

SOI DOG

April 2021

post



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

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Putting the fun
in fundraising



www.soidog.org

A king-sized donation

Amy Bryant

Early this year, we were honoured to receive a royally large donation from the King of Thailand. His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn kindly gifted two tonnes of dog and cat food to Soi Dog Foundation – as well as a number of other animal welfare organisations – to mark the birthday of his royal noble consort.

The food was presented to a total of 14 organisations during a ceremony in Bangkok on January 27th, and our generous share was transported some 800 kilometres south to our shelter in Phuket on February 2nd.



Shelter staff Bern and Oum receive the food in Phuket.



With over 1,400 animals currently at the shelter – and more to feed out on the streets – the donation couldn't have come at a better time.

“Receiving the donation means that His Majesty is aware of the stray animal problem and recognises our work and the work of other rescue organisations too,” said *Kiranee Narabal*, president of Soi Dog Foundation Thailand.

This was not the first time Soi Dog had received such a donation. His Majesty donated food to the shelter in July 2017 and May 2019 too.

“His Majesty is sending a positive message to all of us, to follow his example, and to show compassion to all animals, in this case the stray dogs,” said our co-founder *John Dalley* at the time of the previous donations.

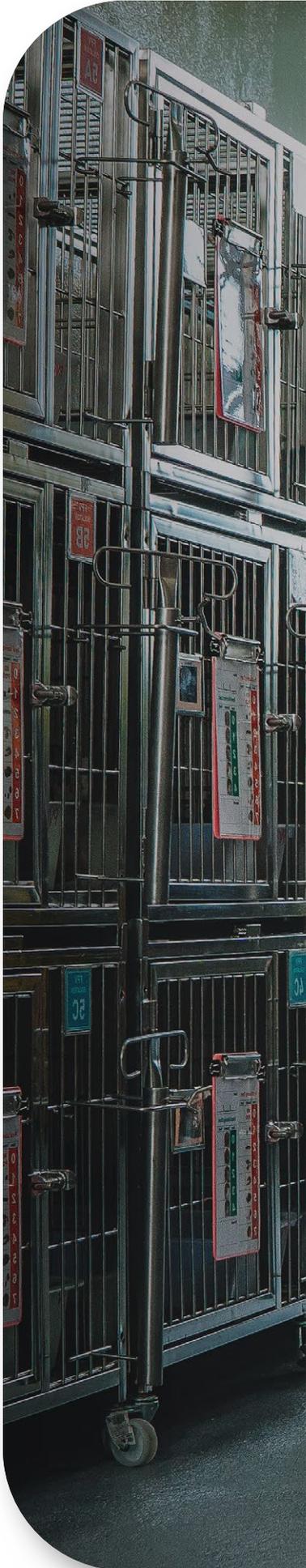
“In doing so, he's following the wonderful example of his father, who did the same thing. We hope that this will continue.”



Bangkok mobile clinic vet Dr. Nat at the ceremony in Bangkok.

Dogs have long been a part of the Thai royal family. The late *King Bhumibol Adulyadej* adopted a street dog named *Tongdaeng* who became a much-loved national celebrity, and *King Maha Vajiralongkorn's* poodle *Foo Foo* even had a senior role in the Royal Thai Air Force!





Inside the ISOLATION BUILDING

Sam McElroy

In the December issue of the *Soi Dog Post*, we brought you news of the opening of our brand-new humane education centre here at the shelter in Phuket. Well, the new additions didn't stop there. At the same time, completion was reached on the all-new and much-needed isolation building.

The building – funded by donations from you, our amazing supporters – comprises canine distemper (CDV) and canine parvovirus (CPV) units on the ground floor and a feline panleukopenia unit (FPV) on the upper floor.





