

SOI DOG

October 2023

post



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



YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Saving Asia's dogs and cats since 2003

P.2
20 years saving
Asia's dogs and
cats: a timeline

P.26
Celebrating 20
years of volunteers

P.29
And the winner of
our anniversary art
competition is...



www.soidog.org

A 20-YEAR JOURNEY

SAVING ASIA'S DOGS AND CATS

Thais Gasperini

As we celebrate Soi Dog Foundation's 20th anniversary, we invite you to delve into our timeline, showcasing two decades of progress in Asia's animal welfare.

This is a journey that we have undertaken hand in hand with you. Whether you're a follower, supporter, donor, rescuer, adopter or volunteer, you have helped Soi Dog become what it is today. Thank you for making it all possible.

THE FOUNDING **2003**

Gill and John teamed up with Margot Homburg, and Soi Dog was founded.

With over **70,000** stray dogs roaming the southern island province of Phuket, they began by setting up mobile spay/neuter clinics, marking the beginning of Soi Dog's Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (CNVR) programme.



2004 TWO HUGE EVENTS

In September, Gill contracted septicaemia while rescuing a dog from a flooded buffalo field. This resulted in the amputation of both lower legs.

In December, the catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami struck, claiming the lives of thousands, including Gill's best friend, *Leone Cosens*. A huge operation began to rescue, treat and feed the thousands of stray animals affected.



THE POST TSUNAMI YEARS

2005-2007

While still relying heavily on volunteers, Soi Dog – as the only organisation helping stray animals at that time - received a grant from WSPA, enabling the full-time employment of the first vets and rescue officers.

Took on the running of the local government dog pound in return for the use of space to house an increasing number of dogs being rescued.



2008

MOVING TO MAIKHAO

Moved to a site in the north of Phuket which would become Soi Dog's permanent shelter and clinic facility.

2009-2010

PUPPIES, CATS AND COW SHEDS

Shelter improvements followed in 2009, thanks to support from The American School of The Hague (ASOH), with the construction of the first dedicated puppy enclosure.

A decline in the stray dog population began to see a rise in the stray cat population and ASOH once again helped to create the first Soi Dog cattery.

By the end of 2010, the CNVR programme had reached over **30,000** animals total.

2011-2013

FLOOD RESCUE, MAJOR CNVR MILESTONE, AND TACKLING THE DOG MEAT TRADE

2011: Hundreds of dogs rescued from catastrophic Bangkok floods and the rebuilding of dog shelters destroyed by the flooding at Phuttamonthon (dog island).

2012: Opened the first small treatment and spay/neuter clinic in Bangkok.

A concerted effort to put an end to the cross-border dog meat trade from Thailand was initiated, and dialogue with the Thai authorities began.

Dogs Trust Worldwide began supporting Soi Dog's CNVR efforts in Phuket.

2013: Two significant milestones were achieved: a decade in operation and the accomplishment of neutering and vaccinating over **50,000** animals since 2003.



2014

END OF THE DOG MEAT TRADE IN THAILAND AND INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

The battle against the illegal dog meat trade in Thailand ended in triumph. After dismantling the illegal gangs, saving thousands of dogs and stopping the trade, the work of relocating and rehoming the rescued dogs began.

Thanks to the generous response from Soi Dog supporters, shelters were built in Buriram to house thousands of dogs.

Soi Dog played a leading role in the committee that drafted Thailand's first animal welfare act, the Cruelty Prevention and Welfare of Animal Act, B.E. 2557 (2014). Nearly a decade later, the trade remains illegal in Thailand and has not resurfaced.

SECOND NEW BEGINNINGS

2016

Gill's dream of a purpose-built stray dog hospital became a reality when the new facility opened in September.

The sanctuary was expanded, with four new dog enclosures built, and two large fenced play areas for dogs added.



Soi Dog announced a partnership with Dogs Trust Worldwide aimed at growing the CNVR programme in Greater Bangkok.

2015

NEW LAUNCHES

Soi Dog furthered its animal rehoming mission with the launch of the international partner rescue programme. Partnerships were struck with various rescue and rehoming organisations in North America, and dogs rescued from the meat trade began to make their way to their new homes.



The long-term mobile CNVR programme in Bangkok was established.

Reached the milestone of **100,000** animals neutered and vaccinated.





NEXT MAJOR CNVR MILESTONE

2018

In 2018, Soi Dog expanded its spay/neuter programme with a fifth mobile CNVR team, reaching over **80,000** animals by year-end, and surpassing **250,000** animals neutered and vaccinated since 2003.

The Gill Dalley Sanctuary expanded to over six acres and added eight new dog enclosures. Additionally, Soi Dog rescued and rehomed hundreds of dogs from an emergency situation in Nakhon Phanom.



2017

A SOMBRE YEAR

After a brief illness, Gill Dalley sadly passed away on February 13, an enormous loss to Soi Dog.

In her memory, the Soi Dog shelter was re-named the Gill Dalley Sanctuary.

As Soi Dog attempted to pick up the pieces, it would have to look to the future. The first steps were to launch two more essential initiatives – the community outreach and humane education programmes.

January and February saw severe flooding in Southern Thailand. Soi Dog's newly formed community outreach team, along with its animal rescue officers, were able to provide food to animals in need and ensure medical treatment for the injured.

2019

CNVR, EMERGENCY RESCUE AND DCMT

With support from the Jeanne Marchig Trust and Fondation Brigitte Bardot, Soi Dog opened the first purpose-built stray cat hospital in Asia in November.

The sixth and seventh mobile CNVR teams were launched, and for the first time in a calendar year, **100,000** animals were reached by the CNVR programme.

DCMT: Soi Dog extended its efforts beyond Thailand, continuing to campaign against the dog and cat meat trade in Vietnam. A petition gained more than 1 million signatures. In neighbouring Cambodia, Soi Dog supported the local group End Dog Meat Cambodia.

Soi Dog were there once again to help thousands of flood-affected stray animals, this time in Ubon Ratchathani in the east of Thailand.



HALF A-MILLION THANK YOU'S

2020

Thailand's Covid-19 lockdowns and closed borders raised concerns for stray animals and pet abandonment. Soi Dog responded by distributing over **11 tonnes** of food and adding nine new dog enclosures at the sanctuary.

A busy year of sanctuary improvements and expansion saw the opening of the Humane Education Centre – the first of its kind in Asia – as well as the launch of an eighth mobile CNVR team and the construction of an isolation hospital for dogs and cats.

By December, over **half-a-million** animals had been neutered and vaccinated since 2003.

