

# Il-Vjaġġ ta' Karl u l-Imħabba lejn l-Annimali







## **II-Vjaġġ ta' Karl u l-Imħabba lejn l-Animali**

Kitba ta' Dunstan Hamilton b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali.

L-ewwel edizzjoni - 2020

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Dan il-ktieb huwa pubblikat mill-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali. Dan huwa maħsub sabiex jingħata bla ħlas bħala promozzjoni u informazzjoni biex iservi kemm bħala mezz sabiex jinqara b'mod rikreattiv iżda wkoll bħala pjattaforma biex jeduka lill-istudenti.

Il-jeddijiet tal-publikazzjoni huma tal-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali.

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L-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali  
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Sit web: [www.commissioneranimalwelfare.gov.mt](http://www.commissioneranimalwelfare.gov.mt)  
Posta elettronika: [caw.mafa@gov.mt](mailto:caw.mafa@gov.mt)

Messaġġ qasir lill-istudenti mill-Kummissarju  
għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Annimali



Għeżież studenti,

Jiena ċert li bħali, ħafna minnkom tħobbu l-annimali u tkunu lesti tgħinuhom u taqbżu għalihom jekk ikun hemm bżonn. Frazzjiet bħal “Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali” u *Animal Welfare* forsi huma ġodda għalikom, imma fi kliem sempliċi, dawn ifissru d-drittijiet li għandhom l-annimali li jiġu trattati b’mod uman u b’responsabbiltà; affarijiet li intom naħseb taqblu magħhom!

L-annimali m’għandhomx ikunu abbużati u lanqas maħqura. Huwa għalhekk illi l-pajjiżi kollha għandhom bżonn liġijiet serji biex jiżguraw li r-relazzjonijiet tal-bniedem mal-annimali jkunu tajbin u biex l-annimali jiġu mħarsa minn kull tip ta’ krudeltà u abbuż. Kulhadd, inkluż intom it-tfal, għandu l-obbligu li jibni relazzjonijiet tajbin mal-annimali kollha, speċjalment mal-annimali domestiċi jew *pets* tagħna, biex ngħixu flimkien f’armonija mingħajr qatt ma nabbużaw, naħqru jew nabbandunaw lill-animall domestiku tagħna b’xi mod. L-annimali tagħna għandhom ikunu protetti min-nuqqas ta’ ambjent, spazju, ikel, kura u rispett.

Dan il-ktieb għandu jgħin lil kulhadd, anki lilkom it-tfal, biex ilkoll naħsbu fid-doveri u d-dmirijiet tagħna lejn l-annimali li tant isebbħu haġġitna.

Nispera li tiegħdu gost taqrawh u inselli għalikom!

Firma tal-Kummissarju



Dr. Denis Montebello

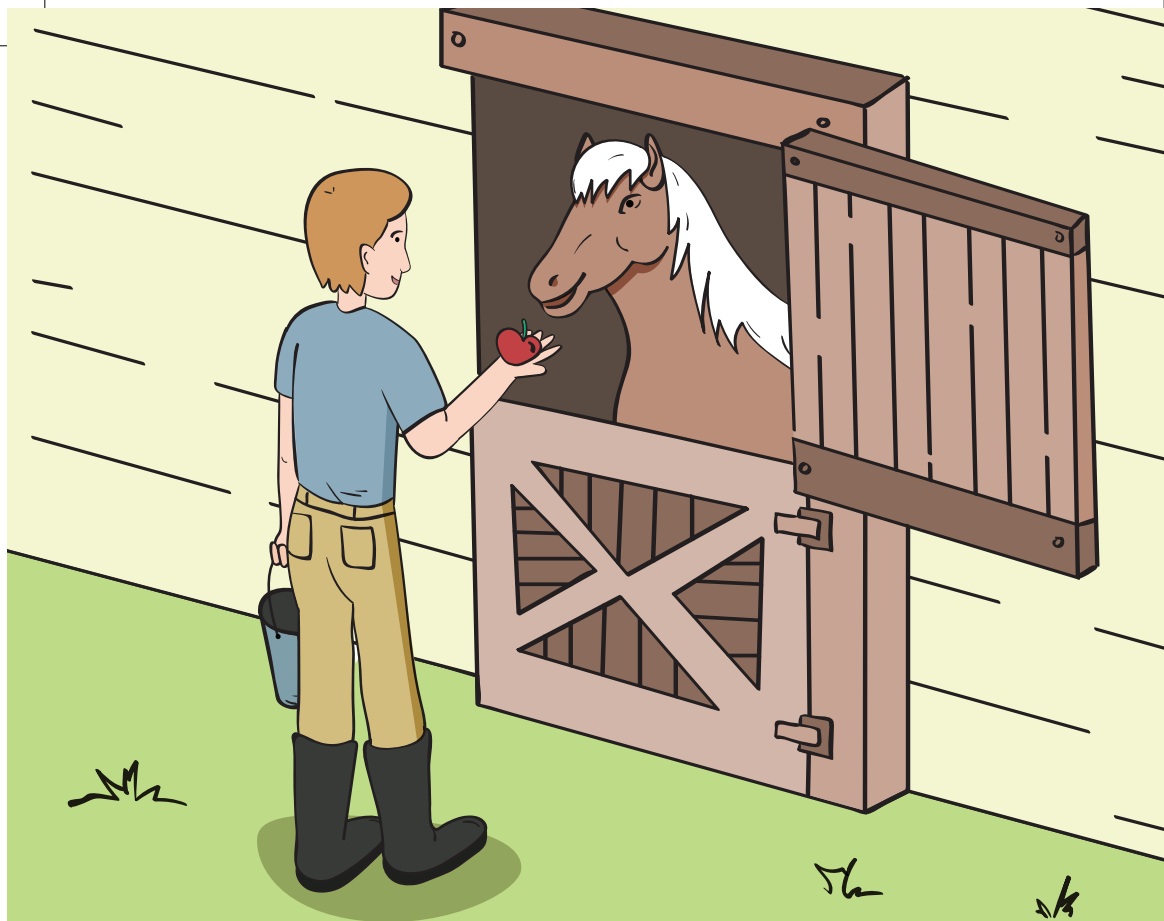
Il-Kummissarju għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali



Ftit ġimgħat ilu insomma, wasal fil-Gżejjer Maltin Karl. Karl la ġie bl-ajruplan u lanqas f'xi vapur tal-ġiti għaliex bħala esploratur jevita kemm jista' jkun dawk il-mezzi ta' trasport li jniġġsu l-arja! Għaldaqstant, hu ġie b'dgħajsa tal-qluġh!

Karl huwa esploratur Ġermaniż u huwa wkoll ambjentalist li jhobb l-annimali kollha. Ambjentalist huwa persuna li jkollu għal qalbu u jkun iħobb ħafna l-annimali u l-ambjent naturali. Din l-imħabba li Karl għandu lejn l-annimali, bdiet minn meta kellu għaxar snin. Iz-ziju tiegħu, Louis, kien jgħix f'parti rurali tal-Ġermanja, qalb il-kampanja, f'raħal żgħir jismu Bamberg. Iz-ziju Louis kellu razzett kbir ħafna b'diversi annimali fosthom żwiemel, baqar, tigieġ, fniek, mogħoż, ngħaġ, ħmir u saħansitra ħnieżer.

Karl ta' spiss kien jmur jgħin liz-ziju sabiex jitma' u jnaddaf dawn l-annimali. Iz-ziju tiegħu kien raġel anzjan u għalhekk l-annimali li kien iżżomm fir-razzett tiegħu kien iżżommhom kemm bħala delizzju kif ukoll sabiex jgħajjex lill-familja tiegħu. Dawn l-annimali kienu dejjem miżmumin kuntenti u ndaf f'mandri u stallel imdaqqsin biex ikollhom biżżejjed spazju fejn jistgħu jdur u jilgħabu maż-żgħar. Għaldaqstant, l-annimali ma kien jonqoshom xejn.

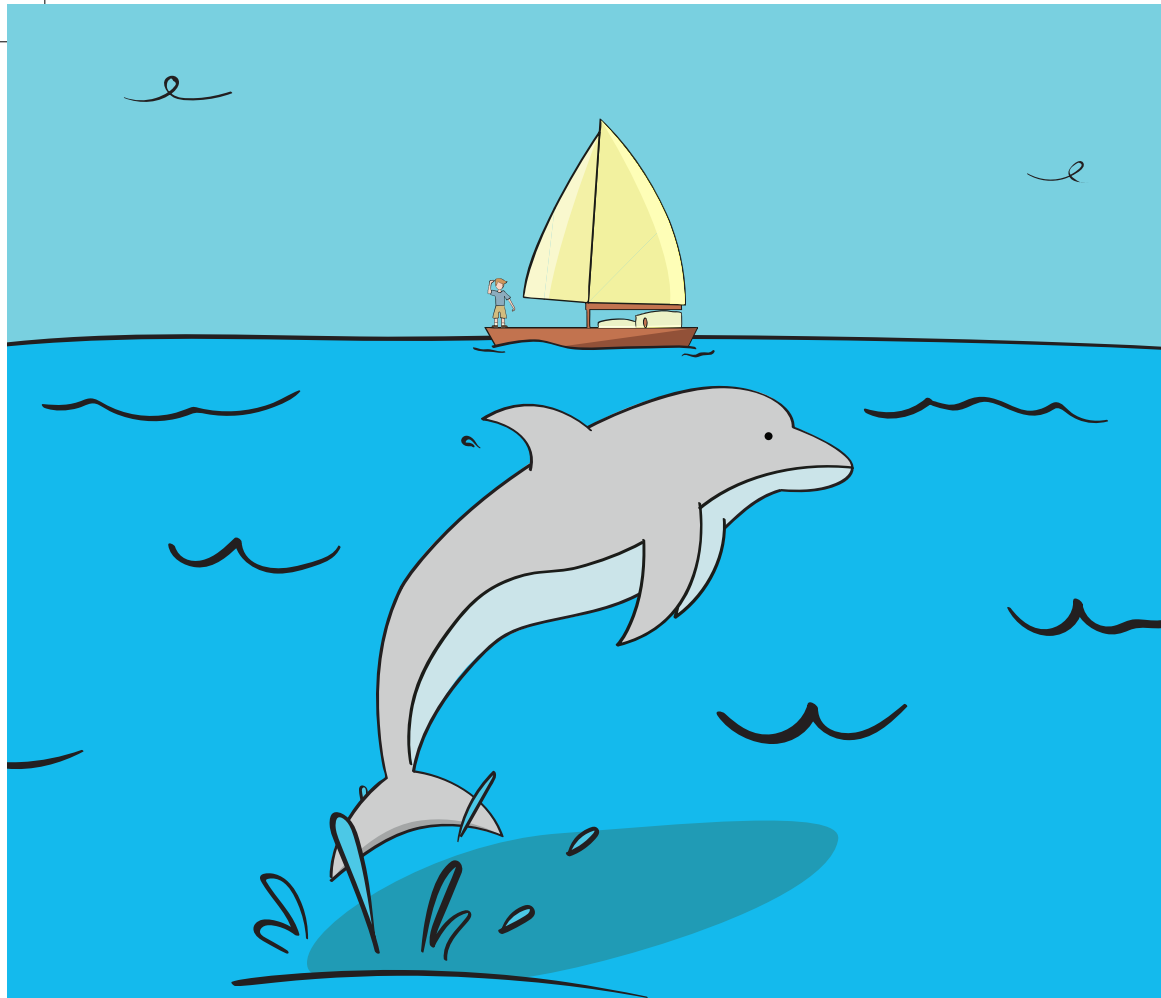


Maż-żmien, l-interess ta' Karl lejn l-animali aktar beda jiżdid. Meta beda jitfarfar u għalaq dawk it-tmintax-il sena, il-ħolma ta' Karl kienet li jesplora diversi pajjiżi u territorji madwar id-dinja biex matul il-btajjel tas-Sajf ikun jista' jara animali differenti u b'hekk ikun aktar aġġornat dwar l-ispeċi differenti ta' animali li jeżistu. Bħala esploratur, apparti l-animali tal-irziezet, Karl kien interessat ukoll fl-animali domestiċi speċjalment il-qtates u l-klieb, kif ukoll fl-ispeċi marini. L-ispeċi marini huma dawk l-animali li jgħixu fil-baħar.



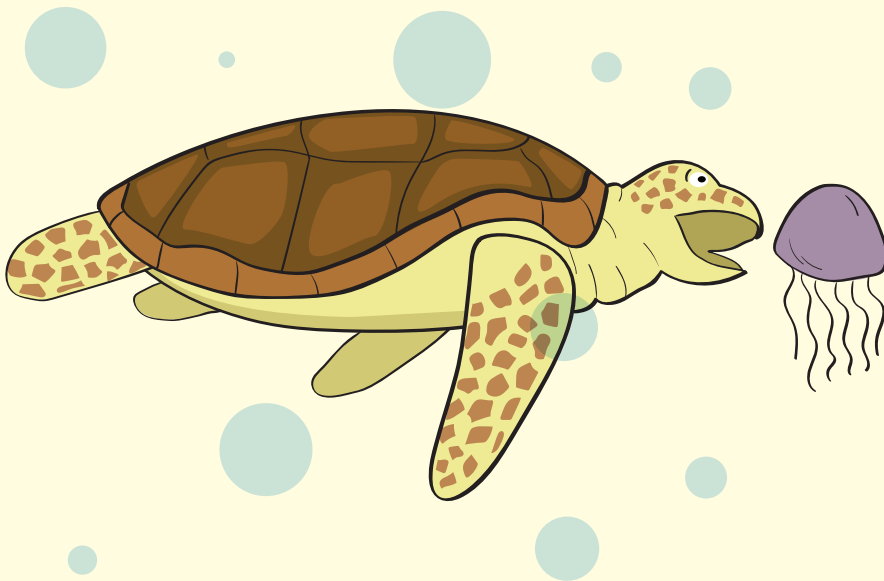
Qabel ma beda l-esplorazzjoni tiegħu lejn il-Gżejjer Maltin, ħbiebu kienu qalulu li m'hemmx x'tara f'Malta, għax il-Gżejjer Maltin huma ċkejkni wisq, u la għandhom xmajjar, la muntanji u lanqas foresti. Apparti minn hekk, l-uniku riżors tal-Gżejjer Maltin huwa dak uman. Izda Karl daħal ifittex fuq l-internet u sab ħafna informazzjoni u stampi dwar is-siġar, l-insetti, l-għasafar, l-ispeċi marini li jgħixu fl-ibħra meraviljużi Maltin u l-annimali li jgħixu f'dawn il-gżejjer jew madwarhom. Waqt li kien qed jagħmel riċerka dwar annimali varji li jinstabu fil-Gżejjer Maltin, huwa sab li l-baqra Maltija hija l-ikbar annimal domestiku Malti li jista' jiġi kkunsidrat bħala uniku għall-Gżejjer Maltin. (Għal aktar dettalji ara l-Appendiċi fuq wara).

