

Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui

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Dear friends of our animals!

August 2011

Hopefully all of you enjoyed a beautiful summer and could spend your holidays in a warm country. I personally could refresh my impressions what summer in Germany is like. We stayed in Berlin from June 28 till July 22 and I can remember a few warm days only. I had finally made up my mind to undergo some – long-planned-foot surgery and now I do hope to be able to walk again in a couple of weeks. Werner is still “busy” with his retinal detachment and he will have to be operated once more in Phuket. Apparently we’re growing old, aren’t we...?



Martina from Germany



Stephanie from Sweden



Anna from Germany
and Rikki from Australia

During our stay in Germany Martina and Stephanie took over and shared responsibility, control and work. Martina was able to take another holiday shortly and arrived by plane for a “working holiday”. Because of Werner’s retinal detachment we ourselves had to postpone our departure by six weeks. Although Martina had been completely booked for May and June, she came over a second time! My special thanks go to her personally for her great commitment.

Of course I do also want to thank all those who - as volunteers - sacrificed hours or days of their vacation to help us.

You may see their pictures here:

<http://www.samuidog.org/Vollontaire%20englisch.htm>

The animals are always very thankful for fondling strokes and care. Medical training or qualification is not necessary! Being there and taking care is often enough for the animals: just come and see us when you are on Koh Samui; visitors are always welcome!

It goes without saying that doctor Sith is always very pleased to find qualified help: Anna and Rikki, two veterinary doctors, were extremely helpful and supported Dr Sith a lot. When Anna arrived, she donated a 25-kilo electric welder for wounds! It was immediately used for an amputation and Dr. Sith was extremely thankful for this gift. While we were in Germany, 11 Canadian students of veterinary medicine made their internship here. They are all in the same medical school and arrived within a two-week-interval.



Sarah, Ryan, Jana and Brandon



Kristina, Erin, John and Alex



Ashley, Jackie and Lucy

Students, of course, can be a little stressful for Dr. Sith, as they all prefer working in the operating room only: something absolutely impossible for four persons in the tiny room! I hope Dr. Sith will honestly tell me when he can't support that any longer! I know that sometimes students do not stick to the agreement that there should be only one or two in the surgery room. Besides, Dr. Sith's Thai politeness would never allow him to ask them to move out! The students can learn a lot, but they learn a lot as well outside the surgery room! Almost all of them have never before seen such big wounds with maggots or dogs suffering from scabies. Here you can see pictures of some of the dogs "hospitalized" during the last months, e.g. in June.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde%20Juni%202011%20englisch.pdf or of July:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde%20Juli%202011%20englisch.pdf

THAI HELPERS

On our homepage you can find a description of what a helper's job is like.

http://www.samuidog.org/text1_english.htm. In our last newsletter, I introduced GOON as a new assistant. And we are so lucky to have GOON as a helper. He is most interested in learning whatever must be done, and he is supposed to go regularly to Lamai to vaccinate or provide dogs and cats with medical care there in case there should be enough helpers available here! JAH, who unfortunately had left for personal reasons, had been doing that very well for a certain time. Actually SAHM LÖNG was supposed to take over his task, but he, too, had to leave the island as fast as possible. Unfortunately his cousin, who had started working with us as well, followed him. The house is empty, the family has disappeared, and nobody knows where they went....PUI, who had shown up in irregular intervals, also belongs to this family, and is gone as well.



MEI

After all these losses I was so glad to see EM back at our door: he wanted to work for us again! After a longer stay in Bangkok EM has come back; for many years, he had worked for us as physician assistant and can be placed anywhere! Furthermore, we have got MEI: he is of Cambodian origin and speaks Thai fluently. He is a very gifted craftsman and works in the big compounds at the moment.

All the time, as usual, we keep looking out for acceptable helpers....

It is a sad fact that the general work ethic of our helpers hasn't improved and imposing fines on them is no solution either. I'm afraid it won't be possible for me to change the Thai.... I still get extremely mad as about 5 to 8 helpers do not show up after payday, but I keep trying to "survive" that day and I am glad, when one or two or three more turn up the next day or the day after.



