

Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui

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Dear friends of our animals!

December 2011

Every year I wonder how fast time and another year have gone by again. Hopefully all of you had a good time and I thank you in the name of all the cats and dogs for your loyal support.

In October and November Thailand has seen the worst floods in 50 years. Although Koh Samui is at a distance of 600 kilometres from Bangkok, we also suffered from the big floods, as shops became more and more empty. First there was no sand available for the cat toilets, then all the tinned dog and cat food at Tesco's, Macro and Big C's ran out, nor could we get any frozen dog food (minced meat) for several days. In the DCRS we need 20kgs of minced meat and in our house another 5kgs – every day! This minced meat is being prepared from bones and meat leftovers and costs us only 50 cents per kilogram. So we started to cook chicken carcasses again. These can always be purchased, as there are quite a number of chicken farms in Koh Samui and we were provided almost without problems from Surat Thani. Our manager Wit made the tour of the island to find some cat sand and tinned food: we need 30 tins for the cats every day! Dogs and cats in the DCRS are given their medicine with tinned food twice a day. The dogs and the cats at our house liked the chicken rice so much, that we had to cook some more rice otherwise we wouldn't have had enough to feed them all. They are just crazy about this menu! Consequently we continued cooking chicken rice for the dogs and cats in our house.

Please mind: HERE we think about what food our pets like better and in Bangkok the poor creatures swim for their life. On Thai TV I saw a couple of films about rescuing animals: even soldiers with several trucks and pick-ups and innumerable cages were assigned to get them out of the water. Every day in the Bangkok Post there were touching pictures of Thais with their dogs in their arms- fleeing from the water.

From December 20-29 we are flying to Berlin to meet our family and friends. Stephanie from Sweden will replace us- and do a perfect job. She has stayed with us since April- and hopefully she can stay very long. She lives in the volunteer's room in the house next to us and takes care of the dogs and cats there. In this house

we actually should only keep cats in cages needing treatment, but as things turn out, we've got 10 or more dogs playing around there!

There we've got puppies for placement and a couple of dogs waiting for departure to their new homes in Europe: 10-15 dogs are waiting for their flight "attendants" and take-off. If you want to help a dog to fly into a safe and good future, please do not hesitate to tell me! We are always looking for "flight attendants" travelling with Air Berlin.

Stephanie helps us intensely with the office work. As her English is very good, she answers almost all the mails in English. Thus Jay has got more time for the temples and can take better care of the cats and dogs at the temples and the villages they work in.

At least once a week, Stephanie and Goon are on the road in Lamai to vaccinate the animals or give them necessary treatment. This works quite well; Stephanie informs the tourists and the foreigners about our work, while Goon is busy with the treatment.



Stephanie and Goon just came back from Lamai where they caught a dog for castration.

For several weeks now, I've been sending two assistants to Chaweng once a week, to search the market area around our house for dogs with mange or in need of any other treatment. They also try to get hold of the dogs for vaccination or castration. Meanwhile, the people on the market know the DCRS assistants and wait for them: they bring along the dogs needing medical treatment!

In the market we had a more than ten-year old dog who was "naked" - all his hairs had fallen out. After many injections against mange he's started growing a coat again, but with older dogs it takes a very long period of time until the coat shows! Shy dogs may be given the mange medicine in their food. Have a look at our monthly list of patients; there you will get a slight impression of how important our work is for the animals!

For example from October: http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_Oktober_2011_english.pdf
or November: http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_November_2011_engl.pdf

THAI HELPERS

I placed a task description for every helper on our homepage

http://www.samuidog.org/text1_english.htm

In our last mail I introduced MEI to you. When he started his job in the DCRS, he was very hard-working, but after some time his work input slowed down enormously; so I took him with me into the house. There he managed – under supervision - to weld some very good cages and dog benches, with which we are never sufficiently supplied!

But eventually we were not satisfied with his work and had to lay him off.

