

# SOI DOG

September 2020 *post*



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

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# Local adoptions to the **RESCUE**

*Dee Nordlander*

## **The current global health crisis has hit Soi Dog Foundation's international adoptions process hard.**

With flight restrictions and travel bans, adopted animals have found themselves stuck at the sanctuary. In these challenging times, we are very fortunate to have a dedicated local adoptions team who find loving homes here in Thailand for dogs and cats, thereby freeing up space for the next animal in need.

Here are some heartwarming stories of the animals – the Covid generation of adoptees – that found their happy ever after amidst the pandemic.



# Betty

**Betty is without doubt an extraordinary girl.** She was born blind, but you'd never guess. She had a twinkle in her eye, a certain sassy confidence and a remarkable ability to adapt to new surroundings.

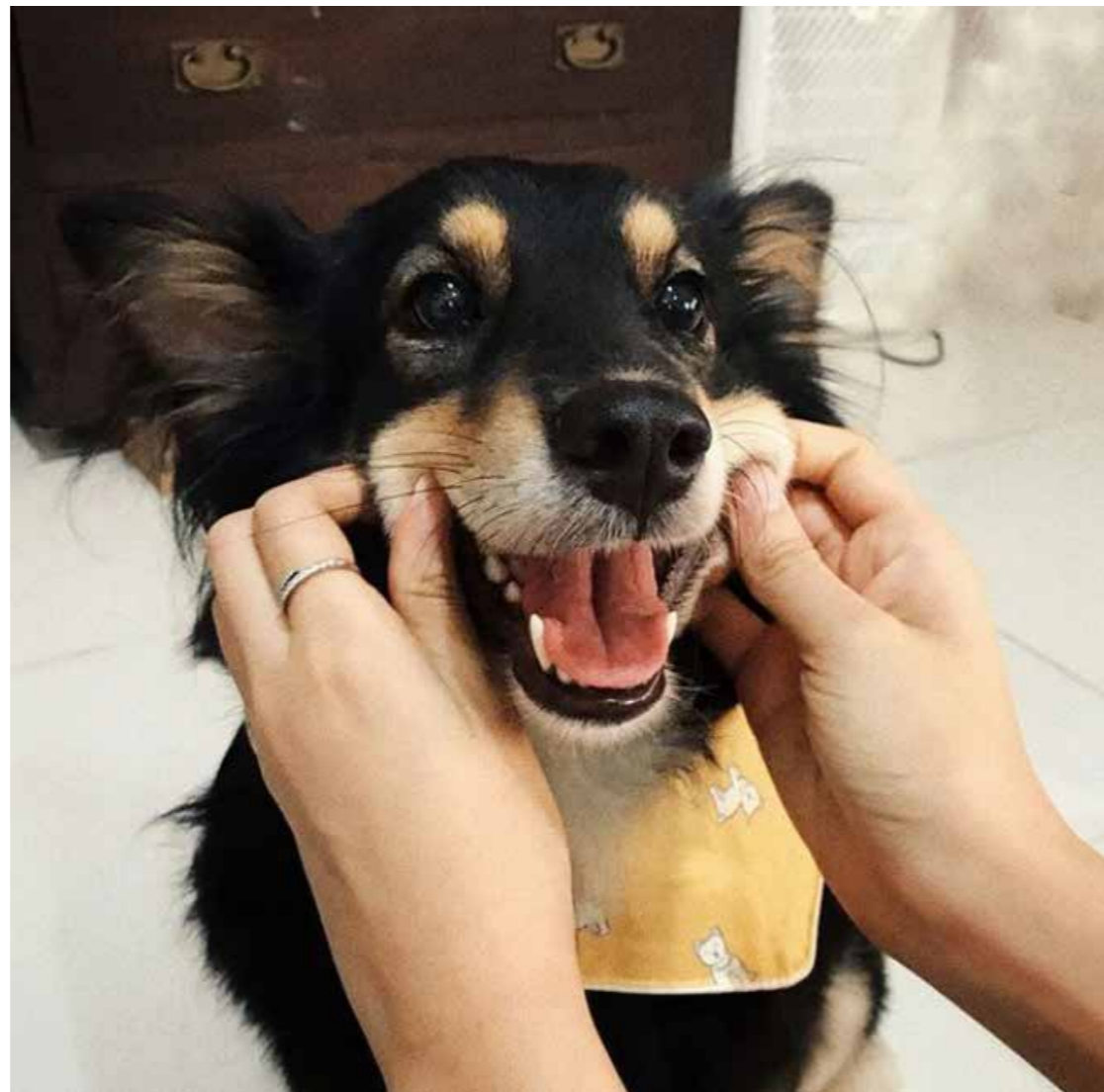
Betty was found in the government dog pound in Phuket where she had unexpectedly given birth to a litter of seven pups. We knew the pound was no place for a mother and her newborns, so they were all brought into the safety of Soi Dog. A kind couple fostered them until all seven pups found their forever homes. Then, in May, it was Betty's turn...

A family in Bangkok spotted Betty's video on Facebook and immediately fell in love with her infectious smile and big fluffy ears. They were

initially concerned that they had no experience with a blind dog but, after consultations and plentiful advice from Betty's foster mum, they decided they were ready to do whatever it took to care for her.

With no flights operating within Thailand at the time, Betty was driven twelve hours up from the sanctuary in Phuket to her new home in the capital. The long journey was well worth it. She's now living her best life with her new family. Her adventures are endless, spanning from mall visits, to hikes in the countryside, to boat rides at the beach. This girl has proven to be an unstoppable force spreading good vibes and positivity wherever she goes. You can follow her adventures on Instagram [@bettythedivagirl](#)

Betty at the pound with her litter.



Betty is all smiles in her new home.



Cuddles in the car.

# Wilfried and Wickie

**Wilfried and Wickie arrived at Soi Dog as tiny sick kittens.** Their eyes were so severely inflamed that they had gone blind. With no hope of saving their sight, the vets ended their pain by removing their eyes as soon as they were strong enough for the surgery. It was a tough start for these sweet siblings, but they recovered well and hit the jackpot in June when they found a loving family who adopted them together.

Their adopters saw the pair on Facebook and fell for them straight away. Knowing that blind cats have a harder time finding a home, they reached out in the hopes of helping them. They were already well

versed in the adoptions process, having adopted an abandoned puppy, *Schura*, from us just last year. Soon, they were adding Wilfried and Wickie to their rescue pack.

Schura quickly learnt to love his new furry friends, and the family live happily together between their home in Nakhon Si Thammarat and their home in Phuket.

It's heartwarming to know that, after everything they've been through, Wilfried and Wickie will have the comfort and support of each other for the rest of their lives.



Wilfried and Wickie on arrival, aged just under two months.



They may have lost their eyes, but this pair gained a home, a doggie friend and some very cute accessories!



# Tachang

**For the majority of her life, ten-year-old Tachang was a community dog in a southern Phuket town.** Well known to all in the area, she even earned her own nickname: “Som” which means orange in Thai.