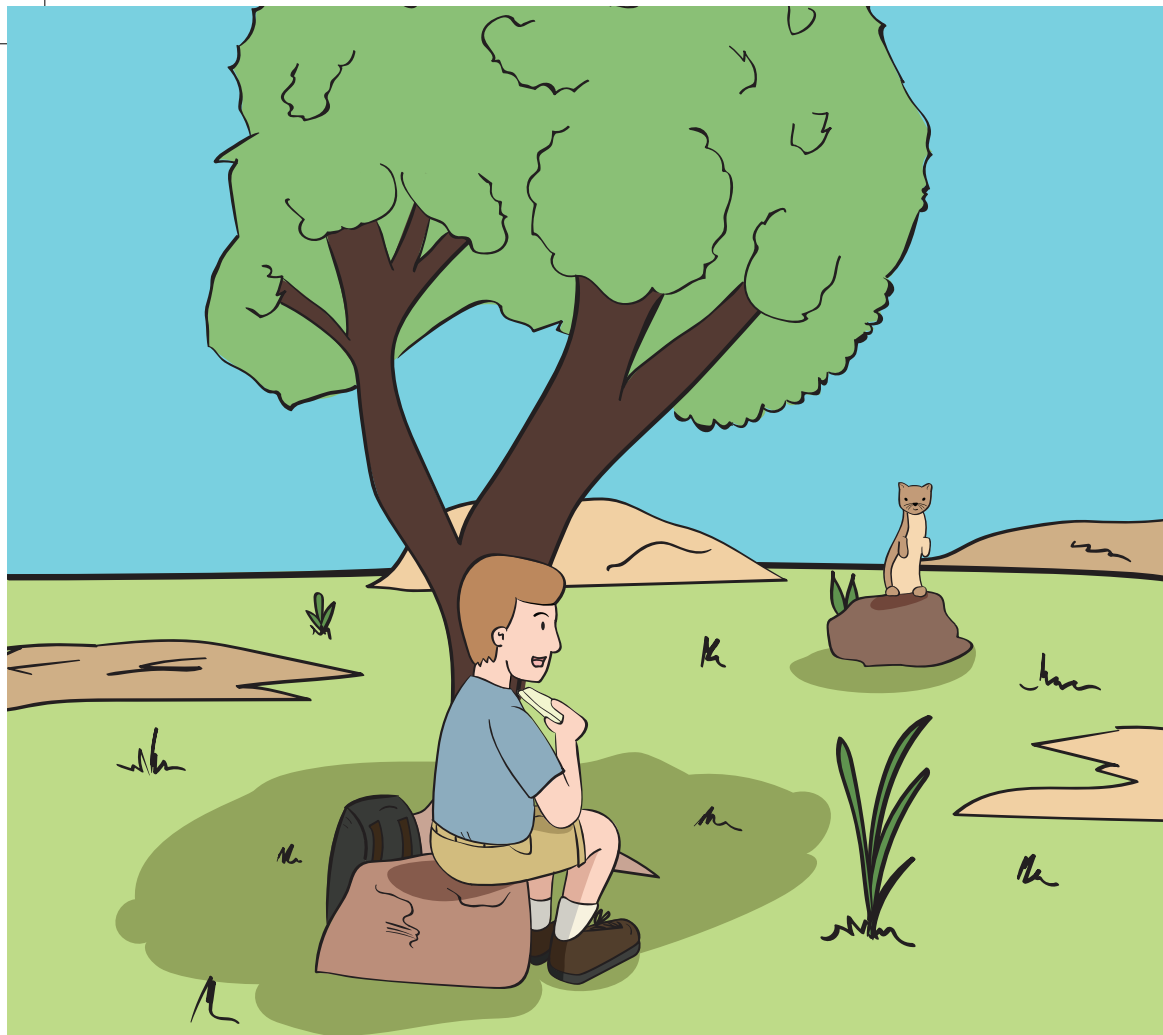
Apparti minn hekk, fir-riċerka li għamel Karl dwar uħud mill-annimali li jinstabu fil-Gżejjer Maltin, kien qara wkoll dwar il-mogħża Maltija, il-kelb tal-fenek, in-naħla Maltija, il-bużaqq, il-qabru, il-granċ tal-ilma ħelu, il-gurdien ta' geddumu twil ta' Għawdex, il-gremxula ta' Malta u t-tigieġa s-sewda Maltija. (Għal aktar dettalji ara l-Appendiċi fuq wara).



Karl mill-ewwel beda jdur mal-kosta ta' Malta bid-dgħajsa tiegħu u fl-aħħar għadda minn hdejn Filfla fejn seta' jara ħafna gawwi u straħ f'Wied iż-Żurrieq. Waqt li kien għaddej bid-dgħajsa tiegħu seta' jilmaħ diversi speċi marini fosthom klieb il-baħar, dniefel u fkieren. Ftakar meta darba kien qed jara dokumentarju dwar l-ispeċi marini li jinstabu fil-Gżejjer Maltin, u f'dan id-dokumentarju ntqal illi fl-ibhra Maltin hawn mas-26 speċi ta' klieb il-baħar.

Ftit granet qabel ma' ġie fil-Gżejjer Maltin kien qara xi informazzjoni dwar għaqda ambjentali bl-isem ta' *Nature Trust Malta*. L-uffiċjali u l-volontiera ta' din l-għaqda jsalvaw diversi speċi ta' annimali, fosthom il-fkieren tal-baħar meta dawn ikunu f'diffikultà jew imwegġgħin. Waqt li kien qed josserva diversi speċi marini minn fuq id-dgħajsa tiegħu ġie f'moħħu mument partikolari meta xi snin ilu kien qed jgħum mal-ġenituri tiegħu u nigžitu brama f'siequ. Tgħidx kemm kien beka dak inhar! Minn dak inhar irrealizza dwar kemm huma importanti l-fkieren tal-baħar peress illi dawn jieklu l-bram.





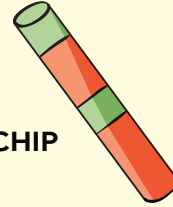
Niżel l-art, beda miexi u sab ruħu l-Qrendi, f'post jgħidulu l-Maqluba! Wara mixja bħal dik kien għeja u poġġa għad-dell taħt sigra tal-Għargħar, illi hija s-sigra nazzjonali ta' Malta. Waqt li kien taħt is-sigra kien fortunat għax lemaħ ballotta, annimal rari ħafna! (Għal aktar dettalji ara l-Appendiċi fuq wara).

Karl kien kurjuż jesplora partijiet oħra tal-Gżejjer Maltin u għalhekk qam u kompla miexi. F'hin minnhom iltaqa ma veterinarja, Emma Farrugia. Din kienet liebsa gakketta bajda u kienet ħierġa minn go klinika tal-annimali. Bdew jittkellmu, u hi qaltli li kienet dejjem imħabbta ħafna, l-aktar tikkura annimali domestiċi, bħall-klieb u qtates, iżda kultant ukoll għasafar, ħemsters, fniek u anki sriep.





MICROCHIP



Xi drabi tmur ukoll fl-irziezet fejn ikun hemm żwiemel, baqar jew nagħaġ illi jkollhom bżonn l-attenzjoni. Qaltlu li l-ġimgħa ta' qabel, waqt li kienet sejra tagħmel viżta lil qattus marid lemħet kelb fit-triq. La kellu midalja u lanqas kien iċċippjat u għalhekk ma setgħetx tkun taf ta' min hu. Suppost, bil-ligi kull min ikollu kelb irid jagħmillu din il-midalja bin-numru tat-telefown ta' sidu u l-mikroċipp. B'hekk, min jiltaqa' ma' xi kelb mitluf, ikun jista' jsir jaf ta' min hu.

Emma kompliet tgħid illi l-kelb ħaditu f'santwarju tal-annimali, li kien l-eqreb. Is-santwarji tal-annimali li għandna f'pajjiżna jagħmlu ħafna xogħol siewi għax jieħdu ħsieb dawk l-annimali li ma jkollhomx fejn jgħixu jew li jkunu sfaw abbandunti minn sidhom. Għalhekk, illum persuna tista' tmur taddotta xi annimal bħal ngħidu aħna xi kelb jew qattus mis-santwarji li hawn f'pajjiżna.

Karl xtaq imur jara dan il-kelb u Emma qaltlu biex jirkeb u saqet 'l hemm. F'qalbha bdiet tispera li forsi Karl jaddotta lill-kelb li kienet sabet u li miskin forsi kien ġie abbandunat apposta. Kif waslu setgħu jaraw kemm kien miżmum tajjeb dan is-santwarju, immexxi minn grupp ta' persuni tassew dedikati, li jagħmlu dan ix-xogħol b'mod volontarju.

Kif waslu hemm sabu xi nies, il-familja Vella, li diġà kienu ddeċidew jaddottaw il-kelb li kienet sabet Emma.



Fil-Gzejjer Maltin hawn diversi santwarji tal-animali. Il-lista kompluta tas-santwarji tal-klieb u l-qtates tinsab hawn taht:

| <b>Isem is-santwarju</b>                       | <b>Posta Elettronika</b>    |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Island Sanctuary                               | info@islandsanctuary.com.mt |
| Animal Care Malta                              | animalcare.mt@gmail.com     |
| CSAF Carer for Stray and Abandoned Felines     | csafmalta@gmail.com         |
| SPCA Malta Homing Centre                       | info@spcamalta.org          |
| SPCA Gozo Homing Centre                        | info@spca-gozo.org          |
| Association for Abandoned Animals              | info@aaamalta.com           |
| Noah's Ark                                     | noahsarkmalta@gmail.com     |
| National Cat Society (Thomasina Cat Sanctuary) | tomasinasanctuary@gmail.com |
| Kittyland                                      | /                           |
| Love for Strays                                | ronald.giordano@gmail.com   |



| <b>Paġna fuq Facebook</b>               | <b>Numru Telefoniku</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| The Island Sanctuary Malta              | 21659895/79018901       |
| Animal Care Malta Cat Sanctuary         | /                       |
| CSAF Carer for Stray Abandoned Felines  | /                       |
| MSPCA – formerly SPCA Malta             | 21230468                |
| Gozo SPCA                               | 21553769/99475199       |
| Association for Abandoned Animals       | 79730921                |
| Noah’s Ark Malta Dogs For Adoption      | 99471390                |
| National Cat Society                    | /                       |
| Kittyland. Felines Forever Association. | /                       |
| Love for Strays                         | 21383977/99875093       |

Animal Care Malta  
[animalcaremalta.com](http://animalcaremalta.com)

SPCA Gozo Homing Centre  
[spca-gozo.org](http://spca-gozo.org)

Noah's Ark  
[noahsarkmalta.org](http://noahsarkmalta.org)

National Cat Society  
[tomasinasanctuary.org](http://tomasinasanctuary.org)





Love for Strays

SPCA Malta  
Homing Centre  
[maltaspca.org](http://maltaspca.org)

Carer for Stray &  
Abandoned Felines  
[csafcatsanctuary.org](http://csafcatsanctuary.org)

Island Sanctuary  
[islandsanctuary.com.mt](http://islandsanctuary.com.mt)

Kittyland

Association for  
Abandoned Animals  
[aaamalta.com](http://aaamalta.com)

Maya Vella, tifla ta' tmien snin, qaltilhom illi l-iskola jgħallmuhom li l-annimali għandhom drittijiet, bħad-dritt għall-ikel u xorb xieraq, dritt li jkollhom post komdu fejn jgħixu, li jingħataw it-titqibiet neċessarji biex jevitaw lhom il-mard, li ikolhom spazju fejn jilagħbu u jkunu trattati tajjeb biex iħosshom kuntenti. Maya kienet kuntenta ħafna li saret taf aktar dwar dawn il-ħames libertajiet tal-annimali mil-lezzjonijiet li jkollha l-iskola għax b'dan il-mod tkun tista' tifhem aktar il-bżonnijiet u l-ħtiġijiet tal-annimali. Tajjeb ngħidu li l-annimali bħala kreaturi jhossu bħalna l-bnedmin, fil-fatt insejthom "senzjenti" u għalhekk aħna fid-dmir illi naraw li ma jkun jonqoshom xejn, għax dawn ma jistgħux jikkellmu bħalna l-bnedmin jekk ikollhom bżonn xi ħaġa jew jekk, pereżempju, jkunu morda.

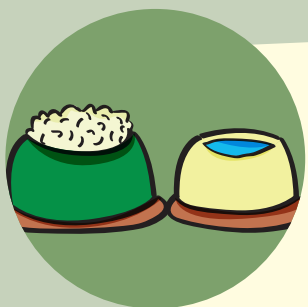
Emma spjegat ukoll li l-ħames libertajiet tal-annimali huma il-bażi tal-ligi **Dwar it-Trattament Xieraq tal-Annimali** li tipprovdi għal multi kbar u anke ħabs għal min jaħqar xi annimal.

Qaltihom ukoll illi min ikun jixtieq kelb imma ma jkollux fejn iżommu d-dar fejn jgħix jew forsi l-ġenituri ma jridux annimali fid-dar, dan xorta jista' jmur is-santwarju u joħroġ kelb biċ-ċinga u li wieħed għandu jċempel fuq in-**numru 1717** għall-ambulanza ta' l-annimali, jekk jara xi annimal imweġġa' fit-triq. L-ambulanza taħdem 24 siegħa kuljum **mit-Tnejn sal-Ħadd, inkluż fil-festi Pubbliċi u Nazzjonali**. Tajjeb illi meta nużaw dan is-servizz nagħtu dejjem id-dettalji tajbin, speċjalment tal-post fejn jinsab, ħalli l-ħaddiema tal-ambulanza tal-annimal jkunu jistgħu jsibu l-post malajr ħalli niffrankaw il-ħin ta' tbatija għal dak l-annimal.





