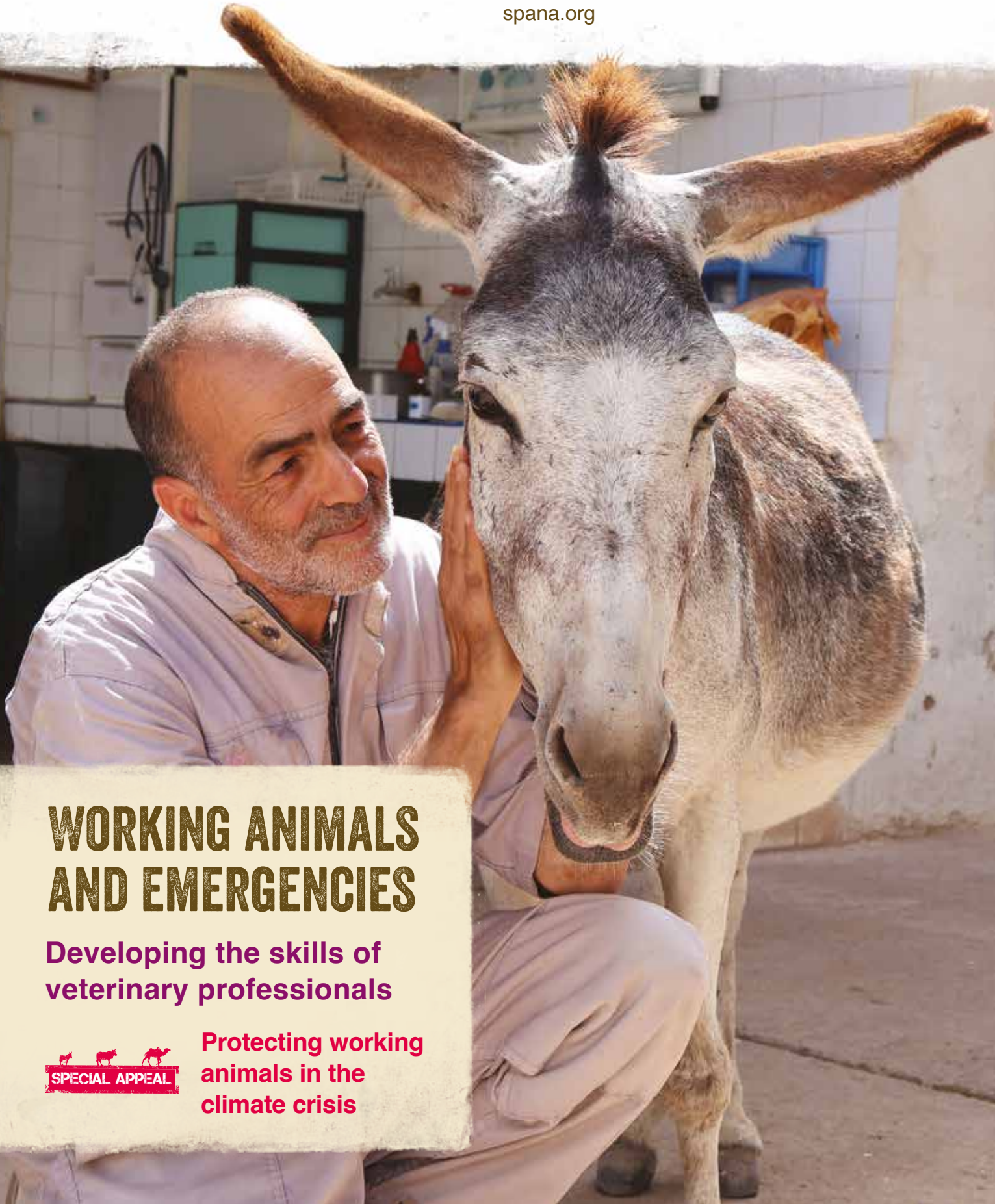




NEWS

spana.org



WORKING ANIMALS AND EMERGENCIES

Developing the skills of
veterinary professionals



Protecting working
animals in the
climate crisis

3 Protecting Africa's hardworking donkeys

4 Making headlines: All the latest news from SPANA

6 **Special appeal: Protecting working animals in the climate crisis**



8 SPANA in action: We work where they work

9 Education: Inspirational animal welfare stories

10 **SPANA up close: Ethiopia**



12 SPANA around the world: Meet some of the animals you're helping

14 In focus: Sharing our expertise

16 **Opinion: Working animals and emergencies**



18 Your SPANA: How you can help working animals worldwide



WELCOME

to the latest issue of SPANA News.

At SPANA, we know that working animals are the unsung heroes of countless communities – key to daily life, yet too often invisible and undervalued. With your steadfast support, we're determined to change that. Every day, we work to ensure they're not just recognised, but respected and protected.

I'm delighted that, building on the momentum of some landmark achievements for animal welfare in 2024 (see page five), the past few months have delivered yet more victories for working animals.

In May, the World Health Organization took a historic step by agreeing to include animals in global pandemic strategies for the first time. This is a monumental milestone for both animal welfare and global health. It ensures that working animals will never again be an afterthought in pandemic planning – but instead acknowledged as essential to global prevention strategies.

Then, in the summer, at the Pan-African Donkey Conference, leaders from across the continent reaffirmed their commitment to enforcing the ban on the devastating donkey skin trade (see page three). Our Director in Mali, Dr Amadou Doumbia, represented SPANA and was energised by the commitment and determination shown to protect Africa's donkeys from this cruel and brutal trade.

