

SOI DOG

April 2025



If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.

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Soi Dog's annual
beach walk



www.soidog.org

SPONSOR CAT CORNER

SAY HELLO TO OUR SMALL AND SASSY SPONSOR KITTY

Lauren Demerise Schmalz



Kankamon may be small but don't let her size fool you. With a bold spirit and unshakable confidence, she has quickly claimed her throne as the reigning queen of our FIV House.

Kankamon's journey to get here has been nothing short of extraordinary. In July 2024, she was found injured after being struck by a speeding vehicle.

She had a broken jaw, a dislocated hip, and a traumatic brain injury, but this little fighter wasn't about to give up.





Kankamon endured months of intensive care and multiple surgeries. During one procedure, she even stopped breathing—a terrifying moment but our veterinary team sprang into action and saved her life.

Despite another battle with pneumonia, Kankamon's determination never wavered and thanks to your support, our team was able to provide the lifesaving care she needed. Today, she's thriving, ruling her 'kingdom' with the same fearless spirit that helped her survive.

Because of you, Kankamon has a future, and she's making the most of it as our newest sponsor cat.

To learn more about sponsoring Kankamon, please visit our website [here](#).





NEW DIGS FOR THE DOGGOS

Gina Churchill-Straffon

In November, we rolled out the red carpet for our senior and special care dogs as they took their first steps into their beautifully refurbished home.

Our third senior and special care enclosure, known as SSN3, houses 32 of our most vulnerable dogs. The space was in much need of a facelift to transform it into a fully accessible area suitable for our residents' golden years.

It's all thanks to your generous support that these deserving dogs now have a bright, spacious, and comfortable space to enjoy, complete with cosy kennels and smooth surfaces ideal for their limited mobility. The lush greenery, rain protection, and shaded areas provide the perfect conditions for our older residents, while the newly constructed sala has proved a hit for some of our more shy and sleepy dogs!

Their happy faces are testament to a truly incredible transformation, and that's all down to you!
Thank you for making our senior dogs smile.





MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

Gina Churchill-Straffon

Pianist, Paul Barton, recently made a pitstop in Phuket and delivered a very special performance for our dogs and volunteers.

You may recognise Paul from his past performances playing music for rescued blind elephants in Thailand. His original video went viral, and overnight, Paul became an internet sensation with over 12 million views on YouTube! You can only imagine our excitement when he reached out and offered to put on a very special performance for our resident dogs.



We truly value the importance of sound therapy here at Soi Dog and the impact it can have on an animal's life. Our beloved co-founder, *Gill Dalley*, made sure a music system was incorporated into her design of our dog hospital, and it remains an integral part of our patients' healing process. The calm and soothing effects of Paul's music certainly played testament to that.



As volunteers and dogs stopped to watch and listen, sweet senior dog, Takau, took a seat and settled in for a bird's-eye view of Paul's heartwarming performance. Playing much-loved lullabies including *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* and *Cradle Song*, Takau, sat and snuggled up to Paul, capturing his and everyone else's hearts!

It was an absolute joy to witness this special event and hear the sweet sounds of music ringing through our off-lead areas.

If you missed it, please tune in to our **video** to meet Paul and Takau on our YouTube channel.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DAME POLO (2012-2024)

Anamika Komath

Some souls leave pawprints not only on our hearts but on the very fabric of the world they touch. *Polo* was one of those souls.

Her story began in heartbreak—alone, starving, and suffering on the streets of Thailand. Just a fragile, broken pup, she knew only fear and pain. People turned away from her, disgusted by her frail body. She had no one. No safe place. No love.

Then, on June 13th, 2013, everything changed.

Soi Dog Foundation's co-founder, *Gill Dalley*, scooped Polo into her arms and made a promise: "Nobody will ever hurt you again." She held her close, skin on skin, whispering words of love and hope. Where others saw an ugly, diseased stray, Gill saw a swan, waiting to bloom.

And bloom she did.

