



healthy working animals
for the world's poorest communities

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The Brooke reaches 500,000 horses, donkeys and mules a year – animals that support the livelihoods of more than three million people. Our aim is to reach five million suffering animals.

Photo: Dan Abraham

BROOKE Every animal helped by the Brooke supports between six and twenty people, who depend on that animal for all or part of their income.

The Brooke in 2004/5

The Brooke relieves the suffering of horses, donkeys and mules working in some of the world's poorest communities.

These animals form the backbone of many of the economies in the developing world, supporting countless poor communities where many people earn less than \$1 a day.

Yet millions of horses, donkeys and mules suffer in an almost indescribable way as they endure backbreaking work hauling goods and people in some of the world's harshest environments.

In blistering heat or unbearable cold they are put to work in vast brick kiln factories, sprawling urban slums, chaotic city streets, remote villages and unforgiving terrain. There is no let-up for such animals, which are often worked until they drop – leaving a family destitute.

Yet, the diseases and injuries the animals endure – until they literally die in harness – are mostly preventable. Animal owners often do not understand the needs of their animals, and some use traditional methods that cause untold pain and suffering.



There is no other charity like the Brooke in terms of its scale, its science, or its measurable impact. It is the largest veterinary organisation of its kind worldwide, with over 500 highly-skilled staff working directly in the field.

The Brooke's 55 mobile veterinary teams and 15 field clinics, together with its partner organisations worldwide, operate where the need is greatest.

The Brooke provides free veterinary care to help the most needy working animals across seven countries in Asia, Africa, South America and the Middle East.

Provision of immediate pain relief to animals is a priority and is complemented by very practical training programmes for tens of thousands of animal owners, farriers, saddlers, feed sellers, harness and cart makers – and including thousands of children who supplement their family's income by working with horses, donkeys and mules.

The Brooke is internationally recognised for its technical expertise, veterinary knowledge and its proven ability to improve the lives of millions of animals and the people that depend on them.

Horseshoe © JavaJane

BROOKE Our unique science-based methods and growing partnership network will ensure we increase our reach from 500,000 to five million working equine animals that suffer the most, and the 30 million people who depend on them for a living.

Brooke's Future

The Brooke is dedicated to reaching the five million horses, donkeys and mules that suffer most in the world, and protecting the livelihoods of millions of poor people in developing countries who depend on those animals to earn a living.

This is an enormous challenge but, with experience spanning 70 years and the development of a unique science-based approach, we know we can realise this ambitious aim.

The final building block for this groundbreaking programme was put in place in 2004/5 when The Brooke Partnership Network was officially launched at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with endorsement from the Rt. Hon. Alan Michael MP, Minister of State (Rural Affairs), and Minister for the Horse.

The Brooke Partnership Network brings together organisations working with some of the poorest communities in the world, and helps them in applying the Brooke's proven veterinary and education methods in the animal-dependent communities they serve.

In 2004/5 the Brooke continued to develop its partnerships in Afghanistan, Guatemala and Kenya and started work to recruit more partners. In 2004/5 we received seven further applications to join our partnership network and are currently pursuing a number of these.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS WITH OUR THREE MAIN PARTNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Afghanistan: since we successfully established a mobile veterinary team in the city of Jalalabad in 2003 with local Afghan organisation, the Committee for the Rehabilitation of Aid to Afghanistan, and support from the World Society for Protection of Animals, it became apparent in 2004/5 that there was a desperate need to extend our work into the provinces of Nangharar and Kabul. In line with our methodical science-based approach the Brooke's Chief Vet in Jordan – Dr Ali Twaissi – travelled to Afghanistan and led an animal welfare assessment in these areas in anticipation of our extension to the programme in 2005.

'Mutunze Punda Akutunze' means 'Look after your donkey and she'll look after you' in Kiswahili. The Brooke is promoting this message on a nationwide radio programme heard by animal owners throughout Kenya.



BROOKE Our 55 mobile veterinary teams travel hundreds of thousands of miles dispensing free veterinary treatment, compassion, care, advice and training.

Guatemala: in 2004/5 the Brooke's Director of International Development, Bill Swann, undertook an initial evaluation of the animals in the Peten region of Guatemala with support from our partner in that region, The Humane Society of the United States. This has led to an ambitious plan to engage with many more animal-owning communities needing our help, which include the indigenous Mayan people who are amongst the country's poorest.