The climate crisis is another major threat to working animal welfare. Our **special appeal** on page six tells the story of Chetak, a five-year-old horse from India, who was suffering from severe health issues exacerbated by the country's increasingly volatile weather. Thankfully, Action for Protection of Wild Animals, one of our local partners in India, ensured Chetak received the essential treatment he needed to make a full recovery.

While veterinary care saves lives, prevention is just as critical. That's why we're working hand in hand with communities in India – and across the globe – to develop practical contingency plans that safeguard working animals and their owners before, during and after disasters strike. If you can, please donate to help shield working animals from the worsening impacts of the climate crisis. You can also find out more about our disaster preparedness work on page 16.

I'm deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment and support to working animals. Every achievement you'll read about in this issue has only been possible because of your generosity and compassion. I hope you take pride in seeing the extraordinary difference you make.

Linda Edwards
Chief Executive, SPANA

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

Telephone: 020 7831 3999

Email: hello@spana.org

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

Find us at www.spana.org

f www.facebook.com/spanacharity | **i** www.instagram.com/spanacharity

Registered charity no: 209015. Registered address: SPANA, 2nd Floor, 55 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7JW

PROTECTING AFRICA'S HARDWORKING DONKEYS



In 2024, countries across Africa united to protect working donkeys

and the livelihoods of their owners by announcing a continent-wide ban against the devastating donkey skin trade.

In recent years, millions of donkeys have been slaughtered for their skins to support the demand for ejiao, a traditional Chinese medicine product. SPANA has been campaigning for a donkey skin trade ban for many years. Now the ban is in place, we're working alongside our partners to support the implementation of the ban.

We're delighted to let you know that in the summer, African Member State leaders and key policy decision makers attended the Pan-African Donkey Conference (PADCo), in Côte d'Ivoire. At this important meeting, delegates reaffirmed their commitment to enforcing the

continent-wide ban by formally endorsing a declaration to preserve Africa's donkeys.

Dr Amadou Doumbia, SPANA's Country Director for Mali, represented SPANA at PADCo. He said: *'The mass slaughter of donkeys for their skins is dismantling a centuries-old human-animal partnership that underpins livelihoods across rural Africa. These animals are not expendable – they're essential for transporting water, people and goods, but their value is not limited to their labour. Donkeys deserve protection not just because of what they do, but because of what they are – sentient beings worthy of respect and compassion.'*

'PADCo brought together diverse voices from across the continent for open and constructive dialogue. What emerged was a clear and collective determination from all stakeholders to implement the Africa-wide donkey skin ban. We welcome the strong commitment shown by African leaders to the strategy to safeguard the species and protect the livelihoods of millions of people.'

SPANANA IN THE NEWS



SPANANA gears up for World Animal Day

Join us in celebrating World Animal Day on Saturday 4 October.

World Animal Day was established 100 years ago to raise the profile of animals and improve welfare standards around the globe. This year's theme is 'Save animals, save the planet': a celebration of the connection between animal welfare and the health of our planet.

As the voice for working animals, we'll be highlighting the interconnection between animals, people and the environment. A clear example of this is the climate crisis, which affects the environment and, in turn, impacts animals and people alike. This approach, known as One Health, is vital to improving the welfare of working animals because the health of animals, people and the environment are all connected and all three must thrive together.

World Animal Day follows our successful International Working Animal Day, held annually on 15 June. SPANA founded the day in 2016 to highlight the vital role played by working donkeys, horses, mules, camels and oxen across the world, and to ensure they receive the care and respect they deserve.

This International Working Animal Day, we raised awareness of the global water crisis and the devastating toll it's taking on working animals. Without access to drinking water, working animals can suffer from issues such as dehydration, colic and even organ failure. At SPANA, we believe that working animals deserve access to safe, clean water. They're essential to the daily lives and livelihoods of so many communities, and we're working to ensure their role and their needs aren't forgotten.

To mark the day, Jim Broadbent, actor and SPANA Ambassador, wrote an article for the Independent about his family ties to our co-founder Nina Hosali and his trip to see our work in Morocco. Many of our celebrity supporters, including Deborah Meaden and celebrity vets James Greenwood and Marc Abraham, also signed an open letter to world leaders, urging governments worldwide to prioritise inclusive water services that meet the needs of all animals and the people who depend on them.

Thank you so much to all the kind supporters who donated to our emergency appeal to help working animals suffering due to an extreme drought in Kenya, and for sharing our posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Look out for our World Animal Day activities on our website and on our social media channels.

Making a difference for working animals

Nearly half a million working animals were helped by SPANA and our local partners in 2024, thanks to the continued kindness of our supporters.

In 2024, our global teams worked relentlessly across 22 countries and three continents to reach 486,746 working animals, providing 735,397 veterinary treatments. Through our relaunched education programme, we helped further develop the animal care knowledge and skills of 117,212 owners and 112,690 schoolchildren.

It was also a milestone year for working animal welfare. Significant achievements included the African Union's historic decision to ban the devastating donkey skin trade across the continent and the United Nations' recognition of the role of working animals in disaster relief, in line with its Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Linda Edwards, SPANA's Chief Executive, said: *'During 2024, there continued to be great need for SPANA's work. Everything SPANA achieved for working animal welfare in 2024 was only possible because of the*

continued kindness and compassion of our supporters. I offer my heartfelt thanks to every single one of you. Together, we are working towards a world where every working animal lives a healthy and valued life. Thank you so much for your continued support.'

Find out more about the positive impact SPANA made on working animal welfare during 2024 by reading our Annual Review 2024–25 at spana.org/publications



Ambulance for working buffalo in India

Hardworking water buffalo in rural India now have access to emergency professional veterinary care thanks to a specialist animal ambulance service.

The service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the Ukhrul region of Manipur, a state in northeast India. It was launched in February this year by SPANA's local partner, the Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD).

