

SOI DOG

May 2023

post



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

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Our dogs and cats
need you: shelter and
flight volunteering



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A MILESTONE RESCUE MISSION IN THE YEAR OF THE CAT

Amy Bryant

It all started with a Google alert.

“4 tonnes of cat meat confiscated by police in Vietnam.”

The news landed in the inbox of Soi Dog’s Director of International Advocacy *Rahul Sehgal*, and right away he knew it was significant.

Such firm action against the dog and cat meat trade – which exists in something of a legal grey area in Vietnam – is unheard of, and he and his team sprang into action to find out more.

The confiscated meat, representing approximately 2,000 dead cats, had been discovered during a raid on a slaughterhouse in the southern province of Dong Thap. The police had entered the premises under the suspicion that the owners did not have the required paperwork for storing the meat – and they were correct.

The more the advocacy team investigated, the more horror they uncovered. This was no market stall or small enterprise. This was a full-scale slaughterhouse operation, equipped with industrial machinery employed for the brutal slaughter of up to 500 innocent cats a day.

The facility had been in operation for more than a decade, during which time the owners had built up a sophisticated network of cat thieves to supply the business, as well as a system of transport so the cats could be shipped thousands of kilometres to northern Vietnam and China and sold for medicinal use and consumption.





The slaughterhouse from outside. Inside, 197 cats await their fate.

Inconspicuous by its location in a rural part of Vietnam and its dual function as a fruit wholesaler, anyone passing the facility would be oblivious to the horror unfolding inside.

Fortunately, the authorities weren't fooled. Soon after the first raid came a second, during which a further tonne of cat meat was confiscated and destroyed in front of the slaughterhouse's pleading owners.

The raids dealt a huge financial blow to the owners, and the slaughterhouse was effectively forced out of business. To ensure it stays that way, they were also put under police surveillance.

This was a milestone moment for animal welfare in Vietnam, but the team didn't have time to celebrate. There were 197 live cats still inside the slaughterhouse with nowhere else to go.

AGAINST THE CLOCK

The rescue of the cats came not a moment too soon. Found crammed into small crates on the slaughterhouse floor, they were ready to be shipped out at any minute, bound for an unthinkable end.

The first priority was to move the cats out of the facility to somewhere safe, which the team were able to do thanks to the generosity of an incredible local animal lover, *Le Bich Tram*, whose modest family home became a hospital and sanctuary for close to 200 cats almost overnight.

We will never know exactly what the cats experienced during their time in the slaughterhouse, but their condition gave us a devastating insight. Malnourished and dehydrated from days without food or water; wounded and injured from being forced into the crates; traumatised by what they'd witnessed – the scenes were utterly heartbreaking.

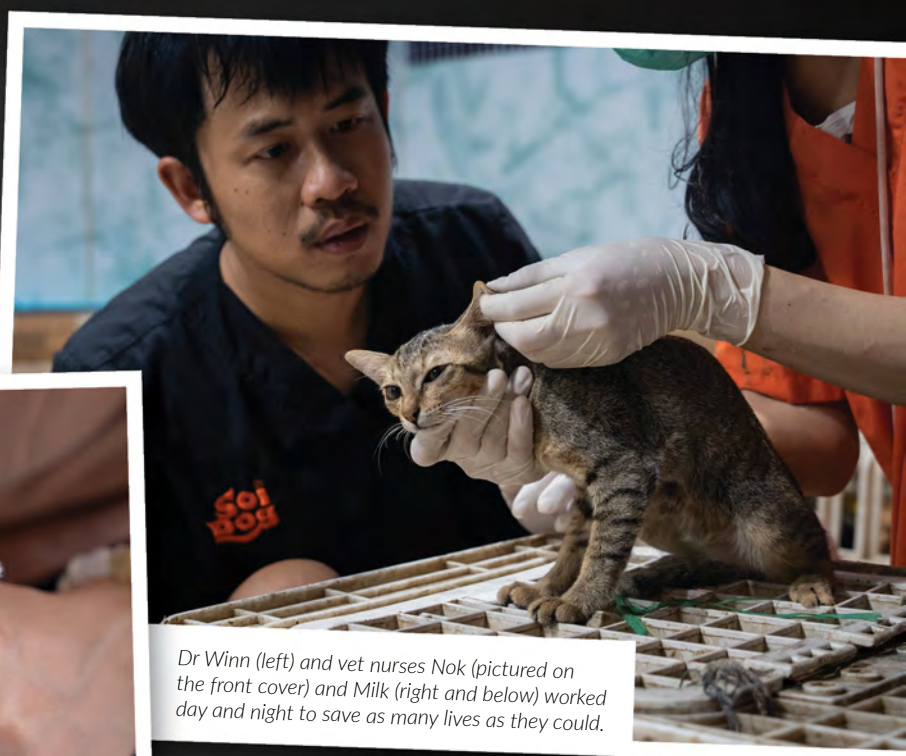
Crammed into crates, the cats had gone days without food or water



The following days passed by in a blur as a small but skilled and dedicated veterinary team, supported by local vet *Dr Tham*, fought to save as many lives as possible. Working around the clock, they provided critical care to the cats, stopping only to sleep. Among countless other treatments, they administered fluids, cleaned and dressed traumatic wounds and bottle-fed the neonatal kittens whose mothers had birthed them prematurely through stress and panic.

Tragically, though, for many of these cats and kittens it was simply too late – the torment of their experience already having taken its toll. There are few words that can describe how devastating it was to lose so many precious lives, but there is some consolation to be found in knowing they did not suffer at the hands of butchers and traders. We remain extremely grateful for the lives that were able to be saved thanks to your generous support and the incredible efforts of our veterinary team.

For the cats who made it through those crucial first few days, a temporary enclosure was constructed on some empty land adjacent to the house – a place for them to recuperate and receive ongoing treatment, vaccinations and microchips.

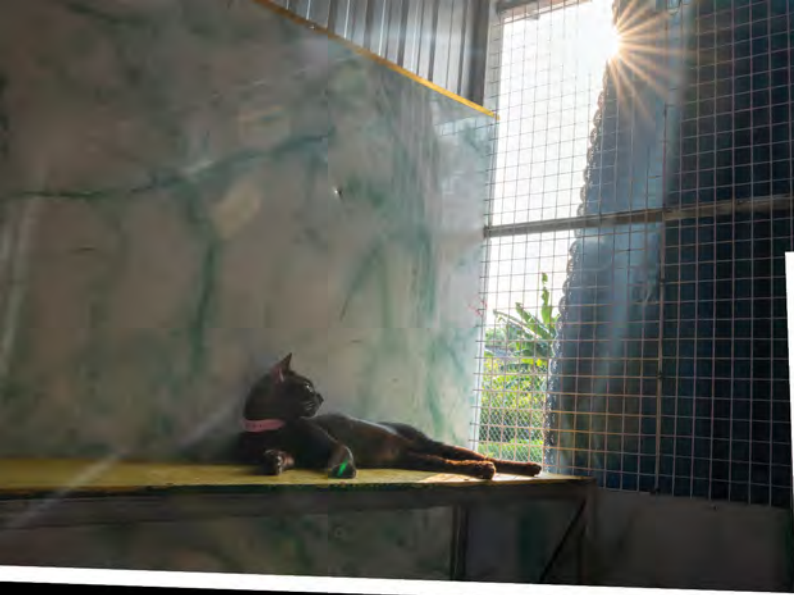


Dr Winn (left) and vet nurses Nok (pictured on the front cover) and Milk (right and below) worked day and night to save as many lives as they could.



