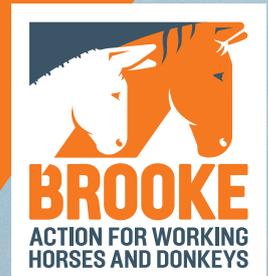


Spring / Summer 2018

BROOKE BULLETIN

Friends of



Donkeys in Kenya ferrying water

STOPPING DONKEY THEFT

BROOKE IS WORKING TO PREVENT THE CRUEL THEFT AND SLAUGHTER OF DONKEYS FOR THEIR SKINS.

"Last week, I heard that five donkeys belonging to my friend Joseph Thendu had been stolen one Sunday morning, while he was at church," says Samuel Theuri, Advocacy and Innovations Advisor at Brooke East Africa.

"Joseph had been working as a water vendor in the market town of Naivasha that day, using his donkeys to ferry water. When he came out of church, the donkeys had been stolen from the compound where he'd secured them."

"He's devastated. He can no longer earn a living and doesn't know how he's going to feed his family."

Samuel has been closely involved in Brooke's work to combat donkey theft in Kenya and knows all too well that Joseph's experience is not an isolated example.

Donkeys have become a valuable commodity; tragically 400 donkeys are killed for their skins every day in Kenya. If this rate of donkey slaughter continues, in 20 years' time there could be no donkeys left in the country.

The impact of donkey theft is catastrophic for people like Joseph who depend on these hard-working animals for their living. Families lose their livelihoods overnight and many are left struggling to cope.

"Donkeys are an extremely important asset," says Catherine Sheppardley, a Brooke Community Development Project Co-ordinator, who recently visited Kenya, including areas affected by donkey theft.

"One of our partners at Farming Systems Kenya told me they'd been getting frantic phone calls and visits from distressed owners who'd had their donkeys stolen. The stories are heart-breaking."

PROTECTING DONKEYS, SAVING LIVELIHOODS

Stephen Kimiri had one of his donkeys stolen.

"I have had a lot of challenges because that work that would have been done with two donkeys now cannot be done because it will be too much for one donkey. My income went down and when I want to reach my goals it becomes a problem. The other donkey was also psychologically affected as it was used to the other one."



Brooke East Africa is working on a number of fronts to tackle the problems of donkey theft and slaughter in Kenya.

Our strategy focuses on:

Protection and partnerships – working with partners to help owners protect their animals.

Evidence – carrying out research to quantify the impact of the theft of an animal on a family's livelihood. This includes current research that will be presented at a special All Africa Conference in October.

Awareness – raising awareness of the problem with law enforcement institutions, veterinary practitioners and in the media.

Legislation – ensuring that animal protection legislation is enforced.

Reaching donkey-owning communities

As part of this strategy, last year Brooke East Africa launched a 'Protect Your Donkey and Win' competition in areas that had reported the highest incidence of thefts. Working with our partners, the competition put us in direct contact with 221 groups of owners who have a total of 9,700 donkeys between them.

Donkey-owning groups submitted a range of practical ideas on how to keep vulnerable donkeys safe, including:

- Keeping donkeys in shelters with other livestock such as goats, cows and sheep, rather than holding them in separate areas.
- Fitting neck bells on donkeys so owners are alerted to any disturbances.
- Using colour-coded ear tags and keeping a local register of donkeys.
- Fitting donkeys with GPS tracking devices.
- Setting up a local surveillance hub that has a database of local owners, and collects and disseminates information on donkey theft.



Lillian Sitonik and her donkey.

Lillian is a member of the Mosimowo Women's Group in Narok who won first prize in the competition for encouraging their group members and local community to build lockable donkey shelters.

