, and prolonged stabling rest are often the very minimum. Even in these cases, it will be a long road to recovery.

Some animals will require more complicated operations due to injuries sustained to their vital organs. Sadly, although we provide immediate care and do whatever



we can to save these vulnerable animals, the nature of their injuries means some of them don't make it. This is just one of many heartbreaking effects the Covid-19

pandemic is having on the world's working animals. But, thanks to your kind support we are doing everything we can to be there for them when they need us most.



Dr Ben Sturgeon, Director of Veterinary Programmes at SPANA, tells us why more animals are being involved in traffic accidents and what we're doing to treat them

INVESTING IN EDUCATION IN MAURITANIA

In March, just before the coronavirus crisis became a global issue, I took a trip to Mauritania to see the great work our education team is doing there.

Upon landing in Nouakchott, the capital city, we were met by Bebaha Hmeiditt, our Country Director, who informed us that the first case of Covid-19 had been confirmed in Mauritania that morning. The government acted swiftly to lock down the country, closing schools and border crossings. There was a strong possibility that the airport would be closed in the coming days and it quickly became clear that we would have to change our plans.

We realised it wouldn't be safe to visit classrooms, so we stayed to have some meetings and then went back to London, getting a flight only hours before the airport closed. While I was extremely disappointed not to see it in action, I am incredibly proud of the work the team there has done to expand the education programme since my last visit.

This progress is the result of a concerted push to strengthen our teaching in the country. We realised that by taking on a second Humane Education Officer, we had much more capacity to not only teach children ourselves, but also train



others to do so. Our two brilliant teachers, Amadou Bah and Ahmed Abdelwedoud, now train and support teachers in local schools to deliver the curriculum themselves.

Since getting a new mobile classroom we can now cover the whole of the greater Nouakchott area, meaning we no longer have to wait for the children to come to us, we can go to them. This has allowed

us to increase the number of children we reach by around 800 per cent.

The Mauritanian team is quite rightly proud of these achievements and keen to build on them in the coming years, expanding into other parts of the country. This is a real good news story for working animals, ensuring generations of children in Mauritania will grow up as caring and compassionate owners.



Dr Stephen Albone, Director of Education Programmes at SPANA reports back on a brief visit to Mauritania where our education programme has come on leaps and bounds

Since we started working in Ethiopia back in 2002, we have been able to make a major difference to the lives of the country's working animals.

SPANA OPERATIONS

With over 12 million working animals used in agriculture and for transporting food, water and people across rugged, mountainous terrain, working animals are the backbone of life in Ethiopia.

We have one very busy veterinary centre in Bishoftu and two mobile clinics, treating a combined 11,000 animals each year and reaching many more through our community training programme. The main problems for animals we encounter are wounds, lameness, respiratory disease and a fungal infection called epizootic lymphangitis (EzL) that can be fatal.

Our education project in Ethiopia is one of our largest. We have three classrooms and an education centre, as well as a growing network of after-school animal clubs, through which we reach over 7,500 children a year with the message of care and compassion towards animals.

PROFILE

ETHIOPIA

We also have a clinical skills centre in Addis Ababa, which allows us to train the next generation of Ethiopia's veterinary professionals.



ETHIOPIA AT A GLANCE

Population: 105 million
Area: 1.13 million km²
Location: Horn of Africa
Capital city: Addis Ababa
Estimated number of working equines and camels: 12.2 million

PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Teferi Abebe, SPANA Ethiopia Country Director



What particular challenges do working animals face in Ethiopia?

Though they are the breadwinners and the main method of transport for the majority of Ethiopians, their importance is overlooked.

Working animals carry heavy loads, work long hours and are often only fed leftovers. There is often no shelter for them and they are left out to graze in the blazing heat, and when they get sick, their owners often don't know to get them treatment in time.

What has changed in the past few years and what are you most proud of about the work you and your team have done in Ethiopia?

