



Volunteer handbook

International Association for the
Protection of Animals

Indie's World
Mauritius - Switzerland - France



Volunteer handbook

Join our adventure as a volunteer and contribute to a concrete change in favor of animal protection in Mauritius!

Come and live an unforgettable experience at the heart of our project at the Indie's World shelter, located in the south of the island, a stone's throw from the crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, close to typically Mauritian natural sites, in the village of Surinam.

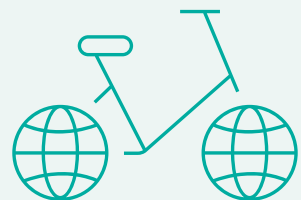
At the shelter, we offer a home to dogs rescued from the streets, animals that are often traumatized, sick, injured and abused. Every day, we restore hope to these courageous creatures and give them a second chance at life.

As a non-profit organization, Indie's World receives no government support.

We exist thanks to the generosity of our donors, the hard work of our team and the invaluable support of volunteers like you. Without you, these dogs would simply have no future.

Be part of this mission, give your time and energy to change lives!

Our missions



Rescue

We are committed to rescuing stray dogs in distress. We offer them care, food, a socializing environment and, where possible, adoption. When our shelter is full, we care for them and either release them back onto the streets or try to find them a foster home.

Sterilize

To combat the proliferation of stray dogs, we organize sterilization campaigns. These actions aim to progressively reduce the number of homeless dogs and raise awareness of sustainable solutions. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, in 2021 there were over 200,000 dogs in Mauritius, including 80,000 strays. With a population of 1.2 million, this figure continues to rise due to the lack of sterilizations.

Inform and raise awareness

We firmly believe that information and education are powerful levers for changing attitudes towards stray animals. By raising public awareness, we hope to create a real collective consciousness.

Although the government is starting to become aware of the problem, it has long adopted the “Catch and Kill” method until December 2021. This practice still persists near schools and hospitals. Our approach is based on education rather than repression. We seek to inform and raise awareness rather than judge or attack, because we are convinced that lasting change comes through learning and understanding.

The association

The beginning

The association

A refuge born of passion and determination

In 2017, Cindy decided to turn her passion into action by welcoming the dogs she rescued into her home. Little by little, her 2-room apartment became a veritable sanctuary and welcomed up to 18 dogs. But in 2019, the opportunity to occupy a larger property presented itself, offering Cindy the chance to make her dream come true. Before long, she was managing up to 40 dogs, and Indie's World shelter was born. To support this wonderful mission, her sister Malika set up an association of the same name in Switzerland, with the aim of generating real change in Mauritius. Thanks to the commitment of ambassadors and generous donors, the shelter has been able to continue growing and welcoming even more dogs in need. Since January 2021, Malika has been at Cindy's side, providing on-the-spot help to continue this heartfelt adventure.

On site, the shelter team is made up of two incredible people who manage the day-to-day running of the shelter. This team is supported by volunteer ambassadors in Switzerland, France and Mauritius, all driven by the same passion: giving animals in distress a second chance.

Every year, Indie's World helps hundreds of dogs find a life full of dignity and love. Many have found loving families not only in Mauritius, but also in Europe, despite the challenges of the health crisis. Thanks to our hard work and the immense support of our community, we have built up a solid and respected reputation, both among the local population and among other NGO partners.

Join us to continue making a difference!



Why ?

Volunteering



Volunteering

Why we need YOU, volunteers?

Despite the progress we have made, every day is a challenge to ensure the shelter's survival. Funding and lack of government support make our mission even more complex. This ambitious project could not exist without the help of donations and, above all, the invaluable commitment of volunteers on the ground.

That's why we'd be absolutely delighted to welcome you to the Indie's World shelter in Mauritius. Yes, you'll probably have to step out of your comfort zone, but be prepared for an experience you'll never forget.

If you're a passionate dreamer, ready to take action and make a real difference, then you'll be one of those making a difference. A positive attitude, a willingness to help and learn, and a good sense of humor are the keys to living this adventure to the full.

Be prepared to share unforgettable moments with our dogs, to immerse yourself in this mission, and to return home in the evening exhausted, but with a heart full of satisfaction. Because here, every gesture counts, and every rescued dog is worth it!

Volunteering

**Essentials
to the success
of our mission,
volunteers
are at the heart
of every daily action
at the refuge.**

Volunteers are at the heart of Indie's World.
Without you, our project could not exist.

Every day at the refuge is unique and full of challenges. While some tasks, such as feeding and cleaning, are a daily occurrence, there are always plenty of surprises to add to our schedule, reminding us that every moment counts.

When you join our team, we'll make sure you're well integrated and fully aware of the commitment involved. Not only will you learn new skills, but you'll also enjoy a powerful human experience, meeting incredible people and immersing yourself in a way of life where every gesture has a direct impact on the well-being of the island's dogs.

As a volunteer at Indie's World, you'll be treated as an integral member of the team. You'll have the opportunity to use your potential, take initiative (under supervision) and actively contribute to the fulfillment of our mission.

Together, we'll accomplish great things and make a real difference for these animals.