From time to time, local people would bring her to Soi Dog for check-ups or treatment before returning her to the streets where she was well fed and had her own makeshift shelter to sleep under at night. Everyone made sure that Tachang was taken care of. She was their special girl.

For many years, Tachang’s routine checks were fairly standard but, as she grew older, our vets decided that it would be best to keep her at Soi Dog in order to monitor her condition.

A few months after Tachang entered the sanctuary, we heard from a family who lived in the town she was from. Their children had been asking about her non-stop, wondering when she would come back. They had grown up with her and truly loved her like their own.

In July, with the green light from the vets, they adopted Tachang and took her back to the south. She now has a home of her own, for the first time in her life, where she can live out her golden years safe, comfortable and loved.



*Tachang was familiar with the Soi Dog trucks, having travelled in them many a time over the years.*



*Tachang's story proves that it's never too late for a dog to find a loving home.*

# Fawn

**When Fawn was rescued from the government dog pound in Phuket,** she was suffering from a blood disorder that had left her emaciated, weak and afraid. We could see every bone in her ribcage and hips, and her tail was tucked firmly between her legs in fear.

During her recovery at Soi Dog, we found a dazzling young doggie personality inside her. But despite this, she struggled to stand out from the crowd and find that perfect home.

That was until August when a former flight volunteer contacted us. Three particular dogs on the website, including Fawn, had caught his

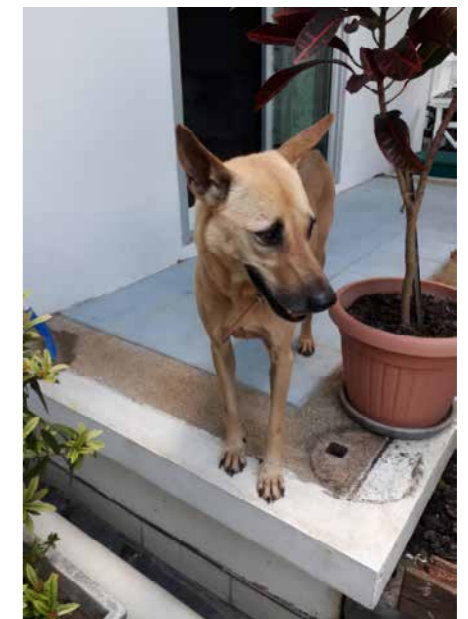
eye and he wanted to meet them. When he did, he found them all to be wonderful potential companions, but it was Fawn's heartbreaking arrival photo that sealed the deal for her. He decided she had been through enough and it was time for her to experience the love of a home.

Undeterred by the special diet and medication she will need for the rest of her life to manage her condition, he took her home. After three years on the streets and two in the sanctuary, Fawn finally found her happy ending here in Phuket.

To adopt a dog or cat in Thailand, email [localadoption@soidog.org](mailto:localadoption@soidog.org)



Fawn was skin and bones when she arrived at Soi Dog.



Happy, healthy and loved in a home of her own.

# Dr. Oob joins Thailand's animal welfare committee

Chutima Srisawang

**Congratulations are in order for Soi Dog Foundation's Dr. Tuntikorn Rungpatana (Dr. Oob)** who was officially appointed to Thailand's Cruelty Prevention and Welfare of Animal Committee in early August.

Dr. Oob, who works as our Bangkok Director of Animal Welfare, joins six other committee members and will hold the position for four years. The committee is made up of representatives from government agencies and animal welfare organisations as well as other experts in animal welfare and cruelty prevention.

As a committee member, Dr. Oob will have the power to propose new policies, plans, measures or guidelines and offer opinions as to how the current legislation – the Prevention of Animal Cruelty and Provision of Animal Welfare Act 2014 – can be revised and improved.

Asked what he hopes to achieve during his time on the committee, Dr. Oob replied, "I hope to educate the nation, to help build an understanding of animal welfare and an

awareness of the penalties that come with cruelty towards animals and abandonment of pets."

"I will also be urging the government to expand on existing animal welfare legislation. There are still a number of issues that aren't included in the current legislation. It's also important that the issues that are already included are comprehensive and fully enforced."

Dr. Oob added that he hopes to see both government and private shelters in Thailand managed to the same high standards.

"This is a great opportunity for Soi Dog, and I'm looking forward to continuing our close work with the government," he concluded.



Dr. Oob (third from left) stands with officials at the launch of a rabies vaccination campaign in Samut Prakan.



John Dalley and Dr. Oob at a World Rabies Day event.

# Walking challenge a winner for all

Josie Marsh

In July, 662 supporters donned their sturdiest walking shoes and took to the streets, fields, forests, beaches and even rivers of the UK to raise money for Soi Dog Foundation. The July Dog Walking Challenge, Soi Dog's first ever virtual challenge event, tasked participants with tackling 60 miles, or two miles a day, across the month of July.

Being a British summer, these dedicated walkers braved both the hot sun and pouring rain to complete their challenge, with some completing a whopping 100, 150 and even 200 miles. The challenge provided a welcome relief from the Covid-19 pandemic and offered participants an opportunity to get some fresh air with their furry friends.

The Facebook group for the challenge acted as a virtual community space for participants to come together and share progress as well as lots of photos and videos, which were a joy to see. With the success of this event, Soi Dog has not only been lucky enough to receive

John joined the challenge from here in Phuket.



June and Sarah, along with their pack Lily, Reggie and Enzo, walked an extra 22 miles together.

much-needed funds from the fabulous fundraising efforts of those involved, but has also gained a whole new cohort of supporters and fans in the process.

Soi Dog co-founder John Dalley also got involved right here at the Phuket sanctuary. Posting a daily video blog, John walked over 160 dogs, which was not only hugely impressive but also especially helpful given the current lack of volunteers. Like the UK participants, John too had a Facebook fundraiser, to which people donated from around the world. Donors were also able to nominate their favourite dogs for him to walk – from adopted dogs waiting to fly, to sponsor dogs, to sanctuary residents – which proved to be a popular initiative!

An incredible 120,000 GBP (158,500 USD) was raised in total through the challenge which is a huge help at a time when Soi Dog is caring for more animals than ever before.

Following the success of the July Dog Walking Challenge, we hope to stage similar events in the future, not just in the UK but across the world, so watch this space!

To learn more about fundraising for Soi Dog, [click here](#).



Guy sported a T-shirt featuring some very special people and pups while putting in his miles.



Damian and Scooby enjoyed lots of bonding time on their walks.







# Dog meat trade The fight continues

*Amy Bryant*

**“I’ve been signing these for years, but nothing has changed. When will this end?”** – This is a question we often receive in response to our dog meat trade petitions.

We of course understand the frustration and feel it ourselves too. But the reality is that real change takes time. It takes activism. It takes awareness. And it takes time.



## CALLING TIME IN SIEM REAP

In early July, activism and awareness paid off when Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries called time on the trade and banned the slaughter and sale of dogs for meat in the popular tourist province of Siem Reap.

