

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

Phone: 00 66 (0)77 413 490
Mobile: 00 66 (0)18 893 94 43

E-Mail: info@samuidog.org
Website: www.samuidog.org
Skype: DRCS
Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear friends of our animals,

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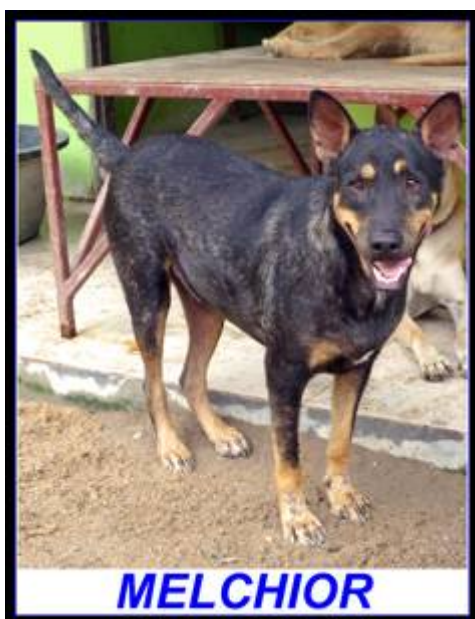
Thank you so very much for all your Emails, your sympathy and your donations!

For all our animal friends who - for whatever reason - did not receive the last newsletter regarding the poisoned dog food, here is once again the link to it:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_February_2011.pdf

The 'good' news is that in the last three weeks, we've had 'only' two casualties as a result of the poisoned food. Another four dogs died in temples we provided with the same dry food- which makes all in all 49 dead poisoned dogs because of that horrible incident.

Unfortunately Melchior and Bärli didn't make it despite the most intense care. We are so sorry for them and continue to mourn the 47 other victims of the poisoned food.





Jay and Linda have showed great commitment and efforts and immediately started treating all the temple dogs with the necessary medicine against the acute poisoning once they had collected and removed the poisoned dog food from the temples. As the girls have won over the trust of a large number of the monks in the last few years, many of them were willing to help by administering the medicine themselves. But, of course, there are always exceptions, even with monks... However, I think, a monk who doesn't care for the life of animals and doesn't help in such a situation, had rather spend his time elsewhere, as the basic idea of Buddhism is the respect of any life, isn't it? Be it with or without the support of the monks, Jay and Linda managed to save the lives of all the dogs concerned. At the temples the dogs usually get the leftovers of the food brought in for the monks, which means that at most temples they do not exclusively eat dry food.

In the rescue centre all our 300 dogs get protective medicine for the liver and special pills for building thrombolytic. At this point of time, we have 5 critical cases, but we are positive that we can save them. I'm sure you appreciate, that it is a very time-consuming business to provide every dog with medicine. I appealed to all our helpers to be very careful with the distribution of the pills. I told them that the dogs would die if they didn't get their medicine every day. I'm hoping that our employees are "good Buddhists" who do not want to go into their next life with a couple of dead dogs on their scoreboard! Over the last few years I did get the impression that many of our helpers are serious believers. They went to the temple on every occasion, and often came back unrecognisable as they had shaved completely in order to turn all the evils from them! That's how I understood it anyway; my personal knowledge of Buddhism is rather superficial.

Bärbel and Günter kept an eye on the daily distribution of the required medicine. Some days ago, they left for Germany and they were very pleased, that the situation in the DRCS has stabilised and the risks and dangers for the dogs seem to be over. They will return in autumn, and I will miss them a lot at the shelter. During the difficult hours, where every day dogs were dying in their arms, they were extraordinary helpers. Of course, some of their special darlings died as well, and I

am so glad that they could cope with it all. Believe me, it's been horrible to watch all this happening and not being able to come up with a solution.



Thankfully Rainer from Germany is back on the island for about 2 months and comes to the DRCS every day, so that Bärbel and Günter could 'hand over' some of their special darling dogs. In the last years he has proven to be a responsible helper, being able to work independently. I am always glad to have a "spy", so to speak, at the centre. This must be a volunteer who knows the workflow in the DRCS and is able to check whether things have been done well. He has arrived on the island just in time.

The husky breeder in Bangkok lost ALL of his 14 huskies. He is very sad but, on the other hand, very keen that evidence will be provided, proving that the poisoned food was the reason why his dogs died. His huskies had a value of 1 000 000 Bath (25.000 €). One of his costumers lost 3 Husky's and one Golden Retriever. One Husky in a critical condition is in the Chula Animal Hospital and is on a drip.

The husky breeder contacted the Office of the Consumer Protection Board and the Livestock Department after he had analyses of the dog food performed in a scientific laboratory; they showed that the samples checked contained 260 ppm (part per million) of Aflatoxin. The maximum quantity allowed for humans is 20 ppm. I do not know the rate for animals, but it is certainly not as high as that!

Now an official examiner of the SGS who is responsible for the South must come and pick up the sacks at our place or check them right here??? We greatly hope that this will be the last and definite confirmation that our dogs had died because of this food.

