



NEWS

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WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of showing SPANA ambassador Ann Widdecombe our work in Mauritania, West Africa. Ann has been a fantastic supporter of SPANA for a number of years and her help in raising awareness in the media has been invaluable. On page 14, you can read about Ann's experiences in the country, which relies heavily on working donkeys and horses.



In our special appeal this issue, on page six, we would like to ask for your help to tackle one of the main causes of malnutrition among horses and donkeys in developing countries – poor dental care. Unlike ours, the teeth of equines keep growing throughout their lives. Without attention, overgrown teeth can lead to painful cuts in the mouth, infections and other problems that can make it agonising and sometimes impossible for animals to eat. But, with your kind support, we can give animals the regular dental care they need and put a stop to unnecessary suffering.

On page 10, you can find out more about one of our newest permanent programmes – in Botswana, southern Africa. In this sparsely populated country, where villages are so spread out and isolated, people in the poorest communities depend more than most on working horses and donkeys to transport the essential things they need to survive. The SPANA Botswana team are used to life on the road and no distance is too great to reach the animals that need our help.

Sunday, 11 November this year will mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. On Armistice Day, we will pause and remember the people and animals who lost their lives. On page 16, we reflect on the immense contribution made by horses, mules, camels and other animals during the war – an indispensable role that for too long has been overlooked.

Thank you as always for your support,

Geoffrey Dennis

Geoffrey Dennis Chief Executive

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Registered charity no: 209015



HIGH STAKES

In the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, working mules are a lifeline for local communities.

In this remote and rocky environment, where there are few roads or vehicles, mules provide the only form of transportation along the steep mountain passes.

These animals carry everything from food, water and hay to people and construction materials. Without their sure-footed companions, people would struggle to survive here.

The mules support their owners in the villages that are perched on the hillsides. And, thankfully, in turn, help is on hand for them.

The SPANA mobile clinic regularly visits Imlil and the surrounding areas. The vet team gives regular check-ups to the mules, providing treatment where it is needed. They ensure that the animals remain in good health and offer advice to their owners.

Another vital service they carry out for the animals is farriery – particularly important when the paths they must walk are so narrow and treacherous. When so much relies on their footsteps, it's critical that the hooves of these mules are in top condition.

SPANANA IN THE NEWS



Saving animals in drought-stricken Turkana

Thousands of animals in Turkana, Kenya, now have access to fresh, clean water following SPANA's major emergency project.

For several years, the vast, remote region of Turkana has suffered from severe drought, with poor or failed rains causing water sources to dry up. Thousands of animals have perished as a result.

However, thanks to your generous support of SPANA's urgent appeal, the charity has funded the construction of a 110-metre deep solar-powered borehole in Turkana, providing a reliable supply of water for animals and the rural communities that rely on them.

In a single day, following the completion of the borehole, more than 7,000 animals accessed the site for water, including donkeys, camels, goats and cattle.

7,000

number of animals that accessed the borehole for water in a single day

The borehole will be managed by a water committee, with members elected from nearby villages.

Drought will inevitably strike this region again, but now this sustainable water supply will help prevent catastrophes from occurring, ensuring the survival of animals and local people in the years ahead.

Singer Joss Stone tours SPANA Mauritania

Soul superstar Joss Stone recently visited SPANA's centre in Nouakchott, Mauritania, during her world tour. Animal lover Joss learnt about the work carried out by the team and saw a number of animals receiving treatment. Joss previously spent a day at the SPANA centre in Casablanca on the Moroccan leg of her tour in 2014.



Tackling the donkey skins trade in Zimbabwe

SPANANA recently organised and co-hosted an educational workshop in Zimbabwe to raise awareness of the devastating global trade in donkey skins.

The conference, which was jointly funded by SPANA, The Donkey Sanctuary and another organisation, was attended by more than 60 village chiefs, local community leaders and government officials in the city of Bulawayo.

It focused on a range of subjects, from the root cause of the trade – demand for an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine called 'ejiao' – to the economic

impact of the trade and the serious concerns for donkey welfare.

SPANANA Zimbabwe Country Director Dr Keith Dutlow and veterinarian Dr Erick Mutizhe were among the key speakers at the event.

Zimbabwe does not currently permit the slaughter of donkeys, although there have previously been applications to open a donkey abattoir in Bulawayo.

Thank you to everyone who supported the special appeal in the spring issue of SPANA News. Your kind donations are helping SPANA to fight this brutal trade and protect more donkeys.

Diana remembered

A new memorial plaque has been unveiled in Zimbabwe to commemorate the life of Diana Hulme, who served as SPANA's Education Director for 27 years.

Diana, who was the wife of SPANA's former Chief Executive Jeremy Hulme, led the charity's education programme for almost three decades until her retirement with Jeremy in 2016. Tragically, Diana passed away last year, following a short illness.

The humane education centre in Zimbabwe was chosen as the location for the plaque, as its completion and opening was Diana's final project before she retired.

