

Dog Rescue Center Samui

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Dear animal lovers!

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As always, a lot has happened in the past 4 months at the Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui. There is good news, and there is not so good news, but all in all, the good outweighs the bad, and with your help and support, it will also be possible in the future to help the dogs and cats on Koh Samui.



Allison from Scotland was staying in our house over Christmas, and once again did a great job taking care of things while we were away. She has already confirmed that she will spend her next 'Christmas holidays' at the DRCS so we can again go to visit my parents in Berlin. Allison is already looking for cheap flights, because as we all know, time passes SO quickly! Last year Allison returned to Scotland for good and therefore now has a much longer distance to travel in order to help us. The picture on the left was sent to us last year for New Years.

Allison is in the middle of our big group of heroes. A big thank you to Allison!



When we returned to Samui at the beginning of January, we received some wonderful and surprising news: Khun Goya and Khun Gop from 'The Tong sai Bay' told me that they would like to donate a fabulous Toyota van to us! We were more than overwhelmed as we can now fit around 1000 kg of dry food into the bus. (We use approximately 3000 kg a month). We get the dry food from Makro at a reduced price (10 kg for about 5 Euro) but we have to pick it up ourselves and drive it half way around the island to the shelter, the van makes this job much easier.



Jörg – our dog catcher in Maenam – with Pui.

At the beginning of 2007, just before we got the money from the Dutch Foundation for a new car, we got the old car all fixed up, including having the whole loading space at the back of the car re-welded. The engine is still 'kind of' going strong and the insurance has already been paid for a whole year in advance. Pui is now taking the car home at night for possible night-emergencies. That's our newest 'service', and of course - as is everything that we do - it's free.

At the beginning of April, our long term volunteers, Janine, Linda and Kelli explained to me that in the future they will only be responsible for the well-being of the puppies (room coordination, health checks, etc.) and will leave the cleaning and medicating up to our Thai helper Em. Tom and Glenn both have other responsibilities, and therefore can't help out anymore, and Jasmin is no longer on the island. Janine, Linda and Kelli will concentrate more on working at the temples, on the streets of Samui, and in the outside compounds at the shelter. They will also make sure that the little ones at the puppy house are being cared for and are receiving the necessary medicine if they are not well. Until now, the puppy house was managed and cleaned by our foreign volunteers only. The puppy house being looked after by the volunteers was ideal as love and care are not for sale. I have now placed our Thai helper Em in the puppy house. He'll do the daily cleaning and will give the medicine to the puppies. We hope that he will do his job well and that the death rate of the puppies will not rise again. I hope that we will continue to have a lot of volunteers coming in (to help for one day, one hour, or however as long as they want) and give the puppies some love and snuggles. Janine, Linda and Kelli will make sure that from now on the little ones will have all the care they require. Just like most of the other helpers, Em doesn't speak any English, and therefore it will be more difficult for the visiting volunteers to get acquainted in the puppy house. To make it a little easier on them, I will print out an info paper (what there is to do and how you can help) which Em will hand over to the volunteers. Em has been working with us for over two years now, and for a long time he was the vet's assistant, therefore he's able to give injections, infusions, do perfect wound cleaning and also be able to give the - not always so easy to administer - medicine for the dogs.

Also, if we have a lot of volunteers, the bus is ideal for their transport from the office in Chaweng to Baan Taling Ngam. Another perfect use for the bus is transporting our dogs; we can easily fit 8 cages into the back. We were all really excited even though now we've got 4 cars and therefore a lot more insurance to pay. It's definitely necessary to have comprehensive insurance as it is obviously very difficult to drive by the palm trees without hitting them (see previous newsletter). Win, one of our helpers, already crashed backwards into a palm tree - with the hatch open. I still haven't managed to let our oldest car go as it's still usable for picking up the food leftovers from hotels and restaurants in Chewang, especially in the rain!



