Rescued Camels Meet Their Soulmates—Each Other

For camels Waheed and Tracy, what could have been the end of the road became the beginning of a love story. Being forced to provide humans with cheap thrills nearly killed them. But luckily, their rescue by Animal Rahat (a nonprofit organization that was created to help working bullocks, donkeys, ponies, horses, and other animals in India) gave them both a new life—and love.

Animal Rahat found 14-year-old Waheed tied up under a bridge. His owner hadn’t bothered to give him food, water, or badly needed veterinary care and was forcing him to give people rides. Camels, like all animals, need
to drink water every day and can drink more than 20 gallons at a time. When they’re deprived of water for too long, their eyes fill with tears and they begin to moan. As they become dehydrated, their hump gets smaller. When the hump is completely gone, they die. Waheed was rescued just in time—he had almost no hump left.

Rescuers moved the ailing camel to Animal Rahat’s Home for Retired Bullocks right away and gave him food, plenty of water, rest, and the veterinary care that he desperately needed. Despite his poor condition, Waheed was cooperative and sweet. Before long, he had gained weight and started growing a new coat, and his hump had begun to return. But his life was about to get even better.

Animal Rahat initiated an inspection of Grand Circus, where animals were found to be living in miserable conditions. The circus’s management agreed to become animal-free and relinquish all of its 18 animals. One was a female camel named Tracy, who was also moved to Animal Rahat’s sanctuary. The staff gave her food, water, the chance to rest, and treatment for severe mange (a parasitic skin disease that causes severe itching and resulted in the loss of most of her hair).

Then, Tracy and Waheed met. Right away, the two camels began mirroring each other’s movements, a sign that they wanted to become friends. These soulmates—whose relationship is purely platonic, since Waheed has been “fixed”—instantly became inseparable. Now, they spend their time together being groomed by Animal Rahat staff, sunbathing, relaxing, and lounging at the sanctuary along with the other rescued animals.

Tracy loves to lie in the shade next to Waheed, and he enjoys gathering leaves for her to eat. Instead of being forced to entertain humans, they’ll spend the rest of their lives happily entertaining each other. Watch their rescue story at PETAKids.com/Videos/Rescued-Camels. You can help them live happily ever after by making a donation to Animal Rahat. To help other animals like them, you can make the kind choice to avoid supporting companies that profit from using animals in entertainment, including animal circuses and rides.
Comprehension Questions: Rescued Camels Meet Their Soulmates—Each Other

1. Why do you think Animal Rahat works to help bullocks, donkeys, ponies, and horses specifically?

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2. What happens to camels as they become dehydrated?

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3. What was one of the first signs that Waheed and Tracy liked each other?

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4. Why do you think the bond between these camels is so strong?

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5. In addition to making a donation to Animal Rahat, what can people do to help animals like Waheed and Tracy?

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1. Why do you think Animal Rahat works to help bullocks, donkeys, ponies, and horses specifically?

Possible answer: Animal Rahat wants to help animals who are forced to work for humans. Bullocks, donkeys, ponies, and horses are exploited and forced to pull carts, carry heavy loads, and perform other labor-intensive tasks. They incur injuries, don’t receive proper care, and suffer from exhaustion. They are denied their freedom and the opportunity to live in peace. (Inferential)

2. What happens to camels as they become dehydrated?

Answer: When camels are deprived of water for too long, their eyes fill with tears and they begin to moan—then, their hump starts to get smaller. When the hump is completely gone, they die. (Literal)

3. What was one of the first signs that Waheed and Tracy liked each other?

Answer: They began mirroring each other’s movements. (Literal)

4. Why do you think the bond between these camels is so strong?

Possible answer: Both were lonely and had been abused and neglected by their previous owners before they were rescued by Animal Rahat. Once they were given proper nourishment and care, Waheed and Tracy no longer had to fear for their lives. They seem to take comfort from each other. (Evaluative)

5. In addition to making a donation to Animal Rahat, what else can people do to help animals like Waheed and Tracy?

Answer: People can choose not to support companies that profit from using animals in entertainment, including animal circuses and rides. (Literal)