Days start between 7 and 8 am. If the team is large enough, we organize a morning and an evening shift. The rhythm of the day is flexible and adapts to the urgent needs of the animals. Remember that, despite a potentially hectic schedule and sometimes long days, the animals remain our top priority. Schedules and days off can therefore be adjusted according to emergencies. We need your help to move this crucial mission forward. It's not just a project, it's a real human and animal adventure.

So, if you're ready to commit yourself to saving lives, taking on challenges and experiencing unforgettable moments, join us now!

Volunteering

Your main tasks

Clean

Make sure that every enclosure and workspace remains spotless to ensure the health of our four-legged friends. companions.

Accompany

Accompany to veterinary visits for regular care, emergencies or freshly rescued animals.

Maintain

Change the blankets twice a week to provide our little ones with a clean, comfortable environment.

Rehabilitate

Help rehabilitate handicapped dogs: out for a walk or at the seaside, mobilize them to improve their health.

Medicate

Medication administration: provide assistance under supervision to ensure the animals' medical well-being.

Improve

Participate in the development of the refuge by building new enclosures, repairing fences, painting, etc.

Walk

Walk and bathe our healthy dogs.

Save

Vous nous accompagnerez sur le terrain pour sauver des vies !

Feed

Distribute morning meals to our dogs to get the day off to a good start the day.

Immortalize

Capture images: take photos and videos to promote our work at the shelter and our dogs for adoption.

We also welcome any ideas you may have for improving the refuge and our mission!

→ Share your suggestions to make our shelter even more efficient and welcoming.

→ Fundraising to support our cause.

→ Support on social networks to help us extend our reach and raise more awareness.

→ Events: help organize adoption days, spay/neuter campaigns, food drives and more!

Volunteering

Discover a unique, rewarding experience!

By joining our team, you'll have the opportunity to learn valuable practical skills about running a shelter, especially in a country where animal protection remains a daily challenge.

**We will guide you
and teach you:**

Safety

Maintaining and cleaning areas to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

Management

Managing a shelter with many dogs, and the daily challenges that come with it.

Training

Understand animal behavior and learn to communicate with our four-legged companions.

Adjustment

Demonstrate resourcefulness, acting with the means at your disposal to deal with situations.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitating dogs: understanding the process and challenges of rehabilitation after trauma.

Resiliency !

Mais surtout, cette expérience vous permettra de découvrir de nouvelles facettes de vous-même, de renforcer votre résilience et d'élargir vos horizons dans un environnement humain et animal unique.

How?

The process

The process

A typical day at the shelter

During the day

- Help with loading/unloading cars: practical tasks part of the adventure!
- Looking after sick dogs
- Taking disabled dogs out to give them a chance to move, to be active, as much as possible
- Brushing, bathing and cuddling: moments of complicity to strengthen bonds and offer them love



Morning

- Take the dogs out of their kennels to get the day off to a good start
- Quick clean-up (small accidents and messes) to keep them comfortable
- Refresh water bowls to keep them well hydrated
- Distribution of dog meals
- Thorough cleaning of enclosures
- Walks
- Special care for dogs requiring treatment



Noon

Lunch break



Afternoon

- Water check and light cleaning to ensure all dogs are well hydrated and their space is clean
- Washing sheets and baskets
- Prepare next day's meals
- Walk the dogs (weather permitting)



Evening

- Distribution of medication
- Putting dogs to sleep by returning them to their kennels for the night

The process

Housing 📍 Surinam

Large house in the center of the refuge

Terrace · Shared living room and kitchen · Washing machine
Several accommodation and meal options

Village market and shops

5 min by car · 10 min by bike · 30 min on foot
10 min from beaches · Sights nearby



The process

Rooms and meals

We offer several accommodation options to make your stay as pleasant as possible.

If you volunteer, you will benefit from:

- A private room with a private bathroom for added privacy and comfort.
- Three private rooms with shared bathroom ideal if you want to share the experience with other volunteers.

Rates are on a sliding scale depending on the length of your stay. See our summary p.17-18 for more details.

If you book via **Workaway**, you will be accommodated in a shared room (maximum 4 people) with a shared bathroom including a shower, WC and two washbasins.

Cleaning is included in the price, but we rely on you to keep your space clean and accessible.

For your meals, the team can accompany you on your arrival to run errands, and you're free to cook to your heart's content.

The Surinam village also offers local snacks and restaurants for you to discover at your own pace.



Volunteers - Woofers

Prices



Prices

How our volunteer program works

At the shelter, we welcome two types of volunteers: volunteers who wish to support our mission financially and want privacy in their accommodation, and woofers ([WorkAway](#)) who are provided with free accommodation in exchange for their work at the shelter.

Our mission relies entirely on the commitment of volunteers, as we receive no government support. Participation fees not only cover accommodation and transportation during your stay, but also fund essential care for our animals (vet, food, medication, etc.).

We understand that some of you may wish to contribute but not have the financial means to do so, so we offer various options to enable everyone to get involved and make a real difference, whatever their budget.

