April 2022

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

Same out the When

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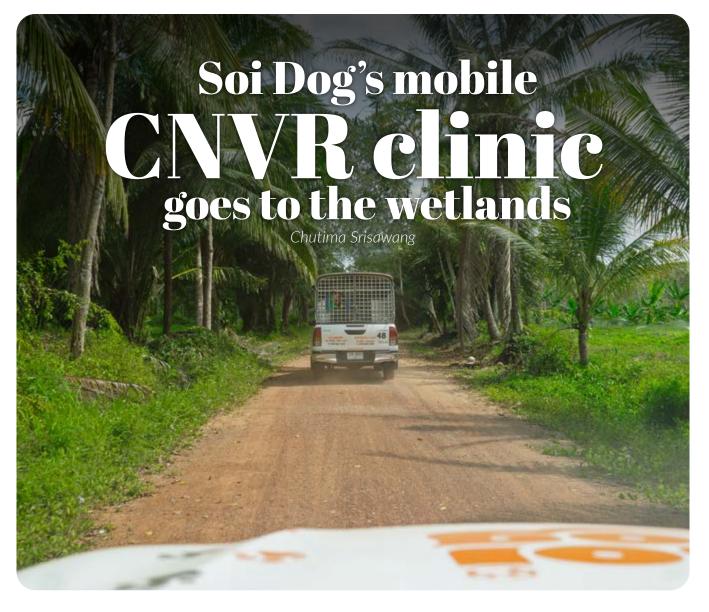
Mobile

clinic goes to the wetlands

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P.08 To the rescue in Surat Thani P.26 Volunteers: Our dogs and cats need YOU **P.32** Essential Support: Businesses giving back





In conjunction with this year's Spay/Neuter Awareness Month in February, the latest expansion of the CNVR (Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return) programme saw the opening of Soi Dog's 10th mobile clinic in Phatthalung, the furthest south our mobile project has ever been.

AN AUSPICIOUS START

The Governor of Phatthalung province, Mr *Kukiat Wongkrapunt*, endorsed the project on a visit paid to the team on the opening day. He expressed an interest in learning more about the sterilisation technique used, and his cooperation is critical to the project's success. There are approximately 40,000 stray dogs roaming the area, and the Phatthalung authorities hope to neuter all of them, as well as encourage all municipalities to recognise the benefits of the CNVR programme.

Unlike the other large provinces where our mobile clinics are located, Phatthalung is a small province known for its unique natural wetland and whose biogeographic region is protected under the Ramsar Convention. The provincial capital, also called Phatthalung, is the gateway to Thailand's lower southern region, where Soi Dog has a long-term initiative to operate the CNVR programme.





The governor of Phattalung presents a basket of salak (local fruit) to welcome the Soi Dog mobile clinic.

THE SOUTHERN PLAN

"By 2026, we want to cover all 11 Southern provinces," said *Dr. Oob, Tuntikorn Rungpattana*, Soi Dog's CNVR Director for Thailand. "Initially, we focused on areas with huge groups of stray dogs in famous travel destinations such as Surat Thani and Phang Nga, but the addition of further mobile clinics will now follow a geographical pattern moving in a southerly direction, and Phatthalung is the first of these," he added.

THE VITAL SUPPORT

In our recent **End of Year Report 2021**, we highlighted exactly what goes into the setting up of a mobile CNVR team and precisely how much it costs. We are, therefore, extremely grateful that the set-up of mobile team 10 – the fourth in the Southern region – is generously funded by *The Uggla Family Foundation*.

Launched in 2020 by the Uggla family in the UK, the foundation funds charities mainly focused on education, health and access to the arts but is now supporting an animal welfare organisation for the first time. Their latest mission: to support and bring awareness to Soi Dog in whatever capacity possible.





"The Uggla Family Foundation is proud to have made a significant contribution to the largest spay and neuter programme in the world. Having seen the great work that Soi Dog is doing and previously admired them from afar, we are hugely excited to have funded a new mobile sterilisation and animal health unit. Building a long-term partnership with Soi Dog to help improve the lives of stray dogs and cats in Asia in an impactful and sustainable way is something that matches the ambition of our foundation."

The latest numbers achieved by the Phatthalung team are significant. In their first eight weeks of operation, from February 1st to March 31st 2022, the team sterilised 1,710 animals. *Kendall Uggla* of The Uggla Family Foundation added, "We think it's emblematic of the organisation at Soi Dog, and the structure and processes that are in place, that the charity is able to deliver such numbers. We're so proud of all the team. It's amazing!"

We thank The Uggla Family Foundation, as well as you, our supporters, for contributing to the success of our CNVR programme, which has seen over 700,000 animals sterilised to date.





Dr. Muk and James check a puppy as Dr. Emily (background) performs a dog sterilisation.





SEVENTH HEAVEN

Reached in April, the milestone now means that over 595,000 dogs and 105,000 cats have been neutered and vaccinated.

The programme that started off in Phuket in 2003 has grown exponentially for the past 19 years and, thanks to your support, become the largest of its kind in the world today. You've helped add mobile units, which now number 10 up and down the country, and taken the CNVR programme to 16 different provinces across the region – from Chiang Mai in the north to Songkhla in the south, from over the border with Cambodia in the east to Kanchanaburi in the west.

In Bangkok alone, where we operate six of the mobile clinics in partnership

with *Dogs Trust Worldwide*, over 375,000 animals have already passed through the programme in what is Southeast Asia's third largest city.

It is unquantifiable just how many millions of puppies and kittens have been spared a short life of suffering through CNVR.

With so much work still to do, it is very much a case of onwards and upwards. But for every life spared, and every life saved, we say thanks to you – the Soi Dog family from around the world – for making it all possible.











ARC ANGELS OUR CNVR GOES TO CAMBODIA

Sam McElroy

There have been a few 'firsts' for Soi Dog in recent months. One of them came last November in the form of our very first joint CNVR venture outside of Thailand with the organisation *Animal Rescue Cambodia* (ARC).

As well as continually expanding our own mobile CNVR programme with the addition of new teams, we are always on the lookout for third-party projects that align with our ethos and adopt the same methods.