Polo's recovery was nothing short of a miracle, and later that same year, she found her forever home in the UK with Gill's close friend, *Donna Freelove*. From a helpless pup on the streets of Thailand to a confident dame patrolling the beaches of Yorkshire, Polo lived a life of adventure, love, and unapologetic attitude. She strutted through life with her "strawberry blonde chaps" blowing in the sea breeze, embracing every moment with a warrior's heart and a queen's confidence.





For over a decade, Polo brought joy, laughter, and an unfiltered, no-nonsense charm to everyone who knew her—whether in person or through her cheeky Facebook posts. She was full of personality, always sharing her strong opinions and making sure the world noticed her.

Recently, Polo passed peacefully, wrapped in the arms of her beloved Donna, with her devoted Granny by her side. True to her nature, she left this world entirely on her own terms.

Polo may have been one of a kind, but thousands of soi dogs still wait for their chance at a new life—just as she once did. If her story has touched you, please consider adopting or supporting a soi dog in need. In her memory, let's give another lost soul the chance to become somebody, just like Polo did.

Run free, dear Polo. You were loved beyond measure. You will be missed beyond words. And you will be remembered—always.



ADOPTION CORNER: THAI STYLE EDITION

MEET THE UNIQUELY NAMED SOI DOGS
LOOKING FOR THEIR FOREVER HOMES

Amy Bryant



Adopt
Me

Namtarndang

Estimated age: 6 years **Personality:** Affectionate,
Size: 23kg energetic, sociable

In honour of their roots, many of the animals at Soi Dog have locally inspired Thai names – like **Namtarndang** here which translates to “brown sugar”.

Living up to her name, Namtarndang is super soft and sweet with people. She loves to share affection and enjoy lots of fuss in return.

However, she doesn't share this affection for other dogs and will therefore need to be the only dog in the home.

Namtarndang lost her vision while living on the streets – a scary ordeal but one she has boldly overcome. Let her show you that love really is blind!



Adopt
Me

Reungjai

Estimated age: 7 years **Personality:** Energetic,
Size: 13kg playful, sociable

If you're looking for a dog to lift your mood, look no further than **Reungjai**, whose name means “high spirits”.

Reungjai was badly injured after being hit by a speeding car. As well as losing a leg, she suffered a fractured pelvis and was left doubly incontinent.

Despite everything she's suffered, she's always looking on the bright side of life and making people smile. Reungjai by name, Reungjai by nature!

She would be best suited to a home in a warm climate and has travel donations to help her get there.

P.S. If you can't adopt, you can still do something amazing for Reungjai by becoming her sponsor **here**.





Adopt Me

Rakpla

Estimated age: 6 years **Personality:** Adventurous, confident, friendly
Size: 19kg

On the more playful end of the naming scale, we have Rakpla which simply means "love fish!"

Like Reungjai, Rakpla was also the victim of a road traffic accident, though fortunately for him, his injuries weren't as severe.

Despite being the star of a viral video that reached hundreds of thousands of animal lovers, Rakpla still hasn't managed to find a home. Could you be the one that finally takes this bold and beautiful boy home?



Adopt Me

Nuengdiaw

Estimated age: 1 year **Personality:** Cautious yet friendly
Size: 14kg

Last but by no means least, we have Nuengdiaw, meaning "the only one".

Nuengdiaw arrived at Soi Dog when he was just two months old (check **his profile** for the cutest puppy photo!)

Shockingly, his right hind paw was missing and, with infection setting in, the only option was to amputate his leg altogether. Nuengdiaw adapted well and can hardly remember life on four legs now.

Young, endearingly bashful and full of potential, Nuengdiaw really is the only one you need.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Our experienced adoptions team are experts in mutt matchmaking! They can help you find the perfect soi dog for your family – including families with other pets or young children. Get in touch at adoptions@soidog.org for more information



ADOPTION HIGHLIGHTS

A LOVABLE GRUMP, A VOLUNTEER FAVOURITE AND A TRAILBLAZER IN TOKYO

Amy Bryant

Alanzo

As Soi Dog staff, we're often asked how we resist adopting the dogs and cats we work with every day. Well, the truth is that many times, we don't!

