

Dog Rescue Center Samui

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Dear animal friends!

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Once again this year has flown by and looking back on it, again we've achieved a lot. We, and by that I mean all of us. Whether you're working here or supporting us with your generous donations from home to build or continue the ongoing progress of the DRCS. A big Thank You to you ALL.

As always I recommend to our new animal lover contributors to check out our previous newsletters on our homepage www.samuidog.org, under Info and News.

This October we went for one week to Berlin to visit my Mum and celebrate her 80th Birthday. Whilst we were away, Marcus and Daniela from Germany stayed at the house and got a little taste of what it's like to run the DRCS. They had a lot of fun but also tears were shed, as in any animal shelter and clinic, animals do die. It takes time to get used to it but always it hurts. They also had to get used to the nightly dog barking. When injured or sick dogs are brought to the house in Chaweng, at a time when it's too late to bring them to the big shelter in Bahn Taling Ngam, it often costs a lot of restlessness amongst the dogs in the yard. The new arrivals, if they're not too weak, gradually rebel in the single box (gnawing at the bars) or bark and howl with a never-ending energy. And also the handling of the workers is not always so easy, as our Manager Wit is the only one who speaks English.

It's been Marcus plan to take over the DRCS once Werner and I step down, once we are no longer "able to get on our paws". He is almost 20 years younger and wants to start a new life on Samui some time soon and then help as much as he can at the shelter.

Daniela and Marcus did a great job and even after a trial week they haven't changed their minds as successors. Marcus has taken many dogs from Samui to Germany.

Attention animal friends from Germany! You can help us by finding more homes in Germany for our dogs. The average costs for a dog transport are about 350 Euro. This includes: 1. Chip, 2. Blood test in Europe, 3. Dog Transport to Bangkok, 4. Cage (depending on the size, the cages cost here up to 150 Euro) I refund the costs of the cage if you return it to Samui undamaged, 5. Handling in Bangkok (the dog needs to be seen by the vet at the airport before departure) and 6. The costs for the upkeep at the DRCS (50 Cent per day). Additionally there is the cost of the flight to Germany. Usually that's 27 Euro per kilo. I.e. A dog of 25kg (of course the dog is weighed in the cage) the total costs of transportation would be 675 Euro, all together about 1,000 Euro. Lastly on arrival in Germany there is a fee of 100 Euro payable to the official vet after the arrival. If you're coming on vacation with LTU, please contact me as they offer a fix price of 70 Euro for dog transport. The more flight guardians we have, the more dogs can be saved and brought to Germany. Even if you don't fly with LTU, you are more than welcome to be a flight guardian! Read more about it on our homepage under WHAT WE DO – dog transport.





Our volunteer group did an advertising day outside one of the three big shopping centres on the island. Most of the donations came from Thai people – the foreigners didn't seem to be so interested in the project.



I would like to give my special Thanks to Janine, Linda, Glenn, Kelli, Francoise and Tom. They single-handedly look after the puppies and don't want, under any circumstances that a Thai helper has to be placed in charge. They fear that the quarantine conditions and the handing out of the medicine would not take place properly. So far they've managed every day to have at least one volunteer working in the house. They also keep an eye on what's going on at the shelter if I am not there. There are also some animal friends who want to help out at the shelter for a few days. Most of them prefer to work in the puppy house and take some work off the shoulders of our long-term volunteers. Cat lovers usually stay in the cathouse for hours, as our 'purrers' are so alluring.

Tom has returned from Switzerland. He was busy working back home in order to save up some money to come back to the island and also help out at the DRCS.

As every year, we'll be flying back to Berlin on the 18th December, coming back on the 7th January. In the last few years, Allison from Scotland was staying at our house when we went to Germany. I got a little bit worried when she returned to Scotland for good last spring as Allison's done a great job looking after our loved ones in the house and outside in the yard. I was more than happy to hear that she'll come and spend her 'vacation' at the house this year and take care of things again. A big thank you to Allison for her relentless support.

On the 30th September 2007 I was presented with an award from the Hans-Rönn-Foundation. I would like to thank Brigitte and Peter Bose who nominated me for this award - the price money was 3000 Euro. The event took place in Düsseldorf at the 'Kleinen Komödchen' (a small theater) and Peter read a speech on my behalf.

If you would like to see the pictures or read the speech, please have a look on our homepage under INFO and NEWS.



