

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
Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear friends of our animals,

December 2013

Time has been passing so incredibly fast: the year is drawing to a close again. Certainly, the work for the dogs and cats in Koh Samui will never come to an end, but after 15 years of persistent endeavor and hard work, we are handling the dog problem quite well. Now it's the cats on their rise!

Unfortunately the hotel managers are not willing to understand that a few dogs in the hotel compounds would perfectly keep off the cats. Complaints about cats annoying the guests are increasing. It's a sad fact that we of the DCRS are seldom supported by the hotel management when we try to collect the cats for vaccination and neutering. They just want to get rid of the animals!

We are so lucky not to be forced to solely rely on the support of the islanders, if that were the case we would have been forced to close our shelter long time ago! It's down to all of you out in this big wide world, so far away from Koh Samui, that our cats and dogs owe the possibility to get medical treatment and food. Our warmest *thank you* from all of us to you all – thank you for your donations, your contributions in kind or personal help on location.

For recently "arrived" friends of the DCRS: this is the link where you can read our history in the old newsletters: http://www.samuidog.org/Newsletter_en.html

It's so great what achievements in the shelter were possible by your assistance in the course of some years and how many animals could be helped. For me, the island without the DCRS would be a mere nightmare as I remember the Koh Samui of some 20 years back - endless misery, hardship, calamity for the animals. No thank you, in this case I'd rather prefer sitting totally bored and frustrated in front of my television in Berlin.

But this will hopefully never happen: I'm convinced that you will continue supporting our task in the future to allow for a better life of our dogs and cats.

As every year we are celebrating Christmas together with my parents and friends in Berlin. From December 17-30 Silvia from Austria will care for visitors and helpers in the house.



Silvia, Sibylle and Marcus

Silvia will certainly manage everything very well, she knows our Thai helpers as she had been staying here for several months and helped us a lot in spring. Besides we have Sybille and Marcus (he had built Ling's cage in March) and they will take care of the shelter. The three of them - a super-team are staying for 6 months so that we can go on holiday without panicking!

Silvia will be supported by Gabriele and Melanie in our Chaweng house. Melanie will stay in the house with us and Gabriele lives in the volunteers' room.



Gabriele and Melanie



Linda, Jay, Wit, Dr. Sit and Tom

If you want to see us we'll bid you a warm welcome. WE are open every day from 9.00 till 18.00 h (the shelter is open until 17.00 h).

Recently I have created a new site about our "house"-dogs in Chaweng on our homepage. Here you may have a glimpse at all those who are waiting for you in Chaweng.

<http://www.samuidog.org/Dogs%20Chaweng.html>

To the 5 volunteers you may add Dr. Sit, our manager Wit and our long-time volunteers Jay, Linda, and Tom. They have been our worthy representatives during many of our holidays in Germany.

Baerbel and Guenter who use to continually take care of visitors, helpers, dogs, cats, repair work in the shelter, are as well in Germany for Christmas to meet their family - a good German tradition.

THAI HELPERS

In our last newsletter I had introduced you to 7 new helpers. I almost can't believe that six of them are still here! Only our Burmese DANG handed in his notice. He was a hard-working guy but there were misunderstandings all the time because of his communication problems with the other helpers. Dang's understanding of Thai was almost nil, so problems were inevitable.



We hired a new Burmese, because of our recent good experience with them and up to now I don't regret having employed THAI. THAI is extremely diligent and I am totally satisfied with him: e.g. the single boxes have never ever before been so clean! As I usually have EM and BO work in the single boxes, THAI is being trained in the cat house and the puppy house. Presently he helps with the endlessly large amount of repair works in the shelter. Marcus already had a look around and will supervise the repair work. Without permanent control the helpers aren't able to perform simple jobs, e. g. exchange broken tiles or weld new cages or benches for the dogs.

I guess these jobs will never be finished as these items aren't made for eternity. Either a small storm destroys the roof tiles or the tiles just crumble away... The dogs' benches do not last for long, as the dogs always manage scraping the wood until it is totally in pieces. Mysteriously cages have a tendency to disappear as well- a fact I only realize when they have almost all vanished and we have difficulties finding a cage for an emergency. Meanwhile I have understood where so many of our painstakingly produced 20-kilo-cages have gone. If there is an emergency call, it is very often rather difficult to catch the injured animal immediately. Then our helpers leave the cage in the hotel compound or with the emergency hoping the dog will show up again so that they can get him and they only have to fetch him from there! Sometimes this principle works and I get a phone call the dog has been caught and we can fetch him. And only then I learn, that there's already one of our cages on the premises.