"Community problems have community solutions, and we know that donkey owners are the first line of defence in preventing theft. We hope that the winning ideas from our competition will help save the lives of thousands of at-risk animals as well as raising awareness of the theft and brutal slaughter of donkeys taking place in Kenya." **Samuel Theuri**

SURVEY

We launched the Friends of Brooke programme at Loseley Hall last April where it was a delight to meet so many of you and to hear why you support us. We think now is a good time to take stock and find out if you are happy with the programme. So, we have enclosed a short survey which we would be very grateful if you would complete and return to us in the enclosed pre-paid envelope. We want to know your likes, your dislikes

and anything else that you think is important about the Friends Programme. The answers and comments that you provide in this survey are anonymous and will be combined to give us an overall understanding of your thoughts and views. Because of this, we are unable to respond to specific comments or feedback that you give us in the survey. However, please contact Griselda Payne if you would like a personal response on any issue. Tel **020 7653 5820** Email griselda.payne@thebrooke.org

Update on Gharry Horses in Ethiopia Appeal

Thanks to your generosity, we have been making good progress in our endeavours to improve the working conditions of the Gharry Horses in Ethiopia. Included in these initiatives is the healthcare office and shelter in Halaba, which is expanding and offering new services for working equines.

In November last year, we launched an appeal to raise awareness of the appalling welfare conditions suffered by gharry – or taxi – horses in Ethiopia.

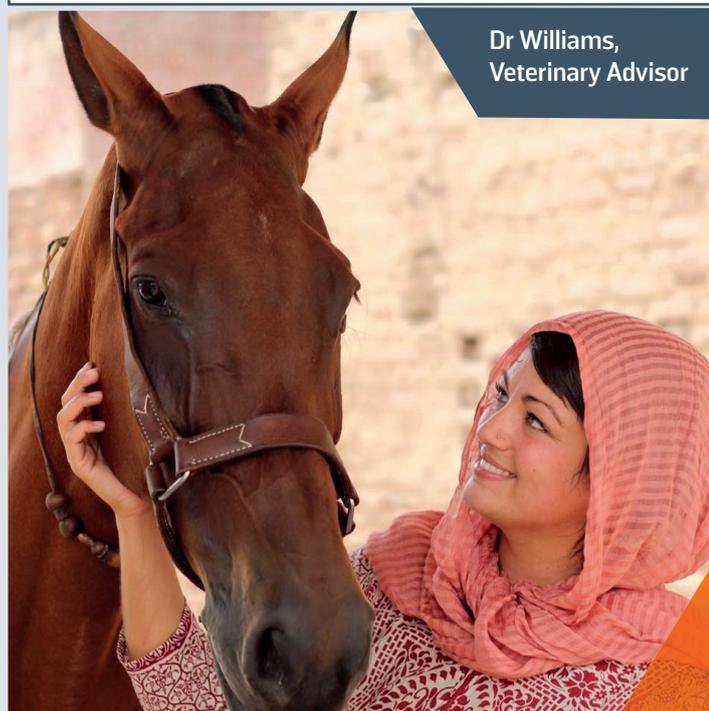
Hour after hour, these poor animals drag heavy loads in the searing heat, often with no place to rest or find shade from the sun.

However, thanks to your wonderful generosity, changes are underway. Dr Shereene Williams BVMedSci(Hons) BVM, part of our Global Animal Health team, describes the progress she saw during a recent visit.

"It was a joy to see the integrated healthcare office and shelter in Halaba," she says. "It's never going to be easy to be a gharry horse, but if we can ensure quality rest time when the animals aren't working, that will go a long way to improve their health and welfare."

"Harness menders and cart makers are now working on site, as well as small enterprises selling feed, welfare-friendly bits and homemade horse brushes"

Dr Williams



Dr Williams,
Veterinary Advisor

WITH YOUR SUPPORT



7,000

horses in Ethiopia will have better working conditions



Zerihun Tola at the Halaba Shelter with his two Gharry horses

"The shelter has helped me to safeguard my horses from hyenas, I have had ones killed before by them, and Brooke has helped me with education so that I can care for them better"

Zerihun Tola

The Halaba shelter provides everything that working horses need, all in one place, from food, water and stabling for over 300 animals to services offered by Brooke-trained vets and farriers. It is run by the local Gharry Horse Association and is supported by the Brooke, which means it is sustainable.

The shelter has been so successful that there are now plans for an extension so that even more working horses will have access to the growing number of facilities on offer. "I was really encouraged to see that new businesses are springing up at the shelter," says Dr Williams.

The shelter's training space will be used to celebrate World Animal Day in October, which focuses on animal welfare across all species. "This brings the horse-owning community together and inspires them to improve the welfare of their animals," says Dr Williams.

"The shelter in Halaba is helping to bring about lasting changes for the working horses of Ethiopia," she adds. "There's still work to do, but this visit left me feeling very optimistic."



