



protecting the working cart horse against abuse...

Our Vision:

A regulated carting industry on the Cape Flats, where all working cart horses are fit, healthy and happy in their work.

Our Mission:

To protect the working cart horses from abuse and contribute to the upliftment of the carting community living on the Cape Flats through training.

Our Aim:

Provide clinic, patrol and call out response, veterinary and rehabilitation services to the working cart horses living on the Cape Flats, and support, education and training to cart horse owners and drivers who use the working cart horses to collect scrap metal as a means of generating an income for themselves and their families. It is estimated that these working cart horses support over 6000 people living on the Cape Flats.

Background:

The carting industry today has a proud heritage rooted in District Six where horses and carts were used to "smouse" (hawk) fish, fruit, vegetables, bottles and bones. Horses were kept in community stables found on every street corner, they traveled short distances with light loads and business was lucrative for the cart horse owner.

With the forced removals of these communities to the Cape Flats, the lives of the cart horse owner, his family and his horses took a turn for the worst. Now living far from their markets, hawking was no longer a viable option and communities began using horses and carts for the collection of scrap metal as a means of generating an income. This new carting industry led to the renting out of horses and carts and an increase in cart horse operators who had limited knowledge on how to properly care for and maintain a working horse. Consequently, badly shod, thin, overloaded, overworked and abused working cart horses became a common site on Cape Town's roads.

In 1995 the Cart Horse Protection Association (CHPA) was established, providing vital services and education to the cart horse owners, in an attempt to address the appalling conditions in which these working horses lived and worked.

Today, the Cart Horse Protection Association Clinic and Training Centre, located in Epping 2, boasts a farrier agency, harness shop, treatment stalls and paddocks, education and training room, administrative offices and a feed storage barn and provides services to over 500 working cart horses and their owners.



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Patrol and Call Out Response Unit:

Polices the cart horse drivers by conducting road patrols, scrap metal yard inspections and responding to reports of abuse & overloading from members of the public, law enforcement and traffic officials. Penalties for the contravention of the Animal Protection Act by cart horse drivers vary, depending on the severity of the case and the working history of the owner and driver and include verbal and written warnings, confiscation of the harness, confiscation of the horse for rest and rehabilitation and prosecution.

Veterinary and Rehabilitation Unit:

Provides a prompt and professional veterinary service to sick & injured working cart horses. Common cases seen are motor vehicle accidents, colic, poisoning, dog-attacks, mares foaling down, respiratory infections, dehydration and exhaustion. Sick and injured cart horses needing constant veterinary care and 24-hour observation are admitted to the Blue Cross Veterinary Hospital. Working cart horses requiring palliative care are admitted to the Treatment Stalls at the Clinic and Training Centre or to the Recovery and Rehabilitation Centre, where they are treated, monitored and nursed back to health.



The acquisition of the Recovery and Rehabilitation Centre was made possible by a generous bequest from the Late BT van Vliet. The Centre situated on the N2 near Somerset West consists of 26 stables, paddocks with shelters, tack room, feed barn, an indoor arena and accommodation for an on-site manager and grooms. The Centre provides:

- A place of safety for working cart horses whose owners and drivers continue to abuse and neglect them, despite our efforts at education and the services offered at the static clinics
- Accommodation for sick and injured horses requiring palliative care
- A safe haven for working cart horses needing rest and rehabilitation
- Maternity care for foaling mares.

Skills Development and Training:

Project African Dawn, a five-year skills development and training programme in farriery and harness making was launched in 2003, in partnership with the World Horse Welfare (Previously ILPH), UK.



The aim of the project is to train members from the carting community on the Cape Flats and other communities across South Africa who use horse and cart to generate an income in the essential skills of farriery and harness making, thus contributing to the welfare of the working horse, empowerment, poverty alleviation and capacity building of individuals and communities.

From March 2003 to July 2007, a total of 69 students graduated from Project African Dawn. Working horses in communities in the rural areas of the Western, Northern and Eastern Cape and townships of Soweto and Tembisa in Gauteng have benefited from the training programme.

Our Status:

Cart Horse Protection Association is:

- A registered NPO with the Department of Social Development
- A registered PBO with the South African Revenue Service. PBO Number 930000749. All donations to the Association are tax deductible in terms of Article 18A of Income Tax Act No 58 of 1962.
- Classified as an 'Exempt Micro Enterprise' as per the Department of Trade and Industry's Black Economic Empowerment Codes of Good Practice. We are a good BEE contributor and score between 65 - 75%, a BEE Recognition Level 4.

Conclusion:

Cart Horse Protection Association is committed to the welfare of the working cart horse and will continue to be involved with the carting community at grassroots level, maintain a strong and dedicated leadership, encourage participation of our beneficiaries in protecting the welfare of the working horse and their source of income, provide education and training and ensure sound financial management of donor funds. Over the past thirteen years the Cart Horse Protection Association has proved to be a creditable NGO working in the field of animal welfare with excellent social investment returns for funders and donors.