

# Volunteer Guide



International Animal Care Association

Indie's World  
Mauritius · Switzerland



Volunteers 2021



# Volunteer Guide Indie's World

**Join us as a volunteer in our inspiring project and make a real and positive difference in favor of animal protection in Mauritius.**

The Indie's World refuge is based in the southwest of Mauritius, a few minutes from the Indian Ocean near the famous mountain "Le Morne" in a village called Baie de Cap. We welcome dogs rescued from the street, most of them polytraumatized, often suffering from multiple diseases, injured and having suffered abuse.

Indie's World is a non-profit association without government assistance and therefore survives solely thanks to the donations of our members, the work of our ambassadors, and the support of volunteers on site. Without them, the dogs in care would have no future.

# Our missions



# 1

## Rescue

We rescue stray dogs in distress. Our job is to care for them, feed them, socialize them, and get them adopted. When the shelter is full, we take care of the dogs and then try to find them a family, and if we can't, we need to release them back onto the street.

# 2

## Information

We believe that information and education can change people's mindset about stray animals.

# 3

## Sterilization campaign

We set up sterilization campaigns to fight against the exponential reproduction of stray dogs. Through sterilization campaigns, we help raise awareness of a different solution to combat the high number of stray dogs in the long term. Indeed, according to figures from the Ministry of Agro Agriculture, there are more than 200,000 dogs in Mauritius, including 80,000 stray dogs. The number of inhabitants in Mauritius is 1,200,000. Even if the government is gently sensitizing itself to this serious problem of stray dogs, for a long time it operated a "Catch and Kill" policy until December 2020. Today this action is still active near schools and hospitals. It is with an educational approach that we want to create change; rather than judging and attacking, we want to inform and educate.

# The association

The beginning

The association

# The beginning

Cindy started the shelter three years ago by taking dogs under her wing into her home as she rescued them. She had up to 18 dogs in a two-room apartment until the day when the opportunity for a piece of land presented itself like a miracle (this land is usable until 2024). Very soon she had to manage 40 dogs. Malika, her sister, decided to create an association in Switzerland of the same name with the aim of supporting her and creating real change on the island. The number of dogs increased at the shelter thanks to the support of ambassadors and donors.

Malika has been with her sister Cindy in Mauritius since January 2021.

The team employed by the association on site currently consists of three people: Miguel, Anne, and Darel. They manage the life and maintenance of the refuge.

Miguel and Darel are also the best kitesurfers on the island and are both instructors. Anne is a 67-year-old woman who didn't like dogs, but wanted to continue working for her well-being. From now on, she is the queen mother here, she appreciates the company of the cuties and she has even adopted one.

Cindy and Malika do not live on the income of the association, they are volunteers. They survive thanks to their passion: Cindy with her animal taxi service for animals, and Malika with her yoga.

This team is supported by ambassadors in Switzerland and Mauritius.

Yannick, Mathy, Mélanie, Emmanuel, Meiggie and Jovana in Switzerland, Rachel and Virginie in Mauritius. They are also all volunteers.

Since its inception, Indie's World has helped more than 120 dogs find a dignified life. A good number of adoptions have taken place in Mauritius and in Europe (despite the health crisis).

We have a very good reputation, both at the level of the population and also with other NGOs on the spot.



Yannick, Malika, Cindy, Mathy - Indie's World Team

# Volunteering

Why - Tasks - What you will learn



Lauryn & Helena: volunteers 2021

## Volunteering

# Why do we need you, the volunteers?

Despite our progress, we fight every day for the survival of the refuge. The lack of government funding and support limits us in our actions. Such a project is very large and without donations, we could not exist.

The work of volunteers is essential! That is why we would be delighted to welcome you here in Mauritius at Indie's World. You will probably leave your usual comforts at home , but you will have an experience you will never forget.

If you are a dreamer in action, like us. You will be among those who created the change.

**A positive attitude, a willingness to help and learn as well as a sense of humor are essential. Volunteers should expect to smell wet and feel exhausted at the end of the day!**

## Volunteering

**Volunteers are essential to the success of this project and are needed for every aspect of everyday life at the shelter.**

**There is no typical day and although many tasks are daily tasks, such as feeding and cleaning, there is always the unexpected that is added to the schedule.**

We will ensure that you are well-integrated and aware of the workload while ensuring that you have fun discovering new skills. You will meet new people and experience a new way of life for the well-being of Mauri-dogs.

