

## Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui

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Dear animal lovers,

April 2011

I had the feeling that 2011 was not going to be our best year. Firstly, we had those terrible deaths at our shelter. To see all the helpless animals dying was very nerve-racking for all our employees. Then we had the flooding on Koh Samui, which will also result in many tourists not returning to the island. But on 13<sup>th</sup> April the nation celebrated their new year and we started in a new and hopefully better year 2554. I would like to say a huge thank you for all the loyal support given to us from abroad. Every Euro helps to make Koh Samui an island of dreams for our cats and dogs.

RAINY-SEASON - at the end of March?

In the last info letter in December I informed you about the biggest flooding ever on Koh Samui, that's what our newspaper said....Which makes me wonder what the hell it was we've all just experienced? This is supposed to be the dry season on Koh Samui; rainy season usually runs from October until December. From the 26<sup>th</sup> until the 29<sup>th</sup> March the rain never stopped, and the water level on our premises did not stop rising. After a short time, everything around our house was flooded and the water stood higher than 1meter. Only 5 cm were missing and we would have had water in our house. We are 1,20m over the ground on the courtyard. Electricity and telephone connections via mobile, were not working (power cut for 2 days only!). We had water from time to time, but it was so brown and full of sand it couldn't be used. Our big luck was that on the premise next to us, there was still a big mound of paving stones, which worked very well in making the dog benches higher. Werner carried them for several hours and put them under the benches. I also had an important task; I had the torchlight to show him the way. It was very lucky that we didn't have any electricity on that night, because the rest of the ceiling came down with all the lamps. As the water was gone, I was so clever to test if the lamps are under electricity. After my test, we turned off the electricity. I think that the power station turns off the electricity after flooding because they think it might result in less people dying of electrocution. We will have to renew the whole electricity in the dog house. Let's see what it will cost to renew the ceiling. First, all wires have to be renewed. The canopy of the dog house went down for 30 cm on one side, this is also a massive reparation. I will have to contract this out to someone.

The dogs are really friendly and calm in those special situations and warm themselves up. Only Branco, the first dog in the courtyard, was swimming behind Werner to show his commitment even during the floods. All plants in our big buckets fell down, and all the big water buckets have been under water. Werner's legs and arms were badly wounded after his efforts and has had to take care of the wounds for a long time. On the next day came Wit, our manager, who helped us to feed the animals and to give them their medicine. He had to walk through "chest – high" water at the market. Maybe we should get a canoe then we could paddle to the main road, where we could easily get water, bread and ice for cooling the medicine. I have now put aside a few tins as an emergency stash - just to be prepared for the next floods.

The monsoon left some damages at the animal shelter in Ban Taling Ngam as well. There are deep holes and ditches everywhere and it is quite risky to even drive along our little passage road that leads us to the shelter. Since the last rain in November it kept on raining steadily, so we decided to wait until the weather got friendlier in order to dredge, and remove all the holes and bumps to clear the path. But the weather is still damp and we had many weeks of rain from January to March.

A few roofs of the housings for our dogs got damaged by falling branches. But still, all our dogs in the shelter as well as the ones at our house in Chaweng are in good condition and managed to survive the great floods the Monsoon brought with it. We always had enough people who would help us out and who did a great job during the rainy season. Jay and Linda were very pleased with the work our helpers gave us.

I myself wasn't able to drive down to the shelter because the complete surrounding of our house was flooded – everywhere you looked there was water and mud.

Koh Samui suffered from great damages and many hotels had to evacuate their guests because the humidity shut down the power supplies and the rain flooded their generators. The windows of many shops along the roads got smashed and the Jetskyboys had many interventions along Beach road in Chaweng.

A big rock fell down on the road between Chaweng and Lamai and nearly stopped and jammed traffic for days. Again they had to set up stations where you could get food and supplies but the Thais were still smiling and seemed quite relaxed, as usual.

Of course, many tourists left the island as soon as they could and Koh Samui won't be mentioned by any travel promoters in the near future. All who had booked their vacations here were brought to Pattaya or Hua Hin. Since the beginning of April though, the sun has been shining and we are not expecting any further rainfalls for the next few weeks. We won't be seeing any tourists for May and June since they all cancelled their bookings or rebooked for another destination which means bad luck for us because we usually collect nearly 3000 Euro every month from the tourists who visit our shelter or house.



