

Working Animals News

Spring 2026 • Issue 204



**Working
Animals
International**

The new name for SPANA

INSIDE

**Your first look at
our new look**

**You're helping
camels in India**

**Support our
marigold appeal**

A new name

A stronger voice for working animals



Nouakchott,
Mauritania

Nawran's hooves were overgrown and misshapen. Every step was difficult.

We trimmed his hooves so they were all well balanced and even.

And we made sure his owner, Hadrami, knew that he could bring Nawran back to our centre for regular farriery treatment.



FIND OUT MORE:
[workinganimals.org/
nawran](https://workinganimals.org/nawran)

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On the cover

A working oxen with their owner in Odisha, a rural state in eastern India.

Contact us

Working Animals International
PO Box 79509, London, EC4P 4ND

+44 (0)20 7831 3999

hello@workinganimals.org

workinganimals.org

Registered charity no: 209015.

Registered address:
Working Animals International,
2nd Floor, 55 Ludgate Hill,
London, EC4M 7JW



A very warm welcome to Working Animals News, previously SPANA News. Your new-look newsletter is bursting with updates about our work, all thanks to your support.

I'm delighted to share our new name, Working Animals International, and our new identity with you. Yes, they're big changes, but please be assured that our work continues apace and the welfare of working animals remains firmly at the heart of everything we do. Thank you so much to everyone who helped make our new name and identity possible.

We've been helping working animals for over a century. In that time, the world they live and work in has changed beyond recognition – and so have the challenges they face. We've evolved alongside them, growing from providing veterinary care into an organisation that transforms working animal welfare and supports the marginalised communities who depend on them across the globe.

As Working Animals International, we'll make an even greater impact. Our new name and look reflect the true scale of our work and will help us raise global awareness of working animals everywhere.

These are exciting times. Our work wouldn't be possible without your kindness. I'm so grateful to have you by our side!

Linda Edwards
Chief Executive
Working Animals International

They work in extreme conditions. So we do too.

We've launched a project that's reaching hardworking camels in one of the hottest locations on Earth – the Afar region of Ethiopia.

Working alongside our local partners Addis Ababa University College of Veterinary Medicine (AAU) and Samara University, we're transforming the welfare of camels in Afar, where temperatures can top 48C. We're also hosting community training workshops to help owners develop their camel-care skills.

Dr Reta Tesfaye, Working Animals International Project Lead at AAU, said: "The Afar region is one of the largest camel-rearing areas in Ethiopia. Camels are fundamental to the region. They're used for transportation and they're essential to the livelihood of the community. Thank you for helping us protect them."



What would we do without working animals?

We've created an animation to help children discover how important working animals are.

Our "What If?" animation explains the jobs that working animals do every day. It encourages children to consider who would do these jobs if working animals weren't there and emphasises the importance of good animal care.

The animation is available in six languages and is being used by educators worldwide.



WATCH OUR ANIMATION:
tinyurl.com/475wxv3u



Our animal health and welfare centre in Tsholotsho is now open!

We're welcoming working animals and their owners to our new animal health and welfare centre, which opened recently in Zimbabwe.

The centre puts working animal welfare at the heart of the community in Tsholotsho, a rural area of Zimbabwe. More than half the families living there own a donkey and rely on them for daily tasks.

Our Tsholotsho hub includes a veterinary clinic, in-patient stables, exercise area and community training building where workshops take place and a harness-making group meets. There's also a water trough for animals in the area. As many as 43 of our Promoting Animal Welfare & Sustainability Clubs for schoolchildren are also up and running.

Dr Keith Dutlow, Country Director for the Working Animals International programme in Zimbabwe, said: "In September 2024, we purchased a piece of land in Tsholotsho town. We spent 2025 building a hub for our Tsholotsho team to work from. We've been carrying out mobile donkey clinics there since 2016. Thank you to everyone who donated to our appeal last year – your support has made the centre possible."

Coming soon

It's the 10th anniversary of International Working Animals Day on 15 June.

It's a day when working donkeys, horses, mules, camels and oxen around the world take centre stage – and we'll be highlighting just how important they are.

Look out for our activities on our website or sign up for our emails at workinganimals.org.

Overworked, overlooked ... but not by you

Support the marigold appeal and help give working animals the care and respect they deserve.



Will you wear your marigold badge for working animals like Fidele?

This summer, we're launching our marigold appeal to help make working animals impossible to overlook. And we're calling on supporters like you to get behind it!

You may have received a marigold pin badge through the post, along with a letter asking you to be among the first to support the appeal. If you've already responded with a gift and you're wearing your marigold with pride – thank you!