Geoffrey Dennis, Chief Executive of SPANA, said:



'Through her work, Diana transformed the lives of countless children and animals. The memorial plaque is a tribute to her lasting legacy and the enormous contribution she made. The education centre in Zimbabwe is just one of her massive achievements and it is so fitting that the plaque is situated where it is – at the heart of the classroom, surrounded by thousands of children every year.'



DENTAL CARE

Hundreds of thousands of horses, donkeys and mules across the developing world face malnutrition. The root cause? Poor dental care.

Overgrown teeth can rapidly cause serious issues for working equids. Painful cuts in the mouth, dental disease, and the spread of infection make every waking hour miserable. Already vulnerable, the physical condition of these animals can quickly deteriorate.

If you've ever had any dental problems, you will know how excruciating and debilitating it can be. Teeth in equids – particularly the elderly – require regular expert care to prevent common dental issues that can lead to malnutrition.

Sharp dental overgrowths cause lacerations to the cheeks and the tongue, making chewing awkward and painful. Partially chewed forage falls out of the mouth before the hungry animal can swallow it, while food trapped between the teeth causes painful pockets of infection – often leading to agonising periodontal disease.

20-year-old mule Sandy was brought to our centre in a terrible state; she was emaciated with a grapefruit-sized swelling on her cheek that had ruptured. Her shoulders were covered in wounds where her harness had rubbed against her skin and protruding bones.

The elderly mule had been abandoned at a market, where vendors like 18-year-old Mustafa buy fruit and vegetables to sell at the local souks. Mustafa couldn't ignore the mule's poor condition; she looked disturbed and dejected, and desperately needed someone to pay attention to her.

Aware of SPANA, Mustafa brought her to our centre in Marrakech, Morocco, accompanied by his 10-year-old neighbour, Yassim, who likes animals and wanted to help.

Sandy was carefully examined by vet technician, Samir, who identified



Sandy arrived at the Marrakech centre weak and emaciated



Two weeks after treatment, Sandy had put on weight and the infected tooth and cheek was healing well

a dental issue as being the primary cause of her fragile condition. Her awkward attempts to eat with overgrown teeth had caused a wedge of food to become lodged in her gum. An infection had developed and worked its way out through the mule's cheek, causing an abscess that had started to burst.

The mule was sedated and the tract in her cheek was drained of pus to help clean out the infection. The tooth was extracted and the socket was packed with an iodine-soaked gauze that would be replaced every four days during her two-week stay in the stables.

Sandy was given a course of antibiotics to treat the infection, and the rest of her teeth were carefully rasped down to enable her to chew and feed comfortably.

Cases like these are sadly a common occurrence, particularly in elderly working animals. They have little hope of getting the essential care they need to avoid everyday pain, and face serious complications such as infection and malnutrition. With your support, we can provide our teams with the vital equipment needed to maintain healthy teeth in working animals, and reach many more like Sandy that desperately need treatment.



Without the kindness and compassion of Mustafa and Yassim, Sandy would have had little hope of survival

HERE'S HOW YOUR SUPPORT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE:



£20

could feed a malnourished animal in recovery for a two-week period, enabling them to restore a healthier weight.



£64

could pay for essential teeth rasping for five working animals, preventing issues such as painful cuts in the mouth, tooth infection and inability to chew food.



£150

could go towards the cost of a tooth extraction procedure for an animal like Sandy, relieving them of excruciating pain and saving them from malnutrition.

To make a donation please use the form enclosed, call 0300 033 4999, or visit us at www.spana.org/dentalcare.

EZL: A SERIOUS CARTHORSE PROBLEM IN ETHIOPIA

Ask most people and they have probably never heard of epizootic lymphangitis, or EZL.

But, this highly contagious disease is one of the biggest threats facing horses, as well as donkeys and mules, in Ethiopia and the surrounding region.

EZL is caused by a fungus, which enters through a horse's skin and leads to painful, infected nodules which, when they rupture, turn into ulcerating lesions. These spread through the lymphatic system and affect mostly the animal's neck, legs, chest and face.

Although the disease itself doesn't normally have a high mortality, untreated animals with chronic and severe disease can be in so much pain that they can no longer work for their owners and can be abandoned to suffer – and sometimes die – alone.

SPANA sees most cases of EZL in Ethiopia, where there is a large prevalence amongst carthorse populations, and last year alone we treated 1,261 animals for the disease. It can be spread through

1,261

the number of EZL cases treated by SPANA in Ethiopia last year

direct contact by horses, as well as by flies and infected equipment. Sites such as markets, where many animals gather, are particularly risky for contracting and spreading the disease, making its control extremely difficult.

The SPANA Ethiopia team found that over 85 per cent of carthorse owners recognise EZL as the main health problem affecting their horses.

The extremely painful lesions resulting from EZL mean animals are often unable to work. Therefore, it not only has a major impact on the animals' health and wellbeing, but it also has significant consequences for the families that rely on them.

