



25 July 2023

His Excellency Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister of Greece
Via e-mail: kyriakos@parliament.gr

The Honourable Olga Kefalogianni
Minister of Tourism
Via e-mail: ol.kefalogianni@parliament.gr

Re: Please protect donkeys and mules on Santorini from the heat

Your Excellency: / Dear Minister:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide – concerning the impact the current heatwave will have on the donkeys and mules used for entertainment on Santorini. As the country is experiencing record-breaking temperatures exceeding 40 °C, we ask that you take urgent action to protect these animals by banning animal rides immediately.

Even under “normal” circumstances, the donkeys and mules used as tourist “taxis” are forced to toil in the blistering summer sun. They are given few, if any, breaks and are often denied access to drinking water and shade. PETA has published numerous video exposés documenting the plight of these animals. In addition to experiencing obvious exhaustion, many are routinely whipped by their owners and suffer from wounds and abrasions caused by ill-fitting saddles. The dangerously high temperatures further exacerbate the animals’ suffering – and working under such extreme conditions can lead to circulatory stress and heat stroke, which is often fatal in equines.

While we are aware that there are restrictions which prohibit the use of donkeys and mules at temperatures above 35°C from 12 noon to 7 pm, we also understand that these regulations are not enforced. Likewise, the token gestures that have been made by the government to improve the welfare of these animals in recent years have not gone far enough, and the animals’ miserable circumstances remain largely unchanged.

Only a ban on donkey and mule rides on Santorini will stop these animals from suffering. Please usher in a new era of animal protection and create laws that finally help animals and end this cruel exploitation of donkeys and mules for human amusement.

We thank you for your consideration of this important matter and stand ready to assist.

PEOPLE FOR
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TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
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FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
London EC4N 6AF.
Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands



Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Newkirk
Founder
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

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