Transforming Lives For Animals and People

CHAI’s Expanding the Circle of Compassion program for Arab schools in Israel continues to transform the lives of animals and people by inspiring and motivating children to create a better world. Recently, they were awed by a visit to the veterinary hospital affiliated with Israel’s veterinary school, where they learned that animals suffer from many of the same illnesses as people and rather than abandon or kill them, their guardians and the hospital staff invest considerable time, money and energy in healing them. Students returned home intent on taking better care of their own companion animals.

On a visit to a rescue and rehabilitation center for sea turtles, they learned how overfishing, habitat destruction and dumping of plastic and other garbage into the ocean is killing turtles, mammals and fish to the point where every sea turtle species is now endangered. Students were moved to volunteer to guard nesting sites and protect hatchlings on their perilous trek to the ocean. (continued on page 2)

CHAI Addresses Muslim Leaders

Israel’s Interior Ministry granted CHAI/Hakol Chai permission to present a series of lectures to all Muslim religious leaders (Imams) in the country on the importance of protecting animals and the environment. Following the lectures, a specific day will be designated on which all the Imams will simultaneously transmit the information we presented to members of the country’s 200 mosques. All religious leaders will speak on that designated day, with one voice, backed by the highest authorities. Written materials we provide will make it easy for them to pass the knowledge on to their congregations. (continued on page 4)
In the Galilee, students could see an example of how all strands in the web of life are interconnected. Farmers poisoned wild boars to prevent them from eating their crops, but vultures and other animals and birds fed on the poisoned carcasses and died, also. Skies that were formerly full of birds have gone empty and silent.

At a “monkey forest,” they encountered animals they had never seen before and learned that all possess intelligence and feelings and deserve respect.

Everything we introduce them to is new and surprising to them. Preparation for the trip to the hospital included learning about how animals communicate to us that they are not feeling well and what signs indicate that their illness is serious and they should go to the hospital.

Many Arab families own horses, and students learned about non-violent methods of training and communicating with horses. A horse expert showed them a video of horses roaming free and explained to them horses’ nature, how they react to different stimuli, the right way to approach a horse, horses’ needs and how to properly care for them.

At the hospital, they learned that there are specialists who treat different illnesses, observed parts of operations, heard stories of illness and recovery. Students talked about the trip for a long time afterwards and will never look at animals the same way again.

**Activities Promote Empathy and Critical Thinking**

**Meeting Animals Up Close and Learning To Love Them**

For many children, this is their first close-up encounter with an animal.

**Where Do You Stand?**

Do we have the right to experiment on animals?

Students develop critical thinking skills by debating animal-related topics.

**Visit to a Turtle Rescue Hospital**

Students learn that humans encroaching on beach nesting sites and dumping trash in the ocean endangers species.
Changing Hearts, Minds and Actions

Students in our program learned empathy for animals, respect for their intelligence and abilities, that we are responsible for them and that their and our future is linked in the web of life. Many felt remorse for the harm they had done to animals. We asked students to write letters of apology to one or more animals they harmed. Here are some examples of what they wrote:

“I apologize to every cat I kicked or threw stones at. I used to have fun by chasing cats and I used to enjoy hearing them cry. Now I am so sorry.”

“I am sorry, cat, because I tied a rope to your leg and I intended to throw you off the roof. I am so, so sorry, dear cat.”

“I am sorry for any animal that I harmed unintentionally.”

“I am sorry because I hit you on your leg with a stone, then my father came and he, also, hit your leg with a stone. Then you died. I AM SORRY.”

“I apologize to animals who are experimented on and harmed or killed to fulfill our desire for a new shampoo, cream, or toothpaste.” “Acting on their compassion, students began to help animals.”

Acting on their compassion, students began to help animals.

(L) Tala and Sima rescued two puppies from a boy who tied them up and was wielding a knife over them, then called for help.

(R) Hasna stood up to students who were abusing a cat, rescued her and took her to a veterinarian.

Students began to give food and water to hungry cats. Some adopted animals.

Students made water fountains for birds from recycled plastic soda bottles and hung them on trees to provide relief from the intense summer heat. They also set out water bowls for homeless animals and kept them filled.

CHAI’S program, made possible thanks to your support, succeeded in changing students’ attitudes. Their lives have begun to reflect their belief in the importance of showing compassion to animals.
Through the Imams – the most powerful figures in Muslim Arab communities – we have an opportunity to reach parents and other adults and hopefully have a major impact on the treatment of animals in Muslim areas throughout Israel.