By volunteering at Indie's world, you will be treated as a professional and a member of the team. It is important that you use your potential and can take initiative under supervision. By working as a team, we can achieve great things. Please ensure that you will perform all tasks to the best of your ability, ensuring the smooth running of the shelter as a whole.

Our working hours are normally 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. but it depends on animal emergencies. Remember that animals will always be our priority and plans for volunteers (such as days off or meal times) may be delayed in the event of an emergency. We need your help. Remember this is an animal rescue project and the hours can be long and demanding.

However, you will have two days a week OFF. You can then enjoy this magnificent island, excursions, sports and of course rest.



## Volunteering

# The main tasks

- Cleaning, cleaning, cleaning! We must ensure that all enclosures and working areas are kept clean to avoid infection
- Distribution of food in the morning
- Change bed covers twice a week
- Rehabilitation of the disabled dogs; walks to the sea; cuddles
- Walk and bathe healthy dogs
- Assistance with the administration of medication (under supervision)
- Construction projects - help build enclosures, repair fences, dismantle old fences, paint, repair, maintenance, lay pipes, etc.
- Participate in rescues
- Go to the veterinarian for the care of the dogs in the shelter but also for dogs that have just been rescued or owner dogs
- Take lots of photos and videos so that we can promote our dogs for adoption.

### We are open to all ideas regarding:

- Improvement of the refuge according to our means
- Fundraising
- Social media help
- Events: adoption day, food drive, or other

Volunteering

# You will learn

We hope you will learn a lot about running a shelter in a country with no law enforcement protecting animals.

## We will teach you

- How to clean and maintain spaces
- The challenges of running a shelter with over 80 dogs
- Animal behavior
- How to be resourceful (act with what you have)
- Traumatized dog rehabilitation - the process and challenges involved

# The process

Accommodation - Meals - A typical day

The process

# Accomodation

## Baie du Cap

**Ap. 3 double bedrooms · a large living-room · Terrace · Shared bathroom  
Washing machine available · Swimming pool access**

As you are Indie's World volunteers, you will be staying in Baie du Cap, a 10-minute walk from the shelter, in an apartment with 3 double bedrooms, a large living room, a terrace and a shared bathroom (water hot). You have a washing machine available.

We ask that you respect the premises and warn if there is broken equipment or dysfunctional elements.



Mathy & Yannick - Indie's World Team

The process

# Meals

As soon as you arrive, we will take you shopping so that you can be independent in your meals and buy what suits you according to your budget.

In the apartment, you have a fridge and freezer, gas hobs and an oven. So you can cook your best recipes.

In the village, small shops and snacks are 5 minutes from the apartment.

We'll tell you the best tips/foods around.

Food is not counted in the volunteer price, it is up to you to spend on your groceries according to your food wishes.



Volunteer & Anne from Indie's World Team

The process

# Meals

Daily meals will typically include the following:



## Breakfast

7:00 a.m

Before departure to the shelter



## Lunch and Dinner

12:30 Break

Dinner time is as you wish



## 1 Dinner every two week

We are organizing a typical dinner

We will also organize a dinner once every two weeks, with outings in the surroundings - concert, meeting with the local people, etc. Many musicians in the southern region will be happy to sing you a little sega, seggae, reggae... (music is very important in Mauritius; at the refuge, we always work and clean to music 😊)

## The process

# Typical day at the shelter

- 8:00 a.m**
  - Quick cleaning of poo and messes of all kinds
  - Food and drink for all
  - Deep cleaning of all spaces
  - Enjoy dogs: brushing, outing, bathing, cuddling
- 12:30 p.m**
  - Pause
- 1:30 p.m**
  - Picking up poo + filling bowls + small cleaning
  - Laundering sheets
  - Preparation of the meal for the next morning
  - House cleaning
  - Walking the cuties
  - Assistance with the return of cars, cleaning of cages
  - Take care of the sick
  - As often as possible: taking out the disabled
- Evening**
  - Dog medications
  - Monitoring and cuddling

