

DCA-VET/Brooke partnership extended for another year

Since 2008, Brooke and DCA-VET are together working for equine welfare in Afghanistan. Brooke is an international animal welfare organisation, based in the UK. It is dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules in some of the world's poorest communities. Afghanistan has some 1.7 million donkeys and horses. These animals have to work in difficult conditions, for example in brick kilns. They often have to carry extremely heavy loads and live in a desperate situation. Knowledge of their owners about even the most basic animal husbandry is low.

DCA-VET/Brooke focusses on improving equine welfare through changing human behaviour. We train animal service providers, like paravets, farriers, saddlers, and traditional healers in bringing about this change. These service providers demonstrate equine-friendly practices, and teach people how to treat their donkeys and horses in a correct way. DCA-VET/Brooke also introduces new, improved tools, like portable water troughs, special grooming brushes, safe saddles, and new harnesses. Stables are improved by plastering, whitewashing, disinfecting, and improving ventilation and lighting.

In addition, DCA-VET/Brooke works directly with male, female and children equine welfare groups, to involve the whole household. These groups regularly meet to improve their technical knowledge and husbandry practices. In total 2,500 male, 2,050 female and 2,200 children take part in the groups. Here they learn how to handle their animals sensitively to prevent regularly occurring welfare problems of the donkeys and horses.



The children groups especially are very effective. Of course we take care of a child-friendly, playful approach, do not exploit the children in anyway, and their input is undertaken outside of school hours.

By the end of 2017, we hope to have sustainably improved the lives of 42,000 working donkeys and horses in Afghanistan.