



*The Road to*  
**A MILLION**

LOOKING BACK AT 20 YEARS OF SOI DOG FOUNDATION'S CNVR  
(CATCH, NEUTER, VACCINATE, RETURN) PROGRAMME



*"In those days, it was just Gill, myself and Margot working with volunteer vets and sometimes nurses from overseas. We were all of the same mind that the only humane way to prevent the terrible suffering we saw every day on the streets was to reduce the population of stray animals. Sadly, nobody was doing much about it. As with anything in life, you have to start somewhere..."*

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**JOHN DALLEY MBE  
PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER  
SOI DOG FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL**

# *The Beginning of* **HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS**



**Thailand is home to millions of stray dogs and cats, many of whom suffer needlessly. Gill and John Dalley, and fellow expatriate Margot Homburg, realised early on that a programme of spay/neuter could at least stem the tide of newborn puppies and kittens, and that vaccination would prevent the suffering caused by diseases such as rabies.**

Spay/neuter and vaccination (or CNVR) is also widely recognised by various experts as the most effective and humane approach to reducing the overwhelming number of homeless animals and stopping the spread of deadly diseases.

And so, in 2003, Soi Dog was established, and the first challenge became tackling overpopulation through CNVR. In the early days, numbers were steady. Of most significance, though, was that nobody had previously attempted such a programme, and so any effort made to improve the lives of stray animals at that time could potentially be life-changing.

Perseverance meant that by 2012, almost 90% of the stray dog population in Phuket had been neutered, and Soi Dog was able to turn its attention to Thailand's capital city, Bangkok. Again, progress was steady but, at times, the sheer scale of the homeless animal problem in Southeast Asia's third largest city made it feel daunting.

In 2016, having supported Soi Dog's neutering efforts in Phuket some years earlier, Dogs Trust Worldwide – the international arm of the UK's oldest dog charity, Dogs Trust – began funding half of the Bangkok mobile CNVR programme, and their support remains influential in the growth of CNVR in Thailand to this day.

By the end of August 2023, over half-a-million animals had been neutered and vaccinated across the Bangkok metropolitan area.

The benefits of CNVR to both animal and human populations is evident. Not only is it tackling the issues caused by overpopulation, it is stemming the spread of rabies. In fact, Phuket is on course to become the first province in Thailand to achieve rabies-free status, having reported just one confirmed case of the disease in the 20 years since Soi Dog's presence on the island.



# SPAY & NEUTER NUMBERS

YEAR	DOGS	CATS	TOTAL
2003	134	41	175
2004	952	285	1,237
2005	4,300	2,027	6,327
2006	5,792	1,433	7,225
2007	2,046	192	2,238
2008	3,283	1,079	4,362
2009	3,148	1,045	4,193
2010	3,140	1,457	4,597
2011	3,874	1,715	5,589
2012	8,625	2,067	10,692
2013	10,965	2,603	13,568
2014	12,767	4,419	17,186
2015	17,759	5,975	23,734
2016	24,378	9,863	34,241
2017	42,331	11,229	53,560
2018	67,818	12,920	80,738
2019	103,074	16,468	119,542
2020	106,762	14,945	121,707
2021	131,827	10,713	142,540
2022	180,841	15,265	196,106
<b>2023</b> <i>so far (End of August)</i>	<b>139,553</b>	<b>11,299</b>	<b>150,852</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b> <i>(End of August, 2023)</i>	<b>873,369</b>	<b>127,040</b>	<b>1,000,409</b>

Thanks to your outstanding support for our CNVR programme over the past 20 years, we surpassed our ambitious goal of **1 million** animals neutered and vaccinated.



*“This is the largest project of its kind in the world today and it's had a significant impact on the roaming dog population.”*

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**CRAIG ROONEY,  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME  
MANAGER, DOGS TRUST WORLDWIDE**

*“I wish to see the CNVR programme operate in all 77 provinces within Thailand.”*

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**DR. TUNTIKORN RUNGPATANA DVM,  
CNVR DIRECTOR, SOI DOG FOUNDATION**



# *Meet Million, the magical millionth animal to pass through the programme*

**Million was found on the streets by one of our mobile CNVR teams.** In addition to being spayed and vaccinated, she also needed to be treated for injuries sustained after being hit by a car.

Million's story illustrates exactly why neutering and vaccinating is so important.


Puppies like her deserve so much better than to be born into short lives of suffering on the streets.

Neutering and vaccinating gets to the root cause of this suffering.




# KEY MOMENTS



 Gill, John and Margot set up spay/neuter clinics throughout the island. They became the rescue officers and vet nurses while the neutering operations themselves were carried out by volunteer vets from overseas. In the first three months of operation in **2003**, they had neutered almost 200 animals.




 On a CNVR mission in **2004**, while rescuing a tranquilised dog that had run into a flooded buffalo field, Gill contracted a rare form of septicaemia. She was airlifted to Bangkok and was in a coma for several weeks. Doctors had given her only a slim chance of survival, and advised that if she did survive, she would likely lose both her arms and legs. They didn't reckon on Gill's fighting spirit, and although she was to lose both lower legs, she survived and was still able to use her arms.



 In **2005**, WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) partnered with Soi Dog and provided a two-year grant enabling the employment of full-time vets and rescue officers for the first time.



 We were fortunate to have volunteer veterinarians and assistants travel to Thailand to assist us in catching, neutering and vaccinating hundreds of dogs. Soi Dog mobile teams were stationed at schools and temples to neuter dogs and cats, much like they are now.

📍 With Gill heading the mobile operations, the first significant milestone of 10,000 animals neutered and vaccinated was reached in **2006**.



