

## Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Dear friends,

April 2015

A warm-hearted THANK YOU to all our friends who heard our emergency call in February and have supported us with donations of money and goods.

This meant an extraordinary relief for us. In the long run, only rigorous cuts and pinching and scraping everywhere will help us as the Euro price rate is not going to change in the foreseeable future. As we collect 75% of our donations on our account in Euro, we depend very much on the exchange rate.

On April 1, 2015 we celebrated 16 years of the Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation. Originally no celebration should be held, as we didn't have any money left for unnecessary "things".

But both Gabi and Uwe from Oldenburg thought, that our helpers were not to be blamed for the bad exchange rate of Euro to Baht and financed the party for us! A big and warmhearted **thank you** to both of them!

Wally from Germany sent money for coffee and cakes- so a second big **thank you** for her!



The helpers were so excited when they heard that a small party would be held in our house in Chaweng.

Indeed it should be a party for the helpers, but at the moment we have a large number of volunteers here- and they were not to be excluded!

Furthermore we invited all the April 1<sup>st</sup> visitors of our small center in Chaweng to have fun with us.

Usually the helpers are given a present, e.g. a fan or an electric kettle- but this year, of course, no gifts. But everybody had lots of fun, even without gifts, and the party was as every year, an enormous success.



As usual, we played „musical chairs“

### VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

in Chaweng and in Ban Taling Nam are always welcome as they are a big help and I do hope that many more will come to the shelter to inform themselves about our work or only to play with the dogs and cats giving them a lot of loving care and cuddles!



The dogs are always overwhelmed with joy when visitors arrive...



... Because they often bring some treats!

Almost for six months, **Sybille** and **Marcus** have stayed with us for the third time as volunteers. This year they cared for the most hopeless “cases”. These dogs were often seriously ill or injured and needed loving care and attention. Some of them had to be fed; besides a regular cleaning of the wounds was required. Without Marcus and Sybille some of the dogs wouldn't have managed to survive. Dogs tend to giving up on themselves when they lost their will to survive. They need lots of affectionate care to struggle for life and health again.

We would love for them to come back one day and, the dogs miss them already.





With Sybille's affectionate care Bella recovered almost perfectly. Bella is only one of the dogs Sybille managed to set back on their paws again



Eight weeks ago, Marcus and Daniela have taken six puppies – abandoned on our doorstep – home



Since early 2015 **Marcus** and **Daniela** have lived on the island, but of course they had to take care of their bungalows and of Nico first. They are very lucky as Nico loves going to school here- something which is very often a big problem for emigrants with children. When the "little ones" just suffer because they miss their friends, this may cause big problems for everybody.

Meanwhile, Marcus and Daniela have taken up the daily care for the cats and dogs in the shelter.

Marcus watches out for items to repair and sees to them being really fixed. Because of our financial situation, repair work can't be done immediately sometimes.

The bungalows are on the Bang Por Beach <http://www.bungalow-samui.de/>; Marcus himself will look after your well-being! Accepted in the bungalows are animal lovers only, and feeding the dogs is a "job" expected by everybody!



I'm sorry to say, but two of them didn't make it. Who wouldn't want to have one or two of these four darlings?

Grace, Pepper, Grizzly or Titan are looking for a loving home in Germany or anywhere else in the world.



Whoever has visited our shelter may have seen the nice house on the right side of our access road: Ivette has rented it! It's reasonably priced, although quite lonely there.

So she has taken home a large dangerously looking dog from the shelter!

For already 9 months, Ivette has been a volunteer in the shelter and she is performing a super-job! She takes care of the visitors, shows them around the shelter and informs them about what we do. She checks if the helpers are working properly and tells me when something is wrong. You know, if the helpers haven't been in the shelter for one or even several days, they have „forgotten“ the basics of their job. Sometimes I just can't believe my eyes when seeing a helper starting to clean the single boxes- without any useful equipment! She's a great help for me, as she takes pictures of all the dogs placed in the shelter before their take-off. She sends the pictures directly to the owners, together with a short report about the living condition of their darlings.

Furthermore she takes care of the new volunteers. Some volunteers haven't got the faintest idea of what would be a useful help in the shelter. Again and again, we see volunteers totally amazed at how much cleaning work must be done! But people are different and Ivette is very patient. Perhaps some of the volunteers can't cope with the enormous amount of dogs and are consequently somewhat afraid. We are always glad about volunteers. Some have been coming back for several years: their assistance is so valuable! Here is a small video about the volunteers' work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMEa0LxPiBQ&list=UU0WqMhiPPjKfNR44kFRjM9g&index=7>

**Hans-Peter** has been a background volunteer for one year now. As he prefers a calmer place, he has moved to the Kannom on the mainland. For quite some time he has taken care – almost exclusively by remote maintenance- of our computers so that they work! Our computer was so old, that many recent programmers didn't run; we faced serious problems with mass mailing.

Therefore, some time ago, we had to buy a new computer and Hans-Peter helped with the setup.

Unfortunately not everything can be done via remote maintenance: Hans-Peter had to travel to Samui for the installation of an internet antenna on the roof of the shelter for Ivette. Huge amounts of branches had to be cut and Dueng was scrambling in the highest branches and on the roof like a monkey!

For Ivette it felt like Christmas when she could go online – on her own terrace.



## STUDENTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the future we will no longer accept veterinary students. In the course of time things have turned out that way: most of them only wish to execute as many operations as possible here. Of course, doctor Sith must keep a sharp eye on them which costs **him** a lot of time- especially as some just do not show a very special talent- and a lot of nerves; he must explain the same "subjects" again and again which is certainly tiring.

When the surgery room must be cleaned some of them line up as far back as possible – and I myself am fed up with asking them again and again to lend us a hand!

I keep preaching endlessly: only 1 student in the operating room! Obviously I'm speaking Chinese as I catch the students en masse regularly in the OR! Sometimes we had up to 6 students there...



Dr. Sith and his assistants Kio and Lek. As you can see our only 12 m<sup>2</sup> big room is already full

Of course we also had some students here over the last few years who were willing to help us with the dogs and cats, e.g. they went through the kennels to retrieve ill or injured dogs or to clean the OR without being told to do so.

Many tasks may be completed by volunteers and we needn't "burden" doctor Sith needlessly with vet students. I took that decision to relieve doctor Sith. He is much too polite to usher the students out of the tiny narrow OR when all of them have assembled there again!

Some months ago, we had to buy a gas anesthetic machine as we had continuous problems with the narcotics supplies- a problem which still exists..... The machine takes a lot of room in the small room.

Doctor Sith has always eagerly instructed and taught the students and would have continued likewise, but nevertheless I myself decided we were no longer able to accept vet students in the DCRS.

For a long time already all the other Thai animal rights groups have only accepted skilled veterinary doctors with an at least two-year surgery experience.

## RELIEF ACTIONS AFTER OUR EMERGENCY CALL FOR YOUR HELP



**Kieron Gerbig**, a famous singer, posted an emergency call in Facebook for us and within no time he was able to hand in a 2000-Euro check! Thank you to all Kieron Gerbig fans!



## OLD STUFF FOR CHARITY

**Daniela, Jana, Nicole** und **Murat** from Munich had the idea to sort out the trash from their apartments and basements: the trash was sold at the nightly flea market and they proudly transferred the amount of 225 Euros! A big *thank you* to them.



A big *thank you* to **Petra** and **Dirk** for lots of donated goods they brought to Samui!



A big *thank you* to **Doris** and **Karin** for the lots of goods they brought to Samui!



**Gunlök** and **Leif** brought lots of blankets, towels and medical material from Sweden.

**A big THANK YOU to all who also „delivered“ goods of all kinds at the shelter**



**Viktor** from Russia traveled in Samui for one day and collected old towels, food and 1200 Bath in the Russian community for us!

## NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

At last! The Thai Government passed a law for the protection of animals. The fines are amazingly high. Up to two years in prison or up to 40,000 Baht or even both! This sounds really good! On April 23. and 24. a meeting of the TSPCA, that is the umbrella organization of all the associations for the protection of animals in Thailand, was held. The new law is the absolute top subject there to be discussed and informed about.

The big question is how to implement this law? Certainly something may be effected if the culprit is caught on the spot.

I think that the managers should be informed about the possibility of punishment in case they order gardeners or guards to lay out poison in order to remove unwanted dogs or cats from the hotel compound.

Our manager Wit will participate at the meeting and will tell us later how the new law should be interpreted.

I hope the best for the animals....



## FACEBOOK

A couple of years ago, Jeremy Oaten opened the Facebook account **Dog-Cat Rescue Samui** for us and then transferred the management to me. Shortly after we had 5000 “friends” and as more than 5000 are not allowed on a private account, I installed “**Brigitte Gomm**”: both sites always show the same information.

Facebook regularly sees important changes; it was no longer possible to keep the Dog-Cat rescue Samui privately. That’s why I transferred all these friends to the site of **DCRS- Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui** : now all “friends”

are on that site. Besides you find the same entries as on **Brigitte Gomm**. For me it is much easier, as I must only control 2 sites and my group “**foreign animal news**”. Please do enter your name in this group, if you want to have information about the global protection of animals. Every day I receive an infinite number of mails or via Facebook entries. Very often the information is very sad, and I guess we can really move things when we subscribe petitions against the suffering of animals; we should be well-informed what serious mischief is done to animals all over the world.

At the moment it’s only Jay and me in the office, and we can scarcely do our job, when we only have a two-day office help per week. So we haven’t got the time for Facebook. It would be very helpful, if you send your inquiries per e-mail only. Monika from Germany spent 6 months in Samui and helped with the office work two days a week until March. She was perfect, but unfortunately we have got no volunteer willing to support us in the office at the moment.



## PUPPY HOUSE



Adored by her little friends.

As most of you know by now, Maa is no longer the only wheelchair dog at our Rescue Center which confirms it again that even a paralyzed or disabled dog can still enjoy and even love life. With just a bit of help and a big package of loving attention, one can get used to everything. We have kept you well updated about Maa over the last few months, mainly because of the tremendous support we received when we first told you all about the Temple/Dog Maa. Since then she’s come a long way and has been living at the shelter for the past few months now. Due to the fact that she is so happy at the puppy house, loved by everyone at the shelter and adored by the other puppies in the house, Maa will definitely stay at our Rescue Center in Baan Taling Nam. We are having her trying out different chairs, she gets to speed around the free kitchen area every day and gets the daily love, attention and care that she needs to hopefully stay happy and healthy for a long time.

Compared to 10 years ago, we do have more and more little ones in the Puppy House who manage to stay alive until they are old enough to be moved out of the house and into one of the bigger outside compounds at the shelter. This might be a bit hard to read, but fact is that nobody at the Dog Rescue could ever take the surviving of an unvaccinated puppy at the shelter for granted. Most of the new puppies got infected with some horrible virus not long after being brought to the shelter, simply dumped in front of our doors or nicely placed in the back of our car in middle of the night.



Linda running with the youngsters

This is why our ladies Jay and Linda who are in charge for the youngsters are trying to have every puppy vaccinated before it gets confronted with any viruses at the shelter. Whenever we are informed about puppies, they immediately go to the people and try to convince them to have the puppies vaccinated on location and leave them there until after the second vaccination; only then can they be moved to the shelter without any risk. Jay and Linda have been with us for over 10 years and their vaccination program has shown it's success. Never before did we have so many healthy puppies in the puppy house that we were actually forced to move them out before they were even sterilized. Even though some did manage to find a home, the puppy-area simply got too busy and the little ones needed more space.



Jay is introducing the young gang to their new compound and having fun in their very own pool



Puppy-House-Man Bu comes to visit and of course the youngsters are dead-excited

What a joy it was to then see them so excited and happy when the almost 10 puppies were integrated into their new compound.

Our largest compound 1 already had a lot of young dogs in it but never has it been so easy to bring a new group into a compound. It looks like the puppies were too young to worry about the other dogs and all they could see was space and the pool! Not one of them was really scared and needed lots of attention to feel safe in the new environment. We are happy to see 'our shelter puppies' appreciating the gift of space and companionship.

This somehow makes us less disappointed over them not finding a new home.



## TEMPLE PROJEKT - Poisoning at the temple

At the temples where we have a big number of dogs living, they usually live in small groups in different part of the temples, each group having their own territory. Just like at our shelter too, it sometimes does come to fights and injuries happen. There isn't a day passing without any of the temple dogs or cats needing some sort of immediate help

Unfortunately some horrible poisoning attacks have taken place at one of the temples our Team works at during a Temple-Festival. One of the monks called Jay, Linda and Tom in the early morning hours and they responded immediately. The scene at the temple was heartbreaking: Dead and half-dead Temple-dogs lying all over the place, the monk himself still in shock. Thanks to the fast reaction of Jay, Linda and Tom some of the dogs could be saved while others were not that lucky. 6 Temple-Dogs lost their lives that night, leaving the monks, our Temple Team and many residents around shocked and hard broken over the loss of those beautiful resident Temple Dogs. Even though it often feels impossible to go back to work after such happenings, it's important to concentrate on the happy faces still with us. There is only so much we can do.....



## Two Temple Dogs now happily living in Germany: CARA und JOY



It was a hard, long and pretty painful recovery. Joy at Jay and Linda's home fighting for her life



Not giving up is something Joy has learned with a very early age...That's why she is still here today

The Temple-Team first met Joy as a puppy in one of the temples; she survived the vaccine programme and was fit and happy till one day she was run over by a car leaving her with a broken hip and two broken back legs. We took her to our shelter but there was nothing our vet could do for her, she required major surgery which could not be done by us and could not be paid for by us either.

It was at the shelter where Gaby and Uwe from Germany, first met Joy, they immediately fell in love with her and offered to cover the cost of surgery if we could find a vet on the island who could actually perform it. The cost was almost 40 thousand baht. Even though they knew the risk of Joy not surviving the surgery or it not being successful was very high, they still asked us to go ahead. Joy did survive but the surgery was badly performed and two days later Joy had massive infection in one leg. Post surgery Joy was cared for at the homes of our temple team, Jay Linda and Tom. It was not an easy process this infection went on to last for almost 5 months and for a time we were not sure if she would make it, but she was a fighter and thanks to that and the care, attention and physiotherapy she received from our dedicated team, Joy is now walking again. When Gaby and Uwe wanted to give Joy a home in Germany, but did not want her to be alone so they chose another real survivor from the temple, Cara, who almost died and managed to fight back. On the 21st of February both Joy and Cara flew together to their new home in Germany. The full story from these two Temple-Dogs as well as the latest news from our Temple-Team and their work the shelter you can read here:



What a cute family: Gaby and Uwe with Cara and Joy in Germany

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf)



We took pictures of the dogs on Chaweng, Chaweng-Noi, Lamai, and Bang Por beaches. You find them on our homepage

<http://www.samuidog.org/dogs-on-samui-beach.html>

## HOTELS

We've got some good news from the hotel resorts:

The **Pinnacle** in Maenam put up an extra table for our donation box! *Thank you* to Mike, the manager. A couple of years ago, the atmosphere there was completely different. The manager then kept threatening us with the "removal" of the dogs. As I always say, the well-being of the dogs only depends on the manager's attitude towards dogs and cats..

The **Peace** resort in Bophud wanted to get a donations box on the occasion of the Song Kran celebration. Until now I hadn't heard anything good about this hotel!

Of course I'm pleased about every positive change concerning the management's attitude towards animals, but you just can't tell whether a hotel will have an animal-loving manager in the long run.

I would be very glad if you could mail me pictures of the dogs in Maenam, Bophud, Choeng Mon, and from other beaches. I'm going to place them on our homepage and insert them in Facebook. As not all our friends are in Facebook, I insert the pictures in our homepage as well.

I personally haven't got enough spare time to take pictures of the dogs on these beaches. But when you are on holiday there, it would be very helpful for me to get a general overview about the dogs on the beaches, and even to track non-neutered animals.

I'm still worrying a lot about how we can financially make ends mend. Reduction of costs isn't that easy without seriously affecting the animal living conditions as a consequence.

The Euro exchange rate versus the one of the Baht won't change fast- if at all- and therefore we face extraordinary trouble: we get 75% of all the donations in Euro. We receive up to 150 000 Baht per month less because of the bad exchange rate. And this is an enormous deficiency. In the last years we had been able to get along somewhat reasonably with our monthly receipts. Whenever we had a surplus, we built something new or something else had to be repaired. Unfortunately we had no chance to build up reserves as we always had to purchase some equipment or other items.