JO MAI had been in the temple for three months, as his parents had wished him to stay there. In Thailand it is a habit for a young man to live as a monk for a certain time. Unfortunately for him, this stay "damaged" his work ethic: we had given him several chances to continue working with us. When he didn't show up for three days, this matter was settled for me, for good!

As too many helpers keep skiving off work for a day (without informing me!), we had to employ more helpers to guarantee a smooth work flow. Our president knows plenty of Burmese people who would very much like to work for us. He thought we should take in these Burmese helpers instead and kick out the Thai employees if they do not work properly. Unfortunately, the Burmese are not allowed to take a driver's license in Thailand, but we

also urgently need helpers with a driver's license! Otherwise I cannot have them inscribed in health insurance; but as they are employed legally, they can get medical treatment in public hospitals for 30 Baht (70 Cent). I have employed four Burmese men: KID, AU, TUI and YO. Three of them speak Thai very well, but reading or writing Thai isn't really a big success. YO has been here for 3 months and is very interested and very committed to his job. At the moment, he is undertaking a vocational training as second medical assistant. Every day, we have so many patients, making it impossible for ONE assistant to care for the wounds and to assist the doctor and to receive more and more Thais with their pets. As we become better known, more and more Thais and resident foreigners come to the DCRS; as a consequence Dr. Sith must attend plenty of animals. All day long we have crowds of visitors.

We'll wait and see, if and how AU, TUI and KID fit in our team. In April we will know who is still remaining with us....

Moreover, DAM wanted to work with us again. For many years, she had been a responsible and honest member on the team and I am so pleased, that she is back to a 4-hour-task every day: cleaning the house, where we live with about 50 cats and 12 dogs...As you can imagine there is always something to be done...? All the time....



KID, AU, TUI und YO



DAM

VOLUNTEERS

Besides our Thai helpers we always have volunteers who stay to help us for a shorter or longer time. The four hard-working helpers on the right side in the picture are representative for the many friends of our animals who helped us in the DRCS or in our house in Chaweng at some point, all year round.

BIG AND WARM THANKS TO ALL OF YOU

Come and see us and inform yourselves how you can help right here. You needn't help in the animal shelter itself, it would be a big support if you just had a closer look at the dogs on your holiday and hotel beaches; further you could help us to retrieve non-castrated dogs or cats.

Just feeding the dogs or cats on the island would be so helpful!

These animals do urgently need your support!



Jogi and Moonlight, who will fly to Norway soon.

But mind: Only feed on the beach or in the streets, never inside the hotel compound. Please take care to take your "pet" to beach and feed him or her there. Do not lure the dogs to follow you to the hotel: the next guest might complain and the manager will possibly order the dog to be poisoned.

Jogi and Gabi were on their hard-working tour in the country. In Chaweng, they controlled all the dogs on Chaweng – Noi - Beach; two of those caught there will find a new home in Germany and Norway.

Dany has been living on the island for many years: she has got an open (expert!) eye for dogs who want treatment or who are wounded.

The dogs Max and Maxime of the Boathouse on Chong Mon Beach are her special favourites: I told you already twice (newsletters of August and December 2010) about these two dogs and their sad destiny: both had been "kidnapped" and displaced, as the management of the Boathouse had changed. The management there sees frequent changes and you can never know what the next manager will do with the dogs.

But the dogs are lucky nevertheless, they must have a guardian angel, as up to now, no manager has gone to the extreme of killing them.



Moritz and Zsusi from Germany and Jasmina and Nuri from Australia were busy lending a hand



SIT will fly to Germany soon.





Jay, Linda and Tom have been working continuously treating the dogs and cats at currently 23 temples all around the island as well as a lot of street work in between.

Due to their efforts outside the shelter, an uncountable number of animals have been receiving treatment without having to go through the stress of being taken into the shelter or be faced with the danger of picking up any possible virus or diseases that may be around in the shelter.