In case you missed the news, our Sanctuary Veterinary Manager, Dr. Winn recently joined a long list of in-house adopters when he decided to take home *Alanzo*.

Alanzo arrived at Soi Dog in 2021 with part of his foot missing and burns across his body in a case of suspected cruelty.

A lovable grump who rose to fame through our sponsorship programme, Alanzo spent more than three and a half years at the shelter,

ever so gradually coming out of his shell during that time.

Dr. Winn grew fond of Alanzo while treating him over the years and decided to adopt him at the start of the year. Now 10 years old, Alanzo is spending his golden years in comfort—enjoying plenty of cuddles and even trying his paws at Dr. Winn's DJ decks!

Thank you to all our sponsors who ensured Alanzo got the care he needed while he waited for this special day to come. He wouldn't be where he is today without you.

“
I will give him all the best that I can
and also my love and my spirit.
”



Butterboy

The next update is one that many of you have been waiting for... *Butterboy!*

Butterboy was found bundled into a sandbag and abandoned by the side of the road when he was just a few weeks old. If that wasn't scary enough, his vision was impaired by glaucoma and corneal ulcers.

After exhausting all possible treatment options, Butterboy's painful and damaged eyes were removed. However, his blindness was no barrier for this spirited boy, who grew into a bold and playful character with the ability to sniff out a tennis ball from a mile off!

Butterboy became a star among our volunteers, but in the end, it was a family in

the UK who offered him a home after finding themselves captivated by his story from afar.

He joined them in September last year, after two and a half years at the shelter, and made himself at home immediately—napping on the sofa, zooming around the garden, taking car rides, and hanging out with his little brother, Brick the cat.

His adopters have assured us that, despite his new life, Butterboy is still the funny, charmingly stubborn, fluffy-eared dog that we knew and loved at the shelter.

“
We're so proud of him, and so excited for all the future adventures.
”



Ivorie

We were excited to close 2024 with a rare adoption to Japan! In December, Ivorie joined a loving family there, becoming only the second dog in Soi Dog history to be adopted to the country.

Ivorie first arrived at the shelter as a sick two-month-old puppy. With the right care, she recovered well and grew into a shy yet sweet girl who would spend three years here waiting for a chance to shine.

Her committed adopters visited the shelter in person and spent two days meeting our resident dogs. Having previously worked in Bangkok, her mum understood the plight of Thai street dogs and was determined to give one a home. Together, they carefully chose Ivorie, renaming her *Pukei*.

Pukei has settled in better than we could ever have hoped for—mastering toilet training, car rides, and in a matter of days.

She's even shed some of her shyness, embracing her adventurous side with long walks around Tokyo and zoomies around the city's parks.

Her adopters' only complaint? Pukei's preference for store-bought food over their lovingly prepared homemade meals!

Things are going so well that Pukei may just be getting a soi brother soon... Stay tuned. In the meantime, you can keep up with her adventures on X [@Pukei_thaidog](#).

For more heartwarming adoption stories, please head to our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) feeds.

To start an adoption story of your own, visit soidog.org/adopt



PAWS IN THE SAND

A MAGICAL DAY AT SOI DOG'S ANNUAL BEACH WALK

Anamika Komath

In December, 48 lucky soi dogs were given the chance to experience the magic of Mai Khao Beach—a place where sand, sea, and freedom come together in a perfect moment. For many of these dogs, it was their very first time feeling the soft sand beneath their paws, the breeze in their fur, and the joy of running freely along the shore.

Whether confident or shy, big or small, four-legged or three, these dogs had an unforgettable experience—one we never tire of witnessing.

Joined by our wonderful volunteers, the dogs were harnessed up and ready for adventure as they hopped onto the Soi Dog *songthaew* (bus), full of excitement. At the beach, there was digging, splashing, crab hunting, sunbathing, and plenty of tail wagging. It was a day of pure happiness for everyone involved.





This magical day wouldn't have been possible without your support. Thanks to you, these dogs get to experience the love, freedom, and happiness they've always deserved. From all of us at Soi Dog, thank you for helping make these moments a reality.

