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ISSUED BY THE
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OF ISRAEL

Press release

Following a new regulation by Minister Katz

**Shortly: the horse-
drawn carts will be taken
off the road**

**The Transport Minister: The slow pace of the carts
poses a safety hazard on the road. Many of the
carters neglect their animals and deny them food
and medical treatment, to the point of exhaustion.**

Israel Katz, Minister of Transport, National Infrastructures, and Road Safety, will shortly sign a new regulation prohibiting horse-drawn carts from travelling on urban roads in all local authorities around Israel.

The Traffic Ordinance currently recognizes animal-drawn carts as a means of transport permitted to travel on the road. These carts are harnessed to horses or donkeys, and carry various loads and objects on the roads (*alte zachen*).

Hakol Chai, the organization that promotes humane education on behalf of animals, recently appealed to Minister Katz to prohibit the use of animals for transport. Katz stepped in on behalf of the animals and instructed that the matter be brought up for discussion by his ministry's coordination committee, which discusses procedures and regulations. Following the recommendations of the committee, a new regulation was drawn up prohibiting horse-drawn carts from

travelling on urban roads, other than within the grounds of a moshav or kibbutz.

Today rag and bone carts can be seen in many towns around the country, including Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Ramat Gan, Givatayim, Kfar Saba, Netanya, Nahariya and elsewhere. According to Minister Katz, the presence of animal-drawn carts on Israel's roads poses a significant danger to drivers and pedestrians alike, and frequently also causes unnecessary delays and traffic jams.

Hakol Chai points out in its appeal to Minister Katz that the animals in question are usually horses, hired out to peddlers for a few dozen shekels a day and serving as a cheap alternative to a motor vehicle.

The association also notes that in order to avoid expenses, the animals do not receive essential medical care, appropriate food, or proper living conditions, until they die a cruel death due to exhaustion, illness and hunger.

The regulation will be brought up for approval by the Knesset finance committee when the new Knesset convenes, and is expected to come into force within six months.

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