

Dog Rescue Center Samui

Brigitte Gomm
112/35 Moo 6 Bophut
Samui 84320 Suratthani
Thailand

Phone: 00 66 77 413 490
Mobile: 00 66 81 893 94 43

E-mail: info@samuidog.org
Website: www.samuidog.org



Dear animal friends!

August 2007

A big Thank You to all of you. To the staunch supporters and the newcomers! Without you none of this would have ever been possible: 7000m² of land surrounded by a wall, a big house with air-condition in the operation room, bathroom, small storage room and two cat rooms (one for sick and one for freshly operated animals), an outside kitchen, a cat house (two rooms and a terrace), a puppy house (four rooms and a terrace). And just recently built: Our puppy-quarantine-area made of 20 single boxes! For better understanding I recommend to read the previous newsletter. www.samuidog.org, Info and News.

Once again, I've got mostly good news for you. The WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) financed the badly needed quarantine station of 20 single boxes for the puppies. An extra big Thank You to the WSPA! Our President Khun Teerasud Chaichalremwong found the builders for us. They built the boxes to a fair 'Thai-price' (5600 US Dollars). Unfortunately the prices in Thailand can vary quite a bit. Farangs (Foreigners) usually pay more for the same thing and the Thais agree with it. That's why I've never even tried to find a team of builders myself. Anyway, we were lucky that they got started right after the placing of orders. The building work lasted four weeks. Exactly at that time Werner had to go to Germany.



I had no other choice. I had to drive to Baan Taling Ngam every single day in order to control the creative ideas the builders might come up with. On the first day, the boss of the construction team already turned up with 8 people and that's how it continued. There were new questions all the time and therefore it was essential for me to turn up every day. One day I thought the instructions were very clear and planned to go to the shelter only in the afternoon. At 10 o'clock I received a phone call from our diligent volunteer Linda from Scotland.

She asked me if the blue cloudy tiles were the right ones to be tiled onto the floor. Of course not. I wonder why we purposely put 2 huge piles of tiles in front of them. We had about 100m² of the wall tiles and the same amount of the tiles for the floor. Together with the tiler I put them all out in boxes and made myself very clear of how important it was that the tiles were all being put in the same direction. Not Thai style, where it doesn't matter if the design's right or not. I tried my best to express my wishes in a friendly but determined way. The workers stayed until the job was completed, so I guess it was the right way.

We were also laughing a lot and I even got an extra Thai lesson. I now know what hammer, nail, rawl plug, drill, welding and more means in Thai. As the workmen were already there, I also ordered them to build a huge box (3x3 meters) for the puppy quarantine area and a small storage room. Everything completely tiled. It looks wonderful! Unfortunately the storage room still has no door. So far we've not been able to find a company who's willing to come to Baan Taling Ngam to do the job. The building work on Koh Samui is still going on and so many of those new buildings are having aluminium doors installed, that makes a small job like ours pretty uninteresting. We've got a broken door in our house in Chaweng and Werner has intensively been looking for a workman to fix it but so far without any luck.

The twenty boxes (90x90x90cm) were built right behind the puppy house and are very easy to clean and to disinfect.



Our long term volunteers Kelly, Glenn (left picture) Janine and Linda are very pleased and hope the death rate in the puppies may be drastically reduced, now that we have better opportunities to keep things sterile. Especially for the puppy area we got two drains built. As you can see on the picture, the floor in front of the boxes and the wall across are completely tiled and supplied with a water drainage channel. We've had quite a lot of hard working supporters visiting us in the last few months. Usually the volunteers prefer to help out in the puppy house where they're being supervised by our long term volunteers. I'm very glad that it has so far not been necessary to put one of our Thai helpers into action in the puppy house.

We had six vet students visiting us for two weeks. Jessica, Laetitia and Michael from Canada and Anna, Freya and David from Scotland.

All the dogs and cats had the luck to be put through a proper health check. As only one student at a time is allowed to be in the operation room with the vet, the others were working hard with all our other animals. They all got (if necessary) their vaccine, deworming, treatment with Frontline and a health check. They wrote down their diagnosis on the animals' card and later discussed it with the vet. Every animal got it's own registration card with picture where all the treatments and vaccination are listed.