The bad exchange rate will keep a lot of people from traveling to Thailand. They will spend their holidays in „Euro-Country“- where, at least- they needn't get angry about the exchange rate. By now we have seen less tourists here than we had last year at the same time, and the shop and the hotel keepers are even worried about the next season already. Bookings must have gone down considerably. I think you can imagine what this will mean for us concerning the Euro rate. Please do not let us down; our situation is really extremely serious.

The bomb attack of April 11 will frighten off some people as well. When Bangkok isn't "flooded" and the Yellows don't fight with the Reds, someone is throwing a bomb! The Thai keep having ideas about how to scare tourists!

Because of this emergency we had to raise the monthly sponsorship fee to 25€. All the existing sponsorships remain at 20 €. If you can manage anyhow I urgently ask you to transfer 25€ monthly from now on for your foster pet.

The sponsorships are our only regular revenue and most important for the existence of our association.

Up to now we have executed 6 castrations/ neutering per day. We could of course make savings here as well, if we made two operations less. But I'm only taking this measure when all other possibilities are out of range.

If possible, we have ordered cheaper medicine. The BAYER medicine is very expensive and I hope that That medicine will be effective as well. It's a sad fact that prices for medicine have risen- but the Baht did not. For vaccines 125 Baht must be paid instead of 100 Baht previously. Now we take 150 Bath for a vaccination from those who can afford to pay. Stray animals are treated for free- this goes without saying.

Every four weeks, our DCRS dogs are given *Ivomec* for heartworm prophylaxis, deworming and against ticks and fleas. Certainly the dogs will be glad only to get an injection every 6 weeks- and it will be as helpful!

Every 4 weeks, a company shows up to spray all the kennels against the ticks. This is quite useful, but an extinction of ticks will never happen....

When feeding the animals, we take even more care to waste as little food as possible. Ivette keeps an eye on the helpers so that they do not "forget" their orders.....

With closing the water taps our helpers face serious problems. So should we fine the helpers again?



**Castle** is here vicariously for all the dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor

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.

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

In the next months I'll be able to see whether releasing two helpers was enough- among other savings measures. This was only a short-time shock for the helpers, their working morale had gone down to a large degree- even when they all had daily showed up for work; with this sinking morale it's not easy to cope with all the tasks in the shelter on some days. I try at least to have all posts in the shelter occupied and to send a helper as fast as possible in an emergency. Repair work can only be done with difficulty at the moment. I must give the helpers verbal warnings again, recruit new ones if necessary and fire helpers who keep taking off days regularly. This isn't an easy task, as it is one day one – and the next day another helper who takes a break for one day or two. Just as they feel like doing so....

So in case many of them skip work on the same day we can only hope that there are quite a couple of "good" volunteers available and not too many emergencies are announced.

From **May 2 till 25** we fly to Berlin to meet my parents and our friends. I'm offline there- we've got no internet access there. I'll talk with Jay on the phone, but some mails won't be answered immediately.

I hope all of you will show understanding.

**Martina** will „sacrifice“ her holiday again and fly in, live in our house and take care that things are running smoothly.

The helpers have known her for many years and know that it's best to take her seriously!

The Thais are clever, sometimes they fake not to understand, but it's impossible to play that „joke“ on Martina. I know our darling pets in the house are well cared for by Martina; in the shelter Ivette, Daniela and Marcus and of course Jay and Linda see that the usual business is going smoothly as well. In Germany, Martina was very successful in placing our dogs.



She found new owners for more than 80 dogs in Germany. As our shelter has been more than overcrowded, I won't think of how crowded the house would be, if all these dogs were still here, too.

Recently we have been presented with the rule that one member of the association must prove competence in terms of professional keeping of dogs. Martina is a board member of our German supporting association and it's sufficient that one member passes this brutally difficult exam.

Now Martina is a half-vet and has an extraordinary knowledge of paragraphs! As she is so keen on learning and passing exams, Martina even passed the proof of feline competence as well.

We must make financial savings wherever possible, so we have stopped our dog placing program for the time being. Of course do we hope that we can restart this program shortly.

However, our big thanks to Martina for her personal input!



For one of our shelter dogs we charged 300 € as an air-fare contribution. The real costs are much higher, as the air-fare itself costs 300€ (taken along a flight companion), moreover must be added the costs for the chip, the rabies antibody test, the flight to Bangkok and the handling there.

In addition must be counted the very costly dog transport box: that's why it is worthwhile to transport it back to Thailand for new „travelers“.



If you think of taking back a dog transport box to Thailand, please send me an email. I'll take care that it will be sent to you.

Besides we are always looking for flight companions for dogs flying abroad after an animal friend fell in love with them.

Swiss animal lovers bought breast harnesses worth 3500 SFR for dogs, and as we must equip all our dogs with a collar and a leash for the flight, all of them are getting super Swiss quality Harnesses for their trip!

This donation was made in consequence of the fact that- for a second time - dogs just arrived from Samui had managed to get off their collar and run away! One was run over by a car and didn't make it after he had been searched for a couple of days: this should never ever happen again!



## CHARLY

has made a lot of progress and is dashing about in his kennel at high speed: unfortunately the whole house has got very slippery tiled floors, so that he must stay in a separate kitchen corner in the evenings or on rainy days. I'm afraid he will never walk in our house because it's too slippery and he therefore keeps dragging his legs.

On slip-proof floors he walks perfectly well. We are looking for a home in Austria or Germany for Charly. Who has got plenty of time and is willing to give him all the love he needs? He never gets enough cuddles and hugs!

In case you haven't seen it yet, here is the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjmLebgSqnY>



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 (please no plastic toys, they often chew it to pieces and sometimes swallow it).

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 are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive.

We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.



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](http://www.samuidog.org). We receive every month about 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

We have registered in GOODING. GOODING has integrated – like Amazon- a lot of businesses. Just have a look. Besides, we inscribed the DCRS in BILDUNGSSPENDER long time ago.

The four forward us a certain percentage when you do your shopping there. Which offers are best for you is for you to decide. I suppose there are more similar facilities, but I don't think we would need more! All have got the same range in their offers.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 16 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 16 years, over 20,000 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 (as long as we have a helper available at this time). 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 25 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 17,000 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!

Greetings

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS-Team

ACCOUNTS FOR SPONSORS:

[http://www.samuidog.org/text3\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm)



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As usual, we played „musical chairs“

### VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

in Chaweng and in Ban Taling Nam are always welcome as they are a big help and I do hope that many more will come to the shelter to inform themselves about our work or only to play with the dogs and cats giving them a lot of loving care and cuddles!



The dogs are always overwhelmed with joy when visitors arrive...



... Because they often bring some treats!

Almost for six months, **Sybille** and **Marcus** have stayed with us for the third time as volunteers. This year they cared for the most hopeless “cases”. These dogs were often seriously ill or injured and needed loving care and attention. Some of them had to be fed; besides a regular cleaning of the wounds was required. Without Marcus and Sybille some of the dogs wouldn't have managed to survive. Dogs tend to giving up on themselves when they lost their will to survive. They need lots of affectionate care to struggle for life and health again.

We would love for them to come back one day and, the dogs miss them already.







With Sybille's affectionate care Bella recovered almost perfectly. Bella is only one of the dogs Sybille managed to set back on their paws again



Eight weeks ago, Marcus and Daniela have taken six puppies – abandoned on our doorstep – home



I'm sorry to say, but two of them didn't make it. Who wouldn't want to have one or two of these four darlings? Grace, Pepper, Grizzly or Titan are looking for a loving home in Germany or anywhere else in the world.

Since early 2015 **Marcus** and **Daniela** have lived on the island, but of course they had to take care of their bungalows and of Nico first. They are very lucky as Nico loves going to school here- something which is very often a big problem for emigrants with children. When the "little ones" just suffer because they miss their friends, this may cause big problems for everybody.

Meanwhile, Marcus and Daniela have taken up the daily care for the cats and dogs in the shelter.

Marcus watches out for items to repair and sees to them being really fixed. Because of our financial situation, repair work can't be done immediately sometimes.

The bungalows are on the Bang Por Beach <http://www.bungalow-samui.de/>; Marcus himself will look after your well-being! Accepted in the bungalows are animal lovers only, and feeding the dogs is a "job" expected by everybody!



Whoever has visited our shelter may have seen the nice house on the right side of our access road: Ivette has rented it! It's reasonably priced, although quite lonely there.

So she has taken home a large dangerously looking dog from the shelter!

For already 9 months, Ivette has been a volunteer in the shelter and she is performing a super-job! She takes care of the visitors, shows them around the shelter and informs them about what we do. She checks if the helpers are working properly and tells me when something is wrong. You know, if the helpers haven't been in the shelter for one or even several days, they have „forgotten“ the basics of their job. Sometimes I just can't believe my eyes when seeing a helper starting to clean the single boxes- without any useful equipment! She's a great help for me, as she takes pictures of all the dogs placed in the shelter before their take-off. She sends the pictures directly to the owners, together with a short report about the living condition of their darlings.

Furthermore she takes care of the new volunteers. Some volunteers haven't got the faintest idea of what would be a useful help in the shelter. Again and again, we see volunteers totally amazed at how much cleaning work must be done! But people are different and Ivette is very patient. Perhaps some of the volunteers can't cope with the enormous amount of dogs and are consequently somewhat afraid. We are always glad about volunteers. Some have been coming back for several years: their assistance is so valuable! Here is a small video about the volunteers' work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMEa0LxPiBQ&list=UU0WqMhiPPjKfNR44kFRjM9g&index=7>

**Hans-Peter** has been a background volunteer for one year now. As he prefers a calmer place, he has moved to the Kannom on the mainland. For quite some time he has taken care – almost exclusively by remote maintenance- of our computers so that they work! Our computer was so old, that many recent programmers didn't run; we faced serious problems with mass mailing.

Therefore, some time ago, we had to buy a new computer and Hans-Peter helped with the setup.

Unfortunately not everything can be done via remote maintenance: Hans-Peter had to travel to Samui for the installation of an internet antenna on the roof of the shelter for Ivette. Huge amounts of branches had to be cut and Dueng was scrambling in the highest branches and on the roof like a monkey!

For Ivette it felt like Christmas when she could go online – on her own terrace.



## STUDENTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the future we will no longer accept veterinary students. In the course of time things have turned out that way: most of them only wish to execute as many operations as possible here. Of course, doctor Sith must keep a sharp eye on them which costs **him** a lot of time- especially as some just do not show a very special talent- and a lot of nerves; he must explain the same “subjects” again and again which is certainly tiring.

When the surgery room must be cleaned some of them line up as far back as possible – and I myself am fed up with asking them again and again to lend us a hand!

I keep preaching endlessly: only 1 student in the operating room! Obviously I’m speaking Chinese as I catch the students en masse regularly in the OR! Sometimes we had up to 6 students there...



Dr. Sith and his assistants Kio and Lek. As you can see our only 12 m<sup>2</sup> big room is already full

Of course we also had some students here over the last few years who were willing to help us with the dogs and cats, e.g. they went through the kennels to retrieve ill or injured dogs or to clean the OR without being told to do so.

Many tasks may be completed by volunteers and we needn’t “burden” doctor Sith needlessly with vet students. I took that decision to relieve doctor Sith. He is much too polite to usher the students out of the tiny narrow OR when all of them have assembled there again!

Some months ago, we had to buy a gas anesthetic machine as we had continuous problems with the narcotics supplies- a problem which still exists..... The machine takes a lot of room in the small room.

Doctor Sith has always eagerly instructed and taught the students and would have continued likewise, but nevertheless I myself decided we were no longer able to accept vet students in the DCRS.

For a long time already all the other Thai animal rights groups have only accepted skilled veterinary doctors with an at least two-year surgery experience.

## RELIEF ACTIONS AFTER OUR EMERGENCY CALL FOR YOUR HELP



**Kieron Gerbig**, a famous singer, posted an emergency call in Facebook for us and within no time he was able to hand in a 2000-Euro check! Thank you to all Kieron Gerbig fans!



## OLD STUFF FOR CHARITY

**Daniela, Jana, Nicole** und **Murat** from Munich had the idea to sort out the trash from their apartments and basements: the trash was sold at the nightly flea market and they proudly transferred the amount of 225 Euros! A big *thank you* to them.



A big *thank you* to **Petra** and **Dirk** for lots of donated goods they brought to Samui!



A big *thank you* to **Doris** and **Karin** for the lots of goods they brought to Samui!



**Gunlök** and **Leif** brought lots of blankets, towels and medical material from Sweden.

**A big THANK YOU to all who also „delivered“ goods of all kinds at the shelter**



**Viktor** from Russia traveled in Samui for one day and collected old towels, food and 1200 Bath in the Russian community for us!

## NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

At last! The Thai Government passed a law for the protection of animals. The fines are amazingly high. Up to two years in prison or up to 40,000 Baht or even both! This sounds really good! On April 23. and 24. a meeting of the TSPCA, that is the umbrella organization of all the associations for the protection of animals in Thailand, was held. The new law is the absolute top subject there to be discussed and informed about.

The big question is how to implement this law? Certainly something may be effected if the culprit is caught on the spot.

I think that the managers should be informed about the possibility of punishment in case they order gardeners or guards to lay out poison in order to remove unwanted dogs or cats from the hotel compound.

Our manager Wit will participate at the meeting and will tell us later how the new law should be interpreted.

I hope the best for the animals....



## FACEBOOK

A couple of years ago, Jeremy Oaten opened the Facebook account **Dog-Cat Rescue Samui** for us and then transferred the management to me. Shortly after we had 5000 “friends” and as more than 5000 are not allowed on a private account, I installed “**Brigitte Gomm**”: both sites always show the same information.

Facebook regularly sees important changes; it was no longer possible to keep the Dog-Cat rescue Samui privately. That’s why I transferred all these friends to the site of **DCRS- Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui** : now all “friends”

are on that site. Besides you find the same entries as on **Brigitte Gomm**. For me it is much easier, as I must only control 2 sites and my group “**foreign animal news**”. Please do enter your name in this group, if you want to have information about the global protection of animals. Every day I receive an infinite number of mails or via Facebook entries. Very often the information is very sad, and I guess we can really move things when we subscribe petitions against the suffering of animals; we should be well-informed what serious mischief is done to animals all over the world.

At the moment it’s only Jay and me in the office, and we can scarcely do our job, when we only have a two-day office help per week. So we haven’t got the time for Facebook. It would be very helpful, if you send your inquiries per e-mail only. Monika from Germany spent 6 months in Samui and helped with the office work two days a week until March. She was perfect, but unfortunately we have got no volunteer willing to support us in the office at the moment.



## PUPPY HOUSE



Adored by her little friends.

As most of you know by now, Maa is no longer the only wheelchair dog at our Rescue Center which confirms it again that even a paralyzed or disabled dog can still enjoy and even love life. With just a bit of help and a big package of loving attention, one can get used to everything. We have kept you well updated about Maa over the last few months, mainly because of the tremendous support we received when we first told you all about the Temple/Dog Maa. Since then she’s come a long way and has been living at the shelter for the past few months now. Due to the fact that she is so happy at the puppy house, loved by everyone at the shelter and adored by the other puppies in the house, Maa will definitely stay at our Rescue Center in Baan Taling Nam. We are having her trying out different chairs, she gets to speed around the free kitchen area every day and gets the daily love, attention and care that she needs to hopefully stay happy and healthy for a long time.

Compared to 10 years ago, we do have more and more little ones in the Puppy House who manage to stay alive until they are old enough to be moved out of the house and into one of the bigger outside compounds at the shelter. This might be a bit hard to read, but fact is that nobody at the Dog Rescue could ever take the surviving of an unvaccinated puppy at the shelter for granted. Most of the new puppies got infected with some horrible virus not long after being brought to the shelter, simply dumped in front of our doors or nicely placed in the back of our car in middle of the night.



Linda running with the youngsters

This is why our ladies Jay and Linda who are in charge for the youngsters are trying to have every puppy vaccinated before it gets confronted with any viruses at the shelter. Whenever we are informed about puppies, they immediately go to the people and try to convince them to have the puppies vaccinated on location and leave them there until after the second vaccination; only then can they be moved to the shelter without any risk. Jay and Linda have been with us for over 10 years and their vaccination program has shown it's success. Never before did we have so many healthy puppies in the puppy house that we were actually forced to move them out before they were even sterilized. Even though some did manage to find a home, the puppy-area simply got too busy and the little ones needed more space.



