

URGENT AND IMPORTANT

The Hon'ble Shri Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister
National Capital Territory of Delhi
3rd level, Delhi Secretariat
I.P. Estate
New Delhi 110002

5 November 2019

Re: Request for Ban on Animal-Drawn Vehicles, Including Horse-Drawn Tongas and Bullock Carts, in Delhi, Because of Pollution Crisis

Honourable Chief Minister,

As Delhi's air hits the "severe" category on the Air Quality Index, I'm writing to you from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India on behalf of our more than 1.5 million members and supporters urging you to use your powers to ban the use of all animal-drawn carts on all the roads of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. I urge you to ensure implementation of the existing ban on tongas – two-wheeled horse-drawn carts – as per the resolutions passed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in 2008 and 2010 and to take the necessary steps to ban the use of bullock carts in the NCT of Delhi immediately.

Working animals such as bullocks, donkeys, horses, and camels are highly affected by air pollution, since they're on the road throughout the day inhaling polluted air emitted from the vehicles that surround them. In Delhi, there are approximately 250 bullocks labouring in 20 market yards and some 150 horses pulling carriages in seven areas. Desperate owners force animals to work even when the air is polluted, the animals are sick, or they've been injured in traffic accidents. The owners use whips, painful nose ropes, and spiked bits to force them to haul overloaded carts.

You may be aware that the Standing Committee of the MCD *vide* its Resolution No 585, dated 18 September 2008, resolved to ban the plying of horse tongas within the municipal jurisdiction. Thereafter, a plan for phasing out tongas and retraining owners was approved by the MCD through Resolution No 590, dated 4 January 2010 (**Annexure 1**). In fact, even the High Court of Delhi declined to interfere with this decision of the MCD that banned the plying of horse tongas. (A copy of the order, dated 14 July 2010 and passed by the High Court of Delhi in WP (C) No 1864 of 2010, titled *Yash Pal Kohli and Ors vs MCD*, and WP (C) No 8045 of 2010, titled *Public Grievance and Welfare Society (Regd) and Ors vs MCD*, is attached as **Annexure 2**.)

Because of the extreme congestion on Delhi roads and other reasons, the office of the traffic commissioner of police has, from time to time, issued various notifications under Regulation 20 of The Delhi Control of Vehicular and Other Traffic on Roads and Streets Regulations, 1980, banning the plying of slow-moving vehicles, including carts drawn by bullocks, for specified hours on various streets of Delhi (**Annexure 3**). Furthermore, the plying of bullock carts on the roads of Delhi violates The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, and the rules framed thereunder; the Delhi Police Act, 1978; and other municipal laws and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to provide the animals with **the five freedoms (Annexure 4)** necessary for their welfare.

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA Australia
- PETA Foundation (UK)
- PETA France
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA US

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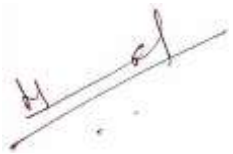
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I'd like to call your kind attention to Chapter 12 of the latest report of the Economic Survey of Delhi 2018–19, according to which the total number of motor vehicles on the roads of the NCT of Delhi as of 31 March 2018 was 109.86 lakhs, or 1.0986 crore (**Annexure 5**). Interestingly, the transport section of this latest survey fails even to take into account the presence and number of all animal-drawn carts, including bullock carts and tongas, that are still being used as a means of transportation in the city. With more than 1 crore transport vehicles on the roads of Delhi, there's no place for slow-moving carts drawn by animals, which add to the air pollution through greenhouse-gas emissions, pollute Delhi's water bodies with the animals' faeces and urine, pose risks to the general public by carrying dangerous zoonotic diseases (diseases that spread to humans) such as glanders and tuberculosis, create congestion, and inconvenience motorists and others using the roads.

We also urge you to endorse PETA India's **Delhi Mechanisation Project and approve a special financial scheme** to replace underweight and overworked bullocks, donkeys, ponies, and horses used for hauling goods with e-rickshaws and provide their poor owners with improved livelihood opportunities. Because of PETA India's efforts on the mechanisation project, 22 bullock-cart owners and nine tonga owners have already seized this opportunity, and their bullocks and horses are now in sanctuaries where they receive veterinary care and no longer experience the hardship and hazards of pulling heavy carts through the polluted, noisy, congested streets of Old Delhi. The families benefitting from the mechanisation project report that using an e-rickshaw has dramatically increased their earnings and enhanced their social and economic status (**Annexure 6**). With the support of the Delhi government and e-rickshaw dealers, PETA India aims to expand the project throughout Delhi, and its goal is to make the city animal cart-free.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We are ready to meet with you at your earliest convenience. May we please hear from you soon? I can be reached on +91 9910817382 or at ManilalV@petaindia.org.

Sincerely,



Dr Manilal Valliyate, CEO
PETA India

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