

HOOF PRINT

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ITS MARK



ISSUE 07

WINTER 2025

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FOREWORD

Welcome to your Winter 2025 edition of Hoof Print.

We have many inspiring stories to share, demonstrating all the ways your caring support is transforming the lives of hardworking horses, donkeys and mules.

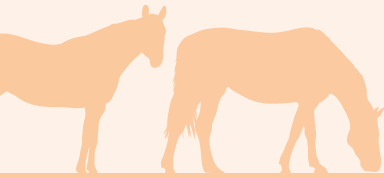
There's an update on the global effort to end the brutal donkey skin trade – a cause you've helped champion. Closer to home, an exciting new research partnership with University College London will ensure better protection for working animals during natural disasters.

In sadder news, we pay tribute to Farooq, our Pakistan Country Director, who passed away in 2024. Like you, Farooq was deeply committed to improving the lives of working animals. He leaves a huge legacy, which will live on through our fantastic Pakistan team.

With so much gratitude for all your support,



Chris Wainwright
Chief Executive,
Brooke



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The women of the Ambabai Self-help Group in India celebrate business success.

EQUINE COMMUNITIES ACCESS WATER

Communities in Sanmatenga Province, Burkina Faso welcome people displaced by the country's conflicts but are struggling to access drinking water, often walking 6-7km with their horses and donkeys for the vital resource.

The Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission awarded us a three-year grant for our project to help equine-owning communities like this one to access water and improve livelihoods.

**We predict 2,338
working animals,
18,175 people and
1,910 households
will benefit.**

SCHOLARS ARRIVE IN UK

Remember reading about the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Equine Education Scholarship in the last issue? Our first two scholars, Dr Javid Khan from Brooke Pakistan and Dr Dinesh Kumar Gupta from Brooke India, visited the UK in September.

They attended the British Equine Veterinary Association Congress and carried out placements at The Royal Veterinary College and The Horse Trust. What an opportunity to enhance the expertise of Brooke's animal health professionals and share learnings worldwide!

HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY!

Last October, Brooke India marked 25 years of dedicated service to equine welfare. Government dignitaries attended the celebrations alongside women leaders from equine communities.

Shamal, Chairwoman of the Ambabai Self-help Group, owns six donkeys. With the help of a loan from Brooke, the group bought an electric grinding mill and started a balanced donkey feed business.

Shamal says, "We are very passionate about this, and we want this business to be huge."



SCAN ME

Read past editions! Hear more about how your support has helped at thebrooke.org/news

Suraj and his donkeys

Suraj travels 400km with his family and 17 donkeys to work in the brick kilns of Solapur, West India for six months each year. They live on-site in temporary housing.

Suraj's favourite donkey is his first, Ghomadya, meaning 'The Wanderer', who he has worked with for six years. Suraj explains how things used to be for him and his animals:

"We had no idea if something was wrong with our donkeys or if they were in pain."

Since Suraj has been working with Brooke India, his donkeys are more comfortable, with improved, locally made brick sacks, back protectors and saddle pads, which have reduced wounds. He has access to animal first aid kits and balanced feed.



"We learned how and what medicine to give as first aid before the vet comes."

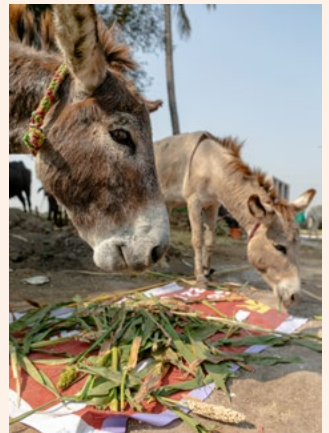
Suraj and his donkeys work a six-day week with Wednesdays off.

At 4am, he feeds them fodder and grooms them. Work starts around 5am with a break at 7am for more feed and water. "So the donkeys don't get stressed."

To avoid the worst of the heat, they finish by 9am. Suraj removes the donkeys' harnesses and gives them fresh food and water while they rest shaded under a tree.

On Wednesdays, Suraj walks his donkeys to nearby fields, leaving them to roam and forage.