Karin from Hamburg in Germany made a super job as a volunteer: she cleaned out (the "mess" in) the cathouse and tackled any task very successfully.

the former consignment, but meanwhile another 2500 kg of food had been delivered and stored in the same room; by all this see-saw and hustle and bustle all the sacks were totally mixed up. Furthermore only a few sacks had ID numbers, but these were of no use.

We had to see a lawyer to represent us, and he was so friendly to work for us for free! You wouldn't imagine what long and difficult pleading he drafted! As a result, he managed that we will get the money back we had paid in advance for the next order of food which hasn't been delivered so far. The company has agreed to send us a 20 000 Baht check monthly. And the first check has arrived!!! Our manager WIT suggests to only destroy the food leftovers when we will have been refunded with our 106 000 Baht. Anyway, as we have no certified evidence that our dogs died because of this food, I am going to burn the whole stuff gradually during the next weeks, in any case before the rains are coming.

The next rains are approaching fast, and we will have to face greater floods from October till March. The big flood last March at least had a positive effect: our water supply system has not broken down as it did last year! In Chaweng we closed the entrance doors with masonry up to the window sills (40 cm) and this way we will be able to hold back smaller floods.

The next rains are bound to fall, but as Government has not taken any measures to deal with the water problem in our region, I see big floods arriving in our place.

In my April letter I had informed you that during the last big rains in March the ceiling of the doghouse had come down with all the lamps and cables of the electric equipment, but because of the cost we could not have a new ceiling. It doesn't look nice, but the dogs haven't complained so far; at least the electric devices have been fixed by a friend from Australia.

In the rescue centre (7500 m²) a lot of damages had to be repaired and we haven't finished yet replacing the broken roofing of the doghouses in the kennels. Some of them are so old that they just start to fall apart - without any other obvious reason! We will have to replace them one by one gradually.... For exchanging the roofing I would need two hands - but when do we really have a surplus of helping hands? Especially, as we cannot



have EVERY helper perform the renovation jobs. Older Thais are very good at this kind of work, as most of them have been pottering and tinkering about their own huts. Some helpers know how to weld, which is most urgent, as continually the single box lattice doors keep rusting through and must be replaced totally or partly at least. Besides, we "fight" the leaks in our water pipes: finding the holes very often requires criminalistic talent of a superintendent, because the pipes are partly in the ground and we have got to take our time before we can locate the source of the leak.

Naturally the helpers must make the benches for the dogs with their own hands. For a very long time already we haven't been able to afford buying ready-made bamboo benches. Every day I do hope to have enough helping hands here so that we can progress with our continuous renovation jobs!

Those who haven't got my newsletters, may turn to the following sites:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_February_2011.pdf

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Poison_attack_March_2011.pdf

In my newsletters I had told you about the problems with the food. We installed a test lab of our own and Dr. Sith spent many long hours testing food samples. Many samples were highly contaminated with Aflatoxines. But not all....Unfortunately, the two sacks we sent to Bangkok for testing were less poisonous. For us it was impossible to sort out the few highly poisoned sacks in the enormously big heap of food sacks. It's a pity, but the dogs - eating up the food - "destroyed" the evidence, and, still worse, died as a consequence. After finding out what the reason for their deaths was, we tried to retrieve the few sacks of



Jürgen and Gabi from Germany who had helped to recapture Cocos.

I had taken Cocos out of the DCRS into my house to prepare her for the flight and the quarantine. I wanted to pamper her a little, but as early as the next morning she had disappeared. Obviously she went out when a visitor came in.... We were very lucky that Gabi and Jürgen could recapture her, as our assistants wouldn't have any chance of getting hold of her again. The day before we had tried that in vain, but Cocos dashed off in big leaps and at maximum speed when she saw our helpers!



COCOS



In June I had informed you about several cases of poisoning on Chaweng-Noi beach next to Fairhouse and First Bungalow.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Info%20June%202011%20englisch.pdf

We managed to save all the dogs and took them back to the beach afterwards. Jürgen and Gabi have returned to Samui and continue living on that beach: both are very pleased to welcome back all their darling pets. Both hotels wrote us a letter to assure they had not been involved in that incident and that they would never do the animals any harm.

