

Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui

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Dear Animal Lovers

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As always, time has passed quickly and many things have happened at DRCS. I would like to thank all the people who have kept faith with us all these years and who support us either by helping on the spot or from far away with very generous donations. For animal loving newcomers who might not always be able to follow my comments, it may be useful to read the last newsletter. You'll find it on our homepage www.samuidog.org on "Infos & News".

On the homepage, we finally managed to solve the problem of wrong font sizes. Our friend Vera, who knows what's what in HTML, spent a lot of time deleting and correcting wrong HTML instructions. HTML is not that hard (ha, ha). We have done a lot of work on the homepage and it would be worthwhile for those of you who have been with us for a long time, to have another look at it. We have got lots more pictures of happy dogs and cats which have gone to new homes ('What we do' – 'Dog transports'). On 'Infos & News' you can now peruse the newsletters of past years. Some of them are not complete - we are working on this! You can also have a look at the pictures from our 7th Anniversary Party on 1 April 2006. Please take a look (www.samuidog.org).

We can now send out our newsletters and attached photographs via e-mail. However, these may not arrive on your computers as intended as not all computer programmes interface as well they should! If you have not received your electronic newsletter, please let me know!

PUPPY HOUSE

On 25 June 2006, we finally made it! We found a builder willing to construct a beautiful puppy house at a good price. This major item of expenditure was only made possible by generous donations from Brigitte and Peter in Erkrath, Alex and the Art 'n' Style Tattoo Studio in Schweinfurt, the Marchig Trust in England, and Karen from St Anne's, England.



The house measures 7 x 9 metres and comprises four small rooms and a terrace of 24 square metres. We have made the terrace big in order to give visitors the chance to play with the little ones and to provide enough space for the wild bunch to romp around. Around the terrace is a 70 cm high wall on which will be a bench for visitors to sit. I suspect that dog friends who go into the puppy house will not be able to see much else of the shelter due to lack of time! Our little four-legged friends are just so cute. We need a huge favour from all of you who will be on holiday in Koh Samui: PLEASE BRING CUDDLY TOYS. Our puppies need toys. Bring with you old and damaged soft toys so our puppies can chew on them and not on us!

By building the puppy house and thereby improving hygiene, we hope to decrease puppy mortality. The house will be tiled up to 90 cm high and have a gutter in front of the rooms. I hope that our staff will understand quickly how vital cleanliness and disinfection are in the puppy house. If not, I will refresh their memory by applying well-tried means: wage deduction up to 1,000 Baht (about 20 Euros) a month. With a basic salary of 6,000 Baht, it hurts a lot to have one's bonus cut for shoddy work. The idea of excellent work is not to be taken too seriously in Thailand as the fundamental attitude towards work is very distinct from European concepts. If you are too strict and expectant with the employees, they will run away. In Thai culture it is not customary to point out the mistakes of others or even punish them. As some of our helpers can only be motivated by money and not by good or bad words, I have no other choice other than by evoking the use of financial penalties. The work climate seems not to be that bad after all - some of the staff have been with us for many years. New helpers are almost exceptionally recruited from the families and acquaintances of the current staff. When a helper has said 'goodbye' I do not have to wait long before a new one introduces himself.

THAI WORKERS

This time the helper's squad laments 3 losses. While WIÄNG lingers on, PIT has not made it. Wiäng as well as Pit continuously worked in the single boxes. Unfortunately, Pit never got the picture of what it's all about even after repeated instructions: IT'S ABOUT ANIMAL CARE! This requires a minimum of reflection and empathy which Pit apparently did not have. I was quite shocked when I caught him using a high pressure machine (100 bar) to clean a single box in which an unlucky dog was still sitting. This device does not only make a lot of noise, but is capable of causing wounds when applied at short range. After I had caught him twice and he wanted to use it a third time I dismissed him without notice. As a result he got drunk and was of the opinion that I do not understand him. He was always a friendly, laughing and very eager helper and I felt sorry that I had to deal with things that way; however, the well-being of the animals comes first. Pit's favourite sentence was 'Mai kaudschai' (I do not understand) which he said with a smile on his face. Time and again WIT (our manager) explained to Pit in Thai what he should be doing but, unfortunately, even that did not help matters.

IET only stayed for a short while and one day just didn't show up for work. As he hadn't telephoned, I asked the others if we could still count on him or not. As always, the helpers were better informed than me: let had given notice 'Thai style' (i.e. just decided not to come back). let had never shown any great enthusiasm about his cleaning duties (one of the most important jobs at DRCS). To replace let, we employed BOM who has since also given notice 'Thai style'. Bom is 18 years old and was a diligent and very polite worker. I was surprised by his resignation. When a member of staff is absent from work unexcused I automatically assume that he is not coming back. That's how easy it is here. Having been here so long, I do not bother myself with reasons anymore. The Thais behave differently due to their culture and foreigners have to live with that. In Thailand, many things are dealt with in other ways than in the rest of the World – this I have now realized. Certainly, a Thai tries to avoid controversial discussions. The matter has been decided for him anyway so why talk about it and perhaps have to justify himself. Many Thais think that way, and a lot of employers on the Island tell me the same about their staff.

