## factsheet

## 10 Horse-Related Incidents in Kolkata

The following incidents highlight the dangers of allowing horses to ply the streets of Kolkata and the risks they pose to the public in general. They also illustrate the types of injuries that horses have incurred over the years as well as their fatalities.

August 2021: An injured pony called Moti was found lying on the Maidan by a motorcyclist. He is 8 years old and was used for giving rides until his owner abandoned him after he developed an infection on his back. He was later taken to Chhaya, an animal hospital. This was reported by *The Telegraph online* in the article "Pony Rescued After Facebook Post".

June 2021: Socialnews.xyz posted pictures of an injured horse who was seen standing in the Maidan. This incident was reported in the website's gallery as "Kolkata: An Injured Horse Standing at Waterlogged Maidan During Heavy Rain in Kolkata".

**December 2020:** A 10-day-old abandoned pony was probably hit by a vehicle near a major retail store near Axis Mall. The pony was bleeding profusely from the legs and appeared to be in pain. This was reported by *The Times of India* in the article "New Town Citizens, Cops Help Injured Pony Get Back on Feet".

**November 2019:** A horse-drawn carriage that was being driven by a minor was involved in an accident with a car near the north gate of Victoria Memorial on Queensway. The police reported that the carriage hit the car because the minor could not control the horses. This was reported in *The Times of India* in the article "West Bengal: Horse Carriage Hits Car, Minor Apprehended".

**July 2018:** Hira, a horse whose leg had been cut off, was found in Kakdwip. The 7-year-old horse later got a prosthetic leg at Chhaya, an animal hospital. This is described on the Chhaya website in the article "Horse With Hacked Leg Reaches Home".

August 2017: Two horses were injured by a moving vehicle near the Maidan Metro Station. Locals and the police contacted an NGO, which took the animals in for treatment and care. The article in *The Times of India* ("Kolkata: Abandoned Horses Find a New Home at Tolly Club") further highlighted the abandonment of several other horses, who were not commercially viable because they didn't have the strength to pull a carriage. Video footage of these horses can be seen in the article "Kolkata: 2 Injured Horses Found Near Maidan Metro Station".

**February 2017:** A police officer and his horse were severely injured when a speeding taxi ran into them near the Maidan. The police officer sustained severe head injuries and had to be admitted to the hospital. The horse incurred injuries to his legs and bled a lot. This was reported by *The Times of India* in "Mounted Cop, Horse Injured in Accident".

**September 2016:** A horse was hit and killed by a Honda being driven by a juvenile on Red Road in front of the Mohammedan Sporting tent. This was reported by *The Times of India* in the article "Horse Run Over Near Maidan, Minor at Wheel".

**February 2009:** A horse who was probably hit by a vehicle was found writhing in pain at the Maidan. The horse was later rescued and treated in an animal shelter. This was reported by *The Times of India* in "Injured Horse Rescued".

**July 2007:** Shivaji, a 20-year-old horse with the Kolkata mounted police, died after he was hit by a bus. The incident took place on Mayo Road. This was reported by the *Mumbai Mirror* in the article "Police Horse Dies on Duty".