# Libertajiet tal-Animali



1

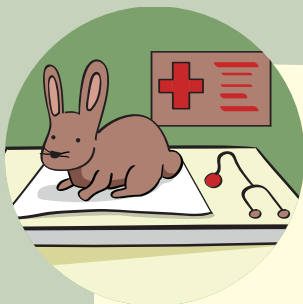
**Kull animal għandu jkollu aċċessibli ilma frisk u ikel bnin**  
sabiex saħħtu tkun ikkurata tajjeb



2

**Kull animal għandu jkollu dak il-post addattat fejn jistrieħ**  
u jistkenn mill-elementi naturali tat-temp,  
kemm minn dik il-kesħa tax-xitwa u  
mis-sħana qalila tax-xemx tas-sajf





3

### **Kull animal għandu jiġi eżaminat għal xi mard**

minn veterinarju u jiġi kkurat għal dak il-mard bit-trattamenti li jkun hemm bżonn

4

### **Kull animal għandu jkollu spazju biżżejjed**

fejn ikun qed jinżamm u jkollu wkoll kumpanija ta' animali oħra tal-istess razza

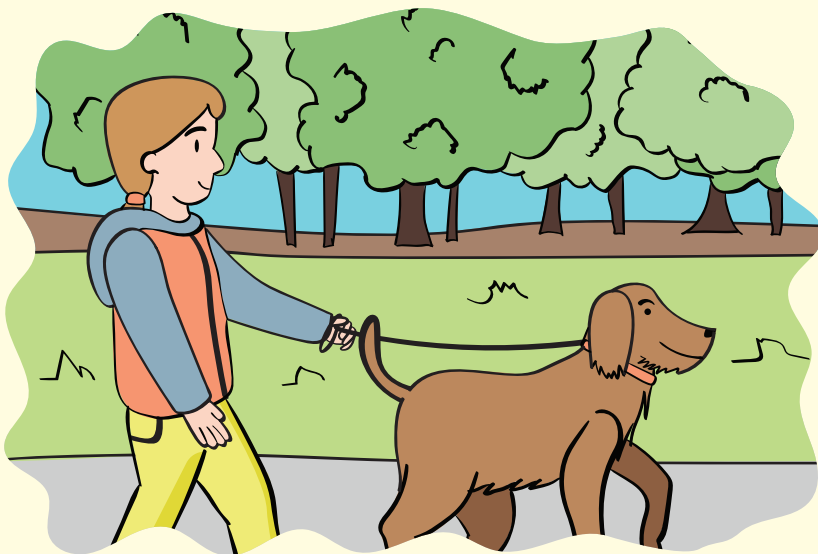


5

### **Kull animal għandu jkun żgurat li jinżamm f'kundizzjonijiet xierqa,**

li ma jsofrix dwejjaq mingħajr bżonn, u li ma tkunx se ssirlu ħsara mentali

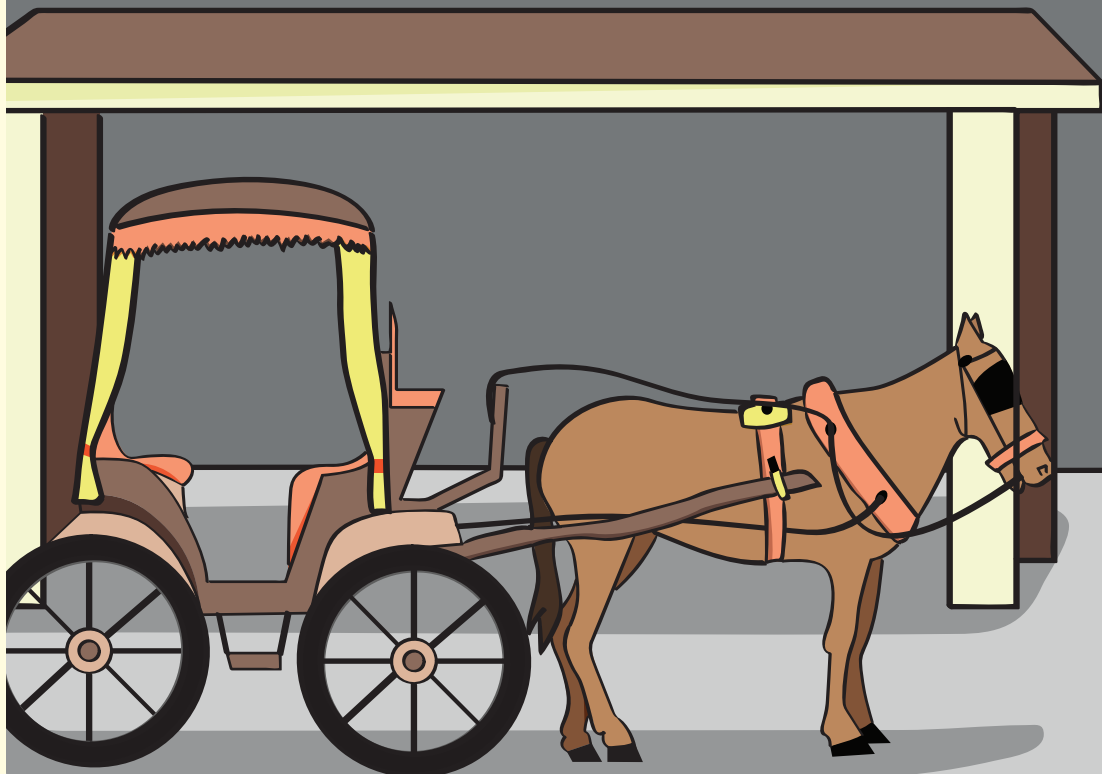




Emma daret fuq il-familja Vella u qaltilhom li l-gvern ħareġ skema ta' għajnuna sabiex iħajjar lin-nies jaddottaw annimal minn xi santawarju liċenzjat u li huwa importanti li jekk ser jaddottaw il-kelb, l-ewwel jaraw li lesti jieħdu ħsiebu sewwa u għandhom biżżejjed ħin għalih. Li wieħed jabbanduna annimal li jkun fir-responsabbiltà tiegħu huwa wkoll ksur ta' liġi.

Importanti wkoll illi meta jkun f'post pubbliku, il-kelb **jinżamm fuq ċinga**, mhux biss għax il-liġi tgħid hekk jew minħabba li l-kelb jista' jaħrab u ttajru xi karozza, imma wkoll għax nafu li hawn uħud li jibzgu mill-klieb. Emma fakkritom ukoll illi setgħu jieħdu l-kelb f'xi wieħed mill-*parks* tal-klieb li qegħdin apposta biex fihom il-kelb ikun jista' jgħri mingħajr ċinga.

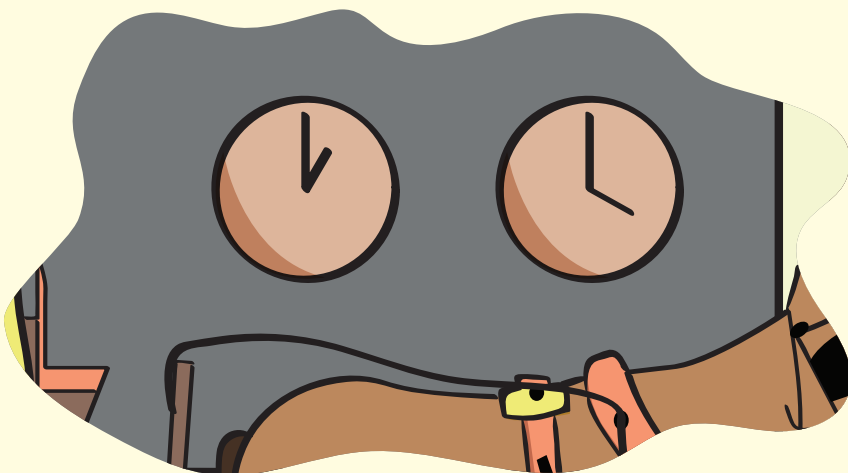




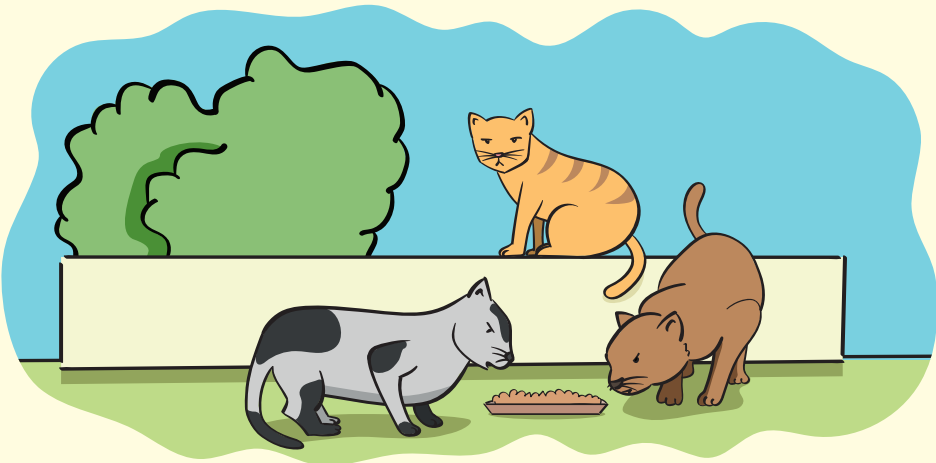
Daqq il-mowbajl ta' Emma. Kellha pazjent ieħor, žiemel tal-karozzini dñ id-darba. Emma offriet lil Karl li twasslu fuq stejg tal-linja ħalli jkun jista' jirkeb tal-linja. Sakemm kienu fil-karozza qaltlu li issa hemm regolamenti li jipprotegu lil dawn iż-żwimel. Il-liġi Ewropea tirrikjedi li kull žiemel imwieled jew impurtat fil-Gżejjer Maltin huwa obligat li jingħatalu passaport taż-żwimel.

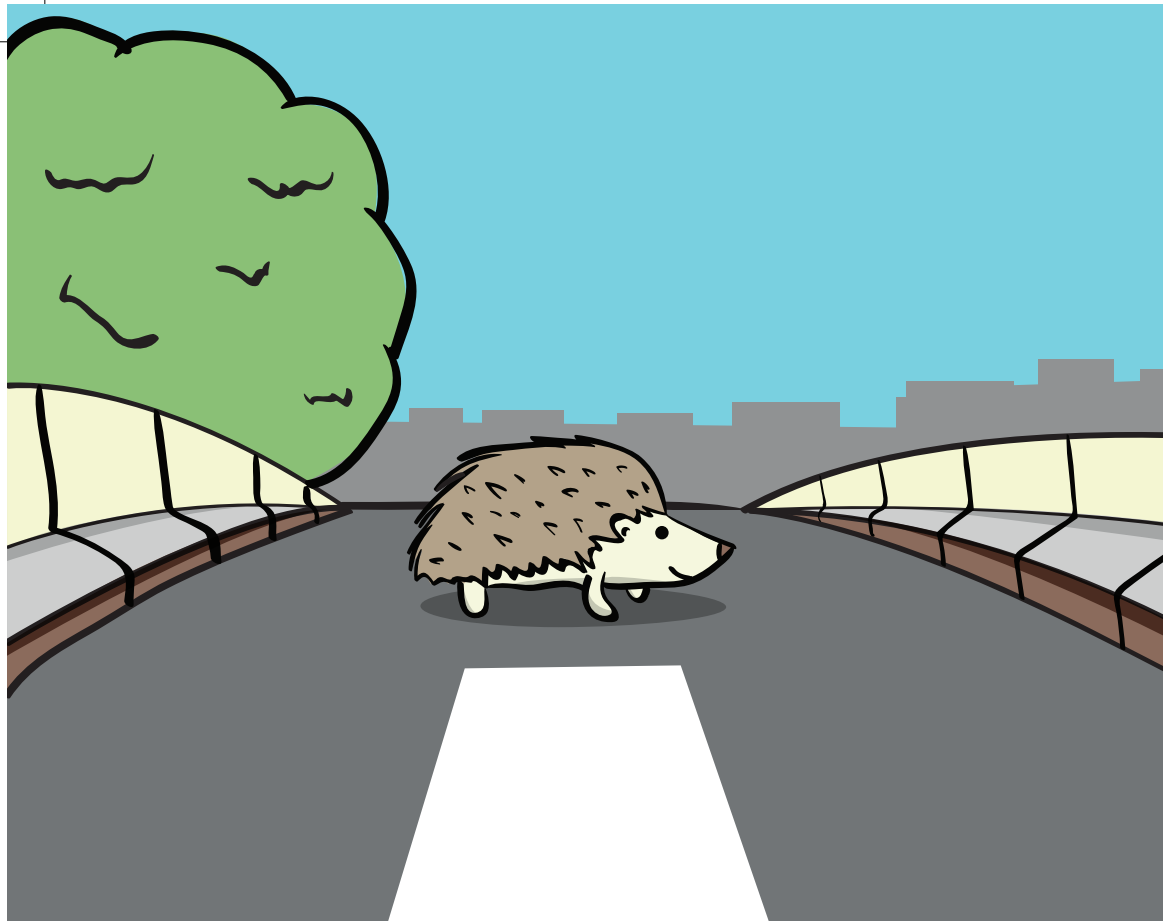
F'dan ir-rigward, f'każ illi jkun hemm bidla fis-sid jew notifika li ż-żiemel miet, hemm formoli apposta li jridu jimtlew, u dan jista' jsir ukoll onlajn, kif indikat f'din il-ħolqa: [https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Environment\\_Energy\\_Agriculture-and-Fisheries/Agriculture/Veterinary-Regulation/WEB2324/default.aspx](https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Environment_Energy_Agriculture-and-Fisheries/Agriculture/Veterinary-Regulation/WEB2324/default.aspx)

Aparti minn hekk, preżentament, f'pajjiżna bejn Lulju u Awwissu, iż-żwiemel **ma jistgħux jinstaqu bejn is-siegħa u l-erbgħa ta' wara nofsinhar**, u fil-karozzin lanqas ma jista' jkun hemm aktar minn ħames persuni bis-sewwieq b'kollox. Bis-saħħa ta' liġi li saret, dawn iż-żwiemel jistgħu jaħdmu biss ġurnata iva u ġurnata le, biex ikunu jistgħu jistrieħu.



Wara li wasslitu fuq l-istage Karl niżel, u qagħad jistenna tal-linja tiġi ħalli jerħila lura lejn id-dgħajsa f'Wied iż-Żurrieq biex jibda t-triq lura lejn Sqallija bil-qluġh. L-istejg kien viċin ġnien pubbliku, u Karl skanta bil-kwantità ta' qtates li kien hemm. Min jaf, forsi kien hemm xi ħadd qed jieħu ħsiebhom, imsieken! Ftit wara waslet mara, jgħidulha *feeder*, illi tagħtom l-ikel u l-ilma. Baqgħet tistenna sakemm lestew biex umbagħad bdiet tnaddaf il-fdalijiet tal-ikel biex ma jġugx il-ġrieden. Fil-Gżejjer Maltin hawn diversi nies qalbhom tajba li jitimgħu l-qtates li jgħixu barra. Dan huwa ġest sabiħ ħafna imma dejjem importanti li jekk se nitimgħu l-qtates ma' nħallux ħmieg warajna għax ingibu l-ġrieden.