This major breakthrough came as a result of mounting pressure from a number of animal welfare groups, including End Dog Meat Trade Cambodia who run a large-scale social media campaign in the country. Soi Dog Foundation has financially supported End Dog Meat Trade Cambodia's efforts for two years, and we were overjoyed to see these efforts produce results in Siem Reap, often referred to as the "lynchpin" of the trade in Cambodia.

However, until the move extends to all 25 provinces, and to cats as well, we will continue our campaign. In June, we launched a petition letter addressed to Cambodia's Minister of Health calling for a country-wide crackdown on the trade. The petition has over 140,000 signatures and counting.

Add your name [here](#).



A heartbreaking image captured outside a rural Cambodian dog meat restaurant.



Soi Dog is supporting Vong with food, medical and sheltering costs.



Vong and Cheery, a two-year-old pup rescued from a brutal end.

## VONG AND HIS PACK

In a rural Cambodian town by the Thai border, Soi Dog has been supporting Vong, a caring man who is currently providing sanctuary to more than 30 dogs rescued from the meat trade.

Once travel restrictions ease, Soi Dog's International Director of Animal Welfare and Behaviour and Enrichment Manager will visit Vong to assess whether these dogs are medically and behaviourally ready for adoption. Watch this space!

Donate to Vong and to our overall efforts to end the trade [here](#).





# Soi Dog receives TripAdvisor 2020 Travellers' Choice Award

Sam McElroy



**TripAdvisor sent us a nice email in August advising us that Soi Dog Foundation are recipients of the Travellers' Choice Award 2020!**

This award is for all of the people who took the time to leave amazing reviews on TripAdvisor after they visited or volunteered at the sanctuary and for all of you who support Soi Dog from afar. Ask any business or non-profit organisation and they will tell you: the people who matter the most are the ones who visit, spend time, spend money, make donations, leave great reviews, share their experiences, spread the word about your work and support what you do.

This is an award for the amazing Soi Dog supporters who are responsible for helping all of the animals in our care. We simply couldn't do it without you!

# Building for the future

Sam McElroy



The new behaviour assessment cabin.



**It has changed the world. It has halted calendars, disrupted livelihoods, forced lifestyle alterations and it has taken lives and destroyed families.** The Covid-19 pandemic is a once-in-a-century event that has affected everybody.

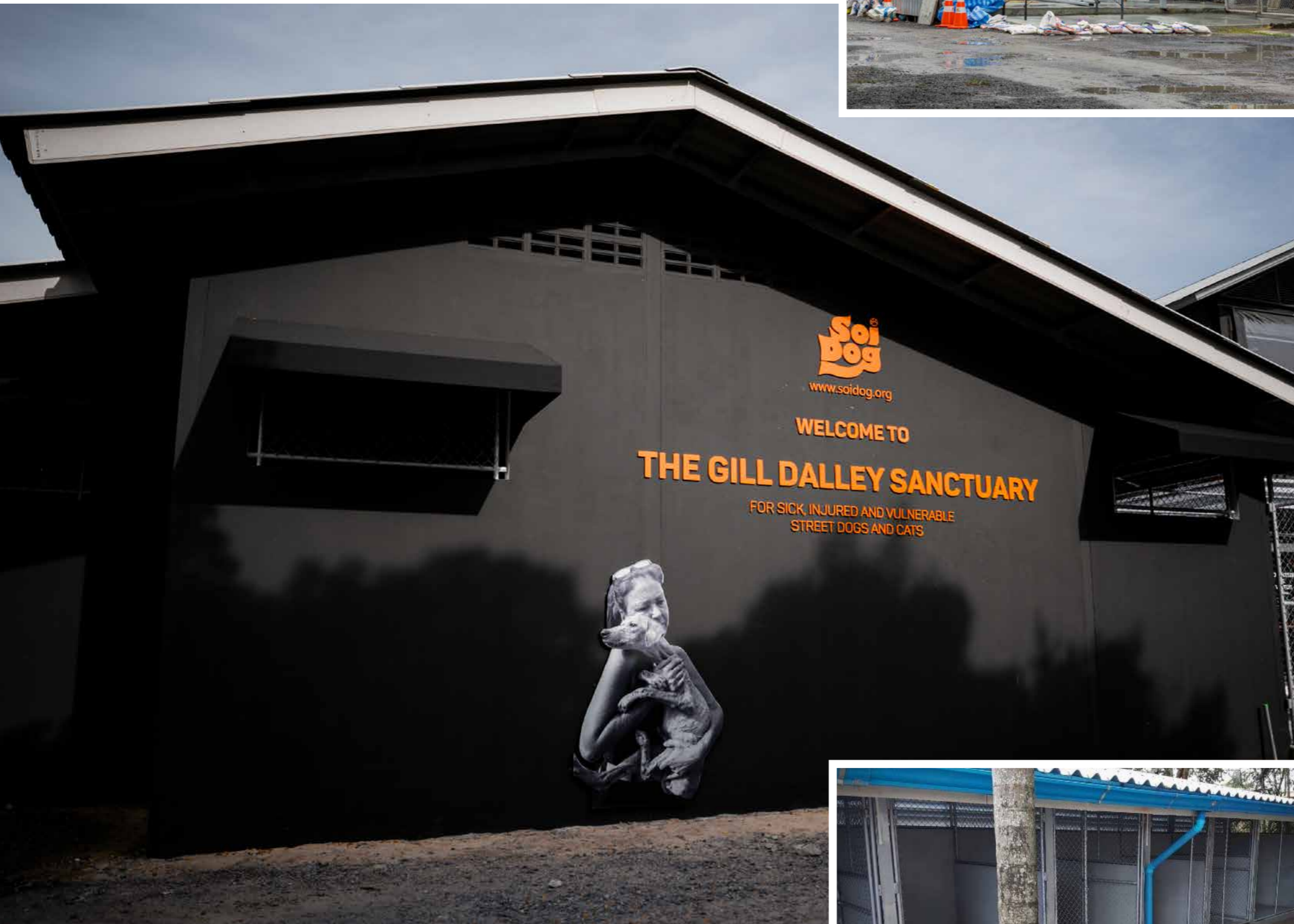
We have brought you news of the many challenges that Soi Dog Foundation has faced during 2020 and how this virus has impacted our work and the lives of dogs and cats here in Thailand.

Thanks to your invaluable support during this unprecedented year, we have been able to keep our promise to the animals who rely on us every day. Recently, we have added even more to the existing sanctuary infrastructure.

Our behaviour and enrichment team have a new assessment cabin, the area in which they conduct various observations of dogs to help prepare them for adoption. With so many animals arriving to the sanctuary every week, it is vital that our adoptions team continue to find the right homes for them as we battle to keep the sanctuary population under control. The behaviour team play an important role in this process – ensuring that, from a behavioural point of view, the highest number of dogs are available and ready to take their place in a new home.

# The domino effect

When one structure is moved, another takes its place. The new behaviour cabin replaces the former one near the gated entrance to Soi Dog. This area is now the location of the spay and neuter suite extension – an extension which was necessary, in turn, to create space for two more dog enclosures capable of housing a further 40 dogs.



The spay and neuter suite extension taking shape.