ARC's CNVR work is based in the capital, Phnom Penh, a city of 2.2 million inhabitants and thousands of stray dogs.

THE NEED FOR ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA

You only have to do a small amount of research to know that animal welfare has even further to go in a country like Cambodia than it does in Thailand. As ARC

say, awareness of animal welfare there is still in its infancy. Animals are considered a nuisance, as property or even as food, with dog and cat meat very much still on the menu. This comes down, primarily, to a lack of understanding about how to care for animals and how to cope with a growing stray population. Consequently, rates of abuse and neglect are high. This combination of a lack of education – and many people struggling to survive below the breadline – often sees dogs and cats sold for their meat.

The situation is reminiscent, although not identical, to that of Thailand many years ago. It highlights both the progress that has been made in Thailand and the scale of the work needed elsewhere in Asia.

ARC have adopted an ethos not dissimilar to Soi Dog. Their mission, ultimately, is to create sustainable animal welfare in Cambodia to end the suffering of stray dogs and cats. The primary focus of this is to tackle overpopulation, which is where Soi Dog is helping.



WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY

Between November 2021 and March 2022, with the financial backing made possible by supporters of Soi Dog, the joint project saw 561 dogs neutered and vaccinated. Some of the dogs under the project live together with their caretaker or guardian in a community of Phnom Penh. ARC have previously collaborated with this community for vaccination projects, and the community leader and residents are familiar with and trust the work being done. As importantly, the residents are eager to further improve the health of the animals in their community. This proactive approach from the community side further establishes responsibility among the dog guardians/caretakers and gives the ARC team the opportunity to speak about responsible dog "ownership".

ARC have connections to other similar communities too. And, for communities where connections have not yet been established, the ARC team is in discussion with human organisations



working in these communities where a relationship already exists to help bridge the gap. The concept is of a "One Health" approach, where the humanitarian organisation focuses on the people, while ARC focuses on the animal health (mainly CNVR), improving the lives of both animal and human communities alike.

Sound familiar? It should!

The importance and effectiveness of CNVR is the fundamental basis of everything Soi Dog has been doing in Thailand for almost 19 years to reduce suffering and tackle the overpopulation of stray animals and one that ARC, with the support of Soi Dog, is now mirroring in Cambodia.

To learn about the work that ARC is doing, visit **www.ar-cambodia.com**



<section-header>

Amy Bryant

At the close of 2021, your support enabled Soi Dog to intervene in an animal welfare issue of utmost urgency in the southern province of Surat Thani. As a result, an illegal shelter was successfully shut down and 17 deserving dogs rescued from dire conditions and severe neglect.

The shelter was reportedly constructed by a local land owner to contain the dogs who had been living in an area where building works were due to commence. This makeshift facility was extremely poorly maintained, and the innocent inhabitants were left to suffer for years with little human intervention or care.

Our mobile clinic team – who had launched operations in the area five months prior – visited the shelter and described a cramped and filthy space, with faeces covering the floor and no food or fresh water available. The dogs were extremely malnourished, infested with ticks and fleas and suffering from chronic skin infections and a host of other medical conditions that had been left untreated.



The level of neglect at the shelter could easily be considered animal cruelty by anyone's standards, said Soi Dog's International Director of Animal Welfare Dr. Alicja Izydorczyk.



Arrangements were immediately made for six of the dogs – those in most dire need – to be transported to the Soi Dog shelter in Phuket for urgent treatment. The remaining 11 were transported in the weeks that followed, with plans put in place for their care at the shelter in the interim. Sadly, one dog succumbed to illness and passed away en route, but the remainder arrived safe and began treatment immediately.

Suksix here was among the first cohort to be transported the 200+ kilometres to Soi Dog. Emaciated, wounded and weak from two tick-borne diseases, his condition told the story of years of neglect. All thanks to you, he received the intensive care he needed at our hospital and, after just two months, was healthy enough to join an enclosure with other young dogs like him. Our hospital staff gave Suksix the nickname *Happy*, and it's easy to see why. This brave boy wears a big smile despite everything he's endured.

To ensure no more dogs suffer like Suksix did, we reported the shelter to the Thai Department of Livestock Development's Animal Welfare division, and a legal agreement was drawn up stating that it would be permanently shut down and the village's street dog population managed in a more humane and sustainable manner through CNVR. In support of this, our mobile clinic team neutered and vaccinated all dogs in the village and surrounding area.

If there was ever an example of the dangers of unmanaged sheltering, this is it. With you by our side, we will continue to speak out about these dangers, look to hold the perpetrators to account and rescue the innocent dogs who suffer as a result.

Suksix was one of the dogs saved during this challenging rescue mission. Now fully recovered, he will soon be assessed for adoption.

Sanctuary Update

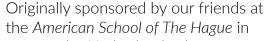
THE PUPS SMARTEN UP

It provides the highlight of the free guided tours, as visitors indulge in cuddles, playtime, puppy madness and, inevitably, find their shoelaces and loose clothing destroyed by persistent gangs of four-month-old, four-legged purveyors of chaos. It is also one of the longest-standing fixtures at the Gill Dalley Sanctuary and the one in most need of a fresh lick of paint and a bit of TLC.

It is, of course, the infamous and much-loved Soi Dog puppy enclosure.







the Netherlands, the structure hadn't seen a facelift in its 13-year existence, but February saw the completion of the much-needed refurbishment of its original kennel building and outside space. The new features include a larger enclosure for the puppies to run around, new cosy kennel areas for them to stay overnight and an extension to the rear – affording more space for puppies transferring out of the mum and puppy area in the main dog hospital.

> Fresh turf, a narrow flower border and new pathways have been laid outside to add finishing touches to the area and provide a nice green space for dogs and their volunteers to sit and enjoy.



MAKING IT GOLDEN FOR THE OLD'UNS

Also completed in February was the refurbishment of the second senior and special needs dog enclosure, or

'SSN2'. The enclosure is connected to the puppy area by way of a shared roof and is home to 28 senior dogs who moved back into their drastically improved home, complete with new kennel space, fences, roof, floor surface, salas and turfed garden.