Treatment of EZL is vital to prevent further spreading, but it can be very challenging. SPANA treats most of the early cases by opening and disinfecting the nodules, along with providing oral potassium iodide treatment. Specific antifungal drugs

can sometimes be effective, but are often unavailable or unaffordable in countries like Ethiopia. Strict hygiene measures and controlling animal movement, as well as disinfecting premises and equipment, are



Mathilde Merridale-Punter, Veterinary Programme Advisor, on a disease that is posing a deadly threat to equines

also extremely important in trying to control this disease.

Thanks to your support for our recent EZL appeal, SPANA has been acting to control the spread of the disease. In addition to treating working animals suffering from EZL, we have also employed preventative and early identification strategies in order to give the animals their best chance against the disease.

SPANA has also been working for a long time to educate owners about EZL, providing community training and workshops.

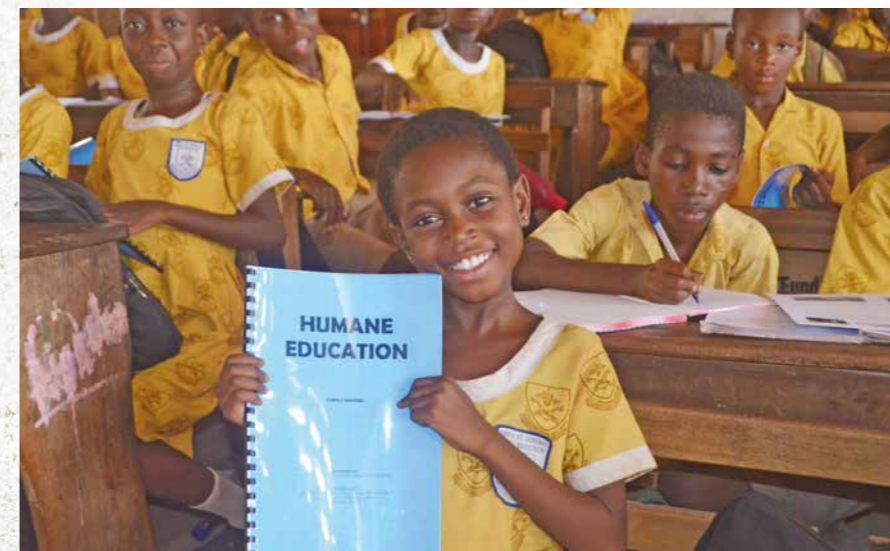
EZL is still a very prevalent and serious issue, and there is a great deal of work to do to bring about an end to this disease. But, thanks to your support, SPANA has started to make great advances in the successful treatment of EZL.



ANIMAL KINDNESS CLUBS IN GHANA

'I promise to be kind to all animals, to speak and act in their defence and to protect the environment' is the pledge enthusiastically recited by the members of animal kindness clubs in Ghana.

SPANA has been working closely with the Ghana Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (GSPCA) to fund animal kindness clubs in schools. Based in the capital city, Accra, the clubs teach the children about the importance of treating animals with compassion, as well as basic care for donkeys and other animals. The aim of the programme is to improve animal welfare by promoting positive attitudes and enabling children to make informed, humane choices in their interactions with animals.



Around 600 children, aged between nine and 14, have been taught about the need to provide animals with nutritious food, clean water, and safe and comfortable shelter. They learn to be gentle when handling their pets and livestock, and to seek medical help when animals are sick or injured.

14-year-old club member Grace Darko Essi said: *'I thought all animals could take care of themselves. Now I know we have to make sure animals are treated well. I have learnt that animals have a clinic to help them when they are sick. I would now like to become a veterinarian when I am older.'*

Donkeys play a vital role in many poorer communities in Ghana. Donkey carts are usually the most affordable form of transport and many people would struggle to get to market without them.



Dr Stephen Albone, Director of Education Programmes, talks about SPANA's outreach programme in West Africa

However, the need for animal welfare education is considerable. Animals are often neglected and many people do not value donkeys. The phrase 'are you a donkey?' is a common insult.

Thankfully, the animal kindness clubs are having a major impact that spreads way beyond the classroom. Inspired by the GSPCA coordinator, Aluizah Amasab – affectionately nicknamed 'the donkeys' friend' locally – the children are empowered to act as animal welfare ambassadors in their communities and are encouraging people from all generations to treat animals with care and respect.

The progress in the areas in which the clubs operate has been dramatic and it's clear that education is key in bringing about long term, lasting change. SPANA is now planning to expand into the northern region of Ghana, where communities rely most heavily on working animals. The kindness is spreading and, by reaching children, we are helping to ensure a happier future for animals in the years to come.

600

the number of children in Ghana who have been taught about animal kindness

PROFILE BOTSWANA

SPANA OPERATIONS

SPANA launched a permanent programme in Botswana in 2015. The team is based in the northern town of Maun, which is home to more than 24,000 donkeys and is known locally as 'Donkey Town'. Unfortunately, due to their abundance, donkeys tend to be considered 'low-status' animals.

Working donkeys and horses are used for transportation and are integral to the survival of people in rural communities. However, private veterinary services are out of reach for all but the wealthier residents. The veterinary care offered by the SPANA team is vital therefore. As well as addressing welfare issues, treatment is provided for a wide range of problems, such as harness wounds, fractures, dental and ocular conditions.