If you haven't received your marigold badge in the post, you can request one on your donation form today and start showing your support for working animals.

Marigolds are a symbol of love and commitment around the world, and by wearing yours this summer, you'll be sending a powerful message that all working animals like Fidele deserve to be cared for and valued.

But the marigold appeal is more than a symbol – it's also a call for supporters to come together and provide practical care for working animals like Fidele.

Fidele works long hours alongside his young owner, Adama, hauling a rubbish cart on the outskirts of Bamako, in Mali. Together, they work under the blazing sun so Adama can support his family.

But when his donkey got ill, Adama had very few options for veterinary care. Fidele's skin was infested with a type of mite called scabies, and he had infected sores from harness wounds. He was malnourished, weak and in pain.

Without caring supporters like you, Adama would have had nowhere to take his sick donkey. And Fidele would have to keep working, despite the constant pain.

This is where your support makes all the difference. Thanks to your generosity, our mobile clinic visited the rubbish dump where Fidele works. We administered antibiotics to treat his infected wounds, anti-parasite medication to treat his scabies and ointment to soothe his wounds. We provided dental care so he could eat without pain. And we helped Adama learn about nutrition for Fidele and how to prevent harness wounds.

Today, Fidele is healthier and more comfortable thanks to supporters like you. And Adama has the comfort of knowing how to care for his donkey, who means so much to him and his livelihood.

But across the world, working animals are still overworked and overlooked. They carry loads heavier than their bodies can bear. They work with injuries, suffer from ill-fitting harnesses and have no access to the veterinary care they need.

By supporting the marigold appeal, you're helping to change that. You're bringing attention and much-needed practical care to more working animals like Fidele.

So if you haven't already, please will you support the marigold appeal with a gift today?

Give what you can, wear your marigold, and help create a world where working animals are valued and cared for.



Your £15

could provide medical supplies like bandages, ointments and pain relief.



Your £45

could help cover the running costs for a mobile clinic like the one that treated Fidele.



Your £100

could fund training to develop the animal care skills of owners like Adama, helping them prevent illness and injury in the future.



"As a vet, I'm wearing my marigold for working animals around the world who deserve proper treatment and care. Will you join me?"

Dr Rebekah Sullivan

BVSc MSc (One Health) Cert AVP (EM) PgCert MRCVS
Director of Global Animal Health & Welfare

To make your gift, visit workinganimals.org/marigoldappeal or use your enclosed donation form to respond. Thank you for caring!



Ethiopia

Shasho the carthorse had lost his appetite. He looked lethargic, and his coat had lost its usual shine.

Our local partner diagnosed him with internal parasites and administered anti-parasitic medication.

Milion, his owner, said: "Thank you for treating my horse. Shasho is my only means of income."

You've helped Shasho, Brun and Mayala



Mali

Brun is a seven-year-old donkey from a rural town in Mali. He transports fruit so that his owner, Moussa, can support his family.

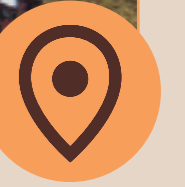
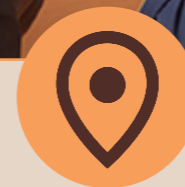
Moussa brought Brun along to our mobile clinic because Brun was having trouble eating and chewing – so his food would often fall to the ground.

At the clinic, our vets gave Brun a thorough examination. They discovered that his teeth had overgrown in an uneven way with painful sharp points. Like our nails, a donkey's teeth are always growing so it's best to check them regularly.

We filed Brun's teeth so that they were all even again. We also gave Moussa advice on his donkey's diet and Moussa agreed to bring Brun back to the clinic for regular dental checks.

Moussa said:

"Brun helps me with farm work. I am grateful to receive free treatment for my donkey."



Tanzania

Communities in Tanzania are feeling the full effect of the climate crisis. Some regions have been devastated by severe flooding, while others have been parched by extreme water shortages.

With our local partner Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO), we've helped communities prepare for and respond to emergencies – and we've been there for working animals in need.

Mayala is one of those animals. He fetches water and transports firewood, crops and construction materials for his owner, Leuda, who is a farmer. Without Mayala, many of the daily tasks that keep Leuda's family going would be almost impossible.

So when Mayala developed loose droppings and began losing weight, Leuda was extremely worried. Fearing the worst, he contacted TAWESO, who visited Mayala in their mobile veterinary clinic.

The vets found that Mayala had severe gastrointestinal symptoms, potentially caused by drinking the stagnant water left by recent floods. They treated Mayala with anti-inflammatory medication, fluids and multivitamins. They advised Leuda to rest Mayala until he was better and to ensure that he had regular access to clean water.