Entrance to the puppy house

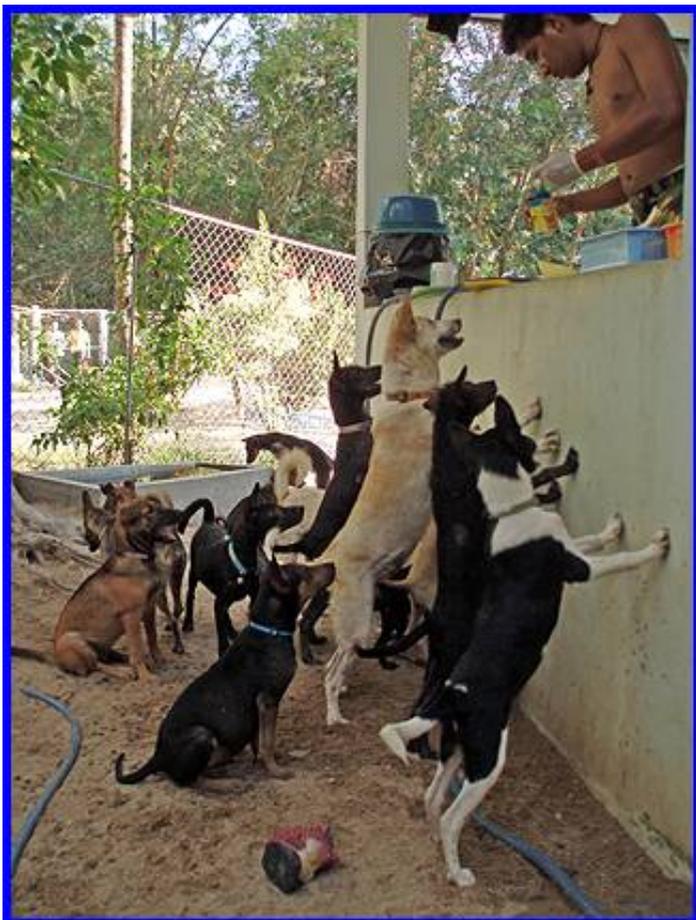
In the past few months, we have once again had to shelter a large number of puppies with and without mothers. Unfortunately, it's still not easy to find new owners for them all. In April we had over 50 puppies and I am very worried that we will have no room for them all once they become too old to find a home.

Once the puppies are older than 3 or 4 months, it becomes almost impossible to find them a home, as people only want the tiny ones. Of course the price of the food as well the vaccines are issues too. But to be honest, that's something I don't even want to think about. In general, the cost of living in Thailand has gone up, and therefore it's becoming more and more difficult for us to come up with the monthly overheads to sustain the shelter. Here are a few examples of how much the costs have increased: 50 kg rice: before, 13 Euro – now, 22 Euro. 1 kg chicken: before, 60 cent – now, 1,30 Euro. 1 l gasoline: before, 55 cent – now, 65 cent. 1 steel cage: before, 14 Euro – now, 18 Euro. (The cages are constantly getting destroyed and so far I haven't been able to prevent this from happening).

BUT I KNOW THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO HELP US HELP and the animals will not be let down!



The puppies are very happy with Em now taking care of them. The cute pullovers are from Bev Luff, in Australia: www.aardvarkentertainment.ezyweb.com.au



Cat lovers will also get their money's worth by visiting the shelter. As soon as you enter the cat house our friendly felines will be sure to get your attention by jumping all over you and purring their little hearts out! Snuggling sessions are very much in demand here. Come to the shelter, they are all waiting for you.



Tina from Denmark, who previously helped as a volunteer for a long period of time, came back to Samui and spent most of this year's vacation at the shelter once again.



Tanya and Manuel also showed some great effort and support by filling in the big letters with paint on the outside wall of the compound. The neighbour chopped down all of the trees in front of the shelter...why? It's still a big mystery to me! The tall trees were standing right against our wall and provided a lot of shade to the dogs. Never mind, at least now you are able to see the newly painted wall all the way from the road. The area just outside our compound is now home to the buffalos and their masters. They have put up tents and made this area their home.

Across the street there is now a buffalo fighting stadium. We are always looking for 'artists' to paint the walls with people's names who have purchased space as a donation.



On the helper front...

At this time we have only lost 2 workers; TIE, who used to work in Ban Taling Ngam, figured out after a short while that he was allergic to dog hair, nothing we can do about that! He did a good job, but unfortunately we have no work for him where he will not come into contact with animal hair. Surprisingly enough, we quickly found a replacement for TIE: and that would be 'WIN'. Win is performing his duties well, and as he has stayed with us for quite some time now, I believe that he will be a permanent fixture.