In Manipur, working water buffalo are invaluable for many communities. They're used to pull carts, plough fields and work in rice paddies. Many families also rely on their milk for sustenance and their dung for fertiliser and fuel.

With SPANA's support, the ISRD successfully lobbied the local government to launch the service. If an owner is concerned about the health of their water buffalo, they can call a dedicated freephone number. In the first three months of 2025, the ISRD was able to reach 342 working buffalo in need.

Ms Loidang, from ISRD, said: *'Veterinary treatment for working animals is available in the district vet facility, but many working animals at village level are too far away to access treatment and care facilities. Since February, as part of this SPANA initiative, our emergency ambulance service can reach remote villages with proper treatment and care for working animals. Thank you so much for making this possible.'*

Find out more about our mobile clinics on page eight.



PROTECTING WORKING ANIMALS IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate disasters are striking harder and faster than ever – and working animals are on the front line. Droughts, floods and cyclones are happening more often and are devastating grazing land, water sources and shelters. As a result, many animals face dehydration, starvation, injury and disease. Without proper preparation and support, the lives of working animals and the communities who rely on them are at great risk. Please help protect working animals affected by the climate crisis today.



Supporting Odisha's working animals and livestock with emergency feed, clean water, medicine and shelter through our trusted local partner.



In Odisha, India, working animals receive emergency feed and vital treatment to help them survive climate-related disaster. Through our partnership with APOWA, we are improving community resilience, raising awareness and providing care, which is significantly reducing animal suffering and casualties. Your support helps more animals and communities stay protected.

Chetak's story

In the bustling city of Cuttack, in the eastern state of Odisha, India, five-year-old Chetak works tirelessly as a 'gharry' (or taxi) horse, ferrying passengers and their cargo through the busy streets. His days are long – seven hours carrying heavy loads and navigating through challenging hilly, coastal terrain in the tropical heat. When the opportunity arises, Chetak also pulls a special carriage, known as a 'baggi', during wedding ceremonies and social functions, helping his owner, Akram, to earn a small but vital income for his family.

Recently, however, Akram noticed something was wrong. Chetak had been refusing his food, and he was coughing and struggling to breathe, growing progressively weaker after each day's work. Concerned for his loyal companion's health, Akram took him to the local mobile clinic, run by SPANA in partnership with Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA), hoping to ease his horse's suffering.

At the clinic, the veterinary team began by conducting a thorough examination of Chetak's overall health and carefully recording his symptoms. They checked his pulse, took his temperature, listened to his lung sounds with a stethoscope, and closely observed his condition. It was clear that Chetak was extremely unwell – he had a high fever and his breathing was rapid and shallow.

The vets diagnosed Chetak with pneumonia. Chetak's thatched mud shed, or 'kuccha', had a leak, which exposed it to the unforgiving elements. Odisha's strong winds and heavy rain left the shelter damp and unsanitary. Dust and dirt in his shelter likely aggravated the horse's lung inflammation and made breathing incredibly difficult. The intense monsoon season had also made access to food scarce, and Chetak was left severely malnourished with a weakened immune system.



Chetak's poor-quality shelter worsened his pneumonia risk, leaving him extremely vulnerable. Without urgent treatment, he would have likely faced a harrowing death. You can help put working animals like Chetak on a path to recovery and better health.

Thankfully, Akram had brought Chetak to the clinic just in time. The vets acted quickly, first providing him with intravenous fluids, as he was severely dehydrated. They administered antibiotics to combat the pneumonia and anti-inflammatory medication to reduce his fever and make him feel more comfortable.

Without treatment, the pneumonia could have caused permanent lung damage, sepsis or fluid buildup – serious risks that would have cut his working life short and left Akram and his family struggling to make a living. It could even have cost Chetak his life.

The vet team advised Akram on how to improve Chetak's living conditions. They advised repairing and maintaining his shelter to keep it clean and dry. They also gave guidance on how to improve Chetak's diet, providing a bag of emergency feed and recommending access to fresh, clean water throughout the day. Over the next two weeks, Chetak was seen regularly by the veterinary team, who monitored his progress and continued treatment until he was fully recovered and his overall condition had improved.

Chetak's case is not unique. Across Odisha, working animals already burdened by hardship face even greater suffering as the climate crisis fuels more extreme weather and devastating cyclonic storms.

In collaboration with our partner, APOWA, we work closely with communities to develop contingency plans that help working animals and their owners before, during and after disasters. Through initiatives such as disaster preparedness training – including practising what to do in an emergency – combined with shelter building and mass vaccination programmes (see page 16) we're helping to build local communities' confidence and skills so they can protect their animals when it matters most.

Veterinary intervention plays a vital role in easing the suffering of animals affected by climate-related events. With your support, we can stock our mobile clinics with vital medicines and equipment, as well as store emergency

feed and water in storm shelters. Together, we can strengthen communities' resilience and give working animals like Chetak a fighting chance.

By making a donation today, you can help protect working animals who are enduring tough conditions – and who now face even greater threats from the escalating impacts of the climate crisis. Your support can prevent further suffering and help secure a safer future for the animals and the people who rely on them. Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please, if you can, donate today to help communities and their working animals, like Chetak, survive and recover:

£15

could provide emergency food for a starving animal for 10 days so they don't have to go hungry.

£45

could ensure a working animal receives lifesaving medication, such as antibiotics, and fund essential veterinary equipment like sterile gloves, syringes and bandages.

£250

could help fund disaster preparedness initiatives, such as building strong shelters and running vaccination drives, to give vulnerable working animals a real chance of survival when climate-related disasters hit.

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





Rebecca Hampson, SPANA's Veterinary Adviser, explains how our global network of mobile veterinary clinics is transforming the lives of working animals.

