

Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

Brigitte Gomm
112/35 Moo 6 Bophut/Chaweng
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
Skype: Samuidog
Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear Animal Friends!

August 2012

My warm and sincere THANK YOU to you all, as I am totally overwhelmed with all your helpfulness. Those who did not get my emergency call for help beginning of August may find the newsletter here:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/August_2012_english.pdf

At the moment I manage to sleep better again as I understand that it's not only me to care for the future of the dogs and cats on Koh Samui. Only at the beginning of September I can see what most of donations have been made for, as we only get a bank statement then (together with the references). As to the foreign accounts it will take somewhat longer until I will get the bank statements. A big number of people donated for the really important and urgent castrations. That's why we've immediately complied with your request of having 6 castrations a day.

We printed an information sheet for all the dog and cat owners on the island and asked if they can manage to accept the costs for medication. Fortunately all the medicine is relatively cheap here. A very common (and popular!) sentence with the Thais is "It is not my dog". Well, then he or she is just abandoned and will be treated for free. The dog usually sees things differently when he wags his tail to welcome his master! We are always very happy when we are being delivered "abandoned" dogs for treatment or castration. There are others as well who arrive with their pure breed doggies or poodles and where we can see that those could afford to pay a small sum for their pets. I'm sorry to say that even the resident foreigners try to chicken out of payment, because they are so very poor and rather have one more beer instead of paying the 100 Baht for vaccination. For every treatment the vet issues a receipt and we must wait and see how things will turn out in our balance of accounts. We wrote twice to almost all the hotels and restaurants of the island asking for help: by providing food contributions, displaying info materials in their lobbies, or placing a donation box there.

The Samui Express even printed our emergency call for help.

NOBODY has answered... I was not really surprised, as there are no longer such big amounts of dogs on the beaches and the managers don't bother. So why should they take care and ask the kitchen staff to collect food leftovers for our dogs?

Should the tourists themselves take care of the dogs! The hotel managers change very often and so only a tiny number of them knows about Koh Samui 15 years ago, where governmental mass poisoning was normal and all the beaches were cleaned over night... Very often the dogs weren't removed in time and you could find them dying in the morning. This was so terrible! I can't tell how Werner and I suffered, when again and again a dog died in our arms. This experience was the essential reason for founding our association and to prevent such horrible governmental actions and other single activities of the same kind.



The dogs love the food leftovers from the hotels and we can save a lot of cat pellet food.

In Koh Samui it would have been impossible for us to live without a vet, as you could find cats and dogs needing help injured or sick in every corner of the place. For animal lovers the island was an absolute nightmare. On the other hand, Koh Samui of today can't be compared with its state of 15 or 20 years ago. Spas didn't exist then and many beaches only scarcely showed buildings of any kind. In Chaweng there were a lot of not built-up estates and just very simple bungalow sites for backpackers. I can't imagine nowadays having government cars with loudspeakers moving around and announcing nightly poisoning of all dogs running free on the island! That's the way things were when there were too many dogs in the island. The Thais' only chance to save their pets was to lock them up by night. Of course a lot of dogs survived the assault and dogs with a master were not neutered - so, as there was no vet available, reproduction continued and continued, quite undisturbed.....I'm convinced many managers would be extremely "pleased" with the complaints of upset parents, because their children had lost their darling pets and are totally scared therefore.

Thanks to your help we've happily managed to move far away from those situations, and the Koh Samui of 20 years back does never again show up! For many years, Government hasn't taken any measures against the dogs or cats as there is no need for further action. We have just been left in peace.

From the island itself no big support can be expected, but I won't be surprised. For some time we have been able to collect food leftovers at a number of hotels :The Tong sai Bay, Boat House, Nora-Beach, Kanda Buri, Moonlight, Akira, Kulai Pan, Montien House, Ochid, Chaweng Buri, Andamen, Zico's, Centara (Deli-Shop), Poppies, First House, Impiana and Blue Water School. A few hotels even support us financially, about 400 Euro all together a month.

