

Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Dear friends of our animals!

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I just can't believe it: it's 15 years- and where have they gone? When I start remembering how things started, I'm amazed what has become of our first beginnings. My warm and heart-felt THANK YOU goes to all those who helped to make the DCRS to what it is today.



Of course we celebrated our anniversary with another great party. We had a great amount of fun and people got very excited- as every year- when we played musical chairs. Unfortunately time for partying is always too short and ends by 7 p.m., as nightfall is very sudden and the few sober "drivers" must take home all the others to Chaweng, where most of the helpers live.

On Facebook „Brigitte Gomm“ you can find pictures of the party.

or on our homepage

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

Here you can find a little video from the party:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWKmm6NtCfq&list=UUOWqMhiPPjKfNR44kFRjM9q>

About 20 years ago we arrived in Samui for the first time and were enthralled with the island, but in the last 20 years the island has, of course, extremely changed. There were immense new building sites and the hippie island was transformed into a spa. Back then you had to bring your own sun lotion and your toothpaste as well, or wander through half the island to find something- hopefully. Most evenings there was no electricity and many sections of the beach were just empty, no houses, just nothing. The beach road in Chaweng was partly a sandy path or had cobblestones. Everything was just exciting, the friendly Thais, the food, the beach. As we had always been great animal lovers, we immediately started to feed the dogs you found at that time in almost every bungalow complex or restaurant: packs of 5 to 8 were common. There was lots of work to do; you couldn't buy any dog food. We went to many smaller shops and managed to convince them that tourists would buy food and after some time we were able to buy big cans of dog food and one shop even sold dry food. We mixed all that with rice and then got started...

Werner often complained when he had to carry the heavy food sacks, but we could do only that for the animals. Often we watched helplessly how puppies lost more and more of their hair, even when we fed them. We had no idea what scabies was and how it could be treated. There was no veterinary doc on the island.

But all over the place you saw packs of dogs poisoned by the government in the low season and then carried away half-dead. The Thais were informed via loud-speakers about the nightly action and had thus the chance to save their own dogs. It took a very long time before I found out how that worked. The dogs who had swallowed the poison suffered terrible pain depending on how much of the poison they had eaten. They were dying for endless hours with continuous algospasms and pain, we had to watch helplessly how they agonized. They had holed up and couldn't be collected in time. These poisoning actions were performed as stealthily and secretly as possible, as a picture of a lorry full of dead dogs didn't really encourage tourism- even at that time!

Our pleasant holiday feeling was completely spoiled, and not only just once at that time during our Koh Samui vacations. But there we had found OUR ideal holiday spot and we returned again and again until we stayed for good, 15 years ago.

Government stopped long ago the poisoning of animals, as there is no more need for action. All those who came to Koh Samui years back will certainly agree.

Unfortunately there are only a few countries you can travel to as an animal lover without being confronted with miserable animals. I just can't understand what happens in Romania. Do only sadists live there? For me it is unbelievable what messages about cruelty against animals in the whole world are forwarded to me by mail or Facebook. For those who do not know yet: I founded a Facebook Group: **Foreign Animal News**.

I feed it with news from all over the world because I think it's important not to shut one's eyes from misery and petitions will be successful when they are supported by big numbers of people.

In the Facebook account **Brigitte Gomm** you will only find news about the association. But even these are very often cruel as we still have dogs and cats arriving in horrible condition every month. All these animals have been supported thanks to your donations.

Have a look at our monthly patients many of whom can be helped. Of course we cannot save all of them, as a big number only arrive too late. I am really upset because we are informed so late about emaciated skin and bone dogs, without a single hair on their bodies....The dogs hadn't looked like that at a moment's notice!

Here you can find all the emergency cases which came into our shelter in March
http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_Maerz_2014_engl.pdf



Also on the other side, TIRAK (my special darling in Thai) didn't look any better



That's what he looked like three weeks later: you would not believe how fast recovery is possible with good care

This is TIRAK. He must have been attacked by several dogs as he was bitten all over. He had large wounds covered with hundreds of maggots on both sides of his neck. On his legs he had smaller injuries where maggots were already busy, too. In a radius of several meters he emitted an almost insupportable scent of decay. But he was lucky that animal lovers informed us where they had seen him. JAA was so proud when he arrived with his "prey". Such seriously injured dogs are often very scared and not easily caught. But Tirak was fortu-

nate. Daily wound care, regular food and sympathy gave him back his will to live; meanwhile he is jumping around in the courtyard with the others, when you call him he approaches and tolerates the certainly unpleasant treatment of his wounds.