Peter with Lamai from Koh Samui





The prize money from the **Hans-Rönn-Foundation** came at the right time as we desperately needed to build a cat room onto our house in Chaweng. The cat room measures about 10m² and is now the place where mothers can raise their babies. The death rate of kittens with no mothers is still very high. Sometimes they're only a few days old when they're brought to us. Werner is working very hard to look after the babies and even feeds them during the night. In the beginning they often respond very well and then suddenly stop eating and die after two or three days. Of course many already arrive with viruses and regardless of the constant medical treatments of the doctor, they don't survive. But we continue to fight for every kitten. With the cats we face the same problem as with the puppies. Virus infections are very difficult to treat and it's hard work to keep up the quarantine standards.

For two months we used the puppy quarantine station for our cats too. Because of all the virus infections and many cats actually died, I didn't want to keep them in the cages any longer. The cages are very difficult to clean and unfortunately some of the helpers still don't realize how important proper cleaning and disinfecting is. The cats anyway seem to like the puppies quarantine boxes. Of course 20 boxes for puppies AND cats, that's not enough.

We received a generous donation of 4000 Euro from the **SOS InterNet AG** (SOS Animal Care in Binningen, Switzerland) and only because of this donation we were now able to build the 21 tiled boxes (90x90cm).

A big thank you to the donor from Switzerland.

Especially our volunteers were more than happy that we finally built separate cat-boxes as they never had enough space for the new puppies. Fortunately the death rate of the puppies has been reduced dramatically and therefore I hope that we can achieve the same with the cats. At the moment we've got about 50 puppies in the puppy house and hopefully all of them will survive!



This year the rainy season started 4 weeks earlier than last year and straight away everything was flooded. What a great monsoon-start. One car and a motorbike ceased working because of the water, 6 helpers didn't show up for work and the whole outside yard was completely flooded. When the rain stopped for a little while, the dogs had great fun walking around in the water. 2 years ago we also faced bad floods on our property, but not in the middle of October. After as good as no heavy rain last year, we had emptied all our sandbags and therefore were helpless and could do nothing to stop the flood waters from coming into our garden. The situation calmed after our neighbour hit a 3 meter big hole into his back wall where the water could escape. At 1 o'clock in the morning!



We took all the small dogs into the house and sheltered the paralysed and sick dogs at the back in the single boxes. For one night all the dogs had to move a little bit closer together until the next day when the water thankfully receded quite quickly again from our property. We now have a huge pile of sandbags in front of our gate (until the end of December) and as the second flood arrived, the water searched for the easiest way and flowed through the neighbour's garden into god knows where. They've been trying to find a solution to the water floods for more than two years now, but unfortunately all the actions taken by the government haven't really

made a difference. The ring road between Bophut and Meanam was, as always, only passable by boat and the situation in Lamai didn't look much better. Unfortunately our house in Chaweng stays behind Laem Din Market on land which was only a few years ago a huge lake and swamp area. The water coming down from the mountains still hasn't realized that the lake we once had, is no longer available as a collecting point. Or is it? Anyway for a short time we stood with our house in one big brown lake and the rainy season is supposed to last until around the end of December.

On top of all that we had a leak in the doghouse and the gypsum roof got so heavy because of all the rain that it cracked half way through and a short cut in the electrics was the consequence. Luckily we quite easily found some workers who repaired the whole electric and also renewed the roof. The money we had left over from the Hans-Rönn-Foundation was used for those repairs.

We also faced a lot of problems in Baan Taling Ngam because of all the rain. The land out there is sloping and the water collected at the down end can only escape through the main entrance gate. The water created two channels up to 50 cm deep in the driveway (100 m long). The whole expensive sand and the little stones are now lying on the main road. After, we put a lot of huge palm leaves into the channels; the way is now passable again. As a precaution we dug two channels directly in front of the gate and concreted it. Our helpers sweated and moaned a lot as the ground was bone hard. The water is now flowing directly into the nearby creek. It probably won't take long until those new built channels are filled with sand and it will all depend on how quickly the helpers clean them out again.

I guess I don't really have to mention that during that time we also had no internet access and the electricity constantly fell out. Please be a little bit patient with expecting a response to your emails. With all the 'little state of emergencies' on Samui, it does take time to get up to date with all the emails. The small natural disasters we had to deal with caused a lot of unexpected costs.