Tal-linja waslet, Karl rikeb u niżel il-Qrendi. Beda it-triq 'l isfel lejn Wied iż-Żurrieq. B'xorti tajba, f'dak il-kwiet lemaħ kamaleonte ma' sigra tal-ħarrub, żewġ gremxuliet, serp, xi ftit fniek slavaġ, xaħmet l-art, varjetà sabiħa ta' nsetti u saħansitra qanfud! Il-qanfud jagħti fl-għajn ħafna minħabba l-forma partikolari tiegħu b'geddum ippuntat, widnejn żgħar u tondi, b'rasu ġo għonqu, u pjuttost imbaċċaċ. (Għal aktar dettalji ara l-Appendiċi fuq wara).

Aparti minn hekk lemaħ ukoll diversi għasafar, fosthom summien, gammiem, ġojjini, imlievez, sturnelli, pluvieri u ċinkonji. U lanqas temmen! Karl kien vera xortih tajba għax saħansitra rnexxielu jara l-Merill, li huwa l-għasfur nazzjonali tal-Gżejjer Maltin. (Għal aktar dettalji ara l-Appendiċi fuq wara). Dnub li minħabba l-bini li tiela', l-kampanja qiegħda dejjem tonqos. Dan iwassal biex jibdew jonqsu wkoll dawn l-annimali għax ma jkollhomx aktar postijiet fejn jistgħu jgħixu!

Waqf il-vjaġġ tiegħu lura lejn Sqallija biex minn hemm jibqa' sejjer lejn il-Ġermanja, Karl beda jaħseb fuq dak kollu li kien ra u sema f'dik il-ġurnata. Karl kien ferm affaxinat bis-sbuħija naturali u l-varjetà ta' annimali li kellu l-opportunità jara waqt li kien fil-Gżejjer Maltin. Fil-fatt huwa diġà beda jaħseb biex fl-esplorazzjoni li jmiss jerga' jżur il-Gżejjer Maltin, iżda din id-darba jqatta' aktar hin ġewwa l-Gżira Għawdxija. Karl, beda jipprova jiftakar fid-drittijiet ta' l-annimali li kienet semmiet Maya. Kemm hemm drittijiet? Intkom tiftakruhom kollha?

## II-Baqra Maltija



Ritratt meħud minn George Farrugia

Kont taf li l-karatteristika tal-Baqra Maltija hija kbira, b'lewn ħamrani u kanella skur, fejn il-barri adult/matur ikollu rasu (ħlief fuq il-moħħ, fuq imnieħru u widnejh li jibqgħu kanella), sidru u spalltu skuri ħafna kwazi suwed, filwaqt li l-baqra tibqa' ta' lewn wieħed fuq il-kanella?

L-informazzjoni dwar il-baqra Maltija giet meħuda mir-revista Nisġet Artna (Rebbiegħa 2018).



Ritratt propjetà ta' Darryl Grech  
(Breeds of Origin Conservancy)

## Il-Moghża

Kont taf li l-moghża kienet **is-sors ewlieni ta' ħalib** għax-xorb għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin għaliex fl-imghoddi fil-Gzejjer Maltin ma kellniex baqar tal-ħalib? Il-mogħoż huma kapaċi jaddattaw ruħhom għal ambjent u klima diffiċli, u b'hekk bħala bhejjem huma meqjusin li jfilħu għall-kastig.

L-informazzjoni dwar il-moghża Maltija giet meħuda mir-revista Nisget Artna (Rebbiegħa 2017).

## Il-Kelb tal-Fenek



*Ritratt meħud minn Franco Spiteri*

Kont taf li l-kelb tal-fenek huwa l-kelb nazzjonali tal-Gzejjer Maltin? Bl-ingleż huwa magħruf bħala l-**Pharaoh Hound**, tradizzjonalment kien jintuża mill-Maltin għall-kaċċa tal-fniek selvaggi. Il-kelb tal-fenek għandu saqajn twal, għajnejn normalment lewn l-ambra u widnejn kbar u ppuntati. Ħafna drabi, il-kelb tal-fenek, il-kulur tiegħu jkun kanella li jagħti fl-isfar jew qastni.

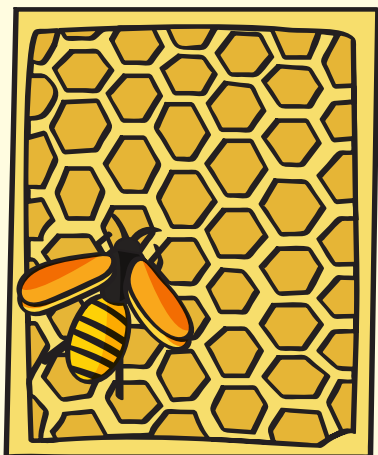
L-informazzjoni dwar il-kelb tal-fenek giet meħuda mis-sit tal-internet tal-Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta (Is-sitt serje – Il-Kelb Malti).



## In-Naħla Maltija

Kont taf li n-naħla Maltija hija **sotto-speċi** tan-naħal tal-għasel tal-Punent? Matul is-snin in-naħal Malti tal-għasel addatta ruħu kemm għall-klima kif ukoll għall-ambjent tal-Gżejjer Maltin. Kolonji puri tan-naħla awtentika għadhom jeżistu f'pajjiżna, u mill-2,000 ġarra tan-naħal mifruxa madwar il-Gżejjer Maltin, 83% għandhom id-DNA tar-ruttneri.

L-informazzjon dwar in-naħla Maltija giet meħuda mis-sit tal-internet [www.culturetrip.com](http://www.culturetrip.com).



Ritratt propjetà ta'  
Malta Beekeepers  
Association

## II-Bużaqq



Ritratt propjetà ta' *The Malta Independent Online*

L-informazzjoni dwar il-bużaqq ġiet miksuba mill-Awtorità għall-Ambjent u r-Riżorsi.

Kont taf li l-bużaqq hija l-**ħuta nazzjonali** tal-Gżejjer Maltin? Bħala speċi ma' tgħix ħafna fit-tul u tiekol invertebri u pjanti. Hija tipproduċi l-bajd bejn April u Settembru, iżda fil-Gżejjer Maltin, ġie osservat li tipproduċi l-bajd prinċipalment bejn Mejju u Awwissu.

## II-Qabru

Kont taf li l-qabru; il-granċ tal-ilma ħelu Malti jgħix f'**żoni b'sors permanenti ta' ilma ħelu**? Generalment, huwa jinstab ħdejn il-kanali tal-ilma. Il-Qabru jiekol fost l-oħrajn weraq, frott, insetti kbar u bebbux.



Ritratt meħud minn Melanie Drury ([www.GuideMeMalta.com](http://www.GuideMeMalta.com))

L-informazzjoni dwar il-qabru ġiet miksuba mill-Awtorità għall-Ambjent u r-Riżorsi.

## Il-Ġurdien Geddumu Twil ta' Għawdex

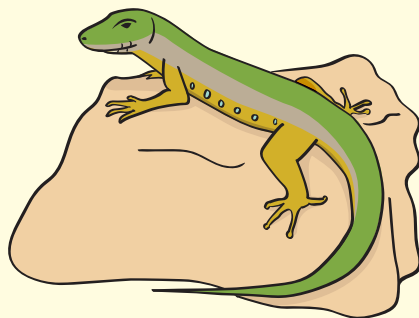


Ritratt propjetà ta' *The Times*

Kont taf li l-ġurdien geddumu twil ta' Għawdex huwa mammiferu żgħir, **endemiku għall-Gzejjer ta' Sqallija u Għawdex?** Fl-2011 u l-2012 din l-ispeċi intlemħet ukoll fil-Gżira ta' Kemmuna. Għalkemm m'għandhiex x'taqsam direttament mal-ġrieden u l-annimali gerriema, din l-ispeċi għandha dehra ta' ġurdien simili b'geddum twil, bil-ponta u snien bojod. Din l-ispeċi tikber sa 8-12cm (inkluż id-denb) u ġismu huwa kopert minn pil qasir. Dahru huwa griż skur waqt illi ż-żaqq hija bajda.

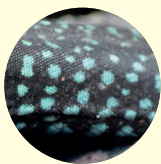
L-informazzjoni dwar il-ġurdien geddumu twil ta' Għawdex ġiet miksuba mill-Awtorità għall-Ambjent u r-Riżorsi.

## Il-Gremxula ta' Malta



Malta, Għawdex, Kemmuna

Kont taf li l-gremxula ta' Malta hija tip ta' rettilu? Xjentifikament tissejjaħ **Podarcis filfolensis**, dan għaliex giet deskritta għall-ewwel darba mill-Gżira ta' Filfla. Maż-żmien l-istudjużi sabu gremxul fuq Gzejjer oħra Maltin li jinkludu: Malta, Għawdex, Kemmuna, il-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl, u l-Blata tal-Ġeneral. Peress li huma differenti, l-gremxul ingħataw ismijiet differenti.



Filfla



Il-Gzejjer ta'  
San Pawl



Blata  
tal-Ġeneral

L-informazzjoni dwar il-gremxula ta' Malta giet meħuda mir-revista n-Natura (1990), Il-Gremxula ta' Malta. Borg, M. (1990).

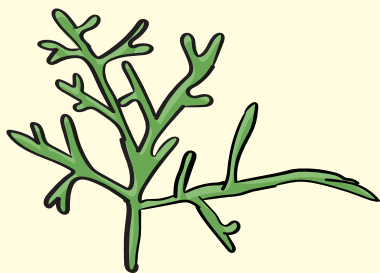


Ritratt propjetà ta' Darryl Grech  
(Breeds of Origin Conservancy)

## It-Tigieġa s-Sewda Maltija

Kont taf li t-tigieġa s-sewda Maltija hu maħsub li ilha teżisti mis-seklu sitta qabel kristu u sa nofs is-seklu għoxrin kienet popolari ħafna fil-Gżejjer Maltin? It-tigieġa sewda Maltija naqqset minħabba l-bidliet fis-sistemi tal-produzzjoni tal-bajd u t-trobbija ta' iżjed tigieġ tas-simna.

L-informazzjoni dwar it-tigieġa s-sewda Maltija giet meħuda mill-publikazzjoni tal-Bank of Valletta – F'ARMONIJA MAN-NATURA MATUL IŻ-ŻMINIJET 2019.



Ritratt meħud minn Stephen Mifsud  
([www.maltawildplants.com](http://www.maltawildplants.com))

## Is-Sigra tal-Għargħar

Kont taf li bl-Ingliż is-sigra tal-għargħar hija magħrufa b'ismijiet differenti bħal ngħidu aħna **Alerce** jew **Sandarac Gum Tree**? L-għargħar hija sigra mill-familja taċ-ċipress u din il-familja fiha mat-30 ġeneru. Hija sigra żgħira li tikber bil-mod minn 6 sa 15-il metru għoli, xi kultant anki sa 20 metru, u tħaddar is-sena kollha. L-għargħar tiflaħ ħafna għan-nixfa, kif ukoll kapaċi tikber qrib ix-xatt għax tiflaħ ukoll għall-ammont ta' melħ. Interessanti l-fatt li għalkemm is-sigra tal-għargħar tinħaraq minnufih, madanakollu n-nar ma joqtolhiex anzi jġiegħel is-sigra biex tkabbar il-weraq mill-ġdid.

L-informazzjoni dwar is-sigra tal-għargħar ġiet meħuda mill-ktieb *Sigra Maltin* TAGHRIF TNISSIL HARSJEN GĦAJDUT miktub minn Alfred E. Baldacchino (2018).



Ritratt propjetà ta'  
[www.naturalmalta.blogspot.com](http://www.naturalmalta.blogspot.com)

## Il-Ballottra

Kont taf li l-ballottra hija l-uniku **mammiferu karnivoru tal-art** li nsibu fil-Gżejjer Maltin? Il-ballottra hija l-iżgħar karnivoru tad-dinja! Il-ballottra tagħmel ħafna ġid, dan għaliex tikkaċċja l-ġrieden u s-sriep fost annimali oħra. Il-ballottra hija annimal żgħir ħafna u għandha għamla ta' qattus tawwali, tixbaħ ħafna n-nemes imma n-nemes huwa ikbar mill-ballottra u jvarja fil-kulur. Lewn il-ballottra huwa dejjem kannella ħamrani minn fuq u abjad minn taħt. L-irġiel u n-nisa jixxiebh u imma r-raġel ikun ikbar mill-mara. Qabel ma' daħlet il-munita ewro fil-Gżejjer Maltin, fis-sena 2008, il-ballottra kienet tidher fuq il-munita Maltija taċ-ċenteżmu.

L-informazzjoni dwar il-ballottra giet meħuda mill-Fajl tan-Natura (2016), propjetà ta' *Birdlife Malta*.



Ritratt meħud minn  
Stephen Mifsud  
([www.maltawildplants.com](http://www.maltawildplants.com))

## Il-Qanfud

Kont taf li fil-Gżejjer Maltin insibu żewġ varjetajiet ta' qanfud? Wieħed li għandu x-xagħar bajdani u l-ieħor li għandu x-xagħar b'faxx skur fin-nofs ta' kull xagħra. Il-qanfud jippreferi ambjent bi ffit sigar u pjanti, iżda jfittex postijiet niexfa.

L-informazzjoni dwar il-qanfud giet meħuda mir-rivista l-Għasfur u l-Ambjent Naturali (1985).





Ritratt meħud minn Jose Maria Carretero Palacios  
([commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org))

## Il-Merill

Kont taf li l-Merill raġel għandu lewn ikħal skur imħallat mal-griz? Matul l-istagun tax-Xitwa l-lewn tiegħu jiskura iżjed. Min-naħa l-oħra l-Merill mara hija ta' lewn ikħal imħallat bil-kanella. Dan l-għasfur li ibejjet u jgħix f'pajjiżna ħafna drabi ibejjet fix-xquq tal-irdumijiet li nsibu mal-kosta, u kultant tinzertaħ fil-widien.

L-informazzjoni dwar il-Merill giet meħuda mid-Dipartiment tal-Informazzjoni (DOI).



