

Re: OCP

October 02, 2021

To Lasqueti Local Trust Committee,

I was really disappointed to learn that, after a long OCP review process where many residents were asked for their input and on many issues including the sheep, the LTC made a change without prior notice or proper process, and decided to follow the requests of only one part of the residents. The LCA OCP group did not recommend to shut down the conversation about the sheep, but rather to have a better discussion on island at a later day, and to amend the OCP once this was done.

I want to make one point clear: using the term "heritage sheep" is ambiguous, and can be inappropriately interpreted as "heritage breed".

The local free-roaming sheep can be considered part of Lasqueti's settler heritage, but they are definitely not a breed by any recognized definition, and even less a heritage breed. Many people on Lasqueti, who own whatever type of breed, have let their own sheep roam freely, intermixing with the local sheep. Some have even introduced sheep over the years (of any breed) to "improve" the local stock. None of this has been done in any way that is consistent or logical with breed management or isolation. In dogs one would call such hybrids "mutts" or "mongrels" (which isn't derogative, but just a reflection of reality).

I request that you clarify in the OCP that the term "heritage sheep" refers to the Lasqueti settler heritage and not a heritage breed. The following seems more appropriate: *"local, free-roaming sheep that are part of the Lasqueti settler heritage"*.

To do otherwise would be disrespectful to the generations of people who invest their energy, time and funds to save heritage breeds. So please, respect heritage livestock breeders, and refer to the sheep in the OCP using appropriate terms.

Sincerely,

Marie-Ange Fall
Lasqueti