📍 Having a permanent sheltering and treatment facility helped Soi Dog's CNVR programme make real headway, and by **2011** almost 35,000 animals had been neutered and vaccinated.



📍 In **2012**, Soi Dog found a property in Bangkok in which to set up a basic clinic and started making small inroads into the vast stray population there. A partnership was also struck with Dogs Trust Worldwide to help support the Phuket CNVR programme.



📍 With a permanent spay/neuter suite established at the Soi Dog sanctuary, mobile clinics throughout Phuket and the addition of a clinic facility in Bangkok, **2013** saw the number of animals reached by the programme surpass 50,000.



📍 Over the years, a number of smaller, third-party CNVR projects that align with Soi Dog's ethos and clinical standards have been beneficiaries of grants from us. These projects help to boost the number of animals reached.


Since **2014**, the most prolific of these has been from an individual by the name of Soot (pictured). Her dovetailing of the wider Soi Dog CNVR programme has helped neuter and vaccinate dogs in some of the hardest-to-reach places and, thanks to your donations, Soi Dog is now able to support various such projects across Thailand, enhancing the effectiveness of the CNVR programme even further.



📍 Following the success of the mobile CNVR effort in Phuket – which had seen a reduction in the stray population of around 90% in just ten years – a long-term mobile project began in Bangkok in **2015**, aimed at tackling the large stray dog population in the city.


The creation of the Bangkok arm of the CNVR programme helped see the all-time number of animals neutered and vaccinated pass the 100,000 mark.




 In **2016**, Soi Dog announced a continuation of the partnership with Dogs Trust Worldwide, the global arm of the UK's oldest dog charity, the world-renowned Dogs Trust.



 Supporting many dog welfare projects globally, Dogs Trust Worldwide agreed a grant to support 50% of Soi Dog's CNVR programme in Bangkok.

 In **2018**, the figure of a quarter-of-a-million animals was reached. In the same year, though, an exaggerated rabies scare in northeastern Thailand led to thousands of animals being rounded up and even pets being surrendered by their owners, highlighting not only the dangers of misinformation and the fear surrounding rabies, but the reinforcing of the need for large-scale vaccination – an integral part of our CNVR programme.



 **2019** saw the launch of two more mobile sterilisation teams, taking the total to seven, and the neutering and vaccinating of 100,000 animals in a calendar year for the first time.

The continuation of the programme in Phuket over the course of 16 years saw the stray dog population reduced by over 90% and only one confirmed case of rabies reported. With the situation on the island under control, and a maintenance programme in place, we were increasingly able to reach out to other parts of Thailand.



📍 Despite the COVID pandemic, 121,707 animals were neutered and vaccinated in **2020** with the support of 8 mobile teams. Bangkok alone saw 78,653 neutered and vaccinated. The incredible milestone of half-a-million animals was reached in December.

📍 **2021** saw us branching out to three of Thailand's largest provinces – Nakhon Si Thammarat, Surat Thani and Chiang Mai. 142,540 dogs and cats were neutered and vaccinated throughout the year, and the milestone of 650,000 was reached.

📍 For the first time in the history of Soi Dog's CNVR effort, we branched into foreign territory by supporting a spay/neuter project with Animal Rescue Cambodia (ARC) in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.



📍 By the end of **2022**, there were 8 active mobile units in Bangkok, and an all-time total of 451,265 animals had been neutered and vaccinated across the city. This brought our all-time total number throughout Thailand to 849,557.



STERILISING

📍 At a World Rabies Day event, organised by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and presided over by Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn, the Thailand Rabies Award for 2022 was presented to the municipality of Kathu in Phuket. The Mayor of Kathu shared the award with Soi Dog in recognition of our years of collaboration with the municipality on vaccination drives, sterilisation clinics and education events within the community.



📍 In **2023**, the Department of Disease Control chief visited the Soi Dog shelter in Phuket to collaborate on rabies prevention.



Soi Dog, Dogs Trust Worldwide and reputed researchers published a detailed study titled the **Impact Assessment of Free-Roaming Dog Population Management by CNVR in Greater Bangkok**.



Having started out in the southern island province of Phuket with a handful of dedicated volunteers neutering a few hundred animals in the first 12 months using donated equipment, Soi Dog's CNVR programme has grown to become the largest of its kind in the world today, comprising facilities in Phuket and Bangkok, and bolstered by 15 mobile CNVR clinics, each made up of 9 full-time staff working tirelessly and systematically across Thailand.

Over a million dogs and cats have now been reached nationwide by the programme, and the births of an incalculable number of puppies and kittens destined for a life of misery on the streets have been prevented.

Incredibly, half-a-million of those animals have been reached in the space of just under three years.





Team 1 - Bangkok



Team 2 - Nonthaburi



Team 3 - Nakhon Pathom



Team 4 - Samut Sakhon



Team 5 - Nakhon Pathom



Team 6 - Samut Prakan



Team 7 - Pathum Thani



Team 8 - Pathum Thani



Team 9 - Chacherngsao



Team 10 - Chonburi



Team 11 - Nakhon Si Thammarat



Team 12 - Phang Nga



Team 13 - Surat Thani



Team 14 - Phattalung



Team 15 - Nakhon Si Thammarat

With your support, the remarkable growth is only set to continue, with even more mobile teams and partners reaching even more animals across Thailand.

Here's to the next...



“  
*I don't think too many people achieve their goals, their aims, their dreams; I don't think I am one of those people who is going to go to the grave thinking 'what if?'*  
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**GILL DALLEY,  
CO-FOUNDER OF SOI DOG FOUNDATION**



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU**

[WWW.SOIDOG.ORG](http://WWW.SOIDOG.ORG)