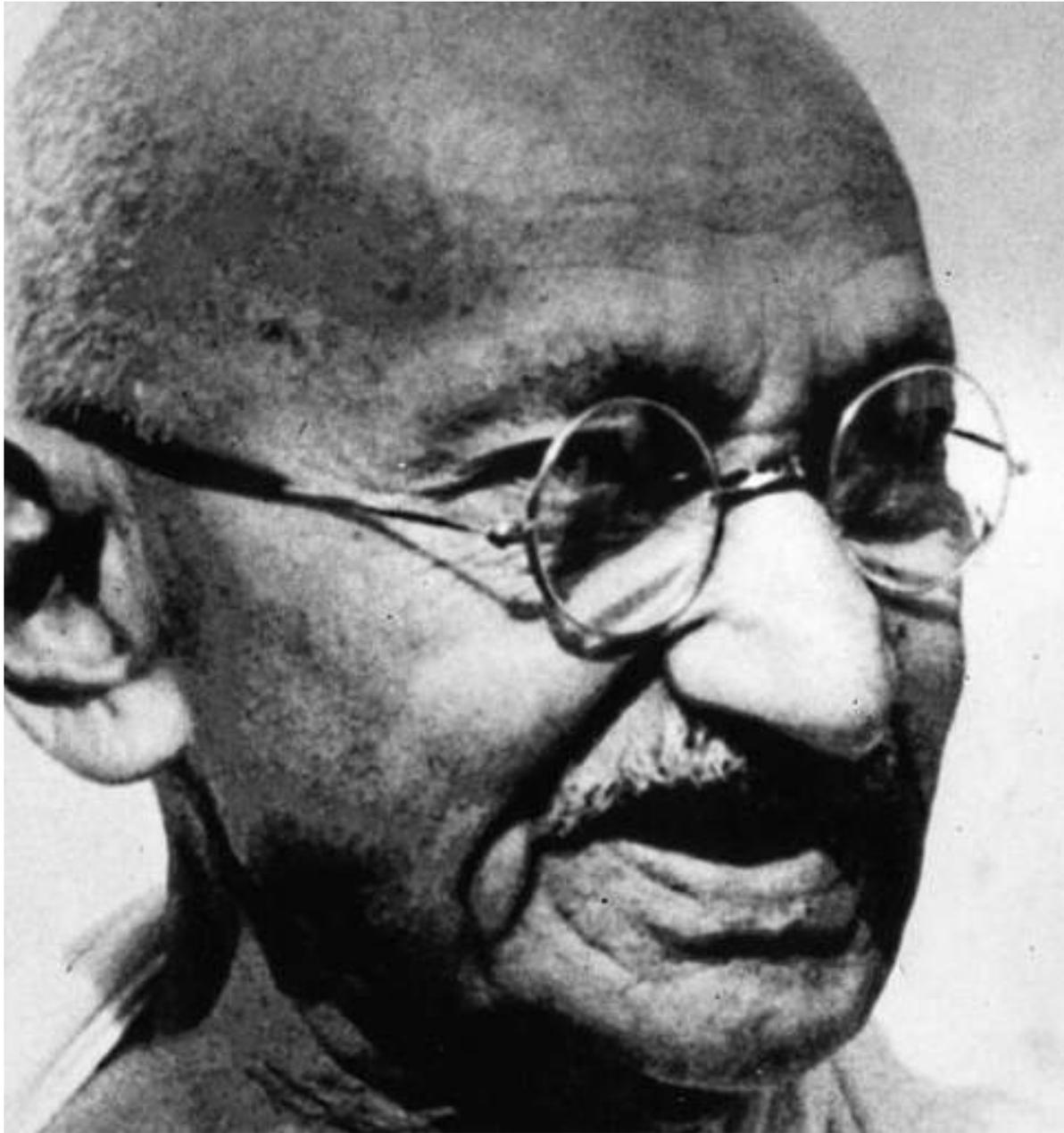




# The Little Orange Book





The greatness  
of a nation  
and its moral  
progress can be  
judged by the way  
its animals are  
treated.