In 2019, we opened the first equine hospital in the country at our Bishoftu centre, which we are very proud of. We have also expanded out of urban areas to cover more parts of the country. This has meant we reach more working animals, especially more donkeys, as we

were mostly treating horses and mules before. We are also hopeful of partnering with a local NGO in the east of the country, where camels are the main working animal.

How is the Covid-19 pandemic affecting the working animals of Ethiopia?

Their owners' income has been seriously reduced, which means no feed and treatment for many animals. Our mobile clinics aren't allowed to travel, meaning animals in more remote places won't be able to get treatment, and our animal welfare clubs can't run due to school closures. The national economy is also significantly reduced and the little money budgeted to help working animals is likely to go to other areas.

How are you coping with these challenges?

We are providing emergency treatment in our centres which are thankfully still open, and we are extremely grateful for the emergency feeding programme SPANA has launched. We are also looking at ways to reach children using educational TV shows while the schools are closed. This is a great opportunity for SPANA to reach more children, and even parents, than before.

CASE FILE

Ebo gets his breath back



'If I didn't have Ebo, there would simply be no life.' Birtukuan

Our mobile clinic based in Bishoftu was called out to a small farm to see Ebo, a two-year old donkey who was struggling with his breathing. The poor animal was making worrying noises as he breathed and had discharge coming from his nose. His owner, Birtukuan, also explained that he was becoming increasingly lethargic and depressed.

Birtukuan, who is 25, lives on the farm with her husband and five small children. Ebo helps them harvest hay and transports goods and water. The family are totally reliant on this young donkey's hard work. Birtukuan said, *'If I didn't have Ebo, there would simply be no life.'*

When the vets arrived they carefully examined Ebo and found that his lymph nodes were enlarged and his breathing was very fast. They also listened carefully to the sounds the weary animal was making and became concerned that he might have fluid in his lungs.

The vets suspected that Ebo's symptoms were the result of a respiratory infection, even though he didn't have a temperature. They gave him anti-inflammatories to soothe any swelling and gave Birtukuan a course of antibiotics to give her donkey. They also advised her to keep Ebo away from other donkeys to stop the disease from spreading.

Thankfully, the antibiotics worked well and within a few weeks Ebo's breathing was back to normal and he was recovering his strength.

SPANNA AROUND THE WORLD

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

INDIA

In Rajasthan, India, a nine-year-old camel, Radu, was brought to see SPANA vets because he hadn't been eating well for almost three weeks. Radu had been off his food and had a high temperature, and his owner, Ramkishan, had started to worry for his beloved camel.

Radu supports Ramkishan by giving rides to tourists and transporting building materials for local construction projects. He works hard to provide for Ramkishan and his family. When Ramkishan phoned SPANA, our vets advised him to bring Radu in right away so they could examine him.

When Radu arrived at the clinic, the vets gave him vitamin B12 probiotics and a special Himalayan powder – a safe and beneficial local remedy that camel owners love – to further ease his symptoms. They suspected the cause of Radu's illness was a parasite called trypanosomiasis, which is a common problem for camels in this part of the world. In order to kill the parasite, they gave Radu an anti-parasite injection.

Shortly after this treatment, Radu's temperature started to go down, and the vets explained to Ramkishan how to care for him until he had fully recovered. Ramkishan told us,

'My camel is very important to me. The clinic is very useful, it provides a good service so I am very grateful and happy that it's available.'



RADU RECOVERS HIS APPETITE

TUNISIA

Our mobile clinic in Kasserine was called out to a small farm 80km away to see a four-year-old horse called Midou. His owner, Mohamed, became worried when he noticed Midou was limping on his front and rear right legs. Midou helps around the farm, so Mohamed was devastated when he realised his horse was suffering.

When the SPANA vets arrived they inspected Midou's wounds and the way he was limping. They realised that the lesions had been caused by sharp pieces of metal in his wire hobble. This not only caused a painful limp, but if left untreated the wounds could worsen and lead to a dangerous infection and fever.

