

## Dog Rescue Center Samui

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Dear animal friends!

In the April newsletter I announced an upcoming 'weekly news bulletin' that unfortunately never happened due to the fact that Ulrike's house was hit by a bolt of lightning. All of the machines which were plugged in were incapacitated due to the strike...Who ever remembers to unplug these things in this kind of a situation!? On top of that, she had some illness in the family that further prevented the weekly news. Even though Ulrike had all of this stress in her life, she still managed to set up a forum for all of you to enjoy, however it has not been used as often as we would like. The forum is also here so that all of you can share in your holiday experiences with everyone else, we would be very happy if you would take the time to have a look. Unfortunately it is not possible to make the forum completely accessible for our English speakers as the register form is in German only. Ulrike has now taken out all of the blogs so you can now join without the hassle of registering, however if you wish to write an article, then you must register. All of the articles are now in English as well as German. You can access the forum from our homepage. Ulrike came to Koh Samui in May and brought with her the donations/supplies from you all...a big thank you to Ulrike and to you! Without her undying support and your willingness to help, we would definitely not have an ultrasound scanner or our wound treatment laser machine. You can read more about this in our forum and also see many pictures. A huge THANK YOU to our supporters who donated bandage material, suture supplies and medications of all kinds, towels, flea treatments, etc. and sent them to Ulrike to deliver to us. Thanks to Margret, who donated an ultrasound teeth cleaning machine for our dogs and cats! In July, Ulrike informed you that Bernd has made a video about the Dog Rescue Center. You can watch this video by following the links below:

Video: <http://www.myspace.com/dogsamui> or <http://de.youtube.com/dogsamui>

Meanwhile we have made a **second video** which you can also find **on the link above**.

Of course I was very happy to receive all of the aid supplies, but at the moment, I am really worried about the total overhead costs. We had to have a lot of renovation work done even though we didn't really have the money for it. But we really had no choice since our buildings were already leaking and we haven't yet come into the monsoon season. Over 100 Eternit-roof peaces had to be replaced. All of the much needed renovation work has been done by our own helpers, even though the work attitude hasn't changed much, we are able to get a lot done when they all come to work. The bars of the single boxes all now need to be re-painted before the rust eats away at them. Unfortunately the colour is very expensive, and I fear that we will have to buy a lot of it. The cars are all broken; it's no wonder because of the bad roads on Samui. In some, it's the steering, on others, it's the clutch or the breaks, and it's always some-

thing! I actually wanted to get rid of the oldest car when the insurance ran out, but in the end, it turned out to be the toughest car in the bunch. Fortunately, repair work is not that expensive, but it does tend to take some time. Because of the repair work, the whole thing has become very costly. The bamboo benches for the dogs in the compounds are now many years old, and most of them have already fallen apart...it's likely an age thing. Somkiät, one of our helpers, is going to construct 50 metal frames with wood on top for the dogs to sleep on. They don't look quite as pretty, but cost only half as much (13 Euro) and will surely last a lot longer. The dogs will definitely be very excited that they finally get ALL their benches back.



The Nebuliser is a donation from, Bobby and David, from Shropshire, in England. A huge THANK YOU!

In my April newsletter, I informed you that Stefanie and her husband Carmelo were coming in July to Samui to set up a 'retirement home' for the older dogs on the island. Working together with her was the plan, but it became apparent that this would not be possible as I am not willing to start something new based on a lie...In her press release from the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2008, Stefanie announced through the official public relations department of Mr. Oskar Lanfontaine, that she has already rented the land on Koh Samui for the future development. That was an outright lie! After I heard about that, I then asked her to straighten this out, and to this day, she has not. She has only changed the official text of the press release on her home page, but has made no public announcement. On top of that, shortly after Ulrike arrived in Samui, a lot of Dog Rescue Center information was being deleted from her home page. When Ulrike confronted Stefanie after her holiday, she only replied that she was surprised that Ulrike would even look at her home page while she was away. These two had an initial agreement that the changing of the homepage would be a joint decision, which obviously wasn't the case. When I heard about the webpage, which was after the lie about the land, I decided that this was the end of our partnership. I already have enough stress with the organizing/managing of the Dog Rescue Center, so I will definitely not consider working with her again. I really would have liked to help these two, especially since they speak no English or Thai, and will surely need help.