Years ago nobody cared for ill or injured dogs; they died a lonely and painful death somewhere on the roadside. The Thais just looked aside and even chased them away. The wounded animals holed up to die and only "bothered" people when the putrid smell was too strong.

As there was not vet the Thais had no chance to help. But there was a lot of insensibility and phlegm, even today, a sad fact...Just making a phone call is too much of an effort.

As we unfortunately know how things are for animals in other countries, we are very satisfied with our choice to settle in Koh Samui. In Thailand you would never see such horrible atrocities against dogs as in Romania and in the Ukraine. Just unimaginable! The Thais are rather indifferent. They don't react. Some Thais have "constructed" their own form of Buddhism: the dog himself can choose freely whether to eat the poisoned meat - I've heard such bloody nonsense even from devout Buddhists!

The hotels themselves ran their own actions. The following morning all the dogs were "removed" and everything was okay. Nobody was interested in a dying dog. Mostly you found them lying dead on the beaches when the gardeners or security men hadn't carried them off fast enough. Of course the other dogs from the neighborhood dashed in for the "free" feeding places and the game about life or rather death started anew.

In *Chaweng Garden* no dog survived for a long time in those days.

Today a small pack is living there; the owners take care of feeding the dogs which are all neutered and vaccinated. When a dog falls ill, they give us a phone call. I can remember very well how much we were afraid that our favorite pet BLACKY would run there as he had been searching for us. We had a lot of difficulties to keep him from following us.

We used to live in *Montien House* on *Chaweng Beach*- one of the few locations where dogs were welcome (and of course WE couldn't have lived elsewhere!) The owner Khun Ying had her dogs taken to SuratThani for neutering. She used to invite miserable creatures so that she had a handsome pack at her house. She was very pleased to learn that we wanted to leave Germany for Thailand and at once take care of the dogs and cats in Koh Samui. The most important need was to employ a veterinary doctor. Today Khun Ying is the vice chairman of our foundation.

As the family dogs kept proliferating and the Thais didn't want to kill them, they took them to a temple. And so far nothing has changed...Buddha will take care and have dog food raining out of the skies. Of course the number of packs at the temples increased with a continuous struggle for survival.

Newcomers were not welcome. By today we supply the monks with 1000 kg of dry food and uncountable tins with dog- or cat food; the monks distribute everything and inform us about ill animals. We take care that Buddha keeps "raining" dog food...



It cost our temple team Jay, Linda and Tom some time to convince the monks they could be trusted in until they started cooperating...

Jay, Linda and Tom have been dedicating their time to treat and feed as many dogs and cats at the temples and on Samui's streets as possible. Thanks to their outside-the-shelter-work, uncountable animals get often life-saving help without having to be picked up and brought into the shelter. These are the main aims of our Temple-Team:



We de-Worm and vaccinate all Temple-dogs and cats as well as every dog and cat we get to work with either because of a phone call from an animal friend or those we find on the street.



We treat all kind of injuries, illness, and diseases and have all the dogs (and many cats) we work with, neutered. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that our temple animals do not reproduce.



We deliver a huge amount of dog/cat food to the Temples and also keep filling up many Food-Stations which we put up for dogs living (or being dumped) in places with little food available

The Team counted the current number of dogs and cats at the temples and came to an estimate of about 400 dogs and 150 cats at the just about 20 temples they visit and take care of every week. No wonder that we come up to 1000kg of dog and cat food every month. Please don't forget that without your continuous support, a project like this can not continue and would be one of the first ones to be cut if we would get into serious financial difficulties again. **Thank you for your donation towards the Temple Project!**

From big to small, every day we find dogs with wounds or in need of other treatments. If we would take every dog in, our shelter would be totally over-filled, that is why Jay, Linda and Tom were so determined to learn as much as possible - as fast as possible in order to go and find the animals nobody would call in for and to be able to treat them for whatever; in the temple or on the street.