Authorization for the lectures followed Hakol Chai’s presentation to the Ministry’s 12 Regional Inspectors charged with overseeing religious leaders. The inspectors’ response was emphatically positive. One wrote:

“Hakol Chai opened a window to a world that we were not aware of before: how are our actions affecting the world? What is happening in the world today regarding animals? how can we change our choices in order to improve the world? I think this lecture should be given to every adult, student and child.”

Another offered to arrange opportunities for us to speak to High School assemblies of 400 students each and a third requested that we give a presentation to his 200 employees.

The first presentation focused on our responsibility, according to the Qur’an, to guard the planet, the destruction we have wreaked, how the fate of humans and animals are connected in the web of life, the human-animal violence link and a discussion of what the Qu’ran says about how dogs are to be treated. The enthusiastic audience expressed their eagerness to learn more and requested additional lectures. Your support makes transformational efforts like these possible.

THANK YOU!!!

Achieving our goals can only be accomplished with the help of many people. We are very grateful to all our members, who make everything we do for animals possible. Special thanks to the Animal Guardians Foundation and to Gretchen Roberts for their generous support of the Expanding the Circles of Compassion program, which has reached thousands of children.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following people who made CHAI’s new website possible:

Brad Gray of Gray Digital Marketing for constructing the site.
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Elaine and Stephen Aronoff for building and managing the former site and assisting with the transition to the new site
Warren Gebert for graphic design and video preparation
Larry Wilcox for launching and managing the site
Nell Alk copywriter

A class of Jewish children in Rehovot voted to donate $600 they raised to Hakol Chai. Ricki Rothschild tells the class about the horses she helped rescue and boarded as part of our campaign to expose horse abuse and ban horse-drawn carts.
Students Were Asked:
Of All You Learned, What Stood Out Most or What Touched You Most?

Our *Expanding the Circle of Compassion* education program gives young people new perspectives, beliefs and values that create a fundamental shift in how they view and treat animals. Their answers to our question (see a sampling below) give us hope for the future of animals and people in Israel.

**Luji:** I used to think that only cats and dogs are smart, but now I know that all animals have intelligence.

**Muhammad:** We learned compassion toward animals. Before, I used to chase cats, but now I take care of them. After the first year of this class, I stopped beating animals.

**Amani:** in circuses, elephants are forced to do things that are not natural for them. They are made to look happy, but they are not, and that is wrong because all beings have feelings and should be free. The same is true of all creatures.

**Amil:** I loved the lesson about dogs because I learned how to take care of my own dog.

**Sief:** I learned that if a dog is sick we should not throw him out into the street. I also learned that when they take dolphins from the ocean and put them in a pool they become sad.

**Noor:** that dolphins have language, just like us.

**Kamla:** I learned that people throw garbage in the ocean and this harms fish and dolphins.

**Smadar:** I liked the lesson about monkeys and I am sad that they perform experiments on them.

**Mohammad Abdalla:** I learned that we should be compassionate toward animals like dogs and cats in the streets. It’s important that we care for them and give them food.

**Ahmad:** We should not harm animals. I used to beat dogs and cats and chase them away, but now I give them water and leftovers. I was touched when I saw how farmers take calves away from their mothers. It’s a sad thing.

**Roaa:** I did not care about cats in the past. After we learned about them, I started giving them food. We learned not to harm animals like cats, dolphins and elephants.

**Asha:** that it is wrong to kill snakes.

**Sima:** learning that turtles die from eating plastic bags we throw into the ocean.

**Sanaa:** People torture elephants and make them do things that are not natural to them.

**Ahmad:** I learned that we should not beat the cats on the streets.

**Anonymous:** We learned that animals are experimented on to make beauty products.

**Muhammad:** I loved the lesson about dolphins. They love to live freely and don’t like to live in a pool.

**Kamla:** I learned that we should vaccinate cats and spay them.

**Aus:** when we throw plastic into the ocean, animals eat it and die.

**Bashar:** I didn’t like seeing how dolphins are forced to perform in shows.

**Anonymous:** We learned not to harm animals... We should not chase animals, and if an animal is sick we should take them to the vet.
You Can Make A Difference!

Help us spread the word about CHAI’s work on behalf of Israel’s animals. The more support we have, the more we can help animals.

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