Vietnamese veterinarian Dr Tham came out of retirement to assist with the rescue mission. His expertise and boundless positivity proved invaluable.





In the newly built enclosure, the cats were finally able to relax and be cats again.



As the cats settled into their new surroundings, they began to relax and exhibit their natural behaviours. They groomed themselves, meowed, purred and accepted food. Cats who had once hissed at the sight of humans were now approaching for affection, and cats who had seemed completely shut down just days prior began to show off their unique personalities.

The more time that passed, the more sociable they became and the closer we came to the upsetting realisation that these cats were likely once owned.

The veterinary team were shocked to discover that some of the cats were already spayed/neutered too – another strong indication that they were indeed once much-loved pets stolen to be sold into this barbaric trade.

A small sterilisation room was constructed next to the enclosure so the cats who were still intact could be spayed/neutered once they were stable enough for the surgery.

As the condition of the cats began to stabilise, and the initial urgency of the situation dissipated, it was time to look ahead. What was next for these cats?



Soi Dog's Director of International Advocacy Rahul Sehgal, who is leading our fight against the dog and cat meat trade.



A NEW DAWN

As part of Soi Dog's successful fight against the dog and cat meat trade in Thailand between 2011 and 2014, hundreds of rescued dogs were flown to safe and loving homes in Europe and North America.

We wanted to achieve the same outcome for the rescued cats of Vietnam. However, with their health fragile and their trauma still very much fresh, our veterinary team deemed long-haul travel too risky and felt that a shorter overland trip – with a vet and vet nurse accompanying them all the way – would be much safer.

The cats were to travel to homes in Thailand instead, where the dog and cat meat trade has long been outlawed thanks to your support and where we were certain that equally safe and loving homes could be found.



Our adoptions team first made a trip to Dong Thap to profile the cats – to understand their individual personalities as well as their behavioural and medical needs.

They also assigned the cats names. Some were named after flowers (*Jasmine, Tulip, Cotton Rose*), others after the Seven Wonders of the World (*Petra, Machu, Picchu*). Some took the name of zodiac signs (*Leo, Gemini, Aquarius*) and Greek gods (*Apollo, Artemis, Hera*). Others were given Thai names with symbolic meanings (*Boonrod* meaning 'survivor', *Wanmai* meaning 'a new day' and *Somchok* meaning 'luck' or 'fortune').

A local adoption appeal for the newly named cats followed, and the response was overwhelming. Applications poured in from animal lovers across Thailand who had been as touched by the stories of these brave survivors as they had been horrified by the discovery that such a trade exists in Vietnam.

The team carefully sifted through the applications – which far outnumbered the amount of cats available – and matched each of the 40+ cats to what they felt would be the perfect homes. Meanwhile, plans were put in place for the challenging cross-border journey required to get them all there.



THE LONG ROAD HOME

On May 6th, that journey began. Armed with travel crates, medication and an unbreakable determination, a joint adoptions-veterinary team drove some 1,600+ kilometres from our shelter in Phuket, Thailand, up to Bangkok, across to Sa Kaeo, down through Cambodia and into Vietnam to collect the cats.



The cats found homes in 23 different provinces across Thailand.

Traversing three countries with dozens of cats was always going to come with its challenges. However, between officious border guards, stacks of import permit paperwork and mountains of red tape, there was enough narrative for its own Netflix series.

Yet among the chaos and confusion, the cats remained cool, calm and collected – any stress paling in comparison to what they’d already experienced. Nonetheless, our veterinary staff were on hand at all times to monitor their health and wellbeing as well as replenish their food and water bowls and clean their crates.

The team finally arrived back at the Thai border with Cambodia on May 14th. On standby there were five vehicles, ready to transport the cats to their families in provinces across Thailand, from Chiang Rai in the north to Trang in the southeast.



As the cats emerged from their crates and met their new families for the first time, suddenly every agonising moment of their rescue, treatment and transport became worth it. Every treatment administered, every kilometre travelled, every hour of sleep lost to heartbreak and worry had been leading to that one moment. The moment these cats were finally, truly forever home.



From the cruel hands of butchers to the loving arms of their very own families – you have given these cats an incredible gift.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

In reality, Dong Thap is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to this trade in Vietnam, where the number of cats and dogs slaughtered every year is believed to run into the millions.

However, the willingness of the authorities and the show of support from local animal lovers has provided a glimmer of hope and a real opportunity to change things for good in Vietnam.

Soi Dog has, for many years, held talks at high levels of government in Vietnam. Fuelled by the successful outcome in this case, we will continue to fight for the creation of a legal framework so that similar operations can be targeted and cats and dogs are no longer subjected to this unimaginable cruelty anywhere in the country.

2023 has been declared the Year of the Cat in Vietnam, with cats hailed as symbols of protection and good luck. It is time they were treated accordingly.

Thank you for never, ever giving up on these innocent animals.





ON CLOUD NINE (HUNDRED THOUSAND)

Chutima Srisawang

In Thailand, the number nine – or เก้า (“gao”) – is considered lucky. It also means “progress” in Thai. This made it all the more special when we reached the milestone of 900,000 animals neutered and vaccinated recently!

That’s right. Just six months after celebrating 800,000 and a year after 700,000, we were able to surpass 900,000 sterilisations and vaccinations in March, such is the strength of your support.

Thanks to you and, in Greater Bangkok, the generous funding of *Dogs Trust Worldwide*, more than 18,000 animals are now being neutered and vaccinated every month through our Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (CNVR) programme – a figure that continues to rise.



Our fleet of mobile sterilisation clinic teams continues to expand in line with this. There are currently 14 such teams operating in Thailand – five in the south and nine in Greater Bangkok – and you can read more about that expansion in the next article.

But our efforts to manage the stray animal population do not start and end with mobile clinics. Your donations also help numerous external projects across the country as well as support an on-site sterilisation suite at our shelter in Phuket, which is in place to keep the population on the island at the manageable level we have worked hard to get it to.