Due to saving where we can, we no longer cook chicken and rice at the big shelter for the dogs in single boxes. Weak and thin dogs get tinned food and here we must wait and see, how things turn out concerning the costs. At the moment, will say the high season in August, we get a lot of food from the hotels and a lot goes to the Shelter in Bahn Taling Ngam itself.

The daily fish party for cats still takes place every day in the evening. It's the absolute feline highlight of the day. 2 hours BEFOREHAND, they assemble in the living room and keep bothering us: they run through our legs all the time! Fish is very cheap and doesn't cost more than tinned food.



Very excited, the cats are waiting for the nightly "fish party".



Some are still relaxing on the beds, before the party finally starts by 11pm!

Lately we have received calls from tourists, hotel managers or Samui Islanders almost every day, reporting that they had found baby kittens without a mother and we shall pick them up. I've got difficulties understanding how so many mothers can give birth and then just abandon their babies. We don't even know anymore where to shelter all these newcomers.

Naturally we can't do anything but receive them in the DRCS as they have nearly no chance to survive without their mothers. The very young cats feeding on milk and having to be raised with a baby-bottle stay with us in our house in Chaweng. Werner indulges in taking care of them. The cats do not only need their bottle every 3 or 4 hours, they must also be given a bath and a massage. Without their mother they look like young pigs! From the moment they feed by themselves they are covered from top to toe with food. A cat mum keeps

lic652king her little ones non-stop - something Werner really cannot do - but he is consequently and incessantly chaperoning his babies. Of course Werner takes care as well of raising and bottle-feeding the puppies when they arrive without their mother. The chance for survival is not so big with the very young ones, but even the small numbers of those who do are worth while fighting for!



This is **Djego**. He was found in the engine compartment of a van. HOW he got there will forever stay his personal secret.



Djego is a fighter. Unfortunately not all the cats are strong enough to become such a beautiful tomcat one day.



Almost every day new tiny kittens arrive....



...and of course, innumerable puppies as well, placed anonymously on our doorstep – just in a cardboard box or a sack.

HELPERS

For many years this is the first time I can't introduce new helpers to you. As you know, three helpers have been "victims" of the bell-tightening measures. We found fair to fire the last hired first. Besides we had to release or long-term medical helper Road: he had embezzled money. Of course he denies everything, but I can no longer trust him and he was not able to produce anything to relieve him. I offered him to overtake a cleaning job at the single boxes - a job he wanted to think about.

Meanwhile I've put KIO in charge as our vet helper. He has stayed with us for a very long time and has usually been working in the house. He is trained as a medical assistant and Dr. Sith likes working with him a lot. This is very important: when a Thai doesn't feel so well at work, he tries to find something new very fast. In the morning, KIO drives to Ban Taling Ngam with the emergencies arrived the day before in Chaweng and even

takes volunteers along if necessary. Until KIO arrives there by 11am, WIN, our second medical assistant, helps Doctor Sith.

Just have a look at our monthly list of patients. You may get a slight idea of how important Dr Sith's and his assistants' work is for the animals!

E.g. of July 2012 http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_Juli_2012_englisch.pdf

Or of August 2012 http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_August_2012_engl.pdf

I placed a recent description of every helper's job on our homepage:

<http://www.samuidog.org/text1.htm>

TEMPLE PROJECT

Our Temple-team is still working at over 20 temples and many villages all over Samui and being on road almost every single day, a well in tact car is a definite advantage. The hole back of the really old Nissan, which Jay and Linda used daily on their work at the temples, was completely rusted away and there were enough holes to give you a clear view of the road underneath. It was no longer possible to transport several 100kg dog food for the temples – the car would have soon fallen apart. We were lucky and got the van for a great price; 200,000 Baht (5200 Euro), and it's in great condition still. 4 cages fit in the back and for the animals being transported it certainly is a much nicer and often a less scary drive to or from the shelter. Even though they were not that happy about changing over the Nissan for one of our vans, they quickly got used to handling a much bigger vehicle and agree that it is far more practical for the work that they do.