Feline panleukopenia patients moved into the new unit in November 2020

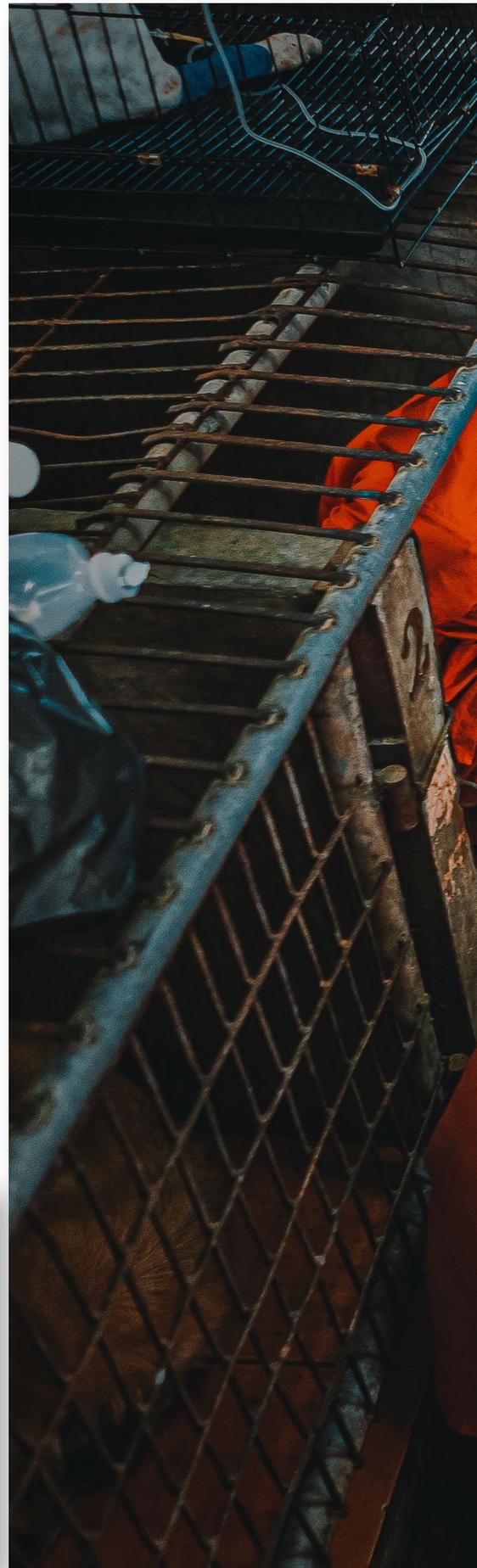
With outbreaks of these viruses common in street animals across Asia, and studies indicating that CDVs circulating in Thailand are diverse, it has always been routine to expect some animals to be carrying these diseases on arrival to the shelter. Soi Dog's CNVR programme addresses the issue to a large extent by vaccinating community animals against these diseases, but there are always factors outside of our control. For example, the introduction of new, unvaccinated animals on the streets who then perpetuate the spread.

The previous isolation unit at was located in a structure that already existed when Soi Dog moved to its current premises many years ago. The land formerly belonged to a farmer, and the structure was used as a cattle shed. It became Soi Dog's first hospital and was repurposed as an isolation unit after the new dog hospital opened in 2016. The conditions were cramped and hot, and the situation was far from ideal for both the animals in there receiving treatment and for the staff providing that treatment.

With thousands of animals entering the shelter for treatment each year, the new facility enables the isolation of those suffering from some of the most contagious diseases that affect stray, unvaccinated animals.

Now, in more hygienic and comfortable surroundings, and thanks to your ongoing support, these dogs and cats can receive the critical care they need in the hope of survival.

The previous isolation unit – located in an old cattle shed – was no longer fit for purpose.





FOCUS ON CANINE DISTEMPER

Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that's often fatal and affects multiple organs, causing major problems in the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems.

It's spread by bodily fluids such as mucus and tears, and symptoms include lethargy, reduced appetite, eye and nasal discharge, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Because distemper affects the central nervous system, long-term side effects of animals who have recovered tend to include progressive deterioration of mental abilities and motor functions, often characterised by the involuntary twitching of muscles. The disease also kills the cells responsible for manufacturing tooth enamel, leading to the early eroding of affected teeth.