As part of the redevelopment of the spay and neuter suite, the holding kennels to the rear of that building were demolished. These aged and dingy kennels are replaced by new, fresh and more dog-friendly pens in a different location. 14 have been created and they even feature a small exercise area.

Thank you to everyone who makes these expansions possible with their donations and support.

To donate to Soi Dog's emergency appeal, [click here](#).



The brand-new treatment kennels.

# Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

## Sponsor one, save many

Amy Bryant

**Madahva was the picture of neglect when she came to Soi Dog Foundation.** Undernourished, unable to stand and battling the often-deadly distemper, she was in desperate need of help.

Although recovered now, the disease left her with coordination issues which, coupled with some hip and spine problems, mean she needs to stay at the sanctuary to receive ongoing care. It also means she has a unique and endearing bouncy walk. You might even call it a prance!

With the sanctuary population constantly increasing, there has never been a better time to sponsor a dog like Madahva.

**Likes:** Chest and belly rubs  
**Dislikes:** Taking her special vitamins

Sponsor Madahva [here](#).

aka  
**Foxy Face**



**Tairo was barely out of kittenhood when he was hit by a car and rushed to Soi Dog.**

Fortunately, his injuries were treatable. Unfortunately, during his treatment, the vets discovered he had FeLV, an incurable virus that makes his lifespan uncertain.

This fab tabby hasn't let his condition hold him back. He takes life by the tail and lives every day to the fullest, even though that includes some extra attention from the vet team.

A monthly gift of sponsorship means Soi Dog can be there not only for Tairo but for the next homeless animal in need too.

**Likes:** Being called "strawberry blonde"  
**Dislikes:** When no one wants to play

Sponsor Tairo [here](#).

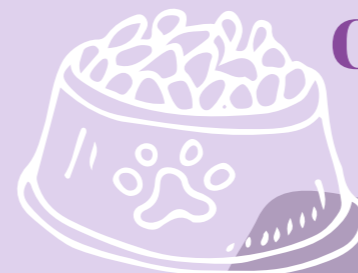
aka  
**Ginger Spice**

**Prowler arrived at Soi Dog as a three-month-old pup with a leg so badly injured** that it needed amputating. So much trauma at such a young age left him understandably shy and fearful of human contact.

Over his six years at the sanctuary, this brave and unique-looking boy has come a long way, but he has a little further to go before he's ready to find a home of his own.

Sponsoring Prowler ensures that he, and so many other dogs like him, get the love and care they need while they wait to find their happy ever after.

aka  
**Cheeky Chops**



**Likes:** Walkies with his best friend Justice  
**Dislikes:** When someone takes his favourite shady spot

Sponsor Prowler [here](#).

# Catified and ready to take on the world: Refurbished cattery opens its doors

*Nayomi Gunarathna*

**In July, Soi Dog Foundation's resident cats celebrated a milestone unique to themselves when they moved into their newly refurbished cat residence.**

Soi Dog's original cattery was constructed in 2011. The 270-square-metre building was divided into the cat residence and a very busy cat hospital.

Every day, at least half-a-dozen sick and injured cats would come into Soi Dog and, unless they were being kept in parvovirus isolation, all of these cats would live at this cattery until they found their forever homes.

At the time when this building was constructed, the number of injured cats that needed hospitalisation was lower than it is today, and the cattery was sufficient to accommodate them.

But as Soi Dog's Catch | Neuter | Vaccinate | Return programme picked up speed and 90% of the free-roaming dog population in Phuket was neutered, the cat population increased and so did the number of cats who needed Soi Dog's help.

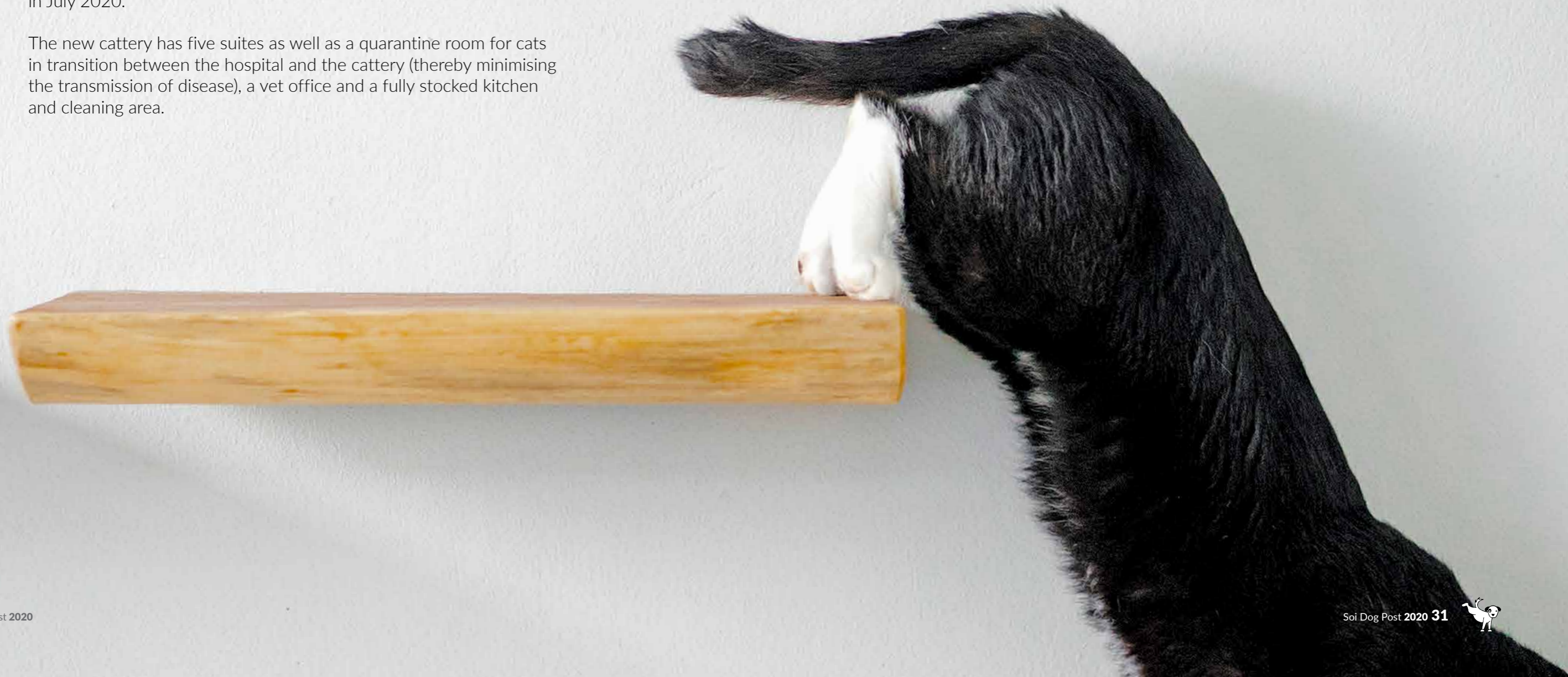


With a growing number of feline patients coming in, and the close proximity of healthy cats to sick cats increasing the risks of disease transmission, it was clear that the cattery was no longer fit for purpose. The need for a separate feline hospital and an expanded, refurbished cattery to accommodate an ever-increasing number of cats was becoming urgent.

