

SOI DOG

July 2022

post



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

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**END
THE
TRADE**

**Soi
Dog**
www.soidog.org

END THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE

IN EVERY LAST COUNTRY ON EARTH
– CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Sam McElroy



Soi Dog's fight against the dog and cat
meat trade in Asia is back, and we're fighting
as hard as ever before to end the trade in every
last country on Earth.





Restrictions during the past two years have made it very difficult to implement plans set out prior to the pandemic in countries like Vietnam, where Covid-19 curfews and lockdowns were enforced by military presence on the streets, not to mention the closing of international borders which severely hampered our progress. We have not been idle, though. Far from it. We have grown our plans, we've re-strategised, we've gathered our troops and we're back in full swing on a mission to end one of the most barbaric acts of humankind.

The Last Country on Earth campaign is built on the backbone of experience our team gained in successfully ending the trade in Thailand, and it harnesses the recent success of our partnerships with organisations in South Korea (*ARK119*) and Cambodia (*Animal Rescue Cambodia*), rescuing dogs from horrendous circumstances and shutting down slaughterhouses.

As part of the freshly targeted approach that has been built to address the ghastly trade in multiple countries across Asia, we are very excited to announce a brand-new partnership working in the Philippines with world-renowned *Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF)*.

ANIMAL KINGDOM FOUNDATION



The Last Country on Earth campaign is live now, and the initial focus is on the Philippines, a country where Soi Dog Foundation has never previously ventured but one in which the very real possibility of shutting down the trade exists. For the past 20 years, our partner AKF have been actively fighting the trade, performing interceptions of dogs being illegally transported for slaughter, carrying out raids on premises and persons known to be complicit in the trade and working with the Philippine National Police to encourage prosecutions and force convictions of traders and smugglers.

The situation in the Philippines is reminiscent of Thailand 10 years ago, whereby the trade is illegal but continues underground. An estimated **150,000-200,000*** dogs are killed each year for human consumption, and our partnership with AKF will ensure the strengthening of the fight there as we will support all activities, from interceptions and raids to training and development of on-the-ground personnel.

**Figures from Animal Kingdom Foundation.*

In June, we welcomed AKF Programme Director *Heidi Caguioa* and veterinarian *Rey Del Napoles* to the Soi Dog sanctuary where we cemented our partnership, signing an agreement that details exactly how our two organisations will work together to end the dog meat trade in the Philippines, and we chatted to Heidi about the history of AKF, their aims and hopes for the welfare of animals in the region and their feelings about the partnership with Soi Dog and ending the dog meat trade.

“The dog meat trade campaign is AKFs core programme”, said Heidi.

“We started with the dog meat trade campaign, we’ve been doing raids, we’ve been doing arrests and rescues for the past 20 years already in the Philippines. We have our highs and lows, and we have, of course, our people risking their lives in rescuing all these dogs from the trade.

Sadly, though, it’s still happening. Even with so much effort on our part, we can say that it hasn’t stopped.”

20 years of fighting the dog meat trade hasn’t diminished Heidi’s desire to end it. Quite the opposite. She, and AKF, are as determined as we are at Soi Dog to bring an end to it.

And she is upbeat about the future for animals in the Philippines. “When we were starting out, the concept of animal welfare in the Philippines was nonexistent. While there may have been some regulations passed during that time, the public generally didn’t think about the welfare of animals. But, right now, there’s an improvement. There’s this growing consciousness on animal welfare. Hence, this is the right moment for us to really put a stop to the dog meat trade in the country.”



L-R – Rey Del Napoles and Heidi Caguioa of AKF and John Dalley MBE and SDF CEO Louise Rose.



Given Soi Dog's track record in successfully ending the trade in Thailand, Heidi has a good feeling about our new-found partnership.

"As we are working towards the elimination of the dog meat trade and improving the living conditions of animals in the Philippines, Soi Dog Foundation came into the picture, and we see a brother or a sister in them. We feel that synergy between our two organisations because, more or less, we have been doing the same thing – elimination of the dog meat trade: AKF in the Philippines and Soi Dog in Thailand, and they're expanding their programme all over Asia. It's a wonderful feeling that a brother is there to also help and carry out this mission for everybody here in Asia."

Soi Dog's Director of Advocacy, *Rahul Sehgal*, added, "We are so happy and proud to be partnering with an organisation such as Animal Kingdom Foundation who have been relentless in their fight to end the dog meat trade. We are now joining our resources together over the long term to ensure that we can completely end the horrible trade in the Philippines, until there is not a single dog left within the trade."





UNDERSTANDING THE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

It should be noted that the Philippines banned the trade indirectly in 1998 as part of the Animal Welfare Act that was passed that year prohibiting cruelty, maltreatment, neglect and the killing of animals in general except those that were identified and enumerated as 'food' animals. Under the guidelines of the Act, the dog meat trade can be considered as cruel, and therefore part of the prohibited acts.

However, the 2007 Anti-Rabies Act was more specific in its wording, and incorporated the provision that "the Local Government Units shall prohibit the trade of dogs for meat" and its implementing rules mention the penalty and defines the penalty to "Any person found guilty of trading dogs for meat shall be fined not less than five thousand (5,000) Philippine pesos (\$90 USD) per dog and subjected to imprisonment for between one and four years."

The fine amount may not sound like much of a deterrent but based on the average salary, it's equal to 1/3 of a monthly income. Underground activities still happen generally in Luzon and, sporadically, in the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

This means that the fight against the trade in the Philippines requires an emphasis on policing. Soi Dog will help AKF in working with the government and Philippine National Police to ensure laws are followed and punishments for offenders are applied to the letter.

DOG AND CAT TRADE IN ASIA

The trade of dogs and cats for consumption occurs in parts of Asia. In northeast Thailand, there were instances of animals being taken from streets and properties and transported in cages across borders through Laos to Vietnam. This practice has been a subject of concern for animal welfare organisations.

Up to 12 dogs would have been crammed into cages no bigger than a large coffee table, many of them suffering broken limbs as they were forced in.

The dogs were neither fed nor watered during the harrowing journey, which resulted in many of them dying en route.

Soi Dog took it upon itself to put an end to this disgusting trade out of Thailand.