The vets got straight to work cleaning and disinfecting Midou's wounds, before applying an anti-inflammatory cream and bandages to stop any dirt getting into them. They then advised Mohamed to let Midou rest until his injuries had healed and told him not to use the hobble again.

Mohamed was extremely grateful for the vets travelling such a long way to help his horse. He even said SPANA provides animals with better care than people in the local hospital!



MOBILE CLINIC GETS MIDOU BACK ON HIS FEET

In April, Mabrouk, a two-year-old male donkey with a large wound in the nasal region, was admitted to the SPANA centre in Casablanca. Thankfully, the centre has been able to stay open to treat emergency cases, despite the lockdown rules put in place by the government.

Mabrouk had sustained the wound following a bite from a neighbour's donkey. Since lockdown, Mabrouk's owner hadn't been able to work and had no income, so he was forced to let his precious donkey out to graze. Sadly, the severe lack of food and animals being allowed to roam has led to fights among animals – another sad consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mabrouk was admitted to the centre and the vets got to work treating his injury. They first cleaned and disinfected the wound, before administering a local anaesthetic to relieve his pain and stitching the wound back together.

Mabrouk was kept in the centre for a few days, during which his wound healed well, and he was soon allowed to return home.



MOROCCO

MABROUK IS NURSED BACK TO HEALTH

Meet one of our vet volunteers

Alice Whittle, one of our recent vet volunteers, tells us about her placement at the SPANA centre in Morocco and what it taught her.

Q: What made you want to become a vet?

A: As a child, I always wanted to be a vet because I loved animals. I spent most of my holidays at my grandmother's in Wales, chasing after geese, chickens and sheep.

Then, when I was a teenager, I met an inspirational lady called Margaret Williams who became my mentor. She showed me the exciting life of a vet in rural Wales – she had such a passion for improving animals' lives and serving the local community.

Q: How did you hear about the SPANA volunteering opportunity in Morocco?

A: I have been aware of SPANA since being at university, where one of the veterinary programme advisors did a talk for us. I was inspired by the role, which seemed to combine being an animal welfare advocate with international travel, and I knew I wanted to start in mixed practice and work towards a role in international veterinary development, so it seemed ideal.

Q: How did you find the experience?

A: My experience was very positive, although seeing animals suffering was difficult. The work was very practical and hands-on. I improved many clinical skills, including carrying out physical examinations, therapeutic skills, anaesthesia and wound management. It also provided opportunities to collaborate with other vets, technicians, visiting vets and students. Overall, it was a great insight into working equines and the work SPANA does.

Q: What kinds of cases did you see and treat?

A: I saw a variety of cases that differed hugely to what you might experience in the UK. There were a number of cases of colic caused by animals eating rubbish and plastic. Wounds were also a serious problem, mostly from pulling heavy loads when working. Thankfully, the clinic gives working animals a safe space to heal and get some well-deserved rest! I also saw a case of tetanus in a donkey, a bacterial disease that equines are at risk of in the UK, but that we rarely see due to vaccination.

Straight after treatment, he became more interested in food, which was a good sign, and a week later he was moving better and could turn his neck. He was on the road to recovery!

Q: What did you learn from the placement?

A: I learnt the importance of treating the animals of people that otherwise could not afford veterinary care. The vast majority of problems are preventable, so training local communities is so important in the long term. I also realised that animal welfare charities must fight to alleviate poverty, because people living in poverty don't have many choices – if they are struggling to look after themselves, how can they care for their animals?

Q: Would you recommend the experience to other aspiring vets?

A: Definitely! And go before you take on a full-time job; free time is rare once you are in practice. As well as developing clinical skills and a hands-on approach to learning, you meet people from different cultures and develop the 'soft skills' you need as a vet.

Q: Did the experience change what you want to do as a vet, or where you want to work?

A: It made me feel lucky to be in such a diverse and caring profession, and to have an animal health system in this country that strives to improve animal welfare and health. I would love to share this privilege with others that have more difficult lives, and to be in a role where animal welfare takes centre stage, but one that also goes towards improving human lives and the environment as well.

