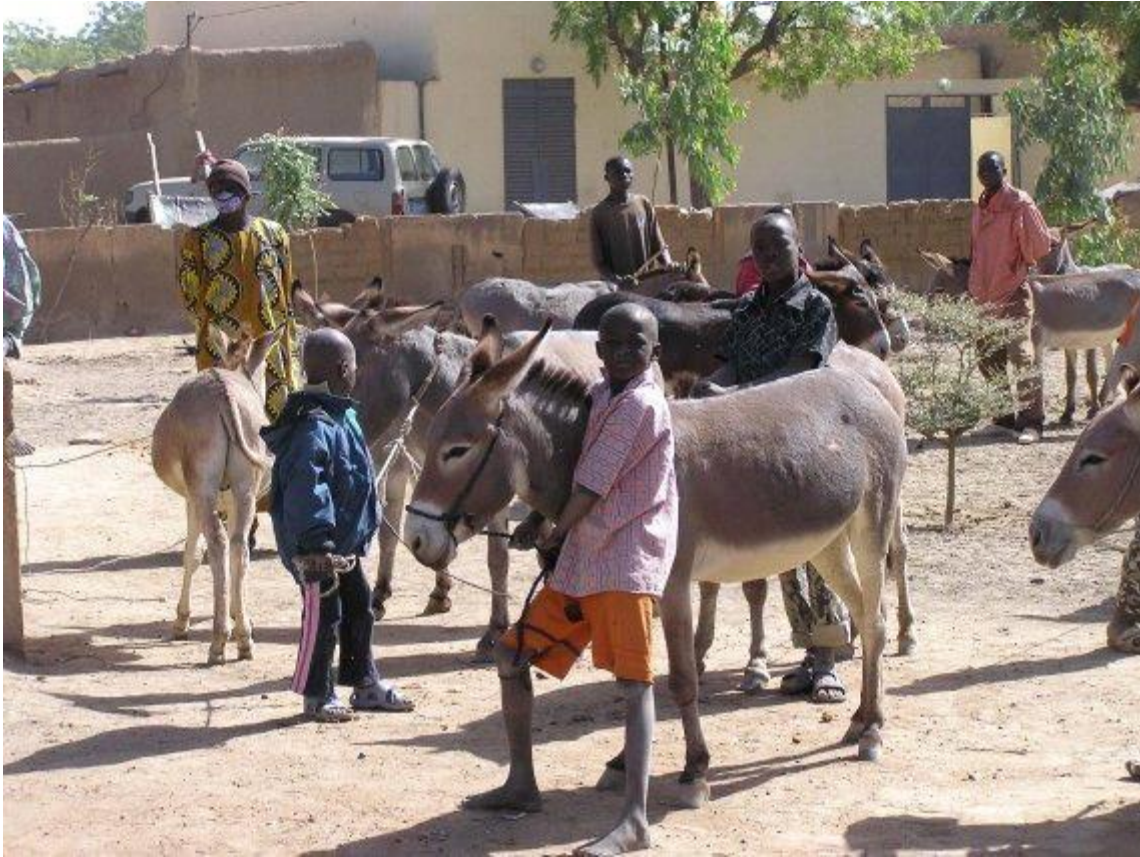


Amy McLean's Trip to Mali



Hi Y'all,

I just wanted to share some photos with y'all from my recent trip to Mali. Mali is located in West Africa and it's the location where my dissertation research will take place with donkeys. There's estimated to be 600,000 donkeys in Mali but after working with a veterinarian, Dr. Amadou Doumbia, he estimates there's closer to 2 million donkeys. Dr. Doumbia works for a nongovernmental organization called SPANA (the Society for Protecting Animals Aboard). They go out to various towns on the day of market and provide free medical care for donkeys and some horses and camels (depending on the area). He and a team of vet techs have been working throughout Mali for 10 years and the longevity of donkeys in Mali has changed from 5 to 6 months to about 7 years. SPANA does amazing work and it was wonderful to see the care and passion they have for the donkeys. They have a very, very nice clinic in the city of Bamako, Mali where donkeys can be rehabilitated. A lot of times when the donkey can no longer work they are turned loss and the garbage control in Bamako often call SPANA to come get the donkeys. After the donkeys are rehabilitated then people who need a donkey or if someone has a donkey who is sick they too can bring it to the clinic and SPANA will nurse the donkey back to good health. The owners or new owners can get a donkey and SPANA will check on the animal monthly and can take it back if it's not being properly cared for.