The senior enclosures are located in the shadiest part of the sanctuary and provide the perfect conditions for older dogs. Protected from the sun by the established tree canopy, and enjoying an uninterrupted breeze from the open space of the neighbouring land on the south side, the senior runs really offer those who will likely live out their days at the sanctuary a comfortable environment in which to do so.











LIKE A DOG TO DOG TO DOG TO DOG TO JUPITER'S POOL BRINGS THERAPY AND JOY TO THE SHELTER

new dog pool. Known as 'Jupiter's Pool', the facility was fully – not to mention extremely generously – funded

not to mention extremely generously – funded by Soi Dog International Vice-President *John Higgs*, a long-time Soi Dog board member, supporter and owner of several rescued dogs. The pool's namesake *Jupiter* was one of John's dogs who, following an accident, lost the use of his hind legs in the final years of his life and required a wheelchair.

There's been a great deal of expansion at

Soi Dog in recent years. Enclosures, kennels, off-lead areas, cat suites – there's hardly a corner of the shelter that hasn't seen some

construction or refurbishment. One addition that's made a particular splash, though, is our

Amy Bryant





"It was Jupiter's accident that initiated my contact with Soi Dog in 2005, and I am proud to have been involved since then. Being able to swim each day relieved Jupiter of his confinement, returning fun and happiness to his life while providing vital exercise and physiotherapy," said John.

Wanting to replicate that feeling of freedom for as many of Jupiter's brothers and sisters as possible, John decided to take the plunge and privately commission the construction of a pool. Work began last April, and the first dogs were able to dip their paws and wet their noses in December. Fittingly, the first dogs in were all tripods who, like Jupiter, have had to adapt to huge changes in their mobility. The pool was of course carefully designed with the safety of the dogs in mind and includes a large shallow end for those who just want to stand, splash or lie down, a graduated depth increase from front to back and a deep end for our more active residents who want to jump, dive and swim.

Aside from using the hydrotherapy unit in our hospital or taking the occasional splash in the water tubs in our off-lead areas, the majority of shelter dogs have never been exposed to water, so the pool has been an enormously fun and enriching addition for so many.

While the pool is a place of enjoyment, it's also a place of therapy and relief. For

examples of this, we need only to look to our Senior Canine Residents Carer *Diana* and the golden oldies she looks after.

"For a long time, I've been wishing for a swimming pool at Soi Dog: one for the dogs and one for the volunteers. Now we have both in one, so you can understand how happy and thankful I am," she said. "It's brought the dogs so much joy."

Diving in paws first is the only way to do it, says soi dog Kongo.



Diana introduces as many senior dogs as possible to the new pool.

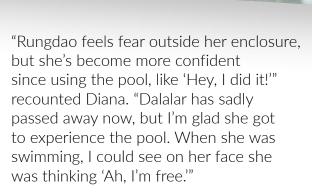
Many of the dogs Diana cares for have orthopaedic issues associated either with age or with traumatic injuries suffered on the streets. Hip dysplasia, dislocated knees, spinal disorders and arthritis are common among Soi Dog's ageing population, and the pool acts as a hydrotherapy unit for them but on a much larger scale and with the added bonus of toys and tennis balls!

"I talk to the vets first to check whether the dog is okay to go in the pool," explained

Diana. "The first few times we visit, we usually just sit in the shallow end. When they're comfortable and ready, I put a harness on them, put my arm under their belly and guide them through the water. Usually, the time we really swim is the fourth or fifth time. I find it to be really beautiful."

At an average depth, a dog's body weight is reduced by as much as 80%, meaning they can move more freely and without discomfort, thus improving their quality of life.

Among the countless dogs who have benefited from the pool, there are two stand-out cases in Diana's mind: 12-year old *Rungdao*, who is blind from glaucoma, and 16-year-old *Dalalar* who struggled to walk on account of a degenerative spinal condition.



In summarising his vision for the pool, John said, "May Jupiter's Pool bring the same comfort, joy and help to the residents of Soi Dog as it did to Jupiter during those last years of his life."

Safe to say it's done that every single day since it opened, and it will continue to do so for many years to come.



STEPPING UP IN A TIME OF CRISIS HELPING ANIMALS AFFECTED BY

THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

Sam McElroy

In March, we joined in support of Ukraine's war-affected dogs and cats by teaming up with Poland's oldest and largest animal welfare nonprofit organisation, TOZ (Towarzystwo Opieki Nad Zwierzetami or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), to help provide critical assistance to animals impacted by the Russian invasion of the country.

Having identified the urgent need for medical intervention to some of the estimated 40,000 dogs and cats who have arrived in Poland during the course of the conflict with their refugee owners, we took the unprecedented step of helping animals outside of Asia for the very first time in our 19-year history.

An urgent appeal was launched to enable an immediate grant of 250,000 USD to help finance the completion of a purpose-built animal treatment clinic in the Polish town of Celestynów, which is serving as a coordination point for Ukrainian animals, and, in the interim, assist TOZ in giving urgent medical care to animals who are in desperate need right now.



At the time of writing, the mass movement of refugees from Ukraine to countries throughout Europe had already seen around 2 million of them seek safety in neighbouring Poland, and thousands of pets had made the perilous journey with their owners who courageously refused to leave their beloved companions behind.

TOZ, who have 79 branches and operate 11 shelters across Poland, have been providing urgent assistance to the animals who often arrive traumatised, skinny, dehydrated and in desperate need of medical attention.

But their amazing efforts so far were in real danger of being in vain as they quickly ran out of funds to continue to provide care to the animals most in need. And for those who require veterinary attention, there are few other options available.

"We would not typically be engaged in working outside of Asia, but it is clear that the issues in Ukraine are immense, and while some of the needs of animals are being met, such as the provision of food, many others are not", said Soi Dog co-founder John Dalley MBE.

"TOZ is already in partnership with Mars Petcare and is receiving truckloads of food donations from them, which are distributed to reception points for refugees and their animals. So, for now, there is no shortage of food."

Some owners and their pets have travelled non-stop over land for days, through Russian bombs and shelling, just to reach the safety of the Polish border, and more are descending on the country every day.

