

# HOOF PRINT

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ITS MARK



Photo: © Ahmad Chaudhry

February 2026

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Issue **09**

### Welcome to your Winter 2026 edition of Hoof Print

I'm delighted to share with you stories that show the incredible impact of your support for working animals worldwide.

On the cover is my friend and colleague, Dr Javed Gondal, CEO of Brooke Pakistan. Our international colleagues showed great bravery and compassion as they came together to treat animals during last year's tragic floods in Pakistan. Your generosity helped save lives.

We're also working in new areas of desperate need, like the Tanzanian gold mines. Your support is already making a difference, enabling our team to improve conditions for working animals there.

We pay tribute to Gaynor Miller, our Safeguarding Trustee and Chair of the Governance Committee who has sadly passed away. A passionate advocate for working animals, Gaynor leaves a legacy that will guide us for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Together, we can achieve even more for working animals in 2026.



**Chris Wainwright**  
Chief Executive, Brooke



Photo: © Chelsie Reed

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## Donkey skin trade documentary

TV vet and Brooke ambassador Dr Scott Miller recently travelled to Kenya to report on the donkey skin trade and our work there. The resulting documentary, 'From Skin To Skincare', premiered on 22 October 2025.

Dr Scott says when donkeys are stolen, "It's losing everything. One of the women in the film was so impacted by the loss of her donkeys she couldn't speak for three months."

**Scan the QR code to watch the film.**



Photo: © Stephen Kiprop

## Donkey skin trade update

Last December, Brooke spoke up for donkeys at the seventh United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi. We called on member states to recognise the donkey skin trade as an environmental crime – one that drives cruelty and illegal slaughter while destroying people's livelihoods. Our efforts helped raise global awareness and strengthened momentum for protecting donkeys everywhere.



**Dr Javed Iqbal Gondal, Brooke Pakistan CEO, treats young donkey, Kaka.**

## Pakistan floods

Photo: © Ahmad Chaudhry

Recent floods across Pakistan's Buner district were sudden and devastating. Kaka the donkey (left) sustained an eye injury during the flash floods when a stone struck his right eye, leaving him blind on that side.

Together with his owner Rizwan, Kaka helps transport water and wood for their household. The Brooke Pakistan team worked with Rizwan to review new handling and care protocols, such as only approaching Kaka from the left-hand side.



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**[thebrooke.org/news](https://thebrooke.org/news)**



# A day in the life of an animal welfare officer: Samantha Opere

## Visiting the Tanzanian gold mines

Donkeys are heavily involved in Tanzanian gold mining. Concerned about the donkeys' welfare, the Tanzanian government and the Arusha Society for the Protection of Animals (ASPA) asked us to assess the situation.

Samantha Opere and the Brooke East Africa team travelled to Geita to observe the donkeys' working conditions. Using our Equine Welfare Owner Behaviour Tool, they evaluated donkey welfare and owner practices.



## Mgusu gold mine

First stop was the Mgusu gold mine, where the donkeys make up to eight trips a day, covering distances of as much as 16km. Samantha and the team walked with them up the mine's steep hills to see how they're loaded and how they move.



## Terrain and weight of the loads

Samantha noticed how cautiously the animals descended the steep hills, suspecting past trauma. Several donkeys slipped, struggled to keep their footing and lost their heavy loads, resulting in a loss for the owners.

## Harnessing issues

While the donkeys' overall condition appeared fair, Samantha felt their physical state could improve with better care. She was also concerned by the lack of harnessing. Many donkeys sustained injuries throughout the day due to constant friction between their bodies and the sharp stones that were packed into the sacks they carried.

## Lack of proper rest and care

Samantha says, "You could see as the donkeys work, they would be breathing heavily. They're thirsty and there's no access to water."

She pointed out their wellbeing would improve with better access to water and extended feeding hours.



Samantha noticed how cautiously donkeys descended the steep hills, often slipping and losing their heavy loads.

**“ It's very intense – the terrain is very steep. They're risking their lives because of the mines.”**

### **Magenge gold mine**

Samantha and the team also stopped off at Magenge, a flatter mine, where donkeys transport construction materials such as timber and sand, pulling it in carts.

Though the donkeys worked on level ground and had more rest between trips, Samantha found they still faced significant challenges. The equipment was poorly designed, with cattle harnesses used on the donkeys, causing neck wounds – and there was a lack of proper wound care and prevention.