Unfortunately they have some pretty disturbing news to report on the temple front. In general the temple areas which they provide with food, necessary vaccinations and medical attention during the weekly temple runs are known as a pretty safe place for cats and dogs on Samui.

A place where a free and happy life is guaranteed, especially for the many resident dogs/cats that have been living at the temples for many years and don't have to fight for their accepted place anymore. This is not always an easy task for the animals, but once they are settled, they can have a very peaceful life. In the past few months however, the team had to face some brutal reality:



Tom is getting a helping hand from a Monk to treat an injured Temple-dog

Six of their resident Temple-dogs have been poisoned and left to die a horrible and brutal death at two different temples they have been working at for many years.

Thanks to their knowledge of immediate medical treatment in such situations, Jay and Linda were able to save 2 of the dogs, which they took to their home and kept them on IV-drips until the dogs was stable enough to be transferred to the shelter.

Every week we have to

deal with several cases of poisoning on the island, but never before have we lost dogs that were living inside a temple.

The fact that people from the outside decided to take the lives of dogs that we have cared for, for many years now, was very difficult news to digest for Jay, Linda and Tom who have worked so hard transforming starving mangy and often sick dogs into strong healthy, well fed and happy temple dogs.

Besides the sad news, there are plenty of dogs and cats who depend on our Team and their every day work shows the difference they make to these animals. That's exactly what keeps us going and makes us realize that, although you can never rely on the humanity of humans, you can always be guaranteed the gratitude of an animal who is no longer suffering.

Our temple team are lucky enough to see this first hand every time they visit the temples and are greeted with a sea of wagging tails.



Jay and Linda treating a wound on a new Temple-dog

See this for yourself by checking out the latest news and pictures from our Temple Team, have a look at their last few reports with many beautiful pictures and details about their work, on our homepage under Info & News, Temple-Project.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Tempel_Dec_2011_ENG.pdf





Unfortunately we were not quite able to top the number of puppies being adopted in the last 3 months, but nevertheless, as long as we continue with our advertising and awareness poster and let it be known that we are in desperate need of people to adopt our healthy and vaccinated puppies, some still do find homes.

Only when people come and adopt a dog we are able to continue taking new puppies in since our shelter is already packed full.

Jay, Linda and Tom have been managing it all very well and try their best to only take those who really don't have a home, trying to make people understand that we can't just take puppies for no reason is very difficult.

We would like to say a special big 'Thank You' to Tom who had quite a tough time handling all the puppy and mother-dog related calls, making sure things were running smoothly at the puppy house in our shelter and getting the main work done at the temples, during the 2 week absence of Jay and Linda. Well done Tom!

In order to have healthy youngster at the shelter, they need to first complete their vaccination program, in order to build up a resistance to all the bacterial and viral infections they could be faced with at the shelter.

Our Foster parents Lin and Lubi play a big part in this procedure. Lin and Lubi have been Foster parents for 10 months. In order to provide a virus-free home for puppies picked up by the DCRS (or those dumped outside our gates), the two ladies opened their very own Puppy-House in February 2011, providing a safe haven, until the little ones completed their vaccinations. Lin and Lubi have had 9 families so far (just about 60 young dogs) – of which one puppy batch was less than a week old and arrived in a box, another two families arrived, including the moms.

Most pups arrive terrified, after dramatic rescues from inside pipes or never having had human contact, some are covered in little wounds or have malformed feet and legs from poor nutrition. All of the new arrivals are always totally covered in tick and fleas, that's why Lin and Lubi have been taking help of Allister from Eco Pest to safely spray their entire garden, home and puppy house monthly. A special Thank you to Allister from Eco Pest who is now doing this free as a contribution to the DCRS Foster Puppy Program.