Whenever it's about tiling a floor it's better to be there before the concrete is hard and dry, otherwise they are laid out in the Thai way, just as they come, without regard to the pattern or design.

I'd like to hire more Burmese or Cambodians, but with many tasks speaking and understanding Thai is an absolute must. Unfortunately they have never got a driving license but what we need is helpers with a driving license!



Besides DANG, GUG abandoned us a couple of days ago. He should have collected the dog food from the hotels in Chaweng and its surroundings for a couple of days, as I hadn't found a driving-helper up to now. JA and DÜNG usually work in our house; they have got a driving license, but they are so extremely unreliable that you never know whether they will show up for work the next day. After a week, GUG didn't come back. Beforehand he had assured that he would like to work in the Chaweng house. Miraculously he was ready for a talk, where we learned that he intended to continue working as a doctor's help on condition that KIO, our long-term and reliable doctor's help would give up his job there! Dazzling, isn't it? How dare he....

Short time later, ROAD entered (the helpers' jungle telegraph had worked perfectly well again!) asking for a job again.

As I urgently was in need of a driver for the hotel food collection tour, I re-employed him. Marcus was very pleased, as he had built the cage for LING together with him; so he will chaperon him: ROAD is an all-rounder who knows how to weld: he has got many talents and is very skilled. He had been working for us many years already. He had also worked as a doctor's help and could be placed anywhere.

But I won't allow him to instigate the others again. At the moment he is working like mad, arrives punctually and sweeps the court very early in the morning. Obviously the break had done him good!

Here you can find all our helpers:

http://www.samuidog.org/OurVetAndStaff_en.html



Not only in the shelter do the doors of the single boxes collapse, so do the roof beams and the tiles, followed by our vehicles which unfortunately show serious wear-out. I'm afraid we will have to get a "new" bus soon! It won't take long until its bottom will fall off! For the time being we are placing a big wooden panel over the holes...As you can see in the pictures, the situation is quite serious. The side door has come off and the back door lost its pane long time ago...It won't take long and the bus will turn out as a convertible.



Of course it is banged up almost everywhere and the front bumper is missing.

Repair would take several months and would make little sense, as the motor is leaking oil continuously. But actually it is still running....

We would be delighted to receive donations for a "new" car, as we need the bus urgently to take injured dogs to the shelter and to collect the leftover food from the hotels.

TEMPLE PROJECT

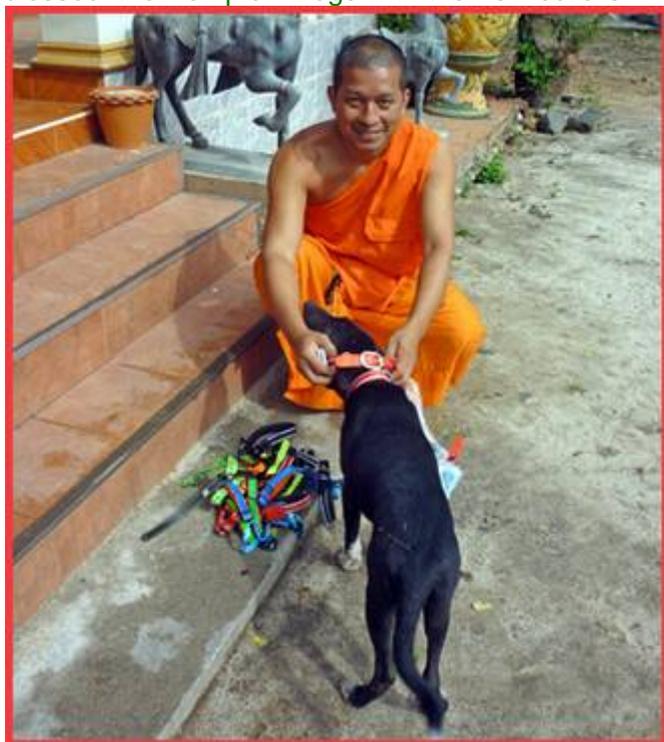
Jay and Linda are happy to have Tom from Switzerland back on their team. Usually he returns to Europe for business reasons twice/year but has now settled in Samui for several months. He is helping Jay and Linda with Temple and street-work on their busiest days of the week. Tom has learned a lot over the last few years while giving a helping hand at the shelter, the temples or wherever else needed. Giving injections, doing intense wound cleaning, providing certain medication...all things Tom has learned to manage by himself and he has become an invaluable help especially for Jay and Linda who've been working with the DRCS for almost 10 years. Even on the days Tom has to take care of his business and can't help the ladies, he



Tom from Switzerland

still takes care of one of the many animals he constantly takes to his home in order to nurse them back to health. Like these three puppies for example who suffer from severe liver problems, one of them even has to be on an iv drip. He has also started to cook special easily digestible food for his little three patients...In the previous newsletter we asked you to donate old or new dog collars for the hundreds of Temple-Dogs all around Samui in order to give them more of an identity.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who brought or sent us collars, the Temple-Team were overwhelmed with the response and would like to share some of the moments with you when they 'blessed' the Temple - Dogs with the new collars:



Please don't stop collecting old dog collars.