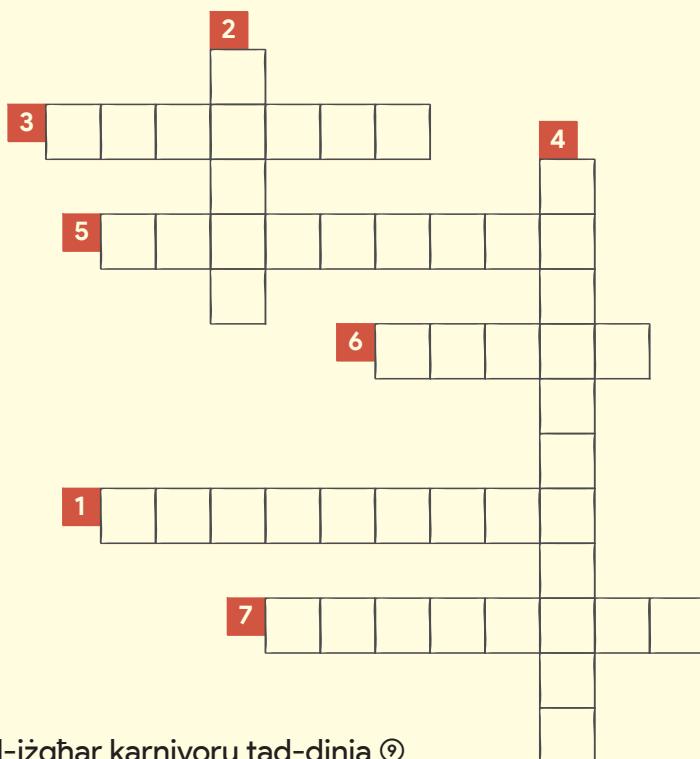
Ritratt meħud minn Giancarlo Dessì  
([commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org))

## Is-sigra tal-Ħarrub

Kont taf li s-sigra tal-ħarrub hija waħda mill-iktar sigar komuni li nsibu fil-Gżejjer Maltin? Missirijietna kienu jhawlu ħafna minn din is-sigra għax kienu jsibuha ħafna ta' għajjuna għalihom. Is-sigra tal-ħarrub kapaci tgħix f'ambjenti niexfa b'nuqqas ta' ilma. Interessanti l-fatt li kien hemm żmien meta ż-żerriegħa tal-ħarrub kienet imfittxa ħafna mill-ispizjara, għaliex il-kantanti kienu jaħsbu li din tgħinhom biex ikantaw.

L-informazzjoni dwar is-sigra tal-ħarrub giet meħuda mill-ktieb Sigar Maltin TAGHRIF TNISSIL HARSJEN GĦAJDUT miktub minn Alfred E. Baldacchino.

## Tisliba



## Mimdudin

1. Din hija l-izgħar karnivoru tad-dinja ⑨
3. Tgħix fil-baħar u tiekol il-bram ⑦
5. L-annimali jhossu bħalna l-bnedmin u għalhekk nirreferu għall-annimali bħala ħlejjaq \_\_\_\_ ⑨
6. Il-kelb tal-\_\_\_\_ huwa l-kelb Nazzjonali tal-Gżejjer Maltin ⑤
7. Fil-Gżejjer Maltin jeżistu diversi speċi li jinstabu biss f'pajjiżna u f'ebda post ieħor fid-dinja.  
Dawn jissejġhu speċi \_\_\_\_ ⑧

## Weqfin

2. Dan l-amfibju huwa protett bil-liġi ⑤
4. Meta nitkellmu dwar it-trattament xieraq tal-annimali dejjem nagħmlu referenza għalihom ⑪

## Sib il-Kelma

K K A R O Z Z I N M X O I I L G L W  
 U B I Ċ Ċ E R I J A M E N I U X R C  
 K M I R H Y J S B N R O B Q A B R U  
 K A N E A Y O R I B J E M O G H Ž A  
 U M D T R G A V I Z R G U R D G G O  
 D M I T U M O V Z T A M F I B J U E  
 R I Ġ I F R O A A I Q A L I L F K T  
 I F E L I R V J Ċ A U O Ċ I U O D A  
 L E N I I R I I T B Ġ I F F S Q E B  
 L R I T E E T T M O M G M I Ċ A N I  
 B I T S T O U E H E H R S O E N F T  
 I U N I Ž S R G D A Y T T E R F I A  
 E O Ž E G I M N D A E U N O V U L T  
 K Q V A L R E I L M B A Q R A D D E  
 Z M C L Q E A O I D O M E S T I Ċ I  
 H K I I N V E R T E B R I J K U I C  
 I L J U N F A N T G D R C O U M T P  
 Ċ P I Z M X D R M X M C E L L P S Z

Abitat

Amfibju

Baqra

Biċċerija

Bram

Bużaq

Ċerv

Domestiċi

Denfil

Ekosistemi

Endemiċi

Erbivori

Eżotiċi

Għogħol

Haruf

Iljunfant

Indiġeni

Invertebri

Karozzin

Konservazzjoni

Kukkudrill

Libertajiet

Lifgħa

Mammiferi

Merill

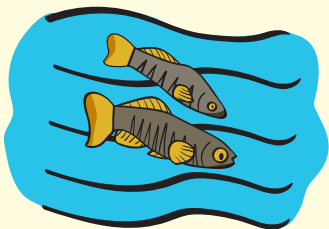
Moghħza

Omnivori

Qabru

## Qabbel l-isem mal-istampa

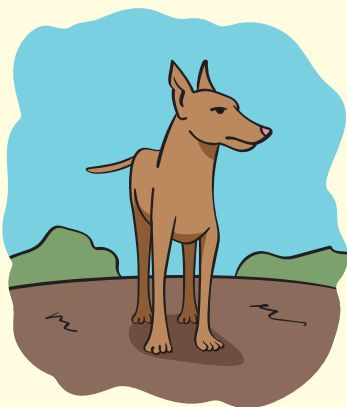
Buzaqq, Qabru, Ballottra, Qanfud, Merrill, Kelb tal-Fenek.



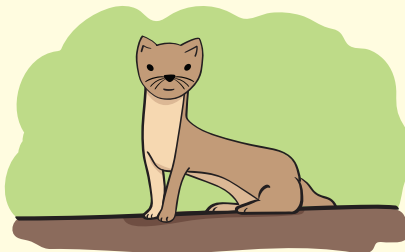
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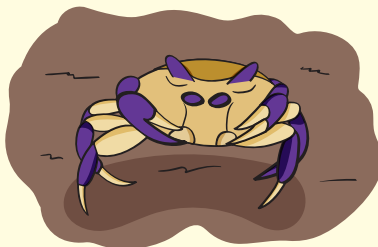
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## Imla l-vojt billi tuża' l-kliem li ssib hawn taħt:

Libertajiet, kelb, qtates, xierqa, 1717, il-karozzini, ġrieden, dwejjaq mingħajr bżonn, annimali parassiti

Fil-Gzejjer Maltin hawn diversi nies qalbhom tajba li jitimghu l-\_\_\_\_\_ li jghixu barra. Dan huwa ġest sabiħ ħafna imma dejjem importanti li ma' nħallux ħmieġ warajna għax ingibu l-\_\_\_\_\_.

F'pajjizna bejn Lulju u Awwissu, \_\_\_\_\_ ma jistgħux jinstaqqu bejn is-siegħa u l-erbgħa ta' wara nofsinhar.

Il-ħames \_\_\_\_\_ tal-annimali huma il-baži tal-liġi Dwar it-Trattament Xieraq tal-Annimali li tipprovdi għal multi kbar u anke ħabs għal min jaħqar xi annimal.

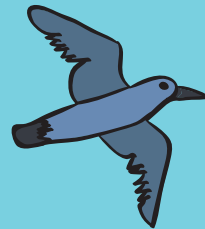
Suppost, bil-liġi kull min ikollu \_\_\_\_\_ irid jagħmillu midalja bin-numru tat telefon ta' sidu u l-mikroċipp.

Kull annimal għandu jkun żgurat li jinżamm f'kundizzjonijiet \_\_\_\_\_, li ma jsofrix \_\_\_\_\_, u li ma tkunx se ssirlu ħsara mentali.

Wieħed għandu iċempel fuq in-numru \_\_\_\_\_ għall-ambulanza ta' l-annimali, jekk jara xi annimal imwegġa' fit-triq.

# Karl's Journey and his Love Towards Animals

Written by Dunstan Hamilton in  
collaboration with the Office of the  
Commissioner for Animal Welfare



First Edition – 2020

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Email Address: [caw.mafa@gov.mt](mailto:caw.mafa@gov.mt)



Brief message to the students from  
the Commissioner for Animal Welfare



Dear students,

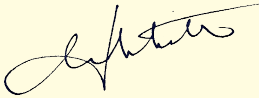
I am sure that just like me, many of you love animals and are ready to help and stand up for them, whenever the need arises. Maybe phrases such as 'The Appropriate Treatment of Animals' and 'Animal Welfare' are new to you, but to put it simply these refer to the rights that animals have to be treated in a humane way, and responsibly; matters that I am sure you agree with!

Animals should not be abused nor made to suffer. This is why all countries need to have serious laws to ensure that the relationship between people and animals are what they should be, so that animals may be protected from all types of cruelty and abuse. Everyone, including you the children, is obliged to build good relations with all animals, especially those domestic animals or 'pets' of ours, so that we may live together in harmony, without ever being cruel, abandoning or abusing our domestic animals in any way. Our animals should be protected from the lack of adequate or suitable environment, be given the space they need, be given the food, care and respect they rightly deserve.

This book should help everyone, even you the children,  
so that all of us might keep in mind our duties and the  
responsibilities towards the animals that make our lives  
so beautiful.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this book,

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Denis Montebello', written in a cursive style.

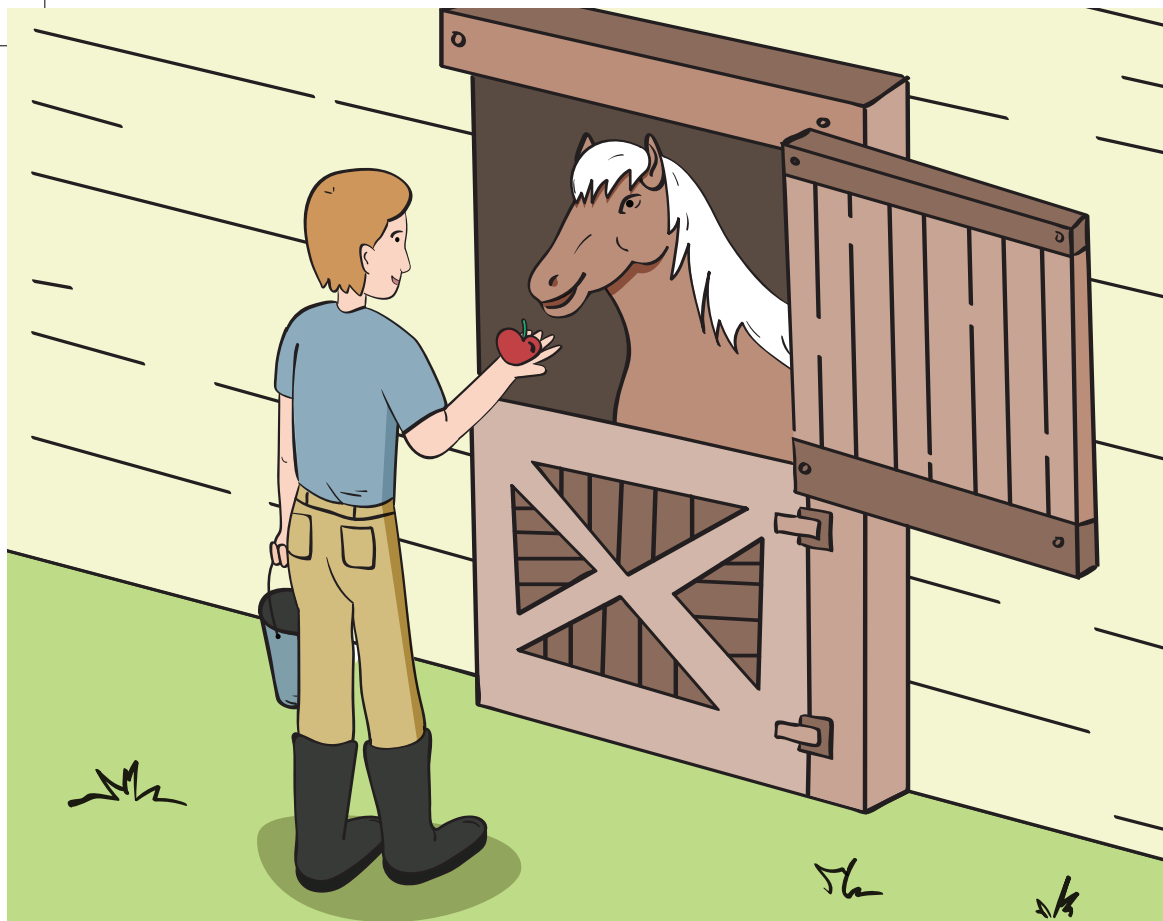
Dr. Denis Montebello  
The Commissioner for Animal Welfare



It so happened that a few weeks ago, Karl arrived in the Maltese Islands. Karl did not come to Malta on a plane nor on a cruise ship, because as an explorer he tries to avoid all the methods of transport that pollute the air! As a result of this, he got here on a rowing boat!

Karl is a German explorer and an environmentalist who loves all animals. An environmentalist is a person who has animals and the well-being of the environment, very much at heart. Karl has had this love for animals ever since he was ten years old. He had an Uncle Louis who used to live in a small village called Bamberg which was situated in rural part of Germany, in the middle of the countryside. Uncle Louis had a large farm where he kept various animals, including horses, cows, chickens, rabbits, sheep, goats, donkeys and even pigs.