Stefanie and her husband were supposed to come to Koh Samui in July, but backed out of the trip claiming personal reasons. I don't know if they will ever come. On her home page she is now collecting money for animals in Kenya; however, her homepage is continuously introducing new projects. I have to honestly say that I am glad that she has not yet shown up on the island because I simply want nothing to do with her anymore.

## THAI HELPERS

First let's begin with the losses...After working for us for only 6 months, **WIN** had a motorbike accident and because of the complications to the break in his leg he had to resign his position. **RID**, who worked for us for more than 5 years, decided that he didn't want to listen to his boss, (me), anymore and became very lazy and rebellious. After I warned him once, he stopped greeting me, which in itself was no big problem. One day, the collected bread from all of the hotels was placed at the back of the cars along with the garbage and when I asked Rid why he had not given the bread to the dogs, he simply replied that he had forgotten it. In return I told him that he could now forget about 500 Baht from his upcoming pay check as well! For a serious offence, I reserve the right to deduct up to 1000 Baht from their salary, something that the workers know about up front. Obviously Rid didn't care as he subsequently picked up the bread, threw it onto a car and then left. After Rid left, we began to face big problems every time a worker didn't show up for work as we were so short staffed. I immediately began the search for new employees which was much easier than I anticipated as the current workers were very enthusiastic to support me by helping to find new people. I went ahead and hired everyone who showed up, but two of them only lasted three days. One man came for only the interview and never

returned and another lasted for almost three weeks before quitting. At the moment I have 5 new helpers. I assume that I will be able to tell you in my next newsletter who is still here and who has left. Anyway, I only need 3, not 5, but since there is a lot of repair work to be done out at the shelter, it suits me just fine to have a few extras since they often don't show up for work without giving me notice. If they have something else to do and they phone me, then I have to be happy that at least they have called. To train a new helper is a very time consuming practice and often requires the patience of a Saint...but I am no Saint!



Taa, Yai, Gon, Seng and Bock – our new helpers

Our president, Khun Therasud, insisted that we should get accident insurance for all of the helpers. It is not expensive, it only costs 40 Euro per person per year, but with 15 employees, you quickly have another 600

Euro. Of course I can't get insurance for the new ones right away, I certainly hope they don't get bitten, which thankfully almost never happens.

In July, Zee, Tiffany and Melanie, three vet students from Ontario, Canada, came to visit. They vaccinated and checked the health of all of the dogs and cats and documented all of the information on the animal's cards. We made copies, gave them to Dr. Sid, who then went and checked out the animals who were diagnosed as being sick. While doing this, he discovered that about 30 dogs were in fact in need of treatment. Most of them are slightly anaemic, which can be caused by different diseases, (Erichiose, Barbiöse, and Leishmaniose). These are contagious through sand fleas as well as ticks, both of which we have plenty of! Since the treatment of the anaemia is always the same, and since the vet has become so familiar with the symptoms, it is therefore not necessary to do the expensive and time-consuming blood tests to diagnose it. The rate of success is very high if you catch the disease in its early stages. It is a treatment of medication for a period of 3 to 5 weeks. Because we cannot take the dogs out of their compounds, we had to designate a helper to perform the difficult task of giving the medication.

I'm sure that you can imagine that ALL of the dogs go crazy for the delicious canned food, and all want to get a taste. Since Jah is no longer working in the cat house and is a very experienced worker, we thought he would be the right person for the job. Since this is no full time job, Jah also goes to Lamai at 9:00 am every morning to create awareness for the DRCS amongst the local Thais and tourists, as well as gives vaccinations, mange treatment and wound cleaning when necessary. He brings the dogs that have not been operated on back to the shelter where they are spayed/neutered. Silvana from Switzerland is still covering the cost of the labour for this position as she has a love for the dogs in Lamai. Thank You Silvana.

At 2:00pm after the lunch break, he hands out the medication, feeds and provides fresh water, for all of the dogs in the big compounds, all of which can be done in 3 hours. One of our volunteers has tested that several times.

During the big check of all of the animals, most of the cats were in good health. The few sick cats were taken out and were put into single boxes for treatment.

