

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION COALITION

The High Commissioner
Mauritius High Commission
1163 Pretorius Street
Hatfield 0083
Pretoria
Republic of South Africa

19th November 2016

Dear High Commissioner,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 27 Member organisations of the International Animal Welfare and Protection Coalition (IAWPC) and in particular, our members and supporters in the Republic of South Africa to request your action on the subject of the Mauritian Government's continuing ineffective and inhumane 'catch and kill' method of dog control.

For decades and despite international concern, successive Mauritian Governments have pursued policies of 'hunt and kill' which in practice (and in other countries around the world), have all proven to be inefficient and ineffective as a method of dog population control. Mauritian Government's have ignored local and international calls for the suffering and cruelty to end, as well as all serious offers of help to nationally resolve the situation.

Film and images of maltreated dogs in shelters and public places have regularly appeared in the national and international press. IAWPC organisations have been inundated by pleas from supporters for action to stop the killing. We have also gathered a substantial number of testimonials from tourists to Mauritius whose dream holidays were ruined by the treatment and killing of street dogs.

The IAWPC has recently received further disturbing findings, supported by horrific film footage, of another undercover investigation carried out in September 2016, into the catching and killing of dogs on Mauritius by officers from the Mauritian Society for Animal Welfare (MSAW) and with your Government's authority.

On the 31st October 2016, the following article in relation to this investigation appeared in the UK's Daily Mail newspaper:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3889168/The-real-price-paradise-holiday-Dogs-injected-lethal-cocktail-drugs-cut-cleaning-agents-save-costs-stop-annoying-tourists.html>.

Below is a five-minute edit of the film footage we received taken during the Mauritius Investigation:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/0aiy94dxlnnjlsln/Blur-%20Mauritius%20Dogs%20-%20short%20edit_HD.mp4?dl=0

This recent investigation has once again rightly brought further condemnation of your Government, not only internationally but also we note from the Mauritian people, including the business community, who stand on the side of strong tourism within a humane community. A worldwide petition attracted within a

few days over 128,000 signatures and is now expected to reach in the coming weeks a quarter-of-a-million signatures. Whilst this and other actions continue, there will inevitably be detrimental consequences for Mauritius' fragile tourist industry which would be regrettable, but the blame for which lies firmly with the Government's lack of action and concern. Those members and supporters who have been in contact with us these past weeks have made it clear, that they have no intention of considering Mauritius as a holiday destination whilst this 'hunt and kill' policy remains in place.

In March 2016, the IAWPC was made aware by its former Member organisation, the Humane Society International (HSI), that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism and External Communications, the Hon. Charles Gaëtan Xavier Luc Duval, GCSK, FCA, had sought a meeting with HSI in London, to discuss a humane dog management programme on Mauritius during which we understand, he agreed to receive a proposal from HSI for the introduction of a 'pilot' dog sterilisation and humane management programme'. The HSI Proposal was submitted to Minister Duval on the 24th March 2016. As a result of this meeting and agreement, the IAWPC placed on hold its planned international campaign against your Government's inhumane and ineffective dog control policy. It is now eight months since the Proposal was submitted and as far as we are aware, disappointingly no meaningful progress towards a conclusion has been made, quite the opposite.

As a result of this unacceptable lack of progress and the release of the recent investigations findings and horrific supporting film footage, the IAWPC is no longer prepared to keep its planned global campaign activities against what is happening on Mauritius on hold. Therefore, on the 11th November 2016, the IAWPC launched an international campaign drawing public and media attention to the fact that the paradise holiday destination of Mauritius hides a very ugly secret. At the same time, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister of Mauritius, which is attached.

Therefore, we respectfully request your urgent assistance in arranging the commencement of serious negotiations between the Government, HSI and the IAWPC, towards a cost-effective and sustainable solution which protects Mauritius' dogs, its tourism industry and its international reputation. The IAWPC is prepared to place its considerable veterinary expertise in mass sterilisation, to assist your Government introduce a humane and effective national dog management programme. A focused national programme would remove once and for all the recurring international and local outrage over the Government's inhumane and ineffective 'hunt and kill' actions.

Yours sincerely,



Les Ward MBE
Chairman

(Reply to: lesward@marchigtrust.org)