

Dog Rescue Center Samui

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Dear animal friends, December 2001

Since the middle of November we are in Germany and I had promised to myself that I would deal with all the paperwork here. Of course, it did not work out that way. We had been in Berlin for a mere three days, when my husband had to go to hospital with an acute pancreatitis. Therefore, he cannot help me in any way. Since when I am fighting with the computer and I unfortunately have to admit that there are still many things I cannot deal with without being told how to proceed. This includes the X-mas cards we always printed on the computer. All animal friends that got to know the DRCS before 2001 will probably miss these personal cards – but well, it simply can't be done this year. Unfortunately my incapability when it comes to computers also concerns the shots of the dogs that found a godfather by now. In the last days on Koh Samui I hopped around our premises like mad in order to take halfway decent pictures of the dogs and I also managed to do so. But now, without being told how to proceed, I cannot go on with Photoshop. I had promised all godfathers/mothers in my last mailing that at Christmas they would receive new pictures of their pets, but unfortunately now I cannot keep my promise. My husband will hopefully be out of hospital by Christmas and I will then start working on the photos immediately. By now I am able to carry out a lot of simpler tasks on the computer and really handling photos with Photoshop is quite easy and I have done it several times on my own already, but one wrong click and probably the original will be destroyed for good and since it is extremely difficult to take these pictures, I do not want to take the risk. I do promise that you will get your photos as soon as possible! At least the dogs had a lot of fun when I was running around amongst them trying to take some decent pictures. It takes them quite a while to relax and not to jump around like crazy once you have entered their grounds. I would have been able to take a lot of dog muzzle



shots – all of them close-ups! The dogs living on our premises have by now developed quite a hierarchy and thus always the same ones are in the first row. Pukki, Pong, Spicy and Wip are male dogs of about the same strength and are always in the first row. By now it has almost become impossible to integrate any new dogs into this large group, because they are all defending their places. Very sick and very weak animals are however rarely attacked. (Well, those I keep on the terrace anyway).

A week before leaving to Germany we have carried out some modifications at the house for the rainy season.

Our three helpers Poehm, Daeng and Sakda have been working for us almost 1 1/2 years by now and therefore I know that last year when it was raining cats and dogs they liked to wait for the end of work in the clinic. Since the road, leading to the clinic, is quite often totally flooded and even not passable for cars, sometimes it simply was impossible to transport the food to the doghouse. Of course the dogs did get dry food. But that they get always anyway! The animals are allowed to eat all the dry food they care for day and night. But for the dogs it is very important that they get their freshly cooked meal with chicken and rice and soaked dry food. It is unbelievable how much they love it and how they are waiting for it in the afternoon! We prepare the chicken broth with 10 kg of chicken remains, it is freshly cooked every day and really smells delicious. It really was not acceptable for the helpers anyway to carry the heavy pot with the dog food from the first floor

of the clinic downstairs and then transport it to the doghouse. On Sunday just one helper is working and then of course the transport was not easy at all. I was surprised that they always managed it on their own. They never complained that the amount of food to be prepared was getting more and more and heavier and heavier, which of course it did, since in the course of time approximately 30 more dogs joined the group and thus of course more food had to be cooked because each dog of course wants to get one bowl for himself at least. Now we are preparing the food on our premises and not in the clinic anymore. Poehm, our oldest helper (he is 60 years of age) who always prepared the food in the clinic is a blessed manual worker. Later on he will get his own little house on the ground of the animal home. Surely there will always be something to do for him. Unfortunately he cannot drive the motorbike with the sidecar anymore and he cannot give injections anymore either, therefore he cannot be used for all tasks. I have been to the optician with him and the DRCS has bought him a pair of glasses for 2000 Baht (45US\$ approximately). He was far- and short-sighted at the same time. SAWANG-Optical on Chaweng beach has offered us a super price. As I mentioned before Poehm is a very good craftsman and has constructed a kitchen under an already roofed area on our premises. In Thailand that does not take long. You just take some plywood and then everything is nailed together very closely. I had an extra roofing done for this corner, because I thought that some dogs could use it for shelter during the rain. However, the dogs did not like that corner, because they are curious animals and scared that they might miss something. Now it makes a great kitchen with gas stove, fridge, rice cooker and enough space for the storage of rice and dry food. Apart from that Poehm has constructed two great sheds, which are attached to our house. The roofing is approximately 2 to 3 m and will surely offer shelter for many dogs. We have also bought 8 bamboo benches (180 m to 100 m) for the dogs. The dogs have very well accepted the two „houses“ and each dog has already found his own place on the bamboo benches. In the doghouse of course there are benches all over the place and since the dogs can rest on two floor levels many more animals can find shelter during the rain.