The three vet students de-wormed and vaccinated all of the animals against rabies as well as other diseases, this of course created extra costs (approx 1500 Euro), but when it comes to vaccines, I don't try to save money as this is the only way to prevent diseases. Animals which have not been vaccinated don't stand much of a chance against the viruses and because we keep getting a lot of sick animals into the shelter, vaccinations are important.

Last year we had 3 students from Canada and 3 students from Scotland almost at the same time. While they were here they vaccinated all of the animals, so time wise, this was perfect for the next vaccine. There were a few mangy dogs in ever compound and Dr. Sid thought it best to inject them 5 times over a consecutive period with Ivermectin, as well as for the ones who were not obviously mangy to give them some protection. This is a relatively quick procedure and 3 helpers can accomplish this in a day. The injected dogs are covered with flea powder, and once they are all 'white' they then move on to the next compound. Fortunately Ivermectin is not very expensive, however, with the amount of dogs that we have, this additional special treatment does add up. The whole project cost us about 200 extra Euro.



Zee, Tiffany and Melanie from Canada



Jah doing the hard job of handing out medicine...



...It doesn't get any easier with the teenagers



### SIDA

“Hello, I am Sida, I should have been dead along time ago but it seems that I have the lives of a cat since I narrowly escaped the evil man with the big knife. At first I was completely frozen in shock and pain, but then I began to run for my life. The people around me just looked in horror, but nobody wanted to help me. I took shelter under a market stall where I lay quietly and waited to die. What did I do wrong? Just like any other day, I went to the Lam Din market and started my begging tour for food. I rummaged through various piles of garbage and patiently waited beside the chicken vendor for any scraps they might be kind enough to spare. As I was sitting under the stall, my life flashing before my eyes,, a friendly looking Thai man reached out to me and quietly began to tell me that everything would be alright. I began to trust him and when he picked me up, I willingly let him put me into his car. We then raced to Ban Taling Ngam where the nice Dr. Sid stitched up my broken head. I was a very lucky puppy as they were even able to save my eye! I am now happy and healthy living in the puppy house and can't wait for someone to come and take me home!”



### RED and PERSI

We are together in our fate as we now belong to the group of three-legged animals that can be found here at the DRCS. Dr. Sid and Dr. Paul from Australia very professionally amputated my leg and for almost 2



months my wound was treated daily with our new laser machine. You can find more pictures of Persi and me on our homepage under the heading, **Info and News.**



My master visited me once and several times checked about my well being. When I then was finally ok, we couldn't reach him anymore. For now I will stay at the DRCS, which is great!

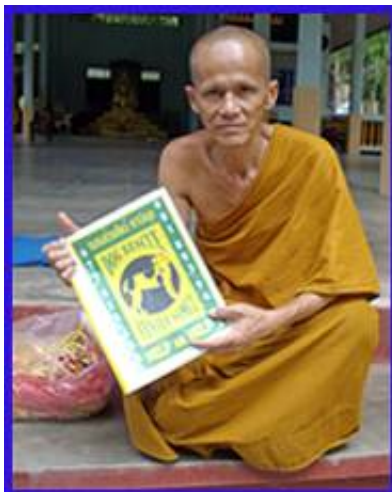
## TEMPLE PROJECT

As you might know, last October we started feeding and treating dogs at some of Samui's temples. We've worked intensively on this project, trying to find more monks who are willing to give our donated dry food and water to the dogs every day. The DRCS currently provides 16 out of the 28 temples with regular food donation and medical treatments. Our long term volunteers Janine, Linda and Kelli took a small step back from the puppy house at the beginning of April, and, without fail, make a visit to the temples every Tuesday and Friday. Doing this job, they've had the chance to experience a very different Thailand. One amazing thing that has transpired is the awareness of the villagers around the temples. They have figured out on which day we will be there, and they rush to us with their beloved pets as well as the stray dogs they sometimes feed, for mange treatments, vaccinations, etc. The gratitude of the poor villagers impressed the three volunteers a lot, so much in fact that they are eagerly learning Thai in order to communicate a bit easier. The Temple Project has turned out to be very cost intensive as more Thais

have come to know about us, and are very happy to be able to use our free services. One rabies, plus multi vaccine, (Distemper, Parvo, Hepatitis), and de-worming, costs around 5 Euro. That doesn't sound like much, but there are quite a lot of dogs at the 16 temples. Approx. 200! The puppies have to be vaccinated three times in order to reach full immunity. So far not many cats have been vaccinated; this vaccine is much more expensive.

