

Dog and Cat 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
Skype: DRCS
Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear animal lovers,

December 2010

I hope you have already started longing for Christmas, but then again, I hope you aren't stressed by all the hype! So far, I do not know yet what to give to all my beloved ones! Certainly, we are all in the same boat, aren't we?

At TESCO's and the BIG C's they keep playing Christmas songs and the shop assistants wear red caps. As most Thais are Buddhists, they do not really celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And what's about Santa Claus?? They probably don't know much about Santa, even I have forgotten what he is all about.

Well, the Thais are very flexible; celebrating New Years Day three times a year is nothing out of the ordinary, since they absolutely love to celebrate.

First the usual New Year's Eve on December 31, then the Chinese one at the end of January and, of course, their own New Year's Day on April 13. In Thailand we are in the year 2553.

Like every year we are going to celebrate Christmas with my family in Germany. Werner will fly home on December 9, as he has to go to hospital for an operation. I myself can only fly on December 21, and we will return together to Koh Samui on December 31 in the morning. We don't want to be away from the cats and dogs any longer.

This year **Allison** from Scotland could not come over and stay in our house as she cannot leave her ailing mother unattended at home. But we are lucky enough, as **Jeremy** from Australia is willing to live in our home! Last year he visited our house in Chaweng over Christmas and hopefully knows what he's venturing into! He meets the main criteria; he's not allergic to cats.



Jeremy from Australia



Jay, Linda and Tom



As announced, **Bärbel** and **Günther** will return to Koh Samui on December 12. They will be staying for about 3 months taking care of the dogs and keeping the helpers at the shelter in line. For sure, the helpers had hoped never to see these two again, as they informed me daily when things were not performed to my specification!

This Christmas **Jay** and **Linda** will be assisted by **Tom** on the temple runs and at the shelter. Tom has been a DRCS-volunteer for many years now but unfortunately he must return home regularly to work and save enough money so that he can stay in Koh Samui. I am convinced that all will coordinate perfectly well and the cats and dogs will be well looked after. I have a lot of confidence in our manager **WIT** as well: he is a responsible person and will do his best that everything can run smoothly. Whenever I call him I am told "everything is ok", but IS everything ok? This can't be true, as "everything is ok" never happens!

THE RAINS

In my August newsletter I had complained about the water shortage on Koh Samui. As we had extraordinary rains with a lot of serious flooding all over the island, I am now very confident that all cisterns are well filled again and that we won't be forced to spend a lot of money for water. More water can't be possible...as the lake has already broken its banks! On November 2, the water in the dog-house in our yard came up as high as 50 centimetres! This is exactly the height of the benches for the dogs!

On the second day of the big flood, we put bricks under the legs of the benches, just to raise them by another 15 centimetres: that was just enough. To the right and to the left of our premises we had torrential brooks flowing. At the market people established a boat service from the boxing stadium to the beach road: for a fare of 50 Cent you could avoid having to walk through dirty water rising up to your hips! Government declared Koh Samui a disaster zone and installed stands where food was issued. Besides, the Bangkok Government granted 20 million Euros for security and flood control: until the end of next year, Koh Samui will be safe and protected against big floods. So far so good, I personally am very curious what things will be like then....

This year, the canal through which the water in Chaweng should have flown off again, has been totally overgrown with water-lilies. These were removed after the floods! Only AFTER the flood.....! The new strong electric pump between Laem Din and Dow Seafood Market could not be used because we did not have any electricity for three and a half days. Electricity could only be switched on again when the water had disappeared because a number of people were killed by electric shocks, by cables which had come down and were lying in the water. Now the electric cables at the market are safely placed on wooden poles – at a secure and sufficient height!

People say, up until now these were the biggest floods Koh Samui has ever seen. Two years ago, the water in our yard had reached the same level and we had had a boat service as well. But, THEN we had electricity, not always, but at least now and then.

Here you can see a detailed report with pictures of what the place looked like:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Flut_2_November_2010_englisch.pdf

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Flut_3_November_2010_englisch.pdf



The benches in the doghouse are 50 cm high



The dogs outside the door faced some difficult times...



Our helpers were more than happy to make sure that our volunteer Elena reached her house safe and dry....