I am very pleased to inform you that things are working out fine on Koh Samui. I am kept informed by phone or e-mail. Carmen Zanella and Walter Lehmann from Switzerland took care of everything free of charge last year also and there were no problems whatsoever. They

have my mobile whilst I am away and thus can be contacted by animal friends looking for help any time. „Samui Welcome“ and „Accommodation Samui“ publish information every month free of charge on the DRCS. Both papers are distributed to tourists free of charge. Furthermore flyers on the DRCS are available at the airport and several banks. There are also collecting tins in many hotels. At the clinic also we have placed information and telephone numbers – thus animal friends wanting to find the DRCS will surely be able to do so!

Carmen and Walter are busy informing tourists on the DRCS and training volunteers (animal loving tourists) and co-ordinating the helper's work. All dogs and cats without an owner can get medical help, if they have the luck that somebody informs the DRCS or if they are taken to Dr. Somsak directly. If the animals in question do not have an owner or if the owner is too poor to pay for the necessary medical treatment Dr. Somsak bills the costs to the DRCS. If somebody takes an animal to him directly, he calls us and asks us if we will pay the bill. Of course there are always some black sheep exploiting this and having their own animals treated letting the DRCS pay the bill. They do so by saying that it isn't really their dog that they are only feeding the animal. The DRCS doesn't pay for pedigree dogs. The bills for poodles belonging to the „ladies“ working in the bars are surely not paid by the DRCS. But if in doubt I normally agree to pay the bill. We still have an excellent co-operation with Dr. Somsak and he explains all matters to the helpers and myself in detail. In the passed months he has received between 1400 US\$ and 2200 US\$ for medical services and medication we bought from him. You are most welcome to check his invoices when You are on Koh Samui. He writes everything down in detail and his invoices are easy to check. Most invoices of course are for the spaying of female dogs. Dr. Somsak spayed two dogs for the DRCS every day. If busy tourists are here catching the dogs and taking care of the treatment after the spaying he manages more dogs. Male dogs are only castrated if they are aggressive or if there is another important reason.

Dear cat lovers please do not believe that with all the dogs on Koh Samui we forget the cats. Many cats have been spayed also and by now I have three staying with me in the bungalow! I love cats more than anything! But on Koh Samui the dogs are more important, because the cat problem is much smaller, because the cats can fend for themselves. There are geckos, mice and many other small animals. For dogs the situation is much more difficult –

they have to beg or try and find something edible in the rubbish!

Right after our leave Carmen and Walter had a lot of work. Trevor Wheeler, Marc Weston and Calliste Lelliott from the WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) visited Koh Samui on the 25th of November and evaluated the DRCS' work. This year the DRCS was supported by the WSPA with 12.000 US\$. 5.000 US\$ are scheduled for the animal home and will only be used for this purpose. The WSPA was very pleased with our work and we can count on their help next year too! For several reasons we unfortunately have not managed to construct the animal home on Koh Samui this year. But I am quite sure, that after the rainy season, in early January we will be able to commence with the construction immediately. Khun Shompunute, who owns the Tongsay Bay had promised us 2 Rai (3200m²) for 8 years free of charge for the construction of the animal house. This is a most attractive offer, but 8 years pass quickly! Walter, Carmen and our president Khun Sud now want to have another careful look for some suitable land. Silvana from Switzerland, who already donated the money for the doghouse on our premises (approx. 3300US\$) agreed to buy 2 Rai and to put this land at the DRCS' disposal for an unlimited time. This of course is a great offer and we will accept it happily. Many thanks to Silvana from Switzerland and to all the Swiss people who donated money for the DRCS. Walter already had a look at some land, but so far nothing has been decided and it is too early to report anything. If it is not possible to find some suitable land within the next weeks we will accept Khun Shompunute offer and build our doghouse there. We still do not have quite the amount we need, but since Poehm is an excellent craftsman I do not see any problems to set up most suitable rain shelters for the dogs for very little money. Since the dogshelter has to be surrounded by a high wall it should not be a problem to put up rain shelter with sidewalls, which are attached to this wall. The ground underneath is paved and the dogs will get their beloved bamboo benches and - the doghouses are finished. For this we do not even need a construction worker, because Poehm thoroughly enjoyed setting up the rain shelters near our house and he really did an excellent job. He told us that he worked in Saudi Arabia as a carpenter for ten years. I do believe him, however, I am very surprised that he did not learn any English in that time. In the course of time, the moment we have some spare money, we will work on the construction of the doghouse and also start a place for cats. The rent for the clinic at the Chaweng Beach