In late 2019, the new state-of-the-art feline hospital was opened, and all aspects of treatment moved to a quieter part of the sanctuary, providing a calmer ambience for the cats to heal. This was followed by the renovation of the existing building to a new cattery for the resident cats to live until they are adopted.

Redesigning the cattery was a joint effort that saw various teams come together. The final renovations and refurbishments were carried out by Soi Dog's infrastructure and maintenance team and were completed in July 2020.

The new cattery has five suites as well as a quarantine room for cats in transition between the hospital and the cattery (thereby minimising the transmission of disease), a vet office and a fully stocked kitchen and cleaning area.







Two of the five suites are dedicated to the FIV and FeLV positive resident cats respectively who previously lived in very small rooms. Being one of the few foundations who cares for FIV and FeLV positive cats, Soi Dog is proud to show off these new suites that provide ample space for these otherwise healthy cats who can, in many cases, lead long and happy lives. If not seeking treatment for any other diseases, these cats are able to be adopted locally, and FIV cats internationally as well.

One of the key factors taken into account during the design phase was ways and means to 'catify' the interior of the cat suites. Domestic cats are not pack animals and, even if they get along with (or tolerate) other cats, they can still be very territorial. While it's not possible to house the large number of resident cats individually or in small groups, the next best option is a communal cattery.

In order to minimise inter-cat tension – which can impact behaviour and long-term health – and competition for resources, the priority was to ensure that the new cattery would provide the most cat-friendly environment that budgets and resources would allow. The design of each cat suite involved consideration of the needs and expected behaviour of a clowder of cats.

With around 20-25 cats in each suite, maximum use of space was achieved by expanding vertically with shelves which also satisfied the innate feline desire to rest above ground level. Shelving also allows them to interact with other cats and people on their terms, giving them the freedom they need.

An indoor section as well as a more open area in each of the cat suites provides ample ventilation and the opportunity for the cats to view their surroundings, keeping them occupied and entertained.



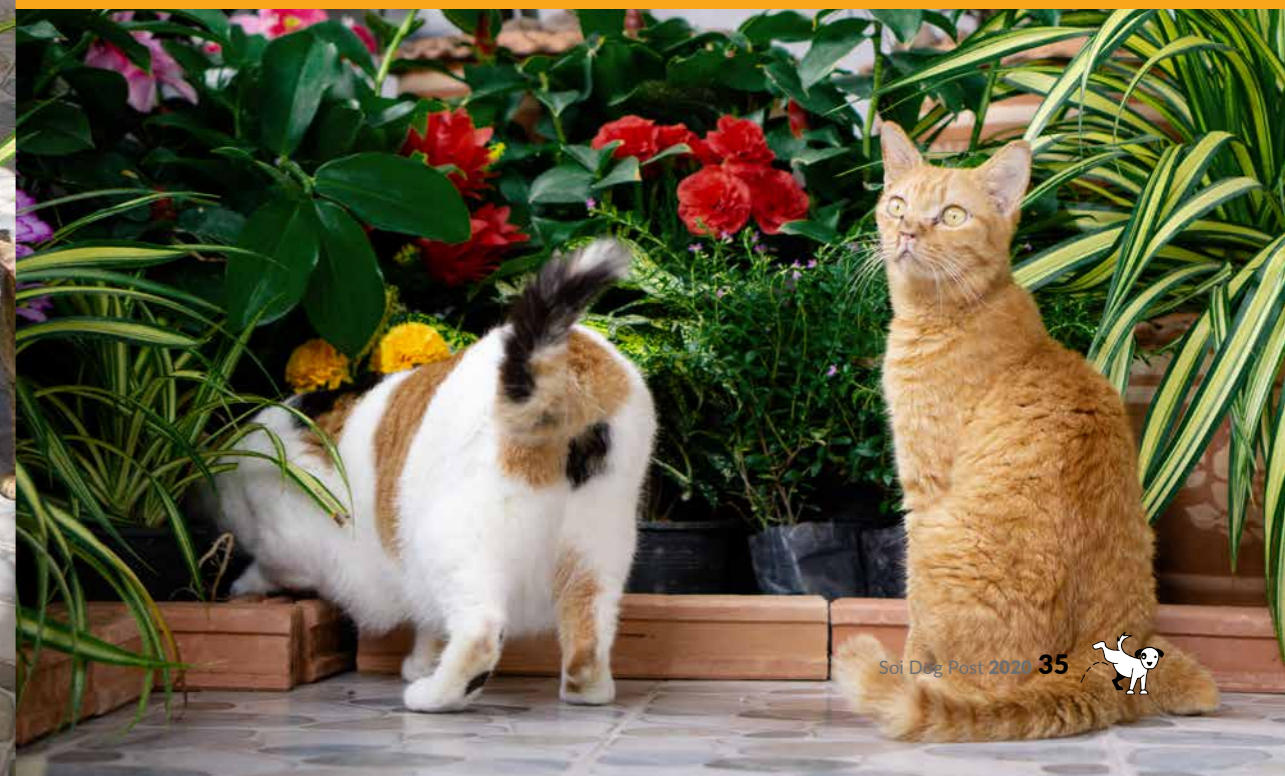


Well-spaced-out scratching posts, hiding spots, beds, tables and cat condos are just a few of the other features in the new cattery, providing feline residents with an enriching space to enjoy until the magical day comes for them to leave the sanctuary for their forever homes.

Several local businesses generously donated toys and condos for the cats as well as furniture for visitors and potential adopters. Regular sponsorships of cat suites by local business and individuals is also encouraged to ensure that the cats have a fully stocked pile of toys available to keep them stimulated and engaged which will encourage better physical health, thereby increasing their chances of being adopted.

Soi Dog is dedicated to the welfare of these cats, and the new cattery is one of the best examples of this commitment.

Take a virtual tour of the cattery [here](#).



# Soi Dog Canada shakes it off for Mutt March 2020

Sam McElroy

Soi Dog Canada held their annual Mutt March event over ten days in September. Differing from last year's event, because of Covid-19, they decided to go virtual! The event, Mutt March – Shake It Off, was open to participants worldwide and saw people taking on virtual challenges to raise funds for dogs and cats in Thailand. From dog walking, to lemon sucking, to dressing up like your dog, to writing

*The Soi Dog team scrawls a message of hope on nearby Mai Khao Beach.*



Two of Soi Dog's staff take on the 'twinsies' challenge with their doggie doppelgangers.



messages of animal rights on sidewalks and beaches – the idea was to help us all 'shake off' the Covid-19 gloom, have a bit of fun and do some good all at the same time.

Special thanks to the local companies in Canada who provided sponsorship, donated prizes and supported the event. Huge thanks again to the whole Soi Dog Canada team for all their efforts in getting this year's event off the ground and for helping to raise awareness of the plight of homeless animals.

You can further support Soi Dog Canada by following their Facebook page [here](#).