Jay treating a small puppy while the monks help



Tom with a little injured Temple-puppy

The latest update on the Temple Team's work as well as more pictures, you can find in their latest Temple Report:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/TempelApril2014English.pdf

In former times cats and dogs were abandoned at the temple: this way the problems with too many animals in and around their houses was solved for the Thais. And actually that's how it still is. In those years we didn't have a cat problem. The island was crammed with dogs and cats only rarely managed to raise their offspring; they hid away in secret corners and were very timid.

Today all that looks different. Only in a few bungalow compounds dogs are tolerated- but the compounds which are kept "dog-free" consequently have a cat problem. As I only rarely get phone calls from managers who want to help cats in their places to be vaccinated then neutered, I guess they feed them, catch them and abandon them somewhere out in the jungle boondocks. There they have absolutely no chance to survive- but the managers don't care: essential is the fact that dogs and cats are gone. Animal lovers have brought me baby-cats from the Samui mountains. They were not wild animals- they had had human contact before.



Unfortunately the cooperation with the hotel managers hasn't improved at all. The more elegant the hotel compounds became, the less wanted and tolerated were the dogs and cats there. In many hotels our donations box is no longer wanted. And the manager can't be talked to.....

We ourselves haven't got endless time to run after a manager who is not interested in supporting us. Our e-mails where we ask what had happened with our box remain un-answered. Here you may find more concerning that subject.

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

On April 1, 1999 we started business and at first employed Dr Somsak: Finally Koh Samui had a veterinary doctor; north of Chaweng we rented a 2-storey-building and opened a vet's office. News spread fast that there was a veterinary doctor in the island and Doc Somsak was beleaguered by Thais and foreigners who arrived with their pets in the consultation hour.

There was almost no spare time for stray animals; **but we just started and kept continuing**. Dr Somsak with his side-car-bike was on the road and helped personally catching dogs and taking care of wounds on location. We went with Sud (he is still our president today) and Dr Somsak to Surathani and had our small association registered. On November 27, 2011 our association was transformed into an official foundation.

But until then it was a long way to travel and i suppose we will never arrive! There is such a lot of tasks to fulfil but we can be very proud of what we have achieved for the dogs and cats- and achieve even more in the future if you do not stop supporting us!

On our homepage you may read more about the beginnings, e.g. how we opened our shelter in 1999. Nearby our house we had some 80 dogs, and in the clinic certainly 10 more. In Switzerland, Silvana collected the necessary money for the urgently needed shelter, as the number of dogs without a place for survival increased more and more. In the beginning we had the idea just to catch dogs and cats for neutering and then to put them back. But that was more a kind of illusion than anything else- reality was totally different. We had just more and more

dogs at the house. 2002 we opened the shelter in Ban Taling Ngam. Whenever we had some spare money we continued constructing (and that hasn't changed since!!!) And then came the cat house and then the puppy house....come and have a look at the shelter!

Visitors are always welcome and volunteers as well (or even more?!)

I don't like remembering those early times. Hungry packs of dogs all over and uncountable puppies but worst were the seriously injured dogs we couldn't help as they were extremely shy and only came feeding after we had left. One later day they didn't show up any more...

20 years ago, Koh Samui was certainly an island with a more beautiful landscape, but mass tourism and the construction boom which had started after the tsunami in Phuket, brought many animal lovers to the island. There are still many beautiful places in Koh Samui. The island hasn't been totally covered with concrete yet and the real big construction boom is over.

I'm sure you will find your personal perfect spot. Most important for animal lovers who have travelled world-wide with their eyes wide open to see miserable animals: HERE you will find assistance when you find an injured animal!

In 1999, there was Dr Somsak, two helpers and a motorbike with a side-car. Everything was quite clearly laid out.

Today we've got Dr. Sith, our manager Wit and a continuously changing crowd of about 18 helpers. Some have been staying for a long time, whereas others only stay for a couple of days. Anyway, I may introduce you every four months to some four or five new assistants. At the same time we can complain about the loss of a couple of others....