Our long-term volunteers Jay and Linda check on the little ones twice a week and are in charge for the



Lin & Lubi our Super Fosters with their latest batch of abandoned puppies. Fit and healthy. ready for the shelter.

vaccinations, deworming –and if necessary medical supplies. Shortly after the puppies received the 2nd vaccine, they leave the foster care as socialized, healthy and strong little dogs –and often a little "pumpui" (fat in Thai).

Once at the DCRS-shelter, most puppies have successfully been adopted.

We are happy to announce that we have found a new Foster place!

Phueng, from the Big Buddha Bar in Maenam has agreed to take in puppies we have to pick up, or unvaccinated young dogs who need minor treatment before being returned to their original place...



Phueng, our new FosterParent with her new foster dogs.

We always look for more Foster Parents. Hopefully in the near future we will find some more great person like Lin, Lubi and Phueng. More Fosters means giving more puppies a chance of a healthy life.

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

In 2010, Rebekah Hope from Australia had visited us and was very impressed by our work. She had promised to help us; she had the stunning idea to have a book printed where owners of cats and dogs could have artistic photographs of their darling pets. For 75 AUS\$ you were offered 2 hours in a photographic studio. The book offers high-class art prints. A wonderful gift....

As the owners of the pets were very interested, Rebekah is planning the publication of another book and promised to support us again. We were overwhelmed by the huge donation: on her visit in October she handed over 12500 Australian dollars = 9500 Euro!

As well as the huge donation she also arrived with an enormous bag full of plush toys for the dogs and heaps of cats' toys as well. The dogs and the cats were overcome with enthusiasm.

Big and hearty thanks to you, Rebekah!



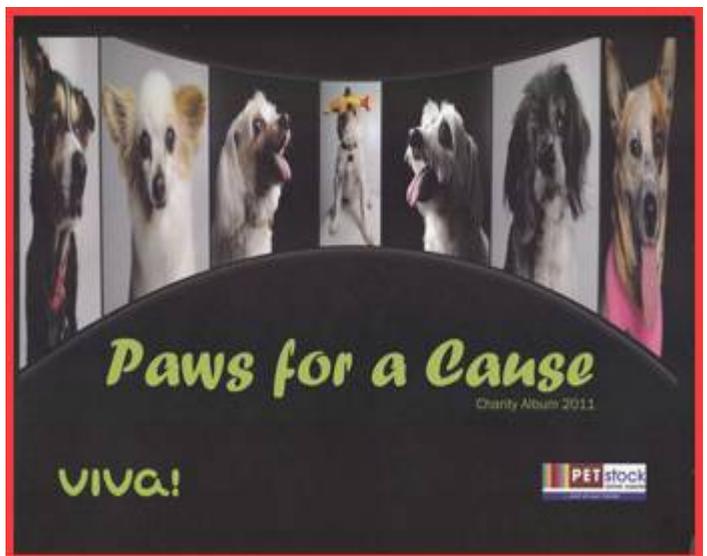
Rebekah at the DCRS with two foster dogs to be taken care of (handed in by their owners)

In my last newsletter I had informed you that we had managed to raise the money for an urgently needed bus. Nevertheless - our transport problems hadn't been solved yet, so we immediately "transformed" Rebekah's gift into another bus.

We asked our president for support and he found a second-hand bus in good condition. Picking it up would actually be no great problem, but the almost "nationwide" flooding in Northern Thailand put -in the true sense of the word- a spoke in our wheels.

The bus is waiting, safe and sound and dry, in Chiang Mai for us to pick it up - but most certainly earliest next year. Anticipation is the greatest pleasure, isn't it?!

I only hope the old bus will make it until we get the new one!!!



FOUNDATION IN THAILAND

As both of us are over 60 years old, we thought about converting the association into a foundation. Handing over of the DCRS to a possible successor will be much easier, when we are an officially registered foundation in Thailand. But don't be afraid- WE will continue working here until we are on our last legs...

