

Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

Brigitte Gomm
112/35 Moo 6 Bophut/Chaweng
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
Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear Animal friends!

April 2018

How fast time flies ... 19 years of animal protection on Koh Samui. When we founded Dog Rescue 19 years ago, there was no vet on the island and stray dogs wherever you looked. I am very grateful to you ALL that YOU have made it possible for us to help the dogs and cats on Koh Samui for so many years. There is still so much to do and I hope we can count on your continuous support. The dogs and cats on Samui still need your help. Dr. Sith castrates at least 6 dogs or cats every day. Unfortunately there are more and more accident victims who often have serious injuries. Fortunately, the cases of dogs that look like skeletons with little or no fur and covered with many wounds, have greatly reduced. Over the years we have become well known on the island and therefore often get calls from animal friends reporting dogs and cats in need of help.





We had a small birthday party with the helpers, volunteers and animal friends who came to visit.

In our February newsletter I had told you about the clinic inspection we had by representatives of the government.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Info%20Februar%202018.pdf



We were still able to work even without passing this inspection - Dr. Sith can still do all the vaccinations and surgeries and order all the medicine he needs. But only when we fulfil all the conditions, we can order Nembutal again. Nembutal is used as an anaesthetic during surgeries and it is the best medicine we can provide to the animals, that Dr. Sith cannot help anymore, to redeem their suffering. We also have a gas-anaesthetic-machine for surgeries which is however more expensive to use. One of our vet assistance stands by throughout the whole operation whenever an animal is under anaesthetic. We usually operate with the help of the gas-anaesthetic-machine if we predict a long-lasting operation.

My sincere Thanks to the animal friends, who have answered my call for help and have donated towards the building of the new single boxes and the fencing of the clinic.

Many thanks to Mark from Australia for his generous donation. The microscope was donated to us by Shaun from Australia. Many Thanks!

We have completed the construction work within the given time period of 30 days. Wit, our manager, has taken pictures of everything and sent them to Surat Thani. Now we can only wait and see if the honourable gentlemen are satisfied with it or if they come to exam it all again.



This is the small construction crew, who was able to do all the necessary work within the shortest time. They did a great job!



One of the conditions was to set up individual boxes that are separated from the rest of the shelter. We had a hardly-used cat terrain behind the clinic which turned out to be the perfect spot for those boxes. We added an access door for Dr. Sith from the operation room to the new boxes.



Dr. Sith is very happy with the newly built boxes. He can constantly see and monitor the dogs from the operating room.



Entrance to the clinic— waiting area for the patients and their companions.



We have established the fence around the clinic to provide the dog-free area.



The repairs and the associated costs at the shelter never get any less. If it is not the rage of time that has eaten away the roof racks of the individual boxes, it's the storms that repeatedly break large branches off the huge trees. Depending on where the broken branches fall down, a dog house probably gets smashed or one of the walls gets damaged.

Fortunately, dogs have never been harmed. It's unbelievable how much money is needed to keep the shelter in order. Of course, when a hut has collapsed, construction must begin as soon as possible. I can only hope that enough helpers come to work and that the work can be tackled quickly.



Visa regulations for Burmese citizen and volunteers



The Thai government has seriously started their hunt on the illegal workers in Thailand.

Unfortunately we are also affected, because we have employed Burmese helpers for years. They are often more hard-working and generally show up for work every day - unlike many Thai-helpers. Appearing at work daily is not an obvious thing. They are missing often and with pleasure. Just like that, without any reason. There is nothing I can do about this. Even cutting off their salary didn't help. I just wait until the next day and hope they show up and that no other helper decided to take a day off. Luckily they are mostly missing just one day.

Unfortunately we had to let go 2 of our Burmese workers since they had no documents at all. No visa, no work permit or passport.

Hans Peter and **Fearn** spent many hours at the authorities offices on Samui and in Surat Thani to save our Burmese staff from the deportation. There are high penalties on illegal employment and I could directly prepare for my own deportation, if I let them work for me without the permit. In the last few years, it was no problem, because obviously the Burmese barely have correct documents and the Thai immigration office has tacitly tolerated it. These regulations are, of course, not new but are now enforced vehemently.