TOZ Social President and Shelter Director in Celestynów *Mr. Lukasz Balcer* said, "Many of these people took only a tiny amount of luggage and their beloved animal with them."

Examples of true companionship and the bond between human and animal are being witnessed on a daily basis in this conflict.





"In one case, we saw a touching example of an owner's attachment to her animals," said Lukasz. "An old woman. In one hand, she held a container with a cat. In the other hand, she held on a leash a huge dog that snuggled into her, providing comfort and seeking reassurance from each other in this terrifying situation. This is an amazing example of what true love is and the fact that friends are not abandoned, regardless of the circumstances."

TOZ have also been working with Ukrainian shelters bringing dogs over in groups of 20 to 30 and placing them in shelters and temporary foster homes across Poland and helping with the certification, microchipping and vaccination of pets who need to travel on from Poland to other EU countries but are unable to do so without such documentation.

Whether or not a resolution to the conflict is reached in the coming weeks or months, one thing is for sure: the impact of the war will last much longer. John Dalley is in no doubt about that. "The crisis is certain to last for a long time to come, and the needs of the animals left behind are likely to be enormous. Soi Dog is committed to doing everything in its power to provide help where it is most needed."

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures. However, without your support – and our trusted partnership with TOZ – we simply could not have guaranteed effective assistance where it is most needed.

Thank you to everyone who donated specifically to the appeal to help the displaced animals of Ukraine.

We now have a range of T-shirts available on our online merchandise store, the proceeds from the sales of which will go towards helping the displaced animals of Ukraine. Find the range **here.**

To donate to the urgent appeal to help the refugee animals of Ukraine, click *here.*











The 2020 advent of the pandemic saw an increase in animal abandonment, cruelty and neglect. And, in turn, the arrival of never-before-seen numbers of animals in need of veterinary care and safety at our shelter. To add insult to injury, in June 2021, a blanket ban imposed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the USA meant no dogs could be adopted there either. The USA was the most popular overseas destination for our adult dogs through private adoptions as well as through our partner rescue programme. In fact, the USA was the destination for 10% of all adopted animals during the first year of the pandemic (2020) and, during the previous year, it accounted for nearly 30% of all adoptions.



Hundreds of lovable dogs are deperately looking for their forever homes.

In a very short space of time, the shelter population has risen to over 1,600 (nearly 1,000 of these being dogs who are permanent residents at the shelter). It is the highest number of animals you have ever helped us care for. And, with the arrival of more dogs and cats at the shelter on a daily basis, this has pushed us close to tipping point – the point at which the welfare of our animals could be compromised. It is an unparalleled crisis with significant repercussions if things don't improve quickly.

With the overseas adoption programme severely affected due to travel restrictions, plus the CDC ban, the urgency was undeniable, and we had to explore alternative solutions to promote our adoptable animals to suitable homes. Adoption is the only way to maintain the shelter population in a sustainable manner and to be able to keep our promise of never turning away an animal in need.



THAILAND AND ITS EXPAT COMMUNITY

In recent years, the number of animals who found homes right here in Thailand has dramatically increased. In 2019, for example, just over one in every two animals were adopted here. In 2020, on account of the pandemic, it had risen to four out of every five. In 2021, it was seven out of 10, showing just how vital local adoptions are. However, it was mostly young animals who found homes locally, and the majority went to local Thai families.

Thailand, though, is home to thousands of expats who either move here for work or decide to retire in and around the coastal cities or mountain regions in the north of the country. Out of the 588 adoptions within Thailand in 2020, only 57 of them were to expat families which showed clearly that there is a huge potential with this demographic. Previous adoptions have shown that the expat community provide great homes, particularly to our adult and special needs dogs and cats.

With this in mind, in late 2021 we launched our expat adoptions campaign with the primary aim of bringing to the attention of Thailand's expat community that they could do something wonderful by choosing to adopt a rescued street dog or cat from Soi Dog Foundation.



There are an estimated 200,000 expats living in Thailand.





ONE, TWO, THRÉE, GO!

The multi-phased campaign to boost adoptions to the expat community looked like this:

The first phase focused on digital media and included various stages. Everchanging algorithms and the limited reach of organic social media posts forced us to turn to paid advertising to boost reach and lead generation.

We started by using the free Google Ads grant available to us as a registered charity then moved on to Facebook and Instagram advertising, focusing solely on the expat community living here in Thailand. This was launched just a few weeks ago, and we are already seeing an increase in the number of enquiries we are receiving.

The next phase in development includes print and traditional media, with multimedia content creation currently being finalised before distribution takes place. Flyers, posters and a big billboard campaign are all on the cards. The latter will be focused in Phuket to begin with, made possible by a generous anonymous donor.

The final phase will focus on developing digital advertising further after analysing the data available from the current ad campaign. We will also reach out to local print and other mass media platforms in and around the country, with a series of articles related to adoptions being released on a regular basis.



WHY ADOPT?

While we are asking people to adopt a rescued dog or cat, it is also important to consider why anyone should decide to adopt an older animal with a past that is often unknown.

Consider the well-used hashtag #adoptdontshop which has been used on over 51 million posts on Instagram alone. You would assume that it's the first thing that comes to mind when anyone is considering a new furry family member to join their life. Unfortunately, despite the millions of messages floating around social media, it is not always an option that crosses everyone's minds when they choose to add a new member to their family.

So why should anyone adopt instead of buying a fluffy puppy or wide-eyed kitten from a breeder?

Here are just a few reasons why we should always adopt a dog or cat instead of choosing to buy from a pet shop or a breeder, wherever we are in the world.

• Estimates vary, but the number of stray or homeless dogs and cats in the world is thought to be in the hundreds of millions. While those that live in countries like Thailand may have spent most of their lives on the streets, a lot of them find themselves in vulnerable situations and need to find safety. In Thailand, there are



an estimated 10 million street dogs and an unknown number of stray cats. Isn't it naturally better to offer a home to one of these animals who are likely starving and susceptible to disease and cruelty? By adopting, you choose to be a part of the solution to the overpopulation crisis. You can help contribute to ending the suffering of our companion animals by doing your part to take at least one animal out of a shelter.