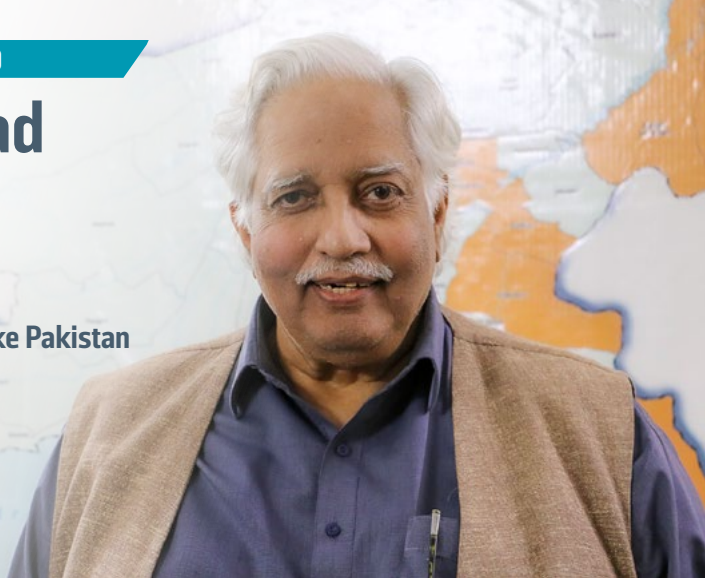
Life has vastly improved for Suraj's donkeys and thanks to support like yours we can reach many more like them.



Muhammad Farooq Malik

Country Director, Brooke Pakistan

1950 - 2024



We were incredibly sad to learn of the passing of Muhammad Farooq Malik, our beloved colleague and Country Director of Brooke Pakistan, on 24 July 2024 after a short illness.

Farooq joined Brooke Pakistan in 1993 as Admin and Finance Officer, rising to Country Director in 2006.

A wise and hugely respected friend, mentor and leader, Farooq's passion, humour and intellect were appreciated by countless colleagues across our Brooke family.

Passionate about innovative ways of working, Farooq was a strong advocate for the welfare of working

horses, donkeys and mules and achieved so much for the animals and communities we serve.

Our dear friend Farooq will be sorely missed by us all.

"I was very sad to hear of the passing of Brooke Pakistan's beloved Farooq, who I met many times and shared a close bond with. His work with Brooke to support the most vulnerable working horses, donkeys, and mules will never be forgotten."

Ann Searight
Dorothy Brooke's granddaughter





Focus on

cacao

We work with owners and animals who play a vital role in creating the chocolate treats we all enjoy at Easter.

**1**

Cacao flowers grow on trees, eventually forming pods.

**2**

Ripe pods are cut from the trees with sharp knives on long sticks.

**3**

The pod shells are cracked open, the pulp harvested by hand and bagged up.

**4**

Horses and mules transport the cacao pulp to be weighed and sold.

**5**

The cacao undergoes fermentation, followed by a drying process.

**6**

Horses and mules transport the cacao to another location for roasting.

**7**

The husks are removed from the beans and crushed into cacao nibs.

**8**

The cacao is sold raw or as chocolate on our shop shelves.



Rolling pits are a big hit

Horses, donkeys and mules in Pakistan are receiving respite from their strenuous work thanks to 78 new rolling pits.

A core concept of animal welfare is for animals to be able to exhibit their natural behaviours.

A perfect way for horses, donkeys and mules to do this is by using rolling pits, where they can wallow and roll, engaging in natural movement and enjoying freedom from discomfort. These activities are crucial for their physical and mental wellbeing.

We also encourage equine-owning communities to name their animals, which fosters a stronger bond and leads to a more caring relationship.

Your support means we can work with communities worldwide to improve working animals' lives. Thank you.

"Adding rolling pits to resting areas improves animals' physical and psychological welfare and deepens the relationship between them and their owners."

Sana Zahid Khawaja
Community Development Manager

Brooke educates owners about providing space for rolling pits in other countries too, like the one pictured here in Halaba, Ethiopia.



WATCH A
VIDEO



The Brooke Christmas Carol Service

Our first carol service since 2019 took place at the Guards' Chapel in London on 12 December. Over 450 supporters attended including comedian Rory Bremner and broadcaster Alastair Stewart OBE, who gave readings.

Our star meet-and-greeters outside the chapel were our mascot donkeys, Pixie and Kiska. The event, sponsored by the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust, raised over £13,000.

REMEMBERING ANIMALS WHO SERVED

Broadcaster Angela Rippon laid a wreath for Brooke on 8 November 2024 at the annual Animals in War Memorial service, which commemorates animals who served during conflicts.

Angela called it 'a time to remember the millions of horses, donkeys and mules who went to war alongside our soldiers'.

As well as being a supporter of Brooke,

Angela has included a gift to working animals in her Will.



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY FOR HORSES, DONKEYS AND MULES TODAY

Run, walk, swim or ride for working animals in 2025. Choose from a wide range of events. Find out more at thebrooke.org/find-an-event or send us an email: community@thebrooke.org



SCAN ME TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR EVENTS





WHAT YOUR LEGACY WILL ACHIEVE



Over 50% of Brooke's income comes from supporters who have included a gift in their Will.