Kenya: this project with local Kenyan organisation, KENDAT, concentrates on developing good community links with the donkey owners of Lari and Mwea. In 2004/5 a welfare assessment was carried out by a team from Brooke in the UK and India to establish the priorities for animal welfare improvement. Radio broadcasts continue to be a key feature of the work in Kenya allowing welfare messages to be broadcast to animal-owning communities throughout the country.



BROOKE We lead the way in delivering the very best in appropriate and sustainable veterinary care to hundreds of thousands of horses, donkeys and mules in the developing world.

Veterinary care at its best

In 2004/5 the Brooke employed 102 vets to work across its many countries of operation. All are nationals of the countries in which they work and many of the basic treatments they offer are delivered by local *Community Animal Health Workers*, people from the local animal-owning communities trained by the Brooke in simple first aid and animal care.

Training animal owners and people involved in allied trades is a very high priority for Brooke vets too. Our vets help the communities they serve to help themselves, which is essential if the changes we make are to last.

Our emphasis is on training the very people that live and work with these animals, which means the animals under their care have access to basic care all year round.

In 2004/5 our veterinary teams focused on a number of specific issues as part of their training programmes for animal owners. These included the ever-present threat of heat stress and dehydration, footcare and work-related injuries.

The average day of a vet involves a hectic schedule in a mobile unit which will visit a number of "contact points" where animals and their owners will already be queuing to see them. These visits may also

involve community meetings to train as many as 50 animal owners at any one time in basic animal care. Travelling an average of 80 miles a day, in 2004/5 our mobile units covered more than 300,000 miles to reach animal-dependent communities.

During 2004/5 Brooke teams in Egypt began working in three new areas in the Nile Delta – a total of 26 new sites – and in India we added

a further 15 sites to our mobile routes. As a result, in the Delhi area alone, the number of animals we helped in 2004/5 increased by more than 57%. In neighbouring Pakistan we reached 107 communities, focusing on lameness, body condition, water provision and maintenance of harness and pack-saddles. And in Jordan the local Horse Owners' Association accepted responsibility for providing farriery services for the horses and donkeys working in the ancient tourist site of Petra, and contributing to the cost of the animals' water supply. Such self sufficiency is a vital step in guaranteeing the long-term health and welfare of working animals in the area.

"We can't impose practices on animal owners, but we can advise. It is tough – one minute I'm persuading one owner to euthanise his very sick animal, and the next minute I'm talking to another about good nutrition."

Dr Ahmed Roston, Brooke vet, Egypt



BROOKE By developing unique and proven methods with Bristol University Veterinary School and exposing our work to external scrutiny, the Brooke is confident that it will make a step change in its reach and measurable impact.

Science of Care

Animal welfare science is a developing field, which aims to underpin good intentions and humanitarian work with sound methodology.

For the past three years the Brooke has been working with Bristol University Veterinary School in the UK, which is the world leader in animal welfare science. The outcome of this work is now beginning to make a substantial difference to the welfare of working animals in a way that is simply unmatched anywhere in the world.

The partnership is identifying the worst animal welfare problems, the causes and the best and most sustainable solutions. Over the next few years our scientific approach is set to change the health and welfare of millions of working horses and donkeys in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Throughout 2004/5, the Brooke/Bristol team of expert assessors observed the health, behaviour and welfare of nearly 5,000 working horses,

donkeys and mules in their working environment across five countries – looking at a range of problems, from fear of humans, to malnutrition, dehydration, injuries and lameness.

It is the biggest survey of working equines ever to be conducted, and was achieved by observing each donkey, horse or mule directly 'in the field' in some of the world's harshest environments.

In 2004/5 the initial results from this welfare assessment programme were published in the prestigious international journal *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*.

While further welfare assessments are being carried out in new countries of operation, the Brooke/Bristol teams are now evaluating the complex causes of key health and welfare problems identified by the assessments – such as tail-base lesions, nose wounds, lameness and dehydration. The teams will also devise interventions to treat these problems.

Other projects in 2004/5 included a risk assessment completed in the vast brick kilns of Helwan, on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. This is part of a wider Brooke programme across the developing world to improve the lives and productivity of thousands of horses, donkeys and mules as they transport tons of bricks from the brick-making areas to the furnaces.



