

Thanasis Theocharopoulos
Greek Minister of Tourism

13 June 2019

Via e-mail: mintourismgr@gmail.com

Dear Mr Theocharopoulos,

While preparing for my upcoming performance in Greece, I came across PETA video footage documenting the suffering of donkeys and mules forced to carry tourists in Santorini. It's wretched stuff, and it needs to end – now.

As you must know, day after day, donkeys and mules are forced to transport tourists and haul other heavy loads up more than 500 steep steps to the old town of Firá. Making this arduous journey over and over again throughout the day, the poor animals are given few breaks, if any. Often, they aren't even provided with drinking water. And many suffer from wounds and abrasions caused by ill-fitting and worn-out saddles.

The measly token gestures made so far to improve the animals' welfare – like placing limits on the weight that they can carry – don't go far enough, since they still permit donkeys to carry a person weighing 100 kilograms, even though veterinarians recommend that an average-sized donkey carry no more than 50 kilograms!

So please, put an end to this old-school practice of using animals as "beasts of burden" and encourage tourists to use the port's cable car – or their own two feet – instead.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnny Marr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Johnny Marr