However, with Soi Dog familiar to many in Phuket, there is great demand on our sterilisation services and, in turn, often a long waiting list. To help meet this demand, we set up an off-site sterilisation facility on the island in February, and we're pleased to report it's off to a flying start. With the support of local authorities and the collaboration of the local community, more than 1,800 animals have been neutered and vaccinated on the island so far this year.

This nudged us over the line and brought the overall number of Soi Dog sterilisations (as of the end of March) to a staggering 903,383!

With a further 35,000+ animals reached since then, the total figure now stands at 938,872.

As we move towards the next milestone of a million, it really is incredible to think about how many puppies and kittens have been spared a short life of suffering on the streets thanks to CNVR.

In the Thai spirit of the number nine, we feel extremely **lucky** to have your support. However, we know that your generosity is not coincidental. In fact, it has nothing to do with luck. Your commitment to enhancing animal welfare, ending the suffering of street animals and ensuring our CNVR programme continues to grow and **progress** is very much intentional. Thank you so much.



TWO MORE MOBILE TEAMS HIT THE ROAD

Chutima Srisawang

We are always excited to bring you news of our expanding mobile teams as we know it means that even more stray animals will be neutered, vaccinated and given the chance to live happier, healthier lives in their communities thanks to your support.

Since the last edition of the *Soi Dog Post*, two such teams have begun operations, the first in November in the city of the sacred Dharma King, Nakhon Si Thammarat.

NEXT STOP: NAKHON

Nakhon Si Thammarat was the first southern province outside of Phuket that Soi Dog ever set up a mobile clinic. Having seen positive results on the island, we brought our CNVR programme to the province back in 2018, and it has been a part of the NST community since then.

This city is one of the most important ancient cities in Southeast Asia in terms of economy, society, politics, government and religion. It is also the second largest southern province of Thailand, the largest being Surat Thani where Soi Dog has been running a programme of CNVR since 2021. Natural resources are plentiful, as are the people who live here.



Team (high) five!



As important as sterilisation and vaccination is the education of the next generation.



In November 2022, Soi Dog launched a second team in the province, to the east in Pak Phanang district. A steady stream of locals signed up to get the animals in the area sterilised as the team arrived, and they welcomed them with open arms. Their efforts have also been recognised by the province's deputy governor, mayor and members of local government departments who came by the clinic on the first day of operations to wish them well.

Our humane education team also took the opportunity to educate local children in surrounding schools during the clinic's first week of operations, with a focus on responsible pet ownership and the prevention of rabies.

Nakhon Provincial Deputy Governor *Mr. Trairat Chaiyarat* expressed his delight that Soi Dog has expanded to have two sterilisation mobile clinics in the province. Previously, relevant agencies worked to control rabies and received ongoing cooperation from Soi Dog in doing so. However, with such a big region and so many dogs, it was taking a long time to see results in each location.

"I believe that Soi Dog's mobile clinics and the work of local authorities will ensure that stray animals are taken care of proficiently and lead Nakhon to being a rabies-free area," said Mr. Trairat.

Following Nakhon Si Thammarat (team one), Phang Nga, Surat Thani, and Phatthalung, the Pak Panang sterilisation unit is our fifth mobile team in the southern region. As of the end of May, the team had neutered and vaccinated over 5,000 animals.

Our CNVR strategy sees one team move from district to district in a westerly direction while the other moves in an easterly direction. They will continue to do so until they have covered all 23 districts – an ambitious but attainable goal made possible by your support.



Southern Mobile Clinic Manager Dr. Muk observes the team's performance.



CHANGE IN CHACHOENGSAO

The next team launch took place in the province of Chachoengsao in May.

Although the main town of Chachoengsao is located some 60 kilometres east of central Bangkok, it's still considered to be part of Bangkok district, and therefore the team's hard work is being supported by Dogs Trust Worldwide who are so generously committed to funding half of our entire CNVR programme in the capital.

Chachoengsao is slated to become a new economic and industrial hub for Thailand, owing to the Bang Pakong River which runs through the province and acts as an essential transit route.

However, as the area has developed and grown, so has the population of street dogs there, who have benefitted from the increasing number of food sources available to them. Our CNVR programme, therefore, arrived in the province not a moment too soon.



Team nine feeling fine.

The team – our ninth in Bangkok and our 14th in Thailand overall – started work in the province's northernmost district, Bang Nam Priao, and plan to gradually move south until all 11 districts have been covered.

Their first stop was Wat Suwan Khiri, a large and vibrantly

decorated temple. Sadly, temples are common dumping grounds for unwanted animals in Thailand, and so our clinics are often conveniently held there. An opening ceremony at the temple was well attended, with the head monk as well as members of local government departments giving blessings and showing their support.

It's early days for the team; however, by the end of their first month, they had neutered and vaccinated nearly 800 animals with your support. We look forward to bringing you further updates as they reach more and more animals in need.



A warm welcome at Wat Suwan Khiri.





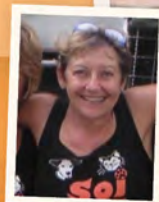
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Saving Asia's dogs and cats since 2003

This year, we celebrate 20 years of saving Asia's dogs and cats!

That's over 7,000 days or 175,000 hours, for which we owe you more than a million thank yous!

What began as the mission of just three volunteers who faced many trials and tribulations that would have caused most people to give up, has since grown into an internationally recognised animal welfare organisation, helping hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats, operating the largest CNVR programme of its kind in the world soon to reach a million animals neutered and vaccinated, home to the largest animal hospital in Southeast Asia, and reaching beyond borders to help animals across the region.