BROOKE Our education and training programmes for animal owners/users have an enormous impact. People represent the single largest influence on the welfare of working animals.

Reaching out to communities

We know that by engaging with animal owners and the tradesmen that serve these animals we will be able to make important changes to reduce animal suffering. Our research indicates that 80% of animal suffering is caused by lack of knowledge and the use of bad practices, whether it be through poor work habits, such as overloading, or aggressive handling, provision of poor nutrition or failure to give adequate hydration. This is why much of our work involves working directly with the people to show them good animal care practices, and sensitively challenging their continued use of methods that cause harm to their animals.

This community-led approach is vital to the success of our existing work across all of our countries of operation. Nowhere is this seen more acutely than in the desperately poor, tented community of Talianwala in Pakistan.

In 2004 our vets from Lahore visited this village for the first time, following a request from a villager at one of our mobile team contact points. On arrival, Brooke vets were alarmed to find hundreds of suffering donkeys. Life here is brutal and can be miserable for both the people and the animals: families eke a basic living sorting and selling rubbish from local dumps, and disease is rife.

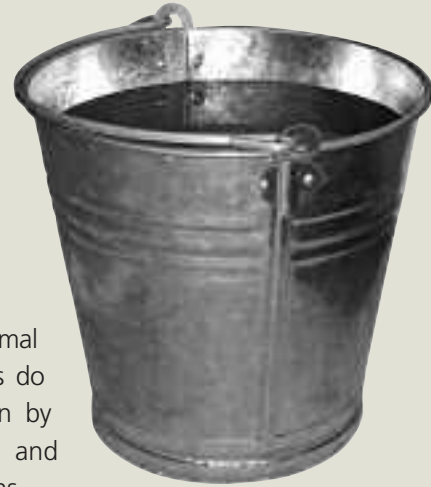
There is widespread ignorance of even basic equine care, so Brooke mobile teams launched an action programme to treat immediate animal

welfare problems. Over time, trust was built with animal owners by showing that our veterinary treatments do help, and we were able to move into prevention by involving the community in training sessions, and discussions about animal care problems and solutions.

This included recruiting two dozen animal owners as *Brooke Advocates*, training them to show their friends and neighbours good welfare practices and encouraging their learning by holding competitions to test their knowledge of equine care. In addition, our teams organised the first of several puppet shows to convey a message of care and compassion towards working animals in a memorable and very effective way.

The people of Talianwala welcomed the Brooke's attention and are eager to learn. Now, basic husbandry skills are starting to become widespread in the community. And with our simple tips on veterinary care helping them to help themselves, the animals of the tented city are already showing huge improvements.

Talianwala was just one of many new communities visited by the Brooke mobile veterinary teams during 2004/5. In total we started working in more than 100 new communities enabling us to relieve the suffering of many more thousands of working animals worldwide.



Financial results

In 2004/5 the Brooke's total incoming resources increased by 18% from £5,206,000 to £6,156,000. Prudent expenditure plans in anticipation of a lower level of income combined with favourable movements in exchange rates resulted in overseas operational expenditure, when converted into Sterling, being significantly below budget. All these factors combined to produce net incoming resources of £1,183,000.

In the UK, the costs of generating funds rose by £91,000, on account of increased direct fundraising activity. International support costs rose by £40,000, reflecting additional expenditure on research to improve the effectiveness of the Brooke's work. Management and administration costs fell by £13,000.

Outside the UK, expenditure on joint ventures rose as a result of increased activity in Afghanistan, and new projects in Guatemala and Kenya.

Net investment gains of £484,000, together with net incoming resources of £1,183,000, resulted in reserves rising by £1,667,000.

The Brooke has developed ambitious plans to extend its reach 10-fold over the next decade (refer to "Brooke's Future" above). Although our reserves will allow us to make a start on realising these plans, they will not be sufficient to support the expanded programme over a 10-year period. It is therefore imperative that the Brooke enjoys continued growth in income.

Hilary Weir OBE, Chairman
Signed on behalf of the Trustees

This financial information is provided in order to give readers an overview of Brooke's income and expenditure in the year to 31 March 2005. It has been extracted from the charity's audited annual report and accounts, copies of which can be obtained from the Brooke's London office on request.

