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Animal welfare groups win ban on horse-drawn carts

The CHAI and Hakol Chai animal welfare organizations have claimed a major victory for animal rights after winning a decade-long campaign to get horse-drawn carts banned from the streets of Tel Aviv.

The US-based CHAI (Concern for Helping Animals in Israel) organization, and its Israeli sister organization, Hakol Chai, have been pressuring the city for more than 10 years over the abuse of horses made to pull heavily-laden carts through the city.

According to the organization, the horses used for such work are often starved, beaten and deprived of veterinary care, and are made to work in the hot sun without water.

CHAI first presented its concerns to the city in 1999, and in later years Hakol Chai organized a letter-writing campaign to government officials and plastered posters around Jaffa calling for an end to the abuse of horses and donkeys.