

Charity Tries to Save Animals Abandoned in Gaza and the West Bank

Settlers evacuated from the West Bank and Gaza could not take their animals with them.

October 26, 2005 Settlers evacuated from the West Bank and Gaza, then were moved to hotels or apartments, and could not take their animals with them. Since many did not believe they would be forced to leave, and made no provisions for their pets. The Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI) stepped in to help.

The 20-year-old charity, with a sister charity in Israel called Hakol Chai (Everything Lives) brought its 23-foot mobile spay and neuter clinic with 30 traps and 20 cages first into Gaza, where the most and largest settlements were. Everyday, their staff and volunteers rose at 4 a.m. to get an early start on their 15 hour days to rescue animals in the settlements, including Morag, Neve Dekalim, Shalev, Atzmona, Netzer Hazani, Gan Or, Rafia Yam, Kfar Darom and Netzarim. Seventeen caring people combed the area, with the help of soldiers, to make sure no animals were left behind.

When all animals were out of Gaza, the organizations went to the settlements of Sanour and Chomesh on the West Bank. Before CHAI and Hako Chai arrived, no other rescue organizations had been there. The West Bank is a dangerous area with shooting on the road. It took soldiers two hours to dismantle what they thought was a bomb on the road, later to be discovered a fake. However, the charities persevered and more than 100 animals were saved. All rescued animals were taken to a shelter and reunited with their owners or awaiting a new home and family.