

Dog Rescue Center Samui
Brigitte Gomm
112/35 Moo 6 Bophut
Samui 84320 Suratthani
Thailand

Phone: 00 66 77 413 490
Mobile: 00 66 81 893 94 43

E-Mail: info@samuidog.org
Website: www.samuidog.org



April 2009

Dear animal friends!

1st April 2009 – 10 years Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui.
My heartfelt Thanks to all who made this possible!



On our anniversary, Sue from the "Sisters of Samui" handed over a donation of 25,000 Baht (about 550 Euro) in their name. SOS: A group of women who gather together once a month for lunch.



Janine, Linda and Kelli, our devoted volunteers at the temples, puppy house, at the shelter and wherever there's a cry for help. My very special Thanks to them!



When we celebrated our 10th anniversary, we were privileged to have Ritchie Newton (picture on the right, with Ulrike Brunner and Mr Falk Weitschat, general manager of the Pinnacle and Coco Palm Maenam) as our musical entertainment. Ritchie is a friend of many years and we are huge fans of his music. He is the best Elvis-impersonator in all of Asia, for us simply THE BEST. He will be touring through Germany from May till July. Have a look at his homepage www.ritchienewton.com to check out the dates and you may even want to hire him for a personal event.

Ritchie made a great movie about the DRCS. You can check it out on Youtube Part 1-4:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5X3iWmCuTk>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2SnYm1C7WI>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9xQBvF7xLc>, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9Nee99m_l4.

Of course you can also get obtain the movie in Koh Samui on DVD.

You can find plenty of movies about the DRCS on Youtube. You can find them all under Dogsamui and Samuidog 1.

When my husband and I set up the DRCS 10 years ago, we had imagined the whole thing a little differently. If somebody had said to us at the time that 10 years later, we would share the house with 40 cats and 15 dogs, we would have said they were crazy. Oh and not to forget the 40 to 50 dogs outside in the yard, often making it pretty difficult to get to the entrance of the house as they all jostle for a little attention.

Since my husband and I had already been coming to Koh Samui for many years and therefore were very much aware of the existing animal misery, we felt obliged to establish the DRCS in 1999. It would not have been possible for us to live here without a veterinary surgeon, which was the case before we set up the DRCS. The animal sorrow was horrendous. Feeding mothers with their babies were everywhere and dogs with bite wounds died miserably in corners, eaten alive by maggots. At the time when we were still visiting the island as tourists, we could do only very little for the dogs and cats. Feeding and distributing a couple of flea collars was all we could do as no-one showed any interest in ill or injured dogs. Everybody just simply ignored them or chased the poor animals away. Whenever there were too many dogs on the island, the government solved the dog problem by nightly poisoning actions. The day before the poisoning, the government told the locals over loudspeakers to take their dogs inside. Poison traps were then put down and the dead or half dead dogs were collected in the early morning hours and taken away on lorries. The length of suffering depended on the amount of poison they ate. Very often only the strong dogs were killed, as the shy ones weren't brave enough to go up to the food. On some beaches almost all dogs disappeared overnight... and new ones appeared again a couple of months later; and the process started all over again.

At the time, hardly any of the dogs and cats on the island were neutered, and therefore their numbers increased drastically. Puppies were brought to the temple and most Thais were strongly convinced that Buddha would take care of them. Their way of thinking is for us often not comprehensible but unfortunately that's the reality, therefore we must accept it.

We started the DRCS in a very small way; we rented premises for a clinic in north Chaweng and hired Dr. Somsak and one helper. Dr. Somsak had just finished university and had very little experience. As Dr. Somsak became the first veterinary on the island, the locals swarmed to us with their dogs and cats. As a result of this, we had little time to carry out our initial goals, the treatment and neutering of stray dogs and cats. If you're interested in finding out how the DRCS continued from there, go to our website www.samuidog.org and read the story under Who We Are.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a valuable help for the DRCS as they are normally highly motivated. Sometimes however, some of the new volunteers are a little overwhelmed by the large number of dogs we have and choose to spend their time doing another very important job such as, giving well needed attention and love to our many puppies.