DCMT: Partnered with Animal Rescue Korea to help combat the trade in South Korea



2021

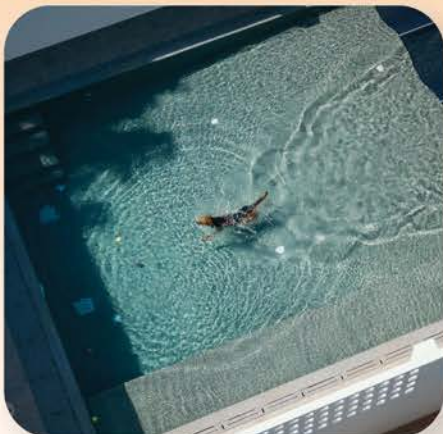
A YEAR OF HUGE CHALLENGES

Soi Dog expanded further, opening four new dog enclosures, four off-lead play areas and, thanks to a generous individual a swimming pool for dogs.

Over **120 tonnes** of food was provided to animals impacted by monsoon flooding in Central Thailand.

The CNVR programme set new records as a ninth mobile team was added and a first overseas CNVR project in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, was launched.

In 2021, a significant challenge emerged when the USA, citing rabies concerns, announced a ban on dogs entering the country from 113 territories around the world, including Thailand. This decision significantly affected the overseas adoption programme.



GROWING AT A RATE OF KNOTS

2022

CNVR: Almost **200,000** animals reached in the year, and the milestone of **800,000** in total. Four more mobile teams added, making 13 overall.

Community Outreach: A third team launched.

Emergency response during heavy monsoon flooding saw the delivery of over **300 tonnes** of food to an estimated 64,000 stray animals in Central Thailand.

Eight more communal dog enclosures built, now totalling 51. Each enclosure houses 25 dogs!

Soi Dog supported organisations helping animals affected by the war in Ukraine by providing medical treatment, food and dog houses.



DCMT: The “Last Country on Earth” campaign to end the dog and cat meat trade was launched, and a partnership struck with Luzon-based Animal Kingdom Foundation fighting the trade in the Philippines.



2023

TWENTY YEARS OF IMPACT, ONE MILLION NEUTERED ANIMALS

This year, Soi Dog is marking not only **20 years** of dedicated work but also the **millionth** stray animal neutered through its spay/neuter programme – the largest of its kind in the world.

In addition, significant progress has been made in the fight against the dog and cat meat trade including, in Vietnam, 197 cats rescued from a slaughterhouse and a roundtable discussion held at the top level of government.

Two more mobile CNVR teams launched.

Additional dog enclosures built.

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated supporters who have made this incredible journey possible.

HERE'S TO THE NEXT 20 YEARS!



THE MAGIC MILLION

Amy Bryant

Undoubtedly, the incredible CNVR news of 2023 is that we have now spayed/neutered and vaccinated more than a million stray animals!

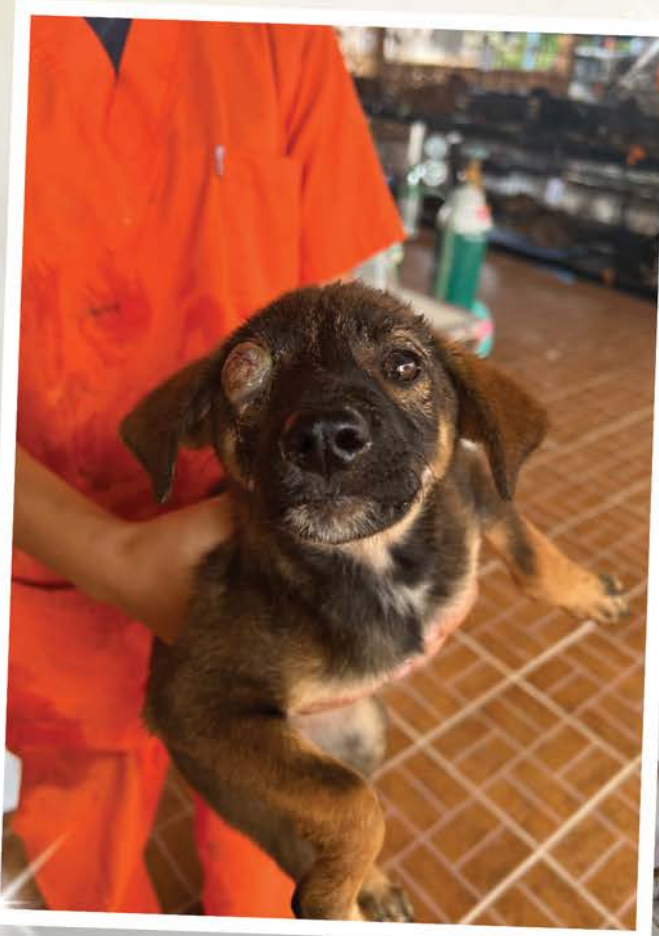
This is the first time in history that this number of stray animals has been neutered and vaccinated by a single organisation, and we could not be more proud to say that organisation is Soi Dog. That the momentous milestone coincided with our 20-year anniversary made it even more special.

Though we shared the news in early September, we continue to celebrate and reflect on this amazing achievement and on those who made it possible: our staff on the ground, our partners in Thailand and beyond and – most importantly – you, our incredible supporters around the world.

From 175 sterilisations in 2003 to 1 million today – it really is incredible what can be achieved when we join together. We owe you a million thank yous!



MILLION, THE ONE-EYED FACE OF HOPE



The puppy you see here was the millionth animal to pass through the programme. Aply, we named her *Million*.

Million was found on the streets by one of our 15 mobile sterilisation teams. In addition to being spayed and vaccinated, she also needed to be treated for injuries sustained after being hit by a car.



Just a few weeks after introducing you to Million, we were back with the best news of all: she'd found a loving home with long-term volunteer *Donna Freelove* in the UK, just minutes away from our co-founder *John Dalley*!

Million has become the face of the milestone as well as a symbol for why we started our CNVR programme back in 2003 and why we haven't stopped for a single day since.

Puppies like Million deserve so much better than to be born into short lives of suffering on the streets, where they face road traffic accidents, disease and cruelty and where every day is a struggle just to survive.

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



THE ROAD TO A MILLION

As a memento of your support, we put together a separate special-edition newsletter that looks back at 20 years of our CNVR programme. In case you missed it, please click [here](#).



Featuring personal messages from the people behind the programme, a timeline of key achievements you have made possible and some never-before-seen images from the front line, *The Road to a Million* newsletter charts how your unwavering support has built the largest programme of its kind anywhere in the world.

We hope that the newsletter will not only demonstrate the incredible impact you have made but that it will inspire you as well.

Perhaps you have an idea or a dream of something you would like to do. Just like our CNVR programme: start small, stay consistent and focused and you will be amazed at what can be achieved.

On behalf of every single dog and cat who has passed through the programme so far, and those who will do so in the future, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Here's to the next million!

For more exciting CNVR news, please go to page 13.



A HEARTWARMING TALE OF UNITY

THE WIRE SCULPTURE OF A DOG AND CAT

Sam McElroy



In the bustling world of the Soi Dog shelter, where the tireless efforts of compassionate individuals make a difference in the lives of countless furry companions, one remarkable installation stands as a symbol of hope, unity and love. A wire sculpture of a dog and cat, crafted with intricate detail and skill, graces the grounds of the Gill Dalley Sanctuary, capturing the hearts of all who pass by.