Though we have found a shop meanwhile where we can buy nice collars for 50 cent a piece, so that even all stray dogs coming to the shelter for neutering or treatment of their diseases will be provided with a collar - as long as our funds suffice!



In this newsletter, the Temple-Team Jay, Linda and Tom would like to tell the story of this amazingly brave and strong young dog with an enormous sense of responsibility called SaamTaa. Jay met SaamTaa a few weeks ago when she was treating some other dogs and cats at one of the Temples they work at. The very skinny mother dog SaamTaa and her 7 babies were dropped at the Temple just the day before.

Thankfully SaamTaa managed to snatch a nice dry place for her family and the other temple dogs left her alone. The Team made up a food-station for the mother and her babies and checked on them several times during the week.

While on their Temple Run a couple of weeks later, Jay & Tom found the mother dog lying in a corner, one of her legs cut in two and she had several other open wounds. They rushed with her to the shelter where Dr. Sith examined the injuries and was forced to remove the leg.



Jay with Saam Taa on their way to the DCRS



Saam Taa paying her family a visit at the temple.

Jay and Linda decided to take SaamTaa to their home until the heavy leg-amputation took place a few days later whilst they made sure that her little ones had all they needed at the Temple.

Thankfully the operation went well and she recovered very fast at Jay and Linda's home whilst their other dogs kept an eye on her. Every few days the Temple Team took SaamTaa to her Temple where she was reunited with her babies to make sure that both parties knew that they were still there for each other. Meanwhile SaamTaa has even been spayed, the babies are great and still live together with 8 other dumped puppies and about 20 other dogs at the temple. SaamTaa's stitches have been removed and she has fully recovered. She also has shown no more signs of planning to see her little ones again (which are now old enough to look after themselves) but instead got more than comfortable at Jay and Linda's place. The ladies have decided to keep her and she is now officially part of the family....



SaamTaa home

The latest update on the Temple Team's work as well as more pictures, you can find in their latest Temple Report:

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Tempel_December_2013.pdf

PUPPY HOUSE

A big Thank-you to our volunteer "Frisco", who sadly had to return to the states. During the year she was here, she helped run the puppy house and did a fantastic job, also with our special-needs cases, like Dam for example. Dam came to us completely paralyzed, blind and unable to eat or drink by himself, he required very intensive physio and care. Jay made an instruction poster explaining Dams situation, asking visitors and volunteers to help where they could.

Thanks to Frisco and many people from all over the world who helped with all the massages, physio and training, Dam can now see, eat, drink and walk all by himself, albeit with a bit of a disco shake. So as one angel left, another arrived as we welcome back Judith from the Netherlands, who last time she was here, worked very intensively with another paralyzed dog, who is now happily running around the shelter, so Judith has a lot of experience and will continue the work with Dam as well as helping in the puppy house and caring



Jay, Amber, Linda and Tom

for all the dogs in general. We are still actively pushing our vaccine program, asking people to care for stray puppies until we can fully vaccinate them after which time they can come to the shelter and hopefully be adopted.

Whilst she is here, Judith has also volunteered to be a foster parent for us, taking home the little ones dropped outside our gate at the big shelter, giving them that chance of survival until we can vaccinate and then take them - fully protected - into our shelter.



Judith

Of course a great number of volunteers get involved in the work with adult dogs in the kennels and in the single boxes. These as well want their cuddle units and enjoy being brushed tenderly!

The cats in the cathouse even dash towards everybody when sitting down next to them. Usually cat fans do not leave the cathouse again, but stay there to play and cuddle the "pets" for hours on end.

This year we had many volunteers from all over the world in the DCRS and they mean an extraordinarily valuable support.

Here you can find pictures of our volunteers from all over the world:

http://www.samuidog.org/Volunteers01_en.html



Ina, Stine and Karen, veterinary doctors from Denmark

Dr Sit is always pleased to have students though this doesn't necessarily mean less work for him as it is him who must control the surgery; besides, explaining all the time the same procedures isn't so funny either. Mostly it's a crowd of pretty young girls and the way the workers behave to gain their attention is sometimes so comical it makes you want to laugh your pants off.