Come and pay us a visit! We can always use an extra pair of hands. We have no expectations; you can simply have some fun spending time with the animals. However, if you prefer to be more involved in the day to day running of the centre, someone will point you in the direction of jobs needing done.

Helping out at the DRCS has already brought together many animal lovers and friendships have been formed and continued on their return back home. Check out our online forum where you can eagerly chat about this and that. Ulrike, who is leading the forum, continuously updates the forum with all the latest news about the DRCS and adds stories about some of our dogs and cats with weekly new pictures and updates on their progress of recovery. You can for example, observe how the mangy dogs get their fur back or check out the process of wound healing. Last February, the first meeting of Samuis' dog and cat lovers took place in Heppenheim in Germany. Everyone interested in Samuis' animal protection is very welcome to join. Forum: <http://samuidog.plusboard.de>



A great group of volunteers are found together here. They spent EVERY day of their holiday feeding dogs at the temples and on the streets of Samui. Of course they were on the lookout for injured animals or helped with the cleaning at the shelter. From left to right: Antonio, Marcel and Ulrike, Peet and Gyslène, Sven and Maxi and Rainer.



Maxi and Sven reinforced all the bamboo benches with stable wood supports in the dog house. Actually, they wanted to build completely new benches but the bamboo tops were still in pretty good condition and therefore we decided not to throw them away. Since they sawed everything by hand, their whole holiday basically passed doing that. If the tops now break, we will simply hammer some wood on top of it. Sven has already given us a few tips.



Our Swedish volunteers Malin and Fia have diligently helped to give all 350 dogs antibiotics and vitamin tablets at the shelter on a daily basis, over a period of three weeks. Once the dog was given its medicine in a spoon of tin food, it was marked with flea powder. No easy task! Many dogs showed symptoms of anaemia, caused by ticks or sand fleas; therefore a treatment was badly necessary. Once we have enough helpers turning up for work, we will wash down all compounds with Baiticol Ticwash. Hopefully then, we will rid the compounds of these often deadly monsters, for a while at least. The costs of the medical treatments and the clearing of the compounds were very expensive. Thankfully all of these expenses were covered by the Stichting Buitenlandse Asielen. Thank you very much to Helma from the Stichting Buitenlandse in Holland! www.s-b-a.info

THAI HELPER

Even though we've had a high turn over of staff again, 3 out of the 4 introduced helpers in the last newsletter still remain with us, Don, Rood and King continue to do a good job. King is trained in the cat house, cleaning of the single boxes and knows what needs to be done in and around the house in Chaweng. Rood works mainly in the single boxes or helps out with all kinds of handyman work. Don now works in the house in Chaweng and has basically taken over all of our ex-cleaning lady's' duties.

And here are the latest losses: Dam, our devoted and trustworthy cleaning lady and maid for more than six years has left us. She celebrated the DRCS 10th anniversary on the 1st April with us; on the 2nd April she called to say that she wasn't coming back. I'm glad that she at least called. I have kind of lost my last trust in the Thais and our manager Wit is really the only one left that I still trust and is basically the very last one who could still disappoint me. Dam showed up a few days later and apologized. The Thais solve their problems by running away from them. It's easier and avoids unnecessary stress. Talking to the boss doesn't generally happen as the decision to quit has already been made. Why go

and talk about it? Not only the helpers of the DRCS have that kind of an attitude, it happens in every sector. Not showing up for work from one day to the next, often is their easy way of quitting. The next one to say goodbye was Pui. After not showing up at work for 2 days, I called him and was told that he wouldn't be coming back for some time. He initially planned to come back to work after 4 weeks, which meant he should have returned two weeks ago. Over the years I've learned not to rely on anyone's word and therefore wasn't surprised that he didn't come back. Pui was a good employee and I am very sorry that he has left the island, however I know for certain, that it had nothing to do with his work at the DRCS.