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

## **The Soi Dog Foundation Mission**

To improve the welfare of dogs and cats in Asia, resulting in better lives for both the animal and human communities, to create a society without homeless animals, and to ultimately end cruelty toward animals.



*Above, John and Gill Dalley. Left, co-founder Margot Homburg.*

## The Beginnings of Soi Dog

Soi Dog Foundation (Soi Dog) was established in 2003 in Phuket, Thailand, by John and Gill Dalley from the UK and Dutch retiree Margot Homburg, to help the street dogs and cats who had no one else to care for them.

Over 70,000 strays roamed the island, with the numbers growing alarmingly due to a lack of sterilisation (spay/neuter) programmes to control the population.

Occasionally local authorities would carry out culls, poisoning, shooting or clubbing dogs to death in an effort to control the population.

Soi Dog was created to provide a humane and sustainable solution to managing the stray population and to address their medical needs.

Funding, then as now, came entirely from individuals who shared, and continue to share, the vision of our founders.

For more on the history of the Soi Dog Foundation, visit [soidog.org](http://soidog.org)

# Soi Dog's main activities

## **CNVR CAMPAIGNS**

Controlling dog and cat populations and reducing/eliminating disease through sustained Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (CNVR) campaigns.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Providing high quality veterinary treatment to stray dogs and cats.

## **SHELTERING**

Providing shelter to animals that have been victims of cruelty or abuse, disabled animals, abandoned puppies and others who cannot survive on the streets.

## **ADOPTION**

Finding permanent homes both in Thailand and overseas for animals taken into the shelter.

## **FIGHTING THE ASIAN DOG MEAT TRADE**

Eradicating the organised dog meat trade across borders and the eating of dogs and cats in Asia. Great strides have already been made and attitudes are changing.

## **DISASTER RESPONSE**

Initiating fast and effective action to save dogs and cats after natural or man-made disasters.

## **ERADICATING PUPPY FARMS**

Combatting the evils of puppy farms and encouraging people to adopt rescue dogs and not to buy pups from pet stores. This includes discouraging the breeding or importing of breeds that are not suited to the Thailand's hot climate.

## **ANIMAL WELFARE LAWS**

Soi Dog Foundation was instrumental in the introduction of Thailand's first animal welfare law and sits on committees designed to improve it. In addition we campaign to ensure the law is enforced and sentences applied by courts for cruelty to animals are as severe as the new law allows.

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

Last year Soi Dog Foundation rolled out education programmes for schools to teach future Thai generations about responsible pet ownership and respect for all animals. The Foundation also trains both Thai vets and vets from other countries.

## CNVR: WHY IT WORKS

Soi Dog firmly believes that the most effective way to give street animals a higher quality to life is through a campaign of Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (or CNVR).

The World Health Organisation (WHO), The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, (GARC) all agree that the most effective way to eliminate human rabies is to eliminate it in dogs.

Vaccinating 70% of dogs in an area will result in the elimination of rabies. It is a similar situation with reducing stray dog numbers; sterilising 80% of dogs in an area will lead to a sustained reduction in numbers.

This is provided that vaccinated and sterilised dogs are left in place to build up herd immunity and prevent new unsterilised dogs taking over territory where a food supply (usually garbage) exists.

It's a simple concept: catch the dogs, neuter and vaccinate them, and then, usually within 24 hours, release them back where they were caught.

It has already been shown that culling street animals, apart from often being brutal and also running against the Buddhist beliefs that predominate in Thailand, is ineffective.

Dogs are territorial by nature and will keep other dogs out of their territory.



*A significant milestone: In October 2018, Chaiyo became the 250,000th animal to be sterilised by the Soi Dog Foundation.*



*Soi Dog catchers at work in a rubber plantation in Phuket, bringing in dogs for neutering and vaccination.*

When an area is cleared of dogs, animals from neighbouring areas – who may not yet be sterilised – move in.

With reduced competition and a good supply of food (from garbage), they breed fast. Within a year or two the dog population in the area has climbed back to where it was before the cull.

The same applies to impounding dogs. Although the dogs are not killed, they all too often end up in poorly run state pounds that lack sufficient funding.