In 2019, SPANA will also be launching a new education programme. A newly appointed Education Officer will oversee after-school clubs that will teach local children about animal welfare and transform attitudes towards animals.

In this sparsely populated country, the SPANA team must cover large distances in remote, rural areas to reach working animals in need

- One mobile veterinary clinic, based out of Maun in the rural north
- 2,061 veterinary treatments provided to working horses and donkeys in 2017
- Humane, padded equipment is produced and distributed to animal owners



BOTSWANA AT A GLANCE

Population: 2,250,260
Area: 581,730 km²
Location: Southern Africa
Capital city: Gaborone
Estimated working animal population: 176,626 donkeys and horses



CASE STUDY

BOTSWANA

A lucky escape

'I worry about Tshete when he goes away to graze. There are many risks, but thanks to SPANA he is safe.'
Gobusamang

PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A Pippa Young, SPANA Botswana Country Director



Can you tell us about your background?

I've been a veterinary nurse for 25 years and have been with SPANA since 2014. I'm a farmer's daughter who grew up knowing nothing else but the love of animals. Back in 2009, I started volunteering for the local animal welfare charity in Maun and I never looked back!

How important are working animals in Botswana?

Working animals are hugely important in the lives of pastoralist tribes and people in rural areas. In the North-West District, the average family lives on \$1 per day (£0.78) and has no power or running water. The draught power of donkeys is therefore vital for collecting firewood from the bush and water from the river.

The purchase of a car costs the equivalent of around £1,500, so it's impossible for most people here – and

the nearest petrol station can be 50km away!

What are your main goals for the year ahead?

Along with establishing the new education programme, we're hoping to build a new SPANA Botswana centre that will include stables for hospitalisation and treatments, plus a teaching room.

Are you optimistic about the future for working animals in Botswana?

We have come a long way in a short period of time and we are now recognised by the owners, local chiefs, community leaders and the government. Owners are thankful that the health of their horses and donkeys has improved.

We have now been invited by the Ministry of Agriculture to help update Botswana's Animal Welfare Act, which is very positive news. We're also tackling the appalling donkey skins trade, including educating people about its impact on the donkeys, their owners, the environment and the economy.

In rural Botswana, wild animals are a threat to working donkeys, which regularly roam for large distances to graze. Leopards and hyenas are among the predators posing a risk to donkeys and attacks are not uncommon.

In Maun, the SPANA team received an urgent call from 63-year-old farmer Gobusamang Borowa.

His donkey, Tshete, had been drinking water from the river when he was attacked by a crocodile. Tshete sustained wounds to his hip and thighs but, very luckily, he managed to get away.

The team cleaned the wounds and applied antiseptic cream to stop them getting infected. They then dressed the wounds and gave Gobusamang a course of antibiotics for his donkey.

The recovery was expected to take around three months, during which time the team would visit regularly to check up on Tshete. As the donkey would not be able to go far to graze, they advised Gobusamang on the best food to give him.

Gobusamang, who relies on his donkey to help him collect firewood, said: *'I worry about Tshete when he goes away to graze. There are many risks, but thanks to SPANA he is safe.'*

SPANANA AROUND THE WORLD

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

ETHIOPIA



HELP ON HAND FOR A SICK FOAL

In Tebase, Ethiopia, a young foal was brought to the SPANA mobile clinic by his owner Kassaham Wossen.

Kassaham was worried that the foal, named Degu, was coughing and breathing very heavily. He had lost weight and appeared weak.

SPANANA vet Dr Hanna immediately inspected Degu, who stayed close to his mother throughout the visit. On account of his weight loss and respiratory difficulties, the signs suggested that a parasite was the likely cause of the problem. All the symptoms pointed to 'Parascaris equorum' infection – or equine roundworm – which generally affects foals under 12 months old.

The worms lay eggs in the intestines of infected animals and the larvae then travel into the lungs, which often leads to coughing. If untreated, the parasites can have

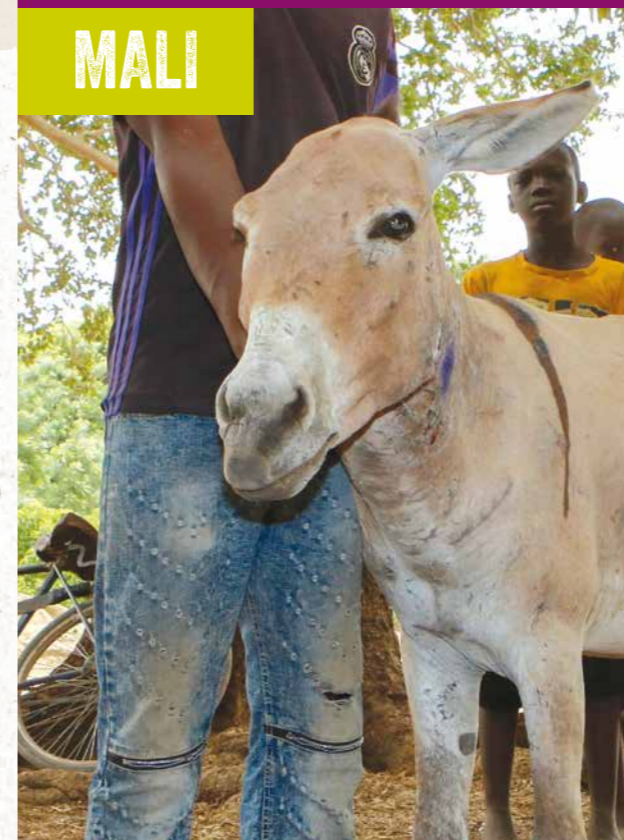
very harmful consequences for foals, such as slow growth, blockage of the intestines and colic. In the worst cases, infections can be fatal.