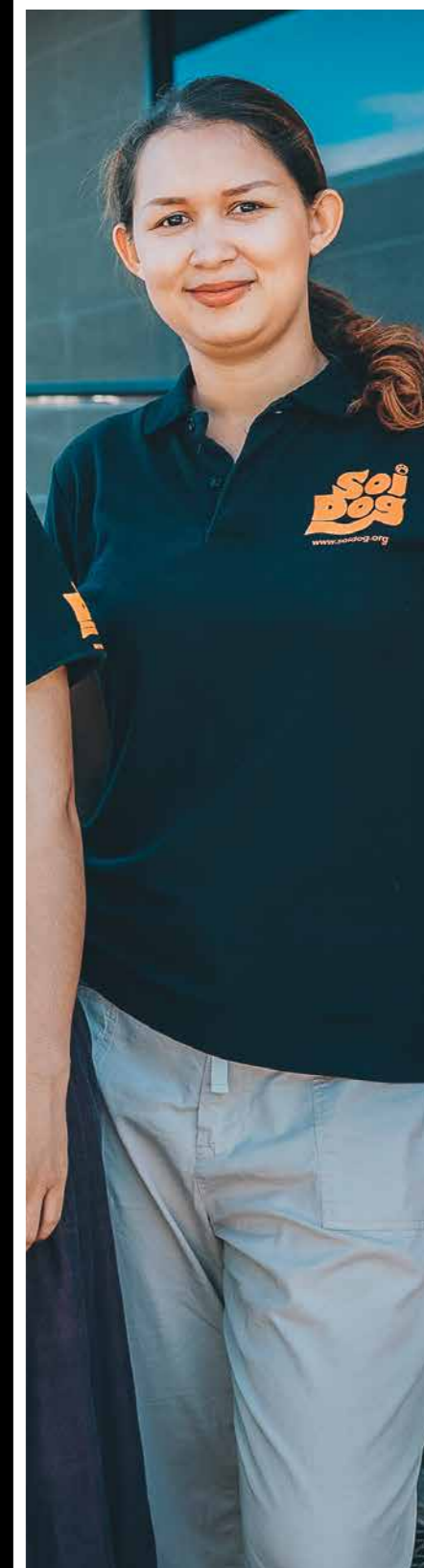
May, Gib, Amy, Sopa and Ploy.

# What's in a name?

*Dee Nordlander*

**The hospital front office team work in a highly pressured environment.** Time is of the essence when registering new intake animals or updating Soi Dog Foundation's database. The team also have to coordinate with animal rescue officers and liaise with local feeders, fosters and carers.

The team work tirelessly to ensure no animal is left without the care it needs. With a challenging and stressful situation, a dose of daily humour is essential. One of the ways in which they lighten the mood is by naming the dogs and cats that come in for treatment.





Front Office Manager

**Rungploy Lersakanusorn (Ploy)**

explained that the names chosen depend on the staff member. Including *Ploy*, there are a total of five Thai staff manning the front office.

**Penpaka Kamlangrum (May)**

usually prefers nature-based names, like *Newlilly*, or names that are directly translated from Thai, such as *Rodtour* (meaning “tour bus”), *Noklek* (“small bird”) and *Fonmar* (“here comes the rain.”)

Then there's **Kamonrat Sankhamkon (Gib)**

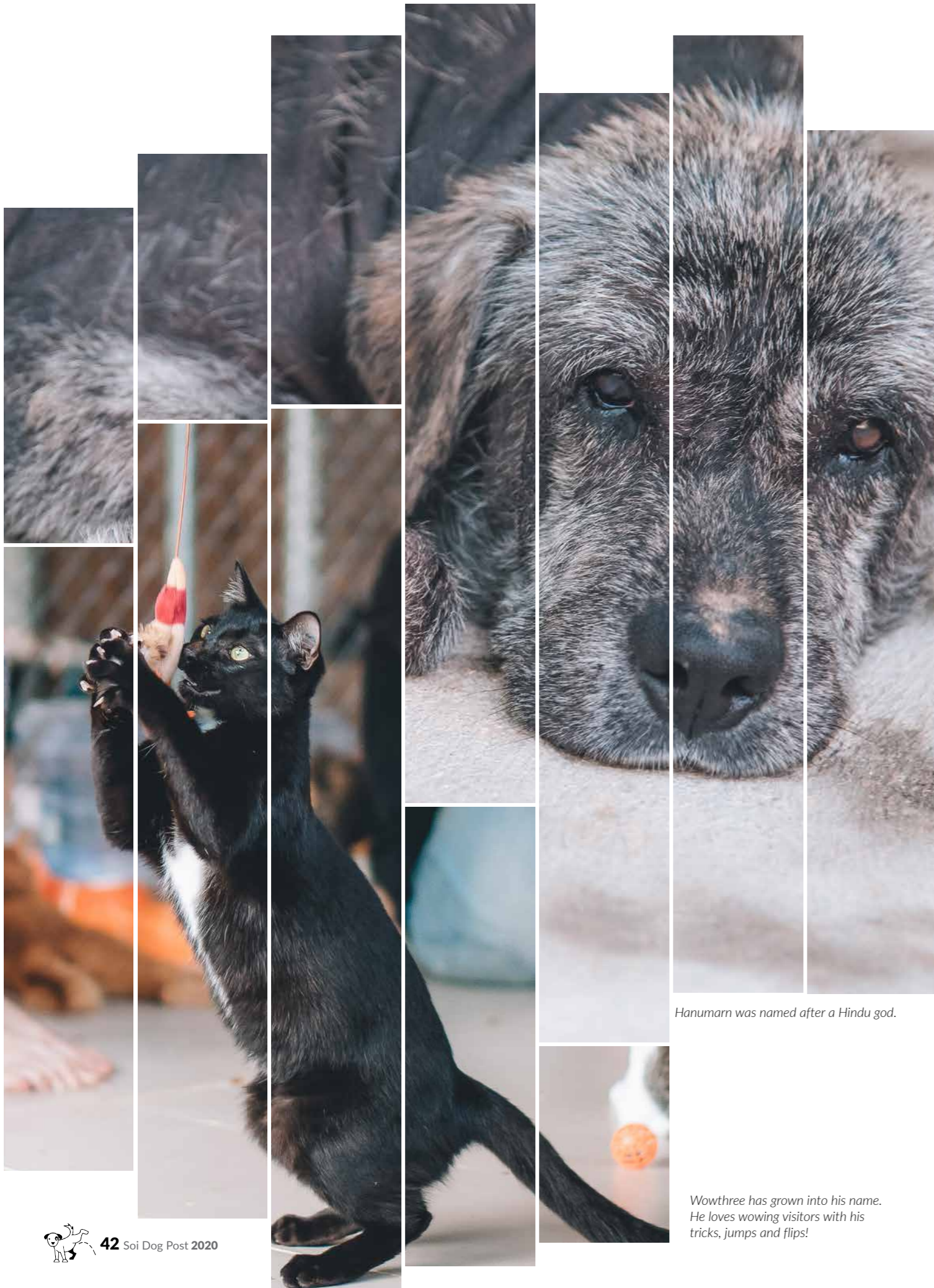
who typically likes to relate the names to the location or area the animal came from and sometimes the name of the person bringing the animal in. Logically, this helps her keep track of each animal's whereabouts in case more information is required.