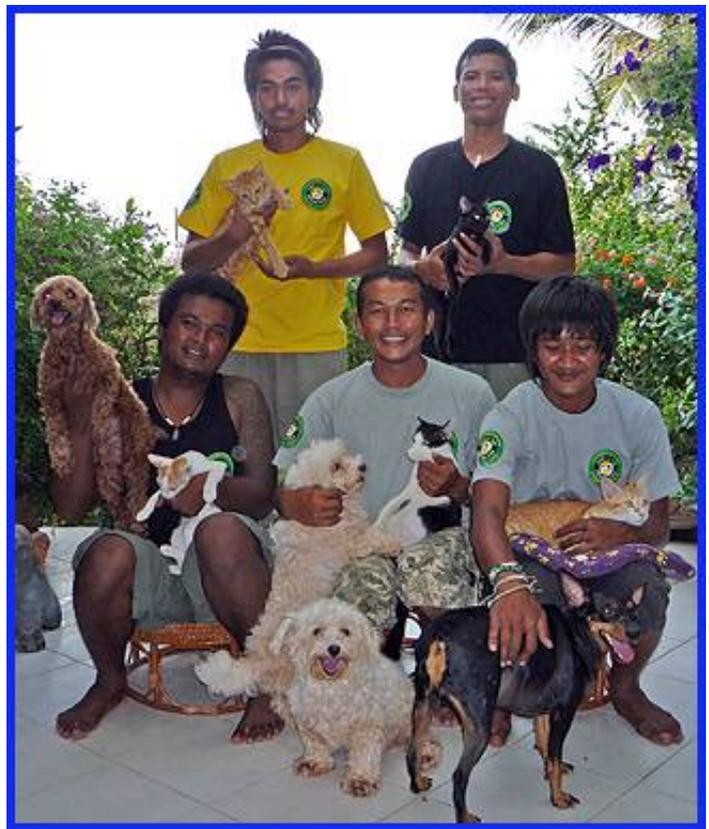
Also EM has resigned for now. Initially he only planned to go to Bangkok for a week, but as he was still not back after two weeks, I decided to call him. That's when he informed me that he was staying up north for at least another month. That left me with no choice but to employ more helpers: TAI, LEK, KIM and DÜNG.

PON, who has worked for us before, is now replacing EM in the puppy house. It cannot be foreseen yet how long the 4 new employees will remain with us. For sure you will be updated on that matter in the August newsletter.

The work ethics haven't changed much and I have come to the conclusion, that there is very little I can do about absenteeism. Every day at least two workers don't show up for work. I have learned that it's better to take on older employees with wife and children, for some reason they seem to 'get sick' less often than the younger helpers.

New employees usually mean a lot of additional work and stress to no end. Unfortunately it's not possible for the Thai helpers to teach one another. I seriously have no explanation why this is the case. The only thing I can think of is that they don't like to take charge and tell other people what to do.

Since all the helpers at the shelter and at the house in Chaweng have to be familiarised with all kind of different jobs, I have no other choice but to personally oversee the training of each individual. The reason why I keep you so closely informed about our Thai helpers is because basically, they are the heart of the DRCS and without them we wouldn't be able to help the animals at all. The training of new helpers is such a strain and I am due to health reasons often completely powered out by the end of the day (a few years ago I had a cerebra) and can't answer all the e-mails at night. I kindly ask you to give me some time. Every e-mail will be answered even if it might take a little longer sometimes. In case you need an immediate response, please call me directly or contact Ulrike samuidog1@aol.com. Ulrike calls me on a daily basis and can therefore give you a quick answer. In case we take too long with our reply, send the e-mail again and ask for a delivery report. Unfortunately I had to find out that several e-mails did not arrive, e-mails which were sent to the DRCS just as well as e-mails we sent out! Apparently it's got something to do with the fact that the Thai government screen e-mails sent into Thailand very carefully and therefore losses occur or e-mails are delayed.



Kim, Lek, Tai, Düng und Pon



Wut, Rainer, Wit and Somkiät happy at work.

TEMPEL PROJECT

The temple project had been running for over a year now. It took some time for their efforts to be fully appreciated but Janine, Linda and Kelli are now very happy about their success in gaining the trust and cooperation of the monks. It did take a while until some of the monks were willing to give the dog food



we supply for the animals but at least everyone is now doing their part. At some temples the monks are even giving daily medicine they receive from us for some of the sick dogs and cats. We now work at 18 out of 28 temples around the island.