WE WORK WHERE THEY WORK



Around this time last year, I visited my colleagues in Mauritania. While I was there, I joined their mobile veterinary clinic for the day to reach sick and injured working animals in need of SPANA's help.

We travelled to Dar Esalam, a small village about 22 miles from SPANA's veterinary centre in the city of Boghé. There, we met Aboud and his 12-year-old horse, Kochab. Aboud had been seriously worried because his horse was suffering from wounds caused by a makeshift harness. If we hadn't visited Aboud's village that day, Kochab wouldn't have received the professional veterinary treatment he so desperately needed and Aboud wouldn't have had SPANA's support on how to avoid harness wounds.

Aboud told us: *'This is my first time receiving help from SPANA, and I couldn't be more grateful. I didn't know how to properly care for my horse's injuries – it was difficult to see him suffer without knowing what to do. I hope SPANA can visit Dar Esalam regularly to help other animals who lack veterinary access.'*

Thanks to our kind supporters, mobile clinics like this one in Mauritania are making a real difference to the lives of working animals around the world. In cities, SPANA and our local partners travel to areas where

animals and their owners congregate. For example, our mobile clinics check on the calèche horses who give rides to visitors in Marrakech, Morocco, and the donkeys who work in the rubbish dumps in Mali's capital, Bamako (see page 13).

Our mobile teams travel thousands of miles every year to reach animals working in rural, hard-to-reach areas, such as the mountainous northern province of Duhok in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, or the Ukhrul region of Manipur, India (see page five). Whether it's by the side of a busy city street, in a town square, or in a remote village, we work where they work.

In 2024, SPANA and our partners operated 45 mobile clinics across three continents. These mobile clinics are stocked with all the essential medication and equipment the vets need to treat working animals. Often, the mobile clinics provide the only access to veterinary treatment and care that working animals will ever receive. They really are lifesaving.

Your support makes our work possible. Thank you so much for ensuring SPANA's mobile clinics have the fuel, medication and equipment our vets need to transform the lives of working animals. To fund essential supplies like this and receive a special gift card for a loved one, visit spana.org/shop

INSPIRATIONAL WORKING ANIMAL STORIES



Christelle Chenard, SPANA's Education Programme Adviser, on the SPANA story books that are encouraging schoolchildren to learn about working animal care.



Meet Nia, a working donkey who's helping children worldwide find out more about animal welfare.

Unlike the donkeys SPANA encounters every day, Nia isn't real. She's the main character in our series of story books for schoolchildren. These stories aim to inspire children to look after animals and help ensure working animals are recognised and appreciated.

Nia is a witty, bright and friendly donkey. She has a host of friends including her best friend, Chike the horse, a camel, an ox, a baobab tree and two young owners. So, why do we use these stories? There are many reasons, but the most important is because they're the best way to introduce knowledge while developing empathy. The part of our brain in charge of moral development functions by thinking in stories – through characters, behaviours and experiences.

Our stories introduce animal welfare topics like good handling and harmful traditional practices. They also examine wider global problems like the climate crisis. In a classroom setting, all the stories are followed by discussion sessions to encourage children to talk through the topics together.

For example, 'Nia and her friends help their families' is a story about the importance of working animals. In the story, Nia meets her neighbour's horse, who tells Nia

all about the jobs they've done that day. These include carrying water, transporting children to school and ploughing a field. Nia asks: *'That's a hard day's work. You must be tired and ready for bed?'* The neighbour's horse replies: *'This is what I do every day. I don't mind working, if I get enough food and water during the day and if I'm allowed to rest and to say hello to my friends.'* At the end of the story, the children are asked to consider how the neighbour's horse makes life better for the family, or what the family can do to make the horse's life better. Children are also encouraged to share their knowledge on animal welfare with the wider community by re-enacting the stories during school events, displaying their posters in their community or simply sharing what they have learned with their parents as part of their homework.

Our story books are just one of the many ways we're reaching out to schoolchildren. Our activities include learning walks, creating posters, songs, drama... and more! We also have videos for those able to access them.

With your help, our education programme is ensuring that the contribution working animals make to people across the world is recognised and valued. Thank you!

SPANA and our partner have been transforming the lives of working animals in Ethiopia since 2003.

SPANA OPERATIONS

Ethiopia continues to experience ongoing civil unrest. Increased tensions and violence in some areas make it extremely difficult for our local partner, Addis Ababa University – College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture, to carry out their work. Despite these challenges, their dedicated team was able to reach about 127,000 working animals and improve the animal care skills of around 35,000 owners and professionals in 2024.

Working animals play a crucial role in the lives of many people in Ethiopia. They help carry water, firewood, crops and goods on roads that would be almost impossible for vehicles to access. These hardworking animals make it easier for many families to work, travel and earn a living. Without them, daily life would be much harder for many communities.

PROFILE

ETHIOPIA

The vet team commonly treats wounds from poor harnessing, as well as lameness, hoof issues and parasitic infections. These problems are closely linked to tough working conditions, limited preventive care and lack of access to proper equipment. By developing the animal welfare knowledge of owners through training, the team is transforming the lives of working animals in Ethiopia.



ETHIOPIA AT A GLANCE

Population: 128.7 million
Area: 1,104,300 km²
Location: East Africa
Capital city: Addis Ababa
Estimated number of working animals (FAO*): 13,348,133

*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



PERSONAL PROFILE Q&A

Dr Hanna Zewdu, Addis Ababa University – College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture, and Project Lead for SPANA

What impact is your work having on working animal welfare?

