

Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Dear lovers of our animals,

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A very warm-hearted THANK YOU to all of you! Be it by donations of money or goods or support on location, YOU have had a big share in the DCRS's help for stray dogs and cats in Koh Samui. Meanwhile we are able, on account of your support, to supply not only medical help, but also food provisions in temples or other places on the island.

Our small association- in the beginning there were just Dr. Somsak and two helpers, has developed into an association with 20 employed Thais and a large number of volunteers.

14 years ago, Dr Somsak used to drive around catching dogs in his side-car motor-bike!!!

You may read about the history of the DCRS in the former newsletters:

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



For nearly 8 years, **Dr SITH** has been working for us and I can't think of any better veterinary doctor for our place. Certainly it is not always very easy for him to cope with the many tasks he has to face. He is the master of 300 dogs and 100 cats in the shelter. More than 100 animals have to be given their medicine twice a day. All day long, lots of Thais arrive with their sick dogs in the shelter for treatment and, moreover, he has to perform 6 castrations/spayings daily. He has got two helpers who support him as best they can. Of course, not everybody can be a vet's assistant and it takes very long to finish the "apprenticeship". At the moment, Kio and Gug undergo this task. Dr Sith is very satisfied with them and this is most important. It goes without saying that he must always watch all the other helpers in the shelter as well, whatever tasks they've got to fulfil.

There we may help him somewhat, as it is NOT his task to see to the cleanliness of the puppy house, the cat house, the single kennels or the big compounds!

For one year, **BÄRBEL** and **GÜNTER** have been living on the island and they are very much dedicated to establishing order and tidiness in the shelter. Meanwhile the helpers accept their commands without the necessity of my intervention. By now, Bärbel and Günther have lived on the island for one year; they sell bikinis and beachwear. Just drop in in one of their **AMAZONAS** -shops! You may make real pretty discoveries!

We are continuously trying to improve the work flow:





making it better arranged and simpler! E.g. only one helper gives the medicine to all the dogs. Therefore controlling an orderly and proper medication has become easier for us as well. As you know from my former newsletters we can only help the animals effectively when our Thai staff support us. Our long-term volunteers have got a different motivation, of course. They do not work for money, but just for the benefit of the animals. On the left you can see our extremely devoted **TEMPLE-TEAM: JAY, LINDA and TOM** have helped us for 10 years and without their endeavour things would be a lot worse for the large numbers of dogs off the beaches. They are our "field team" and care especially for the unwanted puppies all over the island and also take care of the puppy house. Jay is also helping me with the English correspondence and general office work twice/week.

MARTINA is our co-worker in Germany. She cares for the placing of the DCRS dogs.

Here is her homepage where you can find the dogs ready for take-off: <http://www.dogsonsamui.de/>



WIT our manager is a great help for everybody. You can really see that he is always prepared to do his best for us! E.g. dealing with officials or orders and absolutely everything you only can handle when you are perfect in the Thai language spoken and written. Foreigners are hopelessly lost if no one helps them! Furthermore WIT is 100 % honest and we are so glad to have him on our team for more than 10 years now!

But, on the other side, we've got to complain about "losses" among the helpers:

MEM, our afternoon cleaning women, stopped working here. She gave me one days notice which at least saved me having to wait a few days to see if she would return. She was the first Thai woman who never laughed. This is so rare among these people: at work singing and laughing is just normal- and neither the dogs nor the cats seem to bother....

DAM, our second cleaning women, now only works from 9.00 to 12.00. DAM has worked for us for many years and, like WIT, she is honest, reliable and hard-working.

GON has mostly worked in the single boxes for many years; after the last payday, he hasn't shown up again. He had never attracted attention as a diligent worker and I suppose his job can easily be given to a new staff member. Meanwhile I don't bother why long-term employees vanish into thin air without saying good-bye. Mostly it is for family reasons or family business- and I myself couldn't do anything about that anyway!