It wasn't always easy to get them all to the big shelter. At that time our manager Wit and our president went to a big convention of the TSPCA in Chonburi, and so we faced a bit of a transportation problem at the DRCS. The TSPCA is sort of an umbrella organization for Thai animal protection organizations. It looks like animals might get some more rights by next year. At least the subject has been discussed. About 200 people came to the convention, all Thais. Let's hope it helps the animals! Wit took a holiday in Bangkok after the convention. He didn't take any holiday last year and didn't miss a day of work. Only two helpers, Bang and Pui have a driver's license and therefore it was often difficult to combine the peoples transport with the dog transports. Somkiaet also has a driver's license but has been dedicating himself too much to the alcohol, I can only appoint him in the mornings to drop off the

garbage (about 500 meters away). The DRCS couldn't exist without the helpers and that's why it's very important to find animal friendly helpers who are willing to learn about the varied duties at the DRCS. Unfortunately we haven't found enough suitable staff yet. We pay a good salary and so we do have applicants all the time but many of them don't even show up the next day. I don't know why some of them agree for a training day at the DRCS. I guess the Thais just don't want to say NO and that's the result of it. That's how the whole nation seems to work. Always say yes and keep smiling. At the big shelter we've employed MIE. He is exclusively in charge for the cleaning of the single boxes. He's also responsible for one of the biggest compounds with about 35 dogs. He starts his work there at 8 o'clock in the morning together with Rit.

Rit looks after the dogs in the eight big backside compounds. Em moved back to

Chaweng and therefore Rit has to assist the doctor until 11 o'clock. All the other helpers first come to Chaweng and arrive in Bahn Taling Ngam at around 11 o'clock.

I am pretty happy with MIE's work. Apart from that one time when he had a spectacular idea: He cut down all of the Bougainvillea bushes (meanwhile they became beautiful half stems) so that there was



Mie in front of the sad looking Bougainvillea bushes.

no shade left for the dogs. In the morning of that very same day I was standing in front of those beautiful bushes and admired the sea of blossom and decided that I had to take a picture soon with all the dogs lying underneath. When he then passed me in the afternoon, holding all those branches under his arms – it was too late, he had already completed his `work`. I was so very upset. MIE couldn't think of an explanation why he had destroyed all the shady places for the dogs. I felt like firing him straight away. Did he maybe try to prove how hard working he can be?! It will take about three months until the dogs can laze around under the bushes again. On the picture you can see (or maybe not see) in the background the non- existent – before over 3 meter high – Bougainvillea stems. Whenever a new helper starts working here, I now explain them straight away that they must not ever start to cut around the plants.

We still hope to find another helper living close to BTN and starts there at 8 o'clock.

EGG our man in Lamai is back. He called me and asked if he could start working with us again. After thinking it through, I agreed. He is skilful and crafty. I can employ him in many varied ways: As the doctors' assistant, in the cat room, at the house in Chaweng and for the single boxes. However the job in Lamai he had to pass over to Pui. I believe he was a little bit disappointed but what did he expect? That I would wait around for him since he was the one leaving in Thai style without saying a word or a good bye. He just never showed up for work again. Avoiding conflict is very common in with the Thai community.



GOP has been with us for quite some time and after the initial problems to understand the simplest of tasks in the single boxes he has now familiarized himself very well. However it took a lot of patience as he kept telling me that he wasn't strong enough. Unfortunately he is very forgetful too for a 20year old and I had to punish him with several fines in order to get the simplest things done. After the lunch break we first clean the big compound and then we prepare the chicken leftovers (every day we buy them very cheap at the market) for the dogs and cats. Just to mention one example.

JAH started soon after Gop and is one of the only ones who seems to be able to understand the apparently so complicated sequence of operations in the cat room.

He's doing a good job though.

Beside the three new helpers we have working here at the moment, many more showed up for an interview and often stayed for some days or weeks. Unfortunately some of them were not able to follow the various sequences of operations or were so unbelievably slow that the other helpers had to take over their work. Once again we have put flyers all around and with some patience we will find more good helpers like Pui or Jah. Hopefully!





After the neighbours complained to our president about the lingering smell, we had to take immediate action and so we got ourselves a few more drain water collecting pipes. We were very lucky: They're building a buffalo stadium on the land opposite the shelter and had a huge excavator standing around. In with three hours the pipes were dug into the ground. Pui, one of our helpers, couldn't resist and gave them a helping hand. Any sort of handiwork and Pui is the man. He can never work fast enough. It's unfortunate that he hasn't got a brother looking for work.

SEAL OF QUALITY

for animal friendly hotels on Koh Samui?

As you're all animal friends and try to make it possible for the dogs and cats on Samui to have a better life, you'll be happy to hear that animal friends set up an initiative for the protection of the beach dogs on Koh Samui.

The idea is the following:

All the hotels will be contacted and can then decide if they want to be seen as an animal friendly hotel (with seal of quality). It will then be easy for you to find a hotel where you don't have to expect dying dogs around the breakfast table. The hotels are merely supposed to explain that they will leave the dogs on their part of the beach alone – that they won't chase them, poison or mistreat them.

You can read more about this on the following homepage:

www.hotel-kosamui.com

You should also have a look at the homepage of the animal friends of the Baan Samui Resort (it includes a fabulous video)!

www.baansamui-animalfriends.de

If you're in the future about to book a hotel on Koh Samui, check out the homepage

www.hotel-kosamui.com



These are Maylin and Monique from Berlin with the dog Elton. He lives on the beach at the Baan Samui Resort! In case you happen to see him: he's hungry and thirsty – like all stray dogs on Koh Samui! The animals depend on your support. Feed them! There is dog food available in almost every supermarket.