Wit was in Surat Thani with **Zoo** and was able to obtain all necessary papers for Zoo there, after many hours of waiting. He is allowed to work for us for two years for now.

It was even more complicated with **Mä** and **Au**. Fearn and Hans Peter took care of these two. They had to travel to Hat Yai in the south of Thailand to get their visa. Fearn already had a lot of visits at the offices and that was the grand finale.

Without the persistence of Fearn, we would probably have lost three good workers and since we can only hire Thais at the moment and we do not have enough employees anyway, that would have been a mean disaster.



That is the about 60 meter long waiting room in Surat Thani. It was set up for the visa processing for the Burmese. They are working 24 hours a day, round the clock.



Zoo, Mä and Au

Because these three are among our hardest-working employees, it was hopefully worth it, to take all the effort and the costs. They can only work for us with this visa - otherwise they need to go back to Burma.

It is amazing, how well-behaved everybody lines up and hopes on a positive decision. In front of the hall, of course, there are even more of them camping, because there is not enough space for all inside.

The Thai government was a bit surprised, I guess, as they began the enforcement of the visa regulations. Obviously it was not known, how many illegals they have in their country. The Burmese do a great deal of work that Thais do not like doing.

Recently, there were a lot of ways to get an extension for the Burmese, to continue working without a visa, when they have filed an application. The government probably didn't expect, so many Burmese to be in Thailand without a permit. Out of 1.2 million, apparently there are still 400,000 waiting to get working papers.

Volunteers

The Thai government has, of course, started to check all the work-papers at the foreign companies. Additionally they also check our volunteers for their volunteer visa. "Working" without a volunteer visa is also highly penalized. It is not a problem to get one. You need to send us an email, we will send you all the required documents for the visa application. For volunteers, that only want to help a couple of days, the immigration wants to issue short-term permissions. Get in touch with me and we will find a solution. **Please don't let us down!** The dogs and cats need your loving attention.



Sven, my faithful help at the office, is still with us and I don't even want to imagine, how to deal with all the work without him.

He, of course, has the volunteer visa and in case he shouldn't get it again for some reasons, I will try to get him a work permit.



Charlotte, **Lotte** and **Marietje** from the Netherlands study veterinary and they did their internship with us.

Linda and **Jay** from the street and temple team have a work permit for many years already. You need to employ four Thai workers to be allowed to employ one foreigner. That sounds easy, but it took endless paperwork to get the work permits for Jay and Linda. It also took very long because the documents were sent between Koh Samui, Bangkok and Surat Thani over and over again. Nobody felt responsible and the applications were pushed from one place to the other. But finally even this was done and Jay and Linda could be employed officially at our foundation.



Many thanks to Monika for the help with the translations.



Many thanks to Stefan and Kerstin for their help with the work on our homepage.

VISITORS

Visitors are always welcome. No prior registration is required. In Chaweng we are open from 9:00 to 18:00. At the shelter in Ban Taling Nam we are open from 10am to 5pm. Unfortunately, we have no one who could show you around at the shelter. The Thai staff speak only a little English. Of course, I am sometimes at the shelter too, but have not scheduled any fixed days for it. Just have a look around and have fun with the nearly 350 dogs. You can enter any enclosure, just please close the doors when you visit the dogs inside a compound. There might be a volunteer there and happy to show you around. A visit to Chaweng is a great experience especially for small children! We have 15 small dogs inside the house and some very nice cats.





I guarantee you will have a lot of fun with our dogs and cats.



I was very pleasantly surprised when the manager of the **Anantara** and his staff came around to the house and brought along a lot of dog food. The managers have been more interested in our work lately. Excellent!



Many thanks to the **Silavadee** and to the **Banana Fan Sea** for their cash donation and for all the towels and sheets.