Prices

Private room, private bathroom

	2 weeks	1 month	2 months	3 months
2 persons	700 €	1200 €	2200 €	3000 €
1 person	375 €	625 €	1150 €	1650 €

Prices

Private room, shared bathroom

	2 weeks	1 month	2 months	3 months
2 persons	650 €	1100 €	2100 €	2900 €
1 person	350 €	600 €	1100 €	1550 €



Prices

What's included

Volunteers

- Accommodation according to your choice and availability
- Transfer to and from Mahébourg airport
- Housekeeping service
- In-depth training in all aspects of shelter work

Woofers (Workaway)

- Accommodation in shared rooms
- Housekeeping service
- In-depth training in all aspects of refuge work

Prices

What's not included

- Flights: plane tickets are not included in our rates.
- Transportation on the island
- Excursions and visits in Mauritius

Although we don't cover these activities, we're always here to help you organize your travel and advise you on the best options for exploring this magnificent island.

For woofers: transfers to and from the airport are not included, but we can arrange a cab at a preferential rate.

We'll do everything we can to make your stay as enjoyable and fulfilling as possible, so don't hesitate to ask us for more information!



Good to know

The essentials



Good to know

Your safety is our own

At the shelter

- Vaccinations: for health and safety reasons, we ask you to keep your vaccinations up to date, especially for tetanus. Please note that there is no risk of rabies in Mauritius.
- On arrival, you will be given a tour of the shelter and a full presentation of safety rules and procedures.
- Our dogs are adorable, but it's essential to remain calm and respectful towards them. Abrupt behavior can disrupt the pack. Shouting is reserved for emergency situations only.
- Always be sure to close the gates behind you and check that the locks are engaged when you leave a paddock. Gates are there for a reason - never leave a gate open.
- Do not enter certain enclosures without prior authorization. Some dogs can be aggressive, and only authorized persons may enter.
- Please keep to your working hours, as we rely on you in our organization. We are aware of the intensity of our work, and are always ready to listen to you if you need us.



Good to know

Your well-being is our own

In the house

- Common areas must be kept clean and tidy.
- Quiet atmosphere: we ask you to limit noise pollution in the evening, so that everyone can get some rest.

Outside the house

- Independence and freedom: you're responsible adults, and your free time is your own. Organize it as you see fit!
- Advice and outings: we'll be delighted to advise you on what to do in the area, and to invite you to join us on certain outings. If you'd like to join us, you're more than welcome to do so, but please note that you'll be responsible for getting home and arriving on time the next morning.

Important

To confirm your registration, we will ask you to sign a commitment contract confirming that you share our vision of life in the refuge and that you fully understand the challenges of our activity.

Good to know

What should you take with you?

You can buy everything on site, but be sure to take along what you need for your personal comfort.

Essentials

- Closed shoes for working with animals
- Work clothes: expect your clothes to get dirty or damaged (yes, this can involve poop, pee, or other surprises 😊). Avoid your favorite clothes and opt for clothes you're ready to leave behind.
- Waterproof jacket (K-way type): be prepared for anything, even rain!
- Clothing for leisure time: bring light clothing, such as shorts and T-shirts for rest days and evenings, as well as sandals or flip-flops. If you come during the winter months (June to September), don't forget a sweater or light jacket, as nights can be chilly, although days remain mild at around 18°C.
- Hats and sunscreen: the sun can be very intense, even in winter.
- Sheets are provided, but not towels.

Suggested

- Swimsuit (we're on an island!) and beach towel
- Camera, and don't forget SD cards and charging cables!
- Universal plug adapter for your electronic devices.



Good to know

Focus on health

Your first-aid kit

- Personal medication for the duration of your stay
- Basic kit: analgesics, antihistamines, anti-diarrheals, fever medication
- Hydro-alcoholic wipes or disinfectant
- Mosquito spray
- Band-aids
- Sunscreen and after-sun cream

Vaccines and safety precautions

Mauritius is not considered a malaria-risk country, so no malaria treatment is necessary. However, we recommend that you check that your tetanus vaccination is up to date.

Good to know

Useful information

Internet connection

Wi-Fi is available in the house.

If you want a permanent internet connection, we recommend buying a local SIM card on arrival at the airport, for around €15 a month with unlimited data.

VISA and stay in Mauritius

Depending on your country of origin, you will automatically be issued a 2 to 3-month visa on arrival. You can extend your stay by applying at the passport office in the capital, Port-Louis.

For more details about your trip to Mauritius, visit the official website: www.mauritiusnow.com.

Contact

Malika GAVIN

Adress : La Martinière, Surinam
Phone number : +230 5770 3075



Formalities

Registration

Registration

Volunteer

Sign up to volunteer on our website:

www.indiesworld.org

- A deposit of 150€ is required to reserve your room.
- The total amount of your reservation must be paid at least one week before your arrival.

Woofers

Register as a woofers on [WorkAway](#).

Please note that we welcome passionate woofers who are deeply committed to the cause of animal protection.

Your registration will be confirmed once you have read this volunteer guide and signed and returned the contract to our team.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Instagram

@indiesworldorg

TikTok

@indiesworld

Facebook

/indiesworld.org

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