The team instantly took action to help Degu. Dr Hanna administered anti-parasitic medication to combat the worms. They then treated Degu's mother, as the horse was also showing signs of a heavy worm burden. The parasites can be easily spread between horses, as the eggs are contained in the faeces of infected animals, which can contaminate grass and water.

Thankfully, Degu's condition improved significantly over the next few weeks and he seemed far brighter and started putting on weight again.

Kassaham said: 'It is always bad when our animals are sick, but even worse when they are young and not strong. Thank you for helping this little one.'

MALI



A TAIL WITH A HAPPY ENDING

The SPANA Mali team recently encountered a donkey with a wounded tail during a mobile clinic visit to Sina, a village 35km outside the capital city, Bamako.

Eight-year-old donkey Baba was brought to the clinic by his owner, Drissa Doumbia. Drissa told the team that Baba had been badly bitten by another male donkey.

Although donkeys are sociable animals that like having companions, male donkeys can become territorial and aggressive with each other if they are grouped together close to a female, particularly during the breeding season.

SPANANA vets gave Baba a full examination and inspected his tail. They shaved the area around the wounds and thoroughly cleaned them. To treat and prevent infection, they then applied an antiseptic spray.

The team advised Drissa to be careful about putting Baba close to large groups of male donkeys around females, where fighting can occur.

Drissa relies on Baba to transport food and construction materials by cart, helping him to earn a small income. Drissa said: 'I thank SPANA very much – they help us a lot. My donkey is very important and he helps me live.'

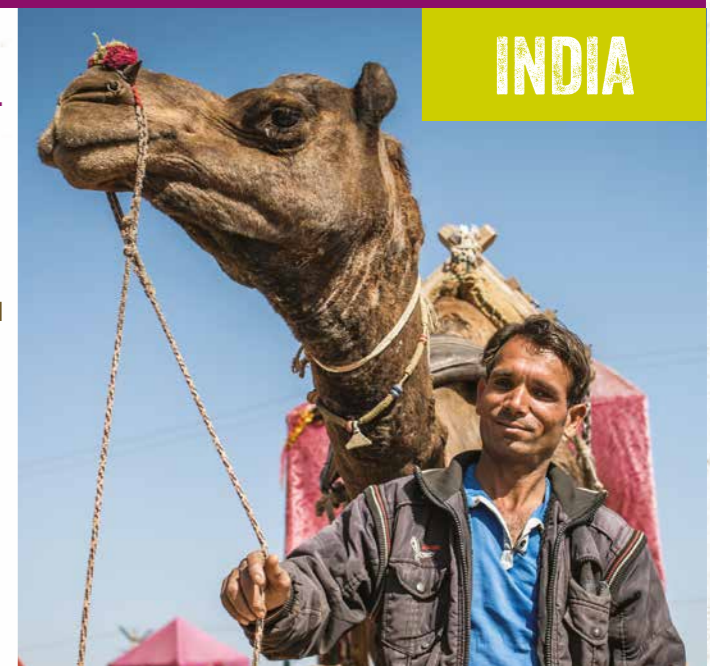
Across India, camels are being affected by infestations of a mite just half a millimetre in length.

Mange, a contagious condition that can be passed between camels and humans, initially causes severe itchiness, hair loss, and skin lesions. Left untreated, it can result in a range of problems, such as a drop in body weight and low milk production, as camels spend excessive time scratching themselves with their teeth or against trees to relieve the itchiness.

This was the condition troubling Hira, a fully-grown camel brought to the mobile clinic at Pushkar in Rajasthan by his owner, 28-year-old Durga. The clinic is funded by SPANA and run by partner organisation, Help in Suffering.

The vet team inspected the camel and disinfected several open wounds that had been caused by Hira scratching his lesions in distress. Following this, they treated the mange with an injection of ivermectin – an anti-parasitic drug – and applied some creams to the more severe lesions to protect them and promote healing.

INDIA



RELIEF FOR CAMEL ITCHING FOR HELP

Durga, who uses Hira for both tourist rides and transporting vegetables to market, was grateful for SPANA's help. He said: 'I give lots of thanks to you because you treated my camel, and it lives. May God bless everyone who supports this clinic.'