Leuda said:

"Thank you for helping Mayala. He was in great pain. He helps me with all my family's basic needs."

A donkey pulls a cart of excited children to school. A horse rushes a seriously ill mother to hospital. A mule carries essential supplies to a remote village high in the mountains.

Working animals like these are the quiet driving force behind countless communities, helping millions of people earn a living and access food, water and transport. They do all this so people can lead better lives – yet their welfare is often overlooked.

Not by us.

For over a century, we've worked to transform the welfare of working animals. Thanks to your support, we've had many successes. But we want to do more.

Our new name, Working Animals International, immediately communicates who we are and our cause to everyone – from global partners and politicians to potential supporters. It will help us raise our profile and act with authority. We'll be a stronger voice for working animals. We'll stand up for them and ensure the positive impact they make to people's lives is impossible to overlook.

In recent months, we've ensured that working animals are recognised at the highest level. For example, in November, Ethiopia's parliament approved an animal health and welfare proclamation. As a result, for the first time, animals are recognised as sentient beings and comprehensive animal welfare laws are in place to protect working animals.

Thanks to our lobbying, working animals are now included in Mauritania's national census. Agreed in September, it's an important recognition by the country's government of the vital role that working animals play.

As Working Animals International, we'll keep this momentum going – and we'll push even further. We'll ensure that the silent suffering of working animals, their vital role in communities and their right to care will no longer be ignored, dismissed or accepted. We're now even better equipped to inspire support, build more partnerships, share powerful stories and drive lasting change for working animals all over the world.

You've helped us every step of the way, and we're so thankful for your support. Together, we'll put working animals in the spotlight so they receive the recognition and care they so rightly deserve.



A new name

A stronger voice for

working animals

Help in Suffering (HIS) are one of our local partners in India. We've been working with them since 2015 to transform the welfare of camels in Rajasthan.

HIS improves camel welfare by replacing traditional wooden nose pegs with plastic pegs, which are safer and more hygienic because they don't split or splinter. HIS also fits reflectors to carts to keep camels who work at night safe. These are simple changes that are making a significant difference.

Their mobile clinic regularly visits rural villages, brick kilns, camps and fairs so that working camels have access to professional veterinary treatment.

A big hit with children and adults is HIS' animal welfare puppet show, featuring camel owners Sukhi and Dukhi. In the show, Sukhi has a healthy camel. He tells Dukhi all about HIS so that Dukhi can get help for his sick camel.

Focus on Help in Suffering



**Camels
reached
in 2025:
7,601**



Meet Dr Abhinav Swami
Head of the camel welfare
project at HIS

Why are camels so important for communities in Rajasthan?

Camels play an important socio-economic role for many communities in and around Rajasthan. They pull carts for use in transportation and tourism and are a primary source of livelihood for marginalised families. When a camel falls sick or is injured, the entire family's income is affected. Therefore, camels' good health and welfare are essential for communities that depend on them.

How do you approach your work?

Camel welfare requires a holistic approach combining veterinary care, education and community. Sustainable change is only possible when owners are empowered with knowledge and supported with accessible services.

What is your proudest moment?

I always feel proud during our camel treatment camps. As soon as we arrive, camel owners surround us with warm smiles and genuine happiness. There's a strong sense of trust and hope. Their faith and confidence are deeply fulfilling and continuously inspire us to work with even greater dedication.

Do you have a message for Working Animals International supporters?

Thank you for standing with working animals and the communities that depend on them. Your support helps us reach camels who would otherwise have limited access to care. You also help us promote compassion where it's most needed. Every contribution makes a real difference.



FIND OUT MORE:
[workinganimals.org/
drswami](https://workinganimals.org/drswami)

Our new name carries your legacy forward

At Working Animals International, we're driven by a simple belief: working animals deserve to be treated with care and compassion. Our new name embodies our vision and mission more clearly; it captures the global reach of our work and puts the animals we serve at the very heart of our identity.

Legacy gifts make our work possible. When a supporter chooses to remember us in their Will, they fund lifesaving veterinary treatment, preventative vaccinations and practical equipment. Their gift also supports our training programmes, developing animal welfare skills in communities and passing that knowledge on to the next generation.

Leaving a gift in your Will means your kindness will reach far beyond your lifetime. It's a decision that will protect working animals for years to come. Many people don't realise how simple the process is, or that legacies now fund more than half our work – proof of how much these gifts mean for animals in need.

If you've already included us in your plans, thank you. If you're thinking about adding us to your Will or you just want to find out more about how your legacy can make a difference, we're ready to help.