PUPPY HOUSE AND OUR OUTSIDE/TEMPEL-TEAM

We all – but of course especially the ones in charge for the puppy house Linda and Jay – are very relieved that our dedicated puppy house helper AU has been granted his work permit. Au is one of those helpers we never want to miss and is absolutely reliable when it comes to important work like handing out medication to all the dogs at the shelter and the way he pays attention to the once in need of special care at the puppy house, has often been life saving . Not only puppies but many old and special-need cases like AMIE live in the puppy house area.



Jay has found Aimie 6 years ago after she was hit by a car and left with pretty serious brain damage. Jay took her into the puppy house for all the necessary intense care. Aimie requires a lot of patience and calmness in order to not have unnecessary epileptic fits. Jumping into the bath WITH her can make all the difference and is what it takes for her to stay calm while having (a very necessary) bath & skin treatment.....



....and of course our PuppyHouse man **AU** knows also how to handle Aimie and has her complete trust.



Thank you to **Laura** – a well known DJ from the UK – for helping to free Aimie from the massive amount of tick and fleas! Laura stayed with us for 2 weeks and due to our ongoing shortage of staff, Laura has not only dedicated her whole time being her to the Dog Rescue but has also changed the lives of many souls she worked with while being here. We recently had a bad outbreak of cat distemper and lost many unvaccinated





Jay, Uscha and Linda: THANK YOU
To everyone who has sent or donated tick and flea treatment products!

cats at our shelter. Thank you Laura for finding the strength to make the last days and hours of several little ones a little less tragic and a little more bearable. We thank you for all your efforts to make our cat house more organised and hope that we'll be able to keep it going that way. Our great volunteer **Judith** from Germany is giving her best at the moment to keep things running that way – Thank you for being here!

A big Thank You also to our German Vet **Uscha** who is staying with us for a month as part of her 'Trip for animals'. She is documenting her trip on her website: www.tripforanimals.de and has been doing an amazing job at our Dog Rescue Centre, working HandInHand with our Vet Dr. Sith and checking all our resident dogs as well as treating them all with the donated tick and flea products we have received from many of you.



Unfortunately it is a very difficult and dangerous time at the moment for all dogs in Thailand. There was an alleged case of rabies on the mainland, resulting in the rounding up and extermination of hundreds of stray street dogs in 3 provinces around Thailand. Koh Samui has been declared rabies-free by the government for 13 years now – also thanks to our Dog Rescue Foundation. However, people react to fear and we have been inundated with people bringing their pets to our centre for the rabies vaccination. It is heartbreaking to see how the officials deal with stray dogs in some parts of Thailand.



Jay, Linda and Tom continue to work tirelessly at the many temples and villages all around Samui. Thank you for supporting this project! Without your help we would not be able to afford delivering over 1,000kg of dog and cat food for the uncountable number of hungry dogs and cats out there!

Please find more pictures, numbers and stories from our Team on the website:

http://www.samuidog.org/TempleProject_en.html

For example in Hat Yai, a city far south near the Malaysian border, you'll find those friendly looking posters reminding people that it was illegal to feed stray dogs and would be fined with 2,000 Baht... Concentrating on controlling the population of dogs is what we believe in but not in letting the living ones starve!



Every Tuesday and Friday between 5 and 6 p.m. **Dr. Sith** has his consultation hour at my house. The consultation is always well attended and there are always long queues. The Thai people are very patient, as in all life situations. In front of my house more and more dogs have accumulated over the years. They walk on the nearby market whenever they want. Keeping the gate to our property closed has proven to be impracticable. It is not always a helper in the yard to take care. So our doggies often jump around in front of the gate. That's also where the many dogs from the Montien-Staffhaus chill around. Visiting us with your dog can be a little test of courage but our dogs are very peaceful during the day. At night they turn into guard dogs and bark. They also like to chase motorcyclists of course...



Bang has been with us for many years now and he always helps Dr. Sith with the consultation.



It is normal in Thailand to transport the dogs with the bike. We just have to pray and hope, the driver doesn't need to brake suddenly.