Thanks a lot to everybody who had written to the hotels and expressing their extreme disgust about this horrible action. We took pictures of all the dogs and we'll see if they have all vanished. Two of the beach dogs were very lucky as animal friends staying there for a holiday has decided to take them home: Cocos is going to fly to Norway and Tirak to Austria. At the moment they are waiting for take-off in the DCRS.



TIRAK alias MAUSI alias SUAI with Johann from Austria. Often the beach dogs have got several names, as every tourist calls „his“ pet a different name!

PUPPY HOUSE

Jay and Linda can comfortably contend that they have never seen so many new born puppies in all those seven years they have been working for the DRCS. Being in charge for the puppy and mother situation, they can well tell the difference in how aware people have become of the DRCS. Almost every day someone calls them up about their puppies or about some stray mother that just had her 10plus puppies under someone's house. Let's also mention all the calls from people that are simply worried about stray puppies not having enough food, safety, vaccine or de-worming. As only a few years ago the puppy situation at the DRCS was pretty much out of control and more than 90% of all the little ones arriving at the shelter died, things have gradually improved and a time costly but well worth system has been introduced. Jay, Linda and Tom have made it their challenge to discuss every puppy or mother situation with the person calling, before having the animal picked up. In order to protect unvaccinated young dogs (and their mothers) from getting sick at the shelter, they have found Foster Parents and have talked an uncountable number of people (hotel managers, locals, expats, tourists and animal friends) into working together with them, allowing them the possibility to come and vaccinate all the dogs first instead of being taken straight to the shelter, totally unprotected against the viruses and bacteria they would have to face there. Once at the shelter -healthy and vaccinated- the adoption number has gone up to over 80%, which is a huge success. Over 60 puppies and young dogs have found a new home in the last 3 months. Just to give you an idea of comparison: over 90% of the puppies



Jay, Tom & Linda at the Puppy House



Linda finding another family of new puppies

dropped at the shelter before being vaccinated first, have died in the last 3 months! We believe this should tell you how important this is and how many lives can be saved if people work together...The Puppy House is not only used for the little ones. Quite often when we get some really bad cases come through the gates we give them a room to help with the recovery. The difference between spending a couple of weeks in a single box or being in a room, with people constantly around, can often be the difference between life and death. Many very sick dogs need to be supported mentally and encouraged to make a recovery, they need to feel loved. This has proven to be very successful with so many cases where the initial chances of survival were very slim.



Jay giving de-worming to some more new youngsters



Several bite wounds, suffers from Demodetic mange



Can't be touched after being mistreated



Brain dysfunction, blood parasite & bad skin fungus



Starved, covered in wounds, scared and suffers from Demodetic mange

We would like to give a special Thank You to our German Vet Anna who has worked so hard with exactly those cases. Even though she had her hands full at the shelter, she also found time to support them on a temple run and was always available for professional help and tips.



Massive Tumour on the face, mangy



Blind and severe brain dysfunctions



Starved, blood parasite, depressed



Survived distemper, has mange



Depressed, severe Demodetic mange

TEMPLE PROJECT

Unfortunately the puppy situation at the temples doesn't look much better. We are giving our best to keep them all safe and healthy, vaccinated and de-wormed but that's often easier said than done.



In every puppy family it only takes one infected puppy in order to pass it on to the rest. People often dump a whole bunch of youngsters, often from different mothers and nobody thinks about the fact that the mothers will be pregnant all over again, probably just a few months later.



People often say that the dog population on Samui should be under control by now if we do 6 operations a day, 5days/week. Unfortunately the population of dogs will continue to rise until the time comes when people start to take responsibility for their dogs and even the stray dogs around their homes. The Dog and Cat Rescue Center offers free neutering service for everyone so there really is no Excuse. We are a small number of people operating in a very large area,



We require the help of the people to inform us about unneutered dogs and cats. We are one phone call away! Our DRCS-Logo says it all: "Help Us Help", not a lot to ask for really, is it? Almost daily Jay and Linda have been picking up dogs and cats from the temples and several villages we are working in.