THE DONKEYS THAT NEED OUR HELP

**SPANA AMBASSADOR ANN WIDDECOMBE
REPORTS ON HER VISIT TO MAURITANIA
TO SEE THE CHARITY'S WORK**

Earlier this year, I visited Mauritania to see the work of SPANA first-hand, accompanied by Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis. Mauritania is one of the world's poorest countries, located in the Sahara, with only 0.5 per cent of its land deemed arable.

The nearest source of water is the Senegal River which is 300 kilometres from the capital Nouakchott, home to about a million people.

The water is piped there but then stops. It is not piped to the numerous small dwellings and buildings, so the water is carted round the entire capital by donkey.

And that is why I went. There are 400,000 working donkeys and horses in Mauritania, little animal welfare law and massive ignorance.

Owners hit their donkeys under the illusion it will make them go faster. The resulting wounds fester, attract flies and turn sceptic. When the donkey is halted the cart bangs into its rear, causing the same effects.

Many animals are lame, because their hooves have been neglected, or are half-starved and yet are expected to work 10 to 12 hours a day in high

temperatures. Ironically they can be carrying water for hours but are not given any.

I am proud to be an ambassador of SPANA, which is helping these hardworking animals. Last year in Mauritania alone the charity gave out 35,000 free veterinary treatments ranging from dealing with a single wound to hospitalising a donkey for a couple of weeks.

We make a deal with the owners: they get free treatment for their animals but they must listen to us tell them how to avoid similar problems.

It works. It is simple enough, for instance, to prevent the cart bashing into the donkey when it stops by stringing rope or strong material across the front of the cart so it hits that rather than the donkey – a system designed by SPANA.

As we drove along we saw this method being employed by owners and, although it is a long way from universal, a few years ago one would not have seen the practice at all. Similarly, we teach them not to hit the animal and demonstrate the proper care of hooves.

In this part of the world the fate of the animals is bound up with that of humans. A man whose donkey cannot work cannot himself earn a living

and a happy, healthy donkey can literally save him and his family from starving.

Meanwhile the diet on which the animals live is not good. Many eat cardboard and anything else that their questing mouths can locate.

It was observing this that gave me a rare moment of light relief when we decided to buy a huge stack of carrots and give the poor creatures a treat at the next day's clinic.

Many of the horses I saw were being kept in because they had colic and in too many cases their ribs were sticking out. Again, SPANA vets and assistants can explain to their owners what precautions need to be taken.

Education is vital and SPANA has quite a programme of school visits so children grow up knowing that animal welfare is important both in terms of economics and humanity. The children love visiting the clinics and each year hundreds of them benefit from this programme.

It was an exhausting but rewarding trip. The temperature reached 40 degrees and the roads were pitted and full of potholes, sometimes running out altogether and leaving us bumping along sand as we visited a clinic at Rosso, 300 kilometres away near the Senegal River.

Here were many elderly horses because there are no visa restrictions between the two countries, so when Senegal's horses are past working they are often dumped in Mauritania.

The average life expectancy in Mauritania is 63 and people – like their animals – work till they drop. Those who begrudge them aid should visit them and tell them so to their face.

Worldwide there are 200 million working animals – donkeys, horses, camels and elephants – supporting the livelihoods of up to a billion people so the task facing the charity is huge.

I am pleased and proud to support the multi-faceted work of this wonderful organisation: its clinics, veterinary outreach, education, community training and liaison with governments.

This is an abridged version of an article that first appeared in the Daily Express in March 2018.



35,000
veterinary treatments delivered
by SPANA last year in
Mauritania alone

ANIMALS IN WAR

Ahead of Armistice Day, SPANA Chief Executive, Geoffrey Dennis, reflects on the incalculable contribution made by animals during the First World War.

11 November 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. At this time, ceremonies will take place around the world commemorating the men, women and children who lost their lives during this horrifying conflict. We should never forget this loss and sacrifice.

However, it's also incredibly important that we remember the millions of animals that perished during the Great War – and in human conflicts throughout history. These animals had no choice, but paid the ultimate price.

In 1914, Britain was a nation that relied on workhorses – animals that ploughed our fields, pulled our carts, and kept us moving forwards. They were deeply woven into the fabric of daily life up and down the country. But this all changed with the outbreak of war.

For the war effort, horses were requisitioned in great numbers – rounded up from cities, towns and villages. Over a million horses and mules were in service in the British Army alone during the First World War. Tragically, only 62,000 returned.

The contribution of these horses, mules, camels and other animals during the war simply cannot be overstated.

On the Western Front, everything depended on their 'horsepower'. Amid the chaos of the trenches, wreckage and thick mud, no trucks or vehicles could pass. Teams of horses and mules were vital for transporting ammunition, messages, food rations and supplies. They hauled guns, pulled ambulances and brought back the wounded on stretchers. And cavalry horses often led the charge on the front line.

They faced unimaginable horrors – the violent noise of bursting shells and machine gun fire, bright flashes, punishing winters, dreadful wounds and sores.

One of the most enduring and haunting images from the novel and play *War Horse* is of Joey the horse trapped and entangled on barbed wire, stranded in no man's land.