There, disease is rife and spreads because of lack of medical care, and dogs are injured in fights over food, with some of them eventually starving. In addition, the population grows because none of the animals are neutered, increasing strain on resources.

Dog pounds in Asia are often poorly thought out and desperately underfunded. The result can be years of misery for the impounded dogs before they die.

Removing sterilised, vaccinated dogs from an area actually encourages rabies and more stray dogs.

The effectiveness of CNVR carried out by Soi Dog has

been demonstrated in Phuket, where the dog population is now much reduced despite a growing human population, and where the animals are much healthier than they were a decade ago.

The Thai government has recognised the health benefits of CNVR to humans, too; thanks mainly to the vaccinations performed by Soi Dog, Phuket is the only province of 76 in Thailand that has been officially declared rabies-free.

With Phuket under control, and a similar programme completed in Phang Nga province, a CNVR campaign was begun in 2017 on Thailand's next most popular island holiday destinations, Koh Samui and nearby Koh Phangan.

Teams also began work in November 2016 on Soi Dog's most ambitious CNVR challenge: Bangkok. It is estimated that there are around 640,000 free-roaming dogs in the greater Bangkok region, and the majority of these are neither vaccinated nor sterilised. This will be a major exercise but Soi Dog is confident it can eventually stabilise the Thai capital's street dog population.

Since it was first founded with just a handful of people, SDF has sterilised more than 250,000 animals. In the first 10 months of 2018 SDF surpassed all its own records by sterilising 64,670 animals, an increase of 21 per cent on



*CNVR clinic at a wat in Nong Chok, on the east side of Bangkok. Soi Dog aims to neuter hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats in the capital in the coming few years.*

the figure for the whole of 2017. The biggest gain was in Bangkok, where our teams neutered and vaccinated 38,484 animals by the end of October, an increase of 31 per cent on all of 2017. October was also the first time we sterilised more than 8,000 animals in a month (8,124).

The table opposite shows the numbers of dogs and cats sterilised by Soi Dog over the first 15 years. The number has grown dramatically each year for the past six years.

SDF was responsible for 27,367 dogs and 2,015 cats being sterilised in the Greater Bangkok area during 2017. Our Southern mobile team completed 11,657 sterilisations during the year of which 3,556 dogs and 63 cats were completed on the holiday island of Koh Samui. The team then moved on to work on nearby Koh Phangan, then Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

In Phuket, 4,771 dogs and 6,893 cats were sterilised in 2017, most at the shelter. This is worrying; it is the highest figure since 2014, when the Phuket mobile programme "ended". The numbers for this year are projected to be yet higher.

We should have seen the number continue to fall but the fact it has not indicates that many unsterilised, owned animals are being abandoned, adding to the number of strays. The dumping of unsold pups from puppy farms or by unscrupulous puppy sellers is another contributor.

Year	Dogs	Cats	Total
2003	134	41	175
2004	952	285	1,237
2005	4,300	2,027	6,327
2006	5,792	1,433	7,225
2007	2,046	192	2,238
2008	3,283	1,079	4,362
2009	3,148	1,045	4,193
2010	3,140	1,457	4,597
2011	3,874	1,715	5,589
2012	8,625	2,067	10,692
2013	10,965	2,603	13,568
2014	12,767	4,419	17,186
2015	17,759	5,975	23,734
2016	24,378	9,863	34,241
2017	42,331	11,229	53,560

**Total to end of 2017:**

**143,494**

**45,430**

**188,924**

**Total to end October, 2018:**

**197,434**

**56,160**

**253,594**

## SHELTERING AND ADOPTION

Animals rescued from the streets and brought to the Soi Dog shelter in Phuket suffer from a wide variety of medical conditions, ranging from severe skin diseases, to broken limbs and brain damage from being hit by vehicles, to horrific injuries purposely inflicted by people.

Soi Dog has the most sophisticated and best equipped dog hospital in Southeast Asia, staffed by 15 full-time veterinarians. (Another 12 work in mobile clinics).

The hospital can hold up to 160 “patients” in double “rooms”.