The dog cages don't have to be covered anymore in order to protect the animals from the heat or the rain, the sometimes up to 1000kg of dog food the ladies deliver to the temples can stay in the car over night even if the weather-god surprises us with heavy rains and also the 3 boxes of medicine the team carries around while on the road is a lot better protected inside the car. Even though Linda just manages to reach the breaks, both ladies are delighted with their new car and easily carry around several dogs, hundreds of kg of dog food and medicine all at once now.

Since we're always asking for people to report any sick or injured animal to us, it is only normal, that dogs like Mr. Big and Grosi, both from very famous temples on Samui, are continually reported to us. The fact is that dogs like these 2 temple dogs, have been living there for many years (10 and 15 respectively) enjoying a free and happy life with enough food and thanks to our temple team - medical treatment whenever necessary. Especially older dogs are usually very well taken care of by the monks and are totally involved in the monks every day routine, following them around everywhere. Taking them into the shelter unnecessarily would simply be – cruel. We understand that, tourists especially, get worried when they meet older and often mangy dogs, perhaps with no teeth or totally thin looking, maybe limping even - at the temple. However, nothing more





than what the temple team does for them, could be done at the shelter. Jay and Linda often go several times a week to check on those dogs who are in any sort of critical state and the monks would get in touch with them as soon as - for example Grosi - would get worse or feel really poorly. Working hand in hand has allowed many old dogs to peacefully let go in their familiar and safe environment, often in the arm of "their monk" or caretaker - or the temple team of course. That being said, we are not saying people should not report sick or injured temple dogs just because they are old, new dogs that our team don't already know can always turn up at the temples. if you would like to know more about Grosi and Mr big, or the last few reports from our temple team, check out our homepage or read the latest Temple - Newsletter here:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple_Aug_2012_English.pdf

PUPPY HOUSE



The Snake-Man: Mr. Phil who was more than happy to add a little Snake-Show before leaving the shelter

Unfortunately it is not an unusual thing when a snake gets into the DRCS, especially at the big shelter in Ban Taling Ngam, in fact snakes are fairly regular visitors. That doesn't mean however, that our last "rather big" friend wasn't unspectacular for us. Jay - our lady in charge for the puppy house - couldn't believe her eyes when she walked to the back of the puppy house and saw our helper Lek on the floor, holding a huge Python snake at the neck. The snake was about 2,5 meter long but only about one meter of it was visible; the rest of the body was stuck inside a tiled step with a drainage hole at the side of the puppy house. Jay tried pulling the monster out of the hole, while Lek was still holding her securely by the neck. A few of our other workers also came to help but nobody was successful in pulling the snake out of the hole. Eventually they decided to break the tiles and in with no time our volunteer Rainer showed up with the hammer. It then took only seconds until the snake was out and quickly put into one of our big empty dog food bags. The helpers then called our Snake-Man Phil, who was happy to pick up the snake and release it somewhere in the jungle. As always Snake Phil delighted his audience with a show of his expert handling of the creature before leaving the center.



Lek has everything under control. A shame that the beast doesn't want to come out



Rainer's getting the hammer and after a few hard hits the hole was big enough



Lek the proud snake charmer showing off his booty

RENOVATION WORK AT THE SHELTER

As things usually are, kennels, boxes, roofs and gates must be repaired and renewed regularly. Most buildings in the DRCS are about 9 years old and so it is not astonishing, that some of the huts break down. Either the roof beams are too rusty or the roof coverings are "crumbling" down. Everywhere big trees have grown meanwhile which offer a lot of shade for the dogs in the bigger kennels, but on the other hand these trees sort of play "whomping willow" and throw down big branches thus destroying our huts in a storm.

The roof beams of the single kennels must be replaced one by one; these beams and the paint are really expensive, but we cannot afford waiting until everything has completely broken down.