LING alias Chompoo alias Lucie

In March 2013 tourists had informed us about a monkey at Rockview Restaurant in Chaweng Noi, close to First Bungalow Resort, that didn't get neither water nor any food for 14 days. We were checking on her regularly since then and we built a cage for her. In May 2016, we have renewed the cage and supplied it with a new rack. The owner was delighted about our help, but he was not willing to give her to us. You can have a look at some photos and videos of 2013, that show Lucies' poor conditions at the time.

http://www.samuidog.org/MonkeyBusiness_de.html

In May 2017 we were finally able to take Lucie with us. Here you can see the latest video of her:

<https://youtu.be/BeNYQnexwOM>



Lucie is always happy about visitors!

Dogs, that have made it...

On our homepage http://www.samuidog.org/TheyFoundANewHomeOversea01_de.html

you can read the stories of many cats and dogs. They all were able to convince animal lovers to see them as their new family members.



Rascal was fortunate enough to be adopted by **Terry** and **Michelle** and now lives happily with them in Texas / USA.

Terry sold lemonade for us – Thank You for your great effort!



FLIGHT VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for flight volunteers for our shelter dogs and for the dogs who were able to convince a pet friend that they have to take him with them, because otherwise he would face an uncertain future, on the beach or at a bungalow w resort or wherever on Koh Samui. The dogs are waiting for the departures at our shelter, if possible with flight volunteers, because freight transport costs much more.

The following airlines are the best and cheapest for flying dogs out: Lufthansa, KLM, AUA, AirFrance and Aeroflott. Thai-Airways is a bit more expensive, but suitable for not too heavy dogs. Unfortunately, a bigger problem has arisen, because the transfer time in Bangkok is too short for almost every animal friend who has agreed to take dogs as a flight volunteer. It is necessary to stay in Bangkok at least 3,5 hours between the flights if you want to check in a dog in Bangkok, because the luggage is no longer checked through. So the luggage in Bangkok needs to be checked in again. Beside this, there is the passport control, which often takes very long. Therefore, animal friends who spend a few days in Bangkok at the end of their holidays are considered to be flight volunteers.



Poo and his new owner Lotta and Felix.
Poo is looking for flight companions to Frankfurt, he will be ready to fly from the 11. June 2018 on.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 19 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 19 years, over 20,000 dogs and cats have been neutered and countless vaccinations and treatments have been carried out.

We offer free medical treatment for ALL stray cats and dogs, with a pick-up service even beyond our opening hours. For dogs and cats with a Thai owner we make everything for free.

Of course we are happy for donations!

Medicine in Thailand is rather inexpensive and from non Thais we need a little donation for our treatment with their dogs or cats.

If you come with a stray dog for treatment, the treatment is of course free of charge.



If you decide to order at Zooplus.de or at Amazon.de we will receive between 3.5% and 8.5% of your purchase value which will be transferred automatically to the DRCS account. To this end, I would appreciate if you would conduct your purchases through us. In order to do so you need to click on our logo on our GERMAN website www.samuidog.org

We receive every month about 300 Euros thanks to your shopping

We also have recorded to GOODING. Like Amazon GOODING has many shops in their arrangement. Just have a look.

Furthermore we are since a long time recorded to BILDUNGSSPENDER.

All those four give us a few percent if you buy something there. You can look which of those is the cheapest. There are a few more similar facilities but I don't think that's necessary because all of them have the same shops in their arrangement.

Also in the last few months we had to take in some more dogs and many cats in our shelter as they couldn't find a way to survive on their own.

Of course, in the last few months, dogs (including the dogs from the feeding places, among them many puppies) and cats had to be admitted to the shelter, because otherwise they wouldn't find any place to survive alone or they would have been poisoned by the villagers at the feeding places. With a sponsorship you can help to make sure that their bowls are never empty. Please have a look on the website <http://www.samuidog.org/adoption.htm>



The running costs for the DRCS amount about 17 000 Euros per month.

If you are on Koh Samui, you are more than welcome to come over and have a look at our records.

And of course our dogs and cats love to get some cuddles too!

Best regards and thank you very much!

Brigitte

and the Rescue-Team

Accounts for sponsors:

http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm



Please support us with your donation so that cats and dogs can be supplied with food and medicine in the future

HELP US HELP