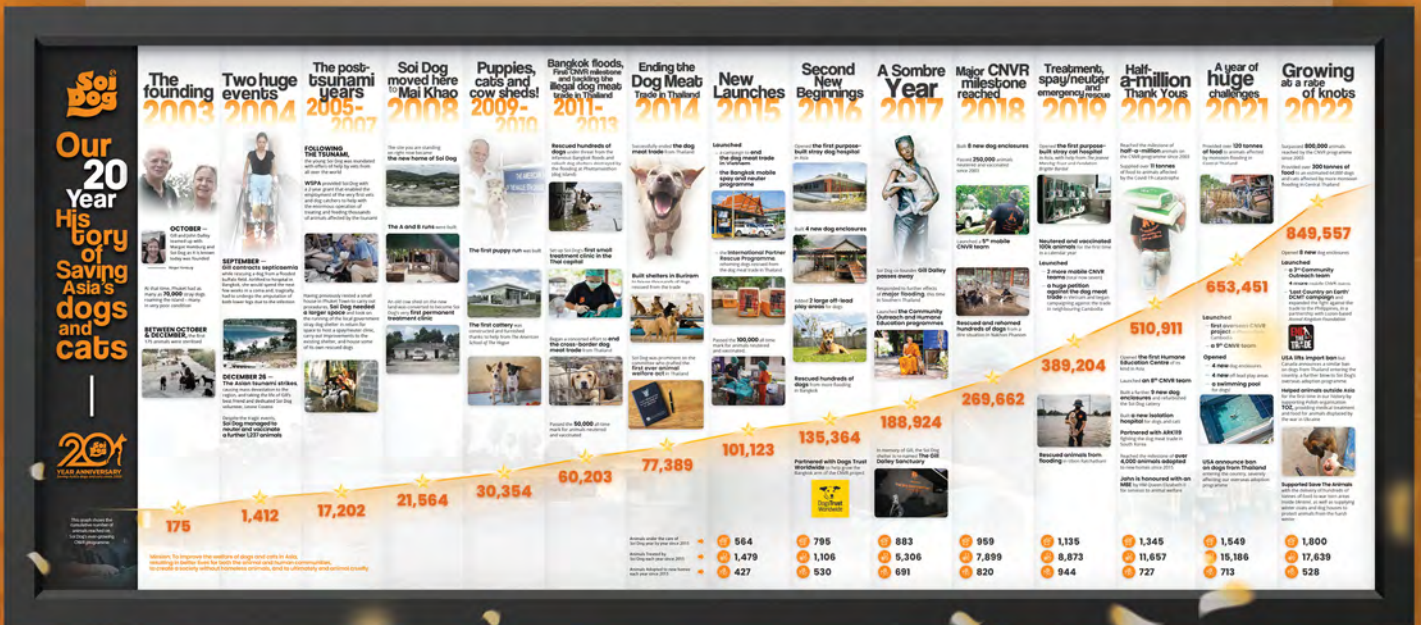


Over the course of the next few months, leading up to Soi Dog's 20th birthday in October, we will feature a special 20 years series on social media taking a look back at some of the accomplishments that have only been made possible by you – our loyal supporters!



Other interesting and interactive things to keep your eye out for will be an ask the staff feature where you will have the opportunity to ask our staff anything you like! An art competition – the winner of which will have their design featured on a commemorative coffee mug available on Soi Dog's merchandise store, and an adopted animals series where we meet just a few of the soi dogs and cats and their adopters, all on our official social media platforms! These will be interspersed with CNVR milestones and volunteer stories and much more!

Follow the hashtag **#soidog20years**, leave your comments, questions and suggestions on our pages and help us celebrate 20 years of work that has seen us end the dog meat trade in Thailand, provide life-saving medical treatment to thousands of sick and vulnerable animals, and, without question, change the course of the next 20 years for homeless animals in Asia.



Calling all animal-loving artists

SOI DOG'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY ART COMPETITION IS OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Amy Bryant

As part of Soi Dog's 20-year anniversary celebrations, we are holding a design-a-mug art competition.

This is a chance for you – our wonderful supporters who have made two decades of Soi Dog possible – to have your very own artwork printed on a limited-edition mug and win a bundle of merchandise too.

From cartoon to watercolour to photography, all styles of artwork are welcome, so long as they reflect an interpretation or appreciation of dogs and cats. Let your imagination flow!

The winning designs will not only be featured on a mug but also on our website and across our social media platforms too.

For full guidelines and instructions on how to submit your artwork, please click [here](#).

Good luck!



- Open to all age groups
- Categories: Under 11s / 12s to 17s / 18+
- More than one entry per artist accepted
- Deadline for entries: September 30, 2023
- All entries to mugcompetition@soidog.org

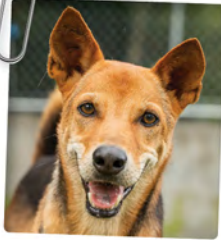


LET THE FUR FLY!

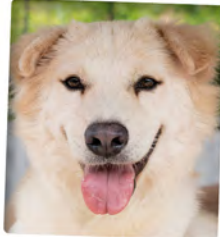
AN INTERVIEW WITH WINGS OF RESCUE CEO RIC BROWDE



Amy Bryant



Thor



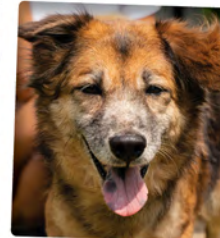
Teresla



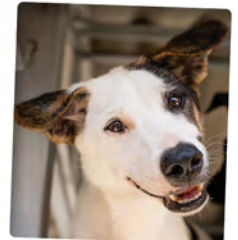
Dados



Depop



Emeg



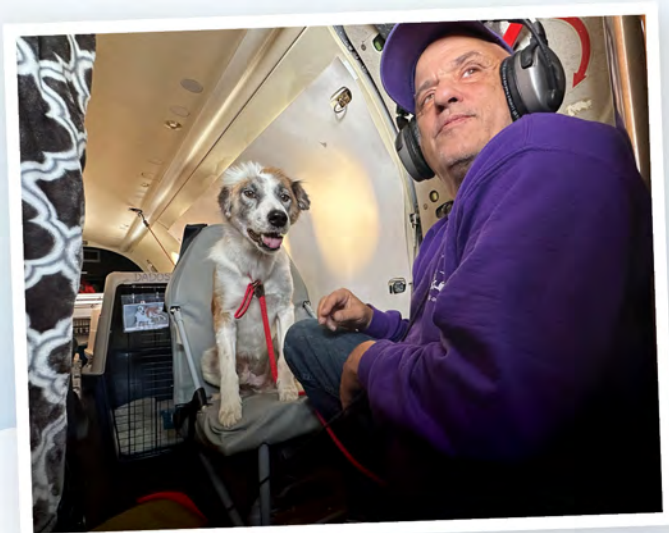
Masterart

When we rescued *Thor, Teresla, Dados, Depop, Emeg* and *Masterart* from the streets of Thailand, we could never have imagined that one day they'd be flying on a private plane to their new homes in the USA, but the world of animal rescue has a way of surprising you!

The special flight was operated by *Wings of Rescue*, a non-profit organisation who fly at-risk pets from shelters and disaster areas using their fleet of planes and volunteer pilots.

Their tagline: let the fur fly.

Wings of Rescue generously escorted our dogs on the last leg of their journey from Washington D.C. to Chicago in April to join our brand-new partner rescue there, *Alive Rescue*.



A mid-flight moment with *Dados* and Ric.

Rescued from road traffic accidents, cruelty, illness and injury, these six soi dogs once meant nothing to anyone. Now, they have the chance to find a family to whom they will mean everything.