Thanks to SPANA-supported training and clinics, more owners now understand how to care for their animals properly, leading to fewer injuries and better handling. Animal health professionals and community workers are more confident and better equipped to provide quality care. As a result, animals are showing real improvements in health, comfort and behaviour. Communities are also beginning to value animal welfare as part of their livelihoods.

What is the biggest challenge facing working animals in Ethiopia?

Despite their importance, working animals are often invisible in policy and practice. They face injuries, exhaustion and neglect – not from cruelty, but from a lack of knowledge, services and resources. Their needs are real, but support systems are still catching up.

What plans does your team have over the next few months?

We're planning to expand our mobile veterinary clinics to new areas, launch a camel welfare programme and engage more women as community animal welfare ambassadors. We're bringing vital care to the animals and communities who need it most.

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

Thank you! Working animals are often invisible in national systems, yet they carry the daily burden of transport, farming and income generation for millions of people. We believe they deserve recognition, protection and compassion. Because of your continued support, we're committed to building a future where every working animal is healthy and valued in society.



CASE FILE

Tirofu the horse's harness improvements

Tirofu is a beautiful 16-year-old horse from Batu, a small town in central Ethiopia. He's what is known in Ethiopia as a 'gharry' (taxi horse) – he pulls a cart that acts as a taxi to transport people in urban areas. His important work not only helps people get around Batu and surrounding villages but also enables Tirofu's owner, Dawit, to support his wife and son.

Dawit took Tirofu along to a harness training session run by SPANA's local partner in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University – College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture, to find out how he could make Tirofu's working life more comfortable.

This community training session enabled the owners of working animals to find out more about the importance

of proper harnessing. Dawit and other owners were shown by the vets how to fit harnesses correctly and how to make comfortable harnessing from local, accessible material so that their animals wouldn't suffer from painful wounds.

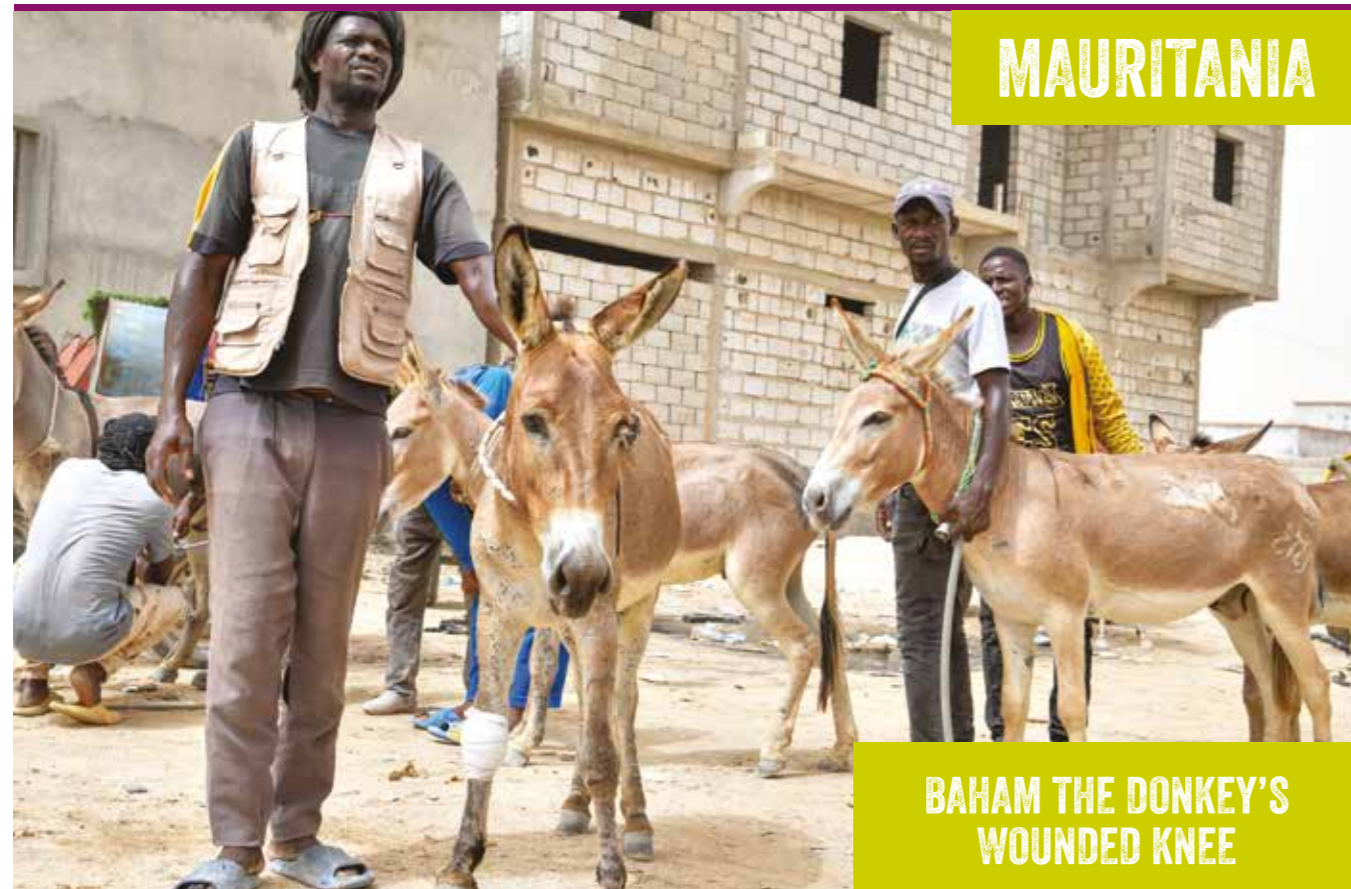
The vets also gave Tirofu a thorough check-up and inspected his harnessing. Because his harness band was made from uncomfortable material, he was given a new one and the vets helped Dawit fit it correctly.