Khun Goya from Tong sai Bay donated 1500 kg of dog food for the Temple Project (enough for about 3 months). The three months have already passed and since we haven't received any more donations from the island so far, we depend on your help. Please help us to be able to continue this project into the future.

**10 kg DRY FOOD COSTS ABOUT 4 EURO!**



## HOTELS and their managers:

As you can probably imagine, most hotel managers do not like to see cats and dogs around their establishments, but since we are here in Thailand, they are going to have to except that this is a way of life on our island. It takes only one guest to complain and then they will use poison to get rid of the problem. I don't really know how to deal with this issue, because the tourists often are too afraid to be official witnesses and speak up against these animal killers. Here are only a few examples:

### Santi Buri Resort in Maenam

On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, Beate, from Neuwied in Germany, witnessed one of the security guards at Santiburi Resort attempt to drown a stray cat in the sea! Beate managed to stop this brutal cruelty at the last second, and immediately brought the cat to the DRCS.

My question for the hotel management was as followed:

Are you aware of the cruelty of your staff? Have you perhaps even ordered them to do this? I sent these questions not less than 5 times to the Santi Buri, but unfortunately have yet to get a reply. You be the judge....

### Imperial Boathouse at Choeng Mon Beach

About 6 weeks ago I received a phone call from the Boathouse requesting the immediate removal of 'Max' (Max has lived there for many years with the approval of the hotel management). The management has now changed and the new Swiss manager Rolf Opitz is not animal friendly. I refused to pick up Max as this has been his home for a long time now and proceeded to inform past guests that this is now what's happening there. They bombarded the resort with emails, and we are sure this is the only reason why they have not yet harmed him in any way. The Manager then took out his frustrations by removing our donation box from the hotel without first talking to me. I wrote him to ask why he no longer has the donation box in his hotel, but he has yet to respond.

### Pinnacle Resort in Maenam:

In the last newsletter I showed you this sign (which were attached to each and every palm tree). Today, 4 months later, these signs have now been removed and these new signs (see below on right) have now appeared around the restaurant area.

Text: May we ask you not to feed dogs and cats on the property. We like to ask for your understanding. If you want to help, please contact the "Dog and Cat Rescue Samui" Tel. 087 895 89 28

Manita, the manager, who was blamed for the previous poisonings, was moved to another hotel. The poisonings were never concretely proven to be her, as the witnesses only found the dead dogs but didn't actually see it happen. Manita always claimed that she had nothing to do with the death of the dogs, but whatever, she is now gone. Now they have Falk Wetschat from the Pinnacle in Jomtien (near Pataya).

I was totally shocked when I got to know who the new manager at the Pinnacle is and immediately contacted the Thai Hotel Association and asked for their help. Let's not forget that he was the one who sent out letters to the guests telling them that the stray dogs that they fed had to be put to sleep. Because of this, Juana from Berlin brought over two dogs from Jomtien to the DRCS in Samui, Lenni and Rudi. Meanwhile Lenni has found a new home in Holland, and we are still desperately looking for a flight companion with LTU from Bangkok to Berlin or Düsseldorf.



Jonnie from the Santi Buri



Max from the Boathouse



May we ask you not to feed dogs and cats on the property. We like to ask for your understanding. If you want to help, please contact the "Dog and Cat Rescue Samui" Tel. 087 895 89 28

**Please contact us if you are able to help.** A cargo transport for Rudi costs about 1200 Euro. With a LTU/Air Berlin flight companion, the whole transport would cost about 500 Euro.

Since Juana has already invested a lot of money into the rescue of the dogs, it would be great if we could find a flight companion for Rudi as soon as possible. Close to Berlin, the new owner is already desperately expecting him.

You can read more about Lenni and Rudi on our homepage.

Juana's intensive care at the time could have cost Rudi and Lenni their lives if the manager had made his threat real. Thankfully Juana managed to bring the dogs to the DRCS before something horrible could happen. But please keep in mind that not everyone is able to come up with the transportation costs for two dogs. What would have happened to Rudi and Lenni? Would he have seriously put them to sleep?