Jay is introducing the young gang to their new compound and having fun in their very own pool



Puppy-House-Man Bu comes to visit and of course the youngsters are dead-excited

What a joy it was to then see them so excited and happy when the almost 10 puppies were integrated into their new compound.

Our largest compound 1 already had a lot of young dogs in it but never has it been so easy to bring a new group into a compound. It looks like the puppies were too young to worry about the other dogs and all they could see was space and the pool! Not one of them was really scared and needed lots of attention to feel safe in the new environment. We are happy to see 'our shelter puppies' appreciating the gift of space and companionship.

This somehow makes us less disappointed over them not finding a new home.

## TEMPLE PROJEKT - Poisoning at the temple

At the temples where we have a big number of dogs living, they usually live in small groups in different part of the temples, each group having their own territory. Just like at our shelter too, it sometimes does come to fights and injuries happen. There isn't a day passing without any of the temple dogs or cats needing some sort of immediate help

Unfortunately some horrible poisoning attacks have taken place at one of the temples our Team works at during a Temple-Festival. One of the monks called Jay, Linda and Tom in the early morning hours and they responded immediately. The scene at the temple was heartbreaking: Dead and half-dead Temple-dogs lying all over the place, the monk himself still in shock. Thanks to the fast reaction of Jay, Linda and Tom some of the dogs could be saved while others were not that lucky. 6 Temple-Dogs lost their lives that night, leaving the monks, our Temple Team and many residents around shocked and hard broken over the loss of those beautiful resident Temple Dogs. Even though it often feels impossible to go back to work after such happenings, it's important to concentrate on the happy faces still with us. There is only so much we can do.....



## Two Temple Dogs now happily living in Germany: CARA und JOY



It was a hard, long and pretty painful recovery.  
Joy at Jay and Linda's home fighting for her life



Not giving up is something Joy has learned with a very early age...That's why she is still here today

The Temple-Team first met Joy as a puppy in one of the temples; she survived the vaccine programme and was fit and happy till one day she was run over by a car leaving her with a broken hip and two broken back legs. We took her to our shelter but there was nothing our vet could do for her, she required major surgery which could not be done by us and could not be paid for by us either.

It was at the shelter where Gaby and Uwe from Germany, first met Joy, they immediately fell in love with her and offered to cover the cost of surgery if we could find a vet on the island who could actually perform it. The cost was almost 40 thousand baht. Even though they knew the risk of Joy not surviving the surgery or it not being successful was very high, they still asked us to go ahead. Joy did survive but the surgery was badly performed and two days later Joy had massive infection in one leg. Post surgery Joy was cared for at the homes of our temple team, Jay Linda and Tom. It was not an easy process this infection went on to last for almost 5 months and for a time we were not sure if she would make it, but she was a fighter and thanks to that and the care, attention and physiotherapy she received from our dedicated team, Joy is now walking again. When Gaby and Uwe wanted to give Joy a home in Germany, but did not want her to be alone so they chose another real survivor from the temple, Cara, who almost died and managed to fight back. On the 21st of February both Joy and Cara flew together to their new home in Germany. The full story from these two Temple-Dogs as well as the latest news from our Temple-Team and their work the shelter you can read here:



What a cute family: Gaby and Uwe with Cara and Joy in Germany

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf)



We took pictures of the dogs on Chaweng, Chaweng-Noi, Lamai, and Bang Por beaches. You find them on our homepage

<http://www.samuidog.org/dogs-on-samui-beach.html>

## HOTELS

We've got some good news from the hotel resorts:

The **Pinnacle** in Maenam put up an extra table for our donation box! *Thank you* to Mike, the manager. A couple of years ago, the atmosphere there was completely different. The manager then kept threatening us with the "removal" of the dogs. As I always say, the well-being of the dogs only depends on the manager's attitude towards dogs and cats..

The **Peace** resort in Bophud wanted to get a donations box on the occasion of the Song Kran celebration. Until now I hadn't heard anything good about this hotel!

Of course I'm pleased about every positive change concerning the management's attitude towards animals, but you just can't tell whether a hotel will have an animal-loving manager in the long run.

I would be very glad if you could mail me pictures of the dogs in Maenam, Bophud, Choeng Mon, and from other beaches. I'm going to place them on our homepage and insert them in Facebook. As not all our friends are in Facebook, I insert the pictures in our homepage as well.

I personally haven't got enough spare time to take pictures of the dogs on these beaches. But when you are on holiday there, it would be very helpful for me to get a general overview about the dogs on the beaches, and even to track non-neutered animals.



I'm still worrying a lot about how we can financially make ends mend. Reduction of costs isn't that easy without seriously affecting the animal living conditions as a consequence.

The Euro exchange rate versus the one of the Baht won't change fast- if at all- and therefore we face extraordinary trouble: we get 75% of all the donations in Euro. We receive up to 150 000 Baht per month less because of the bad exchange rate. And this is an enormous deficiency. In the last years we had been able to get along somewhat reasonably with our monthly receipts. Whenever we had a surplus, we built something new or something else had to be repaired. Unfortunately we had no chance to build up reserves as we always had to purchase some equipment or other items.

The bad exchange rate will keep a lot of people from traveling to Thailand. They will spend their holidays in „Euro-Country“- where, at least- they needn't get angry about the exchange rate. By now we have seen less tourists here than we had last year at the same time, and the shop and the hotel keepers are even worried about the next season already. Bookings must have gone down considerably. I think you can imagine what this will mean for us concerning the Euro rate. Please do not let us down; our situation is really extremely serious.

The bomb attack of April 11 will frighten off some people as well. When Bangkok isn't "flooded" and the Yellows don't fight with the Reds, someone is throwing a bomb! The Thai keep having ideas about how to scare tourists!

Because of this emergency we had to raise the monthly sponsorship fee to 25€. All the existing sponsorships remain at 20 €. If you can manage anyhow I urgently ask you to transfer 25€ monthly from now on for your foster pet.

The sponsorships are our only regular revenue and most important for the existence of our association.

Up to now we have executed 6 castrations/ neutering per day. We could of course make savings here as well, if we made two operations less. But I'm only taking this measure when all other possibilities are out of range.

If possible, we have ordered cheaper medicine. The BAYER medicine is very expensive and I hope that That medicine will be effective as well. It's a sad fact that prices for medicine have risen- but the Baht did not. For vaccines 125 Baht must be paid instead of 100 Baht previously. Now we take 150 Bath for a vaccination from those who can afford to pay. Stray animals are treated for free- this goes without saying.

Every four weeks, our DCRS dogs are given *Ivomec* for heartworm prophylaxis, deworming and against ticks and fleas. Certainly the dogs will be glad only to get an injection every 6 weeks- and it will be as helpful!

Every 4 weeks, a company shows up to spray all the kennels against the ticks. This is quite useful, but an extinction of ticks will never happen....

When feeding the animals, we take even more care to waste as little food as possible. Ivette keeps an eye on the helpers so that they do not "forget" their orders.....

With closing the water taps our helpers face serious problems. So should we fine the helpers again?



**Castle** is here vicariously for all the dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor

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.

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

In the next months I'll be able to see whether releasing two helpers was enough- among other savings measures. This was only a short-time shock for the helpers, their working morale had gone down to a large degree- even when they all had daily showed up for work; with this sinking morale it's not easy to cope with all the tasks in the shelter on some days. I try at least to have all posts in the shelter occupied and to send a helper as fast as possible in an emergency. Repair work can only be done with difficulty at the moment. I must give the helpers verbal warnings again, recruit new ones if necessary and fire helpers who keep taking off days regularly. This isn't an easy task, as it is one day one – and the next day another helper who takes a break for one day or two. Just as they feel like doing so....

So in case many of them skip work on the same day we can only hope that there are quite a couple of "good" volunteers available and not too many emergencies are announced.

From **May 2 till 25** we fly to Berlin to meet my parents and our friends. I'm offline there- we've got no internet access there. I'll talk with Jay on the phone, but some mails won't be answered immediately.

I hope all of you will show understanding.

**Martina** will „sacrifice“ her holiday again and fly in, live in our house and take care that things are running smoothly.

The helpers have known her for many years and know that it's best to take her seriously!

The Thais are clever, sometimes they fake not to understand, but it's impossible to play that „joke“ on Martina. I know our darling pets in the house are well cared for by Martina; in the shelter Ivette, Daniela and Marcus and of course Jay and Linda see that the usual business is going smoothly as well. In Germany, Martina was very successful in placing our dogs.



She found new owners for more than 80 dogs in Germany. As our shelter has been more than overcrowded, I won't think of how crowded the house would be, if all these dogs were still here, too.

Recently we have been presented with the rule that one member of the association must prove competence in terms of professional keeping of dogs. Martina is a board member of our German supporting association and it's sufficient that one member passes this brutally difficult exam.

Now Martina is a half-vet and has an extraordinary knowledge of paragraphs! As she is so keen on learning and passing exams, Martina even passed the proof of feline competence as well.

We must make financial savings wherever possible, so we have stopped our dog placing program for the time being. Of course do we hope that we can restart this program shortly.

However, our big thanks to Martina for her personal input!



For one of our shelter dogs we charged 300 € as an air-fare contribution. The real costs are much higher, as the air-fare itself costs 300€ (taken along a flight companion), moreover must be added the costs for the chip, the rabies antibody test, the flight to Bangkok and the handling there.

In addition must be counted the very costly dog transport box: that's why it is worthwhile to transport it back to Thailand for new „travelers“.



If you think of taking back a dog transport box to Thailand, please send me an email. I'll take care that it will be sent to you.

Besides we are always looking for flight companions for dogs flying abroad after an animal friend fell in love with them.

Swiss animal lovers bought breast harnesses worth 3500 SFR for dogs, and as we must equip all our dogs with a collar and a leash for the flight, all of them are getting super Swiss quality Harnesses for their trip!

This donation was made in consequence of the fact that- for a second time - dogs just arrived from Samui had managed to get off their collar and run away! One was run over by a car and didn't make it after he had been searched for a couple of days: this should never ever happen again!



## CHARLY

has made a lot of progress and is dashing about in his kennel at high speed: unfortunately the whole house has got very slippery tiled floors, so that he must stay in a separate kitchen corner in the evenings or on rainy days. I'm afraid he will never walk in our house because it's too slippery and he therefore keeps dragging his legs.

On slip-proof floors he walks perfectly well. We are looking for a home in Austria or Germany for Charly. Who has got plenty of time and is willing to give him all the love he needs? He never gets enough cuddles and hugs!

In case you haven't seen it yet, here is the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjmLebgSqnY>



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 (please no plastic toys, they often chew it to pieces and sometimes swallow it).

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 are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive.

We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.



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](http://www.samuidog.org). We receive every month about 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

We have registered in GOODING. GOODING has integrated – like Amazon- a lot of businesses. Just have a look. Besides, we inscribed the DCRS in BILDUNGSSPENDER long time ago.

The four forward us a certain percentage when you do your shopping there. Which offers are best for you is for you to decide. I suppose there are more similar facilities, but I don't think we would need more! All have got the same range in their offers.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 16 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 16 years, over 20,000 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 (as long as we have a helper available at this time). 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 25 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 17,000 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!

Greetings

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS-Team

ACCOUNTS FOR SPONSORS:

[http://www.samuidog.org/text3\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm)



## Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Dear friends,

April 2015

A warm-hearted THANK YOU to all our friends who heard our emergency call in February and have supported us with donations of money and goods.

This meant an extraordinary relief for us. In the long run, only rigorous cuts and pinching and scraping everywhere will help us as the Euro price rate is not going to change in the foreseeable future. As we collect 75% of our donations on our account in Euro, we depend very much on the exchange rate.

On April 1, 2015 we celebrated 16 years of the Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation. Originally no celebration should be held, as we didn't have any money left for unnecessary "things".

But both Gabi and Uwe from Oldenburg thought, that our helpers were not to be blamed for the bad exchange rate of Euro to Baht and financed the party for us! A big and warmhearted **thank you** to both of them!

Wally from Germany sent money for coffee and cakes- so a second big **thank you** for her!



The helpers were so excited when they heard that a small party would be held in our house in Chaweng.

Indeed it should be a party for the helpers, but at the moment we have a large number of volunteers here- and they were not to be excluded!

Furthermore we invited all the April 1<sup>st</sup> visitors of our small center in Chaweng to have fun with us.

Usually the helpers are given a present, e.g. a fan or an electric kettle- but this year, of course, no gifts. But everybody had lots of fun, even without gifts, and the party was as every year, an enormous success.



As usual, we played „musical chairs“

## VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

in Chaweng and in Ban Taling Nam are always welcome as they are a big help and I do hope that many more will come to the shelter to inform themselves about our work or only to play with the dogs and cats giving them a lot of loving care and cuddles!



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... Because they often bring some treats!

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Since early 2015 **Marcus** and **Daniela** have lived on the island, but of course they had to take care of their bungalows and of Nico first. They are very lucky as Nico loves going to school here- something which is very often a big problem for emigrants with children. When the "little ones" just suffer because they miss their friends, this may cause big problems for everybody.

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The bungalows are on the Bang Por Beach <http://www.bungalow-samui.de/>; Marcus himself will look after your well-being! Accepted in the bungalows are animal lovers only, and feeding the dogs is a "job" expected by everybody!



I'm sorry to say, but two of them didn't make it. Who wouldn't want to have one or two of these four darlings?

Grace, Pepper, Grizzly or Titan are looking for a loving home in Germany or anywhere else in the world.



Whoever has visited our shelter may have seen the nice house on the right side of our access road: Ivette has rented it! It's reasonably priced, although quite lonely there.

So she has taken home a large dangerously looking dog from the shelter!

For already 9 months, Ivette has been a volunteer in the shelter and she is performing a super-job! She takes care of the visitors, shows them around the shelter and informs them about what we do. She checks if the helpers are working properly and tells me when something is wrong. You know, if the helpers haven't been in the shelter for one or even several days, they have „forgotten“ the basics of their job. Sometimes I just can't believe my eyes when seeing a helper starting to clean the single boxes- without any useful equipment! She's a great help for me, as she takes pictures of all the dogs placed in the shelter before their take-off. She sends the pictures directly to the owners, together with a short report about the living condition of their darlings.

Furthermore she takes care of the new volunteers. Some volunteers haven't got the faintest idea of what would be a useful help in the shelter. Again and again, we see volunteers totally amazed at how much cleaning work must be done! But people are different and Ivette is very patient. Perhaps some of the volunteers can't cope with the enormous amount of dogs and are consequently somewhat afraid. We are always glad about volunteers. Some have been coming back for several years: their assistance is so valuable! Here is a small video about the volunteers' work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMEa0LxPiBQ&list=UU0WqMhiPPjKfNR44kFRjM9g&index=7>

**Hans-Peter** has been a background volunteer for one year now. As he prefers a calmer place, he has moved to the Kannom on the mainland. For quite some time he has taken care – almost exclusively by remote maintenance- of our computers so that they work! Our computer was so old, that many recent programmers didn't run; we faced serious problems with mass mailing.

Therefore, some time ago, we had to buy a new computer and Hans-Peter helped with the setup.

Unfortunately not everything can be done via remote maintenance: Hans-Peter had to travel to Samui for the installation of an internet antenna on the roof of the shelter for Ivette. Huge amounts of branches had to be cut and Dueng was scrambling in the highest branches and on the roof like a monkey!

For Ivette it felt like Christmas when she could go online – on her own terrace.





## STUDENTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the future we will no longer accept veterinary students. In the course of time things have turned out that way: most of them only wish to execute as many operations as possible here. Of course, doctor Sith must keep a sharp eye on them which costs **him** a lot of time- especially as some just do not show a very special talent- and a lot of nerves; he must explain the same "subjects" again and again which is certainly tiring.

When the surgery room must be cleaned some of them line up as far back as possible – and I myself am fed up with asking them again and again to lend us a hand!

I keep preaching endlessly: only 1 student in the operating room! Obviously I'm speaking Chinese as I catch the students en masse regularly in the OR! Sometimes we had up to 6 students there...



Dr. Sith and his assistants Kio and Lek. As you can see our only 12 m<sup>2</sup> big room is already full

Of course we also had some students here over the last few years who were willing to help us with the dogs and cats, e.g. they went through the kennels to retrieve ill or injured dogs or to clean the OR without being told to do so.