Samantha believes that by helping owners better understand their animals' needs, they'll be better equipped to provide proper care.

Our approach at Brooke is to work with owners to help them connect emotionally with their animals, or as Samantha says, "to appreciate donkeys are sentient animals and they have feelings."

**We're working with the ASPA over three years to improve conditions in both mines, with plans to expand to other mining locations in the area.**



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For more news about our work in East Africa, please scan the QR code or visit our website:

**[thebrooke.org/east-africa](https://thebrooke.org/east-africa)**

# Devides and his pony Basanti

Devides has had horses for the past 10 years – his family own 20 horses and five donkeys in total. He shares a particularly special connection with his horse Basanti, whose name means Autumn.

Devides explains, "I like Basanti because of her colour and the way she comes to me when I call. We have a good bond – after dinner, I call her name and we have playtime."

Devides first met Dipak – a Brooke vet and equine welfare project officer – when Basanti was sick and Dipak came to treat her.



Dipak now visits Devides and his family every week. He's teaching him essential skills for treating and caring for his animals, including how to apply ointment and groom and bathe his horses.

Devides now grooms his horses every day, checks to see if they're healthy and gives them water eight times daily. His siblings are learning too, by following Devides' and Dipak's examples.

All photos in this article: © Harish Damade



**“ I thank him [Dipak] for saving my horse's life.”**

Devides



# Hércules: a symbol of resilience

Just two years ago, the Traction Centre equine care training facility in Olancho, Honduras – home to 40 horses including Hércules – looked completely different.

Brooke worked alongside the Universidad Nacional de Agricultrato to install essential resources that have transformed the centre into a dynamic learning environment. The animals now have constant access to water, improved care, and two hectares of pasture – planted by the students themselves – that provide year-round feed.

The collaboration also inspired 39 veterinary students to form a voluntary work movement dedicated to improving animals' lives. Students care for the animals while sharing their passion for welfare in nearby communities, offering practical guidance too.

The students say they've gained strength through their collaboration with Brooke. Looking ahead, they're eager to explore different equine care practices and gain experience to



Hércules even featured in our photography exhibition. Read about it on page 8.

continuously improve their impact for working animals.

The group has chosen Hércules, 21 – who has lived at the Traction Centre since birth – as its emblem of resilience. Over the years, generations of students have bonded with Hércules. To the group, Hércules is more than just a horse. Student Lissete says:

**“Hércules represents our mission. He's our icon.”**



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If you'd like to support more horses like Basanti and Hércules, please scan the QR code or visit our website:  
[thebrooke.org/donate](https://thebrooke.org/donate)

### Mucking out in memory

Brooke supporter Sue Jessett raised over £600 for working animals with a sponsored muck-out in memory of her friend and riding instructor, Pippa Williams. She spent 28 October 2025 mucking out, sweeping the yard and caring for horses at Stockton's Ekko Equestrian Stables. Thank you so much Sue.



### Remembering animals who served

2025 marked 15 years since the first Animals in War Memorial service, this year held on 9 November 2025. Broadcaster and Brooke supporter Angela Rippon laid a wreath for us.

A huge thanks to another Angela – **Angela Yardley** – who started the service with Wendy and Emma Kurels in 2010, supported by 12 animal charities and the late novelist Jilly Cooper.



Left to right: Angela Yardley with Emma and Wendy Kurels.

“ I hoped this Remembrance would endure as I always felt insufficient recognition was usually given to the animals – especially horses and mules – without whom access and movement of munitions would have been impossible.”

Angela Yardley

### First Brooke photo exhibition

We brought Brooke's work to life at our supporter day in September 2025 with our first-ever photography exhibition, featuring images captured by Brooke staff in the field.

Staff from each country programme selected two of their own photos, adding captions with personal reflections. Supporters had the chance to chat with the photographers and hear more about the stories behind the images. One of the images was of 21-year-old horse Hércules, from Honduras, who you can read about on page 7.



Photos: © Adam Haggerty

If you'd like to get involved with fundraising at Brooke, email the team: [community@thebrooke.org](mailto:community@thebrooke.org) or visit [thebrooke.org/find-an-event](https://thebrooke.org/find-an-event)



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## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT BROOKE

### Start your fundraising journey

Order your free Brooke fundraising pack and take the first step towards helping working horses, donkeys and mules worldwide. Inside, you'll find inspiring ideas, planning tips and simple guidance on how to get started. Our fundraisers are at the heart of everything we do. Every penny raised helps give working animals the life they deserve.