ZOO was an excellent craftsman and repaired thousands of bits and pieces at the house. He is Burmese, and even Wit could almost not understand him when he spoke Thai. I personally was never able to get what he said- a problem I do not have with the other helpers any more. Unfortunately ZOO used to be rather defiant and often did what he himself had in mind. So he used to regularly "borrow" our side-car motorbike. But since he had no driving license I forbade him to take it. After such an "excursion" I told him that we wouldn't stand his behaviour any more. Very often he hadn't reappeared after the lunch break, this time he left for good. Meanwhile I hired a new help for the house.

ROAD followed his own plans again and again and, in the mornings, he went for a stroll on his way to the shelter. In the evening, he often forgot to return the camera, and one day, the camera had disappeared, too. In the shelter, he often started mischief among the staff. So I fired him.



In the last four months we have at last been able to find enough workers to really fulfil all our tasks again.

We do always need skilled helpers for manual jobs with all the repair work and as I had fired our welder Road, as too often he had not followed our orders, we were in urgent need of an appropriate hand. Maybe Buddha held his hands over us and sent **MONTI** only one day after Road was sacked to ask whether he could work for us again...

MONTI had to be released last year as we faced a very serious money problem and were forced to reduce our personnel. As he was last hired, he was first fired- consequently. I thought this was fair compared to the others who had worked much longer for the DCRS. As he is a real hobby tinkerer, he finds uncountable possibilities for his talent of improvisation. Monti welds very well. And, as everything should cost as little money as possible, we need skilled craftsmen who rather repair than throw things away or buy new stuff. That's the reason why I prefer hiring older staff members: all the older Thai people have constructed a "hut" of their own...

DANG is Burmese and was trained for cleaning the single boxes. At the moment he helps Monti with the continuous repair work in the shelter.

BOE is working in the single boxes. We will see whether he will become a long-time worker.

AU came back unexpectedly from his home leave in Burma. As he is a very diligent and hard-working man he was given one of the most important tasks in the shelter. Twice/day he gives the dogs their medicine: this keeps him busy for several hours, as not all the dogs are willing to swallow the pills immediately! For the more serious cases there's even a supply of liver sausage- it works in 99 of 100 cases! The dogs go crazy for that- your darling pet at home loves it too, right?



DÜNG worked for us some time ago. He is a good craftsman, knows how to weld and has got a driving license. I hired him as a substitute in the house for Zoo. Of course it is better to have a Thai at the house, as Zoo- because of his language problems- could not be trained for medical assistance. And when you have got a smaller staff, it's better to have an allrounder at hand!

EM, Dam's son, has come back to us several times already! As he was trained for different jobs in the course of many years, from vet's assistant to the puppy house and the single boxes, we can put him anywhere. Despite his frequent disappearances direction Bangkok he is welcomed to work for us again, as - with little control- he is a diligent and solid worker. Only at our house he doesn't like to work because his mother would be constantly looking over his shoulder.

JANA is Burmese; she is an all-day cleaning woman. In the morning, while Dam is here, she takes care of the cleaning and feeding of the cats in the cages in the house next door. She speaks Thai fluently. Here are the pictures of all our helpers with the reports of all our daily tasks: http://www.samuidog.org/OurVetAndStaff_en.html

In our last newsletter I had told you that we intended to recruit female staff as well. Unfortunately this was a complete failure. Working with the cats is no hard work indeed, and keeping the kitchens tidy isn't hard work either. Sorry to say, the two women who were working for a while in the shelter accomplished the job more badly than the men in the cat house before! Besides they caused trouble among the male staff. Everybody wanted to be a "gentleman"....!

From 15.00 till 15.30 we usually share group work, meaning all staff members join in one of the three large compounds to remove dry leaves and tidy up the place. LEE, who used to work in the cat house for some time, subtly managed to stay in the background. Removing dry leaves is a job a woman can do as well, can't she?