Many tasks may be completed by volunteers and we needn't "burden" doctor Sith needlessly with vet students. I took that decision to relieve doctor Sith. He is much too polite to usher the students out of the tiny narrow OR when all of them have assembled there again!

Some months ago, we had to buy a gas anesthetic machine as we had continuous problems with the narcotics supplies- a problem which still exists..... The machine takes a lot of room in the small room.

Doctor Sith has always eagerly instructed and taught the students and would have continued likewise, but nevertheless I myself decided we were no longer able to accept vet students in the DCRS.

For a long time already all the other Thai animal rights groups have only accepted skilled veterinary doctors with an at least two-year surgery experience.

## RELIEF ACTIONS AFTER OUR EMERGENCY CALL FOR YOUR HELP



**Kieron Gerbig**, a famous singer, posted an emergency call in Facebook for us and within no time he was able to hand in a 2000-Euro check! Thank you to all Kieron Gerbig fans!



## OLD STUFF FOR CHARITY

**Daniela, Jana, Nicole** und **Murat** from Munich had the idea to sort out the trash from their apartments and basements: the trash was sold at the nightly flea market and they proudly transferred the amount of 225 Euros! A big *thank you* to them.



A big *thank you* to **Petra** and **Dirk** for lots of donated goods they brought to Samui!



A big *thank you* to **Doris** and **Karin** for the lots of goods they brought to Samui!



**Gunlök** and **Leif** brought lots of blankets, towels and medical material from Sweden.

**A big THANK YOU to all who also „delivered“ goods of all kinds at the shelter**



**Viktor** from Russia traveled in Samui for one day and collected old towels, food and 1200 Bath in the Russian community for us!

## NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

At last! The Thai Government passed a law for the protection of animals. The fines are amazingly high. Up to two years in prison or up to 40,000 Baht or even both! This sounds really good! On April 23. and 24. a meeting of the TSPCA, that is the umbrella organization of all the associations for the protection of animals in Thailand, was held. The new law is the absolute top subject there to be discussed and informed about.

The big question is how to implement this law? Certainly something may be effected if the culprit is caught on the spot.

I think that the managers should be informed about the possibility of punishment in case they order gardeners or guards to lay out poison in order to remove unwanted dogs or cats from the hotel compound.

Our manager Wit will participate at the meeting and will tell us later how the new law should be interpreted.

I hope the best for the animals....



## FACEBOOK

A couple of years ago, Jeremy Oaten opened the Facebook account **Dog-Cat Rescue Samui** for us and then transferred the management to me. Shortly after we had 5000 “friends” and as more than 5000 are not allowed on a private account, I installed “**Brigitte Gomm**”: both sites always show the same information.

Facebook regularly sees important changes; it was no longer possible to keep the Dog-Cat rescue Samui privately. That’s why I transferred all these friends to the site of **DCRS- Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui** : now all “friends”

are on that site. Besides you find the same entries as on **Brigitte Gomm**. For me it is much easier, as I must only control 2 sites and my group “**foreign animal news**”. Please do enter your name in this group, if you want to have information about the global protection of animals. Every day I receive an infinite number of mails or via Facebook entries. Very often the information is very sad, and I guess we can really move things when we subscribe petitions against the suffering of animals; we should be well-informed what serious mischief is done to animals all over the world.

At the moment it’s only Jay and me in the office, and we can scarcely do our job, when we only have a two-day office help per week. So we haven’t got the time for Facebook. It would be very helpful, if you send your inquiries per e-mail only. Monika from Germany spent 6 months in Samui and helped with the office work two days a week until March. She was perfect, but unfortunately we have got no volunteer willing to support us in the office at the moment.



## PUPPY HOUSE



Adored by her little friends.

As most of you know by now, Maa is no longer the only wheelchair dog at our Rescue Center which confirms it again that even a paralyzed or disabled dog can still enjoy and even love life. With just a bit of help and a big package of loving attention, one can get used to everything. We have kept you well updated about Maa over the last few months, mainly because of the tremendous support we received when we first told you all about the Temple/Dog Maa. Since then she’s come a long way and has been living at the shelter for the past few months now. Due to the fact that she is so happy at the puppy house, loved by everyone at the shelter and adored by the other puppies in the house, Maa will definitely stay at our Rescue Center in Baan Taling Nam. We are having her trying out different chairs, she gets to speed around the free kitchen area every day and gets the daily love, attention and care that she needs to hopefully stay happy and healthy for a long time.

Compared to 10 years ago, we do have more and more little ones in the Puppy House who manage to stay alive until they are old enough to be moved out of the house and into one of the bigger outside compounds at the shelter. This might be a bit hard to read, but fact is that nobody at the Dog Rescue could ever take the surviving of an unvaccinated puppy at the shelter for granted. Most of the new puppies got infected with some horrible virus not long after being brought to the shelter, simply dumped in front of our doors or nicely placed in the back of our car in middle of the night.



Linda running with the youngsters

This is why our ladies Jay and Linda who are in charge for the youngsters are trying to have every puppy vaccinated before it gets confronted with any viruses at the shelter. Whenever we are informed about puppies, they immediately go to the people and try to convince them to have the puppies vaccinated on location and leave them there until after the second vaccination; only then can they be moved to the shelter without any risk. Jay and Linda have been with us for over 10 years and their vaccination program has shown it's success. Never before did we have so many healthy puppies in the puppy house that we were actually forced to move them out before they were even sterilized. Even though some did manage to find a home, the puppy-area simply got too busy and the little ones needed more space.



Jay is introducing the young gang to their new compound and having fun in their very own pool



Puppy-House-Man Bu comes to visit and of course the youngsters are dead-excited

What a joy it was to then see them so excited and happy when the almost 10 puppies were integrated into their new compound.

Our largest compound 1 already had a lot of young dogs in it but never has it been so easy to bring a new group into a compound. It looks like the puppies were too young to worry about the other dogs and all they could see was space and the pool! Not one of them was really scared and needed lots of attention to feel safe in the new environment. We are happy to see 'our shelter puppies' appreciating the gift of space and companionship.

This somehow makes us less disappointed over them not finding a new home.

## TEMPLE PROJEKT - Poisoning at the temple

At the temples where we have a big number of dogs living, they usually live in small groups in different part of the temples, each group having their own territory. Just like at our shelter too, it sometimes does come to fights and injuries happen. There isn't a day passing without any of the temple dogs or cats needing some sort of immediate help

Unfortunately some horrible poisoning attacks have taken place at one of the temples our Team works at during a Temple-Festival. One of the monks called Jay, Linda and Tom in the early morning hours and they responded immediately. The scene at the temple was heartbreaking: Dead and half-dead Temple-dogs lying all over the place, the monk himself still in shock. Thanks to the fast reaction of Jay, Linda and Tom some of the dogs could be saved while others were not that lucky. 6 Temple-Dogs lost their lives that night, leaving the monks, our Temple Team and many residents around shocked and hard broken over the loss of those beautiful resident Temple Dogs. Even though it often feels impossible to go back to work after such happenings, it's important to concentrate on the happy faces still with us. There is only so much we can do.....



## Two Temple Dogs now happily living in Germany: CARA und JOY



It was a hard, long and pretty painful recovery.  
Joy at Jay and Linda's home fighting for her life



Not giving up is something Joy has learned with a very early age...That's why she is still here today

The Temple-Team first met Joy as a puppy in one of the temples; she survived the vaccine programme and was fit and happy till one day she was run over by a car leaving her with a broken hip and two broken back legs. We took her to our shelter but there was nothing our vet could do for her, she required major surgery which could not be done by us and could not be paid for by us either.

It was at the shelter where Gaby and Uwe from Germany, first met Joy, they immediately fell in love with her and offered to cover the cost of surgery if we could find a vet on the island who could actually perform it. The cost was almost 40 thousand baht. Even though they knew the risk of Joy not surviving the surgery or it not being successful was very high, they still asked us to go ahead. Joy did survive but the surgery was badly performed and two days later Joy had massive infection in one leg. Post surgery Joy was cared for at the homes of our temple team, Jay Linda and Tom. It was not an easy process this infection went on to last for almost 5 months and for a time we were not sure if she would make it, but she was a fighter and thanks to that and the care, attention and physiotherapy she received from our dedicated team, Joy is now walking again. When Gaby and Uwe wanted to give Joy a home in Germany, but did not want her to be alone so they chose another real survivor from the temple, Cara, who almost died and managed to fight back. On the 21st of February both Joy and Cara flew together to their new home in Germany. The full story from these two Temple-Dogs as well as the latest news from our Temple-Team and their work the shelter you can read here:



What a cute family: Gaby and Uwe with Cara and Joy in Germany

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf)



We took pictures of the dogs on Chaweng, Chaweng-Noi, Lamai, and Bang Por beaches. You find them on our homepage

<http://www.samuidog.org/dogs-on-samui-beach.html>

## HOTELS

We've got some good news from the hotel resorts:

The **Pinnacle** in Maenam put up an extra table for our donation box! *Thank you* to Mike, the manager. A couple of years ago, the atmosphere there was completely different. The manager then kept threatening us with the "removal" of the dogs. As I always say, the well-being of the dogs only depends on the manager's attitude towards dogs and cats..

The **Peace** resort in Bophud wanted to get a donations box on the occasion of the Song Kran celebration. Until now I hadn't heard anything good about this hotel!

Of course I'm pleased about every positive change concerning the management's attitude towards animals, but you just can't tell whether a hotel will have an animal-loving manager in the long run.

I would be very glad if you could mail me pictures of the dogs in Maenam, Bophud, Choeng Mon, and from other beaches. I'm going to place them on our homepage and insert them in Facebook. As not all our friends are in Facebook, I insert the pictures in our homepage as well.

I personally haven't got enough spare time to take pictures of the dogs on these beaches. But when you are on holiday there, it would be very helpful for me to get a general overview about the dogs on the beaches, and even to track non-neutered animals.

I'm still worrying a lot about how we can financially make ends mend. Reduction of costs isn't that easy without seriously affecting the animal living conditions as a consequence.

The Euro exchange rate versus the one of the Baht won't change fast- if at all- and therefore we face extraordinary trouble: we get 75% of all the donations in Euro. We receive up to 150 000 Baht per month less because of the bad exchange rate. And this is an enormous deficiency. In the last years we had been able to get along somewhat reasonably with our monthly receipts. Whenever we had a surplus, we built something new or something else had to be repaired. Unfortunately we had no chance to build up reserves as we always had to purchase some equipment or other items.

The bad exchange rate will keep a lot of people from traveling to Thailand. They will spend their holidays in „Euro-Country“- where, at least- they needn't get angry about the exchange rate. By now we have seen less tourists here than we had last year at the same time, and the shop and the hotel keepers are even worried about the next season already. Bookings must have gone down considerably. I think you can imagine what this will mean for us concerning the Euro rate. Please do not let us down; our situation is really extremely serious.

The bomb attack of April 11 will frighten off some people as well. When Bangkok isn't "flooded" and the Yellows don't fight with the Reds, someone is throwing a bomb! The Thai keep having ideas about how to scare tourists!

Because of this emergency we had to raise the monthly sponsorship fee to 25€. All the existing sponsorships remain at 20 €. If you can manage anyhow I urgently ask you to transfer 25€ monthly from now on for your foster pet.

The sponsorships are our only regular revenue and most important for the existence of our association.

Up to now we have executed 6 castrations/ neutering per day. We could of course make savings here as well, if we made two operations less. But I'm only taking this measure when all other possibilities are out of range.

If possible, we have ordered cheaper medicine. The BAYER medicine is very expensive and I hope that That medicine will be effective as well. It's a sad fact that prices for medicine have risen- but the Baht did not. For vaccines 125 Baht must be paid instead of 100 Baht previously. Now we take 150 Bath for a vaccination from those who can afford to pay. Stray animals are treated for free- this goes without saying.

Every four weeks, our DCRS dogs are given *Ivomec* for heartworm prophylaxis, deworming and against ticks and fleas. Certainly the dogs will be glad only to get an injection every 6 weeks- and it will be as helpful!

Every 4 weeks, a company shows up to spray all the kennels against the ticks. This is quite useful, but an extinction of ticks will never happen....

When feeding the animals, we take even more care to waste as little food as possible. Ivette keeps an eye on the helpers so that they do not "forget" their orders.....

With closing the water taps our helpers face serious problems. So should we fine the helpers again?



**Castle** is here vicariously for all the dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor

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.

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

In the next months I'll be able to see whether releasing two helpers was enough- among other savings measures. This was only a short-time shock for the helpers, their working morale had gone down to a large degree- even when they all had daily showed up for work; with this sinking morale it's not easy to cope with all the tasks in the shelter on some days. I try at least to have all posts in the shelter occupied and to send a helper as fast as possible in an emergency. Repair work can only be done with difficulty at the moment. I must give the helpers verbal warnings again, recruit new ones if necessary and fire helpers who keep taking off days regularly. This isn't an easy task, as it is one day one – and the next day another helper who takes a break for one day or two. Just as they feel like doing so....

So in case many of them skip work on the same day we can only hope that there are quite a couple of "good" volunteers available and not too many emergencies are announced.

From **May 2 till 25** we fly to Berlin to meet my parents and our friends. I'm offline there- we've got no internet access there. I'll talk with Jay on the phone, but some mails won't be answered immediately.

I hope all of you will show understanding.

**Martina** will „sacrifice“ her holiday again and fly in, live in our house and take care that things are running smoothly.

The helpers have known her for many years and know that it's best to take her seriously!

The Thais are clever, sometimes they fake not to understand, but it's impossible to play that „joke“ on Martina. I know our darling pets in the house are well cared for by Martina; in the shelter Ivette, Daniela and Marcus and of course Jay and Linda see that the usual business is going smoothly as well. In Germany, Martina was very successful in placing our dogs.



She found new owners for more than 80 dogs in Germany. As our shelter has been more than overcrowded, I won't think of how crowded the house would be, if all these dogs were still here, too.

Recently we have been presented with the rule that one member of the association must prove competence in terms of professional keeping of dogs. Martina is a board member of our German supporting association and it's sufficient that one member passes this brutally difficult exam.

Now Martina is a half-vet and has an extraordinary knowledge of paragraphs! As she is so keen on learning and passing exams, Martina even passed the proof of feline competence as well.

We must make financial savings wherever possible, so we have stopped our dog placing program for the time being. Of course do we hope that we can restart this program shortly.

However, our big thanks to Martina for her personal input!





For one of our shelter dogs we charged 300 € as an air-fare contribution. The real costs are much higher, as the air-fare itself costs 300€ (taken along a flight companion), moreover must be added the costs for the chip, the rabies antibody test, the flight to Bangkok and the handling there.

In addition must be counted the very costly dog transport box: that's why it is worthwhile to transport it back to Thailand for new „travelers“.



If you think of taking back a dog transport box to Thailand, please send me an email. I'll take care that it will be sent to you.

Besides we are always looking for flight companions for dogs flying abroad after an animal friend fell in love with them.

Swiss animal lovers bought breast harnesses worth 3500 SFR for dogs, and as we must equip all our dogs with a collar and a leash for the flight, all of them are getting super Swiss quality Harnesses for their trip!

This donation was made in consequence of the fact that- for a second time - dogs just arrived from Samui had managed to get off their collar and run away! One was run over by a car and didn't make it after he had been searched for a couple of days: this should never ever happen again!



## CHARLY

has made a lot of progress and is dashing about in his kennel at high speed: unfortunately the whole house has got very slippery tiled floors, so that he must stay in a separate kitchen corner in the evenings or on rainy days. I'm afraid he will never walk in our house because it's too slippery and he therefore keeps dragging his legs.

On slip-proof floors he walks perfectly well. We are looking for a home in Austria or Germany for Charly. Who has got plenty of time and is willing to give him all the love he needs? He never gets enough cuddles and hugs!

In case you haven't seen it yet, here is the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjmLebgSqnY>



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 (please no plastic toys, they often chew it to pieces and sometimes swallow it).

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 are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive.

We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.



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](http://www.samuidog.org). We receive every month about 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

We have registered in GOODING. GOODING has integrated – like Amazon- a lot of businesses. Just have a look. Besides, we inscribed the DCRS in BILDUNGSSPENDER long time ago.