Amadou and his team not only treated donkeys for various problems mainly caused by poor fitting harness and extremely heavy weights (the average donkey weighed about 300 pounds and was pulling on average 1,500 pounds) and parasite issues. SPANA also does an excellent job of scolding young boys who often beat their donkeys endlessly as well as providing information to all of the donkey owners and operators including women and some older men

but mostly young children and teenage boys. SPANA operates on donations and if you are interested in making a donation or learning more about them here's their website, they actually found all over the world working with equine used as traction animals, www.spana.org. We are interested in going back to Mali and possibly studying mineral metabolism in the donkeys, an area that very little research has been done with donkeys. Typically, the cost of supplying additional trace minerals and salt are quite economical so the donkey owners in Mali may actually be able to purchase them. I also hope that by studying mineral metabolism in donkeys in Mali may help SPANA by being able to better diagnose health problems with donkeys there as well as improve methods of treatment for donkeys. Hopefully, this research will also be able to provide donkey and mule owners in the U.S. with more knowledge on how to treat and care for our Longears! Anyway, enjoy the photos, there are photos of the people in Mali as well as other animals that we saw and were unusual in Mali. See y'all in Houston!

amy

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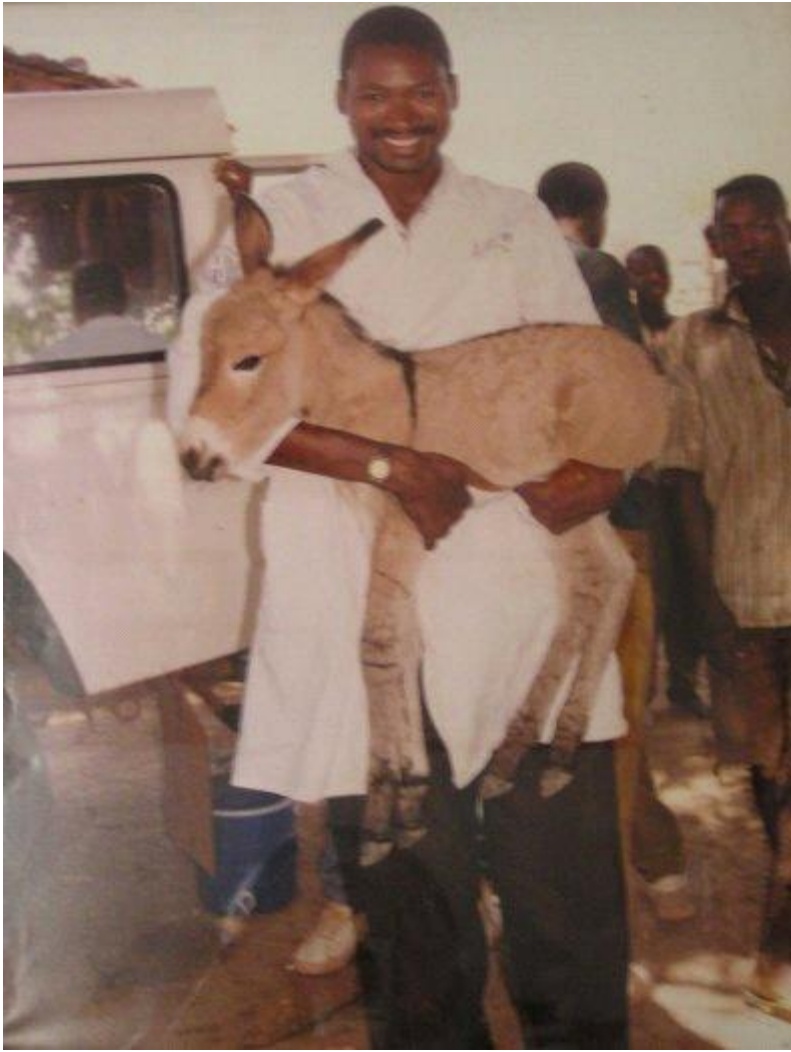
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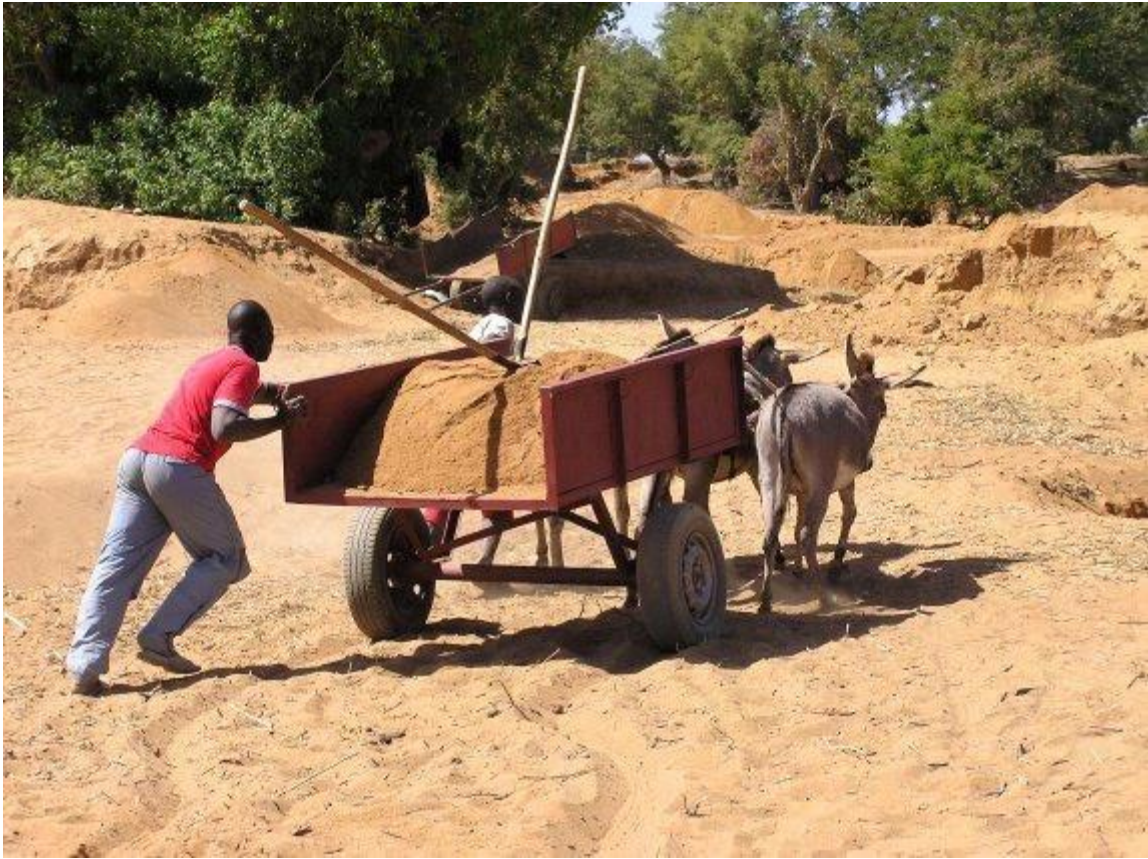