If you're interested in joining us for the next beach walk or want to learn more about volunteering, we'd love to hear from you. Simply email us at volunteering@soidog.org or visit our website [here](#).



A BETTER FUTURE FOR STRAY ANIMALS

Anamika Komath

Isamut had spent her life on the streets, searching for food, trusting in the kindness of strangers. But one day, her trust was betrayed. Someone, wanting to rid the neighbourhood of strays, laced her food with poison. She collapsed, her body shutting down but our rescue team found her just in time, rushing her to our hospital where she fought for her life—and won. Isamut survived, but countless others are not as lucky.

Her story is just one of many. Across Thailand, stray dogs and cats struggle to survive, facing hunger, disease, and cruelty every day. But there is a humane solution—one that prevents suffering before it begins. Through Soi Dog Foundation's CNVR (Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return)

programme, we are working to reduce the number of animals born into hardship while protecting those already on the streets. By spaying, neutering, and vaccinating, we are not only giving animals like Isamut a second chance but also creating safer, healthier communities for everyone.



WORLD URBAN FORUM

From November 4th to 8th, 2024, Soi Dog Foundation had the privilege of attending the 12th *World Urban Forum (WUF)* in Cairo, Egypt, hosted by the United Nations. This global event, dedicated to shaping a better urban future, brought together world leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss sustainable solutions for communities. This year's theme, "Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities," provided the perfect platform to highlight how humane dog and cat population management plays a crucial role in building healthier, safer urban environments.

As part of the International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM), Soi Dog Foundation proudly presented "Paws for Progress – Dog Population Management for Safe and Healthy Cities". Our CNVR Director, Dr. *Tuntikorn Rungpatana*, spoke on behalf of both Soi Dog and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), joining a distinguished panel of global experts, including representatives from Cape Town, South Africa, and Ilfov County, Romania. These cities, like Bangkok, have pledged their commitment to humane dog and cat population management through the Positive Cities initiative.

At WUF, we showcased the success of our CNVR programme in Greater Bangkok, demonstrating how spaying, neutering, and vaccinating free-roaming dogs and cats not only prevents animal suffering but also contributes to safer, healthier communities. We also shared insights from our Impact Assessment survey, which highlighted the strong public support for humane dog population control and discussed our achievements in rabies prevention.



BANGKOK'S COMMITMENT TO POSITIVE CITIES

A heartfelt thank you to the Deputy Governor of Bangkok, Dr. *Tavida Kamolvej*, and to the BMA for their unwavering collaboration and support throughout the years. Thanks to their leadership, Bangkok is one of the first cities to endorse the Positive Cities Pledge, recognising the government's responsibility in humane dog population management.



Soi Dog has been proud to work as a dedicated partner with the BMA, focusing on delivering CNVR mobile clinic services in Central Bangkok. The BMA has played a crucial role in supporting our mission by providing venues, engaging with local communities, and raising awareness through online platforms. Additionally, the BMA has been running parallel free sterilisation services for dogs and cats, further strengthening humane population management in the city.

Looking ahead, the BMA is revising its ordinances on animal control, raising and releasing protocols, and animal registration to improve animal welfare. These advancements reflect a shared vision for creating sustainable, livable cities where both people and animals can thrive.



Humane animal population management is not just about protecting animals—it's about building safer, healthier cities for all. By working together with governments, communities, and compassionate supporters like you, we are proving that change is possible.

Every sterilisation, every vaccination, and every rescue bring us closer to a future where no animal has to suffer on the streets.

Together, we are shaping a kinder world—for animals, for people, and for generations to come.





MAJOR MOVES IN VIETNAM

A DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE UPDATE

Gina Churchill-Straffon

In June, we brought you the groundbreaking news that Hanoi had issued a directive to eliminate the dog and cat meat trade and rabies across the country's capital. Since the last edition of the *Soi Dog Post*, there have been some significant developments, namely that Soi Dog became a legal entity in Vietnam.

