

A day in the life of a Paravet – in Tanzania

Diana Gladness is a qualified Paravet (assistant veterinarian) working five days each week for ASPA (Arusha Society for the Protection of Animals) as an Education Officer and Welfare Ambassador in Tanzania. She is 29 and currently studying to become a vet. From frequent training and support, Brooke has developed Diana's education and understanding of donkeys, which she shared with her community, bringing awareness of equine welfare and health care systems, and most importantly, building a movement for change. Diana is an inspirational educator to many, and because of Diana, the world is a better place.

On a typical day, Diana is up at 5am to get her son ready for school, before she heads to the office, where she works with Albert, Community Development Officer, and Dr Lazaro, a qualified vet. She prepares her lesson plans on days she is teaching, and on her clinic days she puts together the medicines and equipment needed for her visits.

Three days a week are allocated to donkey care. Diana visits communities to educate owners on animal welfare and attends clinics to help with general health check-ups, deworming and tetanus vaccinations.

Two days a week are spent teaching, where Diana visits schools to advise on donkey welfare and provides learning materials. There are over 20 school donkey clubs and she tries to visit them all regularly. She also teaches livestock training in a college, both theory and practice sessions, interacting with the donkeys and informing students about the different treatments and medications available.

Her evenings are spent at home looking after her goats and sheep, cooking evening meals, including porridge mixed with meat for her dog, and helping her son with his homework.

And finally, she goes to bed for a well-deserved rest!



"My hope is to see donkeys happy. Just like our motto for us: for happy animals, happy people. With freedom, love, care, and protection, it will bring great success to owners and to the country, strengthening the evidence of equid roles and contributions to the One Health concept, a World Health Organisation approach that recognises the link between humans, animals, and the environment. Donkeys are contributing to the economy of the country, not just to the owners"

Diana Gladness, Paravet, Tanzania

Update: Drought-devastated Horn of Africa finally receives rains



A donkey drinks from a previously installed Brooke water point in Ilaani, Kenya

In our last update, we reported on the Horn of Africa, which had entered a sixth consecutive non-existent rainy season and was experiencing some of the worst drought and failed crop conditions in decades. Thankfully rain has returned to Kenya in the last few weeks, but the impact of the drought is likely to persist for a long time, and inevitably there will be future droughts. It is vital that communities which rely on equines are prepared for this eventuality.

Following Brooke's emergency intervention in June, where 3,000 donkeys received emergency feed and veterinary treatment, we are now working on rehabilitating water infrastructure across the region to build resilience and preparedness for future emergencies. Supporting water projects as part of disaster relief is crucial for improving health and sanitation and ensuring food security.

Disaster preparedness is a vital part of Brooke's work around the globe, providing training and support for communities that are at risk of natural disasters helping reduce the sometimes catastrophic affect such events can have on equines and their owners.

Spotlight on Agrovets: Transforming animal health in East Africa

Titus Kyoko is an Agrovet practitioner who owns an Agrovet store in Kichi County, Kenya. Agrovets dispense medicines to farmers, and provide clinical services to animals. Titus can treat and administer medication for routine and minor issues. However, it hasn't always been easy for him.

On a recent visit, Titus shared that he used to be scared of handling donkeys, he'd feel anxious, and once he'd been kicked by a donkey when called to administer a wormer for the first time. However, he's much more confident and capable now, which he credits to the training and mentoring he received from Brooke, and our partner Caritas Kitui.

Titus was matched with mentor Dr Mutai, a Veterinary Officer, and given training that has taught him key skills for his role including how to handle donkeys, give first aid and relieve pain. He is more assured and prepared and feels more fulfilled as he knows he can help an animal in need.

Titus dreams of having his own clinic where he can offer better care to donkeys and help farmers in remote areas. He also wants to continue providing services to farmers through motorbike visits. His ultimate goal is to ensure that donkeys are well taken care of and that mistreatment is prevented. He believes that donkeys play an essential part in their community and need to be provided with proper care.

How we're helping Agrovets to help animals...

Few initiatives exist to address the issue of access to essential veterinary medicines and training last-mile service providers like Agrovet practitioners. Agrovets like Titus play a crucial role in improving health, however they face significant challenges and limited resources including a lack of formal quality training and professional qualifications, an absence of field mentoring and continuous professional development (CPD) and have limited or no availability to appropriate medicines and vaccines.

Brooke East Africa is launching a project which aims to improve the skills of service providers by training Agrovet practitioners as leaders of local service improvement and improving access to medicines and vaccines.

The project will run over the next three years, at a cost of c. £97,088 per year, and we will:

- Train 120 Agrovets to become confident, compassionate and competent in ten counties in Kenya and one district in Tanzania
- Enter Agrovets into Brooke's Mentoring programme, where they will receive bespoke training to improve their skills and competency
- Give Agrovets access to a newly developed CPD programme developed with Brooke and the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate
- Build a support network and networking opportunities for Agrovets at dedicated events and create a Women in Animal Health Champion Network to further support and recognise the important role women play within animal health
- Form national committees in Kenya and Tanzania to create/update a national essential veterinary medicines and vaccine list, to prioritise medicines and vaccines for registration, license and distribution

To find out more or to support this exciting new project, please speak to your Brooke contact.



Titus Kyoko, an Agrovet practitioner outside his store, 'Boma Agrovet'.

"My hopes and dreams for donkeys in this country - I would like to see, or to enter into, an era whereby donkeys are well handled, well taken care of and well sheltered, so that we can ease the work which they do, day in and day out. Because in this country of ours, Kenya, many donkeys are used for working, so to make that work easier, and for the durability of the animal, I like the practices for handling and managing donkeys to be well done".

Titus Kyoko, Agrovet practitioner and store owner.



Titus with his mentor Dr Mutai, during a field mentoring session, practicing compassionate handling while treating a donkey.

Thank you for your support

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