The dogs are not very helpful when it comes to rising the benches. They don't free the benches, but watch curious how Werner struggles to also lift them with it.



If the three of them are afraid? Branco (centre) certainly is not! Even when the water level was extremely high, he was swimming around in our court to keep an eye on his territory! Besides, he was exceptionally friendly and peaceful and cuddled close to the others to warm himself up.



Of course the drugs must be given also with high water! **Wit** worked his way through chest high water to get to us.



**Buu**, our permanent care case (he has caused a lot of open wounds by mange), was happy when he finally was allowed in the garden again.



Fortunately, the ceiling came down during a power failure! I hope we don't have to clean everything soon again.

## 49 DOGS DIED BECAUSE OF TOXIC INGREDIENTS IN THEIR FOOD

Those of you who didn't get my last updated news about the poisoning can catch up on information here  
[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Poison\\_attack\\_February\\_2011.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_February_2011.pdf)  
[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Poison\\_attack\\_March\\_2011.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_March_2011.pdf)

Unfortunately we didn't get any further with our research. Because of the great flood the inspector on this case couldn't come over to take a closer look at the food and tell if it contains poisoning Ingredients or not. After that Songkran started. Songkran is Thai for New Year and is celebrated throughout the whole country but the length of the celebration is attached to the different laws and cults of the individual region of the country. So you have maybe 3 to 4 days in one state and up to 10 days in another region.

All try to gather with their families to celebrate and have great fun soaking and scattering themselves with water.

I'm going to inform you how things went on with the vexed topic of the poisoned food.



### TEMPLE PROJECT



The Temple Project has been now running since 2007 and it has proven to be a big success. Hundreds of dogs and cats in the temples around Samui have been treated without being removed from their familiar environment. This project has become way bigger than first imagined, and subsequently more expensive.

We currently deliver over 1000kgs of dry food a month, not to mention the costs of the medicines and vaccines we require to ensure everyone stays healthy. We (DRCS) are already suffering financially just to cover the everyday costs of running the shelter, so the additional money needed for the temple project is giving us cause for concern. Our Temple Team - which consists of our long term volunteers Jay, Linda and now Tom from Switzerland - have put together an assortment of their most famous resident temple dogs which are now listed on our website, waiting to be sponsored. On our homepage under: We Need Godparents:

<http://www.samuidog.org/adoption.htm>

With your help, we can help, by keeping them healthy, happy and safe. With your help they won't have to rummage the garbage for food or fear for their lives on the street, they can live within the safety of the temples and be checked and well provided for by our dedicated project team every week. Thank you for your continuous support, enabling us to keep this important project alive

With regards to the food poisoning situation, things weren't quite so bad at the temples. Since most of the dogs are also fed with food the monks receive, they don't rely solely on the dry food provided by us. Jay and Linda have shown great commitment and efforts and immediately collected and removed the poisoned dog food from each temple. They then started treating all the dogs with the necessary medicine against the acute poisoning. 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. Be it with or without the support of the monks, the girls managed to save the lives of nearly all the dogs concerned. As if the past few weeks were not hard enough to deal with, the tragedy was multiplied by the onslaught of the rains.



All the sacks of poison food were quickly retrieved and replaced with the food we have to buy from Makro.



Linda checks the gums of the dogs: if the gums don't look pink and pretty, it may be an indication for a blood parasite requiring immediate treatment.

Many of the temples we service were completely submerged under water, much worse than we experienced in the monsoon last November. As a result of this many of our dogs tried to find shelter on higher ground outside of the temples with the unfortunate outcome that quite a few of them have either been involved in road accidents or completely disappeared. We live in hope that most of them will some day return home to their temples. Not only the dogs were swimming for safety also our long term volunteers and temple team Jay and Linda found themselves trapped inside their DRCS-car, while driving home from work. A river broke its bank and roared across the main road they were travelling on. Within seconds the car was completely filled with water making it impossible to open the doors. The fact that it was already pitch black didn't make the situation they found themselves in any easier. The girls were pulled free though the car windows by two local brave Thais, whilst their car was slowly pulled towards the sea. Unwilling to allow 'their' old and already half broken DRCS-car to be consumed by the water, they pleaded with the Thais to not let go of the car and keep pushing it towards safety. Somehow, probably through pure adrenaline, they managed to push the car through the deep water and amazingly got it to start again. Thankfully everyone involved stayed unhurt and Jay and Linda can only have a good laugh about their adventurous experience...ohh and they still have the never-dying DRCS-car.