Regularly we have complete classes of pupils visiting at the shelter to help as volunteers. Here are some pictures the children of the Panyadee School in Chaweng Noi painted for us. In the beginning we used to make preparations for such visitors and had a number of brooms and scoops at hand. Meanwhile we've learned that the children's attention is fully caught when they watch the dogs and give them some extra tender care units. Even the cats enjoy being carried around by the kids. Some brushed the dogs' coats, removed old leaves and fed the dogs or gave them some water. They all liked that a lot!



We always welcome new volunteers, as well as other visitors to the center. Please remember that a large number of the injured or mangy dogs you meet in the shelter would die painfully and alone without your and our support. This is the case almost all over Thailand; nobody cares for these poor creatures and whenever there are too many of them, they would get poisoned...It's as simple as that.

LING

Our special protégé Ling needed our help again. His bottom was extremely swollen and his owner hadn't shown up for quite some time. We check Ling regularly and we faced a certain problem with his injury. How to get close enough to him??

First of all, JAA broke the lock open, as we had the intention to catch Ling with a rope.

Then OW had the idea just to pull Ling's arm through the wire fence so that we would be able to give him the antibiotics shot. After 3 treatments he was okay again, but at the third "turn", it wasn't that easy to place the injection: monkeys are quick learners!

Shortly after his recovery "smart" tourists had broken open his cage and set him free. His owner was lucky enough to soon get hold of him again: he would have died of starvation; Ling has been living in a cage for so many years, he had never learned to care for himself and what should he eat on the beach? This is the link to where you can read the story of Ling and how we became involved with him:

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



PUPPY HOUSE

The Puppy House has undergone some changes in the past couple of months. Our worker LEK has sadly been replaced by BAU, who Jay and Linda are currently training and so far he seems to be coping very well. Several times Lek was caught taking a nap during his working hours; that this means a loss of hygiene and cleanliness is obvious! My decision didn't actually thrill JAY and LINDA, but in my opinion it wouldn't be amiss to have two trained helpers in the puppy house, especially as Lek had made a very good job there! Well, we are training Bau properly and then we'll see whom Jay and Linda will prefer in the end. At the moment, Lek works in the single boxes and is very good at that! We are taking our next decision, when Bau's training will be finished.

You would assume that puppies are easy but actually it's one of the hardest jobs as they are more prone to picking up any illnesses that may be in the house due to their young immune system so the big emphasis is on clean, clean, clean. Our pair in charge for the puppy house Jay and Linda as well as new long term volunteer AMBER from the USA,

have worked very hard with our Thai Worker to try to insure we have as little cross contamination as possible. This includes proper sterilization of our quarantine boxes every day. It is still very much the case that we get unvaccinated puppies through our gates on an almost daily basis and trying to see them safely through the vaccine program is very difficult, very few survive, however we still try to do our best.

On a lighter note we have successfully rehabilitated 3 paralyzed dogs who are running around happily and who, we hope, may find a home one day. With every knockback comes a success and this is what makes it all worthwhile.

If anyone reading these lives on the island and wishes to be a foster parent for the duration of the vaccine program then please contact us, it's as important as life or death.



In order to stop traffic through rooms, which may be housing sick dogs, we have set up a new work room, where we now store all the registration/medicine cards, medicines, blankets etc, every little change helps. We've also put together 2 "volunteer baskets" which contain everything you need to get stuck in and start helping straight away. Sometimes if volunteers come using their own transport they may not find anyone around to give them instruction, with the baskets they can de-tick, cut nails, clean eyes etc, there is always work to do.

Here's a video showing how volunteers can help us:
http://www.samuidog.org/BecomeAVolunteer_en.html



Jenny



Julia & Michael.....



Stephan....

A big THANK-YOU to all the many volunteers who've been coming from all over the world during the last few months. Beside our 'old bunnies' Bärbel & Günter and 10-year long volunteers Jay and Linda, we have seen a huge number of people visiting the shelter from one day to people who stayed up to several months.

Volunteers at the Dog and Cat Rescue can do many different things to help; from cleaning, feeding to washing dogs, cleaning out eyes or small wounds or just give their time to individuals who sit in a box all day long. It's been great to see changes in many dogs who were dealing for example with physical problems and enjoyed daily walking training with the volunteers or special massaging.

