



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

PETA
DEUTSCHLAND E.V.

Friolzheimer Straße 3
70499 Stuttgart
+49 711 860 591-0
+49 711 860 591-111 (Fax)

Info@peta.de
PETA.de

The Honourable Makis Voridis
Minister for Agricultural Development and Food

13 May 2020

Via e-mail: voridis@parliament.gr

Re: Donkeys and mules suffer from dehydration and exhaustion while used to give rides for tourists

Dear Minister,

I'm writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and international affiliates – which together have more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide – concerning donkeys and mules who are forced to give unnecessary rides for tourists on the Greek island of Santorini. Along with well-known authors of books about donkeys and mules, including Uta Over, Neil Griffiths, Waltraud Lederer, Katia Simon and Rindert Kromhout, I urge you to address the legal situation of these animals in Greece in order to promote animal welfare and protect them from exhaustion, dehydration, and saddle wounds.

In 2018, PETA gathered extensive photographic and video evidence documenting that equines are used and abused as "taxis" on Santorini. Additional footage from September 2019 shows that the suffering that donkeys and mules endure remained the same. Their circumstances continue to be just as bad, despite promises to the contrary and new but ineffective animal welfare regulations. The animals continue to be beaten by their owners and abused by way too heavy riders, and they still lack food and water while being exploited from early in the morning until late in the evening. This situation violates Greek animal welfare law, and it's clear that abolishing these illegal conditions can only be achieved with a ban.

We cannot believe that your country allows such public animal abuse, despite international protests and media reports. It's time to create new laws that will finally ban animal rides for tourism purposes. This is the only way in which donkeys and mules will be adequately protected.

Please, do the right thing for these animals by making a humane and progressive decision. We'd be happy to discuss this important matter with you.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Newkirk
Founder

PETA Weltweit

- PETA UK
- PETA US
- PETA France
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Schweiz
- PETA India
- PETA Australia
- PETA Asia-Pacific
- PETA Latino
- Animal Rahat

Spendenkonto

GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG
Konto: 78000 78000
BLZ: 430 609 67
IBAN: DE71 43060967 7800078000
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Als gemeinnützig und besonders
förderungswürdig anerkannt.
Eingetragen im Vereinsregister beim
Amtsgericht Stuttgart, VR 202128.



Katia Simon

Author of

- Elias auf dem Weg nach Bethlehem
- Elias erlebt Ostern
- Elias und die Waldweihnacht

Rindert Kromhout

Author of the Little Donkey series

Uta Over

Author of several articles about donkeys

Waltraud Lederer

Author of

- Corfu Donkey Rescue
- Rettung der korfiotischen Esel
- Esi und Asi auf dem Weg zu Judys Eselhof

Neil Griffiths

Author of Damson the Donkey

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THE ETHICAL
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PO Box 70315
London N1P 2RG
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

Info@peta.org.uk

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
London EC4N 6AF.
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Affiliates

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- PETA Asia
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