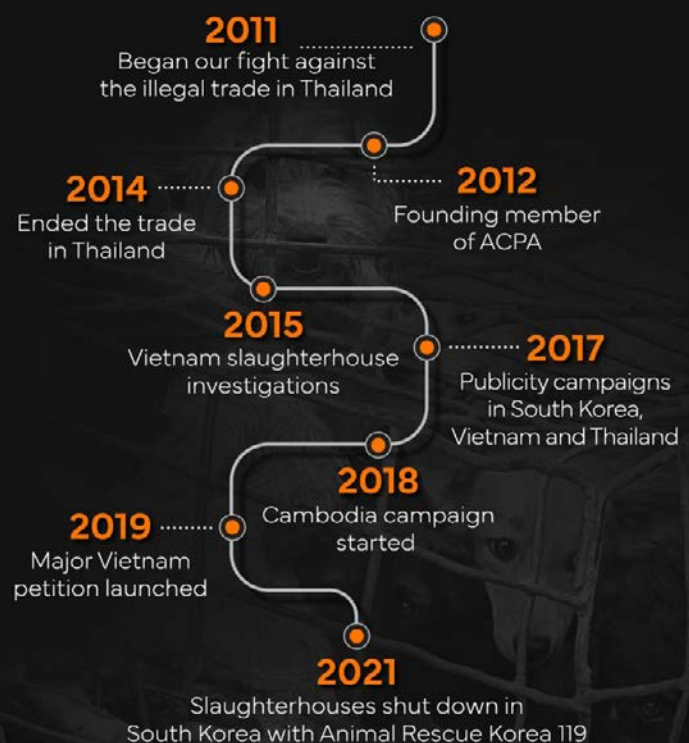
Working with the Thai government, police, border officials and heroic private citizens – and with the overwhelming backing from Soi Dog supporters from around the world – together, we intercepted truckloads of dogs between 2011 and 2014 and thousands were rescued.

The killing and eating of dogs and cats was outlawed and enshrined in Thailand's first ever animal welfare act in 2014.

At that time, dog meat consumption in Thailand was not widespread. The trade primarily involved transporting dogs to Vietnam, where there was a higher demand for dog meat. It is estimated that approximately 5 million dogs and cats are involved in this trade in Vietnam annually.

Vietnam is among several countries in Asia where the consumption of dogs and cats occurs. In fact, on a nationwide scale, only Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines have outlawed it. Regional bans exist in Hong Kong (1950), Shenzhen and Zhuhai in China (2020), Siem Reap in Cambodia (2020) and 14 different cities and regencies in Indonesia, providing hope that an end to the trade across the region is realistic.

SOI DOG'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE



#ENDTHETRADENOW



WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN AND WHY?

Accurate statistics are hard to come by, but research by various animal welfare organisations including Soi Dog show that an upper estimate of 30 million dogs are slaughtered across Asia every year.

That's one dog every second.

An estimated 20 million dogs and cats are involved in the meat trade in China, 5 million in Vietnam, and approximately 5 million collectively in South Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines, where it is not legally sanctioned.

ASIAN DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE BY COUNTRY



#ENDTHETRADENOW



Vietnam has a high per capita consumption rate, with Greater Hanoi being a significant area for this trade. Despite discussions about changing practices, an estimated 700 restaurants and vendors in Hanoi continue to offer dog or cat meat. Hanoi is Vietnam's administrative capital and second largest city after Ho Chi Minh City. There are reports of pet dogs being taken from owners' properties to meet the demand.

In China, a country with a population of 1.4 billion, consumption is focused mainly in provinces in the south and northeast, although the bans implemented in 2020 are in the cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai – both situated in the southern province of Guangdong. The infamous Yulin festival, only conceived as recently as 2009, takes place in neighbouring Guangxi province and has in recent years become a symbol of the trade, a focal point for welfare activists to unleash their discontent and to intervene in the trading of dogs. Unfortunately, local dog traders have sought to capitalise on the exposure that the festival brings and are profiteering from campaigners and rescuers that will pay high prices to save the dogs. Great news for the dogs who are rescued, but not a sustainable solution to the wider problem of dog meat consumption in China.

Exposure, though, does raise awareness among the international and unequivocally partisan audience, perhaps previously unaware of the brutal acts characteristic of the trade, and has helped to build momentum in the fight against it.

It is estimated that around two million dogs fall victim each year in Cambodia, while information about the trade in Laos is less available. Both countries share land borders with Vietnam, and it is possible that many dogs are traded over the borders to the neighbouring socialist republic.

In Indonesia, a country of close to 300 million inhabitants across 417 regencies (sub-districts), the predominant religion is Islam and, therefore, the demand for dog meat is less widespread. Still, an estimated one million dogs are caught up in the trade each year. Local welfare groups such as the coalition *Dog Meat Free Indonesia* (DMFI) continue to lobby for a ban on the practice.

The industry in South Korea, where Soi Dog has been involved in shutting down slaughterhouses in partnership with Animal Rescue Korea (ARK119), looks very different to other countries. Dogs in Korea are 'farmed' in diabolical conditions before suffering a heinous death.

EVERY MINUTE, 60 DOGS AND CATS DIE FOR THE TRADE ACROSS ASIA*

In the time it has taken you to read this, another 30 dogs and cats have been slaughtered for human consumption

1 dog in
Philippines

2 dogs in
Indonesia

3 dogs in
South Korea

4 dogs in
Cambodia

11
dogs and cats
in Vietnam

between
20&40
dogs and cats
in China



#ENDTHETRADENOW

* Best estimates

IS IT THE THREAT TO THE HEALTH OF THE HUMAN RACE OR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BRING AN END TO THE TRADE?

Some theories about the origins of the global pandemic posed questions about the dangers of consuming meat from unregulated sources and no doubt had an influence on the bans imposed in Shenzhen and Zhuhai.

But why was the trade not been banned long before the risk to human health became a consideration?

Why do people seem to care more about the health of the human race than they do about the welfare of man's best friend?

The answer may be different in each country, and the difference may be the threat to human health posed by rabies. South Korea is the only country mentioned in this article that is declared free from rabies, so a ban there depends very much on public opinion and cultural beliefs towards the consumption of dog meat.

Other countries where the trade exists – Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Laos, Indonesia and China – are all rabies-endemic, meaning they still report confirmed cases of canine rabies each year. This means that the risk to human health from the unregulated, unhygienic and downright shocking industry could play a major role in any resultant end to the trade.

What is not up for debate is that public opinion in all of these countries has swayed in favour of going dog meat free. The voices of people across generations are speaking out against it. The global society in which we live is contributing to that, and authorities have no option but to listen. South Korea being a good example of that. As recently as 2021, President *Moon Jae-in* – a dog lover and owner himself – raised the idea of banning the eating of dogs in the country, with the practice becoming something of a taboo among younger generations and rapidly being seen as an international embarrassment.



*Wet markets are touted as breeding grounds for diseases that threaten human health.
Photo: Anthony Kwan, Getty Images.*



File photo: AP

TACTICAL APPROACH OR COMBAT ON THE BATTLEFIELD?

Over the years, we have found that in countries where the trade exists unconstrained by law, the “going in all guns blazing” approach is not necessarily conducive to achieving the result we all want. China is the most obvious example of that. Mostly, pressure from foreign NGOs simply falls on deaf ears, and progress there is more likely achieved by local Chinese groups.