But with the Thais you never know. He is a simple man who needs numerous explanations in order to understand the task at hand. I could really tell this when he got very excited about finally getting something right. It's definitely not because of the language, this I am sure of; I'm trying to be patient as it is still very difficult to find helpers who live close to Baan Taling Ngam. As well as TIE, Egg has also left us. Egg used to work for us before and I took him back once again as he was a good trained helper. Egg got into a fight with Moo (one of our ex-Thai boxers) and ended up with a right hook to the face, breaking his jaw. Moo also couldn't come back to work for a couple of days as he injured his hand in the fight. Egg came to me to cry on my shoulder about what had happened, and once again he managed to get 2000 baht (about 42 Euros) as an advance, apparently for his doctors' bill, and I have never heard from him since. The helpers told me that he has fled the island and has not even paid the hospital bill. So far I haven't employed a replacement for Egg, as I am still hoping to find a second helper for the single boxes in Baan Taling Ngam. Also, for financial reasons, it is not possible to employ another helper at this time. I am so glad that once again, Silvana from Switzerland is taking over the cost of one helper until the end of the year, our man in Lamai! I'm sure you will remember; if not, check out our previous newsletter. Thanks to Silvana our project will continue. For whatever reason, two of the helpers often don't show up for work, and because of financial reasons, I am unable to replace Egg at this time. It is sometimes hard to do what's best for the animals.

Once the boxes for the cats were completed, I ordered the building of 6 double boxes for the dogs at the beginning of January. The quote from the foreman was great, and as it's often difficult to find workers for a small job, I couldn't resist. The boxes are lovely but of course we can always use more as the dogs never stop coming in for treatment. We now have 50 tiled boxes for sick dogs and/or the aftercare once they are spayed/neutered. Unfortunately almost nearly all the reserves are taken up and I do start to worry about the constantly rising costs.

Not long ago I received a phone call from a very upset Thai woman. She informed me that her neighbors were slaughtering cats and serving them as pork-curry at their karaoke bar. I immediately sent our manager Wit and he returned with pictures, he didn't actually meet anyone. After that I decided to go there myself and we got lucky, the owner was there. Just as we drove in, an elderly Thai lady was about to feed the cats some rice. Straight away she was willing to hand over the cats to me and assured me that she was only keeping the cats in the cage to save them from the dogs. So it almost seems that it was only a dirty smear campaign. Apparently she's been arguing with the neighbor for some time now and the woman is very vindictive! The cage she kept the cats in was way too small. There were 15 animals – 12 of them male, I'm still surprised they didn't kill each other in there.



We've now taken all the cats to the shelter, and apart from two of them, they're all very lovely and amiable, that's why we have kept almost all of them at our house. Some of them have already found a sponsor and Goldie, (on the picture above), is going to Karin in Hamburg. It would be great if you'd take over a sponsorship for one of those cats for only 15 Euro a month. Of course we also have many dogs looking for a sponsor as well. Please have a look on our website www.samuidog.org under 'How to help – Adoption.'



In the picture to the left, you can see Bonzo, our adorable Miniature Pincher. He was abandoned just outside our gate, and both of his legs were broken in several places. He had a big wound around his nose which healed quickly, but we're not sure if the hair will ever grow back. He had bandages on both front legs which looked like it was done by a proper vet, so we called around to the vets on the island, and that's how we were able to find out that Bonzo did have an owner who didn't want him anymore. The marks on his nose came from a rope, used to tie his mouth shut for long periods of time. We assume that he was barking too much, something that he does do, but softly touching his nose is all it takes to quiet him down. I believe the memories are still too fresh for him, how sad!?

Koh Samui - Rabies Free:

In April 2008, the government announced that Koh Samui and Koh Phangan are both now rabies free. Of course I'm very happy to hear this, but I don't really understand how they came to know this to be true. You can read the newspaper article on our homepage at www.samuidog.org under Infos and News.

In 2001 a big delegation took place and the minister for public health, Khun Sudarat Keyuraphan came to visit us at the DRCS and at that time declared Koh Samui rabies free!?



Last October we started to feed the dogs at various different temples around the island. We went from one temple to another trying to get in touch with the monks. It hasn't always been easy to find monks who are willing to help us to feed the dogs at their temples. After half a year I can say that most the monks are very cooperative and we've found helpful monks in 12 of 28 temples already. Approximately every second week, Pui goes to the temples and provides them with the necessary amount of food to feed the dogs. As the volunteers now have some more time to work at the temples, they joined Pui in his rounds and provided the mangy dogs with medicine at the same time. Over a period of 3-5 weeks, the dogs will receive injections of Ivomec once per week based on the severity of the mange to kill off the mange mites. If we continue this on-site treatment on schedule, we won't have to take as many dogs to the shelter, which is a big advantage as the shelter is already overfilled. With the whole temple project, I really hope to get some support from all of you because as of yet, there has been little interest shown. I have sent out a letter to all the hotels as well as various businesses around the island to ask for their help, I was hoping that they would support the DRCS with some food donations, unfortunately I was wrong, I have received very little help at all.