Of course all the babies who came to the temples over the last monsoon (November 2010) are now ready for the operation. More and more dogs are being dropped at the temples across the island and it is our number one priority to ensure that the animals we are asking the monks to feed and care for do not get pregnant and add to the already increasing number of newborns. The 1,000 kg of Dog and Cat Food which are delivered to the Temples every month, the vaccinations for all those uncountable puppies and Temple dogs, the medication etc, - it all has to be paid for. Please help us to continue working hard for a project and street work we believe in. Why not take over a sponsorship for one of our resident temple dogs? On our homepage under: We Need Godparents: <http://www.samuidog.org/adoption.htm> or

SUPPORT US WITH YOUR DONATION

Here you can find the newest info and pictures about the Temple Project:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/TEMPLE%20PROJECT%20August%202011%20Englisch.pdf

Or on our homepage www.samuidog.org under Info & News: http://www.samuidog.org/text5_english.htm you can find many more info's about the Temple Project.

It's a very big problem to protect dogs and cats in the DRCS from viral or bacterial infections. Of course, our long-time "residents" are regularly vaccinated and this way they are protected from diseases. For a very long period we haven't accepted any unvaccinated animals for castration either. Very often it is quite a difficult task to get of hold of a shy and fearful dog two times: one time to vaccinate him against distemper, parvoviral infection and hepatitis, and then a second time for castration.

We can manage quite well with the beach dogs, as frequently animal lovers, prepared to help with our "trapping business", come to Samui. Whenever you happen to be in Samui and have made friends with some of the dogs strolling around in the hotel compounds, it would be so helpful if you lent us a hand to trap them for castration or vaccination. Please call us and together we will try to get the best for the dogs.

In the villages children often help us with this job. The dogs there are very often afraid of foreigners - whereas on the beach the situation is vice versa: there the dogs are fixated on tourists!

In many temples, the monks are of great help. They know all their dogs and have become very cooperative meanwhile. A couple of times, it hadn't been an easy job for Jay and Linda to convince the monks of the importance of their job!

It goes without saying that we have to accept many unvaccinated dogs in case they had an accident or suffer from a disease. As the older dogs had come into contact with the deadly viruses in their youth, their risk of an infection is less big than with the puppies.

The puppies have almost no chance to survive an infection when they come into contact with the deadly viruses. In the morning, we very often find a carton or a sack full of puppies at our door. Sometimes they appear to be ill already, but even when they look safe and sound and jolly, they may be bearers of the deadly virus. We decided to test the puppies for distemper right away and not to wait until they show the first symptoms – and will have infected all the rest! The distemper test costs 4 €, and donations are always very welcome!

If we realize early enough which puppies have been infected, we can put these to sleep- and this way certainly save a lot of others which haven't been infected yet. Puppies with distemper have no chance to survive.

Unfortunately it is almost the same with the baby cats. But their situation is still worse, as they cannot be taken care of on location. Very often tourists find the motherless kittens in the middle of nowhere and we try our best to put them through.



THE CATHOUSE

One year ago I had prepared a report about the cat-house which had been almost „eaten up“ by the jungle. Now it looks almost the same and the cats (still?!) stroll merrily in and out.

Here is a detailed report about the cat house.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Katzengehege_8_2011%20englisch.pdf

I'd like to show you some pictures of the evening Fish party in Chaweng

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Fischparty_Chaweng_August_2011_english.pdf



Finally I've got a piece of good news:

We really made it: we scraped the money together for an urgently needed bus and even found an adequate one to serve our purposes! You find the list of the donators on our homepage.

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

Our special thanks to all the donators!

The bus is super, but I'm somewhat afraid about our old bus - the one we use to collect food with: it is getting "weaker" and "weaker"....But we are so happy to have the new one although we could start right away collecting money again.

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.

Whenever you are in Samui and you have fallen in love with a cat or dog, please call me, so that I can inform you about the possibilities of taking this cat or dog home with you.

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

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 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

Banking details for sponsors

PLEASE SEE HOMEPAGE