EM, the 18 year old son of DAM, who is the housemaid, was living with his father in Bangkok for three months. He is now back on Samui and, because he is intelligent and diligent, I was happy to employ him again. Since Dam has only a little money and no place for him to live, Em now stays in the bedroom of the Vet's apartment in Ban Taling Ngam (the Vet lives with his family in Maenam). That, of course, cannot be a permanent solution. The Vet's living room, meanwhile, had been turned into an area for sick cats. Because Em is an experienced hand, he did not take long to get back into the swing of being the Vet's attendant and is now undertaking this task daily.



Dr SID is still the best Vet that DRCS has ever had. There's no more to say. He neuters six dogs or cats daily and treats all emergencies. Three times a week he gives consultations in Chaweng and has time, in spite of loads of work, to cuddle the animals. He still has some difficulties ordering the medicine in time. But we're working on that.

Wit, our manager, still does an excellent job. Constantly he has to deal with new printouts which I have designed. Maybe more lists and cards provide a better and faster overall view.

OW almost always works at Chaweng and takes care of all the sick kittens and cats. After Wit, he is our best worker. He keeps track when new dogs are brought to Chaweng and takes almost all the photographs of the dogs and cats.

BANG is very good at tiling and so the room for the post-operative cats is now beautifully tiled. He has now started to tile the operation room. Soon, our vet will train him for more complicated tasks like putting infusions or perfect wound cleaning.

Surprise, surprise! It wasn't long before a new helper introduced himself. He is one of Egg's friends (our man in Lamai) and his name's Bau. He's 19 years old, comes from Nakhorn Sri Thammarat and used to work in a laundry. His laundry skills were appealing as we always have lots of towels to wash - our puppies and kittens pooh pooh a lot. Bau's been with us for only a few days so I don't know yet how good he is. He doesn't have a driving licence so can't be left on his own as he can't pick up injured animals on the motorbike. Of course, he can't do the important jobs like being one of the vet nurses but we hope for great things from him.





SOMKIÄT is still our handy man and comes up with many solutions for problems concerning the maintenance of the shelter. At the moment, he is creating a rainwater tank for the main building. Water is expensive and at some times of the year it hardly rains at all. Then it is good to have many full tanks. The collecting basin will hold 6,000 litres and will simultaneously be used as a lookout platform for the cats. It'll be good to see if our little furry tigers will like it.

SAWAI always works in the cat room and has procured himself a long sleeved shirt in order to protect himself from the sharp claws of the cats!

RID and SAKDA have been with us for a very long time and know what it's all about (at least when I am standing right behind them).

And now for a little Thai lesson. The following few sentences are usually enough to understand the staff at DRCS. 'JAHNG' – I haven't done it yet. 'LUEHM' – I have forgotten it. 'MAI RUH' or 'MAI SAAB' – I don't know. 'HAAI' – I have lost it, lent it out or it was stolen. 'MAI HENN' - I haven't seen it. 'MAI MIE' - I don't have it. 'MAI DAI' – I cannot. 'MAI KAUDSCHAI' – I do not understand (the latter has become rather rare lately, i.e. since Pit left).

PROJECT LAMAI

Since 15 March 2006, we have had a special service for Lamai. We send out one helper to there every day where he spreads leaflets in Thai, English and German, informs the Thai citizens about the work of DRCS and takes care of sick and injured animals on the spot. He also carries out mange treatment and vaccinations. One of his main duties is to catch dogs and cats for neutering and to bring them to Ban Taling Ngam. After a slightly difficult start-up time (What do I need to pack?) things are now going smoothly. During the first 4.5 months, 156 four-legged friends from Lamai were brought in for castration and sterilization.



As not just any member of our staff was competent enough for this job (a long and extensive vet nurse training is necessary), it quickly became clear that EGG should be 'Our man in Lamai'. As Egg does not want to share the bonus of 50 Baht (about 1 Euro) per dog or cat caught in Lamai, he has no difficulties managing the task on his own! You have no idea how many dogs can fit into the secured cages in a motorbike's sidecar! Egg quickly became widely known in Lamai and, on days he's not there, some of the local residents will call me asking for him.

Many thanks to Silvana from Switzerland who has underwritten the costs of Project Lamai, i.e. the helper's salary and bonus.

BREAD DONATION



On the food sector front, things have happened as well. For quite a while, Poppies (one of the big hotels on Koh Samui) has given us donations of old bread that cannot be offered to the guests. For the dogs this means a welcome change and the costs for dry food will hopefully be reduced. After that we asked all other hotels on the Island, via our monthly newsletter, to follow Poppies' example and another seven hotels have offered their help. Almost daily the dogs now get not only bread but also the leftovers from three very posh restaurants on the Island.