10 kg dry dog food costs 200 baht (5 Euros)

Many hotel managers never think about where all of the money comes from to feed the dogs at the temples and at the shelter. Only 5% comes directly from the hotels, and the rest is from YOU! Please continue to show your support! The general costs of living have risen so much that I do sometimes worry about how to come up with 8500 Euro every month. Our temple project doesn't only consist of the feeding of the dogs; we also treat infections, wounds, mange and vaccinate all dogs.

POISONING IN SAMUI

Unfortunately the poisoning of dogs is still happening for those strays that live on the beaches in front of some resorts and hotels, especially affected at this time is the beach in Maenam, where this is not the first time we have heard of this happening. Innocent dogs have once again lost their lives because heartless hotel staff and management felt "disturbed". One dog died in the arms of an animal friend from Vienna. She fears the hotel security, and therefore prefers to not to have her name mentioned. As I don't have a witness, I can't publish the names of the resorts (it doesn't concern the Pinnacle Resort). Dogs are always disappearing in the same areas as it's not always possible for the animal friends to get there in time to help.

If you see similar signs (as seen in the photos) all over your hotel area, you can be sure that it doesn't mean anything good for the animals. These signs can be found all around the restaurant at the Pinnacle Resort in Maenam. You can find similar signs in other resorts too, but surely you wouldn't want to stay in one of those! Please have a look on the website www.hotel-kosamui.com under info and news and join the protest against the German manager of the Pinnacle Grand in Jomtien, Falk Wetschat . E-mail: jomtien@pinnaclehotels.com. Please help the dogs: the manager there is

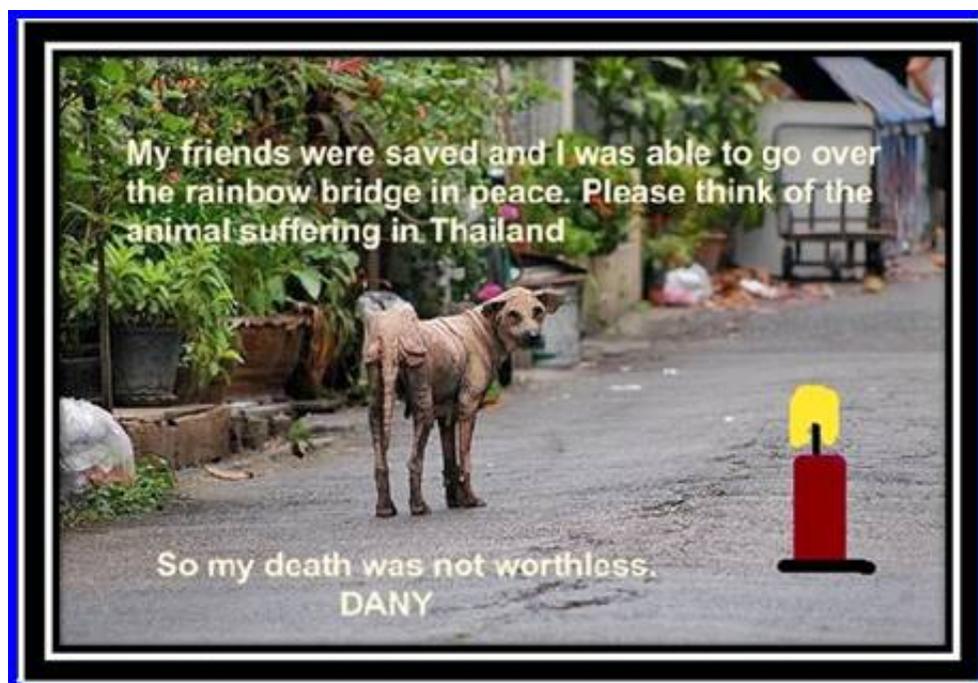


going to kill them all. Two dogs were saved and brought to Samui. Lenni and Rudi are now waiting at the DRCS for their departure to Germany. Who wants to give these two a new home in Germany?