The four forward us a certain percentage when you do your shopping there. Which offers are best for you is for you to decide. I suppose there are more similar facilities, but I don't think we would need more! All have got the same range in their offers.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 16 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 16 years, over 20,000 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 (as long as we have a helper available at this time). 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 25 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 17,000 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!

Greetings

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS-Team

ACCOUNTS FOR SPONSORS:

[http://www.samuidog.org/text3\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm)



## Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Dear friends,

April 2015

A warm-hearted THANK YOU to all our friends who heard our emergency call in February and have supported us with donations of money and goods.

This meant an extraordinary relief for us. In the long run, only rigorous cuts and pinching and scraping everywhere will help us as the Euro price rate is not going to change in the foreseeable future. As we collect 75% of our donations on our account in Euro, we depend very much on the exchange rate.

On April 1, 2015 we celebrated 16 years of the Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation. Originally no celebration should be held, as we didn't have any money left for unnecessary "things".

But both Gabi and Uwe from Oldenburg thought, that our helpers were not to be blamed for the bad exchange rate of Euro to Baht and financed the party for us! A big and warmhearted **thank you** to both of them!

Wally from Germany sent money for coffee and cakes- so a second big **thank you** for her!



The helpers were so excited when they heard that a small party would be held in our house in Chaweng.

Indeed it should be a party for the helpers, but at the moment we have a large number of volunteers here- and they were not to be excluded!

Furthermore we invited all the April 1<sup>st</sup> visitors of our small center in Chaweng to have fun with us.

Usually the helpers are given a present, e.g. a fan or an electric kettle- but this year, of course, no gifts. But everybody had lots of fun, even without gifts, and the party was as every year, an enormous success.



As usual, we played „musical chairs“

## VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

in Chaweng and in Ban Taling Nam are always welcome as they are a big help and I do hope that many more will come to the shelter to inform themselves about our work or only to play with the dogs and cats giving them a lot of loving care and cuddles!



The dogs are always overwhelmed with joy when visitors arrive...



... Because they often bring some treats!

Almost for six months, **Sybille** and **Marcus** have stayed with us for the third time as volunteers. This year they cared for the most hopeless “cases”. These dogs were often seriously ill or injured and needed loving care and attention. Some of them had to be fed; besides a regular cleaning of the wounds was required. Without Marcus and Sybille some of the dogs wouldn't have managed to survive. Dogs tend to giving up on themselves when they lost their will to survive. They need lots of affectionate care to struggle for life and health again.

We would love for them to come back one day and, the dogs miss them already.





With Sybille's affectionate care Bella recovered almost perfectly. Bella is only one of the dogs Sybille managed to set back on their paws again



Eight weeks ago, Marcus and Daniela have taken six puppies – abandoned on our doorstep – home



Since early 2015 **Marcus** and **Daniela** have lived on the island, but of course they had to take care of their bungalows and of Nico first. They are very lucky as Nico loves going to school here- something which is very often a big problem for emigrants with children. When the "little ones" just suffer because they miss their friends, this may cause big problems for everybody.

Meanwhile, Marcus and Daniela have taken up the daily care for the cats and dogs in the shelter.

Marcus watches out for items to repair and sees to them being really fixed. Because of our financial situation, repair work can't be done immediately sometimes.

The bungalows are on the Bang Por Beach <http://www.bungalow-samui.de/>; Marcus himself will look after your well-being! Accepted in the bungalows are animal lovers only, and feeding the dogs is a "job" expected by everybody!



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Furthermore she takes care of the new volunteers. Some volunteers haven't got the faintest idea of what would be a useful help in the shelter. Again and again, we see volunteers totally amazed at how much cleaning work must be done! But people are different and Ivette is very patient. Perhaps some of the volunteers can't cope with the enormous amount of dogs and are consequently somewhat afraid. We are always glad about volunteers. Some have been coming back for several years: their assistance is so valuable! Here is a small video about the volunteers' work:

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**Hans-Peter** has been a background volunteer for one year now. As he prefers a calmer place, he has moved to the Kannom on the mainland. For quite some time he has taken care – almost exclusively by remote maintenance- of our computers so that they work! Our computer was so old, that many recent programmers didn't run; we faced serious problems with mass mailing.

Therefore, some time ago, we had to buy a new computer and Hans-Peter helped with the setup.

Unfortunately not everything can be done via remote maintenance: Hans-Peter had to travel to Samui for the installation of an internet antenna on the roof of the shelter for Ivette. Huge amounts of branches had to be cut and Dueng was scrambling in the highest branches and on the roof like a monkey!

For Ivette it felt like Christmas when she could go online – on her own terrace.



## STUDENTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the future we will no longer accept veterinary students. In the course of time things have turned out that way: most of them only wish to execute as many operations as possible here. Of course, doctor Sith must keep a sharp eye on them which costs **him** a lot of time- especially as some just do not show a very special talent- and a lot of nerves; he must explain the same "subjects" again and again which is certainly tiring.

When the surgery room must be cleaned some of them line up as far back as possible – and I myself am fed up with asking them again and again to lend us a hand!

I keep preaching endlessly: only 1 student in the operating room! Obviously I'm speaking Chinese as I catch the students en masse regularly in the OR! Sometimes we had up to 6 students there...



Dr. Sith and his assistants Kio and Lek. As you can see our only 12 m<sup>2</sup> big room is already full

Of course we also had some students here over the last few years who were willing to help us with the dogs and cats, e.g. they went through the kennels to retrieve ill or injured dogs or to clean the OR without being told to do so.

Many tasks may be completed by volunteers and we needn't "burden" doctor Sith needlessly with vet students. I took that decision to relieve doctor Sith. He is much too polite to usher the students out of the tiny narrow OR when all of them have assembled there again!

Some months ago, we had to buy a gas anesthetic machine as we had continuous problems with the narcotics supplies- a problem which still exists..... The machine takes a lot of room in the small room.

Doctor Sith has always eagerly instructed and taught the students and would have continued likewise, but nevertheless I myself decided we were no longer able to accept vet students in the DCRS.

For a long time already all the other Thai animal rights groups have only accepted skilled veterinary doctors with an at least two-year surgery experience.

## RELIEF ACTIONS AFTER OUR EMERGENCY CALL FOR YOUR HELP



**Kieron Gerbig**, a famous singer, posted an emergency call in Facebook for us and within no time he was able to hand in a 2000-Euro check! Thank you to all Kieron Gerbig fans!



## OLD STUFF FOR CHARITY

**Daniela, Jana, Nicole** und **Murat** from Munich had the idea to sort out the trash from their apartments and basements: the trash was sold at the nightly flea market and they proudly transferred the amount of 225 Euros! A big *thank you* to them.



A big *thank you* to **Petra** and **Dirk** for lots of donated goods they brought to Samui!



A big *thank you* to **Doris** and **Karin** for the lots of goods they brought to Samui!



**Gunlök** and **Leif** brought lots of blankets, towels and medical material from Sweden.

**A big THANK YOU to all who also „delivered“ goods of all kinds at the shelter**



**Viktor** from Russia traveled in Samui for one day and collected old towels, food and 1200 Bath in the Russian community for us!

## NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

At last! The Thai Government passed a law for the protection of animals. The fines are amazingly high. Up to two years in prison or up to 40,000 Baht or even both! This sounds really good! On April 23. and 24. a meeting of the TSPCA, that is the umbrella organization of all the associations for the protection of animals in Thailand, was held. The new law is the absolute top subject there to be discussed and informed about.

The big question is how to implement this law? Certainly something may be effected if the culprit is caught on the spot.

I think that the managers should be informed about the possibility of punishment in case they order gardeners or guards to lay out poison in order to remove unwanted dogs or cats from the hotel compound.

Our manager Wit will participate at the meeting and will tell us later how the new law should be interpreted.

I hope the best for the animals....





## FACEBOOK

A couple of years ago, Jeremy Oaten opened the Facebook account **Dog-Cat Rescue Samui** for us and then transferred the management to me. Shortly after we had 5000 “friends” and as more than 5000 are not allowed on a private account, I installed “**Brigitte Gomm**”: both sites always show the same information.

Facebook regularly sees important changes; it was no longer possible to keep the Dog-Cat rescue Samui privately. That’s why I transferred all these friends to the site of **DCRS- Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui** : now all “friends”

are on that site. Besides you find the same entries as on **Brigitte Gomm**. For me it is much easier, as I must only control 2 sites and my group “**foreign animal news**”. Please do enter your name in this group, if you want to have information about the global protection of animals. Every day I receive an infinite number of mails or via Facebook entries. Very often the information is very sad, and I guess we can really move things when we subscribe petitions against the suffering of animals; we should be well-informed what serious mischief is done to animals all over the world.

At the moment it’s only Jay and me in the office, and we can scarcely do our job, when we only have a two-day office help per week. So we haven’t got the time for Facebook. It would be very helpful, if you send your inquiries per e-mail only. Monika from Germany spent 6 months in Samui and helped with the office work two days a week until March. She was perfect, but unfortunately we have got no volunteer willing to support us in the office at the moment.



## PUPPY HOUSE



Adored by her little friends.

As most of you know by now, Maa is no longer the only wheelchair dog at our Rescue Center which confirms it again that even a paralyzed or disabled dog can still enjoy and even love life. With just a bit of help and a big package of loving attention, one can get used to everything. We have kept you well updated about Maa over the last few months, mainly because of the tremendous support we received when we first told you all about the Temple/Dog Maa. Since then she’s come a long way and has been living at the shelter for the past few months now. Due to the fact that she is so happy at the puppy house, loved by everyone at the shelter and adored by the other puppies in the house, Maa will definitely stay at our Rescue Center in Baan Taling Nam. We are having her trying out different chairs, she gets to speed around the free kitchen area every day and gets the daily love, attention and care that she needs to hopefully stay happy and healthy for a long time.

Compared to 10 years ago, we do have more and more little ones in the Puppy House who manage to stay alive until they are old enough to be moved out of the house and into one of the bigger outside compounds at the shelter. This might be a bit hard to read, but fact is that nobody at the Dog Rescue could ever take the surviving of an unvaccinated puppy at the shelter for granted. Most of the new puppies got infected with some horrible virus not long after being brought to the shelter, simply dumped in front of our doors or nicely placed in the back of our car in middle of the night.



Linda running with the youngsters

This is why our ladies Jay and Linda who are in charge for the youngsters are trying to have every puppy vaccinated before it gets confronted with any viruses at the shelter. Whenever we are informed about puppies, they immediately go to the people and try to convince them to have the puppies vaccinated on location and leave them there until after the second vaccination; only then can they be moved to the shelter without any risk. Jay and Linda have been with us for over 10 years and their vaccination program has shown it's success. Never before did we have so many healthy puppies in the puppy house that we were actually forced to move them out before they were even sterilized. Even though some did manage to find a home, the puppy-area simply got too busy and the little ones needed more space.



Jay is introducing the young gang to their new compound and having fun in their very own pool



Puppy-House-Man Bu comes to visit and of course the youngsters are dead-excited

What a joy it was to then see them so excited and happy when the almost 10 puppies were integrated into their new compound.

Our largest compound 1 already had a lot of young dogs in it but never has it been so easy to bring a new group into a compound. It looks like the puppies were too young to worry about the other dogs and all they could see was space and the pool! Not one of them was really scared and needed lots of attention to feel safe in the new environment. We are happy to see 'our shelter puppies' appreciating the gift of space and companionship.

This somehow makes us less disappointed over them not finding a new home.

## TEMPLE PROJEKT - Poisoning at the temple

At the temples where we have a big number of dogs living, they usually live in small groups in different part of the temples, each group having their own territory. Just like at our shelter too, it sometimes does come to fights and injuries happen. There isn't a day passing without any of the temple dogs or cats needing some sort of immediate help

Unfortunately some horrible poisoning attacks have taken place at one of the temples our Team works at during a Temple-Festival. One of the monks called Jay, Linda and Tom in the early morning hours and they responded immediately. The scene at the temple was heartbreaking: Dead and half-dead Temple-dogs lying all over the place, the monk himself still in shock. Thanks to the fast reaction of Jay, Linda and Tom some of the dogs could be saved while others were not that lucky. 6 Temple-Dogs lost their lives that night, leaving the monks, our Temple Team and many residents around shocked and hard broken over the loss of those beautiful resident Temple Dogs. Even though it often feels impossible to go back to work after such happenings, it's important to concentrate on the happy faces still with us. There is only so much we can do.....



## Two Temple Dogs now happily living in Germany: CARA und JOY



It was a hard, long and pretty painful recovery. Joy at Jay and Linda's home fighting for her life



Not giving up is something Joy has learned with a very early age...That's why she is still here today

The Temple-Team first met Joy as a puppy in one of the temples; she survived the vaccine programme and was fit and happy till one day she was run over by a car leaving her with a broken hip and two broken back legs. We took her to our shelter but there was nothing our vet could do for her, she required major surgery which could not be done by us and could not be paid for by us either.

It was at the shelter where Gaby and Uwe from Germany, first met Joy, they immediately fell in love with her and offered to cover the cost of surgery if we could find a vet on the island who could actually perform it. The cost was almost 40 thousand baht. Even though they knew the risk of Joy not surviving the surgery or it not being successful was very high, they still asked us to go ahead. Joy did survive but the surgery was badly performed and two days later Joy had massive infection in one leg. Post surgery Joy was cared for at the homes of our temple team, Jay Linda and Tom. It was not an easy process this infection went on to last for almost 5 months and for a time we were not sure if she would make it, but she was a fighter and thanks to that and the care, attention and physiotherapy she received from our dedicated team, Joy is now walking again. When Gaby and Uwe wanted to give Joy a home in Germany, but did not want her to be alone so they chose another real survivor from the temple, Cara, who almost died and managed to fight back. On the 21st of February both Joy and Cara flew together to their new home in Germany. The full story from these two Temple-Dogs as well as the latest news from our Temple-Team and their work the shelter you can read here:



What a cute family: Gaby and Uwe with Cara and Joy in Germany

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf)



We took pictures of the dogs on Chaweng, Chaweng-Noi, Lamai, and Bang Por beaches. You find them on our homepage

<http://www.samuidog.org/dogs-on-samui-beach.html>

## HOTELS

We've got some good news from the hotel resorts:

The **Pinnacle** in Maenam put up an extra table for our donation box! *Thank you* to Mike, the manager. A couple of years ago, the atmosphere there was completely different. The manager then kept threatening us with the "removal" of the dogs. As I always say, the well-being of the dogs only depends on the manager's attitude towards dogs and cats..

The **Peace** resort in Bophud wanted to get a donations box on the occasion of the Song Kran celebration. Until now I hadn't heard anything good about this hotel!

Of course I'm pleased about every positive change concerning the management's attitude towards animals, but you just can't tell whether a hotel will have an animal-loving manager in the long run.

I would be very glad if you could mail me pictures of the dogs in Maenam, Bophud, Choeng Mon, and from other beaches. I'm going to place them on our homepage and insert them in Facebook. As not all our friends are in Facebook, I insert the pictures in our homepage as well.

I personally haven't got enough spare time to take pictures of the dogs on these beaches. But when you are on holiday there, it would be very helpful for me to get a general overview about the dogs on the beaches, and even to track non-neutered animals.

I'm still worrying a lot about how we can financially make ends mend. Reduction of costs isn't that easy without seriously affecting the animal living conditions as a consequence.

The Euro exchange rate versus the one of the Baht won't change fast- if at all- and therefore we face extraordinary trouble: we get 75% of all the donations in Euro. We receive up to 150 000 Baht per month less because of the bad exchange rate. And this is an enormous deficiency. In the last years we had been able to get along somewhat reasonably with our monthly receipts. Whenever we had a surplus, we built something new or something else had to be repaired. Unfortunately we had no chance to build up reserves as we always had to purchase some equipment or other items.

The bad exchange rate will keep a lot of people from traveling to Thailand. They will spend their holidays in „Euro-Country“- where, at least- they needn't get angry about the exchange rate. By now we have seen less tourists here than we had last year at the same time, and the shop and the hotel keepers are even worried about the next season already. Bookings must have gone down considerably. I think you can imagine what this will mean for us concerning the Euro rate. Please do not let us down; our situation is really extremely serious.

The bomb attack of April 11 will frighten off some people as well. When Bangkok isn't "flooded" and the Yellows don't fight with the Reds, someone is throwing a bomb! The Thai keep having ideas about how to scare tourists!

Because of this emergency we had to raise the monthly sponsorship fee to 25€. All the existing sponsorships remain at 20 €. If you can manage anyhow I urgently ask you to transfer 25€ monthly from now on for your foster pet.