At the time of publication, Wings of Rescue had saved a staggering **68,086 pets**, flown **2,051,888 miles** and delivered **886,063 pounds** of aid to victims of hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados and floods – all in the space of just over a decade.

To find out more about the non-profit's remarkable work, we spoke to Wings of Rescue CEO *Ric Browde*, a rock 'n' roll record producer turned animal rescuer who accompanied our dogs on their once-in-a-lifetime journey.



HOW WAS THE FLIGHT?

It was joyful! It always is. You could tell the dogs knew something good was going on when they got on the plane. You could hear the thumping of tails in their crates.

And everybody we met along the way, from [Pender Pet Retreat] who delivered the dogs to us in Washington to the team at Alive Rescue who collected them at the other end, was outstanding. It was like, "Wow, when good people join together, we can do a lot." The outpouring of love was very tangible.

We got some of the dogs out of their crates during the flight. Dados had the chance to go in the cockpit, and we discovered that Masterart particularly loves Oreo cookies and apple pie!

THERE WERE IN-FLIGHT SNACKS?!

Oh yeah, it was a catered flight! They were just having so much fun. Masterart was aloof at first, but by the end of the flight, he was rolling over for belly rubs. It was really neat to see that.

It just goes to show that you can take nearly any dog, bring them into a new environment and they're going to adjust and be a dog again. Dogs are very resilient. They should never have to experience what some of them experience, but they make it through. It's a privilege to fly these pets. It really is.



How many other soi dogs can say they've been in the cockpit of a private plane?



Alive Rescue founder and president Kristin Gerali and a group of excited volunteers meet their newest recruits on the airfield Chicago.

WHERE ELSE HAS WINGS OF RESCUE FLOWN TO?

St Vincent, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Antigua, Israel, Lebanon, The Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Canada... We've landed in all 50 US states and seven Canadian provinces. We'll go anywhere we can be of help.



FLYING SO FAR AND WIDE, IS IT A LOGISTIC NIGHTMARE?

It's not! I guess I have the advantage of having been in rock 'n' roll bands and a lot of times ending up as road manager of my own bands, so I had experience in logistics. Plus dogs are so much better behaved than rock and roll musicians! Much better manners.

HOW DID YOU PIVOT FROM THE MUSIC INDUSTRY TO ANIMAL WELFARE, PARTICULARLY THIS UNIQUE AREA OF ANIMAL WELFARE?

It started, I'd say, in 2003. I woke up and realised I'd sold 29 million records but had done nothing to make the world any better. In my own naivety, I didn't know they were killing pets in shelters. Realising our happiest moments always involved our dogs and cats, my wife and I started volunteering in shelters in Los Angeles.

I saw that the problem with a lot of these shelters was marketing. They were marketing their dogs as "This dog dies at midnight if you don't come and get it now." So I brought in photographers from *Vogue* and we started this project called The Networking List which marketed them more as "This dog is going to improve your life." All of a sudden, the shelter went from euthanising 100 dogs every day to nine dogs in the last month I was there – and those were for temperament and/or medical reasons.

Wings of Rescue was run by another person at that time. He came to visit the shelter and it went from there.



ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR FLIGHTS YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER?

Yes, during Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. We were delivering aid and helping evacuate animals from shelters there. We were also reuniting pets with their owners who had fled to Florida. Each flight was 16 hours.

We took 28 dogs on the first flight, and as I was unloading them in Fort Lauderdale, this one woman approaches me looking for hers. She had a disabled son who had been basically catatonic without his dog and hadn't said a word in over two months.

I walked over to the boy with the crate and said, "I've got somebody here who wants to see you." He turns around, he smiles, he reaches for his dog with one hand and reaches to his mother with the other and pulls off her wig! And then he starts talking. And everybody burst into tears but was laughing at the same time.

It was so good that we turned around and went back and did another flight just like that the next day. The power of a dog!



"I'd fly Wings of Rescue again," says tripod Thor.

WINGS OF RESCUE ALSO OPERATE A SPAY/NEUTER PROJECT. TELL US ABOUT THAT.

It's called Operation Pitstop. American shelters are full of pitbulls, who have the worst public relations of any breed, so I started a programme where we provide free spay/neuter to all bully breeds, and everybody who brings one in gets put in a raffle to win \$1,000 USD.

We've done five events so far, and at each event, we do 500 [spay/neuter surgeries]. We're really committed to that. It's almost as important as our flights. Every time we do 500, that means within 18 months, 15,000 pets won't enter the shelter.

Spay/neuter is the only viable answer, yet around the world we don't do it enough.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Just like you, we're a donor-based organisation. It takes a lot of money to make the fur fly! We need the support because fuel prices have got more expensive, and we have to fly farther now with smaller loads which costs more.

Most importantly of all the messages, wherever you are, please spay/neuter your pets. It's the only way we're going to get out of this mess. No pet should have to go through life unwanted and at risk because of that. We all have the power to make the world better, so let's use it.

And support Soi Dog Foundation because you guys really are the shining ray of Southeast Asia.

To find out more about Wings of Rescue, visit



wingsofrescue.org



Abbie FOR THE ANIMALS

YOUNG ANIMAL LOVER RAISES OVER
\$5,000 USD FOR SOI DOG

Chutima Srisawang

15-year-old student *Abbie Pongpat* blew us away in May when she donated a staggering 174,321 THB – or 5,062 USD – to Soi Dog, all raised through her self-made fundraising project.

Abbie was inspired to start the project after adopting *Momoshi*, a puppy who arrived at the Soi Dog shelter with a badly wounded leg that had to be amputated. Abbie and her family enquired about *Momoshi* after seeing her story on the Soi Dog Facebook page, and she joined them at their home in Bangkok in March.

Wanting to help more homeless animals like *Momoshi*, Abbie launched two fundraising initiatives: one for her Thai friends and family to whom she sold gift baskets containing beauty products and snacks brought back from the USA by her father; and another for her friends back in the USA to whom she sold raffle tickets, with the grand prize being a collection of unique Thai gifts carefully selected from local markets.



www.soidog.org

WELCOME TO

THE GILL DALLEY SANCTUARY

FOR SICK, INJURED AND VULNERABLE
STREET DOGS AND CATS



She received additional donations on top by people who wanted to reward her compassion and commitment.

“I’m so proud that I can help street dogs and cats in my own way,” said Abbie on her visit to the shelter in Phuket to make her donation. “We should all help animals in need in whatever way we’re able to.”

Reflecting on her experience of adopting, she added, “It’s worth getting a pet from a shelter. Not only will you receive a companion, but you will also feel good about giving them a chance. If you only open your mind, there are a lot of dogs and cats looking for a forever home.”

“Disabled animals, such as those who are blind or missing limbs, are more likely to be shy than other animals and will need time to get used to their new home. Adopters must be understanding and patient. Before you adopt, ask yourself if you are ready.”