This custom artwork not only celebrates the unique bond between our canine and feline friends but also serves as a poignant reminder of the vital mission the shelter undertakes daily.

Generously funded by long-time Soi Dog supporter Khun *Bright Vachirawat Chivaree* through his Make a Bright Wish initiative, the remarkable sculptures were brought to life by talented Bangkok artist *Pratchaya Uthayanin* of Nianta Arts Production.

As a passionate animal lover himself, he envisioned a piece of art that would convey the message of solidarity and harmony between dogs and cats, two species often seen as natural adversaries. Collaborating with Soi Dog, he set to work on transforming his vision into reality.



THE CREATION PROCESS

The creation of this awe-inspiring sculpture was a labour of love. Working to designs conceived by Soi Dog, Pratchaya spent countless hours bending and twisting wire into the forms of the dog and cat. Each strand of wire was meticulously crafted to ensure a balance of strength and durability, representing the resilience and adaptability these animals display on their journey towards finding their forever homes.

The intricate details of the sculpture were added with precision. From the gentle curve of the dog's tail to the subtle raising of a feline paw, every aspect of the sculpture captures the essence of our beloved companion animals. The dog and cat were positioned face to face, their eyes locked in a gaze that seems to speak volumes about the bond they share despite their perceived differences.



IMPACT ON THE SHELTER

The sculpture has been welcomed by visitors and volunteers alike, and its presence has sparked conversations about the coexistence of dogs and cats, fostering understanding and appreciation for both species.

Moreover, it is hoped the artwork will become an emblem of the shelter's mission to rescue, care for and rehome animals in need. It serves as a beacon of hope for the animals waiting for their forever homes and a poignant tribute to the dedication of the shelter's volunteers and staff.

It also draws attention to the bond between these two animals. The sculpture dispels common myths about their compatibility and will hopefully encourage an even broader perspective on pet adoption.

In a world where art can touch hearts and inspire change, the wire sculpture stands tall (the dog is 2.3 metres high) as a testament to unity and love. It celebrates the unwavering dedication of team Soi Dog: supporters and volunteers the world over and advocates for the harmonious coexistence of dogs, cats and humans. As we admire this remarkable artwork, let it remind us of the countless loving souls waiting to find their forever homes, and may it inspire us all to extend a helping hand to those in need.



STERILISATION AND VACCINATION ACROSS THE NATION!

Chutima Srisawang

While the milestone of a million neutered and vaccinated animals is the highlight of 2023, there have been some other exciting developments in the field of CNVR this year that we're excited to share with you.

These developments all saw Soi Dog collaborate with national agencies, demonstrating a growing understanding in Thailand that CNVR really is the way forward.


A VISIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DISEASE CONTROL

In July, we welcomed the Director-General of the Department of Disease Control (DDC) Dr. *Tares Krassanairawiwong* to the Soi Dog shelter in Phuket to discuss collaborating on rabies prevention across Thailand.



At the end of their visit, the DDC kindly donated some medical equipment for use in our hospitals.

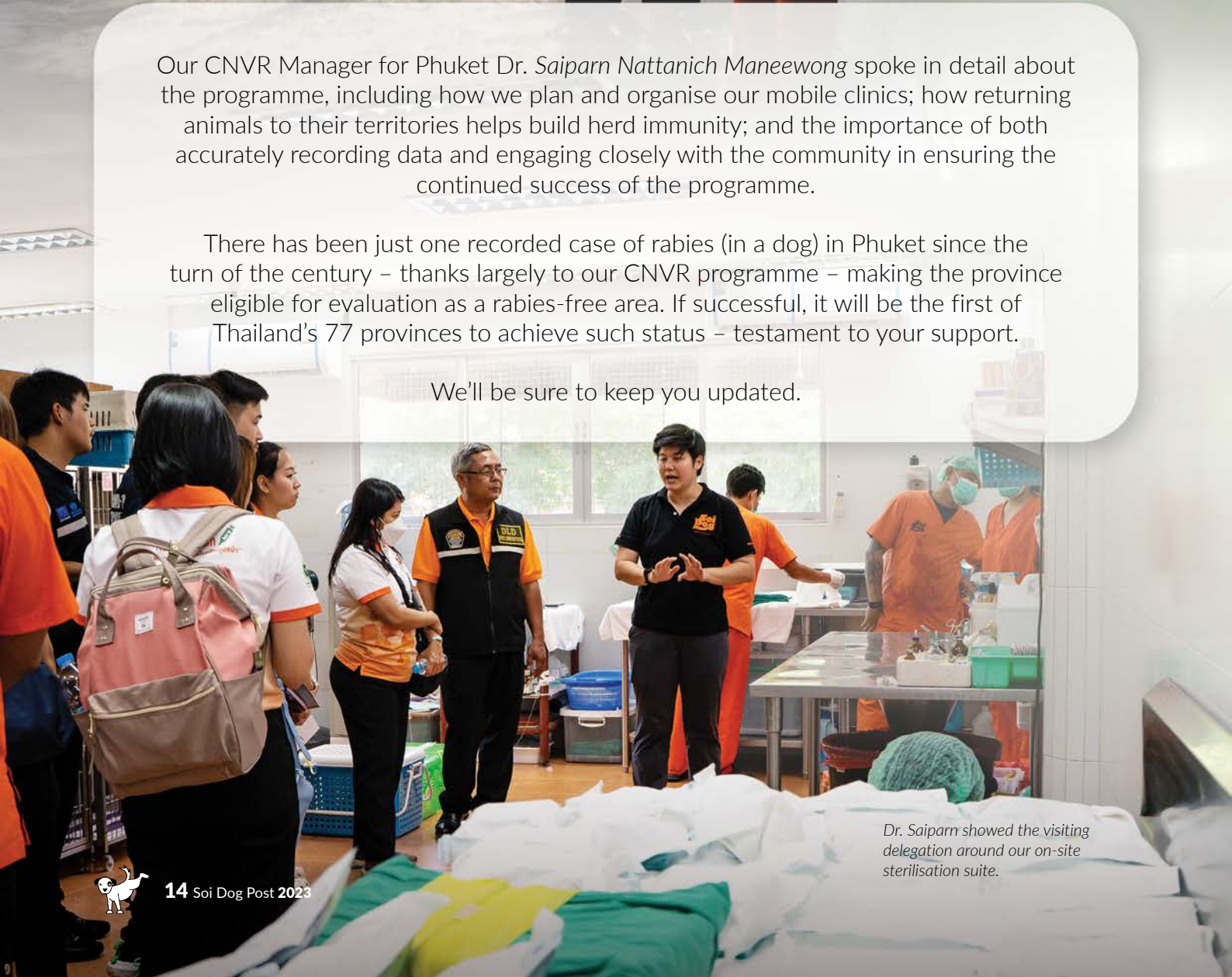




Dr. Tares was joined by representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Department of Local Administration Promotion and the Department of Livestock Development. Their visit followed a 'Rabies Network Development' workshop held the week before to discuss establishing Phuket as Thailand's very first rabies-free province.