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• Due to natural selection, stray animals have a strong gene pool that, when provided with a loving home environment, makes them less prone to diseases seen with certain breed dogs.

• Even in countries where there are no stray or free-roaming dogs or cats, shelters are still filled to the brim with animals available for adoption. These are either abandoned, unwanted or rescued from abusive or hoarding situations. These animals have nowhere to go and might even be put to sleep if they aren't adopted during a given time period.

• Many breeders are unlicensed, and conditions in which animals are kept can be less than ideal, with no regard for the Five Freedoms that are essential for their wellbeing. With so many companion animals kept in kennels and cages in conditions that numb their intelligent minds, isn't it better to help a dog or cat who is alive and available right now rather than encourage more breeding?

• Adopting a dog or a cat from a shelter frees up the space required for another injured animal in dire need of help. Shelters do not have infinite space or resources. Often it's a simple equation – the number of animals a shelter can take in is dependent on the number who are adopted out.

• Most animals who end up staying longer inside a shelter are older, adult animals, and people often assume they are broken or difficult to integrate into their family. It may be easier to start with a puppy or a kitten (despite the growing pains involved), and adults may take a bit of time to come out of their shell and learn the rules of their new home. However, as any of our thousands of adopters will testify, adopting is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have. Watching a rescued dog or cat evolve, and witnessing their quirks revealed one day at a time, is a truly joyous feeling.

So, what are you waiting for? Could it be your turn to do something magical and change the life of a lonely street dog or cat?

If you are in Thailand, email us at *expatadoptions@soidog.org* to learn more about how you can transform the life of a special animal today.

If you are in Canada or Europe, including the UK, please visit our website **here** for information about adopting overseas.



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ADOPTION CORNER: THE LONG-TERMERS EDITION MEET THE SOI DOGS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR THEIR FOREVER HOMES

Vanessa Jakoby

EARTH

ADOPT ME

Earth was just a pup when he arrived at Soi Dog.

He'd spent the first few months of his precious life living at a construction camp where a kind local man was feeding and looking out for him. The man reached out to us for help when he noticed Earth was vomiting and losing weight.

With treatment, Earth recovered and grew up into the big strong boy you see here. He may not be the most extroverted kind of dog, but he has such a sweet and endearing personality which he reveals more and more of as he gets to know and trust you. Whether you're relaxing at home or heading out for a nice calm walk, Earth will be happy to join.

After almost six years in a shelter, Earth deserves to find his place in the universe, don't you think?

ESTIMATED AGE: 6 years

WEIGHT: 18kg



LIKES: Strolling around the lake in the sunshine

DISLIKES:

How long he's been at the shelter

oi Dog Post **2022**

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JAYCEN

This low-to-the-ground hound is Jaycen.

He's called the shelter home for most of his life, arriving in 2019 when he was just a year old. A road traffic accident had left his pelvis and right hip fractured and his spirit broken, and he needed lots of love and care to help him recover.

Jaycen's experience is a distant memory now, and he's long since been searching for a family.

Although Jaycen's size adds to his charm, it does make it challenging for him to stand out among his fellow rescue dogs who can all stand taller, run faster and jump higher! However, he compensates with his cheeky personality and seemingly boundless energy.

Will you see him for the amazing boy he is and offer him a place to call home?

ADOPT ME

ESTIMATED AGE: 4 years

WEIGHT: 16kg

LIKES:

Making new friends and meeting up with old ones

DISLIKES: Sharing food or toys with other dogs

ADOP

ALCANDER

Alcander arrived at Soi Dog not long after Jaycen in 2019. A victim of shocking cruelty, her owner kept her on a chain

for years before abandoning her. As she grew, the rusting chain pierced her neck and started to slowly throttle her. Fortunately, she was found in time, the chain was carefully removed and her wounds were cleaned and treated.

The trauma of her past has understandably had an effect on Alcander's confidence in herself and her trust in other people, so she likes to take things easy. A nice walk, a chin scratch and a handful of treats are all good ways to start winning her heart.

Please show Alcander what a true loving owner looks like. She's already smiling at the thought of it!

> **ESTIMATED AGE:** 7 years

WEIGHT:

15kg

LIKES:

Taking life at her own pace **DISLIKES:** When the off-lead area is occupied



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!



Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

SPONSOR ONE, SAVE MANY

Amy Bryani



Beautiful *Mattana* is a Bangkaew, a Thai breed known for their fierce loyalty, intelligence and lush fluffy coat.

Mattana hasn't always been the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed girl you see here though. On arrival to Soi Dog, there was pain in her eyes, and her tail was tucked firmly between her legs in fear. She'd been abandoned on the streets by her owner and then hit by a car.

Mattana got the care she needed to heal her wounds and fractured bones. However, the emotional scars are still very fresh, and she finds it difficult to trust people as well as other dogs. Will you become a sponsor and show Mattana and her fellow shelter mates that they're safe and loved?

1

LIKES: Giving bear hugs to the people she trusts

DISLIKES: Check-ups

SPONSOR ME

1



Visit the FeLV Suite at the Soi Dog cattery and Xoron will almost certainly be the first feline to welcome you. That's just the kind of talkative and friendly girl she is.

FeLV stands for feline leukemia virus, an incurable disease which Xoron sadly contracted on the streets shortly after giving birth. Fortunately, her kittens didn't contract the disease and were soon adopted into loving homes.

Xoron is unlikely to follow in their pawsteps as her lifespan is uncertain and she needs ongoing treatment here at the shelter. Our sponsorship programme exists to ensure shelter animals like her receive the care they need to live the life they deserve. Please sign up today.



LIKES: Chin scratches and thoughtful conversations **DISLIKES:** Slow days with few visitors

CANDRA AKA THE LADIES MAN

Candra was a truly sorry sight when he arrived at Soi Dog. Anaemic, weak and covered in wounds and mange, life on the streets had been far from kind to him. Even after he'd recovered physically, he was terrified of humans and the world outside his enclosure.

Candra was one of the very first dogs to join our sponsorship programme, and the support he's received since has helped him gradually conquer his fears. Although still wary, he now enjoys adventures around the shelter and forging new friendships along the way. This is the incredible impact your support can have.