With this in mind, one element of our strategic approach across the region will be to develop ways to tackle the issue by highlighting the weight of support from the masses. Large swathes of the population in all of the countries in which the trade remains are in vehement opposition to it. Therein lies one of the keys to ending it. Local people for local change. We must encourage positive action and isolate minority behaviour. The trade is perpetuated by the minority and with your help, we can close the net on them.



THE SURVIVORS

Thanks to your support of the fight against the trade, thousands of rescued dogs now enjoy normal and happy lives.

One of them – Frosty – is over 12 years old now. He travelled to his new family in the Netherlands seven years ago and has not looked back since. The heartbreaking image of his head poking through a metal cage serves as a stark reminder of what his destiny looked like before his rescue.

But the image of him today – showered with love and with the choice of any sofa he pleases – is a reminder of what every companion animal should experience, and all the motivation needed to continue the fight in the name of every other dog or cat who deserves to live a life just like Frosty.



COME WITH US

You've been by our side fighting this evil trade for the past decade and, together, we have achieved so much.

Please stay right here with us as we embark on the next phase of our major assault on the most shocking practice known to humankind. We've come so far, but we still have a long way to go and we cannot do it without you.

For the sake of dogs and cats in Asia – please help us end the trade in every last country on Earth.



HELP SHUT DOWN THE DOG MEAT TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the face of overwhelming cruelty and suffering, it is easy to feel helpless. But you can help. Please sign our letter to the government of the Philippines urging them to crack down and put an end to this barbaric illegal trade once and for all.

The existing ban is great progress, but it is not enough. The laws must be enforced. Thousands of dogs are still being tortured and killed very year in this horrific underground industry.

With your support, we can urge the government to take decisive action and impose tougher penalties for those violating the law.

We have created change through campaigning before, and together we can do it again. The more social and political pressure we can put on the dog meat traders, the more dogs will be spared. That's why we want the support of the highest levels of leadership, and why your name on the letter will really help.

There is great power in your voice. We urge you to act today.

Will you join us? Please sign our letter to the government of the Philippines.

SIGN HERE



CNVR

is blooming **lotus**
IN THE TOWN OF

Chutima Srisawang



Team Pathum Thani.

In May, Soi Dog's 11th mobile clinic started work in Pathum Thani province, also known as "lotus town".

The province is located in the north of Bangkok and is part of the Bangkok metropolitan area. It is a significant part of Thailand's and the world's manufacturing base, with industrial factories dotted all over the province. Almost 70% of the province's gross product comes from the industrial sector. Pathum Thani is thus home to a large number of working people and a lot of dogs too. Controlling the number of dogs in the city through CNVR (Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return) is critical.



FROM WEST TO EAST

The mobile clinic in Pathum Thani is the seventh of its kind in Bangkok. Our team started working at Lat Lum Kaeo district, in the far west of the province, and plan to move the clinic from the west to the east of the province to effectively manage the dog population. The Bangkok chapter of our CNVR programme will soon comprise of a total of ten mobile clinics across the city's metropolitan area.



The Pathum Thani Office of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) welcomed the Soi Dog team.



40-45 dogs are brought to the clinic daily.

FOREVER GRATEFUL

Our thanks go to Dogs Trust Worldwide for their ongoing funding of 50% of the running costs of our mobile clinics in Bangkok, enabling each team to neuter and vaccinate 40-45 dogs every day. In the Bangkok metropolitan region, over **385,000** dogs have now been reached through the CNVR programme.

Thanks also to the local authorities for their support. For example, the Pathum Thani Livestock Office who welcomed and greeted our team on their first week in the province.

At the time of writing this article, such is the rapid growth of the CNVR programme, a twelfth team began operations – also in Pathum Thani. More on them in the next edition of the *Soi Dog Post*!

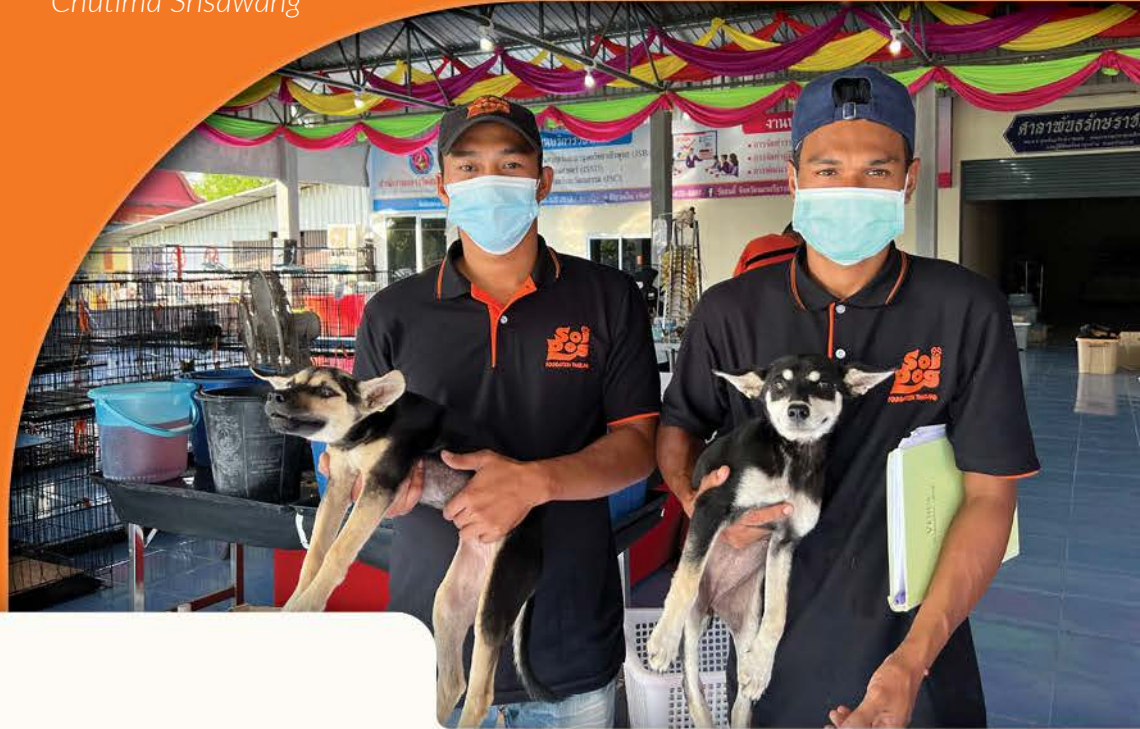
Thank you to all of you who have contributed to making our CNVR project the largest of its kind in the world, with over **750,000** animals reached so far.



On the road to a million

Chutima Srisawang

Yindee and Mee Sook, the 749,999th and 750,000th animals to be neutered and vaccinated by Soi Dog.