Top of the agenda, therefore, was our large-scale CNVR programme which is not only contributing to a steady decline in the stray population but is also reducing the spread of communicable diseases, including rabies.

The delegation also learned about other aspects of Soi Dog's work, including treatment, community outreach, education and adoption.



Our CNVR Manager for Phuket Dr. Saiparn Nattanich Maneewong spoke in detail about the programme, including how we plan and organise our mobile clinics; how returning animals to their territories helps build herd immunity; and the importance of both accurately recording data and engaging closely with the community in ensuring the continued success of the programme.

There has been just one recorded case of rabies (in a dog) in Phuket since the turn of the century – thanks largely to our CNVR programme – making the province eligible for evaluation as a rabies-free area. If successful, it will be the first of Thailand's 77 provinces to achieve such status – testament to your support.

We'll be sure to keep you updated.

Dr. Saiparn showed the visiting delegation around our on-site sterilisation suite.



A ROYAL RABIES EVENT

Later in July, Soi Dog joined an event in the southern province of Nakhon Si Thammarat as part of Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Krom Phra Srisavangavadhana's "Disease-Free Animals, Rabies-Free People" project.

The event brought together HRH Princess Chulabhorn's own veterinary volunteer unit as well as local government officials, the nearby Walailak University and ourselves at Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan temple.



HRH Princess Chulabhorn (centre) with participants of the event.

Across the course of five days, a total of 242 animals from the temple grounds and surrounding community were neutered and vaccinated. While the overarching goal was to reduce the population of stray dogs and cats in the area and stem the spread of disease, the government hopes that in doing so it will help the temple achieve UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

We have been proudly supporting HRH Princess Chulabhorn's project in Nakhon Si Thammarat since 2018, working with local government organisations to neuter and vaccinate as many animals as possible. Our two mobile teams move around the province systematically and will continue to do so until they have reached all 23 districts.

Soi Dog's Southern Mobile Manager Dr. Muk Patcharee Pipatdirekkul and her team have not only seen a reduction in the number of stray animals born onto the streets over the past five years, they have also seen people's attitudes towards animals improve.



SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

The end of July (a busy month!) also saw Soi Dog and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) sign a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on a project of neutering and vaccinating dogs and cats in the Thai capital, as well as educating and advising the public on rabies prevention and animal welfare.

“We need to admit that the BMA needs help from other groups to handle and care for stray animals. Many parties need to discuss the work process because dog and cat issues are complex. They are a part of society, and we must also consider the surrounding community,” said BMA Deputy Governor Prof. *Tavida Kamonvej*.

“Thank you, Soi Dog, for your cooperation. Bangkok is ready to work together,” she added.

The BMA is the local government of Bangkok, responsible for everything from transportation, to security, to housing, to the environment, which includes animal health.

With a large population of stray animals in the capital, Bangkok Governor *Chadchart Sittipunt* set out a specific stray animal management policy for the BMA and appointed a committee to assist which consists of various Bangkok agencies, faculties of veterinary medicine and Soi Dog.

We have been operating a programme of CNVR in Bangkok since 2015, neutering and vaccinating over half a million animals so far in partnership with Dogs Trust – Worldwide. It’s great to have these efforts recognised, and we look forward to building on this work together.



The memorandum of understanding marks a positive step forward for animal welfare in Bangkok.



ADOPTION CORNER

20 SOI DOGS WITH NO ADOPTION APPLICATIONS

Vanessa Jakoby



ADOPT ME

EL CEREBRO

Found living in an area with no food or shelter, *El Cerebro* had a tough time surviving on the streets and was brought to the shelter for a fresh start. Though hesitant at first, those puppy-dog eyes are hard to resist once she warms up to you!

Gender: Female

Age: 6 years

Time on shelter: 2+ years

Personality: Shy, tentative, gentle.



ADOPT ME

KIMONO

Kimono arrived with a rope tied round his neck that had cut deep into his flesh. Despite his trauma, he's a sweet-natured boy who's ready to join a home, ideally one with resident dogs he can lean on for support and guidance as he rebuilds his trust in people.

Gender: Male

Age: 4 years

Time on shelter: 3+ years

Personality: Curious, cautious, sweet.



ADOPT ME

PATCHY

Patchy's past remains a mystery, but he arrived with a wound on his leg and sadness in his eyes. He's now a happy, big-boned boy searching for an active family to explore the world with. He really would love to meet you!

Gender: Male

Age: 4 years

Time on shelter: 2+ years

Personality: Fun, friendly, adventurous.



ADOPT ME

SUKELEVEN

Sukeleven was one of 17 dogs saved from squalid conditions at an illegal shelter. Understandably, she's a little wary of the word, and it takes her time to feel comfortable outside her enclosure. But once she does, she becomes the sweetest dog with a happy wagging tail.

Gender: Female

Age: 3 years

Time on shelter: 1+ year

Personality: Wary, gentle, affectionate in time.





ADOPT ME

Gender:

Female

Age:

5 years

Time on shelter:

2+ years

Personality:

Cautious at first, friendly in time.

YETI

Yeti survived on the harsh streets for three years, even after a car accident caused her to lose the use of her right front leg. We see so much potential in Yeti. She just needs your patience and gentle encouragement to show you how wonderful she really is.



ADOPT ME

Gender:

Female

Age:

1 year

Time on shelter:

1 year

Personality:

Friendly, lively, sociable.

COTTONYEN

Cottonyen was found by one of our mobile clinic teams as a sick, suffering puppy. She's now a healthy, lively teenager with her whole life ahead of her! She can't wait to see what the world outside the shelter has to offer.



ADOPT ME

Gender:

Male

Age:

5 years

Time on shelter:

2+ years

Personality:

Fun, cuddly, friendly.

RAKPLA

Rakpla was rescued after being hit by car, an all-too-common occurrence for street dogs like him. Fortunately, the accident did nothing to damage his view of people – he loves absolutely everyone he meets. The Thai word for love – rak – is even in his name!



ADOPT ME

Gender:

Male

Age:

3 years

Time on shelter:

2+ years

Personality:

Goofy, shy, growing in confidence.

PETULA

Petula was yet another road traffic accident victim. He was once shy and would hide himself away, but these days, he takes the opportunity to walk and explore. However, he still asks for your patience as he continues to build his confidence around strangers and in new places.





ADOPT ME

ORPAO

According to local reports, *Orpao* was deliberately shot. Sadly, the wounds on her hip and leg were consistent with these reports. While she made a full recovery, she's still wary of the world and needs time for her gentle and loving personality to shine through.