That's equivalent to **1 in 2** working animals getting the help they need thanks to these generous gifts.



Over 5,000 supporters like you have told us they've included a gift in their Will for Brooke.

Will you join them?

Donkeys like Ghomadya (pictured above – more on page four) were helped thanks to those who left a gift in their Will.

Thank you for being there for working animals today, tomorrow and always

With a gift in your Will, you can be by the side of vulnerable working animals, just like Ghomadya (see page four).

Your legacy will sow seeds of change to help create a world where every working animal has a life worth living.

Letting us know your intentions for a gift in your Will helps us to plan how to protect more working animals for years to come.

As a thank you, you'll have access to intimate virtual events where you can meet our experts from the field.

You'll also receive exclusive updates, invites to loyalty events and access to a dedicated team.

We'd love to hear from you.



Phoebe and Morwenna from the Legacy team

If you want to walk with working animals forever, please call **020 7470 9343**, email us at legacies@thebrooke.org or visit thebrooke.org/legacies

Free Will Service

Our collaboration with the National Free Wills Network and Farewill makes it easy for you to write a Will at no cost to you. You can do this online, over the phone, or in person with a solicitor near you.

Visit thebrooke.org/fws or scan the QR code.





PAINTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In many of the communities we work in, caring about donkeys starts early – and we wouldn't have it any other way.

Brooke Donkey Care Clubs give school-age children the chance to learn how to look after their animals properly, passing on the principles of feeding, grooming and compassionate handling.



Florence is a member of a Donkey Care Club in Kenya and passionate about drawing. She uses her artwork to advocate for better treatment of donkeys like keeping them hydrated. During our last visit, Florence produced a lovely drawing of a donkey drinking water.

Florence is just one of many students across East Africa benefiting from the Donkey Care Club training programmes. Celebrating their 20th anniversary last year, the clubs educate the next

generation about caring kindly for animals, often through poetry, song and dance.

Changing the hearts and minds of children, as the donkey owners of the future, is vital. But it's also important for the present. Children in the clubs play a crucial role in improving working donkeys' welfare at home. This year, we want to reach 700 more children through donkey clubs in Kenya and Tanzania. And with continued, valued support like yours, we know we can.

"I joined the Donkey Care Club to learn more about donkeys and how to care for them."

Florence



AROUND THE WORLD

The African Union's decision in February 2024 to ban the donkey skin trade across the continent was long fought for. But there is still work to be done to eradicate this cruel practice on a global scale.

AFRICA

Africa is home to two-thirds of the world's donkey population and, while the continental ban is a big win for these noble creatures, the story here isn't complete.

Thanks to you, we continue to campaign, with a focus on ensuring the ban happens locally across the west African regions.

We're working with regional economic communities such as Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) to promote donkey protection.

With your support, we're also collaborating with the African Union's Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources to develop a Pan African Donkey Strategy. This will see donkeys protected continent wide.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

In India, we're targeting communities to raise awareness about better donkey protection

measures and government officials about enforcing laws and regulations.

Meanwhile, our team in Pakistan is investigating potential concerns about the donkey meat trade and working on a campaign strategy that is country specific.

LATIN AMERICA

We're launching investigative work into the donkey skin trade in Peru and Mexico.

Keep an eye out for more important updates, and how you can help, in the months to come.



SCAN ME

You can learn more about the donkey skin trade at
thebrooke.org/donkeycrisis



Equines and disaster risk management

NEWS OF EXCITING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH UCL



An injured donkey foal is rescued during the Pakistan floods in 2023.

We're collaborating with University College London (UCL) to understand working animal health and wellbeing before, during and after disasters such as floods and droughts.

Policies and strategies are one tool to prevent, reduce and manage disasters including floods, earthquakes and wildfires. These often involve helping some of the poorest communities grow resilience, particularly around climate change.

We're keen to understand the issues working animals experience during disasters and how proactively including them in plans to manage and mitigate disasters can help protect their health and welfare.

With our partner, UCL, rated the second top university in the UK for research, we'll work to create useful knowledge that's informed by the needs of the people and animals they depend on.

We'll make decisions with animal owners, animal health providers and government officials, designing the research together.

By understanding the key issues affecting working animals' health and welfare, we can work with our partners to ensure they're considered in

policies and strategies to reduce and manage disasters.

Recently, the UN adopted a resolution on disaster risk reduction, including a paragraph on working animals that was added thanks to Brooke's advocacy.

This stresses the importance of building their protection into disaster management plans and will elevate the issue politically, encouraging countries to adopt it.



Handling and harnessing in Halaba

PILOT PROJECT LOOKS TO IMPROVE WELFARE FOR WORKING HORSES



Brooke Ethiopia has set up a pilot project aimed at improving horses' welfare during their working day, targeting owners and handlers.