In 2017, Soi Dog treated 5,310 sick or injured animals. Most dogs, once they fully recover, are returned to where they came from but SDF also finds loving homes for around 600 or 700 a year, not only in Thailand, but also elsewhere, particularly North America and Europe.

Soi Dog has also been sheltering hundreds of animals rescued from the dog meat trade (see below).

These cannot be put back where they came from – no one knows where that might be – so they are gradually being found homes.



*Maenom is one of hundreds of happy dogs in new homes.*



*Dogs stuffed into cages ready to be trucked from Thailand across Laos and into Vietnam, a harrowing days-long journey with no food or water, ending in certain death, usually in horrifyingly cruel ways.*

## **FIGHTING THE DOG MEAT TRADE**

There are a number of places in Asia – particularly China, South Korea and Vietnam – where dogs are eaten as food.

Unlike other types of meat industry, this trade is rarely regulated, which has resulted in horrific animal abuse at the hands of organised criminal bands.

In northeast Thailand criminal gangs were taking dogs off the street or stealing pets out of people's gardens and jamming them into filthy cages for transport across Laos to Vietnam.

The dogs were neither fed nor watered with the result that many perished en route.

Those that survived invariably met nightmarish deaths, bludgeoned or stabbed to death before having their hides ripped from them and their corpses butchered.

In some well-documented cases the desperate animals were still conscious when their hides were ripped off their bodies.

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

Working with the Thai government, police and border officials – and with heroic private citizens willing to go up against the gangs – Soi Dog was able to make the trade unprofitable.

Truckloads of dogs were seized and thousands of dogs were rescued.

But the trade from Thailand to Vietnam is just the tip of the iceberg.

Each year in Asia, millions of dogs are still snatched from the streets or stolen from their homes to be tortured and slaughtered for their meat.

In South Korea, dogs are bred for consumption in shocking conditions in so-called “dog meat farms”.

These dogs spend their entire lives in cages and are then killed in some of the most horrific ways possible.

In Yulin, China, an annual dog meat festival has seen an estimated 10,000 dogs and cats killed and eaten. The Chinese authorities have recently taken action to reduce that number, but this year's festival will still see at least 1,000 dogs and cats killed and eaten.

The methods employed to kill these innocent animals in China, Korea, Vietnam and other Asian countries are unspeakably cruel.



*No hope: a dog jammed in a cage under others, unable to move during the days-long journey.*



*Safe, healthy and happy: Two of the thousands of dogs rescued by Soi Dog from the dog meat trade.*

In the Philippines and Indonesia, for example, dogs are routinely blow-torched or flung into vats of boiling water while still alive.

In South Korea they may be clubbed or stabbed to death in front of other dogs, as it is believed the terror the dog endures releases adrenaline, making the meat tastier.

However, there is hope. In September 2018, the Hanoi municipality announced that it will ban dog meat sales in the city centre by 2021. In August, Indonesian government officials said they would support a ban on the trade.

In South Korea, public opinion is taking its toll and a growing number of dog farm owners are being convinced to switch to new occupations.

And in China there is growing disgust with, and opposition to eating dogs. In Yulin, campaigners have clashed with dog meat traders, trying to rescue some of the animals due to be butchered in an annual "festival".

The Soi Dog Foundation is determined that the dog meat trade from Thailand to Vietnam will never be resurrected, and supports all effort elsewhere to end the dog meat trade.

## DISASTER RESPONSE

From its very beginnings going back to the 2004 Asian Tsunami, Soi Dog Foundation has responded to natural disasters.