In case your hotel is not listed, you can get in contact with Ulrike. She will inform you if that particular hotel has been addressed yet. E-mail: SabineJerome@aol.com.

Of course you can also contact the hotel directly and asked them why they're not on the list!? I believe that would be a great help for Ulrike in order to correctly complete the list. Please bear in mind that the homepage is still in progress and your help is important too.

There is also an initiative for the dogs on the beach of the Fair House on the Chaweng Noi Beach. Apparently a guest was complaining about the dogs. They set up a petition for the protection of the dogs and this was signed by 25 guests of the Fair House. If you want to know more, please contact Lucie from Australia. E-mail: lucies@tpg.com.au – please contact her in English.



DOGSTORIES



SPECKI

My owner didn't like me anymore because he was too lazy to regularly groom me. Underneath the completely matted fur, I had a lot of open wounds which festered. But the time came when he figured out that something is not right and he brought me to the DRCS. That's where I've been for quite some time now and as I'm too small to put up with the big dogs outside the house, I'm allowed to stay inside with Brigitte and Werner.

STRUBBEL: I was brought to the DRCS after a bad fight. Thankfully even big infected wounds



with lots of maggots can heal quite quickly if they get regularly cleaned.



VERA



Brigitte and Werner picked me up in Hua Hin. They were visiting a friend there and I was lucky enough to be brought to Samui. Many more animals in Hua Hin need help.

DOG TRANSPORT

We were able to help a lot of dogs and a few cats to get to Germany, Canada, USA, Switzerland; we even sent a dog to China! The tourists often meet a dog or a cat somewhere on Koh Samui, or sometimes at the DRCS, during their holiday and fall in love with the animal. And then, what to do? Leave it behind – to an unknown destiny. No, the darling has to come with us.

The dog or the cat has to get chipped and vaccinated against rabies and they need a blood test. We must take out blood one month after the vaccination and the serum has to be sent to Europe for the rabies antibody test. The animal has to stay in Thailand for three months after the blood test. Once this is done, the dog or the cat can then be sent via cargo to Europe (EU) without a companion. Unfortunately the costs are quite high, about 1000 Euro for a middle sized dog. If you fly to Thailand with LTU (German airline), I would be very pleased if you would offer to accompany an animal on your flight. The cost for a dog transport with LTU (size doesn't matter) costs 70 Euro. That way you could cut the costs in half. For you there will be no work involved. The dog will be brought to the check in counter and the costs of 70 Euro will be paid directly by one of our helpers. On arrival you will not be troubled either, as you would only have to hand the dog over to its new owner. That's it already. It will not be necessary to see the vet if the dog flies with a companion. That will lower the costs again as the vet checks are expensive and slow. Please support us to save more dogs in Thailand! Many animal friends would like to take a dog home but they are not able to come up with the costs. But with LTU, if the animal has a flight companion, many more could afford it. I also offer a system of instalment and because of that 2 dogs have been able to leave the island which otherwise they couldn't have done.



Dog transport in Samui!



Charly says good bye to his friends.



Elisabeth and Nicole found `Thai` at the car park outside Tesco-Lotos and are now anxious to receive her back in Austria! They visited Thai every day before their departure. If I can manage to find a companion for the LTU flight to Munich, they would be able to take a second dog to Austria. Who can help?

As always, I have to bore you with the neverending computer problems. This time the connection with the server was quite stable and also the telephone is still going strong. Beside all the storms, the trees were coming down and that's when there's often no electricity nor does the telephone work. This usually happens during the rainy season. This time the computer developed it's own life. The Outlook Express started to delete messages on its own.

Not all of the emails were being saved on another drive beforehand. Perhaps you have sent me an email at the time when the Inbox reached the limit of 2 GB and the following emails could not be received. We deleted many emails but it didn't help. Werner was struggling to find a solution to the problem until we were able to receive emails again. It also happened that the computer sent the same emails over and over again. Up to 75 times. It was hard work to control that problem.

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 Kohl Samui. Stray animals which have not found a place to survive on their own on Kohl 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 four years, around 250 dogs and almost 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 is lovely to 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!

As the shelter in Ban Taling Ngam is very big and surrounded by a wall measuring some 800 metres, you can still 'buy' pieces of wall for 25 Euro per metre (www.samuidog.org 'What do we do'). When you come to Samui and want to bring something, bring old towels, index cards (A5 size), powdered kitten/puppy milk, cat de-worming paste, de-worming tablets for dogs (multi-wormer), flea collars and flea/tick shampoo (for the dogs not the volunteers!). We can always use these things. In case you're willing to become a companion for a dog transport, please contact me in time.

**Don't forget the dogs and cats on Kohl Samui.
They still need your help.
Every small donation helps us take one step forward**

Our monthly costs amount to 7,000 Euro. If you are on Kohl 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