Everywhere in the animal shelter the water left deep gullies and rather big branches of the trees have caused damage to the roofs of the dog houses, but all the dogs and cats have overcome the deluge without being harmed. There were no big floods, as the ground slopes down by 5 metres on its length of 150 metres. So the water always flows down and cannot collect in big puddles. In the course of time, we have built several smaller "walls" and so arranged for the slope to go down in several terraced levels. But with the extreme amount of water we had this year meant gorges in the ground were inevitable. Unfortunately repairing the damage of the street and the dog houses will cost a considerable sum of money (500 €) as we will have to send for a digger to fix the 100 metres of our access road! I am sorry to say that beside the damage in the rescue centre we have also got a lot of problems with our cars. It's just rust and oxidation that hold them together! Our oldest Nissan was given to Jay and Linda so that they can continue doing their temple rounds. The two buses have kept running quite well so far, but unfortunately the older one has broken down completely and needs a replacement engine. (1500 €) That's the one Thai is using to get all the helpers to the shelter in Baan Taling Ngam. The second bus is run by Bang, our doctor's assistant. In the evening he takes out the rubbish from the animal shelter and in the morning, he transports dogs and deep frozen food from Chaweng over a distance of 25 km to the shelter every day. Naturally WIT himself needs a car too, to get to and from the shelter and to fulfil his other tasks. As Jay and Linda have got the old Nissan we are in urgent need of a car for the daily collection of the food leftovers. Please help us with a donation: we absolutely need a new (old) van. The cost will be about 8000 € On our homepage I will publish a list about who has donated how much money! But of course only the first name, from which town and from which country- if you wish, I can list your anonymous donation as well. <http://www.samuidog.org/Bus.htm>



The housedogs are training for the floods



In my last info letter I had informed you about the many dogs waiting for a "flight attendant" to accompany them to their new homes. Meanwhile a lot of them have left, but as almost as many have arrived recently, we are still looking for animal lovers flying on AirBerlin and who are willing to take a dog along. Please have a look at the site "dog transports". There you can see a lot of happy dogs in their new homes. <http://www.samuidog.org/dogtransport.htm>

Of course we are not only looking for "godfathers and godmothers" for our "flying dogs", but we also need sponsors for the numerous animals in the rescue centre.

A one month's sponsorship costs you 15€ only. Many cats and dogs are still waiting for a sponsor! Please help us and subscribe for a sponsorship. Dogs and cats needing a sponsor can be found in <http://www.samuidog.org/adoption.htm>

In case you subscribe, there will be no obligation for a special period of time; you can unsubscribe any time. You will be sent pictures of the animals you are sponsoring and short reports on how (well) your pet is doing!

As we have managed lately to send dogs to Germany who had not been "picked" by their new masters directly in Koh Samui, we are looking for "attendants" to bring the empty cages back to Samui. We can only take 300 € each for every dog, otherwise we would be too expensive and people would not adopt our

dogs. That's why it is so important to get the cages back to Samui for as little money as possible. Actually we have prepared several puppies for their "take-off". It's a couple of most kind and lovely black females. The Thai people do not like black dogs, and female black dogs are still worse in their acceptance. Of course we have many more very nice dogs ready for adoption. Here you can find the dogs: If you are interested, please send Martina a mail dogsonsamui@email.de (Phone 0175/8710827). Martina and several other animal lovers in Germany take care of the dogs ready for adoption and will answer any questions you may have http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_suchen_ein_Heim.pdf

VOLUNTEERS

We were lucky again to have received Julie and Jojo from Austria as volunteers, they were with us for 3 weeks. As they are already in the last term of their studies, they could support Dr. Sith very well. At the same time, they had the positive experience of being able to perform their first castration with live animals. Elena from Germany helped us a lot as well. Though she is not a veterinary doctor to be, her help was very important for us as she was so busy "tidying up" our website and updating it so that now it is in an excellent condition! But everybody knows that all the work in the office must stay behind - taking care for the well-being of the animals is much more important <http://www.samuidog.org/Vollontaire%20english.htm>



Elena, Bang, Julia, Jojo and Em

I wish to thank deeply and from all my heart all those people who dedicated some hours or days of their holiday to volunteer in the DRCS!

The animals are always thankful for hands caressing them and are so pleased about every visitor!

THAI HELPERS

I have placed a description of our helpers' duties on our homepage.

http://www.samuidog.org/text1_english.htm

As it takes a lot of time until a new helper is qualified enough, we only exceptionally place helpers in operating areas other than the ones they have been trained for.

We have hired two new helpers: **BÖM** and **JO**.

Böm is responsible for cleaning the house in Chaweng and he helps giving the daily medicine to the cats. The cats are given all the medication they need either in a liquid or by an injection, as it is almost impossible to make a cat swallow a pill: from the moment they have got the pill in their tiny snouts they start salivating like mad and struggle with all their physical power against the treatment.

JO works in Ban Taling Ngam. He is responsible for the cleaning of the single kennels numbers 26-50. Of course it is his task to feed the dogs and give them their medicine. All the dogs in the single kennels get medicine. As Jo has a driver's license, he was trained for the daily hotel rounds in Chaweng.