Now, with an official office, Vietnamese staff, and the ability to foster long-lasting partnerships, this milestone draws us ever closer to our mission of ending the trade in Vietnam.

“ **The partnership with Vietnamese state agencies to end the dog and cat meat trade has entered its most critical phase and we are expecting a successful outcome in the months ahead.** ”



Rahul Sehgal,
Director of International Advocacy

Further progress was made in December when *Rahul* came under the spotlight on a televised talk show covering the topic of Zoonotic diseases and DCMT eradication. The discussion centred around developing a national DCMT roadmap via enhancing legal framework to eliminate the trade in Hanoi and replicating it nationwide, highlighting the health risks associated with dog and cat meat consumption. With a primetime viewership of 3.5 million, the coverage provided a pivotal opportunity to open conversations with the wider public.

These developments demonstrate the real impact your support is making and show that together, we can achieve so much more. We look forward to bringing you more positive news from Vietnam soon.



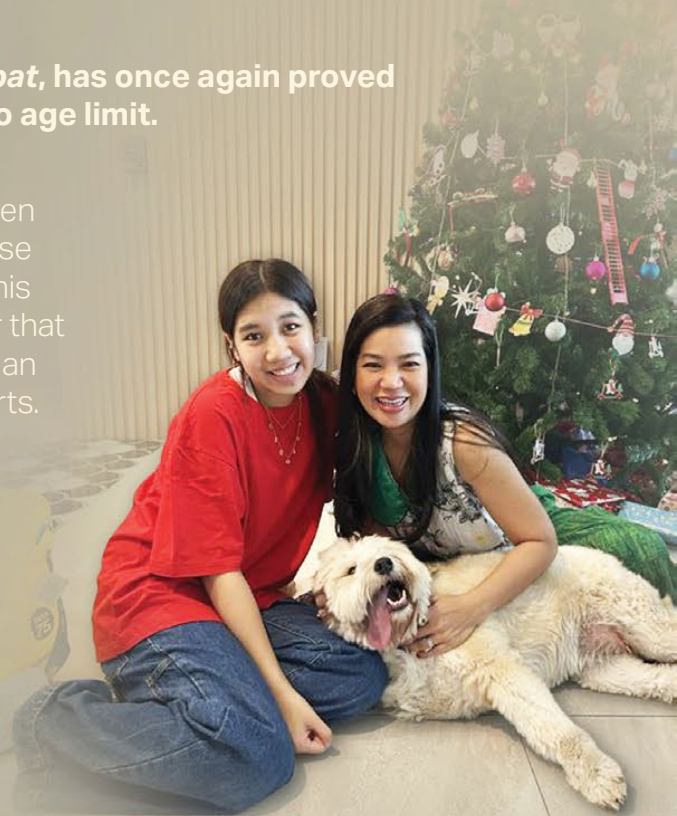
FROM RESCUE TO ADVOCACY: HOW ONE TEEN IS CHANGING LIVES

Vanessa Jakoby

At just 16 years old, student, *Abbie Pongpat*, has once again proved that compassion shows no age limit.

Abbie's journey with Soi Dog began in March 2023, when her family adopted *Momoshi*, a three-legged dog whose story touched their hearts. Inspired by the adoption, this young animal lover turned her empathy into action. Later that year, she launched her first fundraising project, raising an incredible \$5,000 to support Soi Dog's life-saving efforts.

Not stopping there, Abbie set an even bigger goal this year—organising another campaign and raising \$7,500 to support Soi Dog's mission to end the illegal dog meat trade in the Philippines.



Abbie's dedication reflects not only her deep love for animals but also her ability to inspire others, proving that anyone, regardless of their age, can help create a better world for stray animals.

With young advocates like Abbie leading the way, there is hope for a future where every animal is treated with kindness and compassion. We are incredibly grateful for Abbie's unwavering commitment and look forward to seeing the impact she continues to make.

You can find out more about Abbie's past fundraising efforts in the May 2023 Soi Dog Post [**here**](#).