Gender: Female

Age: 6 years

Time on shelter: 2+ years

Personality: Tentative, gentle, loving.



ADOPT ME

ALVIDA

Alvida was abandoned when her owner left the country during the pandemic. She's put her sad past behind her now and is ready to throw all her energy and love into a new family. *Alvida* has small legs but a big heart, and anyone would be lucky to have her.

Gender:

Female

Age:

3 years

Time on shelter:

2+ years

Personality:

Confident, energetic, playful.



ADOPT ME

HARITO

Harito was brought to Soi Dog for safety after the owner of the land he was living on ordered him to be removed. If you're looking for an adventure buddy, *Harito* is your guy. With his boundless energy, he'll be sure to keep you on your toes.

Gender:

Male

Age:

4 years

Time on shelter:

2+ years

Personality:

Playful, active, adventurous.



ADOPT ME

ISABOO

Isaboo and her siblings were abandoned at a construction site when they were just two months old. Despite a tough start to life, she's grown into a lovely girl with a friendly and curious nature. She will be a great addition to almost any family out there.

Gender: Female

Age: 1 year

Time on shelter: 1 year

Personality: Sweet, curious, cute.





ADOPT ME

Gender:

Male

Age:

2 years

Time on shelter:

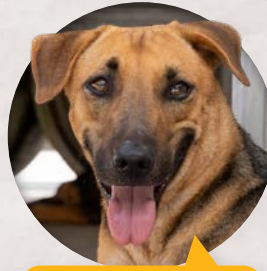
2 years

Personality:

Friendly,
adventurous,
confident.

BOXO

Boxo was rescued from a temple as a poorly puppy and brought to the shelter where he's lived ever since. He makes the most of his time here, but a shelter is no home, and he's more than ready to see what lies beyond these walls.



ADOPT ME

Gender:

Female

Age:

5 years

Time on shelter:

3+ years

Personality:

Tentative, elegant,
charming.

MARCITA

Marcita needed the safety of the shelter after being attacked and injured by a fellow street dog when she was just a puppy. She's now a charming five-year-old lady who loves the outdoors, walks and human affection. Please enquire if Marcita can be your señorita!



ADOPT ME

Gender:

Female

Age:

9 years

Time on shelter:

2+ years

Personality:

Sweet, friendly,
gentle.

LORI

Lori spent seven long years on the streets prior to her rescue. She's hoping for a happier future in a quiet home where she can settle down for the first time in her life. At nine years old, she's all about gentle walks, early nights and lots of cuddles.



ADOPT ME

Gender:

Female

Age:

5 years

Time on shelter:

1+ year

Personality:

Affectionate,
nervous, unsure.

BREEZEBAR

Despite her name, Breezebar's life has been anything but breezy. Every inch of her emaciated body was covered in fleas when she arrived, the result of severe neglect by her owner. Breezebar has made a remarkable recovery and is ready for a fresh start.





ADOPT ME

SUMOTO

Sumoto came to us when he was three months old after a car accident left him with a dislocated hip and blindness in one eye. Four years on, we can't understand why this handsome, sweet-natured boy hasn't managed to find a home!

Gender: Male

Age: 4 years

Time on shelter: 4 years

Personality: Energetic, excitable, adorable.



ADOPT ME

UNIMAR

Unimar had to have his tail amputated following a car accident. With no tail to wag, he expresses excitement through his sparkling eyes and contagious smile! While his unique looks may have caught your attention, he hopes it's his sweet personality that gets you to click that 'Adopt Me' button.

Gender: Male

Age: 2 years

Time on shelter: 2 years

Personality: Confident, friendly, unique.



ADOPT ME

EARTH

Earth is one of our most long-term residents, entering the shelter as a sick puppy over seven years ago. He's watched countless dogs come and go during that time, wondering all the while when it will be his turn. Earth is so ready to be somebody's world.

Gender: Male

Age: 7 years

Time on shelter: 7 years

Personality: Patient, affectionate, a little shy.



ADOPT ME

LOLANE

Lolane is an easygoing girl with a beautiful speckled coat and a love for water and walks. She was brought to the shelter as a lost dog, but sadly no one came to claim her, so it's time to find her a new family.

Gender: Female

Age: 5 years

Time on shelter: 1+ year

Personality: Calm, friendly, gentle.



BEYOND RAIDS AND RESCUES

SOI DOG TAKES DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE TO HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IN VIETNAM

Anamika Komath

Earlier this year, your incredible support saw a Vietnamese cat slaughterhouse put out of business and 197 cats rescued in what was a milestone moment for animal welfare in Vietnam. (If you missed it, please click [here](#) to read all about it in the May edition of the *Soi Dog Post*.)

The raid not only gave us an even deeper insight into the cat and dog meat trade in Vietnam, it also put the country's trade back into the international spotlight.

However, vigorous campaigns and media attention alone are not enough to put an end to this trade once and for all. To effect long-term change, it is imperative to understand the human behaviour and psychology involved.

After multiple discussions with our strategic partner Intelligentmedia, we changed our approach and sought to present our findings to the National Assembly of Vietnam. The National Assembly is Vietnam's most powerful legislative body, and it has a significant influence on the creation and execution of the nation's policies, laws and regulations.



After presenting a comprehensive proposal to participate in the National Assembly Round Table (NART), and after engaging in numerous meetings with officials, we were invited to host a roundtable discussion concerning the dog and cat meat trade in Vietnam on July 4th.

Entitled *Trading and Consuming Meat from Domesticated Animals (Dogs and Cats): Policies, Challenges, and Opportunities*, the roundtable brought together nearly 50 parliamentarians, government officials and specialists from across Vietnamese society.

It was the first time in Vietnam's history that the trade and consumption of dogs and cats had been deliberated upon at this level of government.



“The partnership with the National Assembly has marked a critical milestone in raising the profile of the issue to the top level of government so that laws and regulations to control the dog and cat meat trade will be further improved and enforced,” said Soi Dog Director of International Advocacy *Rahul Sehgal*, pictured above.

RABIES RISING, TOURISM GROWING, ATTITUDES CHANGING

One prominent and promising conversation revolved around the strategy for first developing the capital of Hanoi as a dog and cat meat-free city.

“Hanoi should adopt anti-rabies measures, establish safety zones for vaccinated dogs and strictly control the trade and consumption of dog and cat meat,” said Prof. Dr. *Nguyen Luong Tam*, Deputy Director of Preventive Medicine and Ministry of Health.

“The risk of rabies is obvious if dog control and vaccination is not properly enforced.”