Road has already been paid until the end of May. I hope that by then we will have enough money to set up a small clinic on the area of the shelter. Since the co-operation with Dr. Somsak has been excellent all year round, it was not necessary to employ a veterinary surgeon. Also, since we did not need the clinic for surgery or other treatments we had given our sterilisation equipment, all surgical instruments, an operation table and medicine to Shevaun Gallway a young veterinary surgeon from Ireland in January for the time being. Shevaun has started an organisation similar to the DRCS on Koh Phangan (KPG), that is the island next to Koh Samui. In the beginning the DRCS paid the medication. Dr. Somsak was most helpful and ordered all anaesthetics that have to be prescribed for Shevaun. She has employed a trained vet assistant Chris, from Canada. Chris takes care of the organisation, offers first aid, treats mange and wounds. Shevaun found a sponsor in Hong Kong who will finance the project for six months. On the 22th of September the **PAC** (Phangan Animal Care) was officially founded. Many people, the mayor was there and Dr. Somsak and we were there of course as well. Since its official foundation the PAC is a real organisation and is not supported by us (medication) anymore. If we would employ our own vet, of course the PAC would have to hand over all medical equipment. But maybe we can kindly ask the WSPA for a special donation. Or they could give the money to KPG and Shevaun could buy new equipment. But one step after the other. We are going to build the animal shelter to start with and then a clinic and then I will start looking for a suitable vet. When Shevaun is not on the island she is trying to arrange that vets, she knows from Hong Kong spent some "holidays" on KPG and castrate dogs on the side.

This worked out nicely in the last few weeks and once the clinic is ready I will start looking for volunteers from abroad. Shevaun in the beginning was a little bit scared of doing so. But I encouraged her of doing so, because she did not have anything to lose, if the project would not work out. By then many animals could get help and it does not look like Shevaun would give up easily. In January she is coming back for quite some time to KPG and will surely get a lot of work done. On the 27th of November the government wanted to start another large poisoning action on KPG, but with the mayor's help this could be avoided. After all she spayed and castrated more than 50 dogs and cats in the first two months after the foundation of the PAC and surely many of these animals could have been hers.

I gave a detailed report on the project on the neighbouring island because after all it is like an offspring of the DRCS. Without the starting help given by the DRCS the foundation of the PAC would not have been possible!

Our first branch makes us feel a quite proud. Please have a look at Shevaun's homepage www.pacthailand.org!

In the coming year the DRCS will also have a German version of its homepage.

You can find it under www.samuidog.org or www.hundehife.org in January 2002. Diana and Jens are still working on it. I am quite excited to see the final result. Many thanks to Diana and Jens! The old English homepage will of course continue to exist under www.samuidog.com.

In Thailand every little thing takes such a long time and even the simplest matters such as telephone, internet, electricity and water are not available all the time. Please be patient when waiting for a reply to your e-mails. Could all animal friends having a dog they sponsor let me have your phone numbers please (by mail?). Unfortunately I do not have enough time to send all of you a mail or a letter in order to inform you how your dog is doing. I will gladly call you! No problem! I know all the dogs very well and I would like to tell you more about your pet. I will of course send all of you the photos.

**Please do not forget the dogs and cats
in the future,
without YOU they have to fend for
themselves!**

**Help us build the animal shelter
with your donation!**

I would like to wish all of you a **very happy Christmas in good health and all the very best for 2002** and at the same time I would like to thank you all for your support and help. Many thanks to Gabriela who supported me in dealing with the Christmas mail (almost 400 letters) this year.

Without you there would be **no vet** on
Koh Samui and Koh Phangan!

Many kind regards

Briqitte

Further information for sponsors you'll find on page "How to help" of our homepage