62,000

horses and mules returned from the war from the one million in service

The suffering would have been even worse if it were not for the recently-formed Army Veterinary Corps, which gained the Royal prefix in 1918 due to its extraordinary efforts 'in mitigating animal suffering'. This was the first war in which a trained veterinary service existed, with vet officers in each brigade responsible for treating wounded animals and sending more serious cases to hospital by ambulance.

Over the course of the war, more than 2.5 million horses and mules were treated in veterinary hospitals in France. The impact of the Army Veterinary Corps is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that Germany lost four horses to every one from the British side.

The role of other animals during the First World War should not be overlooked either. For instance, during the British Army's desert campaign in Sinai and Palestine, camels played a decisive role in securing victory thanks to their hardiness and endurance. 50,000 transport camels carrying supplies – most crucially water tanks – and mounted camel regiments (including the renowned Imperial Camel Corps) formed part of the largest and best organised camel force the world has seen.



A wounded mule's leg is bandaged at a veterinary hospital in France, 1918

Images © Crown Copyright. IWM

It's also worth highlighting the immensely close bonds that grew between the soldier and his horse during the war – almost certainly strengthened by the appalling bloodshed all around and their dependence on each other.

As we stop to remember the people and animals that suffered and died a century ago, we must not forget that animals are still innocent victims in brutal conflicts across the world today. In recent years, SPANA has worked in war zones – from Kosovo and Iraq to Afghanistan – to assist animals in severe distress. It is, of course, dreadfully sad that terrible suffering like this is not a distant memory, consigned to history. But while there are animals in desperate need, SPANA will always strive to help. And thanks to your kind and loyal support, we will continue to be there for them.

A LEGACY OF KINDNESS

Videos, interactive displays, games and singing capture the attention of schoolchildren visiting SPANA's Wild about Animals exhibition in Zimbabwe. Inside our humane education centre, Herminah Simoyi teaches, guides and inspires the children to learn about the relationship between humans and animals and our duty of care towards all animals.

Herminah is a teacher and graduate of SPANA's International Certificate of Humane Education course. She says: *'I love working with children and it's wonderful to watch them engage in the activities and feel their excitement as they discuss with one another. The questions they ask show they are comparing what they have been doing before to what they have discovered and learned at the centre.'*

Since the centre opened in November 2016, it has proved incredibly popular, with visits by over 21,000 schoolchildren in just 20 months. Teaching children to be kind to animals has always been a core objective of SPANA's work and we are currently the only organisation teaching humane education in Zimbabwe. But as Herminah says, *'This is just the beginning of a public awareness revolution on animal welfare in Zimbabwe. I see this centre as the first of many similar projects in other locations – especially where there are a lot of working animals living side by side with children. Together with an increased availability of treatment for animals, more teachers being trained to deliver humane education in schools would mean a reduction in animal suffering.'*



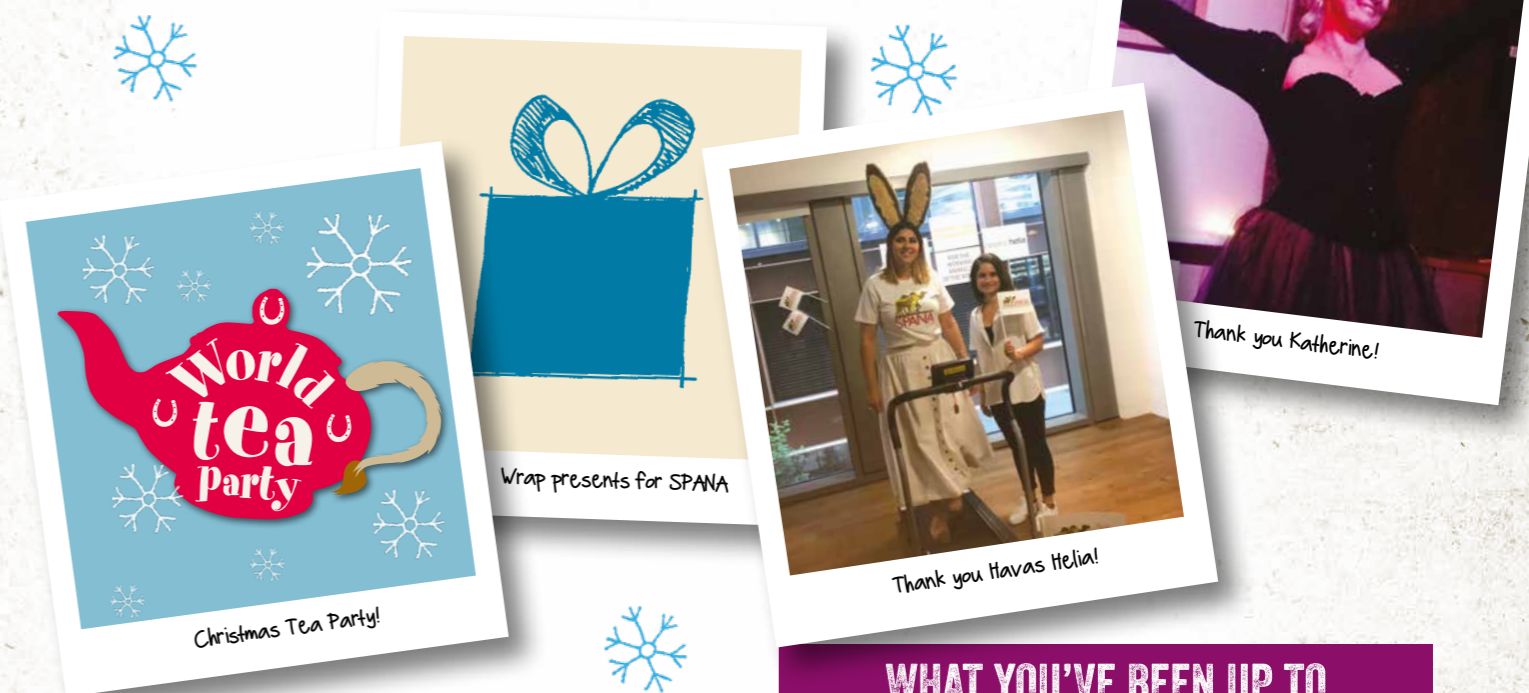
The creation of the centre and exhibition was Diana Hulme's last project for SPANA when she was Director of Education and it's a wonderful tribute and fitting legacy to her passion for education, children and animals. Could you help us build on Diana's legacy with a gift in your Will?

