

Gaza Mobile Veterinary Clinic: April 2026 Operational Report

In March 2026, the Gaza Mobile Veterinary Clinic provided medical care and field support to a total of 783 animals across southern and central areas of Gaza. Despite severe operational constraints, the clinic maintained continuous outreach to communities that depend heavily on animals for transportation, agricultural labor, and daily survival. The sustained delivery of veterinary services under these conditions reflects both the scale of need and the essential role of the clinic in protecting livelihoods.

Geographical Coverage and Field Operations

1. Khan Yunis (Primary Operational Area – 75%)
A total of 587 animals was treated across Khan Yunis, covering urban neighborhoods, refugee camps, and surrounding rural areas.
2. Deir al-Balah and Surroundings (17%)
A total of 133 animals were treated across Deir al-Balah city and surrounding municipalities, including multiple refugee camps and rural communities.
3. Rafah (8%)
A total of 63 animals were treated in Rafah, where access to veterinary services remains severely limited.

Total animals treated: 783

Species Distribution and Focus of Care

The caseload reflects the critical reliance on working and domestic animals:

- 81% – Donkeys and horses (634 animals)
- 19% – Other animals (149 animals), including:
 - a. 9% – Sheep and small livestock (70 animals)
 - b. 8% – Pets (63 animals)
 - c. 2% – Birds (16 animals)

This distribution highlights the essential role of working animals, particularly donkeys, in sustaining mobility, agriculture, and daily survival.

- **Common Conditions and Medical Interventions**
- **Donkeys and Horses:**

Our mobile clinic managed a broad spectrum of acute and chronic conditions, with many animals arriving in advanced stages of deterioration due to delayed access to veterinary care. Traumatic injuries, skin conditions, open wounds, hoof disorders, and fractures were among the most frequently observed cases. Many of these were associated with varying degrees of tissue damage and secondary infections, which were effectively managed through timely intervention, helping to

prevent long-term complications. In addition, a number of animals presented with dehydration and malnutrition-related conditions, and in many cases, their condition showed clear improvement following appropriate treatment and supportive care.

A significant proportion of cases involved infectious and environmentally driven diseases, including tetanus, septic conditions, and systemic bacterial infections, particularly among animals exposed to contaminated environments and decomposing organic matter. Parasitic diseases, both external (such as mange and tick infestations) and internal, were also widespread, contributing to marked weakness and reduced immune function.

The clinic also treated numerous cases of musculoskeletal and locomotor disorders, including lameness, joint inflammation, tendon injuries, and chronic hoof deformities. These conditions were largely linked to prolonged overwork, inadequate terrain conditions, and insufficient hoof maintenance.

In addition, nutritional and metabolic disorders were frequently observed, with animals presenting signs of dehydration, malnutrition, and general systemic weakness, often compounded by limited access to safe water and poor-quality feed.

A considerable number of animals also suffered from gastrointestinal disorders, including colic, diarrhea, and digestive distress, typically associated with abrupt dietary changes and unsafe feeding practices.

Skin and dermatological conditions were also prevalent, including severe dermatitis, skin infections, and complications from untreated wounds, reflecting prolonged exposure to harsh environmental and hygiene conditions.

Overall, most animals needed urgent veterinary intervention, reflecting advanced physical decline driven by a combination of environmental stress, heavy workload, and limited access to timely care. Across cases, recurrent underlying issues included parasitic burden, infectious disease, and chronic untreated conditions, all contributing to progressive deterioration.

Emergency Cases

During March, the clinic managed 78 emergency cases, including severe trauma, fractures, deep wounds, tetanus, advanced infections, and life-threatening dehydration.

- Khan Yunis – 55 cases (71%)
- Deir al-Balah – 13 cases (17%)
- Rafah – 10 cases (13%)

These interventions were conducted under extremely difficult conditions. Veterinary teams often walked up to two hours across damaged and unsafe terrain to reach affected animals. These efforts were essential in preventing death and permanent disability among working animals.

Emerging Health Risks

A major and growing concern is the increasing prevalence of skin diseases, infectious diseases, and respiratory conditions among animals. These are strongly associated with the spread of bacteria and viruses from decomposing animal remains, particularly in areas where carcasses have accumulated. This has resulted in significant environmental contamination and increased risk of disease transmission among healthy animals. The rising number of affected cases is placing severe pressure on the Gaza Mobile Veterinary Clinic's limited resources and is increasingly complicating containment and treatment efforts.

Operational Challenges

Field operations continue under highly constrained and hazardous conditions:

- **Transportation Costs:**
Sharp increases in transportation costs are significantly limiting operational reach.
- **Medication Availability:**
Essential veterinary medicines are increasingly scarce and prohibitively expensive.
- **Mobility and Infrastructure Damage:**
Operations are conducted across heavily damaged infrastructure, making movement slow, difficult, and unsafe.
- **Environmental Hazards:**
The presence of explosive remnants and unidentified risks poses continuous threats to field teams.
- **Field Uncertainty and Staff Exhaustion:**
Veterinary teams frequently operate under unpredictable conditions, often walking long distances to reach inaccessible locations, resulting in high levels of physical exhaustion.

The Gaza Mobile Veterinary Clinic continues to provide essential life-saving veterinary services under extremely challenging conditions. Its work plays a critical role in preserving the health of animals that are fundamental to the survival and resilience of vulnerable communities. However, the scale of need is rapidly increasing while available resources remain severely limited. Sustained support is urgently required to maintain and expand these services. Strengthening the clinic's capacity will directly contribute to safeguarding animal welfare and supporting the livelihoods of affected populations.