- 10 kg dry food costs about 6 Euro!
- One vaccine for a dog costs about 3 Euro!
- One vaccine for a cat costs about 4 Euro!

Please take on a food godparent hood for the temple dogs or the costs for vaccinations for the temple dogs!!

WATER

Since our deep well was not getting enough water at the shelter, we had to call for water delivery every single day, some days even twice. 1000 litres of water cost 300 Baht. We sometimes faced a monthly water bill of up to 300 Euro.

After we got the permission from the government to build a 800 Meter long water pipe, we immediately got started. Just three days later we already had water from the city, which is a lot cheaper and so far the water has been flowing feely.

The Expats (an organization which was founded to allow foreigners to meet in a casual atmosphere once a month) organized a tombola and art auction at the Nikki Beach club in aid of the DRCS at the beginning of April. The proceeds from that event were used to fund the entire water supply project. A special thank you to Linda from the Expats!





Ohh there's the syringe grrr....!! But after I'll get the ELYTH-cream-massage! That's so very relaxing and saves me from scratching for quite some time. All dogs with little or no fur are being treated with the cream and love the touchy snugly...feeling...with it.

Werner and I are going to be in Berlin from the 17th May until the 6th June. I definitely don't want to miss celebrating my fathers 80th birthday together with him, my mother and the whole family.

This time, our holiday-replacement-crew exists out of several long term volunteers. Jörg will do check ups at the shelter and inform me daily what really happens at the shelter. Our manager Wit usually says 'all is going well!', and I often have to disagree.

Martina and Kathrin are going to stay in the house in Chaweng. They will welcome the visitors and inform them about the DRCS. They will also be dealing with the organization of the helpers and supervising the emergency call outs. Martina will actually live in the house and since she is a huge cat-fan, she will definitely have a lot of fun. Wit, our manager and Janine will of course support her with everything. Surely they will encounter a few unforgettable experiences and I am almost certain that they will manage it very well. My very special THANK YOU to Martina, Kathrin and Jörg who sacrifice their holiday in order to make sure the caretaking of the animals is in the best hands!

DONATIONS

The company Kanzlsperger - www.kanzlsperger.de - wants to support us with a huge amount of wound cream and wound spray. Christiane, an employee of the company, has gone all the way out for us and convinced her boss of doing a good thing by supporting us.

We are very enthusiastic about the spray and the cream (ELYTH). The cream is for sports injuries, scrapes and wounds of all kinds. The spray turned out to be a super-smell-killer! It's perfect for dogs with mange or fungus as it kills the bacteria which cause the smell. It is also a spray which is used for injuries of all kinds. The two products are not medicines which are usually used for animals but when it works so well on humans, why shouldn't it also successfully be used on animals. Many thanks to Christiane and Mr. Peter Kanzlsperger.



A big THANK YOU to Iris from Switzerland who successfully begged at the company VIBAC for us. The dogs were happy to receive over 800 flea collars.

I would also like to thank all the animal friends who brought over donations from their vets, towels or sent all kind of aid supplies to Ulrike.

Please help us to bring these supplies to Koh Samui! If you fly to Samui and have some space for donations, please contact Ulrike Brunner! E-mail: samuidog1@aol.com



CHAWENG BURI RESORT

When Ulrike wanted to check on Sarah (well known hotel dog), she was told by a very upset beach vendor that two days previous, Sarah was tied up and taken away. When asked, the manager said that the government would remove annoying stray dogs. Since this was such an unbelievable story she asked again the next day and he said that she was taken to the province of Isaan and could be brought back for 10,000 Baht. Meanwhile a major Tsunami-e-mail-protest hit the Chaweng Buri. Three days later, by pure chance, Ulrike found Sarah at the Pinnacle Resort in Maenam. You can read more about this story in our Forum under <http://samuidog.plusboard.de>. You can find a list of animal friendly hotels on Koh Samui under www.hotel-kosamui.com.

Over Christmas our financial situation took a turn for the better due to several large and a lot of small donations. Thanks to this our fear of having to restrict our food supplies for the next month was eradicated. Food and medical supplies are the only areas where I can economise. However this would result in no more free treatments for everyone!?! But thankfully these are only thoughts I may have to put in place in a time of emergency when we're financially no longer able to feed them all. But then I know that you've been supporting the DRCS in the last 10 years and made it into what it is today, I am therefore optimistic - as always.