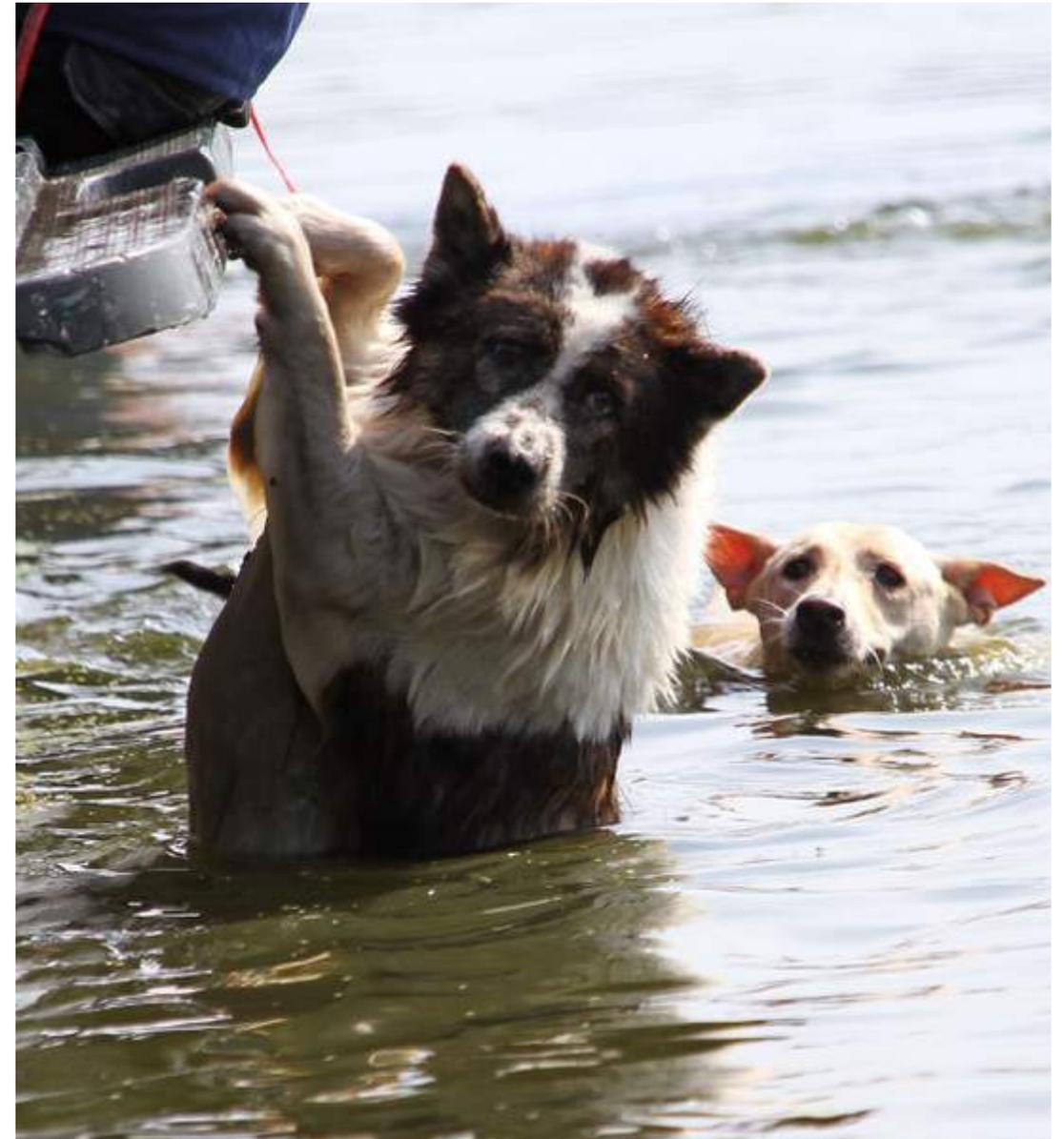
Today, through its Emergency Response and Community Outreach teams, SDF has been able to provide on-the-ground help to both animals and people affected by such events.

SDF was first to respond to the Bangkok floods in 2011, providing not only food to marooned animals but also establishing emergency shelters and evacuating many animals. The exercise was repeated when floods hit the south of Thailand in 2016/17.

Disasters are not always the result of climatic events. In 2010, an epidemic of the usually fatal canine distemper saw us conduct a mass vaccination campaign that stopped the disease spreading.

In May 2018 we rushed vets to northeast Thailand where, because of a nationwide panic over rabies, about 3,500 dogs were caught and jammed into a pound. Dozens died each day in fights, from starvation or disease. By the time we were allowed in, only 700 or so were still alive. We were able to save most of these.