A huge thank you to Abbie, her supportive family and everyone who donated towards her project. We are thrilled to see the younger generation in Thailand becoming more aware of animal welfare and taking action however they can.



ADOPTION CORNER:

THE BEFORE-AND-AFTER EDITION

MEET THE SOI DOGS LOOKING FOR THEIR FOREVER HOMES

Vanessa Jakoby

PANIPURI

Panipuri was one of 17 dogs rescued from an illegal shelter that had reportedly been built to keep them away from local residents who didn't want them around.

In the cramped and filthy space, with faeces covering the floor and no food or fresh water available, Panipuri fell ill with canine distemper and had to spend weeks in our isolation unit.

Panipuri is fully recovered now, but she's still shy and hesitant. It's clear that she carries her troubled past with her, though she's determined to keep moving forward.

After everything she's been through, we'd love to see Panipuri in a home where she can finally feel safe, welcome and happy. Will you give this brave girl a chance? Once you get to know her, you'll fall head over heels.

Estimated age:
3 years

Weight:
16kg

Likes:
Chest scratches

Dislikes:
Not having a place to call home

Adopt Me



AKAME

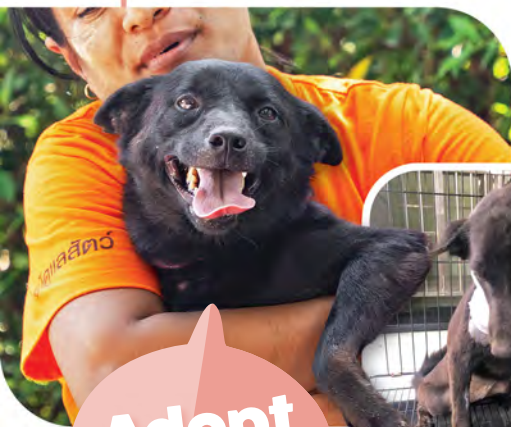
Akame was brought to the shelter for her safety after being seriously and repeatedly attacked by other dogs on the streets.

The attacks left her with multiple bite wounds, one of which had formed a large abscess. Fortunately, one of our mobile teams found her before it could get any worse.

In our hospital, Akame fought hard to recover – and she did. Her trauma now well behind her, she remains a sweet and loving girl.

Akame is the perfect cuddly size and is known as a little lovebug due to her wiggly, affectionate nature and her need to be close to people.

Anyone would be lucky to welcome this girl into their home, and we can't wait for that day to come.



Adopt Me



Estimated age:
2 years

Likes:
Being the centre of attention

Weight:
13kg

Dislikes:
When other dogs steal the spotlight

SNOWMAN

Snowman was hit by a car and left to languish for days before someone found him and brought him to us.

The impact caused serious injury to his hips and hind legs, with one leg being beyond repair and requiring amputation.

Snowman went on to make a great recovery and adapted well as a tripod dog.

Snowman's infectious smile and endearing personality are what we love about him. Most of the time, you can find him and his best friend *Flossy* sitting at the front gate of their enclosure, waiting to greet everyone who passes by.

We recently received the bittersweet news that *Flossy* has been reserved for adoption and will soon travel to a home of her own. Will you make sure Snowman doesn't wait long for his turn?



Adopt Me



Estimated age:
2 years

Likes:
All kinds of human affection

Weight:
14kg

Dislikes:
Rainy days with no walks



THE SOI DOG SILLIES



When your belly is bigger than your ambitions.



Reports of a two-dog collision in the off-lead area. Multiple tennis balls involved. No casualties.



The battle for the lead is on. Who will be the first one out for a walk?



Best friends forever.



Add this to the list of street dog talents: queuing!

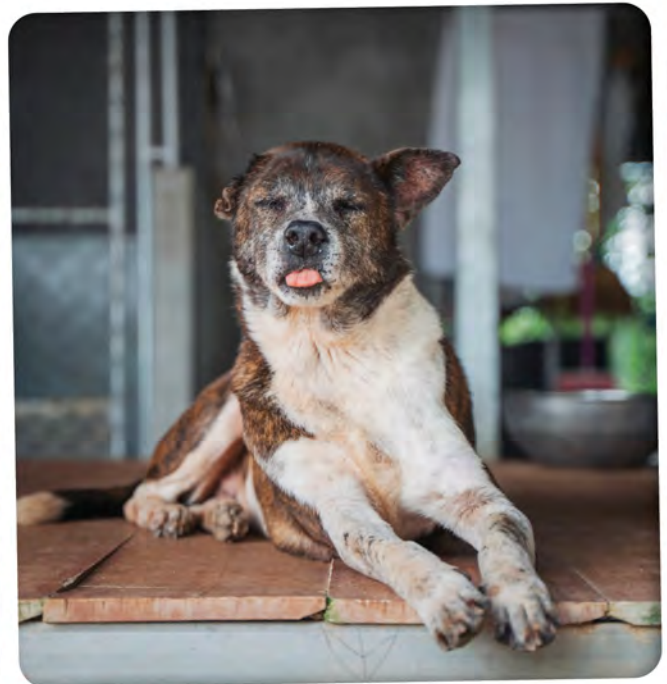




The moment Boggart spotted the camera.



*Soi dog vs. flamingo:
an epic staring contest.*



Blep.



SOI DOG JOINS TikTok

BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT.