The political disturbances in Bangkok from last December already caused a major drop in the number of tourists coming to Samui during the months February till April. Just when we thought the tourist numbers were on the increase, the political situation worsened. This happened during the Thai New Year (13.April) and Easter and will undoubtedly mean fewer tourists during peak season, starting mid July. Of course this is a worry for me, since we strongly depend on the donations from the tourists during this time.

Ulrike, leader of our Forum, is working from her home in Germany, doing her utmost to promote and make the DRCS more famous. She tirelessly sends out begging letters to companies, seeking help and donations, and has been an enormous help in seeing us through our financial crises during last November.

In April, Ulrike, Antonio and Marcel came to Koh Samui and picked up two pitiable dogs from the temple. Rosa and Mausl are now looking for a home in Germany. Check our Forum for more details: <http://samuidog.plusboard.de>, or contact Ulrike: samuidog1@aol.com.

My special Thanks to her and her husband Antonio for their endless support.



MIKE

Mike stands for all the countless victims who didn't manage to safely (without accident) cross the road. One of his legs was broken several times and couldn't be saved. It's often a wonder that we don't have to deal with a lot more road accident victims as the traffic on Koh Samui has increased so dramatically. Unfortunately we do not have the necessary equipment to mend a broken limb; often all we can do is amputate.

Mike also stands for all the cats and dogs which have to stay for ever at the shelter and are therefore looking for a sponsor. www.samuidog.org, „How To Help“ under Adoption.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 10 years every dog and cat can be helped for free on Koh Samui. Stray animals which have not found a place to survive on their own on Koh Samui can be brought into the shelter.

Because of your donations, we can still neuter at least six animals every day. In the last 10 years, over 10,000 dogs and cats have been neutered and countless vaccinations and treatments have been carried out. We offer free medical treatment for ALL cats and dogs (with or without an owner, that doesn't matter) including a pick-up service. Of course we will continue to offer free medical treatments for animals with owners as long as possible but since last November, we are no longer in the position to offer free vaccinations. I know that these vaccines are important but at this point of time when we have to save wherever we can, I don't know another way around this. Rabies vaccine is still free for everyone. Compared to the multi pal, the rabies vaccine is still quite a bit cheaper.

A lot of stray dogs and cats that couldn't make it on their own on Koh Samui have found a home in our shelter. With a sponsorship you can help to make sure that their bowls are never empty. Have a look on the homepage ('How to Help', 'Cats and Dogs to Sponsor'). Sponsoring a dog or a cat is 15 Euro a month! Even if you do not want to sponsor an animal, it's definitely worth having a look at our many dogs and cats and read their stories! If you're coming to Samui and you wish to bring a donation: Old towels and bed linen and sheets for the puppies and the cats, OLD toys for the puppies, powdered kitten/puppy milk, cat de-worming paste, de-worming tablets for dogs (multi-wormer), and flea collars for dogs. We can always use these things. Please check with your vet, if they have any old de-worming tablets or other medicine for dogs and cats to spare, which you could bring over when you come to visit the island.

Once again we were able to transport a few dogs and cats to a safer future. On our homepage you can check out those happy animals in there new homes at www.samuidog.org 'What we do' and 'Dog Transport'. In case you're willing to become a companion for a dog transport, please contact me in time. The animals will be thankful and surely the new owners too.

Support us by letting people know about the DRCS! Pass on the newsletter to your friends and family or spread word of the DRCS through different forums. I strongly believe if we all work together now, we can get through this crisis.

**Don't forget the dogs and cats on Koh Samui.
They still need your help.
Every small donation helps us take one step forward**

Our monthly costs amount to 9,000 Euro. If you are on Koh Samui, you are cordially invited to stop by. You are welcome to come and look at our (financial) books. The dogs, cats and I always love visitors!

Best wishes

Brigitte

p.s.: Don't forget to check out our videos!

Banking details for sponsors you can find under "How to Help"