JO and BÖM

Every day we collect food leftovers from several hotels and restaurants for the dogs. Sometimes it is such a lot of food that our dogs in the yard cannot eat everything so that the dogs at the big shelter also profit as from those leftovers. Half of the food is immediately deep frozen for the dogs in the Ban Taling Ngam and they of course are very happy about that the next day. There is not enough to give to all of the dogs, but every day it is the turn of another compound to get bread and rice.

Now to our losses:

Unfortunately **EM** left us; he stays with his grandmother in Bangkok. He is young and obviously he felt bored in Samui. EM was a very good helper, and as he had worked with us for a long time, he could be utilised and was useful anywhere! He had also done a good job as a vet's helper and was perfectly trained for that kind of work. He already left us once before to enjoy life in Bangkok, so I am quite sure that one day he will knock at our door again. His mother is very upset and sad about his leaving again, but she hopes he will come to his senses and start working for us again

WUT didn't come back, as usual after pay-day. It goes without saying that he had borrowed some private money from me. I am not able to keep saying NO whenever I am told touching stories.....

A couple of days ago he turned up asking to return to work, as that could turn out to be a good chance to get my money back, I agreed. Up to now he hasn't shown up...so far.....

POISONING ON KOH SAMUI



GOOD NEWS

In my August newsletter I had told you about the vanishing of **Max** and **Maxime** from the **Imperial Boathouse** at Choeng Mon. By the end of September, tourists found them in the **Pinnacle** and the **Coco Palm** in Maenam. The manager Andreas Rubio had given the order to dispose of them, but the gardener did not want to be a murderer and just took them to the temple. It is incredible how foreign managers take advantage of the dependency of their staff and give such orders. They ought to know that all Thais are Buddhists and refuse to have the killing of a dog on their scoreboard for their next life.

Unfortunately the staff members can't help obeying; they must take care of their families and cannot risk losing their jobs. We took Max and Maxime back to Choeng Mon Beach. The shopkeepers and the massage ladies were very pleased to see them again and the dogs played like mad on the beach!

Khun Daphne, the new manager of the Boathouse, does not appear to be a "dog-friendly" person. So far I have not heard anything positive about her. It may be helpful if you write to the Boathouse, that the dogs are very important for you and that you are certainly not going to book rooms in the Imperial Boathouse if the dogs are no longer there. If lots of people write mails it will hopefully help the dogs, so that they will not be "kidnapped" or even killed.

As we were very successful with such actions in the last years I urgently ask for your support. This is the e-mail address of the Imperial Boathouse:

boathouse@imperialhotels.com

All the time I am being blackmailed by the resort managers to come to their place and pick up the dogs and cats, as otherwise they would have them disposed of in another way. They say the dogs or cats bite the guests or the miaowing of the cats was a disturbance in the silence of the night.



BAD NEWS

These are **Samui** and **Thai**, and they stay with us in the rescue centre, but are waiting for their take-off towards a new life. After they had been beaten every night by the guards and the gardeners of the **First Bungalow Beach Resort** in Chaweng-Noi, Yvonne and Andreas from Germany decided to take the dogs into their own home. They were afraid the dogs would be struck dead. But Yvonne and Andreas already have three dogs, so that they are intensely looking for good "masters" in Germany. They are female siblings and about ten months old. Please contact me if you are interested in the two dogs. I am not convinced that the management of the First Bungalow ordered their staff to beat the dogs, as we regularly received phone calls from the management when a dog was ill or if they had problems with the animals.

On the beach of **The Passage** in Ban Tai three dogs were poisoned. The staff watched motionless and without any reaction the convulsing and agonizing dogs. Kelli, one of our volunteers, happened to show up there and saw to it that the dogs were taken to the DRCS as fast as possible. Unfortunately we were only able to save one of three.

The owner of The Passage informed us that he had told a gardener to get rid of the dogs, as a number of guests had claimed they had been bitten. The gardener should "drug" the dogs and then take them away. Where they should go was something he could not tell; they were the dogs of a neighbour.

As the sleeping pills had not had the desired effect, the gardener had poisoned the dogs; this was HIS decision. The Passage supports us for one whole year with 2000 Baht a month and we were immediately given 3000 Baht for the treatment of the poisoned dogs. The gardener was fired.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Presseberichte.pdf

Almost every day we are informed about such emergencies and try to take them to the DCRS. Sometimes I ask myself if that will ever end? A great number of the "hospitalized" cats and dogs look as if they had just escaped from hell. A safe dry place with a blanket, some food and water seems for them like heaven on earth. Many of the dogs with serious injuries recover relatively fast if they are no longer plagued and harassed by the maggots which had started to eat their live flesh. http://www.samuidog.org/text5_english.htm



PLEASE HELP US HELP
and inform us when you see a sick or injured dog or cat in need of help.