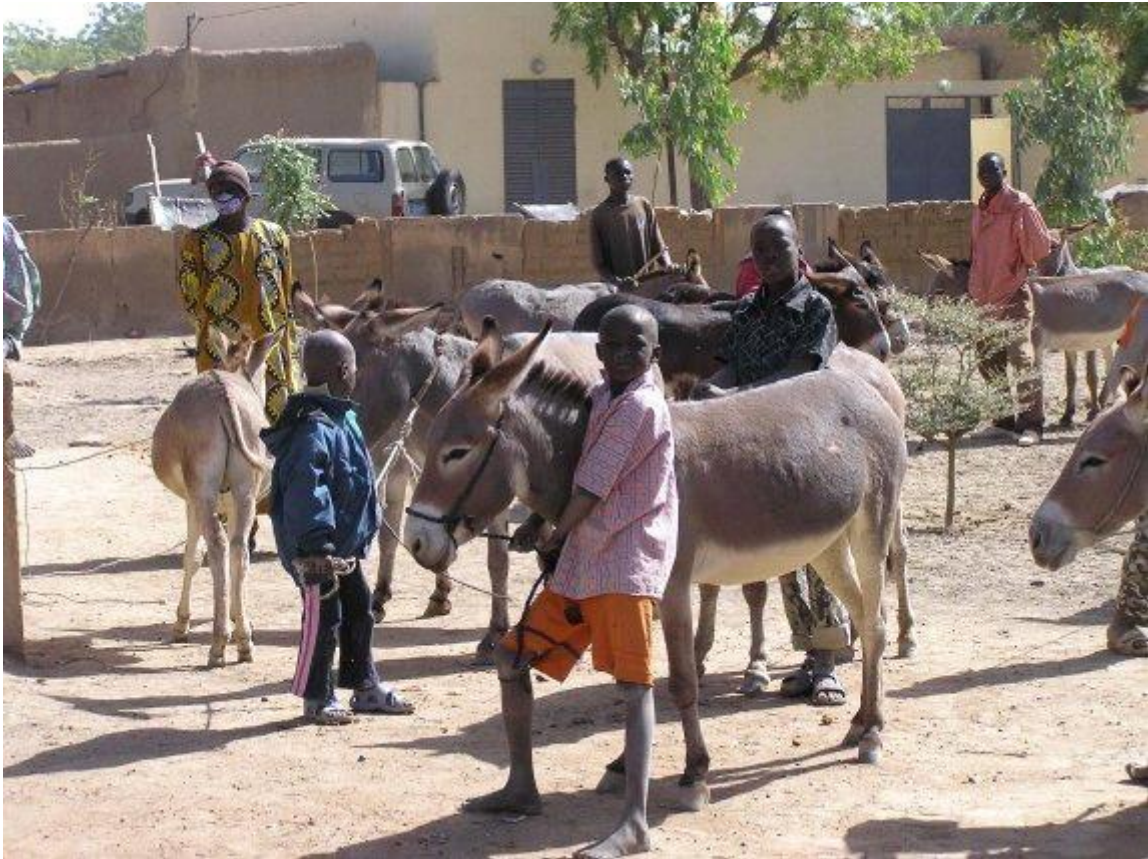
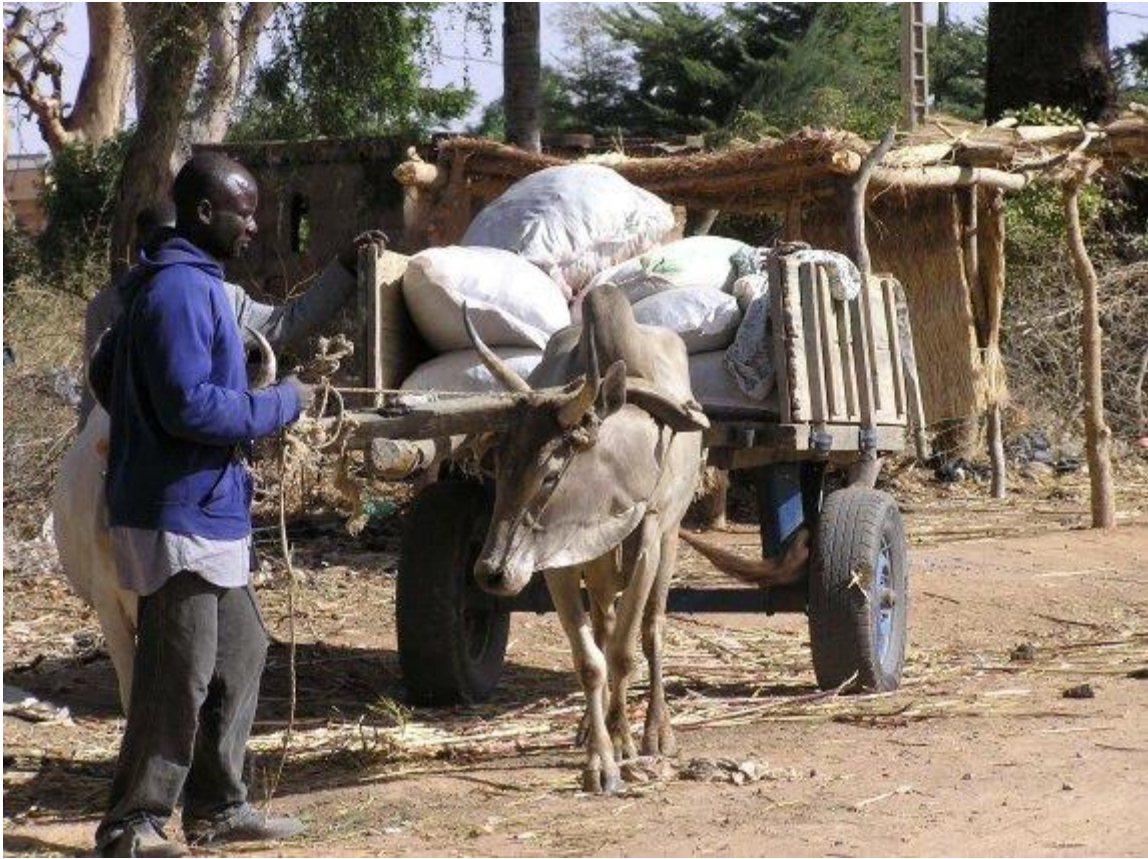