DOG TRANSPORT

In spite of difficult circumstances and risen costs, still many dogs are flying to new homes.



We are Stella and Honey and we now live together with Keum in Germany. We take our jobs as watchdogs very serious.



We are Ty and Levi and are brother and sister. Carol and Victoria saved us and brought us to Canada. We are missed by everyone on Koh Samui but they all know we are safe here and well loved.



I am Nike and I live with Estella and Ted in Switzerland. I can now bark in Swiss German!!



We are Paris and Lucky and soon we'll fly to Alex in Germany. We cannot wait!!

BEFORE AND AFTER

These pictures speak for themselves



I am Mama. My owner brought me to DRCS because he didn't know what to do with my fur.



My owner will be stunned when he sees me. Do you think he'll recognize me?!



My name's Asterix and, I have to admit, I looked pretty awful when I came to DRCS.



But look! After only 3 months I got my fur back. Dr Sid made me his 'extra special project' and checked me over at least twice a day (and he patted, stroked and talked to me). Don't you think I am beautiful?!



I'm Olli and was not dealt a good deck of cards in life. When I came at first, Brigitte and Dr Sid thought I 'only' had mange. They fixed the mange but that was just the start of my sorry tale.



All that is behind me and look at me now! Meanwhile, I have grown beautiful fur. Of course, I have grown as well.

CATS, CATS and even more CATS

The deluge of cats coming in never ends. We have some 60 cats and kittens living in our house in Chaweng and another 50 living in Ban Taling Ngam. Originally, we thought that 30 cats in our house were enough. Ha! You wouldn't believe the number of cats who find space on our bed when it's raining! After we managed to solve the dog problem in many parts of the island due to numerous sterilisations, the cats are on the advance. They invade hotel grounds and are of course, harder to catch, to chase away and to poison than dogs. Nobody wants to see dead cats for breakfast! My problem is that I receive phone calls from people who threaten to get rid of the cats (in whatever way) if I don't pick them up. I do not have a choice since I love cats very very much!



I know! We all seem a bit big to suckle but it feels so good!



Where's our surrogate mother? We are the Grey Tigers Team and we don't allow other colours here!



Sometimes Brigitte tries to eat grilled chicken for breakfast. It is our duty to share her feast. All cats come first. Brigitte comes last! Still, Brigitte loves us.



Every morning, we are starving because we haven't been fed for at least 7 hours!. We wait impatiently until Ow and Dam make us breakfast.

CAR



Our faithful chariot (our original Nissan NW) is now 8 years old and happily rusting away because of the lovely humid and salty climate. You cannot imagine how difficult life becomes if a car breaks down. Because we collect six dogs a day, and return them the following week, that means we have to transport at least 12 dogs/cats a day. On top of that are the sick and injured animals with which we deal 'en route'. If one of our cars is out of action, we have problems. Our older car is trying to retire, i.e. go to that scrap yard in the sky. We are resisting and replace all the unfit parts.

That doesn't always work out, e.g. rust is not friend of our vehicles. We do repair what we can but even the patience of a saint (and the money of Paul Getty) is tried by three fender-bender accidents in one day (our driver Suong 'left us' quite some time ago!). We do have motorbikes for transport but these cough, wheeze and splutter like a bronchitic while traversing the hills to Lamai and from Nathon.

Help with your donation to ensure the transports of dogs and cats!

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. Every day we neuter at least six animals because of your donations. We offer free medical treatment for ALL cats and dogs (with or without an owner) including a pick-up service. About 250 dogs and almost 100 cats that couldn't make it on their own on Koh Samui have found places in the shelter over the past 3 years. Many of them are looking for sponsors to make sure that their bowls are never empty. Have a look on the homepage at 'HOW TO HELP', 'CATS AND DOGS TO SPONSOR'. Sponsoring a dog or a cat is 15 Euros monthly! Even when you do not want to sponsor an animal, it is certainly nice to look at the many dogs and cats and read their stories!

Since the shelter in Ban Taling Ngam is very big and surrounded by a wall measuring 800 meters, you can still buy pieces of wall for 25 Euros. (Info: look at the homepage "WHAT WE DO").

When you come to Samui and want to bring something, bring old towels, white, green and pink lined index cards (A5 size), powdered kitten/puppy milk, cat de-worming paste, de-worming tablets for dogs (multiwormer), flea collars and flea/tick shampoo (for the dogs not the volunteers!). We can always use these things. Please don't forget the cuddly toys for the puppies!

**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 6,000 Euro. If you are on Koh Samui, you are cordially invited to stop by and look at our books. The dogs and cats always love visitors, and so do we!

Best wishes,

Brigitte

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