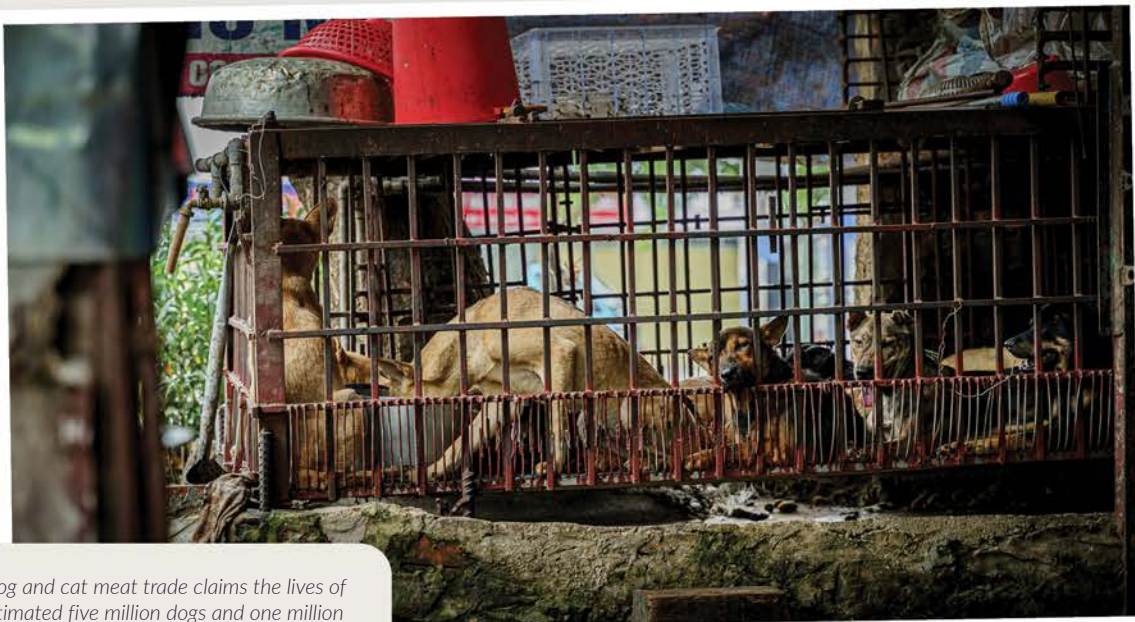


Vietnam recorded 55 rabies-related deaths between January and August 2023 across 25 cities and provinces – an increase of 15 cases recorded during the same period last year.

In addition to disease control, concerns were also raised about the damage the dog and cat meat trade has on the tourist image of Hanoi and wider Vietnam.

“Being the cultural heart of Vietnam, it’s critical for Hanoi to maintain its prestige as a cultural based, civilised and dynamic city,” said the Vice Director of Hanoi Department of Agriculture *Ta Van Tuong* on the **Vietnam Investment Review newspaper on July 04, 2023.**

“Phasing out dog and cat meat is key to attracting more tourists who are increasingly caring for environmental tourism services and animal welfare conditions.”



The dog and cat meat trade claims the lives of an estimated five million dogs and one million cats in Vietnam every year.

Attendees highlighted that to end the practice, it is important to spread awareness as well as educate citizens on health concerns through grassroots campaigns.

The consensus was clear: it is crucial to put an end to the trade and consumption of dog and cat meat for the welfare of animals, legal compliance, public health and safety and to boost the country’s overall image.

We are committed to collaborating closely with government agencies to make this a reality.

Our dedicated advocacy team will not only work with top officials to develop roadmaps and strategies but will also drive grassroots campaigns and educate citizens.



ANOTHER TURNING POINT

Proof that public opinion is already shifting came at a workshop in Hanoi in September with leaders of Vietnam's traditional medicine community who unanimously agreed that dogs and cats should not be used for the purposes of medicine and that a legal framework must be put in place to protect them.

The workshop was organised by Soi Dog, the Professional Department of Vietnam Oriental Traditional Medicine Association (VOTMA) and Intelligentmedia.

Dog and cat meat, bones and other body parts have long been claimed by traditional medicine practitioners to cure everything from asthma to musculoskeletal disorders. However, these claims have proved to be unfounded and based upon unscientific assumptions and superstitions.

Far from aiding human health, the trade of dogs and cats has been shown to put consumers at risk of parasitic diseases, bacterial infections and rabies.

The workshop closed with a pledge by VOTMA to refrain from using dog and cat meat in their practices and to actively educate their peers and patients that there is no scientific evidence of its claimed medicinal qualities.

This development demonstrates the real impact your support is making and highlights the importance of working with all sectors of society to bring this trade to an end.

Thank you once again for your support, your compassion and your determination in the fight against this trade. It really is making a difference.



20 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERS

UNLEASHING JOY AND COMPASSION: THE FULFILLING EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTEERING WITH SOI DOG

Sam McElroy

*“You are what you do, not what you say you’ll do.
- Carl Gustav Jung*

From the founding of Soi Dog back in 2003, to the help provided by vets and rescuers in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, to the support that Soi Dog enjoys around the world from regional boards and their members, to adoption support and home checkers, to the running of Soi Dog’s official online merchandise store, to flight volunteers and transport services, local fundraising events and much more – volunteering for Soi Dog is ingrained in the very fibre of the foundation.

It is impossible to calculate just how many collective hours, days, weeks and years that volunteers have given to Soi Dog, but one thing is for sure: without them, the foundation would not be where it is today. They have paved the way for the foundation's success with their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of dogs and cats.

SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

For 20 years since our founding, staying connected to our roots, shelter volunteers have provided the backbone upon which daily life for our dogs and cats is built. From walking and socialising with dogs, to cavorting with cats, volunteers from around the globe have contributed enormously to the success of sheltering and adoption programmes.

In this article, we will explore the various aspects of volunteering at Soi Dog and the incredible benefits it brings to everyone involved.



CREATING A SAFE AND LOVING ENVIRONMENT

One of the primary objectives of a shelter is to provide a nurturing and enriching environment where animals can heal physically and emotionally. Volunteers play an immense role in creating this atmosphere of love and safety. Regular positive interactions with volunteers help shy or traumatised dogs to regain trust in humans, developing their social skills and increasing their chances of successful adoption. The walks and exercise the dogs enjoy with volunteers helps ensure they receive the attention and enrichment they need.



FORMING UNBREAKABLE BONDS

Volunteering at Soi Dog goes beyond the realm of altruism; it is also about the profound connections forged between humans and animals. Our volunteers often find themselves forming unbreakable bonds with the dogs they meet, and this can sometimes lead directly to an animal becoming adopted. These bonds develop through shared experiences, playtime and the simple act of being present with one another. Witnessing the transformation of a once frightened or anxious dog into a happy, confident and loving companion is incredibly fulfilling and serves as a constant reminder of the impact it can have not only on an animal's life but on the human's too.



LEARNING VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

Volunteering at a dog shelter teaches valuable life lessons that extend beyond the canine companionship. Volunteers learn patience, compassion and empathy as they interact with dogs from different backgrounds and with varying temperaments. The experience of nurturing and caring for these animals reinforces the importance of responsibility and dedication. Moreover, volunteers also gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and joys of pet ownership, which can lead to greater awareness and advocacy for animal welfare causes.