Ulrike Brunner set up the homepage for animal friendly hotels www.hotel-kosamui.com (you must have a look before coming on holiday) and she's supporting us as a volunteer in Germany, working on the outside. She's still diligent collecting aid supplies in Germany. If you're coming to Samui and still have some space in your luggage, please contact me (info@samuidog.org) or Ulrike directly (samuidog1@aol.com). We've got tons of aid supplies to get to the island. Ulrike will then get in touch with you and send the items to you. These are all items which you can import without any problems: towels, toys, bandage material, flea collars, etc. Please also get in touch with me if you're willing to become a flight companion. A flight with LTU is considerably cheaper (Approx. total costs: 500 Euro) compared to a cargo transport (approx. 1000 Euro). Through your support a lot more dogs from the island can be saved.

I'm happy to give you all the information and of course without obligation! There will be absolutely no costs or other inconveniences for you. The dog definitely will be picked up, as the animal friends have to pay the transport in advance. You can find many of the saved dogs and their stories on our homepage www.samuidog.org under WHAT WE DO – Dog transport.



On the 3rd March I received a picture of Dany, a sick dog from Bangkok. The photographer, Dan Depew, published the picture on the internet. After conferring with me, Ulrike started a huge relief campaign for Dany. Many animal friends were very touched by Dany's story and donated money for his rescue. The response was absolutely overwhelming.

Two animal protection organisations in BKK almost fought over who would catch him and who would have the rights to Dany after he was caught. Ulrike kept us informed on a daily basis and her readership grew continuously bigger over the days.

A daily newsletter was set up for the cause, and because there are so many dogs on Samui who also need help, Ulrike mentioned our sponsor dogs in her print and wrote about the work of the DRCS. Besides Dany, they also caught Jack, (Dany's friend), who is now living at our house in Chaweng and seems to have settled in well and is on his way to recovering. We also took three more puppies from Bangkok, which have already been adopted. Unfortunately Dany died shortly after his capture in Bangkok. You can read the whole story on Stefanie's homepage at, www.tierhilfe-assisi.de

Ulrike is coming to Samui at the beginning of May and she'll then ask the hotel managers in person why they didn't have the decency to respond to her mails. You can help to make her homepage, www.hotel-samui.com the ideal hotel guide for animal friends by... Describing your experiences with the hotel you stayed at; Were there any dogs on the beach at all? Were they afraid of the gardeners/security/waiters/ room service people?

Ulrike will set up a **FORUM** in which you can exchange your experiences. You will also find the latest news in the forum. Ulrike will tell you all about her experiences once she's back from her working-holiday at the end of May. She is now our internet manager in Germany, and you can e-mail her at, samuidog1@aol.com. She will write the weekly newsletter and answer all of your questions, and I will send her any additional pictures and information needed. We talk daily on the phone and therefore she's always up to date. Ulrike can support me a lot by responding to members e-mails and enquiries, which will give me some much needed time to deal with things at the shelter in Baan Taling Ngam. Of course I will continue to write the newsletter every 4 months, a summary of events with pictures.



Stefanie and her husband, Carmelo, visited Samui last October and handed out copious amounts of dry food to all of the very soggy dogs on the island during the monsoon season. Stefanie and her husband have meanwhile decided to emigrate to Koh Samui this July and are looking to rent land in order to set up a shelter for the 'senior citizens' of the dog world, a place for them to live out their last days in peace and comfort.

Oskar Lafontaine (politician from Germany) agreed to become patron for the project, and of course he'll be on Samui for the opening.

I'm happy about their decision, and hope for a good working relationship. Please check out her homepage, www.tierhilfe-assisi.de you'll find there is a lot of information and many pictures about the DRCS. Have fun reading.

Stefanie is planning to mainly work 'in the field'. Maybe she will join our volunteers. I'm sure it won't be a problem for her to find old dogs in need of help on the island. She will also help out at the shelter.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, 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 neuter at least six animals every day. We offer free medical treatment for ALL cats and dogs (with or without an owner, that doesn't matter) including a pick-up service. Over the last five years, around 300 dogs and over 130 cats that couldn't make it on their own on Koh Samui have found a home in our shelter. Many of them are looking for sponsors 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 only 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! Many dogs have been rehoused from our shelter. Take a look at the pictures of these happy dogs on our home page (www.samuidog.org 'What we do' and 'Dog Transport'). You must have a look! 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. Spoons for the handing out of the medicine (the helpers often throw it away with the empty tins). 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. 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.

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 8,500 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

Banking details for sponsors:
please see
www.samuidog.org - HOW TO HELP

1. April 2008: **9 Years**
Dog and Cat Rescue
Center Samui