The problem is to train the new assistants. But if I do want that things are done my way, I am usually busy myself training the newbie's. That may cost an immense lot of nerves: I employed several "new" Burmese who only badly speak Thai and no English at all....

DON is one of our new (old) colleagues. Ten years ago he used to work for us; now he is going to take care of the cats and dogs in Lamai.



Dr Somsak at work



Dedication of the first veterinary clinic in Koh Samui



Don with the side-car bike



Meet THAI, our newest puppy house employee, whom we are very, very happy with. He is enthusiastic, intelligent and most importantly has a huge animal heart, it is comforting for us to know that he would never overlook a sick or injured puppy and takes it upon himself to involve our doctor if he has any concerns over their health; we only wish he cared so much for himself. In his first month at the puppy house Thai worked for 3 days with the most excruciating pain, he had been involved in a motorbike accident and had broken 3 out of 5 knuckles on his right hand, he never said a word, only after being questioned by Linda about his hand, we found out what happened to him days before. He informed us that he had not seen a doctor since it was so expensive so Jay immediately took him to the hospital, where he was admitted and they surgically implanted prosthetic knuckles, as you can imagine this was a fairly costly operation. We helped him with covering the costs which had to be paid up front, for which Thai was so grateful he almost cried when

we told him. After 2 weeks he was back at work, with only a rubber glove protecting his surgery but everything healed to perfection and he is now back to 100% We know our babies are in the best hands, literally.

I would like to introduce all our staff to you. At the moment all jobs are taken and we have enough "supplies" to work with when there are too many deficiencies. Unfortunately the number of "missings" is always extremely high. On some days there are 4 to 5 helpers not appearing. Today it's this one, the next day someone else. I even gave up asking why they didn't come. It's certainly not because they were ill...In case really everybody is present, there is always plenty of renovation work to do. Two members of the staff are always appointed for that job, but very often they must help with the animals as too big a number of helpers are "off".



Dr. Sirh



Wit



Thai



Kjo



Bau



Bang



Without the helpers it is impossible to run that business- but you've got the same fact in any business. But, however, the Thais' notion of work is totally different from the European one. In 15 years I have tried to get used to Thais showing up or not as THEY please... Every single day I'm forced to imply that the following day half of the helpers are not present or that they just don't care if or how the animals are taken care of. Only Dr Sith and Wit are big exceptions. At the moment, our team is quite good, but we keep looking for a Thai with a driver's license. You may read about my bizarre adventures with our helpers in the newsletters!
http://www.samuidog.org/Newsletter_en.html

On our homepage you may also read where the helpers work.

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

The dogs and cats are lucky as we usually have a lot of volunteers who give the animals what they miss most: loving care and attention. Please come and see us, even for a few hours. Dogs and cats are always so pleased to have visitors and volunteers seeing them. Here is a small video clip what volunteers "must" expect:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMEa0LxPiBQ>

In the shelter in Ban Taling Nam live some 300 dogs and many cats. If you prefer to have it a little "smaller", will say less crowded, at the house in Chaweng we have some 40 dogs; inside a minimum of 15 smaller dogs are waiting for you and some 40 cats. In Chaweng we have only a few ill animals, and even smaller children will have fun playing with the dogs and cats in the house.

Visitors are always welcome!

Here are our "house" dogs:

<http://www.samuidog.org/Dogs%20Chaweng%20English.html>



Silvia, Marcus and Sibylle stayed with us as volunteers for 6 months.

Dogs and cats and we ourselves have been missing them a lot already!

From May 8 till May 26 Werner and I will be in Berlin to see our parents and friends.

As every year, Martina (right) will stay in our house to care for the helpers, volunteers and visitors. She will sort out new dogs for placing. Please tell me when you can be a traveling "flight companion" for one of our dogs or even would like to have one as your own pet.

During my absence Jay will answer the e-mails all by herself. So please give us a little time and be patient! Do call if it is REALLY urgent. Even after my return there will be delays as Jay herself will be immediately off until mid July.



If you are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive. We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.

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.



Birgit and Sonja brought a lot of useful items for the vet. Our warm-hearted THANK YOU for all of you who remembered us and showed up with "presents".



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 15 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 15 years, over 20,000 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 15,000 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



ANGIE 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