The team is looking at two major influences on an animal's experience of work – the harnessing they wear and the way they are handled in carrying out tasks.

Because challenges relating to harnessing and handling are complex, the team limited the number of owners and handlers in the first cohort so they

could work intensively with them.

Thanks to a particular effort to recruit female equine users, three women have now joined, bringing the total number of participants to 32.

The project will take place in Halaba, seven hours' drive from Addis Ababa, where an estimated 6,000 horses and donkeys live and work. Evidence indicates animals in urban contexts experience the poorest standards of welfare.



Deginet embraces project to promote equine wellbeing

Participant Deginet has a particularly deep bond with his horse Bora, who he regards as a close friend and family member. Deginet hopes to gain deeper insights into horse care and create a safer, more compassionate environment for his animals. One focus is creating a comfortable, efficient set-up for his cart, so his horses work in a way that promotes their wellbeing.

Deginet says, "It offers an incredible opportunity for me to engage in more meaningful and impactful work on behalf of my equines." He hopes to inspire others with the knowledge and insights he gains.





Changes to veterinary training

Thanks to support like yours, we've collaborated with Jimma University in Ethiopia to create a clinical skills laboratory. Launched in 2023, the initiative is benefiting working animals now and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Over 80% of staff and students say the lab has improved their awareness of animal welfare

Clinical skills labs are opportunities for veterinary students to apply learning to real-world style situations. In countries where they don't exist, students often graduate with robust theoretical knowledge but lack the practical skills to deliver their roles.



By building clinical skills labs, we can bridge this gap. Acquiring hands-on expertise allows trainee vets to transition smoothly into their professional roles without the need for extensive, on-the-job training. For many, the experience has been a breakthrough. Dinegde Tulu (pictured), who graduated from Jimma in 2024, had developed an animal simulation model for students to practise on, limited to a few skills. Once the lab was in place, thanks to the funding we could provide, Dinegde went on to develop seven animal models with multiple skill capabilities using locally available materials.

Thanks to his efforts, students can now practise over 15 clinical skills including injections, bandaging and surgical procedures. Having these practical experiences alleviates students' anxieties about touching real animals and protects animals' welfare.

Dinegde received recognition from the Ministry of Labour and Skill and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute. He now wants to advance his model-making skills, utilising 3D technology, and roll his initiatives out across universities and veterinary institutions countrywide.



GIVE AS YOU LIVE

Raise money for working animals while you shop. Sign up to Give as you Live and shop at over 6,000 retailers (they'll then donate to Brooke at no extra to you).

Sign up at giveasyoulive.com/join/thebrooke or scan the QR code



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IT'S PAYROLL GIVING MONTH!

February is Payroll Giving Month, which is an easy and tax efficient way to donate to Brooke straight from your gross pay. As you donate before tax is deducted, your gift will go even further for working animals. For example, a £10 donation will only cost £8 for a standard rate taxpayer, and Brooke doesn't have to claim Gift Aid. Speak to your HR or Payroll team about setting up payroll giving.

Are you an employer who wants to make Brooke your charity? Send an email to corporate@thebrooke.org or scan the QR code to find out more online.



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SPEND TO SUPPORT

A Brooke-branded Currensea card is an easy way to support working animals and links to your current account.



Round up to the nearest 10p on everyday purchases and give the difference to Brooke. You can also save on foreign exchange fees when you go on holiday.

Find out more and get your free card at currensea.com/partner/brooke



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SHOP BROOKE

Drop into the Brooke online shop for cards and virtual gifts that will please your friends and improve working animals' lives worldwide. Start shopping today at thebrookeshop.org or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

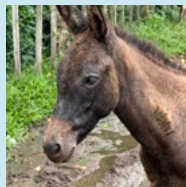
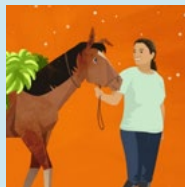
Social corner



Come and say hello!

Join us on Facebook and Instagram @[thebrookecharity](https://www.instagram.com/thebrookecharity) for more news, updates and ways to get involved!

Here are some recent favourites from our social channels





Maria and her mare Rosa live on the Nicaraguan island of Ometepe, where horses transport crops like bananas and plantain. Carlos from our partner, Biometepe, has been working with them as part of a project that aims to create bonds between animals and owners. It's early days but Carlos has already observed behavioural changes in Maria's animals, particularly Rosa, who is becoming friendlier and less cautious.



Thank you for being there for horses like Rosa. Your support means so much to so many working animals. With a gift today, you could help even more working animals worldwide live a life without suffering.

Visit thebrooke.org/newsletter



thebrooke.org

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