We are delighted to announce that Soi Dog Foundation has just surpassed the significant milestone of having neutered and vaccinated over 750,000 stray dogs and cats in Thailand, and we are well on the way to reaching a million animals!

652,535 dogs and **109,507** cats have now passed through the CNVR programme, preventing the births of millions of unwanted puppies and kittens.

The significant numbers achieved come mainly from the work of our 12 mobile clinics in Greater Bangkok and the Southern provinces, with each team neutering and vaccinating between 40 and 45 animals every day. We also contribute to CNVR projects in other parts of Thailand, including Chonburi, Chiang Mai and Songkhla. To help further reduce the stray dog population in Southeast Asia, we have also been collaborating with *Animal Rescue Cambodia (ARC)* in Phnom Penh since late 2021, our first CNVR project outside of Thailand.

Soi Dog has been partnering with *Dogs Trust Worldwide (DTW)* in Thailand's capital city, Bangkok, since 2016. DTW fund 50% of our programme there which enables the team to neuter and vaccinate 8,000 animals each month. Over 400,000 animals have been neutered and vaccinated in the Bangkok metropolitan area already, and crucial routine maintenance initiatives have contributed to the ongoing effectiveness of the programme.



Making a meaningful difference, the CNVR programme in Bangkok has been widely recognised and, in July, our team had the opportunity to showcase the project to the governor of Bangkok, Mr. *Chadchart Sittipunt*, who has pledged stray animal population management as part of his “214 plans to improve Bangkok”.



Dog Trust Worldwide with two of Soi Dog's animal rescue teams in Bangkok.

CNVR Director Dr. *Tantikorn Rungpattana (Dr.Oob)* shared Soi Dog's experience of operating sterilisation projects in Bangkok, as well as the results of a survey showing changing attitudes towards stray dogs, as a demonstration of its success. The governor and his team agree with the concept of sterilisation as the most viable method of stray animal population management and will continue to work with Soi Dog to develop their own approach.

We cannot describe how thankful we are for all of your support. Our 19-year journey runs from the island of Phuket in southern Thailand to our first overseas project in Cambodia.

Only with your help are we able to show that CNVR is the only humane and long-term solution to the overpopulation of stray animals in Asia.



Dr.Oob presents our CNVR plan to the Bangkok Governor.

With Soi Dog's ongoing programme, a million sterilisations are on the horizon.



DOGS TRUST



WORLDWIDE VISIT SOI DOG IN THAILAND

MAY 10-13

Sam McElroy

We were delighted to welcome our friends and partners from *Dogs Trust Worldwide (DTW)* who, since 2016, have helped fund our CNVR programme in Bangkok and are contributing to the largest spay/neuter and vaccination project for stray animals anywhere in the world, one of over 30 projects they support globally.

Dogs Trust Worldwide are an affiliate of Dogs Trust. Founded in 1891, Dogs Trust (formerly the *National Canine Defence League*) is the UK's largest dog welfare charity. Their mission is to bring about the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction. Each year they care for around 16,000 dogs at their nationwide network of 20 rehoming centres. Mirroring Soi Dog's policy of giving every animal a chance of a happy life, no healthy dog is ever euthanised by Dogs Trust.



During their week-long visit, the representatives from DTW split their time equally, observing our mobile CNVR project in Thailand's capital city and then holding meetings and sharing presentations with our team in Phuket.

While the DTW team were in Bangkok, they visited one of our seven mobile teams based in the area and, during a busy couple of days, learned how effective a wall trap device is, saw just a few of the 8,000 animals neutered there each month, and observed our animal rescue officers in action.



www.soidog.org

WELCOME TO

THE GILL DALLEY SANCTUARY

FOR SICK, INJURED AND VULNERABLE
STREET DOGS AND CATS



Karen Reed, Director of DTW, said, "I had heard great things about Soi Dog from reading previous reports of course, but nothing beats seeing the work on the ground."

During the second half of their visit, the DTW team visited Phuket to witness the daily operations at the Gill Dalley Sanctuary and to talk about their ongoing support of Soi Dog's CNVR programme.



Simona Zito, DTW International Projects Officer, added, "We enjoyed a truly inspiring visit. The work Soi Dog does is invaluable, and hopefully DTW can continue supporting the programme to do even more for the dogs and people of Thailand."

Craig Rooney, DTW's International Programme Manager, said, "Together with Soi Dog, our joint aim is to spay and neuter at least 80% of the roaming dog population in Greater Bangkok, to reduce dog density, improve dog welfare, reduce rabies cases and create a manageable and healthy dog population which lives happily side by side with people within the local community. He added, "In 2021, 50,177 dogs were spayed and neutered at mobile clinics across the Greater Bangkok region, meaning 192,452 dogs have now been spayed and neutered since the start of the joint project."

Craig highlighted the success of the programme as outlined in the recent welfare survey carried out in the city. "As a result of the CNVR programme, there has been a drastic reduction in the breeding activity of the roaming dog population in greater Bangkok. Additionally, dog density has reduced significantly over time, with an average decline of 24.7% over a five-year period. This has led to a reduction in human-dog conflict, which can be demonstrated by a 35.5% reduction in dog related complaints to local authorities in the city between 2020 and 2021. The project is also improving the welfare of roaming dogs, with a 10.3% decrease in emaciated or thin dogs since 2016, while there has also been a significant decline in canine rabies cases over time, with an average reduction of 5.7% in rabies cases per month."

Partnering with one of the world's oldest and most respected dog welfare charities brings a wealth of benefits. DTW's insights into stray dog population management, their world-renowned status and unquestionable ethics and their invaluable support for our CNVR programme in Thailand continues to help it grow from strength to strength, and we look forward to even greater impact being made by the programme in the future.



Your two decades are my whole life

Chutima Srisawang

In the Phuket village of Mai Khao, not far from the Soi Dog sanctuary, there is a local family that has given their animals unconditional love and care for the past two decades. Their consistency and commitment to their beloved dog will melt your heart.

20 years ago, little *Pinky*'s owner gave her away. Luckily enough, *Ramyong Niyompong* and his wife took her in and gave her love and everything a puppy could ever dream of in their cozy house in Mai Khao. Pinky was later joined by two other dogs and two cats – all rescued and all very much loved.

We first met Pinky when she came to Soi Dog for treatment for cataracts in 2017. In the years that followed, she became a regular patient, visiting the shelter every few days for fluid therapy to support her kidneys.



Pinky first came to Soi Dog for treatment for cataracts.



At the start of the year, Pinky celebrated her 20th birthday. Despite her advanced age, she was strong, and her health was always her family's priority. Ramyong brought her to Soi Dog on a weekly basis, sometimes more, and made sure she had freshly prepared meals at home every day, including her favourite rice soup with pork. She got plenty of exercise walking and sniffing around their house every day too.



