

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary

nonprofit organization	group that uses the money it receives to further a social cause
bullock	type of male cow
deprived	stopped from having something that's needed
dehydrated	having lost a lot of water or bodily fluids
ailing	in poor health
relinquish	choose not to keep; give something up
platonic	loving and caring but not in a sexual way
fixed	sterilized; spayed or neutered so that no babies will be born

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](https://www.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?

2. What happens to camels as they become dehydrated?

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

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

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