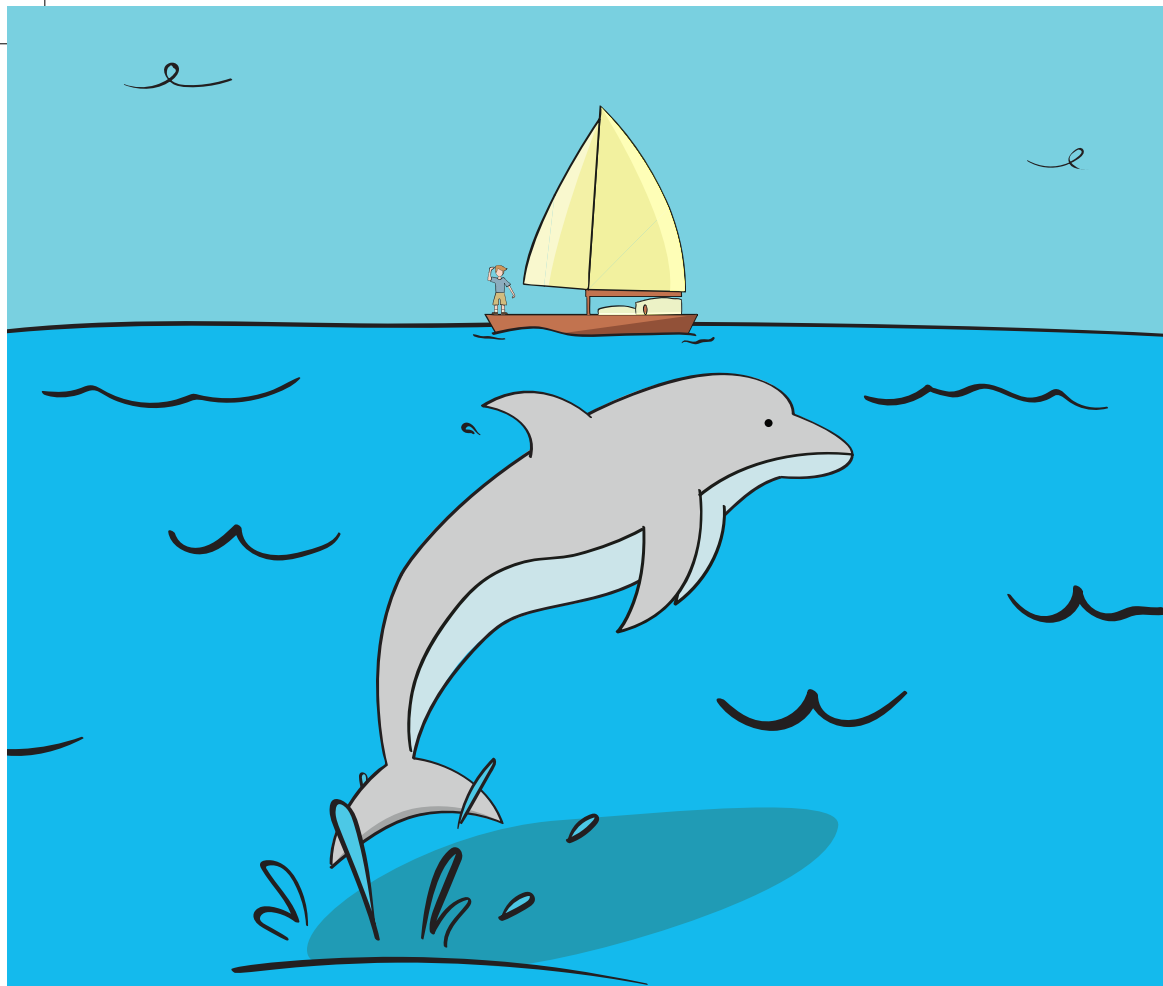
Karl used to help his uncle very often by feeding and cleaning these animals. His uncle was an elderly person and for this reason the animals he kept on his farm were kept both as a hobby and as means of earning a living. These animals were always kept happy and clean in sties and stables which were large enough to offer them sufficient space in which to turn and play with their young. As a result, the animals had all they needed.



In time, Karl became more and more interested in animals. When he began to grow older and turned eighteen years old, Karl's dream was that to explore different countries and territories around the world, so that during his summer holidays he would be able to see different animals and in this way he would be more up to date about the various animals that exist. As an explorer, apart from the farm animals, Karl was also interested in domestic animals especially cats and dogs as well as marine species. Marine species are those species that live in the sea.

Before starting off on his explorations to the Maltese Islands, Karl's friends had told him that there is nothing to see in Malta, because these islands were too small and that they had no rivers, no mountains and no forests either. Apart from this, the only resource the Maltese Islands had, were human resources. However, Karl went on the internet and found a lot of information and pictures of the trees, the insects, the birds and the marine species that live in the marvellous Maltese seas and the animals that live in or around these islands. Whilst conducting his research on the various animals that live in the Maltese Islands, he discovered that the Maltese cow is the largest domestic animals that may be considered as being unique to the Maltese Islands.

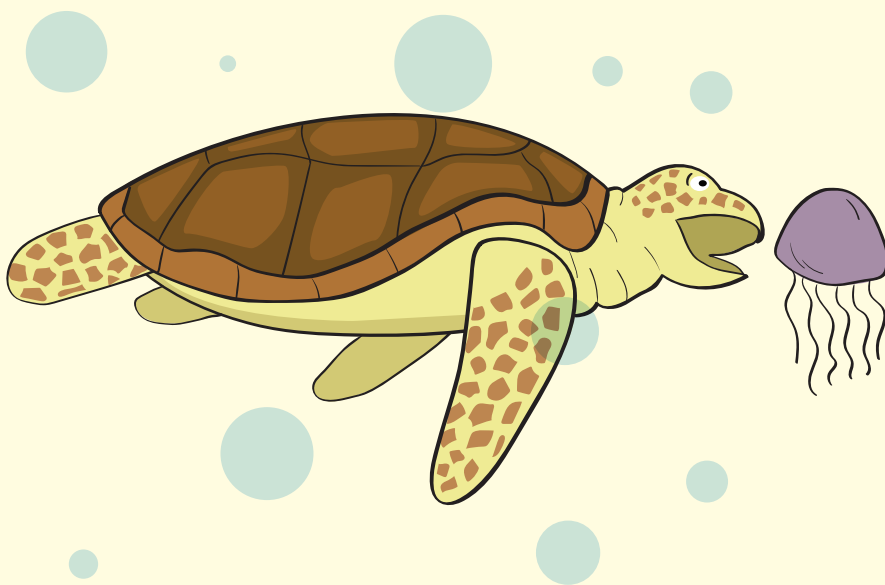
Apart from this, in the research related to animals found in the Maltese Islands, Karl also read about the Maltese goat, the Maltese Pharaoh Hound, the Maltese bee, the Killifish, Maltese freshwater crab, the Gozitan shrew, the Maltese lizard and the Maltese black chicken. (For more details, see the Appendix at the back).

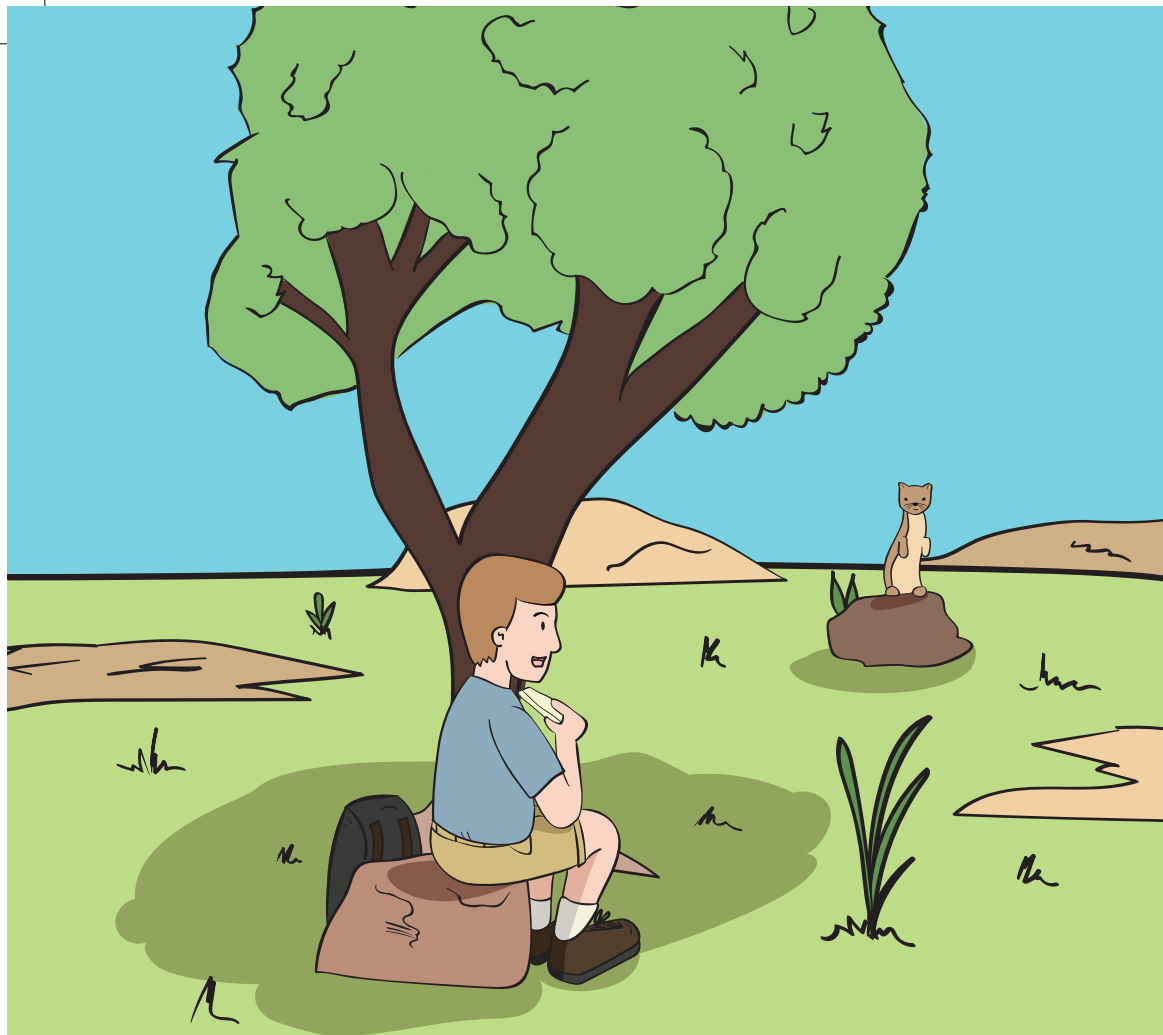


Karl immediately started to go around the Maltese coast with his boat and in the end he passed by Filfla where he saw many seagulls while stopping to rest in Wied iż-Żurrieq. During his boat trip, he noticed several marine species amongst them, sharks, dolphins and turtles. He remembered when he was once watching a documentary about the marine species that live in the Maltese Islands, where it was said that there are 26 different species of shark living in Maltese waters.



A few days before coming to the Maltese Islands, he had read some information about an environmental group called Nature Trust (Malta). The officials and volunteers from this organisation, save different species of animals, like sea turtles when these find themselves in difficulty or when they are injured. While observing the various marine species while on his boat, he recalled a moment in time, when a few years' back, he had been swimming with his parents, when he got stung by a jellyfish in his foot. He remembered how much he had cried that time! That day he realised how important sea turtles are, since these are the ones who eat the jellyfish.





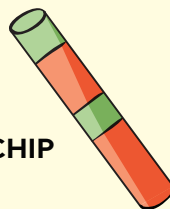
When he came to the shore, he took a walk and found himself in Qrendi in a place known as il-Maqluba! After such a walk, he got tired and sat under a Sandarac Gum Tree (Sığra tal-Għargħar)– the National Tree of Malta. How lucky Karl was, because while he was resting beneath the tree, he noticed a Maltese weasel, a very rare animal! (For more information see the Appendix at the back).

Karl was curious to explore other parts of the Maltese Islands, so he got up and continued to walk. At a point he met a vet, Emma Farrugia. She was wearing a white lab coat she was coming out of an animal clinic. They started to talk and she told him that she was very busy with her work looking after domestic animals like dogs and cats but also caring for birds, hamsters, rabbits and even snakes.





**MICROCHIP**



Sometimes she also goes to farms where horses, cows or goats require care and attentions. She told him that the week before, whilst going to pay a sick cat a visit, she saw a dog in the street. It had no tag and had not been microchipped, so she could not find out who his owner was. According to the law, whoever owns a dog needs to have the dog wear a tag showing the owner's number and it should be chipped too. In this way, when one comes across a lost dog, the tag and chip help return the dog back to the owner.

Emma told Karl how she took the dog to the nearest animal sanctuary. The sanctuaries in Malta do a wonderful job of caring for homeless and abandoned animals. This is why nowadays anyone willing to adopt a pet, is able to adopt a dog or cat from one of the many sanctuaries we have in Malta.

Karl wished to see this dog Emma had told him about so he got into the car with her and off they went. Emma, possibly hoped that Karl would adopt this dog who had been abandoned by his previous owner. Upon their arrival at the sanctuary, they saw how well the sanctuary had been kept thanks to the dedication of the volunteers who did this work for the animals voluntarily.

As soon as they got there, they found a family, Family Vella, there who had already decided to adopt the dog Emma had taken to the sanctuary.



In the Maltese Islands there are various dog and cat sanctuaries. The official list of dog and cat sanctuaries in the Maltese Islands:

| <b>Sanctuary Name</b>                          | <b>Email</b>                |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Island Sanctuary                               | info@islandsanctuary.com.mt |
| Animal Care Malta                              | animalcare.mt@gmail.com     |
| CSAF Carer for Stray and Abandoned Felines     | csafmalta@gmail.com         |
| SPCA Malta Homing Centre                       | info@spcamalta.org          |
| SPCA Gozo Homing Centre                        | info@spca-gozo.org          |
| Association for Abandoned Animals              | info@aaamalta.com           |
| Noah's Ark                                     | noahsarkmalta@gmail.com     |
| National Cat Society (Thomasina Cat Sanctuary) | tomasinasanctuary@gmail.com |
| Kittyland                                      | /                           |
| Love for Strays                                | ronald.giordano@gmail.com   |

| <b>Facebook Page</b>                    | <b>Telephone Number</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| The Island Sanctuary Malta              | 21659895/79018901       |
| Animal Care Malta Cat Sanctuary         | /                       |
| CSAF Carer for Stray Abandoned Felines  | /                       |
| MSPCA – formerly SPCA Malta             | 21230468                |
| Gozo SPCA                               | 21553769/99475199       |
| Association for Abandoned Animals       | 79730921                |
| Noah’s Ark Malta Dogs For Adoption      | 99471390                |
| National Cat Society                    | /                       |
| Kittyland. Felines Forever Association. | /                       |
| Love for Strays                         | 21383977/99875093       |

Animal Care Malta  
[animalcaremalta.com](http://animalcaremalta.com)

SPCA Gozo Homing Centre  
[spca-gozo.org](http://spca-gozo.org)

Noah's Ark  
[noahsarkmalta.org](http://noahsarkmalta.org)

National Cat Society  
[tomasinasanctuary.org](http://tomasinasanctuary.org)







Love for Strays

SPCA Malta  
Homing Centre  
[maltaspca.org](http://maltaspca.org)

Carer for Stray &  
Abandoned Felines  
[csafcatsanctuary.org](http://csafcatsanctuary.org)

Island Sanctuary  
[islandsanctuary.com.mt](http://islandsanctuary.com.mt)

Kittyland

Association for  
Abandoned Animals  
[aaamalta.com](http://aaamalta.com)

Maya Vella, who was eight years old, told them that at school, the children learnt that animals had rights, such as rights to the right kind of food and water, that animals had the right to decent and spacious living quarters and that they are to be given the necessary vaccinations to avoid diseases as well as have space where to enjoy themselves. She told them she was aware that animals needed to be treated well in order for them to be live happy lives. Maya was very happy about the fact that she had learnt all about the Five Freedoms that animals enjoy from the lessons held at school because in this way she learnt more about what animals needed to be kept well. As creatures, animals feel the same way as people do – in fact they are called ‘sentient creatures’ and this is why we are duty bound to see that they do not lack anything, since these creatures are not able to speak up like people can, if they were to need something or if they are sick and need attention.