Like JENNY from Switzerland (picture on the left) worked with many depressed dogs during her stay and has made a great difference while her friend STEPHAN spent most of his volunteer-time in the big compounds, cleaning out uncountable dogs' eyes, which would have otherwise been sticky for days-just to mention one thing.

JULIA and MICHAEL (picture in the middle) have spent several hours taking out ticks from Lipa who Jay brought in and taken straight into an isolated part of the puppy house. Thousands of ticks covered this dog who's already given up on life. Thanks to intense treatment and a lot of time with our animal lovers at the shelter, this dog has found hope and is fighting to make it through. Even several paralysed dogs have made it back on their paws thanks to the daily training and love of our volunteers

TEMPLE PROJECT



Jay giving one of the Temple-Cats a contraception

Keeping the stray-cat population under control is a terribly hard job. Our Temple-Team has vaccinated and treated uncountable temple-cats but when it came to sterilizations, usually the dogs had priority. After making a special effort with the cats over the past few months, the team is happy to announce that they have



reached their first goal: They're 'through' with the first temple, meaning every single female has first been fully vaccinated and then taken into the shelter for sterilization. While all the resident Temple-Dogs have been sterilized, it is still a long way to go with the cats at the temples but with the help of the Monks, the team is positive that they can keep up the numbers and soon be able to cross off another

Temple from that operation list. Logistically it is not always easy for the team to make clever priorities when it comes to taking in dogs or cats for operation.

They have 'only' 6 operation places a week (out of the 32+ the DRCS does in a week) and if planning-mistakes are made, animals get pregnant – exactly, what the team has tried to prohibit over the last few years. The other spaces must be reserved for the Thai people who bring their dogs and cats for neutering. Thai people do very often not show up a second time- and whenever they have decided to have their dog neutered we must not make them wait too long!

Besides we have always got a lot of accidents and sick dogs or cats coming in, which are also being neutered before returning home. Furthermore we need capacities for the dogs at the hotel resorts, where we can only catch the dogs with the help of tourists as they are very much afraid of the Thai. Whenever you are in Samui, please help to catch the un-neutered "candidates" on the beaches.

Neutered cats and dogs have got a green tattoo in their ears.

Supporters of the Dog Rescue Center Samui are already aware that our Temple-Team Jay, Linda and Tom have been treating and feeding dogs and cats at the Temples all around the island. We would also like to mention their work outside the Temple areas. The team has been visiting many villages far off the main road over the last few weeks. Taking out their little Thai, they first talk to the villagers and then try to find out how many dogs and cats live close by. The procedure is then usually the same as at the temples: All dogs and cats get de-wormed, vaccinated and everyone who needs any sort of medical attention gets treated.



Happy to receive some support for his many dogs he takes care

Since the Temple-Team gets around so much, they often find places with an abandoned pack of dogs. Jay, Linda and Tom have started several food-stations around the island, where they fill up the food once a week and check on the dogs. All the dogs and cats they work with get vaccinated and eventually sterilized at our shelter. More about their work outside the Temples in the next newsletter.



Jay dropping food for abandoned stray dogs

PLEASE DONATE SOME COLLARS FOR THE TEMPLE DOGS!



It is a very well known fact on the island that people react very differently to dogs who are wearing collars than to those who are not. We have several hundred dogs collectively in all the temples we treat and since they have a tendency to wander out in the evening we decided that we would like to provide every one of them with a collar. If you are travelling to Samui and you have any old dog collars to donate, we would be very grateful. So far, half the dogs at the big temple in Bophut-Temple have their collars and happily run around displaying them. It's a sign of ownership and people tend to pet a dog a little more if they have something around their neck, we also



Most dogs are rather eager to get a collar round their neck!

believe less harm will come to them if the Thais think they belong somewhere. More proud temple dogs with their collar as well as the latest news and pictures from the Temple-Team in their latest Temple-Newsletter: http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%20Aug2013engl.pdf