Do I need to change my Will to reflect your name change?

No. Our charity number 209015 hasn't changed, so your existing Will remains valid and your legacy is secure.


What wording should I use if I want to include you in my Will now?


We recommend using "Working Animals International" and our registered charity number 209015 to ensure absolute clarity.

Should I speak to my solicitor?

It's always recommended to consult a solicitor before you make a Will or make changes to an existing Will. If you're looking to make a new Will, we work with MyIntent, a free Will-writing service, which you can use with no pressure to leave a gift to us. We also work in partnership with the National Free Wills Network, which connects you to participating solicitors in your area who can help you with writing your Will for free.

To find out more:

 workinganimals.org/legacy

 **020 3855 0161**

 giftsinwills@workinganimals.org



Supporter news

Unwanted items. A new purpose.

Here are four easy ways to transform the welfare of working animals by recycling your unwanted items.

● Jewellery

We've enclosed a jewellery recycling envelope with this issue. Pop your unwanted jewellery and banknotes in – and return!

● Electronics and gadgets

Contact us to request a free sack on 0207 831 3999 or hello@workinganimals.org

● Stamps

Please send to: Working Animals International, PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA.

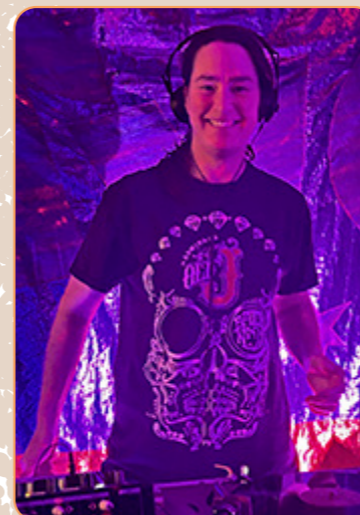
● Postcards

Please send to: Miss J Webb, 18 Hammonds Way, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3HF.

Last year, you raised over

£8,100

through our recycling schemes – thank you!



In memory of Valerie

Brigitte and Charles recently held a house music fundraiser in memory of their mother, Valerie Hansen, who was one of our long-time supporters. With music from DJ collective tVC Sound System, the dance floor was full all night. Brigitte and Charles raised a brilliant £370 to support working animals. **Thank you!**



Star supporter

Thank you, José Stimpson, from Eastbourne! José has been fundraising for us for 13 years. Every year, she holds tea parties, stalls and garage sales, and sells items on Facebook Marketplace. José has raised an incredible £6,813 for working animals. Thank you for your hard work, kindness and compassion, José!

José said: **"I fundraise for Working Animals International because the animals who suffer and toil in sometimes terrible conditions have no voice. Working Animals International speaks for the animals. It does more – it heals them, it teaches owners and trains its vets. I've supported Working Animals International for over 20 years and now, at age 88, it continues to provide me with a purpose in my life."**

Feeling inspired?

There's so many ways you can support working animals. If you'd like to join our fundraising community, call us on **+44 (0)20 7831 3999** or email events@workinganimals.org

Become a Stable Sponsor and help working animals like Jack

Jack, a seven-year-old carthorse in Nouakchott, Mauritania, began showing signs of weakness and fatigue after long hours working in hot conditions.

When Jack arrived at our centre, our team diagnosed him with internal parasites. He also had harness wounds and overgrown hooves that were slowing him down and causing him discomfort.

At our Nouakchott centre, our expert team provided the essential care that Jack needed. His hooves were trimmed, his wounds were cleaned and treated, and he received treatment for the internal parasites. The team also shared practical advice with his owner about rest, nutrition and regular checkups to help prevent Jack's suffering.

Around the world, working animals are facing increasing pressure due to the growing impacts of the climate crisis and economic hardship. Demand for our services continues to rise, and ongoing support is critical to ensure that animals like Jack receive the care they need and deserve.

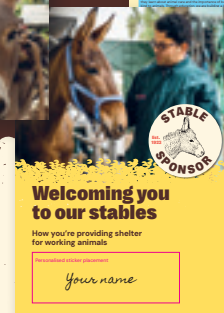
When you become a Stable Sponsor from £6 a month, you can help provide a reliable source of treatment and support for working animals who have nowhere else to turn.

As a Stable Sponsor, you'll receive a personalised welcome folder and certificate, plus exclusive updates from our stables so you can see how your sponsorship is helping working animals around the world.



To help working animals as a Stable Sponsor, visit workinganimals.org/stablesponsor, scan the QR code or call us on +44 (0)20 7831 3999

Thank you for your support.



Working Animals International

The new name for SPANA