This is something I do not doubt at all Unfortunately WE must pay for his travel cost and the tests! In Thailand this shouldn't be so expensive, though? Evidently, the husky breeder hasn't got so much money and is very happy that I help him. I suppose you agree with me that all this is worth while so that we can finally stop and destroy the business of this food producer.

We were not really successful with our claims against the manufacturer. The boss no longer answers the phone- whichever phone number you try to call from. Consequently (and not unexpectedly!) he has not refunded us the 2500 € (106 000 Bath) as promised for the food we had ordered and paid for, in advance. The accounting department in his company was given no instruction to issue a bank transfer for the 106 000 Bath. Besides, nobody in the firm knows where their boss is.....

So where is he? Disappearing in Thai style would mean vanishing into thin air - and hope for a miracle....Who knows, he might have even be gone to a temple.

Of course the 200 sacks with the poisoned food are still lying around in our shed. Just before the contact broke completely, the "boss" had informed us, that his food was ok!!!!

The new consignment seems to be ok. Dr Sith spent a whole day controlling 8 sacks: 4 were ok, and 4 weren't! With all the hubbub of carrying sacks to and fro we mixed remainders of the highly intoxicated food with the new sacks. On some of the sacks are codes where you can see, to which consignment they belong; but there are many sacks without.... As some of the sacks of the new consignment were intoxicated as well, I suppose, that the manufacturer unloaded his toxic remainders on us; he had the production changed, as he had obviously realized himself that something was wrong with the maize.

Whatever, one day we are going to burn all the sacks in front of our shelter. That's where we usually burn wood and dry leaves. I will make a picture as evidence!

From your mails I understand, that you rather prefer burning, to say, destroying the food. We cannot risk that any other dogs eat from this food and in turn suffer serious health risks or even die. So I suppose we will kiss the 2500 € good-bye....

As we won't ever be refunded the money for the undelivered food, I have little hope of coming to an agreement with this gentleman about the 4000 kg of their dog food still being stored at our shelter lying.

Of course we will try everything to get our money back, concentrating first on the amount that was paid in advance. As soon as our president gets back from Bangkok (he spends a lot of time in BKK though), we will go to the police with many witnesses to press charges. We'll probably have to explain, why we no longer want the food we had ordered and paid for in advance and why -instead- we want our money back!!!

We sent one unopened sack of dog food to Bangkok. Khun Tharinee of "Pic-A-Pet-4Home" in Bangkok will take care of its examination by university scientists.

The sack has been on its way for 2 weeks now; so I hope it will arrive some day soon!

As the dogs ate almost all the evidence, it was a hell of a job to find a sack with the (original) contaminated food. Hopefully we did find one, as the mixed labelling of the sacks made identification a puzzling business! In the new consignment we found "good" and "bad" sacks of dog food! And, at any rate, Dr. Sith hasn't got the time to control all the sacks....Checking the sacks takes a lot of time and would absorb a lot of his energy. For weeks, our whole "hospital" service has been badly impacted by the large number of sick dogs, so really we have no spare time for poison tests which, moreover, aren't for free.

In the meantime, we submitted an "invitation" to the official examiner to travel to Samui and check one sack. Our manager Wit thinks, that this won't cost more than 10 000 Baht (250 Euros). For our small "poison lab" we had to order some minor items in Surathani, as we wanted to make sure to be able to perform further tests in our own lab. It's impossible to get hold of test tubes, filter or funnels in Samui; for the tests we had borrowed some from the hospital! But the hospital wanted (and needed!) the equipment back as they have no spare tubes or funnels either. When the glasses or tubes fall on floor, it's the end of the test series. How lucky we were that they were not broken!

Once again, I really can't believe that...Thailand...!

So we are waiting for the test result in the hope that we can prove the food poisoning- IF we only made the "right" catch!

I'm afraid and really do doubt this will be of little help to get our money back, but in case the contamination proves to be true, I can publish the name of the company and the brand of this dog food sold in Bangkok pet shops. But I will only be allowed to do so when it is certified by the authorities that the food was poisoned and had led to the deaths of so many animals.

Speaking for me personally, it is absolutely of no importance what the result of the examination will be as it is a certain fact - doubtlessly 100 per cent - that the dogs poisoned themselves with that food.

In my regular April newsletter I'm informing you how things go on. The most important fact is that the dogs are no longer in danger.

I continue to hope for your support in these hard times!

"Food donations" are always welcome.

For 10 € we can feed a temple dog, and in many temple the monks are willing to give the dogs the dry food we supply them with.

For the dry food we must count 500 € more than before- and that every month! That is a serious blow- but we have no choice!

Lots of grateful regards and thank you again for your support

Brigitte and the DRCS team

PS In FARANG Nr. 6, March 2011 and in the Samui Gazette from 22. March 2011 there was a report about the deaths of our dogs. I'll place the information on our homepage shortly, among "Infos and News".