To establish a foundation in Thailand is very complicated, and, what is essential is, of course, money. We had to deposit a sum of 500 000 Baht (12.000 Euro) on a foundation account. This sum must stay on the account as security; in case the foundation should be dissolved, this money will be used to make up for unpaid bills or whatever else might be necessary. Any remaining money will be inherited by the Dog Foundation in Chiang Mai.

We were very lucky as our landlord Khun Ying (Benchawan Sutthiglom) immediately declared herself willing to be present at the establishment of the new foundation. Our president Sud (Theerasut Chaichalremwong) continues to be our president, of course. Indeed, nothing has really changed except for the fact, that we made a safe investment of 500 000 Bath and that the Government expects an annual report. Up to now we have had a satisfying cooperation with the Government: nobody interfered with our work and I didn't have to hand in reports, either.

Please do not ask me why I was doing that to myself, but looking forward to the future, I think this was a wise decision.

I can not really tell what papers we had signed to become founding members - we had at least thirty genuine signatures to render! It would have taken us weeks until Wit could have explained to us all that red tape as the papers are all in Thai including, a requested curriculum vitae and, furthermore, the property documents were

of immense importance. For us personally, creating the foundation was quite simple, as we ourselves could not do anything about it; so we transferred the task of collecting all these endless necessary documents to our manager Wit, we then just signed. Then we went to the office in Nahton to sign another series of papers and everything was done for us. The foundation documents are first forwarded to Surat Thani and then to Bangkok for approval and authorization.

November 25 was THE day finally: Wit went to Surat Thani to get the most important official documents himself - all of them again laid down in Thai, this time even the figures. Believe me I haven't got the faintest idea WHAT WE FOUNDED!!! But all the Thais who saw the documents were nodding benevolently and were of the opinion that it was good to create the foundation.

In parallel, animal lovers in Germany founded an association, too. The only purpose of this association is to support the Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation Samui - financially or with donations in kind.

All your donations or membership fees will be tax deductible. As most big companies attach great importance to the fact that the association is correctly registered in Germany, we hope to possibly have more donations from them.

The founding members are Bärbel and Günter Schäfer, Martina Kraft, Uwe Bückler, Kathrin Schulz, Frank Nicolaus, Simone Kienle and Robert Zwettler.

We started founding both associations at the same time - things went fast in Thailand; it took us only three months. I will inform you immediately when everything will be settled, so that the German sponsors can transfer their donations to the new association bank account.

When the association is authorized, we will try to found parallel official associations in other countries. In some of them you have similar regulations for tax refunds, but first things first...You'll hear from me, when our association is "official"!

Camilla Riccardi from Spain was in Samui and considered how she could support us from Spain. She is a webmaster and so she offered to redesign our homepage completely. I accepted her offer right away as many sites are rather confusing, too big and should be reorganized.

Stefan Mönnich from Germany agreed to "remake" the German version in cooperation with Camilla. The homepage is immense and as I do not want some parts to be lost in the flow of work, it will take some time until the new homepage will be finally constructed. After seeing a few drafts and outlines I've got quite a good idea how everything may be arranged and subdivided. The actual homepage is confusing indeed and can only be improved by a total reorganization.

In the last three months, I made lots of shorts video-clips about the DCRS and about what life is like for the cats and dogs at the shelter and in our house. Some clips seem rather successful to me and if you want to share the Koh-Samui dog-and-cat-feeling in the oncoming long winter nights, just watch the videos! You find them all in YouTube under "dogsamui" or in Facebook under Brigitte Gomm.



Brigitte, Martina, Bärbel, Günter, Frank and Katrin



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

For just 15 euro a month you could take over a sponsorship for one of our beloved.

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

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

At the moment we are in the process of redesigning our homepage, but it is still worthwhile having a look under "info and news". I have been uploaded a lot of photos at my Facebook profile (Brigitte Gomm) 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!

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2012

Brigitte



and the DRCS – team

Banking details for sponsors:

see homepage



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