#### **You don't need a big event to get started.**

You could ask a local shop or vet to host a collection tin, sell unwanted items or set yourself a riding, running or walking challenge. Every effort helps create lasting change.

To request your pack, please email [community@thebrooke.org](mailto:community@thebrooke.org)



## Ask the expert

### Do you have a specific question about equine care?

From farriery to handling and harnessing, and even veterinary care, our experts are ready to take your questions and share their insights in the next edition of Hoof Print.

So go on, drop us a line – we can't wait to hear from you. Email us at [newsletter@thebrooke.org](mailto:newsletter@thebrooke.org)

#### Harnessing expert

**Jackie Hickman**  
Global Harness Advisor



Photo © Stephen Kiprop

#### Farriery expert

**Angus Wiseman**  
Global Farriery Advisor



Photo © Mbar Diop

#### Equine behaviour expert

**Sophie Hill**  
Compassionate Handling



Photo © Fatima Ndiour



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If you'd like to support the work our experts do around the globe, please scan the QR code or visit our website:  
[thebrooke.org/donate](https://thebrooke.org/donate)

## New shelter update

The city of Negele Arsi, in southeastern Ethiopia, is home to our new Negele Arsi Animal Welfare and Health Centre. The centre incorporates a shelter, training facility, clinic and training centre, alongside farrier and harnessing shops and workshops.

To create the centre, our Brooke Ethiopia team used the latest evidence to prioritise animal welfare, researching best welfare practice for equine housing. They also shared learnings from our shelter in Halaba, such as spacious areas for the animals to roam in and express natural behaviours. Once complete, the Negele Arsi centre will cater for between 350 and 400 animals on busy market days, fewer on other days.

Offering specialist services such as harnessing and farriery shops and workshops, and an equine health clinic, will benefit owners who currently travel long distances to access expert care.



Photo: © Chelsie Reed

The centre is located next to a vocational college that trains animal health assistants, which will help to build future capacity.

The build, which began in April 2025, is set to complete in May/June 2026.

**“ I hope this shelter will go even further, with farriery projects and many other opportunities for learning.”**

Biniyam Yeheyese, Halaba Team Leader and a member of the planning team



Photo: © Bill Bradhsaw



Photo: © Bill Bradhsaw

## Centre services

The Negele Arsi Animal Welfare and Health Centre will offer a wide range of services including: a shelter; a training facility; a clinic and training centre; a shaded, resting area; stables for sick animals; and a staff office.

Our farrier shop and workshop will provide farrier services to visitors who can also buy harness products from the harness shop and workshop. We'll offer training opportunities in farriery and harnessing at the centre too.



Photo: © Abebe Alemu

## Brooke UK visit Halaba

Our previous experience will support us in developing our new centre. We report back on a recent Brooke UK visit to Halaba.

“ The shelter's paddock has a sandy floor, providing excellent natural rolling pits and the chance to express natural behaviours during breaks from work – something the donkeys make full use of! We love the fact that any horse or donkey is free to enter, with or without an owner. While we were there, a stray horse wandered in for a drink from the clean water troughs outside the stables!”

## Thank you for everything you make possible for working animals



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Half of builds like these are made possible thanks to supporters who have left a gift in their Will. Find out more about leaving your own legacy by scanning the QR code, or visit [thebrooke.org/legacies](https://thebrooke.org/legacies)



# Compassionate handling: Senegal

Handling describes how humans work with, respond to and interact with animals in their surroundings. Compassionate handling is key to improving animal welfare and enhancing relationships between people and their animals. Positive reinforcement helps animals learn faster, stay calmer and react to people in a relaxed, cooperative way.

Thanks to your support, owners of working animals in Senegal – and across the world – are learning about compassionate handling and the importance of positive reinforcement. In Senegal, we're working with our partner, the Union des Groupements Associés du Niombato (UGAN), to provide training and mentoring.