Without the generous donations of the **SOS InterNet AG** (4000 Euro) and the **Hans-Rönn-Foundation** (3000 Euro) we definitely wouldn't have been able to build the cat infirmary with tiled boxes nor would it have been possible to build the cat room. **The World Society for the Protection of Animals** (WSPA) donated 5000 US Dollars for the building of the 20 quarantine boxes for the puppies last June and at the beginning of the year we received 10,000 Euro from the **Stichting Buitenlandse** in the Netherlands, with this money we got a new car (Nissan NV pickup). This was badly necessary as the old car sounded terrible and every day we had to expect the car to die. Even with all the small accidents the helpers had, the car doesn't look so bad. Of course we are fully insured and bodywork damages have always been repaired. We now use the old car only for short trips around Chaweng there for it's still doing its job. Both other cars are quite old and many motor and gear-box pieces had to be changed. The oldest of our cars had now made 220,000 km and the second one close to 100,000 km. The full insurance for the three cars isn't so easy to pay from the tip box, but the insurance is only due in January 2008 and hopefully you won't forget the dogs and cats over Christmas and help us to help the animals on Koh Samui.

As we have to shelter more and more dogs and cats at the DRCS and many more puppies survive, the basic costs obviously have increased. The puppies require lots of tin food, rice (we had to get an extra chef) puppy milk and vitamin paste.

We also have to keep doing renovation work at the shelter and that counts up too. We often have two workers who are purely doing things like: changing broken roof pieces, repairing bamboo benches, working on the drainage system, repair work at the cat fence, welding the broken doors of the single boxes, keeping an eye on the rainwater channels, and many more endless big and small repair jobs. Next year we will have to repaint all the iron bar doors.

The colour being painted straight onto the rust is very expensive, but before we have totally rusted doors we have no other choice than investing. Because the colour is so expensive, I have to be at the shelter myself and keep an eye on the work. I don't need to say anymore to that.

We've now got a new temple-project where we supply dry food for the monks to feed the dogs at the different temples (abandoned dogs). So far we're working together with monks from eight different temples who are willing to feed the dogs. I have to say that I imagined, in a Buddhist country, this would be a little bit easier. It's not always easy to find someone to discuss things with at a temple and it costs a lot of time- which unfortunately we don't always have. There is still so much to do! There are about 25 temples in Koh Samui – so there is still a lot of work ahead.

Help us through your donations to feed the dogs living at the temples

Thai Helpers

Once again we had a few losses amongst the helpers, but also a few new and promising candidates have started with us and will hopefully, long-term give their best. **MIE** has left us from one day to the next as he had to support his family. He actually wanted to come back after two months but that's now over 4 months ago. He never came to me personally and once again I had to hear the news from the other helpers. He still has money owing to him and that's why I'm surprised he hasn't showed up yet. **GOP** has gone back to Isan (north of Thailand) after he became a father. He actually told me personally that he was leaving the next day and hopefully will return one day, and work for us again. For me this was ok, he had been giving his best and was really trying to do a good job. We also had other newcomers but they only lasted a few days into their trial period. We even had a Krateu (transvestite) apply for the job claiming he was a man. A man with breasts? We only employ male helpers as I believe that it's too hard a job for women. I guess he/she would have only caused problems as the helpers were already amusing themselves with the possibility.



TIE



PON



MUU



KIO

KIO has returned after trying his luck for two years as a Thai-boxer. He didn't really need much of an instruction and is also in possession of a driving license. I didn't have to think long about re-employing him, even though he just left, owning me quite a bit of money. At the end of the day this seems par for the course. The other helpers had to come up with the money to repay Kio's debt, so now it's up to them to get their money back from him.

MUU's a friend of **KIO** and has been with the DRCS for a while. He's a good handy man and the volunteers told me that whenever he's got to clean out kennels, he treats the dogs kindly and with respect.

TIE and **PON** work at the big shelter and have been with us only a short time so, are still making an effort. **PON** has started off cleaning the single boxes, where he will alternate with **MUU**. We still have problems finding another helper who lives in the south, close to shelter that can start out in the land at 8 o'clock.

In December the DRCS counted 15 Thai helpers. **Dr.SID**: our vet, for more than two years – and as nothing is ever certain with the Thais- let's hope he stays for a lot longer. **WIT** our manager: nothing works without him – completely trust worthy. Aside from the vet, he's to only other that speaks English. We always work together trying to improve the work schedules. Unfortunately the helpers often have problems carrying out our ideas.

