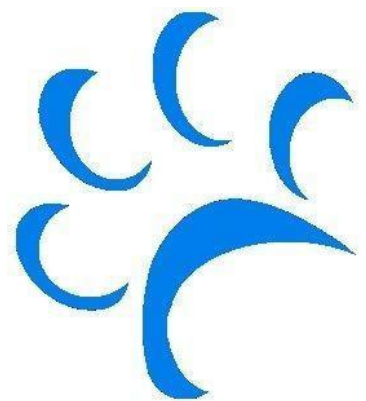


ANNUAL REPORT

2018



Annual Report 2018

Office of the Commissioner for Animal Welfare

Annual Report 2018

The year 2018 was another hectic one for my Office. From January till October the promotion on animal welfare was again for the 4th consecutive year mainly focused on providing lectures, including a power point presentation, for the year 6 students in the state, church and private schools. We also catered several lectures for quite a large group of elderly people at Saint Vincent De Paule the Home for the Elderly, in some Local Councils, Youth Centres and other Social groups. In every lecture delivered we distributed a copy of the book **“L-Imħabba Tagħna Lejn l-Annimali Obbligi - Liġijiet - Regolamenti”**. The publication of the workbook **“Il-Ħbieb Tagħna L-Annimali”** was also distributed to all year 5 students in the scholastic year.

On the 15th March my Office was invited by the Assistant Headmaster, Mr Robert Grech, of De La Salle College in Cottonera to participate in the Careers Day for the Secondary School Students. During the event a stand was set up and managed by us, giving the opportunity to students to discuss a career with regard to the welfare of animals. Books and leaflets were also delivered to those students interested in this subject. I was delighted by the response of the large number of students who came forward to be more informed about animal welfare in Malta. Throughout the year quite a number of University and MCAST students called at my Office to be guided with information related to animal welfare in the Maltese Islands.

On the 24th May I was invited by the Malta Guide Dogs Foundation to participate in their celebration for the Graduation of some Guide Dogs. This event which took place at the Phoenicia Hotel was very well organised and interesting. Through out the year I had quite a number of meetings with Local Council's Members to provide them with specific information to build a 'Cat Cafe' or a Dog Park in their Locality. In these initiatives the Government is committed to give assistance to those interested. The subject that raised a lot of questions within some localities around Malta was the issue of feral pigeons and their control. In this matter direction needed to be given by a specific Subsidiary Legislation for the control of pigeons in a humane manner.

On the 30th April I met with Dr. Simon Curtis and Mr Martin Darmanin both professional farriers where we discussed the farriery in Malta. An upgrade in this subject is needed by first providing guidelines with a Subsidiary Legislation in this profession. A course for those interested in this field is to be controlled as a matter of animal welfare issue. Horse races and Cabby Drivers every summer are always heavily criticised by a lot of animal lovers that are Maltese Nationals and foreigners. A petition signed from thousands of persons to ban cab horses from work in Malta was sent to me. This issue, definitely needs to be addressed by a Subsidiary Legislation and enforcement is also an every day must.

Throughout my last months that I occupied the post as a Commissioner for Animal Welfare my Office received three hundred reports mostly from Maltese citizens and foreigners.

Annual Report 2018

Most of the complaints were about horse cabs' owners who some of them keep their horses for long periods of time in the sun in the summer heat. I had several meetings with quite a number of animal lovers most of them complaining about the **Animal Welfare Directorate** and the keeping of cats and dogs at Ghammieri that needed an urgent upgrade. A very heated meeting came from Animal Liberations Malta, where I explained to them that although there was an improvement with regard to animal welfare in Malta I totally agree that we still need to do the next step forward that is to build a state of the art **Rehoming Centre** for these cats and dogs that presently are being kept within the premises of the said Directorate. I explained to them that I was on the same wavelength with them about their idea, while I made it clear to them that I took the initiative in the year 2017 to open an account at the Central Bank of Malta so when there is quite a sum of money that is collected from donations, some one can use it for this Centre. The last statement for December 2018 sent from the Central Bank shows that a total of 17,500 Euro entered the account number **MT94MALTA011000040090EURCMG5001R** that are some donations given by foreigners for this purpose. A copy of this said statement is attached with this report.

On the 1st October I was called by the Honorable Prim Minister at Auberge De Castille to assist him in a meeting that he was holding with members of The Animal Liberations Malta. In this very successful meeting the initiative of a state of the art Rehoming Centre was explained to him by everyone involved and all pushed this idea that such a Centre is extremely vital and it will contribute to a step further in animal welfare in Malta. The Prim Minister seemed to agree with this initiative to improve animal welfare in Malta.

Emanuel Buhagiar
Commissioner for Animal Welfare



BANK CENTRALI TA' MALTA
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA
CASTLE PLACE
VALLETTA
VLT 1060

COPY AS OF 02-JAN-19

40090

COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
REGENT BUILDING NO 2
RACECOURSE STREET
MARSA MRS1633

COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE DONATIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE ACCOUNT

BANK CASHIER NO CURRENT ACCOUNTS EURO

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR : MT94MALTO110000400090RUCM25001R

PERIOD OF STATEMENT : 01-JAN-18 - 31-DEC-18

PAGE : 1

DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	VALUE DT	BOOKING DATE	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01-JAN-18 OPENING BALANCE CREDIT			01-JAN-18	0.00	
MGR BALANCE UPDATE	CM21234180010996	01-JAN-18	01-JAN-18	5,000.00 CT	5,000.00
SEPA TRANSFERS	CM25731180750034	16-MAR-18	16-MAR-18	2,500.00 CT	7,500.00
1807513036392456 - 311/ST5536847/18 - 311/ST5536847/18					
01-JAN-18 BALANCE CREDIT			01-JAN-18	5,000.00	
16-MAR-18			16-MAR-18		
SEPA TRANSFERS	CM25731180750036	16-MAR-18	16-MAR-18	10,000.00 CT	17,500.00
1807513036392456 - 311/ST5536811/18 - 311/ST5536811/18					
PRODUCT APY					

CLOSING CREDIT BALANCE			31-DEC-18	17,500.00	
0 DEBITS		0.00			
3 CREDITS		17,500.00			

CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

* = CASH ENTRY / R = REVERSAL

Any discrepancies should be reported to manager payment & banking operations.

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