Dawit said: *'Thank you so much for helping us. Tirofu is my only source of income.'*

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent harnessing appeal – you are easing the suffering of working animals like Tirofu!

SPANANA AROUND THE WORLD

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



MAURITANIA

BAHAM THE DONKEY'S WOUNDED KNEE

Baham transports and delivers water to households without a piped water supply across Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania. He was taken to a SPANA mobile clinic in the Dar Naim area of the city because his owner, Mohamed, was concerned about a wound on his donkey's knee.

Our vets examined Baham's wound carefully and discovered that it had become infected. They administered anti-inflammatory medication to reduce pain and swelling, then cleaned the donkey's wound thoroughly. Finally, Baham was started on a course of antibiotics to treat his infection.

Mohamed was shown by the vets how to keep Baham's wound clean and dry during the healing process. He was also advised to rest Baham for a week and to return to the mobile clinic in 14 days' time so that the vets could check on his donkey's progress.

Mohamed said: *'This is my first time visiting SPANA, and I'm grateful for the mobile clinic. I live far from the main SPANA centre, so having the clinic come to my area is important for people like me who can't afford to travel long distances.'*

MALI

Coulibaly works hard at the notorious Badalabougou rubbish dump in Mali's capital city, Bamako. Donkeys like Coulibaly transport rubbish from the city's neighbourhoods, enabling their owners to earn a small income. It's an incredibly difficult and dangerous working environment for the nine-year-old donkey and his owner, Soumaila.

In such a hazardous place, injuries and illnesses are inevitable, which is why SPANA's mobile veterinary clinic visits Badalabougou regularly to ensure the donkeys who work there have access to professional veterinary care.

Coulibaly was brought to the mobile clinic by Soumaila after his left eye began weeping and became inflamed. Our vets examined Coulibaly and diagnosed conjunctivitis, most likely caused by dust. They cleaned the donkey's eye gently, then started him on a course of antibiotic eye drops. Soumaila was given a supply of the eye drops and advised how and when to apply them to his donkey.



COULIBALY THE DONKEY'S SORE EYE

Soumaila said: *'I've known about SPANA for many years. My donkeys get access to veterinary care through SPANA. Thank you for helping them.'*

MOROCCO

Alsuhail, meaning 'glorious', is a 12-year-old mule from a small village near Chemaia, in a semi-arid region of western Morocco. He transports eggs so that his owner, Fateh, can earn a living.

Alsuhail was taken to SPANA's veterinary centre in Chemaia because Fateh was concerned about some sores around his mule's eyes and right hind leg. After a thorough examination, SPANA vet Dr Carmel diagnosed him with habronemiasis. Also known as summer sores, habronemiasis is a painful parasitic infection transmitted by flies that affects mules, horses and donkeys.

Because Alsuhail's wounds had become hyper-granulated (excess tissue had formed around his wounds, preventing healing), Dr Carmel administered a sedative and local anaesthetic, cleaned each wound carefully, then removed the excess tissue. Alsuhail was admitted to SPANA's stables. During his two-week stay, he was given anti-inflammatory pain relief and anti-parasite medication. His wounds were also checked and rebandaged daily.



ALSUHAIL THE MULE'S SUMMER SORES

When Alsuhail was ready to go home, our vets gave Fateh advice on how to avoid summer sores, including fitting Alsuhail with a fly fringe.

Fateh said: *'May God bless all the people who are in charge of this centre. If SPANA wasn't here, I wouldn't know what to do.'*



SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

Find out how SPANA is helping thousands of veterinary professionals to develop their skills in animal care and wellbeing every year.

We're committed to driving lasting, transformative change in the lives of working animals. To achieve this, we take a strategic, holistic approach – improving every aspect of a working animal's life but also recognising that we can't reach every working animal alone.

That's why we share our more than 100 years of expertise with veterinary professionals worldwide – further improving their skills and working alongside them to make a difference to working animals in need.

In 2024, thanks to our supporters, 6,217 veterinary professionals attended SPANA training across 17 countries. They included 311 vets, 1,294 vet technicians

and paravets, and 616 vet students. Here's just a few of the ways we reach local vets and the working animals they'll go on to help in the future.

CLINICAL SKILLS CENTRES

In countries where we work, some vets and vet technicians can qualify without having had any hands-on experience with working animals. Every year, SPANA's nine clinical skills centres give hundreds of vet students and vet technicians the opportunity to learn valuable skills which benefit working animals and are relevant to all areas of veterinary practice.

These clinical skills centres are run in partnership with universities, including the University of Gondar (Ethiopia) and the University of Rabat (Morocco).

For example, earlier this year, around 80 vet students from SPANA partner the University of Addis Ababa – College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture attended animal welfare training. The training took place at our clinical skills centre and mobile clinic, and included theoretical and practical sessions. Students who attended said the course had given them a greater understanding of the contribution working animals make to their local communities.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Our experienced veterinary teams train vets, technicians, animal health workers and farriers. This on-the-job training is invaluable because it helps fellow professionals stay up to date with the latest techniques and practices and enables them to learn and share their experiences with their peers.

For example, last year, our veterinary centres in Marrakech and Casablanca, in Morocco, hosted training courses to further develop the technical skills of traditional farriers. The courses were attended by farriers from across Morocco and were run by SPANA's Dr Youness Elouasbi and our experienced farrier Ali Bardoud. Farrier equipment was also distributed to participants.