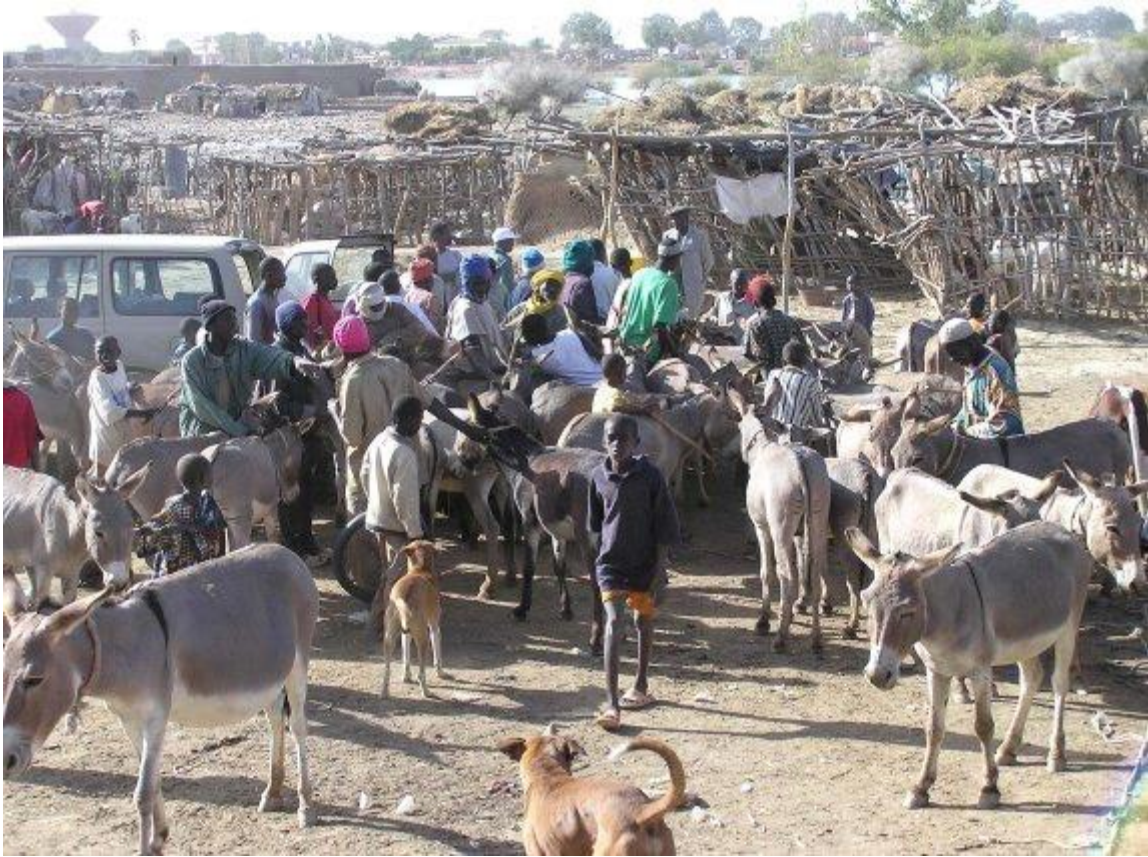


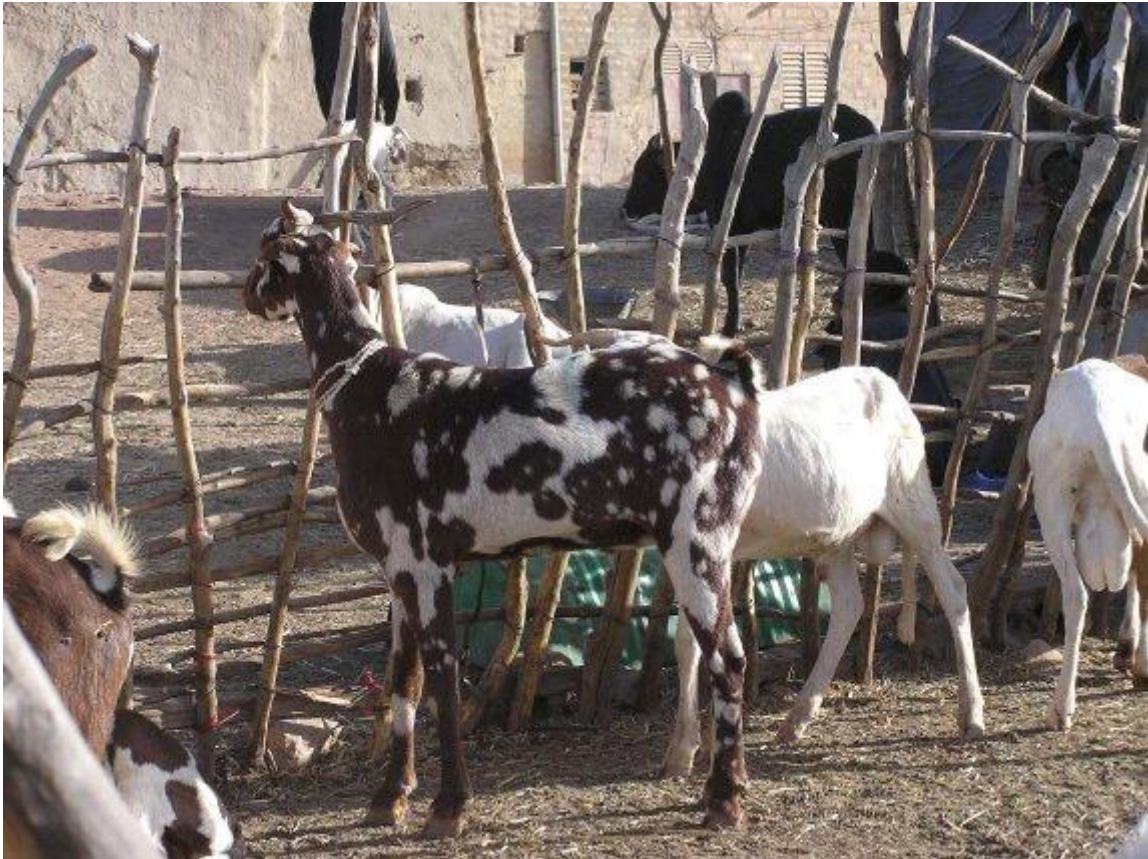


















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