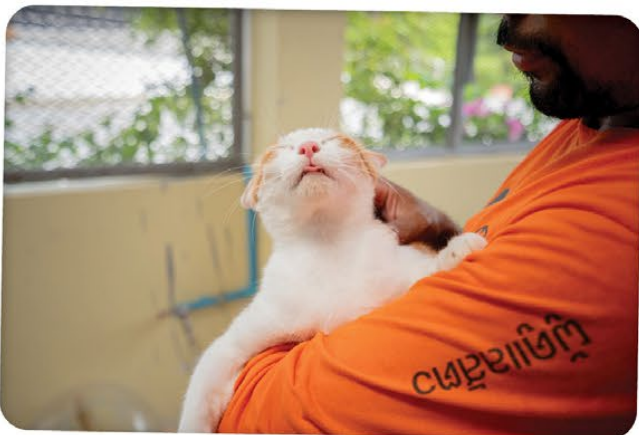


THE SOI DOG SILLIES

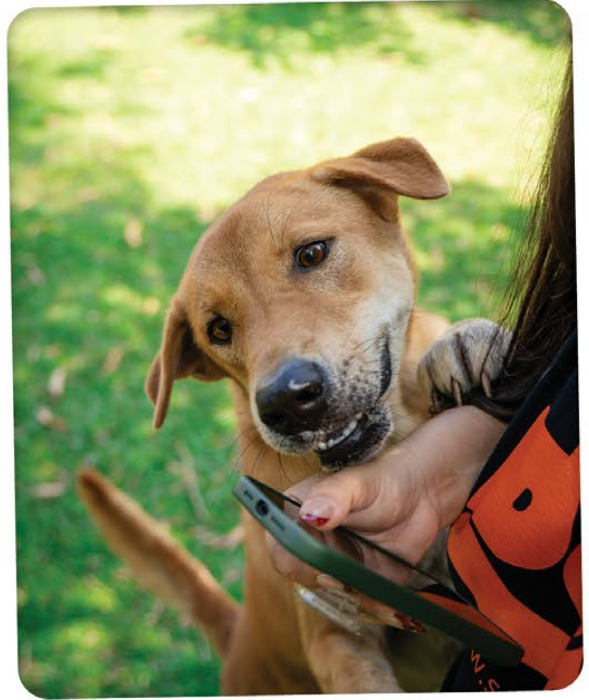
Vanessa Jakoby



*When you're spying on the neighbours
but get caught...*



*"Forget all my past crimes hooman.
You have been forgiven."*



*"Who's that you're textin'?!
Better not be another dog!"*

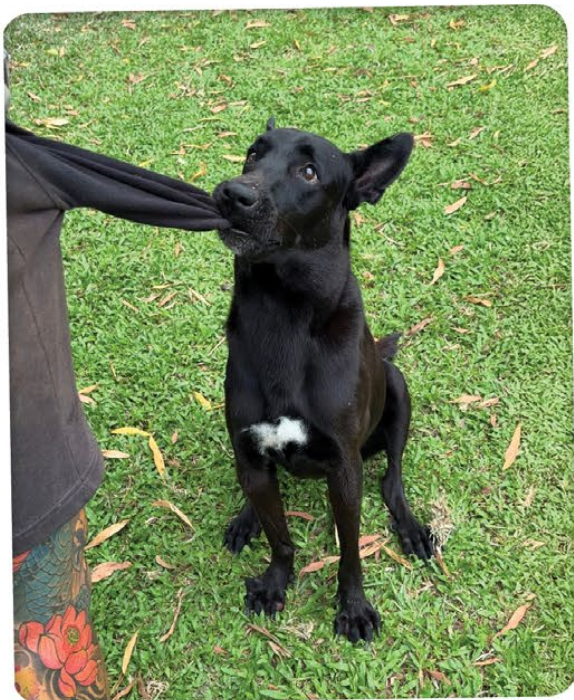


*"Speed? 10/10. Accuracy?
Still working on it."*





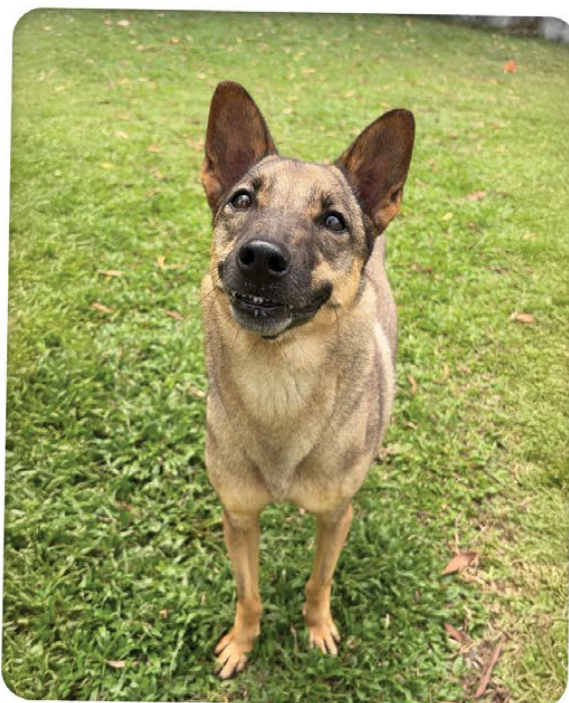
*"Love is in the air and so is
your stinky cat food breath..."*



*"I require your attention.
Immediately."*



*"Yes, the bed is right there...
and no, I don't care."*



*"Nothing funny here...
just my sweetest smile for you.
Thank you for reading!"*



YOUR **KINDNESS** IN ACTION: SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every day, supporters like you find creative ways to help Thailand's street dogs and cats. Here are some easy ways you can make an impact:



SHOP & SUPPORT

Turn your everyday shopping into lifesaving care - at no extra cost to you! While you shop at your favourite UK retailers, they'll donate up to 10% to help animals in need.

- Shop at 6,000+ popular stores
- Feel good knowing every purchase helps
- Start at www.easyfundraising.org.uk - or click [here](#)

CELEBRATE & SHARE



Make your special moments count even more! Click [here](#) to create a Facebook fundraiser, and select 'Soi Dog Foundation'. You can do this for birthdays, the festive period, or just because. Your friends and family can join you in changing animals' lives.



PLAY FOR PAWS

Join our weekly lottery for a chance to win prizes every single week, while helping raise money for animals in need. You could win our top prize of £25,000, second prize of £1,000, plus multiple runner-up prizes. Every £1 ticket supports our care of street dogs and cats. Click [here](#) or go to www.soidog.affinitylottery.org.uk