You can find the newest info about the Temple Project with many new pictures on our homepage

[www.samuidog.org](http://www.samuidog.org) under Info & News: [http://www.samuidog.org/text5\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text5_english.htm)

or direct here:

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/TEMPLE%20PROJECT%20April%202011%20English.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/TEMPLE%20PROJECT%20April%202011%20English.pdf)

Unfortunately not all our cars are that solid. One of them is hardly ever out of garage and we couldn't buy a new van due to the poisoning which caused serious damage. So we rather keep our money together. We bought a replacement engine for the damaged van for 1500 euro and it runs just smoothly. But to ensure proper operations we'd need another van, so fundraising is continuing on the homepage. Please help us with your donation:

We desperately need one more (old) van. Costs around 8000 euro. I'm gonna update the homepage who donated how much. Firstname, city and country. <http://www.samuidog.org/Bus.htm>

## EXTREME MAKEOVER FOR THE PUPPY HOUSE

Unfortunately, Jay and Linda are witness to a lot of the extreme levels of cruelty and brutality a human being is capable of. "In the span of a lifetime you can generally count the number of times you have been humbled by the acts of kindness of others." (Quote from Jay/Linda) Jay and Linda are in the very fortunate position to be surrounded by such



amazing friends who have continuously supported their efforts with the puppy house as well as the temple project. With this in mind, they would like to pay tribute to just a few of those who have without limitation, dedicated time, money and effort to do something wonderful for our 4-legged friends;

To KUNO from Switzerland, who spent his entire time here transforming our Puppy-House into a bright happy wonderland, complete with a new built playground.

To TOM from Switzerland, long time volunteer, who has continuously supported their efforts with the puppy house as well as the temple project.

To LOUBIE and Linda, long time residents of Samui, who have become our first official foster parents! They converted part of their home to provide a safe environment for puppies and possibly mother-dogs until they are fully vaccinated. Being more immune against possible virus & bacteria, which they may have to face at the shelter, can be lifesaving for many of them. Tom supported their project with his building and welding skills giving a huge helping hand to ensure a successful end-result. So far, they have successfully fostered two very young puppy-families who arrived into their care all scared, weak and fragile. After the vaccine program was complete, they were transferred to the puppy house: well fed, healthy, happy and confident - ready to be adopted.

Well done you guys!



The younger the puppets are, the easier it is for us to find a new home for them on Koh Samui. Of course they must be healthy. White dogs are the easiest to be placed.



Our helper **Lek** continues to do a great job in the puppy house and the girls wouldn't want to let anyone else in there.



This is the typical Koh Samui dog. We have either got the black "model" which is unfortunately not at all appreciated by Thais, or the highly representative and numerous brown Koh Samui dog.

## VOLUNTEERS



**Tanja** from Germany was a great helper at the shelter and with the office work. She had the honour of being the first one to stay in our new room for volunteers.



Right now **Stephanie** from Sweden is resident of the room and for two days a week my busy office assistant. She stays until the end of May and wants to help seven days a week. So far, she's been true to her threat. At the shelter she's been dealing with volunteers and visitors who arrive and helping out wherever she can.

We fly to Berlin from May 10 to June 8. I need a foot surgery and I want to celebrate my sixtieth birthday with family and friends back home. Martina and Jörg are going to arrive to take care of the animals. I am grateful for Martina sharing her bed with our many cats and dogs. Jörg already arrives at the end of April so we can instruct him on everything. Martina arrives on May 18. Of course Jay and Linda are supported by Tom and together with our manager make sure everything is done for the animals.

I'm much obliged to all those who spend some hours or days of their holidays helping as a volunteer. The animals are always very thankful for a loving touch.