A gift in your Will would help us turn our plans for more humane education into a reality. It could help increase the reach of our free veterinary work, helping working animals with no access to treatment. Together, we can significantly reduce animal suffering and make a lasting difference.

To request a copy of our free legacies guide or to let us know your intentions, please use the tick boxes on the bottom of the enclosed donation form. If you prefer, you are welcome to ring Penny in our legacy team for an informal chat on 020 7831 3999 or email her at giftsinwills@spana.org.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

The days are getting shorter and Christmas is on the horizon. As such we wanted to provide some fundraising suggestions for the festive season. It's the perfect time of year to embrace a new challenge or activity you may not have considered before to raise funds for SPANA. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Christmas Tea Party – Get your friends together and treat them to a festive tea party with mulled wine and mince pies a-plenty! You can use our SPANA World Tea Party pack as a starter kit to get you going and let everyone know what you have planned.

Wrap presents for SPANA – Offer up your present wrapping services to friends and family over Christmas in return for a donation to SPANA. The requests should come flooding in!

Christmas quiz – Have a friendly pub landlord in your local area? Ask if you can use some space to host your friends for a festive-themed quiz. It's a great way to raise funds and awareness for SPANA, while bringing people together in celebration.

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO

Take a look at some of the wonderful events and challenges our supporters have organised for us so far in 2018:

Emily Harden took on a personal challenge and went vegan in January to complete 'Veganuary' and raise **£256.62!**

Katherine Glasson has raised over **£300** so far this year from her cabaret events, and more than **£1,800** in total for SPANA.

Company Havas Helia organised their 'Step for SPANA' on International Working Animal Day 2018, walking a collective **40,000 steps** on the treadmill to raise awareness of the distance working animals typically cover every day.

The London Fundraising Group and SPANA staff have organised station collections this year in central London, raising **over £900** so far, with another collection due to take place before the end of the year.

Feeling inspired? Please call on 020 7831 3999 or email events@spana.org to discuss how you can support us, or visit our website to take a look at other ways you can get involved: www.spana.org/events.

Help working animals while you shop

HAPPY
HOOVES

2018
GIFTS

Find your festive inspiration in the Happy Hooves shop! Browse our exciting new range of luxurious sweet treats, creative stocking-fillers, and thoughtful gift ideas for the whole family. This includes our new collection of Gifts of Health and Happiness, where you can make a personal contribution towards the care and comfort of working animals in need. All proceeds will go towards easing the pain and suffering of working animals.



Donkey Drops 
Camel Humps 

Gift codes: M18DD, M18CH

£4



£10

Farm Tin with Puzzle
and Jelly Beans 

Gift code: M18FTP



£18

Luxury Personalised Crackers

Gift code: M18LC



£10

Westie
Shortbread Tin 

Gift code: M18NS



£4

Christmas Card Two-pack

Pack of 10

Gift code: M18DCF

Elephant Pot

Gift code: M18EPP

Moroccan Rose Candle 

Gift code: M18CT



£14



£9

Christmas Card Two-pack

Pack of 10

Gift code: M18DCF

FREE!
SPANA 2019
Calendar
with orders
over £40*



To view the whole range of gifts, please visit and order online at

www.happyhooves.org

Or call 0330 332 2530

*Terms and conditions: receive a SPANA pen with orders over £25 or a SPANA 2019 calendar with orders over £40. Free gifts are subject to availability and may vary from those listed. Maximum of one free gift per order. While supplies last. Offer only applies to purchases of merchandise. Gifts of Health and Happiness are excluded from this offer. For full terms and conditions please visit www.happyhooves.org/terms-and-conditions.


SPAN
For the working animals of the world