A local Brooke-trained Farrier trimming the hooves of a hard-working Gharry horse

UPCOMING EVENTS

We would be delighted if you would join us at any of the following events that we are hosting later this year.

- Supporters Day Thursday 4 October, venue tbc
- Gala Dinner Friday 2 November, Headlam Hall, Darlington
- Christmas Carol Service Wednesday 12 December, Guards Chapel, London

Or look out for Brooke this year at:

- Royal Windsor 9–13 May
- Dressage at Hickstead 26–29 July
- Your Horse Live 10–11 November
- Olympia Horse Show 17–23 December

For more information and/or tickets please contact Griselda Payne on telephone number **020 7653 5820** or at email address griselda.payne@thebrooke.org

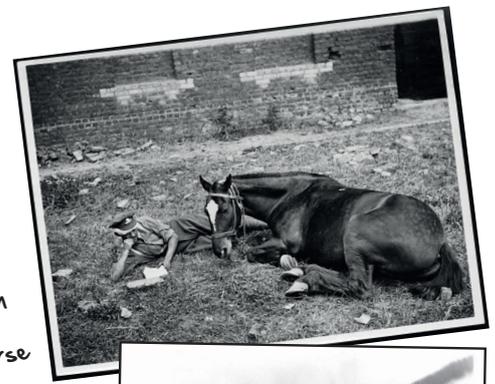
Message from Petra

We are incredibly excited to announce that the World Equestrian Games have nominated Brooke as their Official Charity! This is an incredible honour and an amazing opportunity to let more people know about the invaluable work we do. The World Equestrian Games 2018 will be taking place at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in North Carolina (USA) from 11–23 September 2018. If you get the opportunity to go, I urge you to do so as I am sure it will be a truly wonderful experience and please do let us know!

Petra Ingram, Brooke Chief Executive



Bond between soldier and horse



Dorothy Brooke with one of the first war horses she rescued

Every Horse Remembered is Brooke's new campaign, running until November 2018, marking 100 years since the end of World War One. Chosen for their courage, strength and loyalty, conscripted British horses, mules and donkeys carried cavalry, munitions, supplies and our wounded. Eight million of these animals died on all sides in the conflict.

It was not shellfire that killed up to 75% of the horses, donkeys and mules in the War but the intense environments they had to work in; from the freezing mud on the Western Front to the overbearing heat of Egypt.

After the war, the surviving war horses began the next, and for most the last, painful chapter in their lives. When our founder, Dorothy Brooke went searching for these forgotten heroes, she found walking skeletons working as beasts of burden, their hard labour keeping people in Cairo out of poverty.

The Lost War Horses of Cairo: The Passion of Dorothy Brooke

Biographer Grant Hayter-Menzies has written a new book which highlights the story of Brooke's founder, Dorothy Brooke. Grant has generously decided to donate 40% of the book's royalties to us to support Dorothy Brooke's legacy and the work we do today. The book is published by Allen & Unwin, RRP £16.99 and is available on Amazon.

Photo credit: National Library of Scotland, Bond between Soldier and Horse, 74547694

Supported by the generosity of the British public she was able to establish the Old War Horse Memorial Hospital, where Brooke's story began. Dorothy Brooke's legacy flourished into the most far-reaching and effective equine welfare charity in the world today.

Working horses, donkeys and mules are not a thing of the past; 100 million are working worldwide today in punishing environments like the searing heat of brick kilns and coal mines, and treacherous icy rivers and mountains.

Brooke is calling on everyone who has ever loved a horse, donkey or mule, whether as a child or an adult to help us prevent the suffering of these working animals. Our target for the year is to mark the millions of lives lost and the millions we still need to save by raising £1million and enabling us to reach more vulnerable working equines.

By highlighting the struggle of working horses, donkeys and mules past and present, Every Horse Remembered will help to build a better life for these equines in the future.

Keep an eye on our activities and look out for events you can be involved in at thebrooke.org/everyhorse.

Help us grow our circle of Friends

If you know someone who you think would like to join Friends of Brooke, we'd love to hear from them. For further information, they can visit our website at www.thebrooke.org/Friends get in touch on **020 7653 5863** or via email at majorrelationships@thebrooke.org.

Friends of



To make a donation contact: info@thebrooke.org www.thebrooke.org

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