# Good to know

Security - To take with you - Costs





Malika, Indie's World Team

## Good to know

# Your safety and ours

- Upon arrival, all volunteers will sign a release form stating that you accept the risks involved in working with pack animals.
- All new volunteers will visit the shelter and we will explain all the rules and safety procedures.
- Always close doors behind you and make sure the locks are closed when leaving an enclosure. Airlocks are there for a reason – NEVER leave a door open; they are there for the safety of the cuties.
- Never enter certain enclosures without prior authorization -some animals are aggressive and only certain people can enter the enclosures.
- Be calm with animals - shouting is for emergencies only.
- Even if our dogs are adorable and kind, inappropriate behavior could embarrass them, and therefore disrupt the pack.



Cindy, Indie's World Team

## Good to know

# What to take with you

You will be able to buy most goods in the area, but please bring essential personal items and any personal medication.

### Essential

- Closed-toe shoes - It is safest to wear closed-toe shoes when working with animals and for maintenance projects.
- Sandals/flip flops - For free time
- Work clothes - Your clothes will get dirty, damaged, there will be poo, pee, vomit (go stop for details 😊)!
- Please don't bring your best clothes! Instead, bring things that you are happy to leave behind.
- A waterproof jacket in case of rain, KWay style, Clothes for free time - light shorts, t-shirts, etc. for days off or evenings. Please include sweaters if you come in winter even if the temperature remains around 18 degrees, the nights are cooler (June, July, August, September)
- Personal toiletries - however, you can buy all products here, just perhaps not your preferred brands.

### Suggested

- Bathing suit - Ahhhh... Indien Ocean:)
- Camera - don't forget spare SD cards and power cables!
- Sun hat/sunscreen - The sun is very intense even during the winter.
- Plug Adapter - Most universal kits



Shelter's resident

## Good to know

# What to take with you

### Your first aid kit

- Personal medication for the duration of your stay
- Analgesics
- Antihistamine tablets
- Immodium
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- After Sun

Mauritius is not a country at risk for malaria, so you will not need anti-malarial treatment; however, we ask for a tetanus vaccine as well as the COVID vaccine in this confusing period.

You will find all the information concerning trips to Mauritius on this site: [www.mauritiusnow.com](http://www.mauritiusnow.com)

You will have wi-fi at the apartment. If you want to use the internet at all times, you can buy a local SIM card to use in your phone. Please ensure it is unlocked if you wish to use it. You can then recharge the SIM card with data and use the internet.



Shelter's resident

Good to know

## How much it will cost you

We receive no support from the government and the volunteer program is what keeps the project alive. The fee not only covers the cost of accommodation and transportation during your stay, but also pays for the care of the animals you will be working with.

Good to know

## Costs

	2 weeks	1 month	2 months	3 months
Price for 2 people in 1 room	EURO 550.-	EURO 800.-	EURO 1500.-	EURO 2200.-
Price for 1 person in room only	EURO 350.-	EURO 600.-	EURO 1200.-	CHF 1800.-