The sponsorships are our only regular revenue and most important for the existence of our association.

Up to now we have executed 6 castrations/ neutering per day. We could of course make savings here as well, if we made two operations less. But I'm only taking this measure when all other possibilities are out of range.

If possible, we have ordered cheaper medicine. The BAYER medicine is very expensive and I hope that That medicine will be effective as well. It's a sad fact that prices for medicine have risen- but the Baht did not. For vaccines 125 Baht must be paid instead of 100 Baht previously. Now we take 150 Bath for a vaccination from those who can afford to pay. Stray animals are treated for free- this goes without saying.

Every four weeks, our DCRS dogs are given *Ivomec* for heartworm prophylaxis, deworming and against ticks and fleas. Certainly the dogs will be glad only to get an injection every 6 weeks- and it will be as helpful!

Every 4 weeks, a company shows up to spray all the kennels against the ticks. This is quite useful, but an extinction of ticks will never happen....

When feeding the animals, we take even more care to waste as little food as possible. Ivette keeps an eye on the helpers so that they do not "forget" their orders.....

With closing the water taps our helpers face serious problems. So should we fine the helpers again?



**Castle** is here vicariously for all the dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor

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.

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

In the next months I'll be able to see whether releasing two helpers was enough- among other savings measures. This was only a short-time shock for the helpers, their working morale had gone down to a large degree- even when they all had daily showed up for work; with this sinking morale it's not easy to cope with all the tasks in the shelter on some days. I try at least to have all posts in the shelter occupied and to send a helper as fast as possible in an emergency. Repair work can only be done with difficulty at the moment. I must give the helpers verbal warnings again, recruit new ones if necessary and fire helpers who keep taking off days regularly. This isn't an easy task, as it is one day one – and the next day another helper who takes a break for one day or two. Just as they feel like doing so....

So in case many of them skip work on the same day we can only hope that there are quite a couple of "good" volunteers available and not too many emergencies are announced.

From **May 2 till 25** we fly to Berlin to meet my parents and our friends. I'm offline there- we've got no internet access there. I'll talk with Jay on the phone, but some mails won't be answered immediately.

I hope all of you will show understanding.

**Martina** will „sacrifice“ her holiday again and fly in, live in our house and take care that things are running smoothly.

The helpers have known her for many years and know that it's best to take her seriously!

The Thais are clever, sometimes they fake not to understand, but it's impossible to play that „joke“ on Martina. I know our darling pets in the house are well cared for by Martina; in the shelter Ivette, Daniela and Marcus and of course Jay and Linda see that the usual business is going smoothly as well. In Germany, Martina was very successful in placing our dogs.



She found new owners for more than 80 dogs in Germany. As our shelter has been more than overcrowded, I won't think of how crowded the house would be, if all these dogs were still here, too.

Recently we have been presented with the rule that one member of the association must prove competence in terms of professional keeping of dogs. Martina is a board member of our German supporting association and it's sufficient that one member passes this brutally difficult exam.

Now Martina is a half-vet and has an extraordinary knowledge of paragraphs! As she is so keen on learning and passing exams, Martina even passed the proof of feline competence as well.

We must make financial savings wherever possible, so we have stopped our dog placing program for the time being. Of course do we hope that we can restart this program shortly.

However, our big thanks to Martina for her personal input!



For one of our shelter dogs we charged 300 € as an air-fare contribution. The real costs are much higher, as the air-fare itself costs 300€ (taken along a flight companion), moreover must be added the costs for the chip, the rabies antibody test, the flight to Bangkok and the handling there.

In addition must be counted the very costly dog transport box: that's why it is worthwhile to transport it back to Thailand for new „travelers“.



If you think of taking back a dog transport box to Thailand, please send me an email. I'll take care that it will be sent to you.

Besides we are always looking for flight companions for dogs flying abroad after an animal friend fell in love with them.

Swiss animal lovers bought breast harnesses worth 3500 SFR for dogs, and as we must equip all our dogs with a collar and a leash for the flight, all of them are getting super Swiss quality Harnesses for their trip!

This donation was made in consequence of the fact that- for a second time - dogs just arrived from Samui had managed to get off their collar and run away! One was run over by a car and didn't make it after he had been searched for a couple of days: this should never ever happen again!



## CHARLY

has made a lot of progress and is dashing about in his kennel at high speed: unfortunately the whole house has got very slippery tiled floors, so that he must stay in a separate kitchen corner in the evenings or on rainy days. I'm afraid he will never walk in our house because it's too slippery and he therefore keeps dragging his legs.

On slip-proof floors he walks perfectly well. We are looking for a home in Austria or Germany for Charly. Who has got plenty of time and is willing to give him all the love he needs? He never gets enough cuddles and hugs!

In case you haven't seen it yet, here is the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjmLebgSqnY>



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 (please no plastic toys, they often chew it to pieces and sometimes swallow it).

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 are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive.

We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.



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](http://www.samuidog.org). We receive every month about 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

We have registered in GOODING. GOODING has integrated – like Amazon- a lot of businesses. Just have a look. Besides, we inscribed the DCRS in BILDUNGSSPENDER long time ago.

The four forward us a certain percentage when you do your shopping there. Which offers are best for you is for you to decide. I suppose there are more similar facilities, but I don't think we would need more! All have got the same range in their offers.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 16 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 16 years, over 20,000 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 (as long as we have a helper available at this time). 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 25 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 17,000 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!

Greetings

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS-Team

ACCOUNTS FOR SPONSORS:

[http://www.samuidog.org/text3\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm)





## Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear friends,

April 2015

A warm-hearted THANK YOU to all our friends who heard our emergency call in February and have supported us with donations of money and goods.

This meant an extraordinary relief for us. In the long run, only rigorous cuts and pinching and scraping everywhere will help us as the Euro price rate is not going to change in the foreseeable future. As we collect 75% of our donations on our account in Euro, we depend very much on the exchange rate.

On April 1, 2015 we celebrated 16 years of the Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation. Originally no celebration should be held, as we didn't have any money left for unnecessary "things".

But both Gabi and Uwe from Oldenburg thought, that our helpers were not to be blamed for the bad exchange rate of Euro to Baht and financed the party for us! A big and warmhearted **thank you** to both of them!

Wally from Germany sent money for coffee and cakes- so a second big **thank you** for her!



The helpers were so excited when they heard that a small party would be held in our house in Chaweng.

Indeed it should be a party for the helpers, but at the moment we have a large number of volunteers here- and they were not to be excluded!

Furthermore we invited all the April 1<sup>st</sup> visitors of our small center in Chaweng to have fun with us.

Usually the helpers are given a present, e.g. a fan or an electric kettle- but this year, of course, no gifts. But everybody had lots of fun, even without gifts, and the party was as every year, an enormous success.



As usual, we played „musical chairs“

### VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

in Chaweng and in Ban Taling Nam are always welcome as they are a big help and I do hope that many more will come to the shelter to inform themselves about our work or only to play with the dogs and cats giving them a lot of loving care and cuddles!



The dogs are always overwhelmed with joy when visitors arrive...



... Because they often bring some treats!

Almost for six months, **Sybille** and **Marcus** have stayed with us for the third time as volunteers. This year they cared for the most hopeless “cases”. These dogs were often seriously ill or injured and needed loving care and attention. Some of them had to be fed; besides a regular cleaning of the wounds was required. Without Marcus and Sybille some of the dogs wouldn't have managed to survive. Dogs tend to giving up on themselves when they lost their will to survive. They need lots of affectionate care to struggle for life and health again.

We would love for them to come back one day and, the dogs miss them already.





With Sybille's affectionate care Bella recovered almost perfectly. Bella is only one of the dogs Sybille managed to set back on their paws again



Eight weeks ago, Marcus and Daniela have taken six puppies – abandoned on our doorstep – home



I'm sorry to say, but two of them didn't make it. Who wouldn't want to have one or two of these four darlings? Grace, Pepper, Grizzly or Titan are looking for a loving home in Germany or anywhere else in the world.

Since early 2015 **Marcus** and **Daniela** have lived on the island, but of course they had to take care of their bungalows and of Nico first. They are very lucky as Nico loves going to school here- something which is very often a big problem for emigrants with children. When the "little ones" just suffer because they miss their friends, this may cause big problems for everybody.

Meanwhile, Marcus and Daniela have taken up the daily care for the cats and dogs in the shelter.

Marcus watches out for items to repair and sees to them being really fixed. Because of our financial situation, repair work can't be done immediately sometimes.

The bungalows are on the Bang Por Beach <http://www.bungalow-samui.de/>; Marcus himself will look after your well-being! Accepted in the bungalows are animal lovers only, and feeding the dogs is a "job" expected by everybody!



Whoever has visited our shelter may have seen the nice house on the right side of our access road: Ivette has rented it! It's reasonably priced, although quite lonely there.

So she has taken home a large dangerously looking dog from the shelter!

For already 9 months, Ivette has been a volunteer in the shelter and she is performing a super-job! She takes care of the visitors, shows them around the shelter and informs them about what we do. She checks if the helpers are working properly and tells me when something is wrong. You know, if the helpers haven't been in the shelter for one or even several days, they have „forgotten“ the basics of their job. Sometimes I just can't believe my eyes when seeing a helper starting to clean the single boxes- without any useful equipment! She's a great help for me, as she takes pictures of all the dogs placed in the shelter before their take-off. She sends the pictures directly to the owners, together with a short report about the living condition of their darlings.

Furthermore she takes care of the new volunteers. Some volunteers haven't got the faintest idea of what would be a useful help in the shelter. Again and again, we see volunteers totally amazed at how much cleaning work must be done! But people are different and Ivette is very patient. Perhaps some of the volunteers can't cope with the enormous amount of dogs and are consequently somewhat afraid. We are always glad about volunteers. Some have been coming back for several years: their assistance is so valuable! Here is a small video about the volunteers' work:

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When the surgery room must be cleaned some of them line up as far back as possible – and I myself am fed up with asking them again and again to lend us a hand!

I keep preaching endlessly: only 1 student in the operating room! Obviously I'm speaking Chinese as I catch the students en masse regularly in the OR! Sometimes we had up to 6 students there...



Dr. Sith and his assistants Kio and Lek. As you can see our only 12 m<sup>2</sup> big room is already full

Of course we also had some students here over the last few years who were willing to help us with the dogs and cats, e.g. they went through the kennels to retrieve ill or injured dogs or to clean the OR without being told to do so.

Many tasks may be completed by volunteers and we needn't "burden" doctor Sith needlessly with vet students. I took that decision to relieve doctor Sith. He is much too polite to usher the students out of the tiny narrow OR when all of them have assembled there again!

Some months ago, we had to buy a gas anesthetic machine as we had continuous problems with the narcotics supplies- a problem which still exists..... The machine takes a lot of room in the small room.

Doctor Sith has always eagerly instructed and taught the students and would have continued likewise, but nevertheless I myself decided we were no longer able to accept vet students in the DCRS.

For a long time already all the other Thai animal rights groups have only accepted skilled veterinary doctors with an at least two-year surgery experience.

## RELIEF ACTIONS AFTER OUR EMERGENCY CALL FOR YOUR HELP



**Kieron Gerbig**, a famous singer, posted an emergency call in Facebook for us and within no time he was able to hand in a 2000-Euro check! Thank you to all Kieron Gerbig fans!



## OLD STUFF FOR CHARITY

**Daniela, Jana, Nicole** und **Murat** from Munich had the idea to sort out the trash from their apartments and basements: the trash was sold at the nightly flea market and they proudly transferred the amount of 225 Euros! A big *thank you* to them.



A big *thank you* to **Petra** and **Dirk** for lots of donated goods they brought to Samui!



A big *thank you* to **Doris** and **Karin** for the lots of goods they brought to Samui!



**Gunlök** and **Leif** brought lots of blankets, towels and medical material from Sweden.

**A big THANK YOU to all who also „delivered“ goods of all kinds at the shelter**



**Viktor** from Russia traveled in Samui for one day and collected old towels, food and 1200 Bath in the Russian community for us!

## NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

At last! The Thai Government passed a law for the protection of animals. The fines are amazingly high. Up to two years in prison or up to 40,000 Baht or even both! This sounds really good! On April 23. and 24. a meeting of the TSPCA, that is the umbrella organization of all the associations for the protection of animals in Thailand, was held. The new law is the absolute top subject there to be discussed and informed about.

The big question is how to implement this law? Certainly something may be effected if the culprit is caught on the spot.

I think that the managers should be informed about the possibility of punishment in case they order gardeners or guards to lay out poison in order to remove unwanted dogs or cats from the hotel compound.

Our manager Wit will participate at the meeting and will tell us later how the new law should be interpreted.

I hope the best for the animals....



## FACEBOOK

A couple of years ago, Jeremy Oaten opened the Facebook account **Dog-Cat Rescue Samui** for us and then transferred the management to me. Shortly after we had 5000 “friends” and as more than 5000 are not allowed on a private account, I installed “**Brigitte Gomm**”: both sites always show the same information.

Facebook regularly sees important changes; it was no longer possible to keep the Dog-Cat rescue Samui privately. That’s why I transferred all these friends to the site of **DCRS- Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui** : now all “friends”

are on that site. Besides you find the same entries as on **Brigitte Gomm**. For me it is much easier, as I must only control 2 sites and my group “**foreign animal news**”. Please do enter your name in this group, if you want to have information about the global protection of animals. Every day I receive an infinite number of mails or via Facebook entries. Very often the information is very sad, and I guess we can really move things when we subscribe petitions against the suffering of animals; we should be well-informed what serious mischief is done to animals all over the world.

At the moment it’s only Jay and me in the office, and we can scarcely do our job, when we only have a two-day office help per week. So we haven’t got the time for Facebook. It would be very helpful, if you send your inquiries per e-mail only. Monika from Germany spent 6 months in Samui and helped with the office work two days a week until March. She was perfect, but unfortunately we have got no volunteer willing to support us in the office at the moment.



## PUPPY HOUSE



Adored by her little friends.

As most of you know by now, Maa is no longer the only wheelchair dog at our Rescue Center which confirms it again that even a paralyzed or disabled dog can still enjoy and even love life. With just a bit of help and a big package of loving attention, one can get used to everything. We have kept you well updated about Maa over the last few months, mainly because of the tremendous support we received when we first told you all about the Temple/Dog Maa. Since then she’s come a long way and has been living at the shelter for the past few months now. Due to the fact that she is so happy at the puppy house, loved by everyone at the shelter and adored by the other puppies in the house, Maa will definitely stay at our Rescue Center in Baan Taling Nam. We are having her trying out different chairs, she gets to speed around the free kitchen area every day and gets the daily love, attention and care that she needs to hopefully stay happy and healthy for a long time.

Compared to 10 years ago, we do have more and more little ones in the Puppy House who manage to stay alive until they are old enough to be moved out of the house and into one of the bigger outside compounds at the shelter. This might be a bit hard to read, but fact is that nobody at the Dog Rescue could ever take the surviving of an unvaccinated puppy at the shelter for granted. Most of the new puppies got infected with some horrible virus not long after being brought to the shelter, simply dumped in front of our doors or nicely placed in the back of our car in middle of the night.



Linda running with the youngsters

This is why our ladies Jay and Linda who are in charge for the youngsters are trying to have every puppy vaccinated before it gets confronted with any viruses at the shelter. Whenever we are informed about puppies, they immediately go to the people and try to convince them to have the puppies vaccinated on location and leave them there until after the second vaccination; only then can they be moved to the shelter without any risk. Jay and Linda have been with us for over 10 years and their vaccination program has shown it's success. Never before did we have so many healthy puppies in the puppy house that we were actually forced to move them out before they were even sterilized. Even though some did manage to find a home, the puppy-area simply got too busy and the little ones needed more space.



Jay is introducing the young gang to their new compound and having fun in their very own pool



Puppy-House-Man Bu comes to visit and of course the youngsters are dead-excited

What a joy it was to then see them so excited and happy when the almost 10 puppies were integrated into their new compound.

Our largest compound 1 already had a lot of young dogs in it but never has it been so easy to bring a new group into a compound. It looks like the puppies were too young to worry about the other dogs and all they could see was space and the pool! Not one of them was really scared and needed lots of attention to feel safe in the new environment. We are happy to see 'our shelter puppies' appreciating the gift of space and companionship.