Be part of this charming senior boy's ongoing journey. Sponsor Candra and help him and so many other rescued animals like him.

SPONSOR ME

LIKES: Massages from his carer





GET READY FOR A VIBRANT SO DOG SUMMER

Nayomi Gunarathna

CHECK OUT A FEW OF OUR ESSENTIAL OUTDOOR **GEAR AND** ACCESSORIE

Click the item name/item image to purchase.

- Umbrella
- Retro camping mug
- Rucksack
- Trucker cap
- Bottle opener keyring

Summer breeze is in the air, and our merch store has everything you need for everything you've got planned this season. Click *here* to start shopping.

Whether you're heading out to camp in the woods, ticking an exotic destination off your bucket list or simply having a long-overdue get-together in your backyard with family and friends, make sure to do it Soi Dog style.

WE'VE **ALSO PUT** TOGETHER A FEW MIX-**AND-MATCH OPTIONS TO INSPIRE** YOUR SUMMER ARDROBE.

BLACK VEST WITH RED TOTE BAG AND BASEBALL CAP



SWEATSHIRT WITH HOLDALL BAG AND PASSPORT HOLDER

trade in Southeast Asia. Whatever your style, whatever the occasion, Soi Dog's merch store has something for

All proceeds from your kind purchases will help to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome the vulnerable dogs and cats of Thailand and beyond.

you and your family and friends.

Don't forget to also check out our **'Trade of Shame'** T-shirts to help raise awareness about the dog and cat meat

BASEBALL T-SHIRT WITH BUM BAG

RACERBACK VEST WITH BLACK WALLET BAG



BRAND NEW

SUPPORTING ANIMALS

SUPPORT THE DISPLACED ANIMALS OF UKRAINE BY PURCHASING A T-SHIRT AND HELP RAISE AWARENESS

We now have T-shirts available from our online merchandise store, the proceeds from the sales of which will go towards helping the displaced animals of Ukraine. Find the T-shirts **here.**

BRAND NEW - SUPPORT THE ANIMALS OF UKRAINE

SUPPORTING ANIMALS







Sam McElroy

In the last issue of the *Soi Dog Post*, we brought you news of some of the businesses that support Soi Dog through donating a portion of their profits. In this issue, we feature another three, very different business who are on a mission to help the stray animals of Asia.

Firstly, we head to Europe, where a luxury pet food company are doing more than just feeding pampered pets – they are giving back to charities across the globe. And they're doing so in an impressive way.



GENEROUS, ESSENTIALLY

Founded by Danish entrepreneur and animal lover, *Christian Degner-Elsner*, *Essential Foods* was launched in 2013 to provide food and snack delights to dogs. Since then, they have added a range of quality products, from mobility supplements to omega oils, and practical accessories such as food measuring cups and storage containers. Their products sit somewhat in the 'luxury' category, and they make no attempt to hide that. Phrases such as "Handpicked Ingredients" and "Essential Finest" conjure images of high-end organic produce markets.

And Christian is proud of the range his company have built their reputation on, and proud of their mission: To improve and prolong the lives of dogs and now – as their website states – cats too.





Most businesses analyse the market and build products to suit. With Essential, we did it the other way around. To me, that's what sets Essential apart from everybody else in the market.

What we tried to create was a food that improves and prolongs the life of dogs. How do we do that? Simple – it's the selection of ingredients. One pillar of Essential Foods is the quality of ingredients and the abundance. We wanted to present it in a superior way. And, having been around for 10 years now – and with a quarter-ofa-million customers with as close to zero complaints as you can get – we think we have achieved that.

For a company of our size, we have a relatively small product range, but each product carries a vast array of ingredients to provide as many different proteins as possible in a single meal.

We have exciting treats, formulated to complement the food, and focused on maintaining a consistent blood sugar level. This can help with the energy levels, especially of sensitive dogs.



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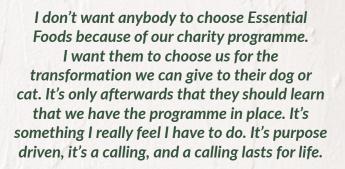


When you visit their home page -

www.essentialfoods.com - the first impression is not synonymous with the world of animal rescue. Images of working dogs and country gents dressed in tweed jackets and wax waistcoats. There is no obvious relationship between that world and the one from which Soi Dog's rescued animals have come. However, this is a story of one man's mission to plug a gap in the market, develop a very successful business, and simultaneously engineer a position of stability and sustainability which is now able to reward the efforts of animal rescuers around the world through significant and meaningful donations, and provide Christian with the sense of achievement and satisfaction that comes from knowing he is making a difference to the lives of animals and nature where it is needed most - on the ground. In this sense, a successful business equals greater charitable impact.

It has been a rapid rise for Essential Foods. In less than nine years, they have grown to have a presence in nearly 30 countries across Europe and branched into the Asian market. Christian had enjoyed a successful career up until the founding of Essential Foods, but he always felt that something was missing.

Charity is always on his mind, and he has given regularly on a personal level throughout his life. His other great passions are wildlife and nature. And so, after less than four years of trading, his company Essential Foods began to give back in a big way.





During another visit to Thailand, a place Christian calls his second home, in October 2021, he was honest about his purpose in all of this.



I'm not cut out to see suffering that close. It would probably send me into a depression. We are all built in different ways. Some of us have a calling in life.



Everyone at Soi Dog and the other [charitable] organisations we work with have a calling. I'm lucky that I know my place, and I feel that I can contribute a million times more through the work that I am doing.

On the same trip, he made a point of stopping by for a tour of the Soi Dog sanctuary. Impressed by what he saw, Christian committed to increasing the donations made by Essential Foods to Soi Dog tenfold.

I have visited many rescues all around the world, and I can say that less than a handful have made the impression that my first visit to Soi Dog did. Our support [for Soi Dog] dates back to 2013, but my decision to make Soi Dog a cornerstone of the Essential Foods charity programme originates from my visit here [in November

2021]. Why? Because Soi Dog is one of a kind in so many ways. You have established a professional organisation. You have understood the importance of organising yourself over a long period of time. Visiting Soi Dog is not visiting despair. It is visiting hope, and that is a rare gem in the world of dog rescue. You have shown donors, people like me, and other organisations that there is a different way you can do things. It's still compassion driven, but it is truly and profoundly inspirational. I left with the feeling that that is something I want to be part of in a bigger way. And that is what makes Essential Foods different to other luxury pet food brands. Their 2022 pledge to 26 different charities around the world guarantees \$150,000 USD will be donated, and, in terms of variety and geography, they are spreading their goodwill around too.