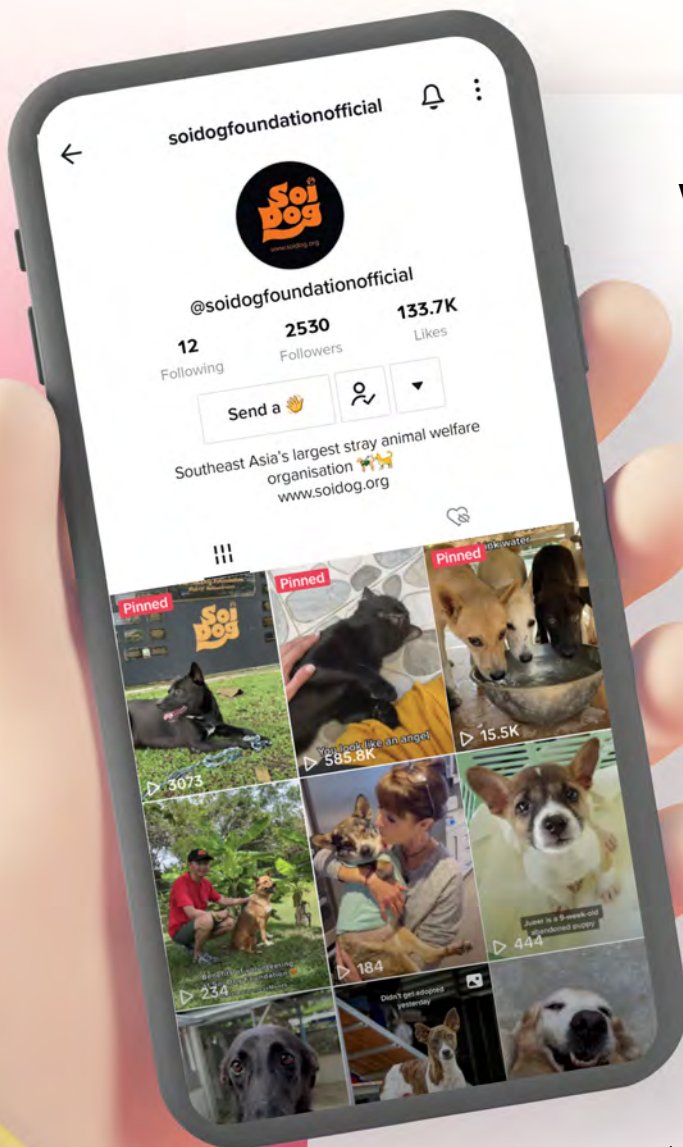
FOLLOW US AT



@SOIDOGFOUNDATIONOFFICIAL



Thais Gasperini



We are delighted to announce that Soi Dog Foundation has joined TikTok, one of the world's most popular video-sharing platforms known for its wide variety of content tailored to each user's taste.

If you're on TikTok and looking for a daily dose of cuteness and exclusive behind-the-scenes moments from our shelter, search **@soidogfoundationofficial**. If you don't have an account, please consider signing up so you can follow the daily adventures of our dogs and cats too. You won't regret it!

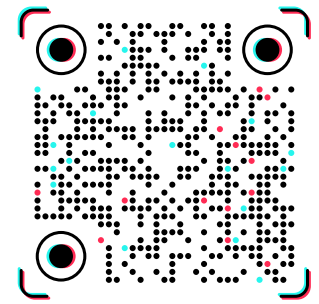
So, what is TikTok all about? The app allows people to discover, share and create short videos of any type, including tips and hacks, unique challenges, trending sounds and much more. But it's not only about dance trends and lip-sync videos. The platform also promotes creativity and community engagement for animal lovers everywhere. Indeed, users can find heart-melting videos to scroll through endlessly as well as content that educates them about animal welfare.



Our aim is to offer a mix of entertaining, emotional and educational content while showcasing our dogs' and cats' unique personalities. In less than a minute on the Soi Dog feed, you can find out more about canine hydrotherapy, what to expect as a volunteer at the shelter, how our newborn kittens are bottle fed and many other topics that highlight the journey of our furry TikTok stars.

Beyond the laughs, this increasingly popular platform is a great source of awareness, drawing more eyes to our rescue dogs and cats and allowing people to connect with them through their stories.

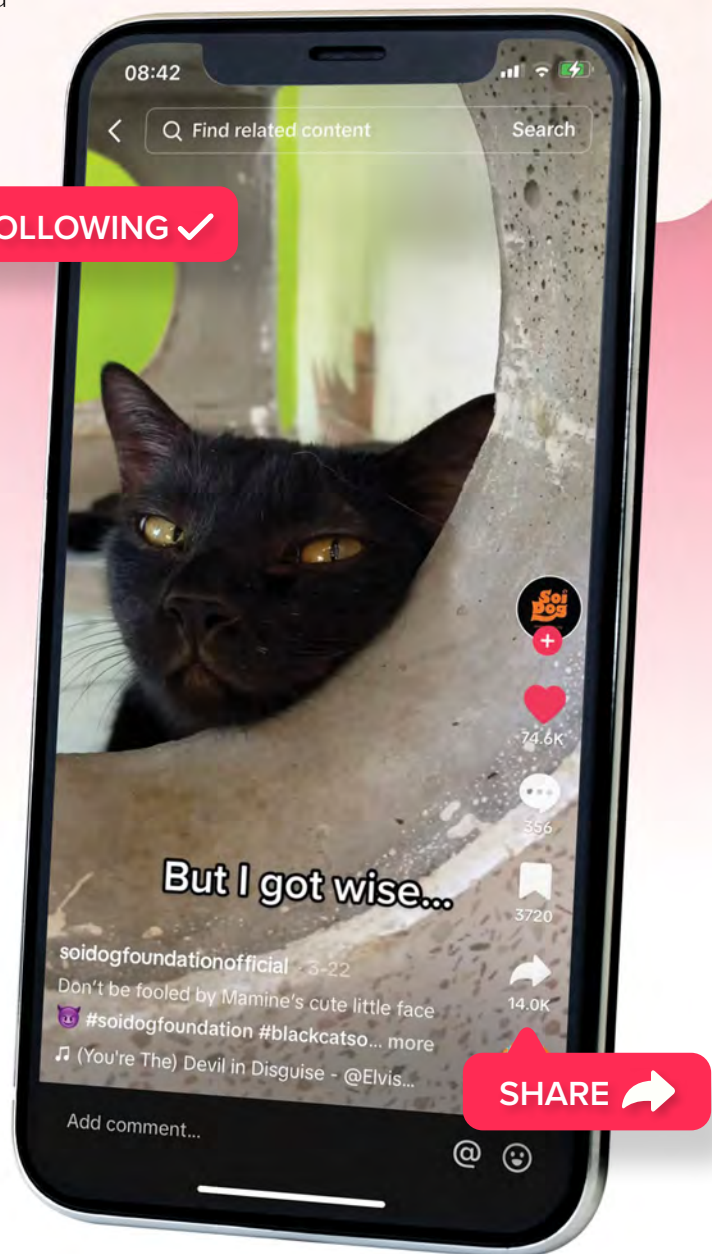
From animal enthusiasts to active TikTok users, millennials to Gen Zers, we encourage everyone to subscribe to our new account, view new content daily, get involved in the comments, drop us a like on our videos and share, share, share!



Scan QR code to follow account



FOLLOWING ✓



SHARE ➔



FACES OF THE SOI DOG SPONSOR PROGRAMME

SPONSOR ONE, SAVE MANY



PATTAYA aka THE WARRIOR PRINCESS

SPONSOR
ME

Have you ever had one of those horrible dreams? Well, what I experienced in the early days of my life was just like that. Only it was real. When I was a young dog, I was captured for the dog meat trade.

Thankfully, that wasn't the end of my story. Using all the bravery I had, I made it through and survived, earning my name of Warrior Princess, *Pattaya*.

It's been quite a few years now, but I still remember the first day I arrived at Soi Dog after my rescue. It was the first time I had ever felt safe. Since then, I have finally been able to find the happiness I spent so long looking for.