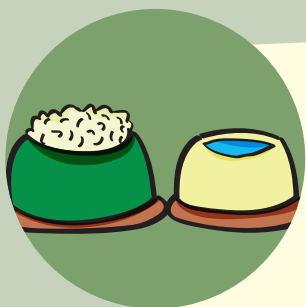
Emma also explained that the Five Animal Freedoms are the basis **for a law on Animal Welfare** which allows for the metting out of huge fines and even a prison jail term for those who are cruel towards animals.

She also told them that anyone who wished to have a dog but had nowhere to keep it at home or who could not keep a dog because his or her parents did not allow animals to be kept at home, has the possibility to go to a sanctuary and take a dog out for a walk on a leash. She also told them that one should call the **number 1717** for the Animal Ambulance if any animal was seen to be injured on the roads. The ambulance operates 24 hours daily from **Monday to Sunday, including Public and National Holidays**. Whenever we make use of these services we should ensure that we are passing on the correct details, especially about the location where an injured animal has been seen so that the ambulance officers can locate the injured animal immediately, so as to save the injured animal that suffering.





# Animal freedoms



## Freedom from hunger and thirst

by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor

1

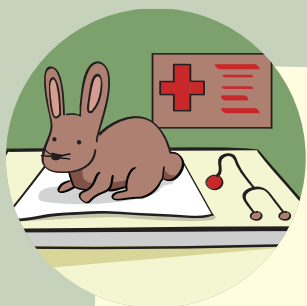


2

## Freedom from discomfort

by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area





# 3

## **Freedom from pain, injury or disease**

by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment

# 4

## **Freedom to express normal behaviour**

by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind

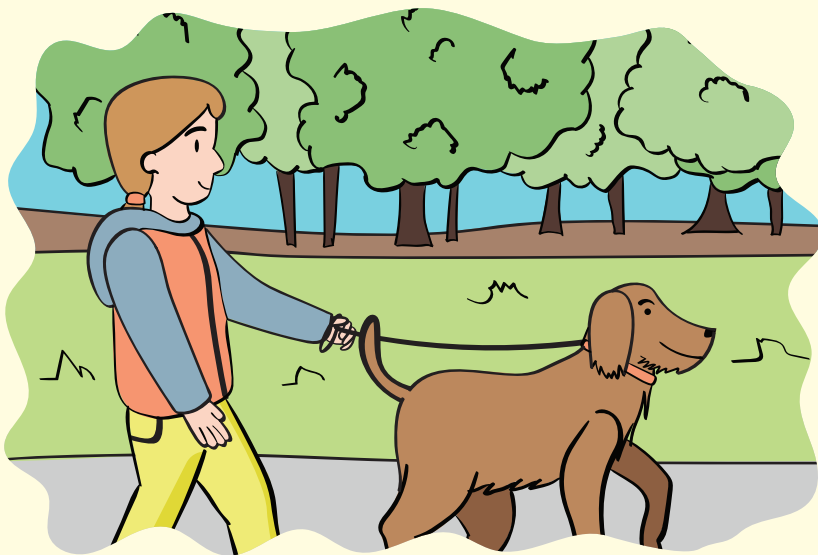


# 5

## **Freedom from fear and distress**

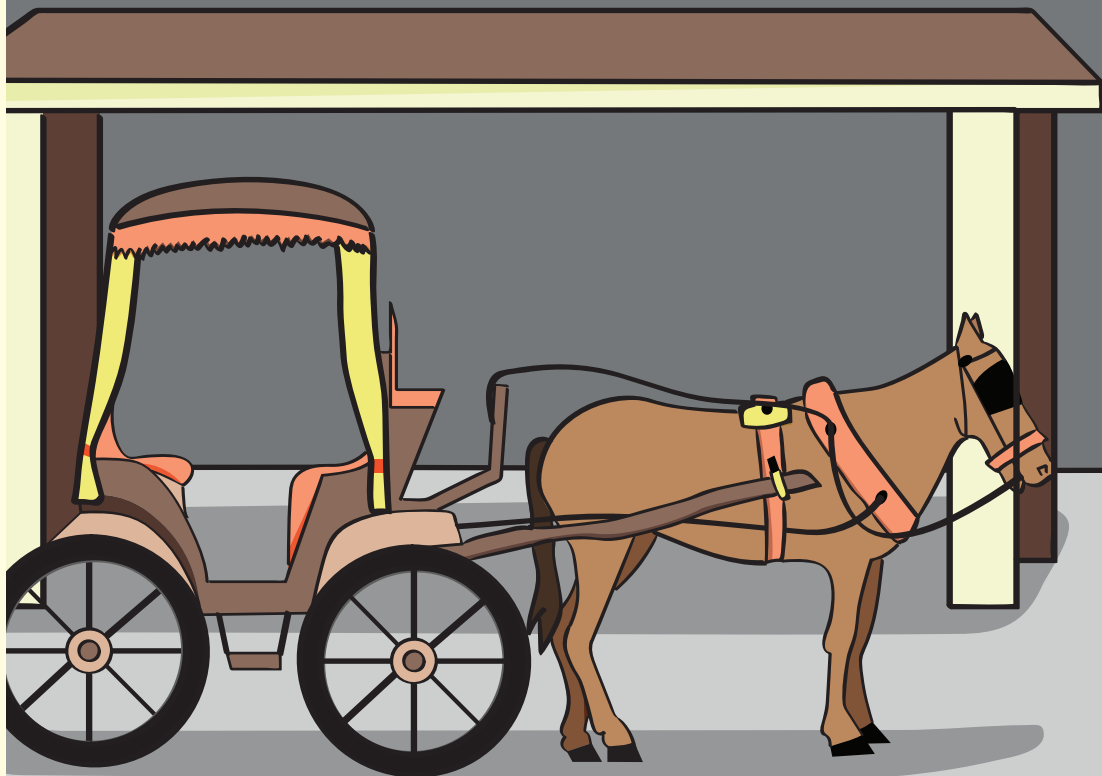
by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering





Emma turned to speak to Family Vella and told them how the government had issued a scheme to encourage people to adopt animals from licenced sanctuaries and that it was also important to note that if anyone decided to adopt a dog they had to be sure that they were ready to look after it and that they had enough time to look after it as they should. Anyone who was caught abandoning an animal they are responsible for, is also breaking the law.

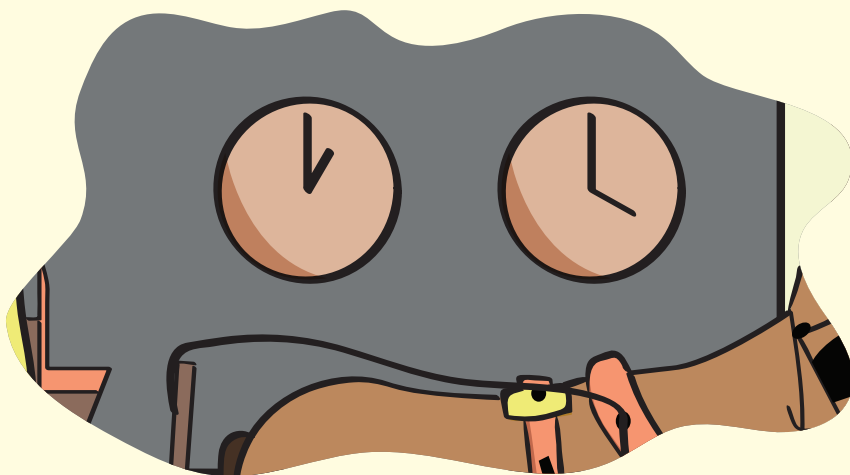
It was also important to note that in public places, a dog **should be kept on a leash**, not just because the law simply said so, or because a dog could decide to go for a run and get hit by a car but also because there are some people who are scared of animals. Emma also reminded them that they could take the dog to one of the dog parks which exist to allow dogs the freedom to run around and enjoy themselves without a leash.



Emma's mobile rang. She had another patient, a karrozzin horse this time. Emma offered Karl the option of giving him a lift to the bus stop so that he would be able to get a bus home. As they drove to the bus stop, Emma told Karl that there were rules to also protect these horses.

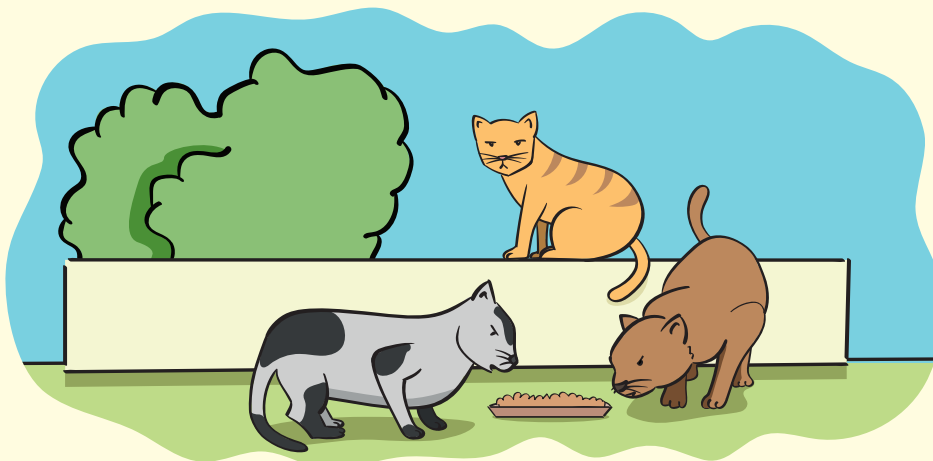
European law obliges every horse owner to register every horse born or imported in the Maltese Islands to have a passport. In this case, if there is a change in owner or if the horse dies, there are specific forms that must be filled in and this can be also done online as indicated in this link: [https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Environment\\_Energy\\_Agriculture-and-Fisheries/Agriculture/Veterinary-Regulation/WEB2324/default.aspx](https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Environment_Energy_Agriculture-and-Fisheries/Agriculture/Veterinary-Regulation/WEB2324/default.aspx)

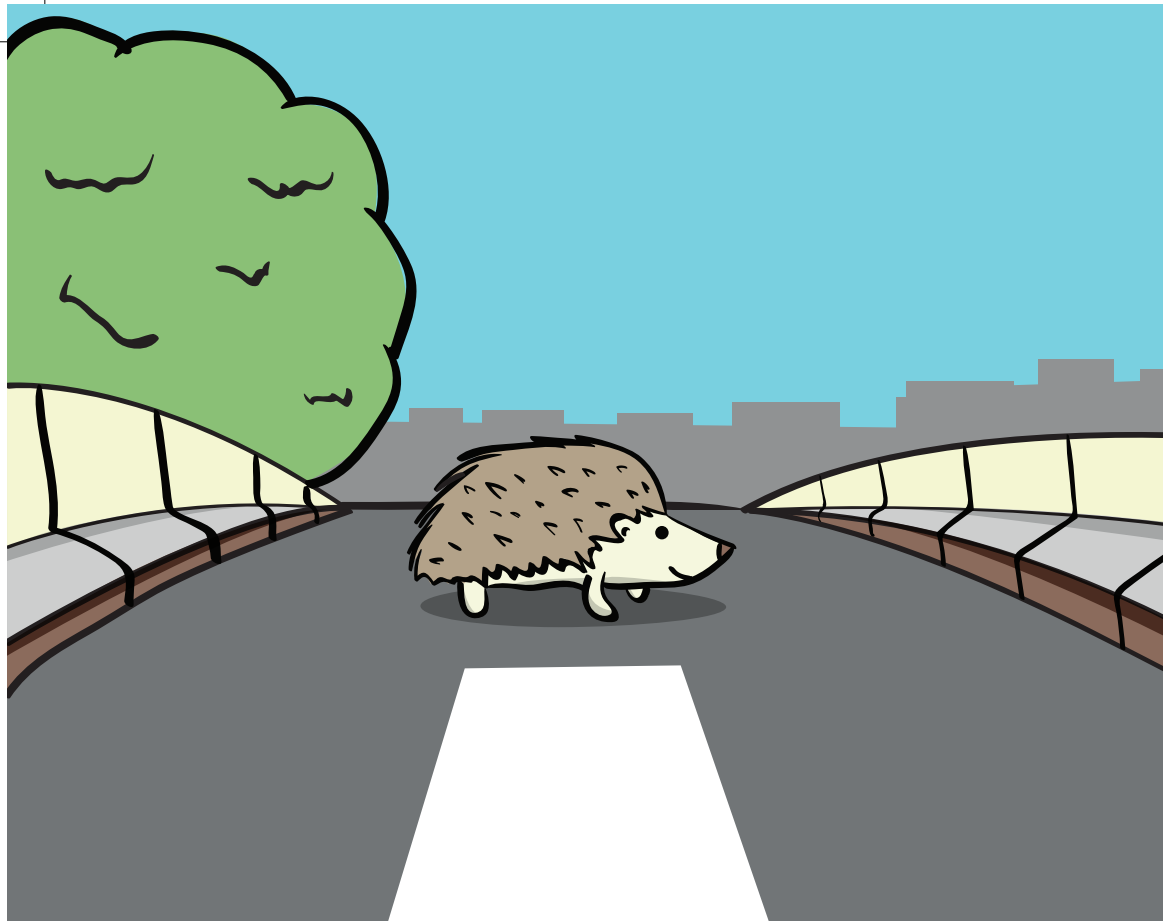
Apart from this, at present between July and August, horses cannot be driven between 13:00 and 16:00 and there cannot be more than a total of five people including the karozzin driver. Thanks to the new laws come into effect, a horse can work one day, but is to rest the next day, so that horses will not be overworked.





As soon as they reached the bus stop, Karl got down and waited for the bus to come to take him back to his boat in Wied iż-Żurrieq so that he could start his journey back to Sicily on his rowing boat. The bus stop so happened to be next to a public garden and Karl was amazed at all the cats he saw there. Who knows, maybe someone was looking after them, poor things! A little while later, a lady, called a feeder, came to give the cats food and water. She waited until they had finished eating and then began to clean up after feeding the cats so as not to leave any food scraps that could attract mice. In the Maltese Islands there are many kind hearted people who feed the homeless cats who live on the streets. This is a very kind gesture but one should also note that it is important to clean up after the cats are fed so as not to attract rodents.





The bus arrived, Karl took his seat as the bus travelled on the way through Qrendi. As they approached Wied iż-Żurrieq, he noted a chameleon on a carob tree, two lizards, a snake, some wild rabbits, a slug, a variety of insects and even a hedgehog. The hedgehog stands out because of his pointed chin, small round ears, head well into his neck and rather chubby. (For more detail see the Appendix at the back).