Not only are they donating to dog shelters, they are supporting ocean conservation initiatives, tree planting programmmes and wild animal projects. They are doing this in his native Denmark and as far and wide as Spain, Serbia, Portugal, Greece, Thailand, Africa, Sri Lanka and Nepal, and they are doing it for animals as small as hedgehogs and as large as elephants.

And Christian is hopeful for the future, saying,

The new generation of young adults don't only want to work for money, they want a purpose. How can we apply them in the calling we have? How can we minimise the problems going forward and not just maintain the status quo? These are the questions that Soi Dog has the answers to. It is testament to the founder, John, and the management team in place now that it exists in this way. It is so rare in the world we move around in. It says a lot about this organisation. This is one of the best places in Asia that other companies and organisations could look to invest their charitable donations. There is no end to what we can accomplish from the headquarters here. We are talking about Soi Dog today, but in ten years, we could be talking about impact on such a large scale.

Christian's visit clearly left a mark on him. And Essential Foods are leaving their mark on charitable projects around the world.

Thank you Christian and Essential Foods for supporting so many worthwhile projects and for the continued help you are providing to animals around the world.

To find out more about the Essential Foods charity giving programme, visit **www.essentialfoods.com/charity-programme**





WOULD JEWEL BELIEVE IT?

Heading across the Atlantic Ocean to an enterprising initiative that shows a caring Canadian craft-making collective, creating collectible and charming jewellery to raise funds for their favourite charities!



Founded in Ontario, Canada, by Linda Tull, and now operated single-handedly by Linda's friend Tina Fanzo, Fight For Five is a small but inspirational and fully registered not-for-profit jewellery maker dedicated to helping (yes, you guessed it) FIVE charitable organisations: Soi Dog Foundation. Save the Elephants, Rainforest Trust, Oceana Canada and Charity Water.

Since April 2019, through sales of their unique handmade bracelets, Fight For Five have donated over \$26,000 CAD across the five charities. When you buy a bracelet from your chosen range (make it orange, make it Soi Dog!), Fight For Five donate \$10 CAD to the chosen charity for each one purchased. You can buy their custom bracelets online here www.fightforfive.org/ shop or keep your eye out for them at craft fairs across Toronto.





WOULDN'T THE WORLD BE A BETTER PLACE IF EVERYBODY JUST GAVE A S*!T?

These guys produce earth-friendly pet products, including compostable poo bags and plastic-free poo bag dispensers. They care about the environment and about dogs and have donated generously since they started supporting Soi Dog. So if you're looking for compostable and charitable ways to dispose of your dog's doings, we can think of nowhere better to get your biodegradable bags than Give A Sh!t. And the best part is that while you scoop, we recoup! To clean up after your canine and support Soi Dog at the same time, visit www.giveasht.com or find them on Amazon (US or UK), Walmart or Wish by searching "earth friendly pet waste bags give".

> / 8 ROLLS COMPOSTABLE BAGS



Going natural and pawganic with



As pet parents, we always want to choose what's best for our fur babies, which is why natural products are so often at the top of the list when it comes to their health and wellbeing.

In September 2021, *Pet Wellbeing* approached Soi Dog Foundation and generously offered to support our treatment programme with donations of their holistic pet supplements.

Based in the US, Pet Wellbeing offers all-natural, veterinarianformulated, safe and effective herbal products, and their aim is to provide owners with good options and trusted information for their beloved pets.





Pet Wellbeing also run a "Rescue the Rescues" donation drive which sees them donate their supplements to the pet-rescue community across North America. As part of the drive, the public can nominate their favourite charity to be the recipient of donations, and we were extremely grateful to have been chosen as part of this.

"We had the pleasure to donate to Soi Dog Foundation, a truly incredible organisation saving street dogs and cats in Phuket, Thailand," said the Pet Wellbeing team. "They have single-handedly controlled the street animal population, rescued and rehabilitated countless cats and dogs, found homes through their adoption programme or their own sanctuary, and advocated for animal rights across Asia.

"Once we figured out how to get our products into Thailand, Pet Wellbeing was incredibly proud to support Soi Dog Foundation with a donation of teeth & gum, immune, and skin allergy support for their rescue animals!" The products were put straight to use, and our vet team have seen noticeable improvements. Take six-year-old *Caltex* here. He recently developed oral inflammation, which is common in FIV+ cats like him. Sanctuary vet *Dr. Looknam* has been using 1-2 drops of the Healthy Gums formula daily and has noticed a reduction in the inflammation as well as the improvement of his breath.

With positive results already, and a kind commitment by Pet Wellbeing to donate their products on a quarterly basis, our vet team are looking forward to treating more dogs and cats in need.

To purchase Pet Wellbeing products or nominate your favourite rescue organisation for a donation, visit **petwellbeing.com**

All done!



Open wide, Caltex..

Birthday wish from a Suppersonance Chutima Srisawang

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you," said one of England's most famous writers *John Bunyan*. And we've got a real-life example for you.

"Bright" Wachirawit Chivaree, a young Thai superstar singer and actor, teamed up with his Thai and international fans to create the *"Make A Bright Wish* 2021" project, aimed at providing financial assistance to Thai nonprofit



organisations that help society in a variety of ways. The project, launched on Bright's 24th birthday, December 27th, also featured a photo and clothing auction called "Unique: The exhibition of Bright". Combined, the events successfully raised an impressive 4,070,000 THB which the project then distributed to 10 Thai charities, with an amazing 2,500,000 THB (\$74,500 USD) apportioned to Soi Dog Foundation.