No matter what, Ramyong and his wife were committed to Pinky's care and could never dream of abandoning her. Pinky's story was shared in the media in Thailand as an example of what a responsible pet owner is, and it touched the hearts of many.

Although small, Pinky was mighty, and she held onto her strong appetite and lust for life despite her age and ailments. Unfortunately, those ailments eventually became too much for her to bear. Pinky sadly passed away in May surrounded by her family and her favourite Soi Dog vets at the grand old age of 20 years and 4 months.

Pinky's story serves as a wonderful example of what true pet ownership is: a life-long commitment. Her family loved and cared for her for two decades, from when she was a bright young pup right up until her last day when she was a sprightly but sick senior.

"When you decide to get a pet, you should be responsible and look after them for the rest of their lives" is something anyone can say, but only time will tell if they mean it. In this case, Ramyong and family have stayed true to their word.

RIP Pinky. We hope there's plenty of your favourite rice soup wherever you are.



ADOPTION CORNER

THE YOUNGSTERS EDITION

Vanessa Jakoby



**ADOPT
ME**

ESTIMATED AGE:

1 year

WEIGHT:

15kg

LIKES:

Chilling in the water tub on hot sunny days

DISLIKES:

When strangers approach him without introducing themselves

BERDIGAN

***Berdigan* was just two months old when he was struck by a speeding car while searching for food.** Thankfully, he was found by a kind local who immediately called Soi Dog for help.

He's since grown into a big, healthy, beautiful boy with a charming smile. Berdigan may be a little shy to begin with, but once you win him over, he's an absolute sweetheart. We're sure he will thrive in a home environment surrounded by a loving family.

Although Berdigan is safe here with us, he never got the chance to experience the true love of a family. This young boy has his whole life ahead of him, and we can't bear to see him spend it in a shelter. ***Please enquire about Berdigan.***



CHIBOLO

Chibolo was also two months old when he was found by one of our mobile clinic teams at a landfill site. He was all alone, living among mounds of rubbish. Sick and dirty. But thanks to your support, he was rescued, cleaned up and given the urgent treatment he needed.

Now one year old, Chibolo is a healthy, handsome boy with a sweet smile and the most charming lopsided ears! However, a hard start in life forced him to fend for himself, which made him a shy boy.

Timid but super sweet, playful and curious by nature, can you please show Chibolo that a happy ever after does exist for shy dogs like him too?

A kind person has even donated towards his travel costs to help his chances.

ADOPT ME

ESTIMATED AGE:

1 year

WEIGHT:

18kg

LIKES:

Eating treats and enjoying playtime in the off-lead area

DISLIKES:

Not being able to find a home



FRED

Fred was presented to Soi Dog earlier this year after his family moved overseas and left him behind. We could see nothing but sadness and fear in his eyes.

He's since decided to put the past behind him and is ready to move on to the next chapter of his life.

Fred is an energetic, affectionate dog who is fond of human company. He would love nothing more than to join an active family who enjoys long walks and adventures like he does.

His carer also describes him as active and funny but with a sweet side too. We can only imagine that whoever left this wonderful boy has missed out all the fun, laughter and endless great memories with him.

Will you be the lucky person to bring him home?

ADOPT ME

ESTIMATED AGE:

2 years

WEIGHT:

18kg

LIKES:

Snuggles with his carer

DISLIKES:

Sharing his food bowl with other dogs



Important news from **North America**

Amy Bryant

WOULD YOU LIKE THE **GOOD NEWS**
OR THE **BAD NEWS** FIRST?

**LET'S START WITH
THE GOOD NEWS – IT'S A BIG'UN!**



THE AMERICAN DREAM LIVES ON FOR THAI DOGS

In July, on Independence Day no less, we announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) import ban had been revised and dogs from 113 formerly banned countries, including Thailand, had their freedom to fly to the USA once again.

The ban was first announced on June 14 last year and took effect just a month later, dealing a swift and heavy blow to our adoption and partner rescue programme which had seen over 700 dogs find homes in the USA in the three-and-a-half years prior.

The CDC cited concerns over rabies as its rationale for the ban. As an organisation with a core goal to eliminate rabies, we appreciate those concerns but strongly believe they do not justify an outright ban, particularly when there are other disease control measures that can be put in place, namely titer testing, to protect humans and animals against rabies while continuing to allow dogs to enter the country.



