



Kol Israel

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***A Campaign To Ban Cart-Horses In Tel Aviv And Eventually  
Around The Country Achieved Its First Goal With The  
Banning Of Horse-Drawn Carts From The Tel Aviv Streets***

**Newscaster:** The Sunday Edition with David Zeev.

**David Zeev:** A campaign to ban cart-horses in Tel Aviv and eventually around the country achieved its first goal with the banning of horse-drawn carts from the Tel Aviv streets. The director of Concern for Helping Animals in Israel is Nina Natelson.

**Nina Natelson:** When I first came to Israel, I was very saddened to see horses hauling heavy loads through traffic, through heavy city traffic, and they were obviously starved and beaten and not receiving veterinary care. I just saw some terrible sights, and enormous loads way beyond their capacity to haul. So I complained at that time to the Municipality of Tel Aviv, and my concerns were brushed aside, and then we began exposing the abuse in the media so people would become aware of it, so consciousness would be raised about it, because often times people walk by things that they see every day and they don't take note of them or think there's something wrong about them because it's a sight that they see every day. So we did this, we rescued and rehabilitated horses that we rescued from Jaffa, one horse just celebrated his 25th birthday, he's on a farm outside of Netanya. This horse was 250 pounds underweight, with scars all over his body, with bleeding from the knees, when I saw him; he had nails driven into the soft part of his feet to attach wooden crosses which would help him not slip on the pavements when he was hauling these loads. And he would slip and fall all the time cause he was just so weak. And so wrote to the Municipal Veterinarian, we asked him to remove another horse, we had purchased this horse, asked him to remove a second horse belonging to the same man, and he refused. So we persisted, and then at some point we became aware that there was a man in Tel Aviv named Nissim, a man in Jaffa, and he had horses who he was also starving, selling to be cart-horses, and he was actually hacking them apart with an axe in front of each other, live horses, and selling the meat in the market as cow meat, and that it's illegal in Israel to slaughter horses for consumption. So everything he was doing was immoral and illegal, and we were able to get an investigative reporter to sit



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on the roof of an adjacent building and film down into this facility and show what was going on, and that was on Television, and that was exposed, and he was temporarily shut down, started up again, and again we raided the place, we went to the Veterinary Services, and there was a raid together with the police, and we exposed him for a second time, and this time he was shut down for good. So those were the beginning days of making the public aware that there was an actual problem, and besides demonstrations and civil disobedience actions and protest concerts, we took action in the form of writing, having our attorney write letters to mayors around the country to ask them to stop this practice, including Mayor of Tel Aviv. And we submitted a proposal to the Tel Aviv City Council which would ban the practice, and for the very first time, in December of '07, as a result of our proposal, the city council held a meeting to discuss the subject, and that was really the beginning of the end.

**David Zeev:** And so they banned that now in Tel Aviv, and I understand you want to continue to work around the country, around Israel to ban this sort of thing of cart-horses, and in general, I would imagine, cruelty to animals. How bad is the state of cruelty to animals in Israel?  
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Nina Natelson: Every country has a problem with cruelty to animals; I wouldn't single out Israel as being worse than many other countries in other parts of the world. It's just that in western countries, we have had organizations like the RSPCA or the ASPCA that have been working since the 1800s on elevating consciousness and doing education in the school system, and we have many companies who are advertising gourmet cat and dog food served in crystal glasses on Television. So we've had a lot longer in the western countries to raise our level of awareness and change our attitudes about animals.

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**David Zeev:** Nina Natelson is director of Concern for Helping Animals in Israel. For the Sunday Edition, this is David Zeev in Jerusalem.