This somehow makes us less disappointed over them not finding a new home.



## TEMPLE PROJEKT - Poisoning at the temple

At the temples where we have a big number of dogs living, they usually live in small groups in different part of the temples, each group having their own territory. Just like at our shelter too, it sometimes does come to fights and injuries happen. There isn't a day passing without any of the temple dogs or cats needing some sort of immediate help

Unfortunately some horrible poisoning attacks have taken place at one of the temples our Team works at during a Temple-Festival. One of the monks called Jay, Linda and Tom in the early morning hours and they responded immediately. The scene at the temple was heartbreaking: Dead and half-dead Temple-dogs lying all over the place, the monk himself still in shock. Thanks to the fast reaction of Jay, Linda and Tom some of the dogs could be saved while others were not that lucky. 6 Temple-Dogs lost their lives that night, leaving the monks, our Temple Team and many residents around shocked and hard broken over the loss of those beautiful resident Temple Dogs. Even though it often feels impossible to go back to work after such happenings, it's important to concentrate on the happy faces still with us. There is only so much we can do.....



## Two Temple Dogs now happily living in Germany: CARA und JOY



It was a hard, long and pretty painful recovery.  
Joy at Jay and Linda's home fighting for her life



Not giving up is something Joy has learned with a very early age...That's why she is still here today

The Temple-Team first met Joy as a puppy in one of the temples; she survived the vaccine programme and was fit and happy till one day she was run over by a car leaving her with a broken hip and two broken back legs. We took her to our shelter but there was nothing our vet could do for her, she required major surgery which could not be done by us and could not be paid for by us either.

It was at the shelter where Gaby and Uwe from Germany, first met Joy, they immediately fell in love with her and offered to cover the cost of surgery if we could find a vet on the island who could actually perform it. The cost was almost 40 thousand baht. Even though they knew the risk of Joy not surviving the surgery or it not being successful was very high, they still asked us to go ahead. Joy did survive but the surgery was badly performed and two days later Joy had massive infection in one leg. Post surgery Joy was cared for at the homes of our temple team, Jay Linda and Tom. It was not an easy process this infection went on to last for almost 5 months and for a time we were not sure if she would make it, but she was a fighter and thanks to that and the care, attention and physiotherapy she received from our dedicated team, Joy is now walking again. When Gaby and Uwe wanted to give Joy a home in Germany, but did not want her to be alone so they chose another real survivor from the temple, Cara, who almost died and managed to fight back. On the 21st of February both Joy and Cara flew together to their new home in Germany. The full story from these two Temple-Dogs as well as the latest news from our Temple-Team and their work the shelter you can read here:



What a cute family: Gaby and Uwe with Cara and Joy in Germany

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf)



We took pictures of the dogs on Chaweng, Chaweng-Noi, Lamai, and Bang Por beaches. You find them on our homepage

<http://www.samuidog.org/dogs-on-samui-beach.html>

## HOTELS

We've got some good news from the hotel resorts:

The **Pinnacle** in Maenam put up an extra table for our donation box! *Thank you* to Mike, the manager. A couple of years ago, the atmosphere there was completely different. The manager then kept threatening us with the "removal" of the dogs. As I always say, the well-being of the dogs only depends on the manager's attitude towards dogs and cats..

The **Peace** resort in Bophud wanted to get a donations box on the occasion of the Song Kran celebration. Until now I hadn't heard anything good about this hotel!

Of course I'm pleased about every positive change concerning the management's attitude towards animals, but you just can't tell whether a hotel will have an animal-loving manager in the long run.

I would be very glad if you could mail me pictures of the dogs in Maenam, Bophud, Choeng Mon, and from other beaches. I'm going to place them on our homepage and insert them in Facebook. As not all our friends are in Facebook, I insert the pictures in our homepage as well.

I personally haven't got enough spare time to take pictures of the dogs on these beaches. But when you are on holiday there, it would be very helpful for me to get a general overview about the dogs on the beaches, and even to track non-neutered animals.

I'm still worrying a lot about how we can financially make ends mend. Reduction of costs isn't that easy without seriously affecting the animal living conditions as a consequence.

The Euro exchange rate versus the one of the Baht won't change fast- if at all- and therefore we face extraordinary trouble: we get 75% of all the donations in Euro. We receive up to 150 000 Baht per month less because of the bad exchange rate. And this is an enormous deficiency. In the last years we had been able to get along somewhat reasonably with our monthly receipts. Whenever we had a surplus, we built something new or something else had to be repaired. Unfortunately we had no chance to build up reserves as we always had to purchase some equipment or other items.

The bad exchange rate will keep a lot of people from traveling to Thailand. They will spend their holidays in „Euro-Country“- where, at least- they needn't get angry about the exchange rate. By now we have seen less tourists here than we had last year at the same time, and the shop and the hotel keepers are even worried about the next season already. Bookings must have gone down considerably. I think you can imagine what this will mean for us concerning the Euro rate. Please do not let us down; our situation is really extremely serious.

The bomb attack of April 11 will frighten off some people as well. When Bangkok isn't "flooded" and the Yellows don't fight with the Reds, someone is throwing a bomb! The Thai keep having ideas about how to scare tourists!

Because of this emergency we had to raise the monthly sponsorship fee to 25€. All the existing sponsorships remain at 20 €. If you can manage anyhow I urgently ask you to transfer 25€ monthly from now on for your foster pet.

The sponsorships are our only regular revenue and most important for the existence of our association.

Up to now we have executed 6 castrations/ neutering per day. We could of course make savings here as well, if we made two operations less. But I'm only taking this measure when all other possibilities are out of range.

If possible, we have ordered cheaper medicine. The BAYER medicine is very expensive and I hope that That medicine will be effective as well. It's a sad fact that prices for medicine have risen- but the Baht did not. For vaccines 125 Baht must be paid instead of 100 Baht previously. Now we take 150 Bath for a vaccination from those who can afford to pay. Stray animals are treated for free- this goes without saying.

Every four weeks, our DCRS dogs are given *Ivomec* for heartworm prophylaxis, deworming and against ticks and fleas. Certainly the dogs will be glad only to get an injection every 6 weeks- and it will be as helpful!

Every 4 weeks, a company shows up to spray all the kennels against the ticks. This is quite useful, but an extinction of ticks will never happen....

When feeding the animals, we take even more care to waste as little food as possible. Ivette keeps an eye on the helpers so that they do not "forget" their orders.....

With closing the water taps our helpers face serious problems. So should we fine the helpers again?



**Castle** is here vicariously for all the dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor

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.

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

In the next months I'll be able to see whether releasing two helpers was enough- among other savings measures. This was only a short-time shock for the helpers, their working morale had gone down to a large degree- even when they all had daily showed up for work; with this sinking morale it's not easy to cope with all the tasks in the shelter on some days. I try at least to have all posts in the shelter occupied and to send a helper as fast as possible in an emergency. Repair work can only be done with difficulty at the moment. I must give the helpers verbal warnings again, recruit new ones if necessary and fire helpers who keep taking off days regularly. This isn't an easy task, as it is one day one – and the next day another helper who takes a break for one day or two. Just as they feel like doing so....

So in case many of them skip work on the same day we can only hope that there are quite a couple of "good" volunteers available and not too many emergencies are announced.

From **May 2 till 25** we fly to Berlin to meet my parents and our friends. I'm offline there- we've got no internet access there. I'll talk with Jay on the phone, but some mails won't be answered immediately.

I hope all of you will show understanding.

**Martina** will „sacrifice“ her holiday again and fly in, live in our house and take care that things are running smoothly.

The helpers have known her for many years and know that it's best to take her seriously!

The Thais are clever, sometimes they fake not to understand, but it's impossible to play that „joke“ on Martina. I know our darling pets in the house are well cared for by Martina; in the shelter Ivette, Daniela and Marcus and of course Jay and Linda see that the usual business is going smoothly as well. In Germany, Martina was very successful in placing our dogs.



She found new owners for more than 80 dogs in Germany. As our shelter has been more than overcrowded, I won't think of how crowded the house would be, if all these dogs were still here, too.

Recently we have been presented with the rule that one member of the association must prove competence in terms of professional keeping of dogs. Martina is a board member of our German supporting association and it's sufficient that one member passes this brutally difficult exam.

Now Martina is a half-vet and has an extraordinary knowledge of paragraphs! As she is so keen on learning and passing exams, Martina even passed the proof of feline competence as well.

We must make financial savings wherever possible, so we have stopped our dog placing program for the time being. Of course do we hope that we can restart this program shortly.

However, our big thanks to Martina for her personal input!



For one of our shelter dogs we charged 300 € as an air-fare contribution. The real costs are much higher, as the air-fare itself costs 300€ (taken along a flight companion), moreover must be added the costs for the chip, the rabies antibody test, the flight to Bangkok and the handling there.

In addition must be counted the very costly dog transport box: that's why it is worthwhile to transport it back to Thailand for new „travelers“.



If you think of taking back a dog transport box to Thailand, please send me an email. I'll take care that it will be sent to you.

Besides we are always looking for flight companions for dogs flying abroad after an animal friend fell in love with them.

Swiss animal lovers bought breast harnesses worth 3500 SFR for dogs, and as we must equip all our dogs with a collar and a leash for the flight, all of them are getting super Swiss quality Harnesses for their trip!

This donation was made in consequence of the fact that- for a second time - dogs just arrived from Samui had managed to get off their collar and run away! One was run over by a car and didn't make it after he had been searched for a couple of days: this should never ever happen again!



## CHARLY

has made a lot of progress and is dashing about in his kennel at high speed: unfortunately the whole house has got very slippery tiled floors, so that he must stay in a separate kitchen corner in the evenings or on rainy days. I'm afraid he will never walk in our house because it's too slippery and he therefore keeps dragging his legs.

On slip-proof floors he walks perfectly well. We are looking for a home in Austria or Germany for Charly. Who has got plenty of time and is willing to give him all the love he needs? He never gets enough cuddles and hugs!

In case you haven't seen it yet, here is the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjmLebgSqnY>



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 (please no plastic toys, they often chew it to pieces and sometimes swallow it).

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 are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive.

We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.



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](http://www.samuidog.org). We receive every month about 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

We have registered in GOODING. GOODING has integrated – like Amazon- a lot of businesses. Just have a look. Besides, we inscribed the DCRS in BILDUNGSSPENDER long time ago.

The four forward us a certain percentage when you do your shopping there. Which offers are best for you is for you to decide. I suppose there are more similar facilities, but I don't think we would need more! All have got the same range in their offers.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 16 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 16 years, over 20,000 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 (as long as we have a helper available at this time). 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 25 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 17,000 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!

Greetings

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS-Team

ACCOUNTS FOR SPONSORS:

[http://www.samuidog.org/text3\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm)



## Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation

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Website: [www.samuidog.org](http://www.samuidog.org)  
Facebook: Brigitte Gomm



Dear friends,

April 2015

A warm-hearted THANK YOU to all our friends who heard our emergency call in February and have supported us with donations of money and goods.

This meant an extraordinary relief for us. In the long run, only rigorous cuts and pinching and scraping everywhere will help us as the Euro price rate is not going to change in the foreseeable future. As we collect 75% of our donations on our account in Euro, we depend very much on the exchange rate.

On April 1, 2015 we celebrated 16 years of the Dog and Cat Rescue Samui Foundation. Originally no celebration should be held, as we didn't have any money left for unnecessary "things".

But both Gabi and Uwe from Oldenburg thought, that our helpers were not to be blamed for the bad exchange rate of Euro to Baht and financed the party for us! A big and warmhearted **thank you** to both of them!

Wally from Germany sent money for coffee and cakes- so a second big **thank you** for her!



The helpers were so excited when they heard that a small party would be held in our house in Chaweng.

Indeed it should be a party for the helpers, but at the moment we have a large number of volunteers here- and they were not to be excluded!

Furthermore we invited all the April 1<sup>st</sup> visitors of our small center in Chaweng to have fun with us.

Usually the helpers are given a present, e.g. a fan or an electric kettle- but this year, of course, no gifts. But everybody had lots of fun, even without gifts, and the party was as every year, an enormous success.



As usual, we played „musical chairs“

## VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

in Chaweng and in Ban Taling Nam are always welcome as they are a big help and I do hope that many more will come to the shelter to inform themselves about our work or only to play with the dogs and cats giving them a lot of loving care and cuddles!



The dogs are always overwhelmed with joy when visitors arrive...



... Because they often bring some treats!

Almost for six months, **Sybille** and **Marcus** have stayed with us for the third time as volunteers. This year they cared for the most hopeless “cases”. These dogs were often seriously ill or injured and needed loving care and attention. Some of them had to be fed; besides a regular cleaning of the wounds was required. Without Marcus and Sybille some of the dogs wouldn't have managed to survive. Dogs tend to giving up on themselves when they lost their will to survive. They need lots of affectionate care to struggle for life and health again.

We would love for them to come back one day and, the dogs miss them already.







With Sybille's affectionate care Bella recovered almost perfectly. Bella is only one of the dogs Sybille managed to set back on their paws again



Eight weeks ago, Marcus and Daniela have taken six puppies – abandoned on our doorstep – home



Since early 2015 **Marcus** and **Daniela** have lived on the island, but of course they had to take care of their bungalows and of Nico first. They are very lucky as Nico loves going to school here- something which is very often a big problem for emigrants with children. When the "little ones" just suffer because they miss their friends, this may cause big problems for everybody.

Meanwhile, Marcus and Daniela have taken up the daily care for the cats and dogs in the shelter.

Marcus watches out for items to repair and sees to them being really fixed. Because of our financial situation, repair work can't be done immediately sometimes.

The bungalows are on the Bang Por Beach <http://www.bungalow-samui.de/>; Marcus himself will look after your well-being! Accepted in the bungalows are animal lovers only, and feeding the dogs is a "job" expected by everybody!



I'm sorry to say, but two of them didn't make it. Who wouldn't want to have one or two of these four darlings?

Grace, Pepper, Grizzly or Titan are looking for a loving home in Germany or anywhere else in the world.



Whoever has visited our shelter may have seen the nice house on the right side of our access road: Ivette has rented it! It's reasonably priced, although quite lonely there.

So she has taken home a large dangerously looking dog from the shelter!

For already 9 months, Ivette has been a volunteer in the shelter and she is performing a super-job! She takes care of the visitors, shows them around the shelter and informs them about what we do. She checks if the helpers are working properly and tells me when something is wrong. You know, if the helpers haven't been in the shelter for one or even several days, they have „forgotten“ the basics of their job. Sometimes I just can't believe my eyes when seeing a helper starting to clean the single boxes- without any useful equipment! She's a great help for me, as she takes pictures of all the dogs placed in the shelter before their take-off. She sends the pictures directly to the owners, together with a short report about the living condition of their darlings.

Furthermore she takes care of the new volunteers. Some volunteers haven't got the faintest idea of what would be a useful help in the shelter. Again and again, we see volunteers totally amazed at how much cleaning work must be done! But people are different and Ivette is very patient. Perhaps some of the volunteers can't cope with the enormous amount of dogs and are consequently somewhat afraid. We are always glad about volunteers. Some have been coming back for several years: their assistance is so valuable! Here is a small video about the volunteers' work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMEa0LxPiBQ&list=UU0WqMhiPPjKfNR44kFRjM9g&index=7>

**Hans-Peter** has been a background volunteer for one year now. As he prefers a calmer place, he has moved to the Kannom on the mainland. For quite some time he has taken care – almost exclusively by remote maintenance- of our computers so that they work! Our computer was so old, that many recent programmers didn't run; we faced serious problems with mass mailing.

Therefore, some time ago, we had to buy a new computer and Hans-Peter helped with the setup.

Unfortunately not everything can be done via remote maintenance: Hans-Peter had to travel to Samui for the installation of an internet antenna on the roof of the shelter for Ivette. Huge amounts of branches had to be cut and Dueng was scrambling in the highest branches and on the roof like a monkey!

For Ivette it felt like Christmas when she could go online – on her own terrace.



## STUDENTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the future we will no longer accept veterinary students. In the course of time things have turned out that way: most of them only wish to execute as many operations as possible here. Of course, doctor Sith must keep a sharp eye on them which costs **him** a lot of time- especially as some just do not show a very special talent- and a lot of nerves; he must explain the same "subjects" again and again which is certainly tiring.

When the surgery room must be cleaned some of them line up as far back as possible – and I myself am fed up with asking them again and again to lend us a hand!