Naturally the students help cleaning wounds, but actually it's the job of the two doctor's assistants - who like to join the end of the queue when there are students available! It's a pity and a shame that we are so often "provided" with dogs covered with wounds all over their bodies, full of maggots in all sizes; or we catch the dogs – and it often needs an enormous effort - as these dogs are extremely timid. So, I'm sorry to say, there is always enough work left for the Thai helpers.

Our heartfelt **thank you** goes to all who helped to care for the animals and to show them, that there are people who are fond of them and who do not treat them like trash, or even bully them and worse...

All our long-time dogs haven't found a place in Koh Samui where they could have overcome. Almost all of them had fought for survival before they arrived in the DCRS. Some are taking very long time before they can trust a human again; furthermore we always have "left-over" puppies which we were not able to place.

I know that some of you had rather not see seriously injured animals, as you won't get the horrible pictures out of your memory any more - something I understand very well. But please mind that all the dogs and cats you see in the "Patient of the Month" represent the daily routine in Koh Samui. All these poor creatures would miserably and solitarily „kick the bucket" without our support. Some of these extremely sore-looking dogs and cats recover and some can even be returned to their spot in Samui.

Of course Dr Sith can't work wonders with seriously injured and sick animals or those with a skeleton-like appearance. But he really gives a lot of thought before giving up a creature; even then it's better for the animal to be put down than to slowly and painfully die in the gutter on a roadside or wherever else.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_November_2013_engl.pdf

PLACING DOGS

This year, Martina has been very successful in placing our DCRS dogs in Germany 30 lucky dogs found a new home there. Up to now she has been able to find a new home for 70 dogs. This is the homepage where to find the stories of the dogs which needn't spend their future lifetime in the shelter.

<http://www.dogsonsamui.de/>

In case you like our dog-placing project we would be very pleased with a donation for these dogs. Our dogs may be re homed for 300 € each. This sum just makes up for the flight from Bangkok to Germany (with godfather „flight-attendants"). Add to that the rabies test and the chip plus the price for the handling in Bangkok. As to the cages, we try to have them transported back with other travelers flying to Koh Samui.



Martina is a passionate cat-lover. Here she's cleaning the eyes of a small kitten.

On this site you can see how much the transportation of a dog really costs:

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

Of course we will be forced to stop placing animals, if we do not manage to raise enough donations for all the other costs. But when we have enough money for medical care, food, helpers, gasoline and repair works, it is so fantastic that a few chosen ones can lead a happy life in Germany. Please support us in our endeavor to continue this project!

We are continually looking for "flight attendants" for our DCRS dogs. It is a pity that only a few airlines have got a fixed price for a dog. Only people flying with Lufthansa, Condor, KLM, Air France or AUA can help us. Please tell me if you are willing to give a dog the chance for a new life. All the other airlines charge per kg, usually it is 38€ per kg

HOTELS AND BUNGALOW RESORTS

The managers of the hotels still chase the dogs and cats from the compounds - and they think all available means are justified for their aim. Dogs and cats are still poisoned, for us it is hard to believe that animals do leave a good spot voluntarily. So when dogs have suddenly disappeared from your hotel beach, you can presume that the manager had ordered the "removal". In our April newsletter I had informed you about the *Samui Paradise Beach Resort* on Chaweng beach. By order of the manager three dogs had been taken to the WAT KHAO LAE temple in the south of the island. Unfortunately they have never arrived there. Tourists have



Rene with Samui and Familie



Dany with Maxime and Max

searched the whole area around the temple and we have talked to the monk. What had happened to the dogs has never been found out.

It's an absolute mystery for me how the gardeners are able to catch the dogs, because the dogs are usually afraid of the staff. What will be the consequence, when the gardener is afraid of not executing the manager's order, because he fears losing his job? Does he poison the dogs at night and remove them? Poison is available in every supermarket.

We ourselves always have big problems to catch the dogs on the beaches. Sometimes we can only do that when tourists help us or when we use a tranquillizing appliance (a paste), but first of all the dog must eat it! Sometimes he doesn't do that right away...

Unfortunately a dog had settled on the beach of the *Paradise Beach Resort*. The manager left no doubt that he was having that dog removed from the site. We, on the other hand, cannot take in all the unwanted dogs from the hotel compounds. Our shelter is totally overcrowded and only exceptional case dogs can be taken in for good.

Rene didn't want to abandon Samui and decided to search for a home in Germany. Some tourists added some money to the high transport costs for her. All wanted to prevent anything serious happening to her. At the moment, she is waiting here for her take-off.

The manager Doeke Bonga from the Imperial Boat House on Choeng Mon beach has had Maxime and Max displaced to Maenam. She ran off twice from our house and we had plenty of tricks to do to find her.