BOOSTING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Volunteering at an animal shelter has a positive impact on mental and physical wellbeing, and spending time with dogs and cats has been scientifically proven to reduce stress and anxiety levels. The unconditional love and happiness that our furry counterparts exude can lift spirits and improve overall mood. Additionally, the physical activities involved in caring for the dogs, such as walking and playing fetch, provide an excellent opportunity for exercise, leading to improved physical health.

BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Dog shelters are more than just facilities; they are communities built on the foundation of compassion and love for animals. Volunteers find themselves surrounded by like-minded individuals who share the same passion for animal welfare. This sense of belonging fosters lasting friendships and offers a support system for both the dogs and the volunteers. Being part of a community that comes together for a common cause can be incredibly empowering and inspiring.

The bonds formed with these canine companions are truly special, and the memories of the moments shared will forever be cherished. The joy and fulfilment derived from volunteering at a dog shelter demonstrate the incredible power of compassion and the positive change it brings to the lives of all involved.



So, if you have a heart for animals and the desire to make a difference, consider dedicating some of your time to volunteering at a dog shelter; you might be amazed at how much love and joy you'll find in return.

To learn more about Soi Dog's volunteering programme, click [here](#).



AND THE WINNER IS...

In May, we launched our 20-year anniversary art competition, giving you – our amazing supporters – the chance to have your very own artwork printed on a limited-edition mug and win a bundle of merchandise too.

In the months that followed, over 100 entries flooded in from animal lovers of all different ages around the world. From cartoon to watercolour to photography, each design was wonderfully unique, but they all shared one thing in common: a heartwarming appreciation of dogs and cats.

After much deliberation, Soi Dog co-founder *John Dalley* chose the following design by UK-based *Ewelina Jaskolska* as the winner!

Depicting a scruffy and characterful soi dog with his bag packed ready for his forever home, John loved the quirkiness of Ewelina's design as well as the story it told.

A fervent Soi Dog supporter, pet photographer and mum to two dogs of her own, 30-year-old Ewelina is an animal lover through and through.



Elaborating on her design, she said, "I imagined how exciting, happy and maybe a little scary it must be for a dog to travel from Thailand [to their homes overseas]. My design comprises the happiness of my dogs, colours from cartoons and my personal visualisation and feelings into a happy mixed-breed dog on his way to his new family."

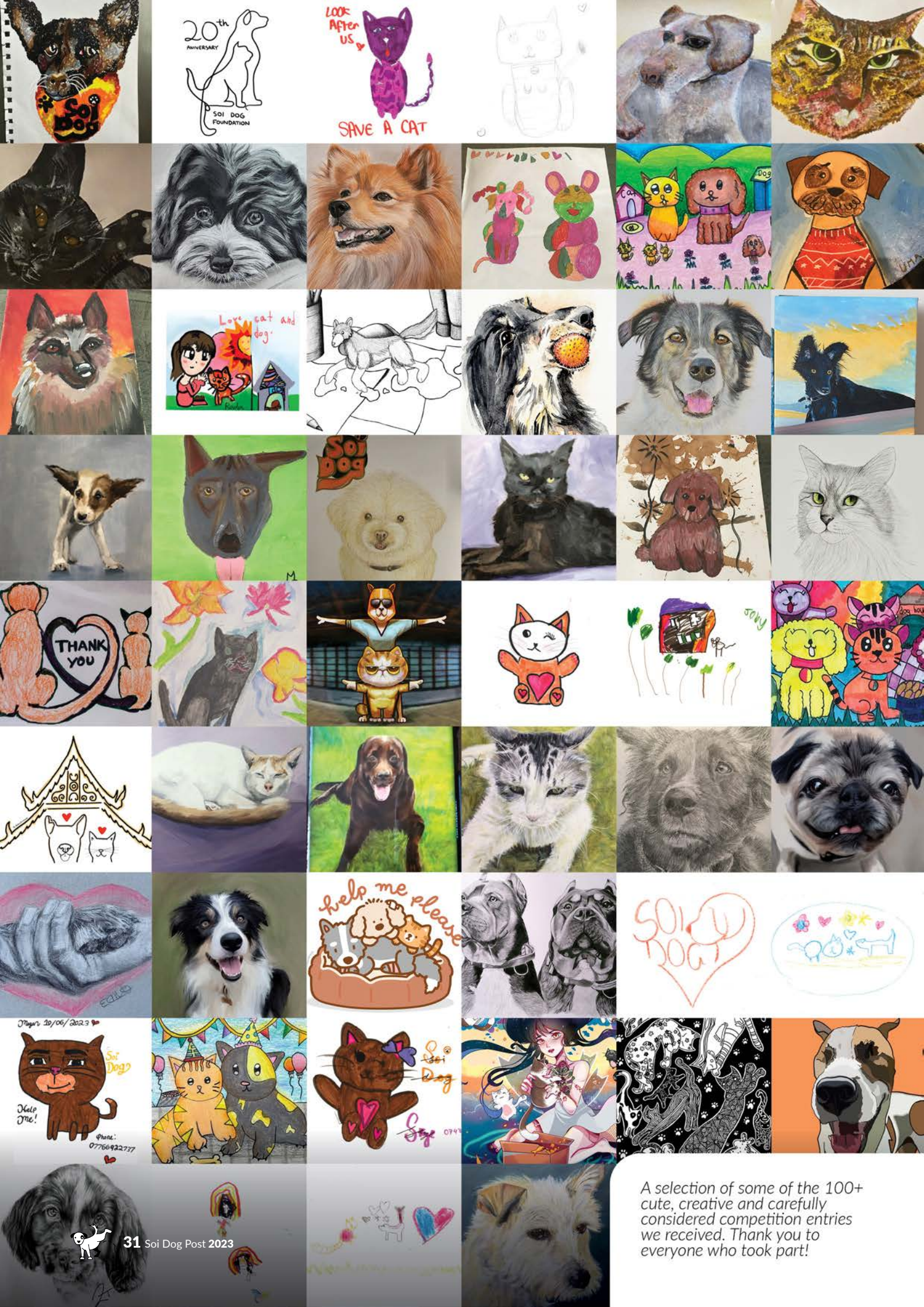
"Soi Dog is a really special charity for me," she added. "So far, I've had the Soi Dog logo tattooed on my arm, and I'm trying to donate as much as I can afford. I hope to be able to finally adopt a soi dog soon too."



Special mention also goes to *Washirat Thepnarong*, aged 10, and *Nayeon Lee*, aged 16, for their beautiful designs which earned them their place as competition runners up.

As you read this, the winning design is being printed onto limited-edition mugs for purchase via our merchandise store. They make a wonderful memento of our anniversary and a great Christmas gift too. Pre-order yours **here!**





A selection of some of the 100+ cute, creative and carefully considered competition entries we received. Thank you to everyone who took part!