I keep preaching endlessly: only 1 student in the operating room! Obviously I'm speaking Chinese as I catch the students en masse regularly in the OR! Sometimes we had up to 6 students there...



Dr. Sith and his assistants Kio and Lek. As you can see our only 12 m<sup>2</sup> big room is already full

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A big *thank you* to **Petra** and **Dirk** for lots of donated goods they brought to Samui!



A big *thank you* to **Doris** and **Karin** for the lots of goods they brought to Samui!



**Gunlök** and **Leif** brought lots of blankets, towels and medical material from Sweden.

**A big THANK YOU to all who also „delivered“ goods of all kinds at the shelter**



**Viktor** from Russia traveled in Samui for one day and collected old towels, food and 1200 Bath in the Russian community for us!

## NEW LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

At last! The Thai Government passed a law for the protection of animals. The fines are amazingly high. Up to two years in prison or up to 40,000 Baht or even both! This sounds really good! On April 23. and 24. a meeting of the TSPCA, that is the umbrella organization of all the associations for the protection of animals in Thailand, was held. The new law is the absolute top subject there to be discussed and informed about.

The big question is how to implement this law? Certainly something may be effected if the culprit is caught on the spot.

I think that the managers should be informed about the possibility of punishment in case they order gardeners or guards to lay out poison in order to remove unwanted dogs or cats from the hotel compound.

Our manager Wit will participate at the meeting and will tell us later how the new law should be interpreted.

I hope the best for the animals....



## FACEBOOK

A couple of years ago, Jeremy Oaten opened the Facebook account **Dog-Cat Rescue Samui** for us and then transferred the management to me. Shortly after we had 5000 “friends” and as more than 5000 are not allowed on a private account, I installed “**Brigitte Gomm**”: both sites always show the same information.

Facebook regularly sees important changes; it was no longer possible to keep the Dog-Cat rescue Samui privately. That’s why I transferred all these friends to the site of **DCRS- Dog and Cat Rescue Center Samui** : now all “friends”

are on that site. Besides you find the same entries as on **Brigitte Gomm**. For me it is much easier, as I must only control 2 sites and my group “**foreign animal news**”. Please do enter your name in this group, if you want to have information about the global protection of animals. Every day I receive an infinite number of mails or via Facebook entries. Very often the information is very sad, and I guess we can really move things when we subscribe petitions against the suffering of animals; we should be well-informed what serious mischief is done to animals all over the world.

At the moment it’s only Jay and me in the office, and we can scarcely do our job, when we only have a two-day office help per week. So we haven’t got the time for Facebook. It would be very helpful, if you send your inquiries per e-mail only. Monika from Germany spent 6 months in Samui and helped with the office work two days a week until March. She was perfect, but unfortunately we have got no volunteer willing to support us in the office at the moment.



## PUPPY HOUSE



Adored by her little friends.

As most of you know by now, Maa is no longer the only wheelchair dog at our Rescue Center which confirms it again that even a paralyzed or disabled dog can still enjoy and even love life. With just a bit of help and a big package of loving attention, one can get used to everything. We have kept you well updated about Maa over the last few months, mainly because of the tremendous support we received when we first told you all about the Temple/Dog Maa. Since then she’s come a long way and has been living at the shelter for the past few months now. Due to the fact that she is so happy at the puppy house, loved by everyone at the shelter and adored by the other puppies in the house, Maa will definitely stay at our Rescue Center in Baan Taling Nam. We are having her trying out different chairs, she gets to speed around the free kitchen area every day and gets the daily love, attention and care that she needs to hopefully stay happy and healthy for a long time.

Compared to 10 years ago, we do have more and more little ones in the Puppy House who manage to stay alive until they are old enough to be moved out of the house and into one of the bigger outside compounds at the shelter. This might be a bit hard to read, but fact is that nobody at the Dog Rescue could ever take the surviving of an unvaccinated puppy at the shelter for granted. Most of the new puppies got infected with some horrible virus not long after being brought to the shelter, simply dumped in front of our doors or nicely placed in the back of our car in middle of the night.



Linda running with the youngsters

This is why our ladies Jay and Linda who are in charge for the youngsters are trying to have every puppy vaccinated before it gets confronted with any viruses at the shelter. Whenever we are informed about puppies, they immediately go to the people and try to convince them to have the puppies vaccinated on location and leave them there until after the second vaccination; only then can they be moved to the shelter without any risk. Jay and Linda have been with us for over 10 years and their vaccination program has shown it's success. Never before did we have so many healthy puppies in the puppy house that we were actually forced to move them out before they were even sterilized. Even though some did manage to find a home, the puppy-area simply got too busy and the little ones needed more space.



Jay is introducing the young gang to their new compound and having fun in their very own pool



Puppy-House-Man Bu comes to visit and of course the youngsters are dead-excited

What a joy it was to then see them so excited and happy when the almost 10 puppies were integrated into their new compound.

Our largest compound 1 already had a lot of young dogs in it but never has it been so easy to bring a new group into a compound. It looks like the puppies were too young to worry about the other dogs and all they could see was space and the pool! Not one of them was really scared and needed lots of attention to feel safe in the new environment. We are happy to see 'our shelter puppies' appreciating the gift of space and companionship.

This somehow makes us less disappointed over them not finding a new home.

## TEMPLE PROJEKT - Poisoning at the temple

At the temples where we have a big number of dogs living, they usually live in small groups in different part of the temples, each group having their own territory. Just like at our shelter too, it sometimes does come to fights and injuries happen. There isn't a day passing without any of the temple dogs or cats needing some sort of immediate help

Unfortunately some horrible poisoning attacks have taken place at one of the temples our Team works at during a Temple-Festival. One of the monks called Jay, Linda and Tom in the early morning hours and they responded immediately. The scene at the temple was heartbreaking: Dead and half-dead Temple-dogs lying all over the place, the monk himself still in shock. Thanks to the fast reaction of Jay, Linda and Tom some of the dogs could be saved while others were not that lucky. 6 Temple-Dogs lost their lives that night, leaving the monks, our Temple Team and many residents around shocked and hard broken over the loss of those beautiful resident Temple Dogs. Even though it often feels impossible to go back to work after such happenings, it's important to concentrate on the happy faces still with us. There is only so much we can do.....



## Two Temple Dogs now happily living in Germany: CARA und JOY



It was a hard, long and pretty painful recovery.  
Joy at Jay and Linda's home fighting for her life



Not giving up is something Joy has learned with a very early age...That's why she is still here today

The Temple-Team first met Joy as a puppy in one of the temples; she survived the vaccine programme and was fit and happy till one day she was run over by a car leaving her with a broken hip and two broken back legs. We took her to our shelter but there was nothing our vet could do for her, she required major surgery which could not be done by us and could not be paid for by us either.

It was at the shelter where Gaby and Uwe from Germany, first met Joy, they immediately fell in love with her and offered to cover the cost of surgery if we could find a vet on the island who could actually perform it. The cost was almost 40 thousand baht. Even though they knew the risk of Joy not surviving the surgery or it not being successful was very high, they still asked us to go ahead. Joy did survive but the surgery was badly performed and two days later Joy had massive infection in one leg. Post surgery Joy was cared for at the homes of our temple team, Jay Linda and Tom. It was not an easy process this infection went on to last for almost 5 months and for a time we were not sure if she would make it, but she was a fighter and thanks to that and the care, attention and physiotherapy she received from our dedicated team, Joy is now walking again. When Gaby and Uwe wanted to give Joy a home in Germany, but did not want her to be alone so they chose another real survivor from the temple, Cara, who almost died and managed to fight back. On the 21st of February both Joy and Cara flew together to their new home in Germany. The full story from these two Temple-Dogs as well as the latest news from our Temple-Team and their work the shelter you can read here:



What a cute family: Gaby and Uwe with Cara and Joy in Germany

[http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief\\_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf](http://www.samuidog.org/Rundbrief_PDF/Temple%204.15%20E.pdf)



We took pictures of the dogs on Chaweng, Chaweng-Noi, Lamai, and Bang Por beaches. You find them on our homepage

<http://www.samuidog.org/dogs-on-samui-beach.html>

## HOTELS

We've got some good news from the hotel resorts:

The **Pinnacle** in Maenam put up an extra table for our donation box! *Thank you* to Mike, the manager. A couple of years ago, the atmosphere there was completely different. The manager then kept threatening us with the "removal" of the dogs. As I always say, the well-being of the dogs only depends on the manager's attitude towards dogs and cats..

The **Peace** resort in Bophud wanted to get a donations box on the occasion of the Song Kran celebration. Until now I hadn't heard anything good about this hotel!

Of course I'm pleased about every positive change concerning the management's attitude towards animals, but you just can't tell whether a hotel will have an animal-loving manager in the long run.

I would be very glad if you could mail me pictures of the dogs in Maenam, Bophud, Choeng Mon, and from other beaches. I'm going to place them on our homepage and insert them in Facebook. As not all our friends are in Facebook, I insert the pictures in our homepage as well.

I personally haven't got enough spare time to take pictures of the dogs on these beaches. But when you are on holiday there, it would be very helpful for me to get a general overview about the dogs on the beaches, and even to track non-neutered animals.



I'm still worrying a lot about how we can financially make ends mend. Reduction of costs isn't that easy without seriously affecting the animal living conditions as a consequence.

The Euro exchange rate versus the one of the Baht won't change fast- if at all- and therefore we face extraordinary trouble: we get 75% of all the donations in Euro. We receive up to 150 000 Baht per month less because of the bad exchange rate. And this is an enormous deficiency. In the last years we had been able to get along somewhat reasonably with our monthly receipts. Whenever we had a surplus, we built something new or something else had to be repaired. Unfortunately we had no chance to build up reserves as we always had to purchase some equipment or other items.

The bad exchange rate will keep a lot of people from traveling to Thailand. They will spend their holidays in „Euro-Country“- where, at least- they needn't get angry about the exchange rate. By now we have seen less tourists here than we had last year at the same time, and the shop and the hotel keepers are even worried about the next season already. Bookings must have gone down considerably. I think you can imagine what this will mean for us concerning the Euro rate. Please do not let us down; our situation is really extremely serious.

The bomb attack of April 11 will frighten off some people as well. When Bangkok isn't "flooded" and the Yellows don't fight with the Reds, someone is throwing a bomb! The Thai keep having ideas about how to scare tourists!

Because of this emergency we had to raise the monthly sponsorship fee to 25€. All the existing sponsorships remain at 20 €. If you can manage anyhow I urgently ask you to transfer 25€ monthly from now on for your foster pet.

The sponsorships are our only regular revenue and most important for the existence of our association.

Up to now we have executed 6 castrations/ neutering per day. We could of course make savings here as well, if we made two operations less. But I'm only taking this measure when all other possibilities are out of range.

If possible, we have ordered cheaper medicine. The BAYER medicine is very expensive and I hope that That medicine will be effective as well. It's a sad fact that prices for medicine have risen- but the Baht did not. For vaccines 125 Baht must be paid instead of 100 Baht previously. Now we take 150 Bath for a vaccination from those who can afford to pay. Stray animals are treated for free- this goes without saying.

Every four weeks, our DCRS dogs are given *Ivomec* for heartworm prophylaxis, deworming and against ticks and fleas. Certainly the dogs will be glad only to get an injection every 6 weeks- and it will be as helpful!

Every 4 weeks, a company shows up to spray all the kennels against the ticks. This is quite useful, but an extinction of ticks will never happen....

When feeding the animals, we take even more care to waste as little food as possible. Ivette keeps an eye on the helpers so that they do not "forget" their orders.....

With closing the water taps our helpers face serious problems. So should we fine the helpers again?



**Castle** is here vicariously for all the dogs and cats still looking for a sponsor

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.

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

In the next months I'll be able to see whether releasing two helpers was enough- among other savings measures. This was only a short-time shock for the helpers, their working morale had gone down to a large degree- even when they all had daily showed up for work; with this sinking morale it's not easy to cope with all the tasks in the shelter on some days. I try at least to have all posts in the shelter occupied and to send a helper as fast as possible in an emergency. Repair work can only be done with difficulty at the moment. I must give the helpers verbal warnings again, recruit new ones if necessary and fire helpers who keep taking off days regularly. This isn't an easy task, as it is one day one – and the next day another helper who takes a break for one day or two. Just as they feel like doing so....

So in case many of them skip work on the same day we can only hope that there are quite a couple of "good" volunteers available and not too many emergencies are announced.

From **May 2 till 25** we fly to Berlin to meet my parents and our friends. I'm offline there- we've got no internet access there. I'll talk with Jay on the phone, but some mails won't be answered immediately.

I hope all of you will show understanding.

**Martina** will „sacrifice“ her holiday again and fly in, live in our house and take care that things are running smoothly.

The helpers have known her for many years and know that it's best to take her seriously!

The Thais are clever, sometimes they fake not to understand, but it's impossible to play that „joke“ on Martina. I know our darling pets in the house are well cared for by Martina; in the shelter Ivette, Daniela and Marcus and of course Jay and Linda see that the usual business is going smoothly as well. In Germany, Martina was very successful in placing our dogs.



She found new owners for more than 80 dogs in Germany. As our shelter has been more than overcrowded, I won't think of how crowded the house would be, if all these dogs were still here, too.

Recently we have been presented with the rule that one member of the association must prove competence in terms of professional keeping of dogs. Martina is a board member of our German supporting association and it's sufficient that one member passes this brutally difficult exam.

Now Martina is a half-vet and has an extraordinary knowledge of paragraphs! As she is so keen on learning and passing exams, Martina even passed the proof of feline competence as well.

We must make financial savings wherever possible, so we have stopped our dog placing program for the time being. Of course do we hope that we can restart this program shortly.

However, our big thanks to Martina for her personal input!



For one of our shelter dogs we charged 300 € as an air-fare contribution. The real costs are much higher, as the air-fare itself costs 300€ (taken along a flight companion), moreover must be added the costs for the chip, the rabies antibody test, the flight to Bangkok and the handling there.

In addition must be counted the very costly dog transport box: that's why it is worthwhile to transport it back to Thailand for new „travelers“.



If you think of taking back a dog transport box to Thailand, please send me an email. I'll take care that it will be sent to you.

Besides we are always looking for flight companions for dogs flying abroad after an animal friend fell in love with them.

Swiss animal lovers bought breast harnesses worth 3500 SFR for dogs, and as we must equip all our dogs with a collar and a leash for the flight, all of them are getting super Swiss quality Harnesses for their trip!

This donation was made in consequence of the fact that- for a second time - dogs just arrived from Samui had managed to get off their collar and run away! One was run over by a car and didn't make it after he had been searched for a couple of days: this should never ever happen again!



## CHARLY

has made a lot of progress and is dashing about in his kennel at high speed: unfortunately the whole house has got very slippery tiled floors, so that he must stay in a separate kitchen corner in the evenings or on rainy days. I'm afraid he will never walk in our house because it's too slippery and he therefore keeps dragging his legs.

On slip-proof floors he walks perfectly well. We are looking for a home in Austria or Germany for Charly. Who has got plenty of time and is willing to give him all the love he needs? He never gets enough cuddles and hugs!

In case you haven't seen it yet, here is the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjmLebgSqnY>



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 (please no plastic toys, they often chew it to pieces and sometimes swallow it).

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 are in Koh Samui and see a cat or dog needing help, please call us 077 413 490 or 081 893 94 43. Please help injured and ill dogs and cats. Please stay with the animal and try to calm it until our helpers arrive.

We were informed about most of the poor creatures in the pictures of our monthly patients by tourists.



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](http://www.samuidog.org). We receive every month about 400 Euros thanks to your shopping.

We have registered in GOODING. GOODING has integrated – like Amazon- a lot of businesses. Just have a look. Besides, we inscribed the DCRS in BILDUNGSSPENDER long time ago.

The four forward us a certain percentage when you do your shopping there. Which offers are best for you is for you to decide. I suppose there are more similar facilities, but I don't think we would need more! All have got the same range in their offers.

Thank you very much again to all the sponsors and helpers from all over the world. Because of your help, since 16 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 16 years, over 20,000 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 (as long as we have a helper available at this time). 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 25 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 17,000 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!

Greetings

*Brigitte*

and the DRCS-Team

ACCOUNTS FOR SPONSORS:

[http://www.samuidog.org/text3\\_english.htm](http://www.samuidog.org/text3_english.htm)