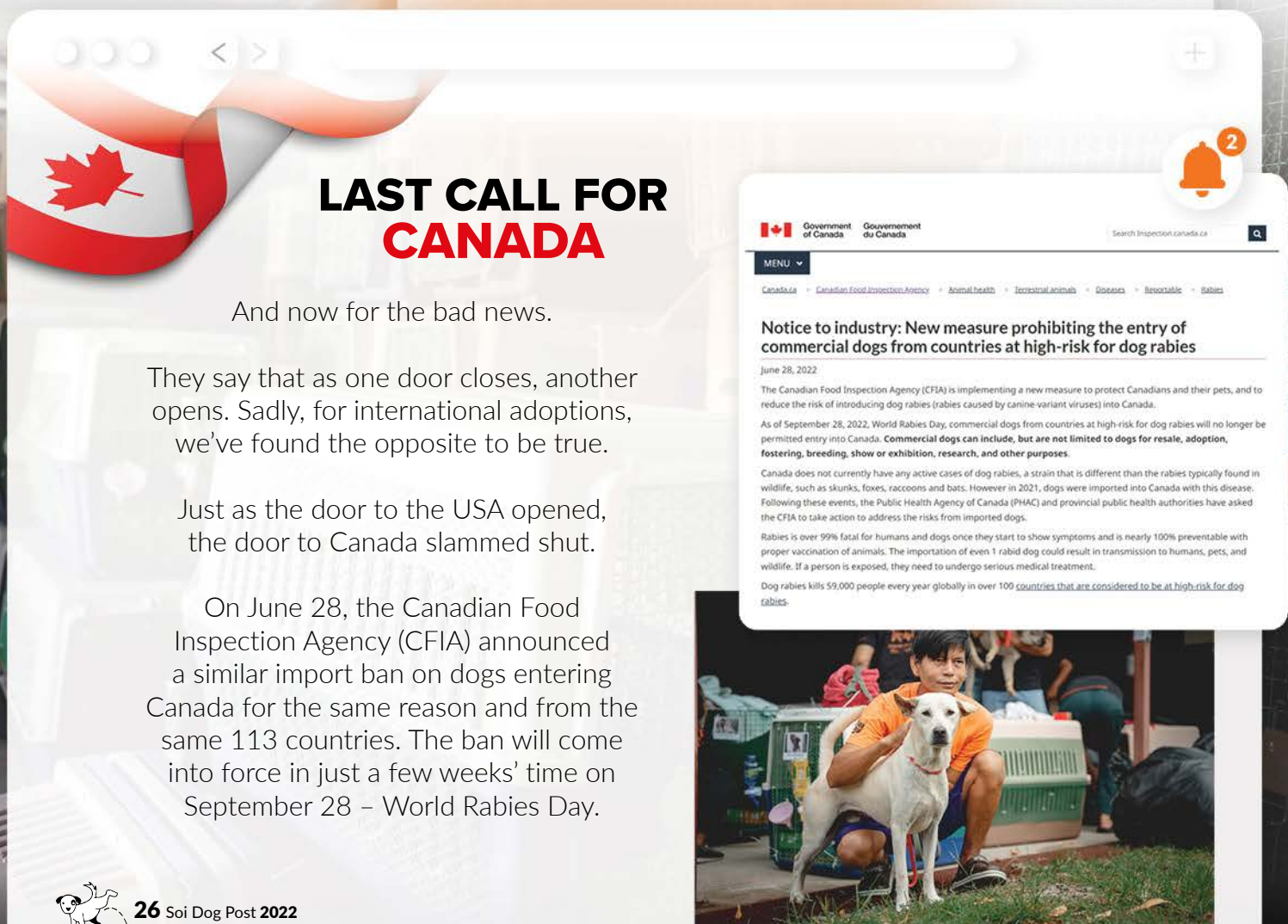


We said as much in our open letter to the CDC's Chief of Quarantine and Border Health Services, which thousands upon thousands of you kindly signed. Many of you wrote your own personal heartfelt pleas to the CDC too.

At the same time, we joined forces with the Massachusetts-based *Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue* and ten other rescue organisations across the USA and submitted a formal rulemaking petition to both the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Director of the CDC – the start of an official legal process to challenge the ban.

Our voices were heard and, less than a year after it was implemented, the ban was revised to include the measures we suggested and allow the safe import of healthy dogs into the USA again. Hundreds of soi dogs now have hope for a future and a family, things they deserved all along.

We are so grateful to everyone who stood up for the innocent dogs affected by the ban. Its successful revision shows just how much power there is in our collective voice.



LAST CALL FOR CANADA

And now for the bad news.

They say that as one door closes, another opens. Sadly, for international adoptions, we've found the opposite to be true.

Just as the door to the USA opened, the door to Canada slammed shut.

On June 28, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced a similar import ban on dogs entering Canada for the same reason and from the same 113 countries. The ban will come into force in just a few weeks' time on September 28 – World Rabies Day.



As soon as the news broke, our inboxes and comment sections were flooded with offers from amazing supporters in Canada and beyond, willing once again to do whatever they could to help us challenge the ban.



We have compiled a handy guide to how you can help **here** which includes engaging with your local Member of Parliament if you are in Canada, registering your objections with the CFIA by letter, phone or email and sending a pre-written tweet to the CFIA.

You can also support our efforts to get up to 60 dogs onto Canadian soil before the ban takes effect by donating towards their travel costs **here**.

With a sense of déjà vu, an even stronger sense of determination and your support, we are doing everything we can to urge the CFIA to revise the ban and implement the same common-sense disease control measures that the USA put in place last month and that hundreds of countries around the world have had in place for many years.

In animal welfare, it often feels like we are up against one crisis after another. However, with supporters as dedicated as you by our side, there is always hope. Together, we helped revise the ban in the USA, and together we can achieve the same in Canada too. Stay with us.



Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

SPONSOR ONE, SAVE MANY

Amy Bryant

Opia aka Miss Feisty

SPONSOR ME

Opia is a unique girl with a unique rescue story, which starts with her being born on the streets with malformed front legs and ends with her being attacked by a fellow dog and rushed to the Soi Dog shelter.

Disability is no barrier for this strong and spirited girl who lives her life just like any other dog – walking, running and playing with the help of her very own wheelchair.

Though new to the sponsorship programme, Opia has been at the shelter for a number of years. And her physical needs, coupled with her distrust of strangers, mean she will likely be here for many more to come.

By signing up as a sponsor, you can make help make those years as happy as possible for Opia, complete with all the care she and her sheltermates could ask for.



Likes:

Her special care kennel which was built just for her



Dislikes:

Other dogs in her personal space



Serumo

aka **The Mini Tiger**



Street cats like *Serumo* are pros at fending for themselves, but there are some challenges that even the toughest and smartest feline can't battle alone. For *Serumo*, that challenge came in the form of a terrible car accident.

Serumo's left hind leg was badly injured by the impact and had to be amputated soon after he arrived at the shelter. If that wasn't enough to contend with, he was also diagnosed with feline leukaemia virus (FeLV), an infectious disease which makes his lifespan uncertain and means he needs to stay at Soi Dog for ongoing treatment.

Serumo may never find a family, but he sure could do with a friend. If you choose to sponsor him, he'll be in touch with regular updates and plenty of handsome photos – his way of thanking you for your kindness.

SPONSOR ME



Likes:

Napping on the floor despite having 20 beds to choose from



Dislikes:

Not being able to keep up with his four-legged friends



Doris

aka **The Introvert**



Depending on how you look at it, *Doris* has had either very good or very bad luck. On the one hand, she was abandoned as a puppy in a stranger's garden. On the other hand, that stranger turned out to be a Soi Dog volunteer who then brought her to the shelter for safety and care.

The trauma of her experience left *Doris* extremely fearful of people, fears she is working to overcome with the help of our behaviour team. She's made gradual progress over the years but still prefers to keep her inner circle small, like her.

Fortunately, there's room in that circle for you as a sponsor. Sign up today to help give *Doris* and hundreds of other rescued animals the physical care and emotional support they deserve.

SPONSOR ME



Likes:

Sunbathing at the top of the sala



Dislikes:

Strangers and outstretched hands



THE SOI DOG SILLIES



"To enter in our cattery, you must answer these riddles three."



Chomp.



An imposter in the cattery.



*"The sign says 'No Smoking'.
It doesn't say 'No Dogs On Tables!'"*



*"If I just lie here and play dead, maybe
I won't have to go back to my run..."*





Baltic says hello.



Tatsumi knights his carer for his hard work and service.



Get your head down and keep on diggin'!



The Cats of the Round Table holding their weekly meeting.



If you've ever been in the Soi Dog puppy run, you'll understand.



The most boopable snout award goes to... Golon!



OUR DOGS AND CATS NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEERING AT SOI DOG: A SIMPLE EQUATION

Sam McElroy

AMAZING DOGS + COOL CATS + NO FEE + SUNSHINE + VIBE + MAGIC = THE SOI DOG VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

We could spend another ten pages talking about the virtues of volunteering at Soi Dog. Instead, though, we're going to keep it simple...

When asked about volunteering at Soi Dog, somebody once said that it was **"ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS I HAVE EVER DONE"**. We can't remember exactly who it was, because they ALL say it!

Don't take our word for it, believe all of the people who've been before and keep coming back for more.