It's unfortunate that we have a lot of snakes roaming around on Samui, which makes it inevitable that we occasionally get a snake-alarm at the big shelter in Baan Taling Ngam every so often. The snake in the right picture thankfully didn't get hold of any of the kittens but we surprised it as it was devouring a beautiful big gecko. On another occasion a monitor lizard, about 50cm long was found in one of the dog kennels. The dog was not amused and just barked as the monitor lizard sat motionless in the corner. Our snake catcher Lek solved this problem, caught the monitor lizard put it in a sack and dropped it well outside our shelter. Worse than the constrictors which need a certain size to be of danger to our animals are the very venomous cobras. Even at our house in Chaweng cobras have managed to kill some of our rescue dogs.



At the shelter, we have still got endless repair work to do, but I hope we have got sufficient- and motivated- staff to get on fast. I'm afraid this job will never be finished....Time is taking its toll almost everywhere...

In July, we had a severe storm which caused a lot of damage all over the island. On the lake road in Chaweng big numbers of very big trees tumbled down. At the shelter, a tall tree had bent- right down on our single boxes- and then fallen upon the just finished dogs' shadow site in front of the boxes. It was a hell of a job to cut the gigantic trunk into pieces. Günter "fought" with immense heaps of branches and leaves. It took days until these leftovers were burnt. Our neighbour was very friendly and made some space in front of the shelter available for us: we use it as a parking lot, as many of our customers arrive by car. Günter set up his fireplace there, as we have always got gargantuan amounts of dry leaves and branches to burn. In the large compounds we have got a place on location for burning leaves and branches. But there we must see that the "boys" clear the ash, otherwise we will have a big mess with the next rain, will say we might have to wash all the dogs!



At our house, the storm totally destroyed the cat barrier: The five- meter- high Bougainvillea bushes went down, together with the barrier. All the shadowy places for the cats are ruined for the time being. Only bare-branched skeletons are left of the formerly immense and magnificent bushes.

Anyway, the garden is escape-proof again, as some of these climbing experts had managed to get off, but they were all back for the fish-party at 23. 00!



In my Facebook profile "Brigitte Gomm" I lately posted some information about global cruelty against animals.

I wanted to give everybody the opportunity to share this information and to eventually take part in protest actions and petitions. In my 3 Facebook accounts I have got some 9000 "friends". Consequently I receive a lot of messages, and when I see something interesting, I post it for a couple of days in my profile. I delete these messages regularly; otherwise you won't find our DCRC-messages any more.

Of course I receive a lot of animal protection E-Mail messages: of these I post a certain selection which might interest you.

It is incredibly sad what I get to see every day....



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 puppy milk and flea collars for dogs. We can always use these things. In serious cases of mange (scabies) - especially with puppies - ADVOCATE has proved extremely effective. Unfortunately it costs a fortune! If your vet has got expired Advocate and is willing to give it away for free or cheaply, we would be so glad to get it! For some dogs only Advocate can heal mange.

Should you have used or new collars – dogs wearing collars don't look like strays and are very often treated better by the Thais.

Please help us to introduce the DCRS to as many people as possible. Forward our newsletter to your friends and acquaintances or spread news about the DCRS work in the panels you visit.



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 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 14 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 14 years, over 18,000 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 an owner, we must ask for coverage of the medicine costs. Medicine in Thailand is rather inexpensive and those who have no money will still get medicine for free. Also in the last four 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.

With a sponsorship you can help to make sure that their bowls are never empty. Have a look on the website <http://www.samuidog.org/adoption.htm>. Sponsoring a dog or a cat is 20 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

Our monthly costs amount to 14,000 Euro. If you are on Koh Samui, you are cordially invited to stop by and have a look at our records. The dogs and cats love to get some cuddles!

Best wishes

Brigitte

and the DRCS – Team

Banking details for sponsors:

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



RICKY represents all dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor.



Please help us with your donations for the dogs and cats, who continually require food and medicine.

HELP US HELP