Sophie Hill and Daouda Seck



A compassionate handling workshop in Senegal

## Case study: Séga Seck

Séga Seck, a three-year-old mare, lives in central-western Senegal. One morning, her owner, Pape Diop, tried to put the plough on Séga but she refused. Thankfully, UGAN trainer Amadu Ba was on hand to help. Pape says:

**“ He used a technique [of positive reinforcement] and Séga ploughed. The next day, I applied the same technique and Séga ploughed without difficulty. Had it not been for Amadu's intervention, I would have injured my horse.”**

**“ The addition of a positive outcome – in this case some grain – after a desired behaviour – in this case walking with the plough – strengthens the behaviour. Positive reinforcement enables animals to associate events with actions they can control.”**

Sophie Hill, Global Animal Welfare Advisor at Brooke

All photos in this article: © Fatima Ndiour

## Brooke's International Compassionate Handling Workshop

Earlier this year, Brooke came together with UK-based equine rescue organisation, **Redwings Horse Sanctuary**, to hold our International Compassionate Handling Workshop.

This was an opportunity for our compassionate handling experts to further develop their skills in line with our Compassionate Handling Mentoring Framework. The framework defines what good handling looks like and equips people with the tools to achieve it. It's a new toolkit to drive transformative change in how we perceive and interact with animals.

We focused on building the key competencies needed to handle animals compassionately, empowering participants to become advocates for animal welfare, as well as experts in equine behaviour and different handling techniques. They then explored how to apply these skills to real-world, human-animal interactions in the field.

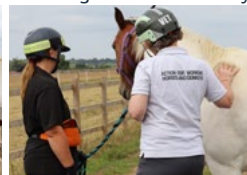


Collaborating with another equine welfare organisation allowed us to draw on complementary expertise and foster mutual learning. Redwings contributed their extensive experience of rescuing and rehabilitating traumatised horses, donkeys and mules in the UK. We shared our experience of changing human behaviour to improve the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules internationally. We compared how quality of life, equine emotions and also different behaviour modification techniques are applied in these settings.

As one participant summed up on social media:

**“What an incredible week of shared learning with Redwings Horse Sanctuary.”**

Images: © Redwings Horse Sanctuary



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**[thebrooke.org/news](http://thebrooke.org/news)**

# A celebration of the life of Gaynor Miller

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gaynor Miller, a dedicated and valued Brooke trustee. Gaynor did so much for our charity over 6.5 years in the role. Highly experienced in her field of finance, she contributed an enormous amount to our Governance, Risk and Finance committees. She also supported us in developing our safeguarding approach organisation-wide.

Gaynor's love of horses was hugely evident, and she gave much of her time to equine welfare. Gaynor's attention to detail and critical yet supportive approach will be sorely missed at Brooke, and her kindness remembered with fondness.



**“Beyond Gaynor's remarkable passion for supporting Brooke's work, her guidance and contributions in navigating through some of the most complex agenda items were truly unparalleled. Every Board would have benefitted from Gaynor's presence. She will be greatly missed, but the many years of invaluable support to Brooke will never be forgotten.”**

Aragie Yimer, Global Chief Financial Officer, Brooke

**“Gaynor provided inspirational guidance as the Chair of the Governance Committee, especially as we developed and implemented the Global Safeguarding Policy. Her level of diligence and knowledge of good governance was second to none, and we are deeply appreciative of her contribution to Brooke. Gaynor loved equids and often spoke fondly of her own horse. She will be very much missed.”**

Lin McGarry, Global Head of People and Culture, Brooke





## A lifetime's support

**Patricia Mary Bushell** very kindly left a gift to Brooke in her Will. Her children, Louise and Nick, tell us about their mother's lifelong love of animals.

"Our mum dearly loved all animals, [and] was a kind compassionate, caring, empathetic lady. We took in many waifs and strays at our farm – all of them naturally had an affinity with her.

"She abhorred, and was saddened by, the cruelty and neglect that is the plight of so, so many animals across the world."

**“ It was her wish to give a little towards helping their plight through gifts in her Will to various charities. Indeed she, my brother and I (since the age of nine years old) have donated monthly to Brooke, never missing a month. I am 66 now and my brother 62.”**

Thank you Patricia, Louise and Nick for your dedicated and longstanding support, which has transformed the lives of so many working animals – and continues to do so.

Photos courtesy of Patricia's family



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Photo: © Ahmad Chaudhry



**Your support means the world. Thank you  
for giving us a life worth living.**

**BROOKE ACTION FOR WORKING HORSES AND DONKEYS**



**PRESIDENT: Her Majesty The Queen**

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