Apart from this, he also saw various birds, amongst which were quail, turtle doves, linnets, song thrush, starling, golden plover and swans. And you won't believe it! Karl was truly lucky because he managed to see the Blue rock thrush, which is the Maltese national bird. (For more detail see the Appendix at the back). It was a pity that because of the ever-growing construction taking place, there was less and less countryside to be enjoyed. This leads to a decrease in animals too because they would no longer have a place to live!

During his journey back to Sicily, in order to keep going to Germany, Karl began to think about all that he had heard and seen that day. Karl was truly amazed at the natural beauties and the variety of animals he had had the opportunity of seeing during his visit to the Maltese Islands. In fact he had already started to think about his next visit to the Maltese Islands, however he decided that next time round he would spend more time on the Island of Gozo. Karl tried remembering the animal rights that Maya had mentioned. How many rights are there? Do you remember them all?

## Maltese cow



Photo taken by George Farrugia

Did you know that the Maltese cow is large, has a reddish brown colour, where the mature bull's head (apart from the front, nose and ears that remain brown), chest and shoulders are very dark almost black, whilst the cow remains one brownish colour?

The information about the Maltese cow was taken from the journal Nisġet Artna (Spring 2018).



Photo courtesy of Darryl Grech  
(Breeds of Origin Conservancy)

## Goat

Did you know that the goat was the **main source of milk** for consumption for Maltese and Gozitans, because in the past, the Maltese Islands did not have any milking cows? Goats are able to adapt themselves to the environment and difficult climate and as animals can adapt to harsh environments.

The information about the Maltese goat was taken from the journal Nisġet Artna (Spring 2017).

## Pharaoh Hound



*Photo taken by Franco Spiteri*

Did you know that the 'kelb tal-fenek' is the Maltese national dog? The English name for this breed is '**Pharaoh Hound**' that was traditionally used by the Maltese for hunting wild rabbit. The Pharaoh Hound has long legs, amber coloured eyes and large, pointed ears. Very often the Pharaoh Hound is a yellowish brown or chestnut colour.

The information about the Pharaoh Hound was taken from the Central Bank's Internet sites (The Sixth Series – The Maltese Dog).

# Maltese Bee

Did you know that the Maltese bee is a sub-species related to honey bees in the West? During the years, Maltese honey bees, adapted itself to the climate and environment found in the Maltese Islands. There are still pure colonies of the authentic bee in our country and out of the 2000 apiaries set around the Maltese Islands, 83% of these have ruttneri DNA.

The information about the Maltese bee was that from the internet site [www.culturetrip.com](http://www.culturetrip.com)

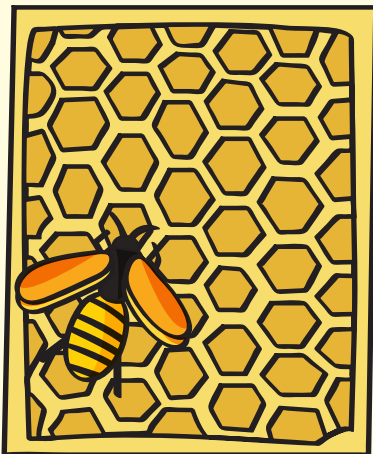


Photo courtesy of  
the Malta Beekeepers  
Association

## Killifish



Photo courtesy of *The Malta Independent Online*

The information about the killifish has been obtained from the Environmental and Resources Authority.

Did you know that the fish known as 'bużaq' or Mediterranean killifish is the **national fish** of the Maltese Islands? As a species it does not have a long life-span and it feeds on invertebrates and plants. It produces eggs between April and September, but in the Maltese Islands, it has been observed to produce eggs between May and August.

## Crab

Did you know that the 'qabru' or Maltese freshwater crab lives in **zones which are plentiful in freshwater**? It is generally found next to water canals. The Maltese freshwater crab, 'il-qabru' consumes leaves, fruit, large insects and snails amongst other sources of food.



Photo taken by Melanie Drury  
([www.GuideMeMalta.com](http://www.GuideMeMalta.com))

The information about the crab has been obtained from the Environmental and Resources Authority.



## Gozitan Shrew

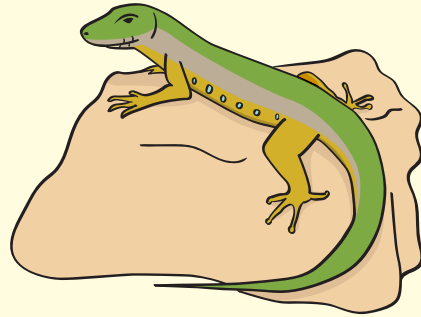


Photo courtesy of *The Times*

Did you know that the Gozitan shrew is a small mammal, **endemic to the Islands of Sicily and Gozo?** In 2011 and 2012, this species was also seen on the Island of Comino. Although it has no relation to mice and other rodents, this species looks like a mouse with its long pointed snout and white teeth. This species grows to about 8-12cm (including the length of the tail ) and its body is covered by short hair. Its back is dark grey whilst the belly is white.

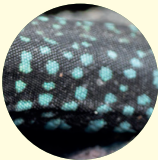
The information about the Gozitan shrew has been obtained from the Environmental and Resources Authority.

## Maltese Lizard

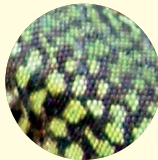


Malta, Gozo, Comino

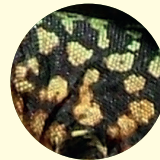
Did you know that the Maltese lizard is a type of reptile? Its scientific name is **Podarcis filfolensis**, this is because it was first described on the Island of Filfla. In time, scientists found other lizards on other Maltese Islands that include Malta, Gozo, Comino, St Paul's Islands, and the General's Rock. Because they are different, the lizards have been given different names.



Filfla



St Paul's Islands



General's Rock

The information about the Maltese lizard has been taken from the journal In-Natura (1990), il-Gremxula ta' Malta; Borg, M. (1990).

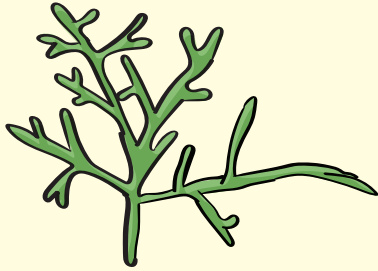


Photo courtesy of Darryl Grech  
(Breeds of Origin Conservancy)

## Black Maltese Chicken

Did you know that the black Maltese chicken is thought to have existed from the 6th century B.C, and that until the middle of the 20th century it was very popular in the Maltese Islands. The black Maltese chicken is now rarer because of changes in egg production and because of the priority to the growth of chickens for consumption.

The information on the black Maltese chicken was taken from the publication by Bank of Valletta – F'Armonija man-Natura Matul iż-Żminijiet 2019.



## Sandarac Gum Tree



Photo taken by Stephen Mifsud  
([www.maltawildplants.com](http://www.maltawildplants.com))

Did you know that the ‘Sığra tal-Għargħar’ is known by different names such as **Alerce** or **Sandarac Gum Tree**? This tree comes from family of cypress trees and this family has about 30 different genera. It is a small tree that grows slowly up from 6 to 15 metres high, at times has been known to grow to even 20 metres and is an evergreen. The Għargħar tree is highly resistant to drought and is able to grow close to the coast because it is also resistant to salt. It is also interesting to note that although the Għargħar tree can catch fire very easily, it is resistant enough to survive and forces the to grow leaves again.

The information on the Għargħar or Sandarac Gum Tree was taken from the book Sığra Maltin TAGHRIF TNISSIL HARSJEN GHAJDUT written by Alfred E. Baldacchino (2018).



Photo courtesy of  
[www.naturalmalta.blogspot.com](http://www.naturalmalta.blogspot.com)

## Maltese Weasel

Did you know that the Maltese weasel is the only **carnivorous land mammal** that is found in the Maltese Islands? The weasel is the smallest carnivore in the world! The Maltese weasel does a lot of good because it preys on mice and snakes amongst other animals. The weasel is a very small animal and is similar to a cat with a longish body, is very similar to the ferret but the ferret is larger than the Maltese weasel and varies in colour. The colour of the weasel is a reddish brown on top and white at the belly. Both males and females look similar but the male is generally larger than the females. Before the Euro currency was introduced in the Maltese Islands in 2008, the Maltese weasel is what appeared on the Maltese 1 cent coin.

The information on the Maltese weasel was taken from 'Fajl tan-Natura (2016), property of Birdlife Malta.



Photo taken by  
Stephen Mifsud  
([www.maltawildplants.com](http://www.maltawildplants.com))



## Hedgehog

Did you know that there are two kinds of hedgehog found in Malta. One type has whitish spikes and the other has black markings in the middle of each spike. The hedgehog prefers environments with few trees and plants but seeks dry places.

The information on the hedgehog was taken from the journal 'L-Ghasfur u l-Ambjent Naturali (1985).



Photo taken by Jose Maria Carretero Palacios  
([commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org))

## Blue Rock Thrush

Did you know that the Merrill or Blue Rock Thrush has a brown colour mixed with grey? During the winter season, its feathers darken. The female Blue Rock Thrush on the other hand is a light blue colour mixed with brown. This bird nests and lives in our country and at times sets up its nest in the crags and crevices of cliffs along the coasts, and is sometimes seen in valleys.

The information on the Merrill or the Blue Rock Thrush was taken from the Department for Information (DOI).



Photo taken by Giancarlo Dessi  
([commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org))

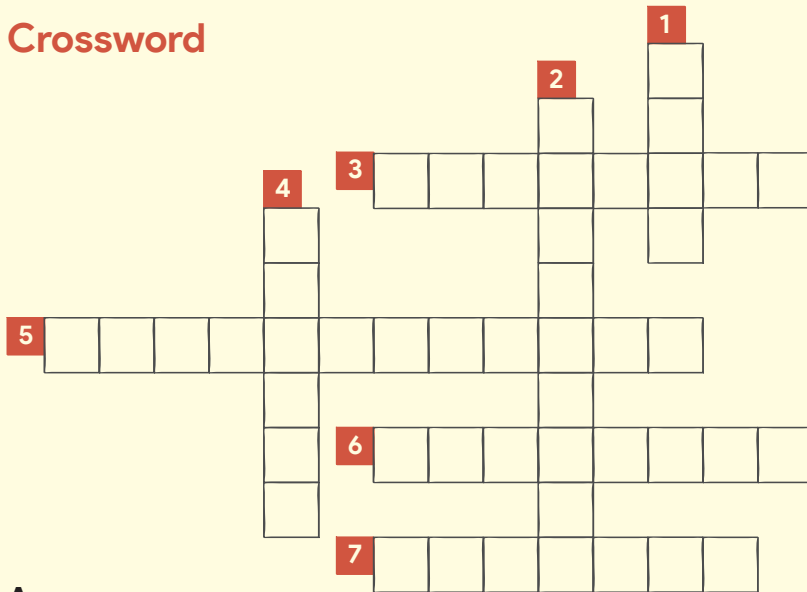
## Carob Tree

Did you know that the carob tree is one of the most common trees found in the Maltese Islands? Our forefathers used to plant so many of these trees because they found it very useful to them. The carob tree is able to survive in areas where there is a shortage of water. It is interesting to note that there was a time when the carob tree seeds were sought by chemists, because singers used to believe that these helped them sing better.

The information on the carob tree was taken from the book *Sigar Maltin TAGHRIF TNISSIL HARSIEN GHAJDUT* written by Alfred E. Baldacchino (2018).



## Crossword



### Across

3. During talks about animal welfare we always make reference to them. ⑧
5. The Maltese Islands National dog is called the \_\_\_\_\_. ⑦ + ⑤
6. Animals feel like humans and for this reason we refer to them as \_\_\_\_\_ beings. ⑧
7. Various species are only found in the Maltese Islands and are not found in any other country around the world. These are called \_\_\_\_\_ species. ⑦

### Down

1. This amphibian is protected by law. ④
2. This creature lives in the sea and eats jellyfish. ③ + ⑥
4. This is the smallest carnivorous in the world. ⑥

## Find the word



Abattoir

Amphibian

Calf

Carriage

Conservation

Cow

Crab

Crocodile

Deer

Dolphin

Domestic

Ecosystems

Elephant

Endemic

Exotic

Freedoms

Goat

Habitat

Herbivores

Indigenous

Invertebrate

Jellyfish

Killifish

Lamb

Mammals

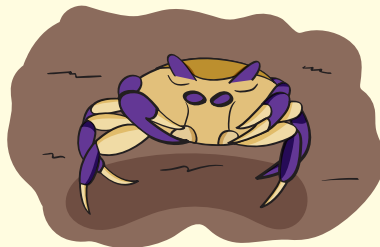
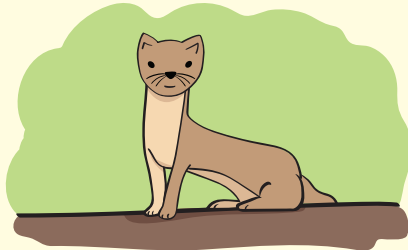
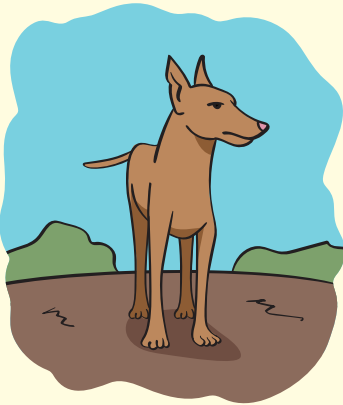
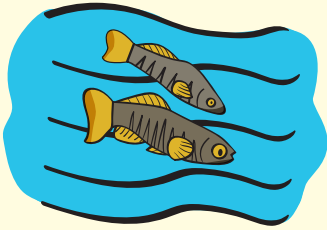
Omnivorous

Blue Rock-thrush

Viper

## Match the word with the picture

Mediterranean Killifish, Maltese Freshwater Crab, Weasel, Hedgehog, Blue rock-thrush, Pharaoh Hound



## Fill in the Blanks

Freedoms, dog, cats, proper, 1717, horse-drawn carriages, rats, unnecessary distress.

Several generous people in the Maltese Islands feed stray \_\_\_\_\_. This is a very nice gesture but it is always important that we do not leave rubbish because this will bring \_\_\_\_\_.

Between July and August the use of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Maltese Islands is not allowed between 13:00 and 16:00.

The five \_\_\_\_\_ of animal welfare are the foundation of the Animal Welfare Act which constitutes to large fine and even imprisonment for those who abuse animals.

Generally, according to the law whoever owns a \_\_\_\_\_ is obliged to attach an ID tag including the telephone number of the owner and the microchip.

It must be ensured that every animal is kept in a \_\_\_\_\_ condition, it does not suffer from \_\_\_\_\_ and mental suffering.

If someone finds a stray animal which is injured, one should call the animal ambulance on \_\_\_\_\_.





**L-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali**

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