Meanwhile the manager has changed the signs and surely he will never even as much as pull a hair of an animal – I am convinced of that.



Rudi

In the above matter, I have a huge request for all of you;

**Please do not feed the stray dogs at your hotel, ESPECIALLY in the restaurant area and under no circumstances should you ever take them into your hotel rooms!**

Please believe me; you are only hurting the animals when you do these things. After you leave and the next guest arrives, who doesn't have the same affection for the animals, and then complains to the management, they will have no choice but to take action. The dog will now be removed from the property, or worse. Meanwhile, this animal has gotten used to being your pet, he has made your home his, he sleeps on your terrace or in your bed, your cleaning lady gets a little tip to clean up after the dog, and when you have left, he is removed and becomes homeless once again. The dog stays close by in hopes that his 'Master' will return. The management then calls a gardener or security and he has to take the dog away from the property...what other choice does he have? Is he supposed to tell the new occupants that they should welcome this animal even though they do not like dogs? Just because you liked having a furry companion, does not mean that every one else will. Some people are just simply afraid of dogs, please try to understand this concept, and do not encourage the dogs to become your pets because not everyone can have the love for them that you do, and often they appear in a pack which can be intimidating. Of course it's alright to feed your favourites on the beach or on the streets, but it would be nice if you didn't supply their treats from your hotel's buffet ☺...This only annoys some of the guests as well as the management, and will not help turn them into animal friends. Meanwhile, you are able to get dog food in almost every supermarket on Koh Samui. They also love little sausages – not expensive at all.

Please help the hungry dogs on the streets, on the beaches, and anywhere else on Koh Samui.

**Please feed the dogs and cats!**

They often have only you – or the bins as a food resource.

In case you meet a hungry dog and cannot find a supermarket, here is a little tip; there is a little food stall on every corner that has perfectly good dog treats for the hungry mutts. The dogs especially love fried chicken.



Dog feeding in Chaweng



Fish party for the cats in Ban Taling Ngam

Sometimes we do have fried chicken at the shelter, but the main constituent given to us by the hotels and restaurants is rice, which all of our dogs love. These are real Thai dogs! I'm not saying that our dogs would prefer rice to meat, but they do fancy rice with a little meat inside.

At the end of August, we will be attending a meeting of the Thai Hotel Association, where Werner will give a speech. We were invited in order to create an alliance with the hotels, gather donations, and discuss the pointless poisoning of the dogs on the island. If enough hotels are willing to donate food leftovers to us, we may be able to start feeding lovely rice meals at the big shelter. It is only worth picking up the food from Maenam if more than a couple of hotels are willing to donate. This is because of the costs of fuel as well as the cost and time of the workers. Obviously the worker in position to do these pick ups, will have to have a proper driving licence. At the moment I have several helpers with their drivers licence, but that can change very quickly. I would be very happy for the dogs if this would work out, as the dogs in Chawang wait eagerly each day for their bowl of rice with all the trimmings. I don't think that this will lower our food costs significantly because the starting wage for a Thai helper is 7000 Baht per month plus the gasoline, and sometimes also the cost of repairs to our car. The helper would be busy for at least half of his day with picking up the donated food and then going to the shelter in Ban Taling Ngam to feed the dogs.

Because of the high fuel costs as of late, some tourists have decided not to take vacation here, therefore our donations dropped by approximately a quarter in July and August. Also, a lot of tourists are coming here from Russia, and they really do not have big animal hearts...so we are counting on the rest of you from all over the world to not let us down.

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 still manage to 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.

A lot of dogs and 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!

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, cat de-worming paste, de-worming tablets for dogs (multi-wormer), and flea/tick collars for dogs. We can always use these things. Also double adhesive tape would be very useful for advertising. This kind of tape is not available in Thailand.

Once again we were able to transport a few dogs and cats to a safer future. On our homepage you can check out those happy animals in their new homes at [www.samuidog.org](http://www.samuidog.org) 'What we do' and 'Dog Transport'. 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 9,000 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***

p.s.: Don't forget to check out our video!

Banking details for sponsors:  
please see  
[www.samuidog.org](http://www.samuidog.org) - HOW TO HELP