**Good to know**

## **Costs**

**What's included**

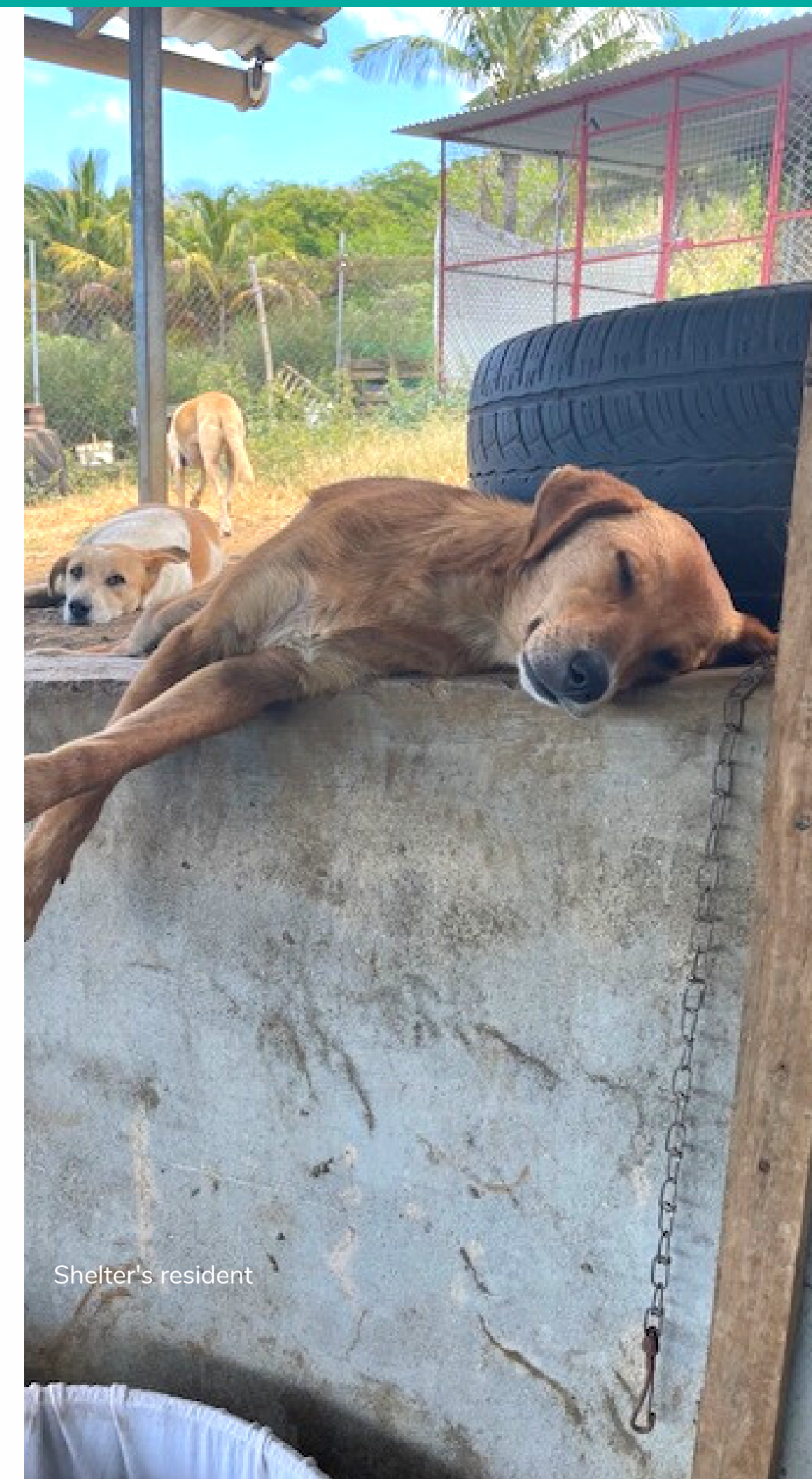
- Accommodation in shared rooms
- One transfer from and to Mahébourg
- Apartment cleaning once a week
- Comprehensive training in all aspects of the job

Good to know

# Costs

What is excluded

- Vols
- Flights
- Food
- Excursions and visits within Mauritius (we are however extremely accommodating when traveling and will not hesitate to help you as best we can)



Shelter's resident



Miguel, Indie's World Team

## Good to know

# Our ++

### According to your wishes

As explained above, we are a multifunctional team 😊

We offer you activities that are part of our lives because YES dogs are our priority, but you will see that decompressing with an activity allows you to support not only the workload but also the emotional side that it requires to save dogs in pain.

- Yoga (twice per week at the house facing the sea and at the kite lagoon)
- Kitesurfing (one session of two hours per week)
- Group Thai massage (one x per week)
- ➔ Package : CHF 130.- per week
  
- Yoga only : 30.- for both classes
- Kitesurfing : 70.- for 2 hours
- Thai massage : 30.-

And a bit of ACRO Yoga for free, to have fun 😊



Good to know

## Last thing

Depending on your country of origin, you will have a visa of 2 or 3 months automatically, with the possibility of doubling the time of your stay by applying to the passport office in the capital, Port-Louis.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Shelter's resident

# Support us

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