If you're curious about volunteering for the first time, DISCOVER EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW AND BOOK YOUR TRIP TO SOI DOG HERE: www.soidog.org/volunteer

Whether you're an old hand at this, or you've been thinking about doing it for ages, now's the time to say "I'M GOING TO SOI DOG!"

If you're overwhelmed by all the information and how awesome it sounds, and you want a helping hand, drop us an email at volunteering@soidog.org to talk to our team today!



SOI DOG FOUNDATION HELPS

rescue monkey

CHAINED UP
FOR **two years**

Sam McElroy



Owing to Soi Dog's reputation in these parts, we sometimes receive unusual requests to help different species of animals. Although not particularly common, we've previously treated a wild cat involved in a road collision, assisted in the hoof trimming of community goats, rescued turtles trapped in fishing nets and nursed the occasional wild bird back to health (read about some of these stories in the July 2021 issue of the newsletter!)

In May this year, we were asked to intervene in the case of *Sandy* the macaque, a former working monkey who spent a heartbreaking two years chained up to a cage in the south of Phuket. Generally, across Southern Thailand, working monkeys are used to pick coconuts – their unrivalled climbing abilities exploited in small coconut farming industries.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Sandy had been put to work in an elephant camp. The camp closed down over two years ago, and Sandy had been chained up ever since, until the intervention.

Two expats, *Penny* and *Barbara*, come from the same street where Sandy was kept and were concerned about her wellbeing. The women contacted the authorities who said there was nothing they could do because Sandy was listed as a working monkey.



Sandy's owner told the women he was willing to give her up because he would soon move out of his property and couldn't take her with him. If no one could take Sandy on, he would have to release her into the jungle, he said. Given Sandy's history as a working monkey with no experience of the wild, Penny and Barbara doubted she would survive an immediate release in the jungle. The owner said he was leaving in just one week, so Penny and Barbara contacted Soi Dog to help find Sandy a new home in a very short space of time. Naturally, we were glad to assist in a matter of such great animal welfare concern.

On May 27, Sandy was taken in by Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation's (DNP) office in Phang Nga province, with the help of Soi Dog's community liaison team.

Penny said, "Good news! The DNP in Phang Nga have taken Sandy and will look after her. I wanted to give a huge thank you to Soi Dog Foundation who helped me in setting all of this up. Without their help, it wouldn't have happened so quickly and easily... Her chain and metal collar have been removed and she will be in a much better place. I will miss her, but my heart is so happy that she will thrive now and not wither."



The DNP will care for Sandy for the foreseeable future and she is already displaying more relaxed behaviour. They will slowly introduce Sandy to larger enclosures as she grows in confidence. On account of her captive past, though, it is unlikely she will be reintroduced to her natural habitat, but the DNP are providing her with a vastly improved quality of life than she has ever previously enjoyed.



Good luck, Sandy. We'll drop in to check on you from time to time, and we hope you find peace and contentment and the opportunity to live a life more natural to you.

Sanctuary Update –

**YET MORE ENCLOSURES NEEDED,
AND FOUR MORE COMPLETED**

Sam McElroy

Your steadfast support has helped us through some very challenging times during our 19-year existence. None more so than what can only be described now as the Covid years.

Between April 2020 and May 2022, due to the alarming increase in animals coming into the shelter as a direct result of the pandemic, the Soi Dog sanctuary has seen the construction of 16 new dog enclosures. The latest four – known as the M runs – were completed and saw their first inhabitants move in during the rainy month of May.

The challenges still faced by our international adoption programme, including the impending ban on dogs entering Canada, mean that the shelter population is still rising. These new enclosures are already full, and there is no end in sight.

Your support of our record-breaking spay/neuter programme is doing so much to ensure the reduction in animals needing shelter, and our humane education and community outreach programmes are working towards the end goal of reducing suffering of stray animals in Asia, but these surely won't be the last new enclosures needed. With your ongoing support, though, we hope that we will continue to be able to provide a safe place for the homeless dogs who have nowhere else to turn.

From each and every one of them, thank you!



UPDATE ON UKRAINE RELIEF MISSIONS

Vanessa Jakoby



Peacefully sleeping after reaching the help point on the border with Poland.

Soi Dog Foundation was founded with a mission to end the suffering of dogs and cats in Asia, but in March, we made the exceptional decision to support Poland's oldest and largest animal welfare organization, **TOZ - Towarzystwo Opieki Nad Zwierzetami** – to assist their emergency response to the huge number of animals accompanying refugees and rescuers fleeing the war in Ukraine and pouring over the Polish border.

Since the very beginning of this crisis, such kind and generous donations from animal lovers like you from around the world have been life-changing for the animals of Ukraine.

Because of your generosity, during the last five months, our trusted partner TOZ has been able to...

- Treat and care for animals at the border emergency clinic and mobile sterilisation units, where an average of 100 animals pass through daily for medical care, sterilisation, vaccinations, food and other animal supplies such as collars, leashes, cat litter, toys, etc.
- Not only dogs and cats, but also smaller pets such as hamsters and parrots received the help they needed. Over 13,500 animals affected by the war have received help so far.



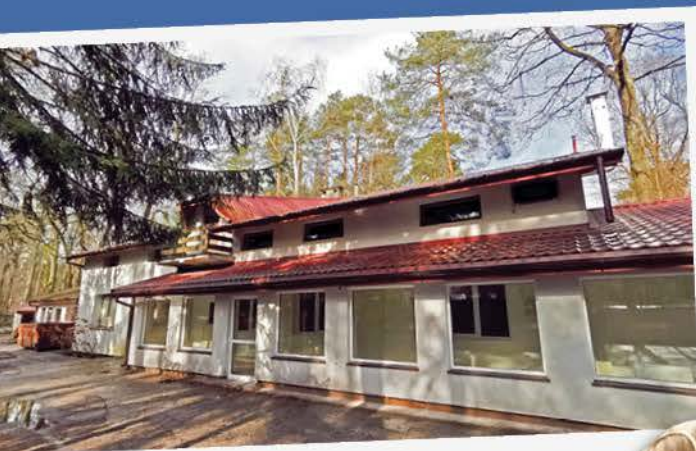
Essential food and medication supplies being loaded in a van before entering Ukraine.



- Send six brave teams from TOZ into Ukraine with truckloads of food and medical supplies to help animals left behind in the rubble and wreckage. At least 3,000 animals have been reached through these missions.
- Find homes for several dogs and employ a qualified behaviourist at the Celestynów shelter run by TOZ, to rehabilitate traumatised dogs rescued from the war zone until they are ready for adoption. There are also volunteers who help walk and socialise the dogs at the shelter.
- Continue the construction of a veterinary clinic at the Celestynów shelter with medical equipment and supplies to provide ongoing treatment of thousands more animals in need crossing into Poland. The facility is expected to be completed in the not-too-distant future.



