



A small pony in rural Cambodia is struggling to carry a heavy load strapped to his already fragile back. Beneath the burdensome cargo the sharp outline of his spine and protruding ribs are shockingly visible. He hasn't had enough food for days, perhaps weeks, and he is on the verge of collapsing...

Another pony is limping as she pulls a cart through the streets of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city. Chronic malnutrition and bad equipment have left her lame and in constant pain, with infected wounds that are opened fresh every day. With no veterinary care available, she will continue to grow weaker and sicker...

Rural Cambodia is a land of extreme poverty and hardship. The farmers and laborers who live there cannot afford vehicles and rely on working ponies for their livelihoods—every day around 30,000 ponies can be seen on the streets from early morning until late evening, pulling carts, carrying heavy loads, providing transportation, and giving rides to tourists.

A lifetime of suffering

Despite their importance these ponies endure chronic neglect and abuse. Although owners do not intentionally mistreat their animals, a combination of poverty and ignorance leads to poor welfare. In Cambodia there are no trained equine vets, and there is no tradition of equine care, nutrition, and farriery (horseshoeing and hoof care). In addition, most owners cannot afford appropriate food and equipment for their ponies.

As a result the majority of ponies in Cambodia are sick, emaciated, wounded, weak, and overworked. Many suffer and die from easily treatable diseases and injuries, while others slowly starve to death—some ponies eat only what food they can find for themselves.

Ponies also suffer daily from the damaging effects of crude equipment and overloading. Many have open wounds, abscesses, and skin infections as a result of bad harnesses. Poor hoof care also leads to a range of problems including chronic lameness and hoof damage, so that many ponies are seen constantly limping or dragging their legs as they pull their heavy loads.

WSPA's ambitious new project is bringing badly needed relief to these ponies, but we need your support. Keep reading to find out more and to make your gift to help these ponies and other animals around the world.

Yes! I want to bring relief to working ponies and other animals around the world

WSPA is organized under IR Code 501(c)(3). Gifts are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Please send me free information about how to include WSPA in my will.

Please send me WSPA's email newsletter. Email address: _____

My check/money order is enclosed and made payable to WSPA.

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Lincoln Plaza
89 South Street, Suite 201
Boston, MA 02111
1-800-883-9772
www.wspa-usa.org



Bringing hope to ponies in Cambodia

Last year a team from WSPA member society the Lampang Pony Welfare Organization (LPWO) in Thailand traveled to Cambodia and saw firsthand the horrors faced by the working ponies there. What they saw was heartbreaking, but for LPWO it was not unique—up until a few years ago the working ponies of Lampang, Thailand, were in a similar situation.

Fortunately, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, WSPA and LPWO have run an extremely successful project to bring relief to ponies in Lampang. Our new project is using our success from Thailand as a model to help ponies in Cambodia. Now in its pilot year, the project has already made great strides and has the potential to achieve so much more with your support:

- **Collaborating to create change:** We're once again partnering with LPWO as we work to improve the welfare of ponies in Cambodia. Together we have formed the Cambodia Pony Welfare Organization, the first and only animal welfare organization in Cambodia. We're also working with the Royal University of Cambodia and the Cambodian government to help the ponies that need it the most.
- **Training equine veterinarians:** Veterinary schools in Cambodia currently offer little or no training in equine medicine and health care. Our new project is providing hands-on instruction and education in equine care to recent veterinary school graduates. Interested students are receiving onsite training at LPWO's equine center in Thailand and are then able to share their knowledge with other vets in Cambodia.
- **Equine mobile clinic:** We're running a mobile veterinary clinic that will be able to reach out to ponies in rural areas around Phnom Penh. Most of these ponies have never received veterinary care in their lives, and many are suffering from easily preventable and treatable illnesses and injuries. The clinic will be able to provide vaccinations, medical treatment and farriery care to hundreds of ponies every year.
- **Educating owners:** We're also working to prevent problems before they happen and create permanent change by educating equine owners. We're reaching out to owners through our mobile clinic and running workshops in local villages and towns about medical and farriery care, proper nutrition and equipment, and equine welfare.

Without our intervention, there is little hope for these ponies, as this is the only project of its kind in Cambodia. Make your gift now to help these ponies and other suffering animals around the world. Return the enclosed envelope, call us at 1-800-883-9772, or visit <http://wspa-usa.org/cambodianponies.cfm> today to make a donation.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Sincerely,

Cecily West
Executive Director, WSPA USA



3 easy ways to give!



Mail:
Pre-paid envelope enclosed



Online:
<http://wspa-usa.org/cambodianponies.cfm>



Phone:
1-800-883-9772 (toll-free)