TRANSFORMING WELFARE IN NORTHERN MALI

The Animal Health and Production Support Project (Projet d'Appui à la Santé et Production Animale [PASPA]) is a long-running initiative by SPANA to improve access to veterinary care in northern Mali. Launched in 2001, it focuses on identifying and training community members as paravets to serve remote communities where there is limited or no access to animal health services. As part of the project, SPANA provides intensive training, equipping paravets with the core skills they need to help working animals.

DEVELOPING OUR OWN SKILLS

In the past year, as part of our charity's 'Transforming the lives of working animals: SPANA strategy 2023–27', we've established SPANA Welfare Focal Points across our programmes to ensure that animal welfare is prioritised and that high standards of welfare are implemented across SPANA programmes and projects.

As part of this work, we've held two working animal welfare workshops for English- and French-speaking colleagues to provide training on welfare, programming and Social and Behaviour Change Communications. The workshops involved interactive sessions and visits to mobile clinics, and were attended by SPANA Welfare Focal Points from six countries.

All this important work is only possible thanks to your continued support. You're helping veterinary professionals develop their treatment skills and further improve their knowledge of working animal welfare. Thank you!



Did you know that you can help fund a four-day farrier course on behalf of a loved one? You'll receive a special gift card with a story inside. Visit spana.org/shop to find out more.



Tim Coggan, SPANA's DRR & Emergencies Manager, on how we're working to prepare working animals and their communities for emergency situations.

WORKING ANIMALS AND EMERGENCIES

In the aftermath of an emergency, working animals and their communities need SPANA more than ever. It's at this very time that working animals are needed the most, too.

At SPANA, thanks to the kindness of our supporters, we're able to help working animals after a disaster. For example, in recent years we've provided veterinary treatment to working animals affected by a devastating earthquake in Morocco. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we also provided emergency feed to hungry working animals.

Our crucial work has saved many lives, but now we're looking at things a little differently. As part of our holistic, One Health approach to working animal welfare, we're working alongside local communities to help them prepare for disasters. This work is called disaster risk reduction (DRR).

DRR bridges our emergency response work and our longer-term projects by enabling working animals and their communities to become more resilient. We can't prevent disasters from happening, but we can mitigate, prepare and respond better to reduce the impact.

Earlier this year, we supported communities in Turkana County, Kenya, where drought and water shortages left working animals struggling to survive. Together with our local partner, Utunzi Animal Welfare, we provided emergency feed, clean water and veterinary care to 10,000 donkeys and 10,000 camels.

As part of our DRR work, we also invest in long-term solutions like repairing boreholes and supporting the training of local water committees to manage and maintain them sustainably. By supporting disaster preparedness projects like this, we're working to reduce suffering and protect working animals from the increasing dangers they face. Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Turkana appeal.

Similarly, last year, we helped working animals and their owners in Zimbabwe who were experiencing one of the worst droughts in living memory. Our local team in Zimbabwe drilled boreholes so that working animals and their communities could access clean, fresh water.

A healthy animal is a resilient animal. Ensuring all working animals in the communities we support have enough food, water, shelter and access to veterinary care is the first step in building DRR across our programmes.

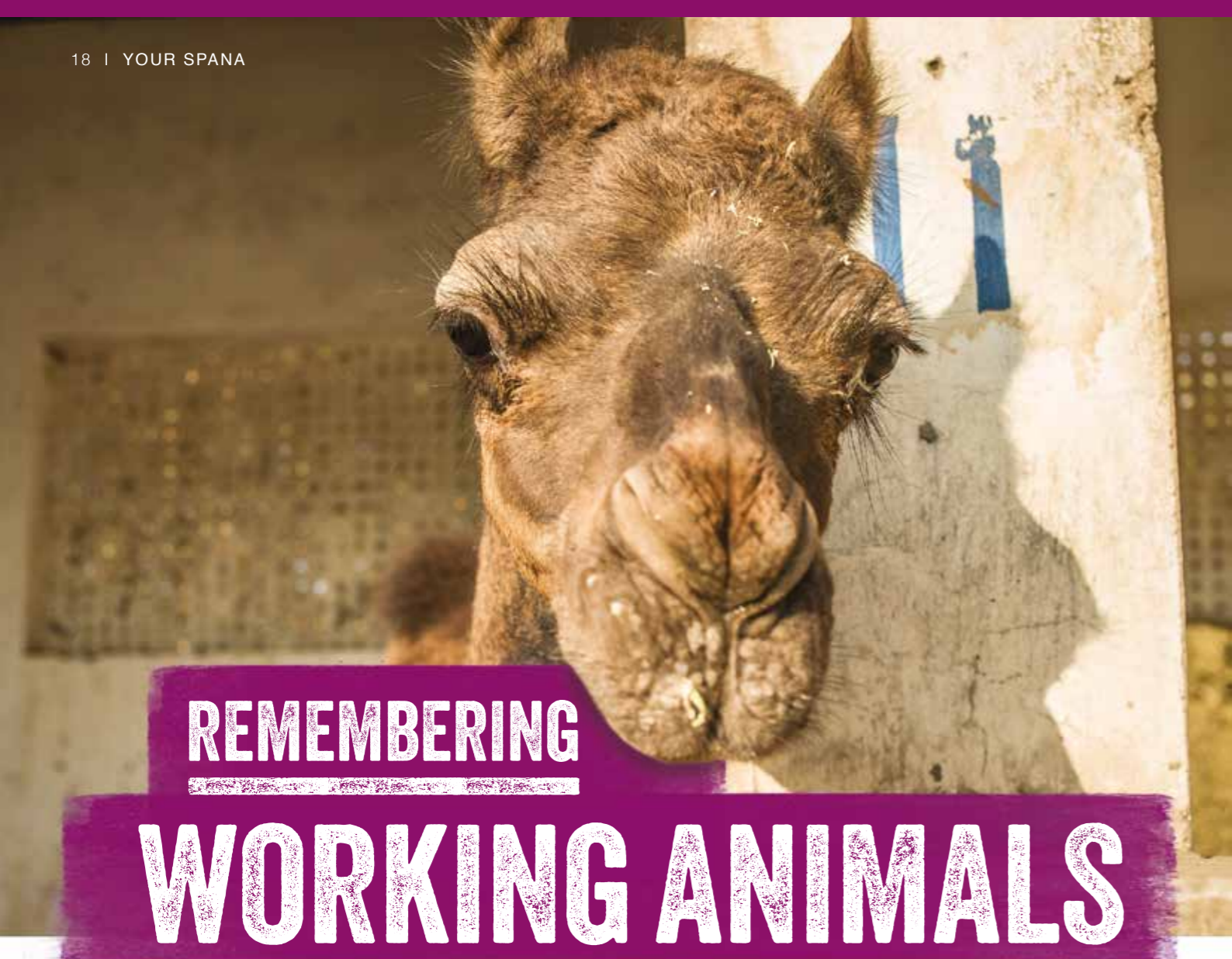
Through working with communities, we can support local approaches to building resilience, ensuring working animals are part of regional emergency planning and giving communities the tools to mitigate risks. For example, introducing sustainable land management practices, repairing water points, providing training to water committees and introducing climate-smart seeds for feed production can all help combat the negative impacts of the climate crisis.