We had a very unpleasant talk with Doeke Bonga: he wanted Choeng Mon Beach to be an absolutely dog-free area (clinically clean!) and we were no longer allowed to collect leftover food. The donation box had to be removed on the spot.

But he made up his mind as he did not want to be bothered by **YOU!** He promised not to harm the dogs any more, but a donation box wouldn't be accepted. Maxime is at home again on the Boat House Beach, but Max is still missing, though he had lived on the Imperial Boat House Beach for ten years.

Please help us in our search for Max (the black one). It would be such a pleasure if he could come home again.



Silke from Burscheid and her friends had organized a block party.

We received a donation of 500 €

Thank all of you so much!

Here are the pictures

http://www.samuidog.org/Nice_Pictures_2013_threee.html

DJ Blair made a two-hour concert in Walking street in Lamai.

He collected 120 €

A big *thank you* to DJ Blair!

Here are the pictures

http://www.samuidog.org/Nice_Pictures_2013_foure.html

These last weeks I checked all the pictures taken this year and I made a small review. It's just nice pictures, nothing worrying or disgusting, and you may learn a lot about our work but also about Thai festivities.

http://www.samuidog.org/Nice_Pictures_2013_one_engneu.html

If you are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us. We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.

http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Hunde_November_2013_engl.pdf



Jane from England has been sewing fantastic cushions for our dogs and cats! Thank you so much!

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 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. Should you have used or new collars – dogs wearing collars don't look like strays and are very often treated better by the Thais.

Please help us to introduce the DCRS to as many people as possible. Forward our newsletter to your friends and acquaintances or spread news about the DCRS work in the panels you visit.



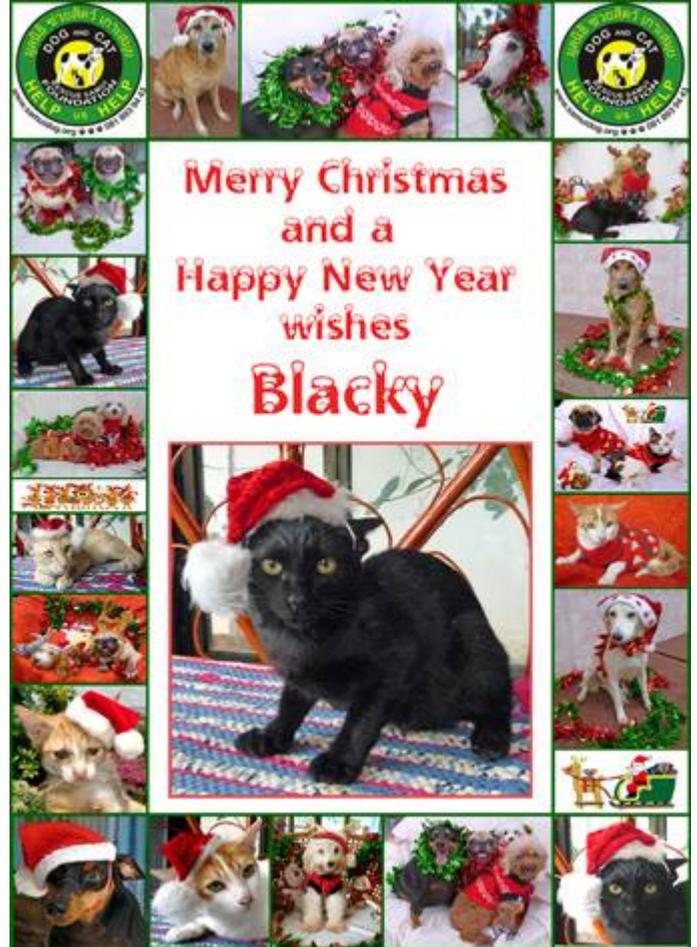
If you decide to order at Zooplus.de or at Amazon.de we will receive between 3.5% and 8.5% of your purchase value which will be transferred automatically to the DRCS account. To this end, I would appreciate if you would conduct your purchases through us. In order to do so you need to click on our logo 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 15 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 14 years, over 18,000 dogs and cats have been neutered and countless vaccinations and treatments have been carried out. We offer free medical treatment for ALL stray cats and dogs, 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. 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



BLACKY represents all dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor.

Our monthly costs amount to 14,000 Euro. If you are on Koh Samui, you are cordially invited to stop by and have a look at our records. The dogs and cats love to get some cuddles!

Best wishes, merry x-mas and a happy new year to you all.

Brigitte

and the DRCS – Team

Banking details for sponsors you can find in our website under:

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



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