Horse-Related Incidents in Kolkata

These incidents highlight the dangers of allowing horses to operate on the streets of Kolkata and the risks they pose to the public. They also reveal the kinds of injuries horses have suffered over the years, as well as the fatalities they have faced.

June 2025: A partially blind mare who was also suffering from chronic osteoarthritis was rescued from the Maidan with assistance from the Maidan Police. Tied without food or water, her condition indicated prolonged neglect by her former 'owner'. She was transferred to a sanctuary where she now receives pain relief and rest. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[FIR filed after sick mare found tied up without food, water](#)".

May 2025: An emaciated mare suffering from dehydration and a spinal injury was found abandoned and recumbent at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata. Unable to stand or move her hind limbs, her condition indicated prolonged neglect and possible abuse, as the injury appeared to have been caused by a blunt force to her back. Despite receiving emergency treatment, the mare died shortly after being rescued. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[FIR after abandoned mare dies of injuries](#)".

April 2025: A weak, dehydrated horse forced to haul a tourist carriage in the blistering heat collapsed on a Kolkata street as the handler cruelly slapped and yelled at it. The horse's suffering was captured on video and widely shared. Following this, PETA India filed a complaint, leading to an FIR being registered at the Bhowanipore police station. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[FIR after Facebook video shows horse, hitched to carriage, collapsing on road in Kolkata](#)". And *The Telegraph Online* "[FIR against handler of horse that collapsed on Kolkata streets while pulling carriage](#)"

October 2024: A malnourished and neglected mare, limping with an abnormal gait and suffering from a swollen flexor tendon and an open wound on her hind leg, was spotted on a busy flyover at Hastings leading towards Esplanade in Kolkata. In response to a complaint by a supporter of PETA India, an FIR was registered at the Hastings Police Station. The mare was rescued and rehabilitated at a sanctuary in Shikarpur, Kolkata, where she received essential medical care. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[Injured mare found on bridge ramp](#)".

August 2024: An abandoned foal and his mother, covered in blood and suffering from open wounds, were rescued from the Maidan area near Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. The horses, where many are hitched to carriages for tourist rides, were found in a severely neglected state. In a joint effort, PETA India and the CAPE Foundation rescued and transferred them to a sanctuary, where they have been receiving necessary and urgent veterinary care. An FIR was filed by the Maidan Police Station. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[FIR filed after wounded mare, malnourished foal rescued](#)".

June 2024: Two horses that used to haul carriages in the Maidan died within three days. Both were severely malnourished and appeared dehydrated, possibly caused by the heat and humidity in Kolkata. The horses were lying unattended under the blazing sun, and Peta India has filed an FIR and a complaint at Maidan police station regarding both deaths cases. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[Dehydrated & weak, two horses die in three days](#)".

April 2024: A horse used for hauling carriages and for weddings in Kolkata was found in distress at the Maidan, displaying alarming signs of mistreatment, including untreated wounds, swollen limbs, and severe weakness. These injuries were worsened by malnutrition and dehydration and required immediate medical attention. Following an FIR filed by CAPE Foundation highlighting the egregious cruelty and neglect, PETA India swiftly intervened and rescued the animal. "[Wounded, Abused Horse Used for Carriage Rides in Kolkata Rescued by PETA India](#)".

October 2023: A horse forced to haul a tourist carriage dropped dead in front of police and the public, causing panic and traffic chaos near the Chandni Chowk Metro station. The incident takes the count to six horses who have been worked to death in Kolkata by the carriage industry in 2023. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[Plaint with cops as ailing horse dies while pulling tourist cartin Kolkata](#)".

August 2023: A 2-year-old horse became impaled on a metal fence at the Maidan in Kolkata while attempting to access food. The horse sustained a large abdominal wound, through which the intestines were exposed, and had lost a significant amount of blood. Following a complaint from PETA India, Kolkata Police registered an FIR and coordinated with local authorities. The horse was taken to Belgachia Veterinary Hospital, where, after examination and considering the severity of his injuries, he was euthanized. This was reported by *The Times of India* "[Horse death FIR after PETA files complaint](#)".

February 2022: A horse with serious, untreated wounds and severe lameness was used in a marriage ceremony. The horse had deep injuries on his legs, reportedly caused by a road accident, which were concealed with lime. Following a complaint filed by PETA India and the CAPE Foundation, Kolkata Police registered an FIR against the horse's 'owner' and an event management company. This was reported by ibgnews.com "[PETA India and CAPE Foundation Lodge FIR againt Horse Used to Haul Tourist Carriage in Kolkata](#)".

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](#)".

March 2018: 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](#)".

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](#)" and 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](#)".