**Saranchanok Prasrirat (Amy)**

loves cute names, especially those that are considered more international; for example, *Boogie*, *Bootsie*, *Brigid*, *Chatty* and *Darlene*.

Lastly, **Pattaratinepon Itchawarapanitan (Sopa)**

gets her inspiration from her favourite TV shows, with a particular fondness for Indian series. For example, *Hanuman* was named after the Hindu god, a monkey-like divine being, faithful to the god Rama.



Hanumarn was named after a Hindu god.

Wowthree has grown into his name. He loves wowing visitors with his tricks, jumps and flips!

**During the early years of Soi Dog,** the intake animals were named upon arrival. But over time, the increase of dogs and cats coming in for treatment made it difficult to come up with names that weren't already taken. The more rushed names can easily be spotted: *Wowthree*, *Thefirst* or *Thegarden*, for example, but they're not without their charm.

Eventually, the team had to create a shared Excel file with the compiled list of names that were either taken from websites or suggested by Soi Dog volunteers. Not only does this save time in coming up with the appropriate names, it also avoids duplication which has understandably occurred in the past. The file contains over 10,000 names and continues to be updated at the end of each month. This allows the names to be inputted as soon as a report of a sick or injured animal comes in or while the animal is being transported to Soi Dog.

However, despite the advantages of this file, sometimes the names just don't match the animal. In these cases, staff are more than happy to help come up with names on the spot. For example, when they heard about the sad case of a malnourished dog on the brink of death, drinking sea water, they named him *Seabra*. When a severely injured dog came in shaking and shivering, they named him *Naonao* ("cold").

The team believe that, in order to avoid falling into a cycle of impersonal computerisation, animals should have a backstory behind their names. Although these aren't your typical mainstream names, they still hold value. And they feel that it gives back some sense of integrity to the dogs and cats that have suffered abuse, abandonment and neglect. A new name means a second chance in life.



Seabra's name was inspired by his sad story.

# Our dogs and cats are putting their Christmas wish lists together already

Amy Bryant

It may only be September, but our dogs have started writing their lists to Santa Paws and our cats are already feline festive!

At the top of every shelter animal's wish list is, of course, a home of their own. But while they wait for that magical day, you can put a smile on their face by shopping at our online merchandise store [here](#). All proceeds from merchandise sales directly benefit the 1,300+ animals being cared for here at Soi Dog Foundation.

From candles, to clothing, to calendars, to the inspiring biography of our late co-founder Gill Dalley – we've got something for every animal lover in your life. With many international postal

services experiencing delays, order now to avoid disappointment.

If you're more of a last-minute shopper, look no further than our virtual gifts of medicines, treats and more which come directly to the Soi Dog shelter and are put straight to use. You can even have a personalised certificate sent to your loved one to let them know you've donated a gift in their name and made a difference to the life of a homeless animal in the season of giving.

Shop without guilt this Christmas. Shop to show you care.

Browse our online merchandise store [here](#).



# Moving forward with Southern mobile team #2

Nayomi Gunarathna

August saw the launch of Soi Dog Foundation's second Southern mobile spay and neuter team (the eighth in Thailand). With their base at the sanctuary in Phuket, the team will travel between locations in the south of Thailand neutering and vaccinating as many animals as possible.

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted our initial plan to launch the team in June, but it finally took off in August with a clinic right here in Mai Khao, the village where the Soi Dog sanctuary is based. This allowed us to strengthen our relationship and reconnect with the local community.

We were pleased to host a number of local schools at the clinic too. Our humane education team were on hand with tools, knowledge and activities to help these children nurture a love and compassion for both domestic and stray animals in Thailand.

A total of 867 animals were neutered, mainly owned but free-roaming pets, at Phuket clinics during the month – a strong start for this new team.



Snapshots from the Mai Khao mobile clinics.





One of many dogs to receive the combination vaccine.

unneutered, free-roaming dogs, while setting up a series of clinics on Koh Samui and other nearby islands which currently have no spay and neuter programmes in place.

Although Soi Dog has run spay and neuter projects since 2003, it was only in 2017 that a full-time mobile team came together (Southern mobile team #1), allowing us to spay and neuter on a consistent basis, not just in Phuket but also Phang Nga and Koh Samui.

Southern mobile team #1 have now been operational in the province of Nakhon Si Thammarat since 2018 where they have neutered almost 20,000 animals. The team will continue their work in the province until the population is brought to a manageable number.

Each mobile unit consists of nine staff (usually divided between two trucks), including two vets, three support staff and four dog catchers. Each unit can neuter an average of 40 dogs per day.

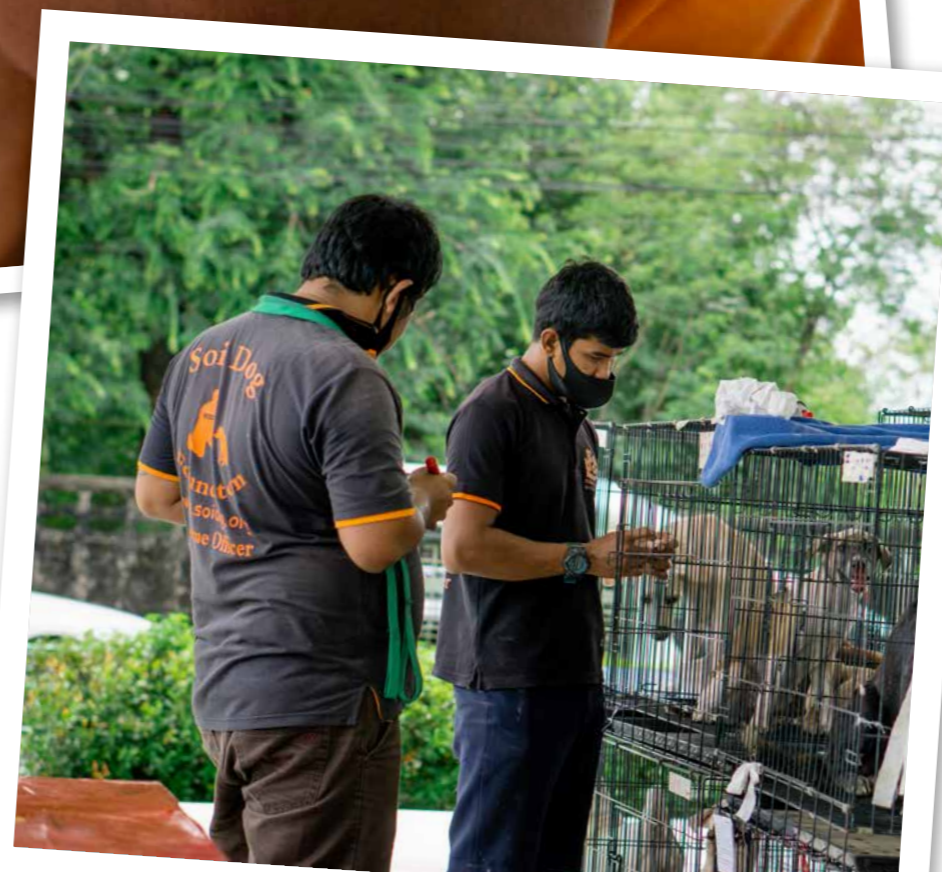
Soi Dog's long-term spay and neuter project in Bangkok continues, with over 225,000 animals neutered and vaccinated since 2015.