It is impossible to say how many lives were saved through these operations but the number certainly runs into the thousands.



*Two dogs struggle in the Bangkok floods of 2011.*



*Far too often, cute puppy faces hide heartbreaking stories of cruelty for profit.*

## ERADICATING PUPPY FARMS

At most large markets in Thailand you can see puppies on sale. If you go up to the cages, the puppies either come straight to you as if you are their best friend ever, or they lie there, looking sad.

It's a false impression. Unscrupulous puppy vendors know that pups that react in this way are more appealing, and therefore more likely to be bought.

So they give the puppies no food or water. The “happy” puppies are desperately thirsty. The “sad” ones simply exhausted.

This is just the most public manifestation of a supply chain that is often characterised by its cruelty.

The pups are most usually born in puppy farms, where the mother dogs are impregnated again and again until they die of exhaustion.

Conditions are often squalid. These places are businesses with no room for sentiment.

The puppies, as a result, can be sickly by the time they reach market. And because they are often sold when very

young (and therefore cute), before they are properly weaned, their immune systems are not fully formed and they are particularly susceptible to disease.

This is good for the “farmers”. Someone whose cute puppy has just died may come back to buy another.

The pups raised by these farms are often of the cutest, fluffiest breeds. Frequently this means they are dogs with heavy coats such as Huskies, and therefore inappropriate for the hot weather of the tropics.

And if pups from these factories are unsold after a few days, they are often dumped at the side of a road or at the gates of a temple.

Soi Dog Foundation is conducting awareness campaigns to combat this cruelty.

The new Thai anti-cruelty law means that it may also be possible to achieve successful prosecutions against the worst of the puppy farms, driving them out of business.

Importing of exotic breeds that sell for large amounts of money also involves cruelty in many cases, and Soi Dog Foundation is dedicated to eradicating this practise as well.



*Puppy farms are often squalid, filthy places.*



*When he was a pup, Cola was attacked by a man whose shoes he chewed. The man used a sword to hack off his front legs. After he was adopted by Gill Dalley, Cola became world-famous when he became the first dog in the world to be fitted with Paralympic sprinter-type "blades". His attacker received a six-month suspended sentence.*

## ANIMAL WELFARE LAW

Soi Dog Foundation was the driving force behind the recent promulgation of a new Thai law specifically covering cruelty to animals.

Previously, the maximum penalty was a 500-baht fine under the Criminal Law.

Now, those who are cruel to animals can face much larger fines or even imprisonment.

Soi Dog Foundation actively gathers information and evidence in animal cruelty cases to aid prosecutions.

So far, the judiciary is being rather cautious in its application of penalties. so SDF is also applying gentle pressure in an attempt to get the courts to impose the maximum penalties on those who are cruel to animals.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

At Soi Dog Foundation, we believe that people's attitudes to animals are formed at an early age.

If more people grow up with sympathetic attitudes to dogs and cats, there will be fewer cases of cruelty and neglect.

To guide this formation of sympathy towards dogs and cats, Soi Dog Foundation has devised a programme of education for schoolchildren starting in primary school. The initial rollout of the programme was in November 2017

We also receive vets from neighbouring countries who can spend time learning from our own vets, who encounter a far more varied and complex range of surgical and medical situations than most vets anywhere in the world experience in a lifetime of practice.

This is a huge help for the visiting trainee vets.

Apart from visiting vets from Europe, Soi Dog Foundation has also extended training and experience to practitioners from Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.



*Literature for Soi Dog's Thai schools education programme.*



## **BIG NUMBERS**

- Soi Dog Foundation operating cost per month: B15 million.
- Average number of animals sterilised and vaccinated per month in 2018: 6,467.
- Animals sterilised since Soi Dog Foundation began: 253,594.
- Cost to sterilise and vaccinate a dog: B1,000.
- Sick or injured animals treated in 2017: 5,306.
- Current average number of dogs and cats at the Phuket Shelter: 1,024.
- Cost to keep a dog at the shelter for one month: B2,400.

(Figures applicable at end October 2018 except where otherwise stated.)



**Thank you for  
your support.  
We couldn't  
do it  
without you.**

**[www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org)**