We've been lucky in renting the neighbouring house for 8000 baht a month (around 200 euro). It's 75 sqm and a 25 sqm terrace. The terrace is now being used as a laundry drying place. Last endless rainy season almost all our towels got mouldy on the rack. The big living room will be used as a cat room, preferably for mothers with kittens. The kitchen will be a storage room. Our shed is sadly flooded every now and then and at the end of March the freezer came floating by. The bedroom I'm happy to offer to volunteers who are willing to support me in the office. It's newly renovated, fully furnished and comes with a/c. Of course, the house has got a bathroom with a warm-water-shower device and volunteers may use the kitchen. So, someone interested?



## THAI HELPERS

I have added a job description for each helper to our homepage :

[http://www.samuidog.org/text2\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text2_english.htm)

From the two helpers I introduced to you in the last info letter only **JO MAI** is still with us.

He is responsible for the cleaning of the single boxes no. 26 to no. 50 in Baan Taling Ngam.

Of course he also has to feed the dogs and give them medicine, if necessary.

Unfortunately **BÖM** worked very slowly and all other helpers had to assist him many times. After a payday he decided not to return to work. He had been 3 months with us.

As expected **WUT** has returned and **PUI** comes around from time to time. He is always hard-working and one of the best dog-catchers.

I also found another helper: **GOON**. He has a driver's license for a car, is very motivated to work with us and shows a lot of energy. Therefore I decided to give him a salary increase of 1000 Baht after 1 month with us. The helpers start with 7000 Baht (appr. 180 Euro).

Unfortunately the working morale of our helpers in general has decreased. On the first and the sixteenth of each month it happens that half of our staff is absent without valid excuse. Whatever that may mean... Fathers usually arrive on these days but there are also exceptions. In general the absence of staff has proliferated.

I am currently thinking about a new salary system for those helpers who are absent without valid excuse and who think that something else is more important than going to work and the other ones who are always absolutely reliable.



**GOON**

## DOG ADOPTIONS

We started off quite successful placing dogs out of the sanctuary to Germany but we're going to pause due to the fact that all dogs are heavily struck by the poison and ALL of them are under treatment. The ones meant to stay for 3 months in "quarantine" and then return to mummy and daddy in Germany or somewhere else are of course also affected. Having blood tests done for all those dogs in Bangkok Hospital turned out devastating results.

All dogs suffer from low blood plates important for blood clotting in case of an injury and are therefore unable to fly for now. We presume the same results for many others dogs as well and thus treat all accordingly. It's a never ending nightmare. I very much wish to lay this ruthless food supplier to the heels... We'll probably resume placing dogs in September when Bärbel and Günter are back on the island making sure everything works well in the shelter. Then they will both take special care of the flier dogs. Martina will be again taking care of the presentation of the dogs and answering questions:

[dogsonsamui@email.de](mailto:dogsonsamui@email.de)

phone: 0175/8710827



Coco

In the meantime Coco was able to fly to Ute to Germany. She was on her way to Germany when all of a sudden the poison caused nose bleeding in Bangkok. By this time we still discussed why our dogs died like flies. So Coco came back for treatment to Samui. She recovered amazingly fast and could fly 6 weeks later.

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Poison\\_attack\\_February\\_2011.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_February_2011.pdf)

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Poison\\_attack\\_March\\_2011.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_March_2011.pdf)

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 12 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 12 years, over 14,000 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). We can arrange a pick-up service, even outside our opening hours. If we asked poor or less poor Thai people for paid treatment, we would certainly see many less arriving with their animals - they would be afraid that treatment would be too costly.

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.

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 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 website 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.

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 German website [www.samuidog.org](http://www.samuidog.org)

We have worked on our website a lot lately, so it's worthwhile checking out our Info & News page [http://www.samuidog.org/text5\\_english.htm](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 we all always love visitors!

Best wishes

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS - team

The banking details for sponsors you can find in our website under "How to help".



## 1. April 2011 – 12 years Dog and Cat Rescue Samui

Due to the bad weather we just had, we decided to make the party in our new house. By the way, since the 1<sup>st</sup> April the sun hasn't stopped shining!