DontSendMeACard.com

GIVE GREEN

Make your greetings count twice! Send beautiful e-cards across the festive period that save paper while helping animals in need. Every e-card means the cost of traditional cards and postage goes directly to supporting street dogs and cats. Go to DontSendMeACard.com, or click [here](#)



GIVE YOUR VEHICLE NEW PURPOSE

Transform your unwanted vehicle into vital care for animals. In the US, CARS (Charitable Adult Rides and Services) accepts all motorized vehicles - from cars to boats - working with over 400 vendors to maximize your donation. For UK supporters, Giveacar accepts cars, vans, motorbikes, and caravans in any condition, having raised over £4 million for charities since 2010. Both partners offer free collection nationwide, handle all paperwork, and ensure your donation is tax-deductible. Your vehicle's value, whether through auction or scrap, directly supports our care of street dogs and cats. Start your donation by clicking [here](#) if you're in the UK, or [here](#) if you're in the US.



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY



Share our vision for Thailand's street dogs and cats by leaving a gift in your will.

When Gill Dalley co-founded Soi Dog Foundation, she showed us how compassion could transform thousands of lives. Today, her vision of hope for Thailand's street dogs and cats lives on through people like you.

By including Soi Dog Foundation in your will, you join Gill's enduring mission to protect and care for animals who need us most. Your legacy, like hers, can create a future where no street dog or cat is left behind.

Create your own legacy, remember Soi Dog in your will. Find out more:

Visit: www.soidog.org/legacy Contact: legacy@soidog.org