Our emergency work in Kenya and Zimbabwe – and the actions we're taking to build resilience and reduce the impact of emergencies – is only possible thanks to our dedicated supporters.

Thank you so much for ensuring working animals are protected when they need it most – now and for the future. Find out how you can support working animals affected by the climate crisis on page six.

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, working animals play a critical and often lifesaving role. They transport supplies, evacuate injured people and help maintain vital logistics links in remote or severely damaged areas. Despite their tireless work, their role in disaster relief has been largely overlooked and unnoticed. However, in November 2024, following years of campaigning by SPANA and other organisations, working animals finally received the recognition they deserve – the United Nations recognised working animals as part of its Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This inclusion is a monumental step towards a future where every working animal is not only recognised, but valued and respected.





REMEMBERING WORKING ANIMALS

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

At SPANA, we believe that every working animal deserves to live a healthy and valued life. Around the world, millions of animals, including donkeys, horses, camels and mules, work tirelessly to support the livelihoods of their owners. They transport goods, carry water, plough fields and provide essential assistance in some of the lowest-income communities in the world. Yet despite their vital role, many receive little or no veterinary care.

Thanks to the generosity of those who leave gifts to SPANA in their Will, we're able to bring our vision of a better future for working animals closer to reality. Legacy gifts help us deliver emergency treatment to sick and injured animals, vaccinate against deadly but preventable diseases, and supply vital equipment, such as harnesses.

A gift in your Will is more than a donation; it's a lasting act of kindness that will protect animals for generations

to come. Many of our supporters are surprised to discover how easy it is to include SPANA in their Will. In just a few simple steps, you can help ensure working animals continue to receive the help they so urgently need. In fact, over half of our work is now funded by legacies: a reflection of the remarkable compassion shown by supporters who choose to leave a gift behind.

Whether you've already remembered SPANA in your Will, you're just beginning to think about it, or want to explore your options, we're here to help. There's no obligation, just friendly, confidential support whenever you need it. Leaving a legacy is more straightforward than many people realise – and it starts with a conversation.

Together we can create a world where every working animal lives a healthy and valued life.



To find out more, tick the relevant box on your donation form enclosed, visit spana.org/legacy, call us on 020 3855 0161, or email giftsinwills@spana.org. Your kindness can change lives today, tomorrow and for years to come.

SUPPORTER NEWS

GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN AND HELP WORKING ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

A TRIBUTE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

At SPANA, we understand how deeply the loss of a cherished animal is felt. By making a gift to SPANA in memory of your pet, you can create a lasting legacy that helps working animals in need live healthier, more valued lives.

You can also choose to share a tribute and photo of your pet on SPANA's online memorial wall – a special place on our website where you can celebrate their life.

To make a donation in memory or to learn more, visit spana.org/inmemory or contact us on 020 7831 3999.



JAZZ NOTES FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

Earlier this year, long-time SPANA supporter Alexandra Murrell hosted a concert to raise funds for working animals. Guests enjoyed classic tunes from John's Blues Busters and the Bromley Jazz Collective. Thanks to all their talent and dedication and the enthusiasm of everyone who attended, the event raised an impressive £464 – as well as vital awareness of SPANA's lifesaving work. **We are deeply grateful to Alexandra and all the musicians who donated their time and skills to transform the lives of working animals.**



A CUPPA AND A YUCCA - MARGARET DOES IT AGAIN!

Every year, our wonderful supporter Margaret Farley raises vital funds for working animals around the world. By selling plants and providing homemade cakes and pots of tea, this year she raised £1,111, bringing her total fundraised for SPANA since 2016 to an incredible £13,157. **Thank you, Margaret!**

FEELING INSPIRED?

There's 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



GIFTS OF

HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Introducing our brand new Gifts of Health and Happiness – meaningful gifts that make a lasting difference to working animals around the world.

Whether you help provide lifesaving vaccinations to protect animals against deadly disease, a farriery course to bring comfort for generations, or nutritious feed and cosy bedding to help sick and injured animals recover, each gift brings care and relief where it's needed most.



With every gift you buy, you'll receive a beautiful card containing a story of an animal you're helping – perfect for gifting to a loved one.



Visit spana.org/shop, call 0330 332 2530 or scan the QR code to shop the full range and make a difference today.