I LIKE: going in the swimming pool, especially if I have a friend to splash around with.

I DISLIKE: that the dog and cat meat trade still exists in parts of Southeast Asia.

WHAT SPONSORSHIP MEANS TO ME:

I think most of all, it means refuge. After everything I have been through, it means the whole world to have a safe place to call home where I am protected from the monsters that used to haunt me. Sponsorship helps to ensure that me and so many others have a safe place to seek shelter.



TEN QUESTIONS WITH **PATTAYA**



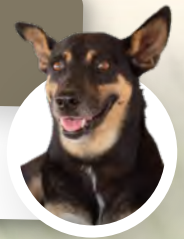
WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?



Hopefully you.



TUMMY RUBS
OR HEAD PATS?



Tummy rubs.



FAVOURITE SONG?



Hound Dog – Elvis Presley.



FAVOURITE NAP SPOT?



The wooden sala
in my enclosure.



WHERE WERE YOU BORN?



In the northeast of Thailand.



STAR SIGN?



Taurus.



HOW OLD ARE YOU?



Around 10.



WHO IS YOUR HERO?



Those who help animals
in need, just as you do.



WHAT IS YOUR
FAVOURITE FOOD?



Kibble with gravy.



DO YOU LIVE BY ANY PIECE OF
ADVICE OR MOTTO?

Don't give up – there is always hope.



To Europe WITH LOVE



Following horrendous post-Brexit issues with sending Soi Dog merchandise to our loyal friends in EU states, we are delighted to announce that we are now registered in Europe to send parcels to you without complications at customs.

We've missed you terribly and are looking forward to receiving your orders again and sending them to you with confidence of them safely arriving.

Thank you for your patience!

Visit shop.soidog.org to browse our wide range of clothing, homeware and accessories for you and your pets too.

[SHOP NOW](#)



OUR DOGS AND CATS NEED YOU!

Sam McElroy

Were the last three years just a bad dream? Did the world return to normal already?


What is normal we hear you ask? Well, normal for our shelter dogs involves an enriching stroll around our lush, green sanctuary, reading 'notes' left by other dogs, charging wildy around the many exercise areas, chasing tennis balls, licking, sniffing, jumping, running and generally just being happy dogs. This version of normal is something that they haven't seen often enough during the recent past. They're waiting for you! And who knows? You may end up meeting the love of your life while you're here (whether that's two, three or four legged!).


If dogs aren't your thing, don't worry - we've got you covered. There's five large cat suites and over 150 cats to hang out with! It's feline heaven. Get massaged, meowed at, pierced with a loving set of cat's eyes or simply purred into submission. Our cats are desperate to meet new international travellers and Phuket holidaymakers, and to cast their unique and irresistible spell upon you! And if you bring a big enough heart with you, you may even find yourself enquiring about adopting one (or two)!

There has never been a better time to come to Phuket to bask in the glorious sunshine, take a dip in the warm ocean and, most importantly, come to Soi Dog to fulfil all your dreams of hanging out with the best dogs and cats ever!

It's absolutely free to volunteer at Soi Dog, and our friendly team of volunteer coordinators are here to support you every step of the way.

Read more, book your volunteering visit, do the right thing!

 www.soidog.org/volunteer

 volunteering@soidog.org

or scan the QR code



FLY ME TO THE MOON!

(OR JUST TO AMERICA OR EUROPE)

BECOME A SOI DOG FLIGHT VOLUNTEER

Sam McElroy

Did you know, another area in which Soi Dog is always looking for volunteers is in helping our adopted animals make the journey to their forever home?



Not only is adoption the ultimate goal for each animal here at Soi Dog, but it is also critical to ensuring we can continue to help as many new dogs and cats as possible by creating space at our sanctuary for them, and the best way to do this is to see animals leave for new homes either in Thailand or overseas. In fact, three out of every 10 animals adopted from Soi Dog in 2022 travelled overseas. That's a whopping 162 dogs and cats!

It's a constant cycle, at least that's the theory. But the cost of sending animals overseas sometimes proves a stumbling block because cargo fees are just too high.

The least expensive way to ensure they reach their destination safely is for them to travel as a passenger's (very special) excess baggage.

If you are travelling on pre-booked tickets from Phuket (HKT) or Bangkok (BKK) to any of the destinations in North America or Europe listed below, you could become an animal hero today!



THE PROCESS IS SO EASY AND REQUIRES VERY LITTLE EFFORT ON YOUR PART.

- We typically require you to provide us with a minimum of 4 weeks' notice before your intended date of travel.
- We cover the excess baggage fee and arrange all documentation for the animal.
- All you have to do is turn up for your pre-booked flight where a Soi Dog representative will meet you and complete the check-in of the animal (they will already be in their travel crate, ready to go!).
- When you reach your destination, you just have to remember to collect the animal in the same way you will collect your luggage, and hand them over to a Soi Dog representative or adopter (depending on what has been arranged for that particular animal).



POPULAR DESTINATION PORTS:

DESTINATION

AMSTERDAM
BRUSSELS
PARIS
FRANKFURT
NEW YORK
WASHINGTON DC
LOS ANGELES

IATA CODE

AMS
BRU
CDG
FRA
JFK
IAD
LAX



FLYING WITH ANY OF THESE AIRLINES:

QATAR
AIRWAYS القطرية

EVA AIR

THAI

JAPAN AIRLINES

FINNAIR

Austrian

KLM

ANA

KOREAN AIR

SWISS

Lufthansa

AIRFRANCE

ASIANA AIRLINES

CHINA AIRLINES

*Due to border or immigration restrictions, we are unable to use flight volunteers to *Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Singapore, Hong Kong* (either for transit or as the final destination)*

*flights must be with a single carrier from origin to destination, no codeshare

or scan the QR code

Read more or register your interest:

<https://www.soidog.org/content/become-flight-volunteer>

logistics@soidog.org



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.



Soi Dog Lottery



From just £1 per week, UK supporters can now play the Soi Dog Lottery to help animals in need.

The draw takes place every Friday afternoon, and the top prize of £25,000 will be up for grabs, along with 35 runner-up prizes.

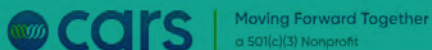
Visit soidog.affinitylottery.org.uk to start playing today. T's & C's apply. Players must be 18 or over.

Don'tSendMeACard

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

DontSendMeACard.com

CARS



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

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

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

Giveacar



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

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

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



LEAVE A LEGACY

BE THE FUTURE
FOR STRAY ANIMALS



SHARE OUR VISION BY
JOINING THE SOI DOG
LEGACY PROGRAMME

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

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



www.soidog.org