DAM, our cleaning lady has been working only half days since November. She's very trustworthy and I regret not having her working for us all day anymore. **EGG**, who's mainly working in Chaweng, has taken over her afternoon work: Preparing food for the cats, looking after the dogs at the house and constant brushing inside the house. The cats –big or small- are all house trained- unfortunately the dogs are not. At the moment we've got 10 little dogs in the house. It's hard for the little ones to stand their ground amongst all the big and strong dogs outside and therefore we have to take them inside the house. These are mainly abandoned poodles with **MATTED** fur and skin disease. **PUI** is after Wit our best man. He's a great handyman, diligent, very loving with the dogs, and unlike the many Thais, very fast working. He's able to work independently and as he's in possession of a driver's license, he's taken over Eggs work in Lamai. Silvana is coming up with the costs for the helper looking after the dogs there. Pui is in charge of finding sick or injured dogs or animals ready for castration/spaying. He's also doing vaccinations and small wound cleaning. **OW** is almost purely working in Chaweng and has been doing a great job with the cats as it's not always easy to keep the overall view. He's also become quite a good photographer as every animal gets a registration card with picture, except the dogs out of the 44 single boxes at the big shelter. As long as we don't know for sure that they'll stay with long term, they only have a registration card with no picture. You can see there's a lot to do and Ow has the necessary patience with the dogs and cats, which is very important. **BANG** is a very conscientious and calm employee. He assists the vet and is in charge of the wound cleaning of all the dogs. **EM** also is very conscientious and always polite. He's an all-rounder and can pretty much be used in every area. There are some workers suffering from a cat hair allergy, unfortunately EM is one of them. **JAA** has very well proven himself in the cat room and turned out to be a professional in tiling. I'm sure I'll find many more corners which sooner or later have to be tiled! **SOMKAET** has been with us for many years and is more suitable for the handyman Jobs. He doesn't really have a very good hand with the dogs and cats but we also need someone who can repair our constantly broken doors and bamboo benches. **RID** has been with us for many years too and is permanently working at the shelter in Bahn Taling Ngam, looking after the dogs in the big outside compounds. Additionally we've got our four new helpers **TIE, PON, MUU** and **KIO**.



Ulrike from Weinheim in Germany attended an event in November for companies and public interest in Ludwigsburg. All advertising could only be shown or worn on the body. Ulrike and her friend Susanne tried to raise aid supplies from the present company representative. The German red cross, the clinic in Ludwigsburg, TUI and 'we care' charity label promised their support. For more information please have a look on our homepage www.samuidog.org under INFO and NEWS.



If you're looking for an animal friendly hotel on Koh Samui, please check out the following homepage: www.hotel-kosamui.com
 In case your hotel is not listed there, you can get in touch with Ulrike and she will tell you if the hotel has already been contacted. E-mail: SabineJerome@aol.com
 Of course you can also contact the hotel directly and check with them **why** they are not on the list and how they feel about cat and dogs!?
 That would also help Ulrike to fulfill her list. Please be aware that the homepage is still in its infancy and your help is very important.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, EVERY dog and cat can be helped for free on Kohl Samui. Stray animals which have not found a place to survive on their own on Kohl Samui can be brought into the shelter. Because of your donations, we can neuter at least six animals every day. We offer free medical treatment for ALL cats and dogs (with or without an owner, that doesn't matter) including a pick-up service. Over the last four years, around 250 dogs and almost 130 cats that couldn't make it on their own on Koh Samui have found a home in our shelter. Many of them are looking for sponsors to make sure that their bowls are never empty. Have a look on the homepage ('How to Help', 'Cats and Dogs to Sponsor'). Sponsoring a dog or a cat is only 15 Euro a month. Even if you do not want to sponsor an animal, it is lovely to look at our many dogs and cats and read their stories! Many dogs have been rehoused from our shelter. Take a look at the pictures of these happy dogs on our home page (www.samuidog.org 'What we do' and 'Dog Transport'). You must have a look!

As the shelter in Baan Taling Ngam is very big and surrounded by a wall measuring some 800 metres, you can still 'buy' pieces of wall for 25 Euro per metre (www.samuidog.org 'What do we do')



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. Spoons for the handing out of the medicine (the helpers often throw it away with the empty tins). Through this I've already lost 36 spoons (my 3 best cutlery sets from Germany). OLD toys for the puppies, index cards (A5 size), powdered kitten/puppy milk, cat de-worming paste, de-worming tablets for dogs (multi-wormer), and flea collars for dogs. We can always use these things. 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.

**Don't forget the dogs and cats on Kohl Samui.
They still need your help.
Every small donation helps us take one step forward**

Our monthly costs amount to 7,500 Euro. If you are on Kohl Samui, you are cordially invited to stop by. You are welcome to come and look at our (financial) books. The dogs, cats and I always love visitors!

**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
(SA WA DIE PIE MAI)**

Brigitte

Banking details for sponsors:
please see
www.samuidog.org - HOW TO HELP