Some of the lucky rescue dogs at the Celestynów shelter with their new family.



New veterinary clinic under construction at Celestynów shelter, run by TOZ.



During a visit to her native Poland in June, Soi Dog Foundation International Director of Animal Welfare Dr. Ala Lzydorczyk paid a visit to our partner TOZ to witness first-hand the impact your amazing support for these helpless animals has had.

“The visit went well. It was overwhelming to see the refugees but also touching to hear their appreciation for the help their pets have received. I met an old lady who was all by herself with her dog and she told me about the bombs and the trauma. Even her dog has nightmares and howls at night. Meeting them brought everything back to reality”, she said.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the overwhelming support you have shown to these animals. Your actions have saved countless lives, and there are no words that can truly express how grateful we are for all you have helped to achieve.





Good things COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

Amy Bryant

Long-term readers of the *Soi Dog Post*, and close scrutinisers of email signatures, will know that *Soi Dog* co-founder *John Dalley* has an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

MBEs recognise people for outstanding achievements and service in their field – in John’s case, his services to animal welfare in Southeast Asia. A special committee draws up the list which is then approved by the UK prime minister and, finally, by *HM Queen Elizabeth II*.

John was originally named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List back in October 2020. However, due to Covid restrictions, he wasn't able to travel to the UK to collect the award.

After an 18-month wait, those restrictions were finally lifted, and John was able to accept his award in person at a private ceremony at Windsor Castle in May.

The medal was presented by *Prince Charles* who expressed his interest in the founding of *Soi Dog* and his admiration for our ongoing work to improve the welfare of dogs and cats in Asia.

“I think the award is positive for *Soi Dog*,” said John. “I see it more as a recognition of what has been achieved by everybody involved more than a personal award. I am obviously sad that *Gill* is not still alive to also receive the award.”

We share this award with you, our supporters. It is your support for John, Gill and *Soi Dog* Foundation that has ultimately helped to achieve this great honour.



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS FOR SOI DOG

Amy Bryant

There are plenty of ways to fundraise for charity, but for former Soi Dog staffers Rohun and Yanisa, the only way was up.

At the end of April, the pair embarked on a bold expedition to climb Chulu West in the Annapurna region of Nepal, a 6,419-metre peak that saw them brave sheer drops and sub-zero temperatures.

All this in support of Soi Dog.

“Our goal was to raise awareness of the appalling suffering of millions of sick, injured, abandoned and homeless street dogs and cats in Southeast Asia,” said Yanisa. “We wanted to help support Soi Dog projects in Southeast Asia as well as some funds going to help dogs affected by the war in Ukraine.”

Rohun and Yanisa had trained for months for the expedition: hiking in the hills of Phuket with weighted backpacks, taking long walks with their four rescue dogs and weight training

five days a week. Still, nothing could have prepared them for the physical toll the climb would take on them both.

“The overall effects of the physical challenge and time spent at altitude certainly have a debilitating impact on the body,” explained Rohun. “We have no injuries apart from the mental disappointment of not reaching the summit.”



*You can take the girl out of Soi Dog...
Yanisa finds a furry friend on the trail.*



Sadly, a severe snowstorm hit on day 10 of the climb, and Rohun, Yanisa and their fellow climbers were forced to abort the climb and make their descent back down for their safety.



Rope training.



Yanisa and Rohun in front of Mt. Dhaulagiri, the seventh highest mountain in the world.

“We had gained an altitude of 5,400m on the summit attempt. We were climbing on ropes up towards camp 1 for an acclimatisation and training day. We returned back down to high camp at 5,200m for an overnight stay in the tent,” said Rohun.

“We woke at 5am and it had snowed over 20 centimetres during the night, with very poor visibility. The conditions made it impossible to move up higher, so the climb was aborted. No teams made it to the summit all season” said Rohun.

Rohun and Yanisa still smashed their target, raising over \$3,000 USD for Soi Dog through their Facebook fundraiser.

“Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the climb. We are already planning our next expedition to come back for another try at a 6,000m in Nepal. Watch this space!” they added.

You don’t have to climb (or move) mountains to help street dogs and cats. You can set up a fundraiser for any activity you love or even simply in celebration of your birthday.

To get started, click the “Fundraiser” tab to the left of your Facebook homepage. Please note that Facebook fundraisers are only available in certain countries. Click **here** for more information.



DID YOU KNOW

THAT THERE ARE EVERYDAY WAYS TO HELP THE STREET DOGS AND CATS OF THAILAND AND BEYOND?

Here are just a few ways to get involved.

Easyfundraising

Available to UK shoppers is Easyfundraising, the largest charity shopping site in the UK.

There are hundreds of high street retailers, all of whom will donate between 0.5% and 10% of your purchases directly to Soi Dog!

For free sign-up, visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk or search the Easyfundraising app on Android or iOS.



AmazonSmile

Shop as you would on Amazon, instead just do it through AmazonSmile and see 0.5% of your eligible purchases donated to Soi Dog at no extra cost!

Available on Amazon US and UK sites. For free sign-up, visit smile.amazon.com (US) or www.smile.amazon.co.uk



Facebook fundraisers

If you're not into shopping online, you can still create a buzz and fundraise virtually by setting up a Facebook fundraiser for your family and friends to contribute to.

Check if Facebook fundraisers are available in your country [here](#). To get started, click "Fundraisers" in the menu at the side of your newsfeed.



Don'tSendMeACard

Did you know you can help Soi Dog, and the planet, by sending e-cards in place of greetings cards? Visit the Don'tSendMeACard website [here](#), choose from a fantastic (not to mention super cute) range of designs for all sorts of occasions, donate the cost of buying and sending a physical greetings card and hit send. Send an e-card, save a life!

DontSendMeACard.com

CARS



Moving Forward Together
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

North American supporters, if you want to make a big and bold gesture, how about donating an unwanted vehicle to Soi Dog with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services)?

CARS arrange collection and valuation and carry out all transactions on your behalf. Donations are tax deductible too.

Visit our partnership page at careasy.org/nonprofit/soi-dog-foundation-usa or call 855-500-RIDE (7433) to get involved.

Giveacar



The option to donate a vehicle is also available to our supporters in the UK through Giveacar.

Whether you're donating a car, light van, motorbike or caravan, Giveacar make it easy by handling everything for you. They even offer free collection from anywhere in the country.

To get started, visit our partnership page at giveacar.co.uk/charities/soi-dog-uk-cio or call 020 7736 4242.



LEAVE A LEGACY

BE THE FUTURE
FOR STRAY ANIMALS



SHARE OUR VISION BY
JOINING THE SOI DOG
LEGACY PROGRAMME

The legacy Gill left for the
street dogs and cats of Thailand,
who had no-one else to turn to,
will live on eternally

Visit www.soidog.org/legacy or
email legacy@soidog.org to find out more