I'm hoping to do more volunteering with SPANA, maybe in Botswana next time and to go on a mission to Malawi to help train animal health workers and be part of a new vet school.

The donkey with tetanus that Alice helped nurse back to health



Vet volunteer scheme

Our vet volunteer scheme allows recently graduated vets from the UK and other countries to undertake a placement helping us with our work in Morocco. SPANA benefits greatly from their skills and time, while the volunteers gain valuable clinical experience and an insight into veterinary care in other countries. We also hope these placements help to highlight the plight of working animals abroad.





A MOMENT OF TRULY UNPRECEDENTED NEED

SPANA Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis, on how we're coming to terms with the Covid-19 crisis

It's safe to say the Covid-19 crisis is by far the most serious situation I have encountered in my time at SPANA, with consequences that could last for years to come. The impact of the emergency lockdown measures on working animals really can't be overstated. Animals who struggle at the best of times are fighting for their very survival right now, facing abandonment, malnutrition, dehydration, traffic accidents and deadly conditions such as colic as a result of eating plastic out of hunger and desperation.

We're doing everything we can to ensure that working animals don't suffer as a result of this crisis. Our veterinary centres remain open to treat emergency cases, though our mobile services have been greatly reduced. Wherever possible, we're working with government veterinary agencies to ensure animals in more remote locations get the help they so desperately need. We're also continuing to support all of our partnerships with other organisations.

I'm extremely pleased that we've been able to set up our emergency feeding programmes, which will go some way to ameliorating the effects of the lockdown in the short term.

I am keeping in extremely close contact with our country offices to ensure we're aware of the situation on the ground and we're doing everything we can to help working animals in their time of need.

Many of the countries we work in are still in lockdown, though some, such as Mauritania, are starting to open up somewhat. However, the economic effects of the crisis are likely to last for years to come, and the fact that Mauritania is currently experiencing a prolonged drought is a stark reminder that, even beyond Covid-19, the challenges working animals face are very serious.

At a time when companies and whole industries are suffering, we are extremely grateful for the loyalty of our supporters. It is only thanks to your kindness, compassion and generosity that we have been able to keep going and provide emergency support to the working animals of the world. To everyone who has donated to our Covid-19 crisis appeal, thank you. It will mean the difference between life and death for many of these poor animals.

This crisis also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the sustainability of our projects. In the last issue I talked about the value of community training projects. At times like this, when we are unable to

reach remote communities as we would like, projects that embed knowledge and responsibility in the community are more important than ever in ensuring working animals have people who will stand up for their welfare. In Ethiopia, the local community are taking over ownership of the emergency water programme we set up. Through making and selling goods and asking for very small donations from beneficiaries, they are able to keep their wells running sustainably.

The crisis should also make all of us reflect on the role of animals in human welfare. Hopefully, an increased focus on the movement of animals and animal products around the world might generate more global attention for the devastating donkey skin trade, which has cruelly taken the lives of so many working donkeys across Africa.

I wish I was writing this in better circumstances, but I am confident that, together, we can navigate the current crisis and ensure working animals don't bear the brunt of it. And we must hope that the world that emerges on the other side will be a more caring and compassionate one.



LEAVING A GIFT OF HOPE

Amari the donkey supports these two boys who were born into poverty and hardship in Ethiopia. But luckily for all of them, we can offer hope for a better, kinder future.

Every gift you have so generously given to SPANA has helped bring care and compassion to more working animals in need. Through our network of centres and mobile veterinary clinics, SPANA is treating hundreds of thousands of animals and teaching their owners to better care for their animals. This is an incredible achievement, and it wouldn't be possible without you, but clearly we have a long way to go.

For the journey ahead, we need the very special support that gifts in Wills provide. Without gifts in Wills, our income and ability to reach suffering animals would drop dramatically. Year after year, they fund around half of all our work – which I'm sure you'll agree is a staggering and incredibly moving demonstration of love for working animals. By including a gift in your Will, you can help ensure SPANA's work never ends.