MORE FROM OUR MERCHANDISE STORE

LIMITED-EDITION 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY MERCH



Anniversary T-shirts



Canvas shopping bags



Virtual gifts

STOCKING FILLERS



2024 calendar



The story of Gill Dalley



Pen set



Bandanas



Velcro wallets

...and much more at our merchandise store shop.soidog.org!



UN RECOGNISES PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST ANIMALS AS PART OF CHILD RIGHTS

Amy Bryant

August saw a major breakthrough for global animal welfare at the highest level.

The need for children to be protected from exposure to violence against animals was adopted into the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), elevating animal rights into the human rights domain for the first time in history.

The UNCRC – a legally binding agreement which sets out the rights of children in 196 nations around the world – now officially reads:

“

Children must be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals.

General Comment No. 26, Right to freedom from all forms of violence (art. 19), UNCRC.

”



A groundbreaking moment for animal welfare, it marks the first time that animal abuse has been referenced in a Human Rights Charter of the United Nations, and all 196 nations who are signatory are strictly obligated to comply.

You were part of this incredible change.

In May, thanks to your support, we published a report – known as the *LINK Study* – into the dog and cat meat trade in Vietnam which showed the undeniable link between animal-directed violence in society and its negative psychological impact on children exposed to it.

The report was conducted by professors from the Social Work Department of Vietnam National University in Hanoi and presented to the United Nations for their consideration regarding the inclusion of animal rights in the UNCRC. The *LINK Study* summary reads:

“

Animal and child welfare experts highlight that government-sanctioned exposure of children to animal-directed violence may be a form of psychological violence against the youth themselves.

There is evidence – across countries – which demonstrates how cruelty can adversely impact not only the animals as victims, but also individuals and the larger community. Therefore, if governments choose to ignore or condone exposure to violence, despite having knowledge of the dire psychosocial consequences for youth exposed to animal cruelty, it can be argued their actions – or inactions – may constitute a violation of basic human rights.

”

But the impact doesn't stop at ending the dog and cat meat trade. The agreement can be used to bring an end to a whole host of other inhumane animal practices around the world, such as bullfighting, trophy hunting, ritual sacrifices and the public slaughter of homeless animals as a means of managing overpopulation.

We firmly intend to hold the necessary governments to account as part of our continued campaigns to combat animal cruelty. No child should witness violence against animals, and no animal should be subjected to such violence in the first place.



20 WAYS TO SUPPORT SOI DOG FOUNDATION

DONATE



With no government funding, Soi Dog relies on animal-loving donors like you! Make a general donation or choose a particular area of our work you'd like to contribute to under the 'How You Can Help' tab at soidog.org

SPONSOR

When you sponsor a rescued **dog** or **cat**, you will be helping not only them but all of the animals in our care. In return for your kind monthly gift, your chosen animal will be in touch with special updates throughout the year.



VOLUNTEER



Volunteers are welcome year-round at our shelter in Phuket, Thailand, and they play such a vital role in exercising our dogs and socialising our cats in readiness for adoption. If this sounds like the perfect way to spend a holiday, **book your experience here**.

VISIT



Don't have the time to volunteer? You can still get a feel for the world of Soi Dog and meet some of our rescued animals by taking a tour of the shelter. Tour times and other visitor information can be found **here**.

ADOPT



With more animals at the shelter than ever before – over 1,800! – there's never been a better or more important time to open your heart and home to a rescued animal from Soi Dog. To adopt a dog, click **here**. To adopt a cat, email our team at adoptions@soidog.org

BE A FLIGHT VOLUNTEER



We are always looking for flight volunteers to accompany adopted animals to their forever homes. If you're departing from Thailand, bound for Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam, New York or Washington D.C., **let our logistics team know** and they'll take care of the rest!

FUNDRAISE



From bake sales to sponsored walks to a simple Facebook fundraiser, there are so many creative ways to raise much-needed funds for Soi Dog. Stuck for ideas? We have a guide packed full of them **here**.

BUY MERCHANDISE



Browse our range of clothing, accessories, pet supplies, stationery and more. Soi Dog merchandise is operated completely voluntarily which guarantees 100% net profits from your purchases go exactly where they should – to helping the dogs and cats of Asia.

DONATE SUPPLIES

Perhaps you already have some items at home that you'd like to donate to the shelter. Check them against our wishlist and find instructions for the best way to get them to us **here**.

PURCHASE VIRTUAL GIFTS



As well as physical items for yourself and your loved ones, you can also **purchase virtual gifts** for the shelter through our merchandise store. Items include vaccines, surgical scrubs, dog treats, puppy formula and leashes, and personalised gift certificates are available on request.



LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



By naming Soi Dog as a beneficiary in your will, you will have a lasting impact for animals in need and leave behind an incredible legacy. We are here to help with the process, and you can contact us any time **here** or at legacy@soidog.org

SHOP ONLINE

UK supporters, you can turn your everyday online shopping into free donations for Soi Dog by setting up an account with **Easyfundraising**. The site features hundreds of high-street retailers who will donate between 0.5% and 10% of your eligible purchases directly to us.



SIGN OUR PETITIONS



Petitions are an important and effective part of creating change for animals. **Sign your name to our current petitions** against the dog and cat meat trade in the Philippines and Vietnam. There is so much power in our collective voice!

SPREAD THE WORD



You can also use your voice to raise awareness of our wider cause too. Tell your friends and family about the plight of homeless dogs and cats in Asia, educate them about animal welfare and show them how they, too, can help make a positive difference.

BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

No matter how large or small your business, if your ethos fits with that of Soi Dog and you wish to use it to support the mission of ending animal cruelty, then you could become a corporate partner! Reach out at information@soidog.org

DONATE YOUR CAR

Soi Dog has joined forces with **CARS** in the USA and **Giveacar** in the UK to help turn your unused vehicles into cash for charity. They handle everything – collection, valuation and the donation itself – so the process is not only rewarding but hassle free too.



SEND AN E-CARD

Soi Dog has a range of e-cards for all sorts of occasions, and by sending one you will be supporting our cause. Simply visit the **Don'tSendMeACard website**, choose your design, donate the cost of buying and sending a physical greetings card and hit send.



ATTEND EVENTS



Our wonderful volunteer teams in the UK, the USA and Canada host fundraising events throughout the year, and they'd love to see you there! Follow our regional pages and groups for the latest updates: **Soi Dog Foundation UK Supporters, Soi Dog USA** and **Soi Dog Canada**.

FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE

 **Subscribe**

Be sure to follow Soi Dog on our social media platforms: **Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, YouTube** and **LinkedIn** for the latest updates about how your support is helping animals in Thailand and beyond.

LIKE, COMMENT AND SHARE



Once you've followed our pages, please give our posts a like and a comment and share on your own page if you feel moved to. We love to hear from you, and your engagement will help us reach even more animal lovers like you.



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