THE TEMPLE PROJECT

Tom arrived back from Switzerland late October and **Jay & Linda** are very happy to have him back on board again. They have been working together for years and are a pretty well established team. It's been a hectic few months for them too, so the extra pair of hands is very much appreciated. Tom arrived just in time for the monsoon rains and this year they are worse than anyone can remember. Thankfully the dogs and cats always find somewhere above the water level and make sure they stay dry.



Tom

Of course it didn't look much better at the temples during the heavy rains. Many temple areas were totally flooded and it was difficult for the Temple Team to get any work done. They have seldom been shown so much appreciation by the dogs and cats for just turning up. The heavy rain and floods have been hard on everyone but still, they didn't regret hitting the road and helping the ones that nobody cares for during these very hard and cold days on the street.



Linda

Mr. Ripli was one of the poor souls they met on their wettest temple run ever. He was standing next to a little market place, shivering and hoping for a scrap of food. The floods made it impossible for the team to drive Mr. Ripli all the way out to the shelter.



They decided to take him to their home, where the necessary treatment started immediately. He then got some proper food, a warm place to rest and probably for the first time in his life, some well deserved love... In the two days Mr. Ripli stayed with them, they all became very attached to him and made it their rainy goal to find him a good home where he could recover and live a safe life....
AND THEY DID! He is now part of a big and happy family!



In the past 3 months our temple team has carried out more sterilisations than ever before, it seemed that all their temple babies survived and reached maturity at the same time. At one point they were averaging 10 operations a week only from temple dogs. Of course there are also a lot of new dogs showing up at the temples every week. Every new dog or cat gets first vaccinated and eventually taken into the shelter for the operation before released back to the temple or wherever they were picked up from. **Only in emergency cases we would take in a dog without being vaccinated against distemper, parvo and hepatitis first.** The numbers of dogs and cats at the temples has definitely increased in the last 3 months; therefore we had to put up the amount of food we deliver, too. The team has also started to work together with a couple of new temples where help for the animals is badly needed.



We currently deliver over 1,000 kg of dog and cat food to the temples every month and the amount of medication needed is on the increase, too. We need all the support we can get to keep this project alive. Please help us with your donation, Thank You!



If you'd like to read a little more about the Temple-Team and their work, please check out the following link:
http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/TEMPLE_PROJECT_November_2010_English.pdf



Lek in the puppy house

Once again Jay and Linda who are also in charge for the puppy house, want to praise **Lek** for the amazing job he's doing in the house. He has the ability to connect with all the dogs there and he now knows exactly how to react if any of the puppies get sick and immediately takes them to Dr. Sith for medication. His quick action has saved the lives of many of the little ones! During this wet and cold time, we try to keep the puppies as warm as possible, which is very difficult, with no dry blankets available. As a result of this we do see an increase in the sickness levels. In the past couple of months we've also seen an increase in the number of puppies arriving at the DRCS, but thankfully almost all of the healthy newcomers have found a new home in their first couple of weeks. Unfortunately the arrival of monsoon always results in a slowdown in adoption rates. Since so many locals and residents are struggling with the heavy rains, it's

understandable that getting a new puppy dog is the last thing on their mind.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 11 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 11 years, over 13,000 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 until midnight. 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 vaccine for parvo, distemper etc., the rabies vaccine is still quite a bit cheaper.

Also in the last four months we had to take in some more dogs and cats in our shelter as they couldn't find a way to survive on their own. All had to move a little closer together to give space to the new arrivals. However we really cannot take on many more dogs as otherwise they will injure themselves during bite and power fights.

With a sponsorship you can help to make sure that their bowls are never empty. Have a look on the homepage <http://www.samuidog.org/adoption.htm>. 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 and flea collars for dogs. We can always use these things.

Once again we were able to transport several dogs and cats to a safer future. On our homepage you can check out those happy animals in their new homes <http://www.samuidog.org/dogtransport.htm> 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. If you're in the position to transport a cage for us, please get in touch with me.

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. Please do not forget about us in this difficult time!



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 home page. www.samuidog.org

We have worked on the homepage a lot lately (Thanks to Elena), so it's worthwhile checking out our Info & News page http://www.samuidog.org/text5_english.htm where you can now follow some of our dog stories and update yourself on all kind of DRCS-news. Our monthly costs amount to 12,000 Euro. If you are on Koh Samui, you are cordially invited to stop by, and welcome to come and look at our (financial) books. The dogs, cats and I always love visitors!

Best wishes,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Brigitte

and the DRCS - team

Banking details for sponsors:

PLEASE HAVE A LOOK IN THE HOMEPAGE