Including a gift to SPANA in your Will costs nothing now, but it can make a huge difference to the future of working animals – animals like Amari, who works tirelessly to support these two small boys. If you are planning on writing or updating your Will any time soon, could you consider including a gift to SPANA?

Our free guide to leaving a gift in your Will to SPANA includes a handy questions and answers booklet that addresses some of the questions you may have about leaving a legacy to SPANA. If you'd like to receive a copy in the post, please use the tick box on the bottom of the enclosed donation form. If you prefer, you can always download it from our website at www.spana.org/legacy or request a copy by emailing giftsinwills@spana.org

If you have recently included a gift to SPANA in your Will or you intend to, could you please let us know? We'd love the chance to say 'thank you' and keep you up to date with what your gift could do in the future.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

KNIT ONE, STEP ONE

Many supporters got creative during the lockdown and became Home Heroes for their favourite charities and causes.

Home Hero Captain Tom's 100th birthday fundraiser for the NHS inspired one of our longstanding supporters. As Frances Hardwick's 85th birthday approached, she decided to do whatever she could to raise much-needed funds for SPANA. Frances came up with the idea of completing 13,000 steps during her hour of exercise around her garden, and then followed this by knitting 13,000 stitches!

SPANA is very close to Frances' heart, and we think she is amazing. When we shared her story on our Facebook page, more than a thousand of our followers joined in to wish Frances a very happy birthday and congratulate her on her achievement. She told us that it made it the most memorable birthday she had ever had!

Family and friends shared her fundraising page and supportive donors contributed over £500. We are honoured to have such a wonderful Home Hero.

Frances Hardwick, we salute you!



TOUGH MUDDER

Long-time supporter Bob Mudd decided to run a total of 72km around his village during June to raise funds and awareness for SPANA.

Bob ran every day, no matter the weather, proudly sporting his SPANA running vest. He became quite a regular sight in his Somerset village and has hopefully raised our profile in that part of the country.

Thank you so much, Bob!



GIVING FROM YOUR LIVING ROOM

Did you know you can shop online at your favourite retailers while earning money for working animals in need?

Sign up to AmazonSmile at www.smile.amazon.co.uk and you can shop for the same products, at the same prices, but SPANA will receive a donation of 0.5 per cent of each purchase you make. There are also other schemes that work in similar ways, such as Give As You Live (www.giveasyoulive.com), Easy Fundraising (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and eBay (www.charity.ebay.co.uk/SPANA).

Happy shopping!

smile.amazon.co.uk

[ebay](http://ebay.com)

Help working animals while you shop



By shopping with Happy Hooves, not only can you enjoy treating yourself and your loved ones, you will be making a vital difference to animals' lives in the process.

Our brand new Happy Hooves gift collection has been inspired by the countries where we work and by the animals our vets meet every day. From fantastic cards and stationery, to our brand new Fairtrade bath range, there is something special for everyone.

Our collection includes handmade and locally produced gifts, as well as biodegradable and 100 per cent recyclable packaging. All paper and palm oil used in our products is responsibly-sourced, and our delicious range of sweet treats includes plenty of palm-free and vegan options.

100 per cent of profits raised through our shop will go towards helping working animals in desperate need.



Moroccan Rose Soap and Bath Bomb

£4.50 each



Vegan Fruit and Nut Chocolate Square

3 for £12



Tunisian Bowl

£8



Gardeners' Hand Balm

£6.50



Christmas Cards

from £4



Donkey Cuddly Toy

£8



Vegan Turkish Delight

£6



Resting Rita Ornament

£14

Order early to receive your gifts in time for Christmas

Every measure is in place to ensure your gifts reach you as soon as possible whilst keeping our staff safe. Please be aware that our phone lines may be extra busy as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and deliveries could be subject to delay.

Call us on 0330 332 2530 or email hello@spana.org to request a catalogue, or browse our full range at www.spana.org/shop