A major survey of the city's stray dog and cat populations has been planned by Soi Dog in partnership with Dogs Trust Worldwide and will take place later this year. This will help us assess the impact of our spay and neuter project so far. In addition, we will conduct a survey of Bangkok citizens to gain insights into how the public perceive changes in the stray animal population.

Results from this survey will provide material for the first ever peer-reviewed scientific publication on the Catch | Neuter | Vaccinate | Return (CNVR) method within the Asian region.

At the end of August, the team shifted their focus to a one-off project at a naval base in Sattahip (southeast of Bangkok) that's home to around 800 unneutered dogs.

For the remainder of the year, the team will base themselves in Phuket's neighbouring province of Phang Nga, which is teeming with



# Best in class: International schools step up their support

Chutima Srisawang

**Soi Dog Foundation is proud to have the support of a number of international schools around Thailand.**

Whether it's bake sales, fun runs or hands-on help at the sanctuary, we are always impressed by the initiative shown by the next generation of animal lovers to raise awareness and funds for our cause.

A dedicated group of students from *Ruamrudee International School* have even set up their own "*RIS Soi Dog Club*". The club, founded following a visit to our sanctuary in 2018, not only fundraise for Soi Dog, they also raise awareness of our cause, encourage their peers to adopt and proudly sponsor two of our animals. In August, RIS Soi Dog Club took a tour of our Bangkok clinic and kindly donated 50,000 THB (1,600 USD).

*WOOF (Welfare of Our Friends)* is a similar club run by students at *NIST International School* in Bangkok. Set up in 2016, WOOF donate funds and supplies to shelters and advocate for adopting rather than buying from breeders. In June, they added Soi Dog to the growing list of animal welfare organisations it supports and generously donated 30,000 THB (960 USD).

They say that children are the future. In that case, the street dogs and cats of Thailand are in very good hands indeed!

To learn more about fundraising for Soi Dog, [click here](#).



RIS students present Soi Dog's Dr. Oob (left) with a jumbo cheque.



"Help a man's best friend woof happily again" is the WOOF mission statement.



# Soi Dog gets the star treatment

Chutima Srisawang

When you think of celebrity support for Soi Dog Foundation, the names *Ricky Gervais*, *Dame Judi Dench* and *Will Young* are likely to come to mind. But did you know that we have a number of A-list Thai supporters too? These homegrown animal advocates have been a huge help at this difficult time, with many using their social media platforms to raise awareness of and funds for Soi Dog.

In April, actress, model and singer *Mo Monchanok* (Mo), who paid a visit to our sanctuary late last year, shared her support for Soi Dog on Instagram and encouraged her 1.5 million followers to feed, leave water for and check on the stray animals in their area. "In this crisis, it's not only us who have been dealt a bad hand. Street dogs and cats out there are starving and need help too," said Mo.

Hub Sub, the artist management company that Mo belongs to, shared the same message, and it turns out that Mo isn't the only animal lover on their books. Fellow stars *David Averin*, *Praew Jaratpim*, *Namo Thanapat*, *Mild Tarika*, *Padpudd Rathfar* and *Nammon Krittanai* were keen to spread the word too.

Activist and former Miss Universe Thailand 2017 *Maria Poonlertlap*, along with her cheeky rescue pup *Sachiko* aka *Thongdam*, have long championed the "adopt, don't shop" message. But in May, the pair sported their Soi Dog merch to drive the point home once more.

"Why adopt? 'Buying' an animal just doesn't sound right to me," said Maria in a post to her 600,000+ Instagram followers. Admitting that she herself had played a role in purchasing animals when she was younger, Maria encouraged her fans not to buy from breeders but to adopt from rescue organisations like Soi Dog instead. "Let's end this vicious cycle together," she said.

*Peter Denman* and *Film Chatdao*, two charming Thai stars who have supported Soi Dog for many years, also posted on their Instagram accounts to urge their fans to donate. *Godji*, host of famous Thai travel and lifestyle television show *Toey Tiew Thai*, was keen to share the same message with her half-a-million Twitter followers.

We're grateful to everyone who uses their platform and raises their voice for the animals.

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter**.



tamagoaji @goaji\_goaji · May 1  
มูลนิธิเพื่อสุนัขในซอย @soidogfoundation ตั้งอยู่ที่ภูเก็ต ให้การช่วยเหลือสุนัขและแมวจรจัดเป็นหลัก ซึ่งตอนนี้ก็เกิดคั้งที่เกาะเชิงจากสถานการณโคโรนา19 ทำให้ไม่สะดวกไปไหนมาไหนในซอยนี้ได้ แต่ก็ยังคงรับเศษเงินเดือน สัตว์โดนที่เรี่ยหรือได้รับอุบัติเหตุเข้ามารักษา



# On air in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...

Chutima Srisawang

In early July, Soi Dog Foundation was pleased to welcome executives from Radio Thailand, Phuket to the sanctuary. Director of the station Narong Chuenirand and his crew came armed with boxes of old books and scrap paper, kindly donated by listeners across the island, which has since been repurposed as bedding and litter for feline patients in the cat hospital.

The crew also took a tour of the sanctuary. Impressed by what they saw, the station, which is part of the *Thai Government Public Relations Department*, invited Soi Dog to appear on their live talk show *Nueng Tuey Ka Fae (A Cup of Coffee)*. The show features guests from various departments and organisations across the island and is broadcast live on air as well as on their Facebook page. We took to the airwaves in early August to share Soi Dog's mission, the importance of spaying and neutering and the impact Covid-19 has had on the sanctuary and the stray dog and cat populations at large.

"We've talked a lot about people lately. It's time to talk about stray animals who are also part of our society," said Narong during the 45-minute interview. "Especially during Covid-19, our audience is keen to know how stray animals have been and whether they're being taken care of. It's very important."

We couldn't agree more! Thanks to the Radio Thailand, Phuket crew for their support. We hope this is the first of many on-air appearances.



In the studio with Narong.

The Radio Thailand, Phuket crew donated a wagonload of paper for our kitties.



Gill Dalley  
1959-2017



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

**YOU CAN LET YOUR LEGACY  
BE THE FUTURE FOR STRAY ANIMALS.**

**SHARE OUR VISION BY JOINING  
THE SOI DOG LEGACY PROGRAMME.**

Visit [www.soidog.org/legacy](http://www.soidog.org/legacy) or email [legacy@soidog.org](mailto:legacy@soidog.org) to find out more.