When something is newly built or repaired, everybody is very pleased, and the dogs enjoy showing us who they can help at our work paw by paw. When we are working with concrete, we must have solidly protected exclusion zones; otherwise we would have lots of paw prints afterwards. Obviously the dogs love wading in the wet and slippery concrete – and so do the helpers!!!



Now we have got a bathing tub for dogs!!! Bärbel and Günter, our long-term volunteers, who will be on the island from September onward, are looking forward to a lot of fun giving the dogs a bath! As Bärbel has to treat her back with care, it will be Günter who has to carry the dogs into the bathing tub....



Our dogs like the new shelter very much. Everyone likes to sit in the first row looking for visitors.



The concrete pillars of our two 3000 l water tanks in the cat kennel had showed very serious cracks and had to be renewed shortly. Our helper managed to perform this repair work very well. I just can't imagine what would have happened if the tanks had broken down with their full "flood" of 6000 liters.....

The cat compound has been provided with another fence, so that the cats of the sickroom have the possibility to move freely in that part of the garden. This part of the garden had only rarely been used by cats; they seem to prefer sitting in the cat house on the terrace where they can watch what is going on in the Shelter!

Our 2000 liter outside water tank has suffered a serious impact by a root: the root had perforated the tank cover so that it had consequently started leaking. Our helpers did a great job: they removed the root and even managed to mend the tank. We had to place the pump at the tank close to the street (100 m to the shelter!), as we are not provided presently with water by the waterworks during the day. We had expected something of the kind as it had been raining by far too little during the last two months. Water is very important for us and very expensive, when the water truck must be called for.

Now we can only hope that the pump won't be stolen again at night. Therefore we placed an iron grid without an opening on top of the pump and welded the whole thing solidly. This time it will be real laborious and time-consuming to steal the pump!

The pump of our groundwater deep well is broken, but we cannot afford repairing it or buying a replacement. We have got rain pipes and cisterns for rain water, but I'm sad to say rain water is much too dirty to be used for cleaning the single boxes; besides there's no way to use it in the surgery rooms.



Fallen dog house



Fallen dog house



Making of the new dog benches

PLACEMENT OF DOGS

For reasons of costs and funds we unfortunately had to stop placing dogs from our shelter to Germany. The money surplus we had received for Melody was transferred and used for former transportation. We will also send the five dogs, chosen before these restrictive measures, for placement to their new masters as soon as we will have found transportation "attendants". Who is flying LUFTHANSA and willing to take a dog for us along? Please let me know!

My very special thanks go to MARTINA who made such great efforts to place our dogs. This isn't an easy task to fulfill - who is the person to accept a dog he or she only knows from a picture? Whatsoever, without any exception, all the new masters and mistresses are very happy with their darling pets. Of course these dogs also needed to be fed and received medial treatments. Let's not forget, thereby we have made space for 40 new dogs at the shelter. If you fell in love with a dog on the beach or elsewhere, we are happy to help with the transport. Check out the pictures of the happy dogs in their new home: <http://www.samuidog.org/dogtransport.htm>



Martina is a big cat lover, but of course she is happy about every dog she could find a new home for.

CASTRATIONS and VACCINATIONS

Please donate for the important castrations: one castration plus a seven-day care unit in the DRCS costs about 22 Euros. Every month we must collect about 3500 € for castrations, a small part of this sum is provided of cat and dog owners here in the island.

Here you can find the donators' list: <http://www.samuidog.org/Kastrationen.htm>

Of course we would be ever so happy about donations for vaccinations!
<http://www.samuidog.org/Impfungen.htm>

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. 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.



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 13 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 13 years, over 17,000 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). For all dogs or cats without a master or mistress we offer medical treatment for free, 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 in future. 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 13,000 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

Accounts for sponsors you can find here:

http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm



Baba is just one example of all the cats and dogs that are looking for sponsorship.



Please help us with your donations for the dogs and cats, who continually require food and medicine.

HELP US HELP