Following the very generous donation, the Make A Bright Wish project delegates learned about Soi Dog's work during a January visit to the shelter in Phuket. They learned first-hand about the various facets of daily life at Soi Dog – from medical care and voluntary work, to adoption and education programmes – and recognised the benefits of each programme and the wellbeing of all animals. As a result, they have decided to support Soi Dog's efforts to improve the welfare of street animals in order to fulfill Bright's wish to help as many animals as possible.

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He is also the proud owner of a cat named *Ame*, which is the Japanese word for rain. Having never before found himself in the position to have his own cat, he waited until the time was right before opening his heart and home to Ame, providing a good example of responsible pet ownership to his millions of followers.

bright 🥪

@bbrightvc

This is not the first time that this talented star has supported social and animal welfare initiatives; it has long been a part of his life, both on his own and with his followers, to promote social work. In fact, the nine other organisations to benefit from the Make A Bright Wish 2021 ranged from elephant welfare projects to marine conservation and wildlife rescue centres.

Bright's cat Ame became popular overnight when the hashtag #NekkoxBright1M trended on Twitter.

It is clear from the variety of organisations, and the level of support shown, that Bright is willing to help improve the lives of all kinds of animals. He and his fans not only

change the lives of many thousands, they also inspire others to speak up for the voiceless and put their hands in their pockets to help make a difference.

Every contribution, no matter how large or small, is critical to Soi Dog's ability to continue assisting stray dogs and cats in Asia. Every donation helps save lives and offers homeless animals a second chance, and it is because of people like Bright and his loyal fans that this is possible.

Ingend of

On behalf of dogs and cats in desperate need of help, we would like to say thank you, Make A Bright Wish, for the incredible support of stray animals in our care.

#MakeABrightWish2021

#bbrightvc

น้องหมาน้องแมวจรทกดัวขอขอบคุณค่ะ

A thank you note from Soi Dog to Bright and his fans.



564,000 Sip

Team Soi Dog USA contributed to one of the more novel fundraising ideas we've seen in recent times. And, in March, they helped put it into practice by hosting Soi Dog's very first virtual wine-tasting event.

How on earth does that work? Virtual wine? Zoom nibbles? Getting tipsy on Teams? Well, almost!

Teaming up with the very generous and creative Soi Dog supporters David Brennan and Louisa Porter, were SDUSA President Janis Rosenthal and SDUSA board members Elizabeth Neubrand and Annie Keeney, who helped it all come together. In order to make it work, three elements were required:

Supporters - Invitations were sent out to US supporters on a first come, first served basis, with the event only able to host 35 households.

Wine – Courtesy of David and Louisa, and sent out from Husch Winery of Philo, California, were around 70 bottles of their prime pinot and sh-amazing chardonnay.

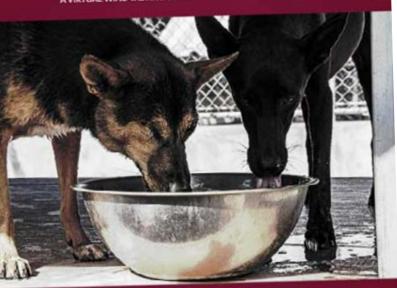
Zoom – The means to bring everyone together, virtually!

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SIP FOR SOI DOG

A VIRTUAL WINE-TASTING BENEFITING SOI DOG FOUNDATION



SPECIAL LIVE GUEST APPEARANCE BY SOI DOG Generously sponsored by David Brennan and Louisa Porter



John Dalley



HUSCH

Combined, they helped to create an exclusive event with a limited but very generous number of Soi Dog supporters from across the US in virtual attendance, donating \$75 USD each to take part. Husch Winery had sent out two courtesy bottles to each attendee prior to the event. Then, on Friday March 25th supporters gathered for an evening of wine-tasting, doggy conversation and charitable giving.

The guests were also joined on live link from Thailand by Soi Dog cofounder *John Dalley* and Soi Dog CEO *Louise Rose*, who took part in an open

Q&A with the attendees, providing first-hand insights into the work of Soi Dog and how their donations make all the difference to the work on the ground in Asia. The event raised almost \$64,000 USD, all of which goes directly to Soi Dog programmes in Thailand.

"It was wonderful to talk directly with some of our valued supporters in the US and to be able to bring them right into the world of Soi Dog, albeit via video link!", said Louise. "The generosity of kindhearted people is what makes it all happen, and John and I were delighted to be a part of this special event."

Janis added, "A huge thank you to all who made it a very special evening and to David and Louisa for the inspiration and the wine! We very much look forward to seeing you at another event in the near future."

FROM VOLUNTEERING TEAM **TO MOUNTAINEERING DREAM**

SOI DOG'S OWN 'POCKET ROCKET', YANISA, TO SCALE HIMALAYAN PEAK

Former Soi Dog Foundation staff member Yanisa Kingmala-Beven has just begun her attempt to climb the 6,419-metre peak Mt. Chulu West in the Annapurna Range of the Himalayas.

Yanisa, 51, a visitor and volunteer coordinator at Soi Dog's Phuket Sanctuary between 2018 and 2022, hopes to complete the challenge with her husband Rohun, 65, to promote awareness of the sick, abandoned and homeless street dogs and cats of Thailand and help raise vital funds for the dogs and cats of Asia.

The 21-day trek and challenge to climb a 6,000m Himalayan peak is significant given the extreme altitude and severe risks involved. The summit attempt involves negotiating a dangerously steep and narrow snow-covered ridge, with a drop of thousands of feet on either side.

"I am very anxious about the expedition and will try to reach the top if I can," said Yanisa prior to embarking on the challenge.

"I hope people in Phuket, throughout Thailand and across the world, particularly animal lovers, will follow me and Rohun on our Facebook fundraiser challenge page as we raise as much money as we can."

Yanisa and Rohun

much less harsh hills of Phuket

Yanisa and Rohun travelled to Nepal on April 24th, and the trek began in Kathmandu on April 27th. It is scheduled to finish around May 20th, depending on weather conditions at altitude.

To support the climb, and the animals who will benefit from the funds raised, please sponsor Yanisa and Rohun on either of these donation links:

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/ donate/353756103334374/353761036667214

Soi Dog website - https://links.soidog.org/ MountainClimbChallenge

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.

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.



CARS



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.

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

amazonsmile

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

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



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