Treatment for the virus is intensive and costly. It involves subcutaneous fluid administration (injection just underneath the skin), intravenous fluid regulation and medication to treat the nausea and infection. The recovery period varies according to the strength of the dog's immune system but typically lasts a few weeks.

Almost one in every two adult dogs who contract distemper will die from it. In puppies under six months old, the mortality rate rises to over 80%.

Transmission rates are known to increase in hot and humid weather, the likes of which Southern Thailand experiences at this time of year.







The disease can also be spread through airborne exposure. This places huge responsibility on the carers who work in the unit. They must follow strict hygiene protocols to minimise spread. An outbreak in a shelter that's home to over 1,400 animals does not bear thinking about.

And when an outbreak does occur, it can be hard to contain. In November 2020, the canine distemper ward was empty. Fast forward to March 2021 and the unit was full to the brim with 120 patients. Half of those were classed as severe cases, and the other half were showing signs of improvement.

This is just a snapshot of what happened in the month of March. Many other animals have passed through the isolation unit already and, thankfully, the majority have recovered.

Such is the success of the unit, its design, the equipment inside and the skilled and dedicated staff who keep it operating, we have seen an impressive and far-above-average rate of patient recovery – around 90% overall.

This is just another example of how you, our supporters, enable the best possible care for the most vulnerable animals and how many more can be saved in the future because of your kindness.

To donate towards the care of dogs battling distemper, click [**here**](#).



Fecal Scoring Chart Date: _____

Score	Example	Check
0	NO POO	
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Food Scoring Chart

Score	Example	Check
0		
1		
2		
3		
4		

Remark: _____

International adoption highlights

Amy Bryant

Pupdates

2020 was a tough year for international adoptions at Soi Dog. With lockdowns, travel restrictions and a lack of available flight volunteers, it felt like every logistical hurdle possible was placed in our path.

But 2021 promises to be brighter, and by the end of March, 72 animals had already left the shelter for loving homes overseas. To put this into perspective, this is over half of our total international adoptions for the whole of last year – achieved in just three months.

It's been a joy to see these deserving dogs and cats fly the shelter nest. Here are just a few of them.





HANUMARN

If you've volunteered at the Soi Dog shelter in recent years, *Hanumarn* will likely be a familiar face.

This special senior boy came into our care back in 2017 with a severe skin condition. Left untreated on the streets for so long, the condition had become chronic and caused his skin to thicken and most of his fur to fall out.

During his three years at the shelter, Hanumarn often turned heads with his unique looks, but he somehow struggled to win anyone's heart. That was until his adopter set eyes on a photo of him in late 2020 and fell head over paws for this furless but fun-loving boy!

Hanumarn – now known as *Honeyman* or *Sugar Bear* – joined his adopter and doggie sister *Grass* in California, USA in January and settled into his new domestic life almost immediately. His skin has even improved with the help of supplements, coconut oil and the comfy surrounds of a home, which he gets to enjoy for the rest of his days.

“ I just can't tell you how lucky I feel to have Hanumarn in my life. He is just the sweetest, most lovable guy ever. I absolutely adore him and I think he's pretty happy here, too! ”



LIVANA

Behind *Livana's* sweet smile is a shocking story fit for a Hollywood movie. In 2019, she was abandoned on a tiny uninhabited island alongside another dog with no access to food, water or shelter. It was only by chance that these canine castaways were spotted and Soi Dog was alerted in time.

After just over a year at the shelter, Livana was chosen by one of our wonderful partner rescue organisations – *Refuge Balto* – in Quebec, Canada and travelled there with a handful of other lucky pups in mid-December. Just weeks later, she found her perfect home with a local couple, their two children and their two cats.

The couple fell in love with Livana's nervous yet curious personality as soon as they met her but had some initial concerns. Would she get along with their cats? How would she react to their children? Was she a good fit? These worries were soon swept aside as her nervousness faded and she won them all over within days of her trial adoption!

“
After only four days [into the trial adoption], we knew that Livana was meant for us and we could never let her go! She is a fun-loving dog with a great personality, and we could not be happier.
”



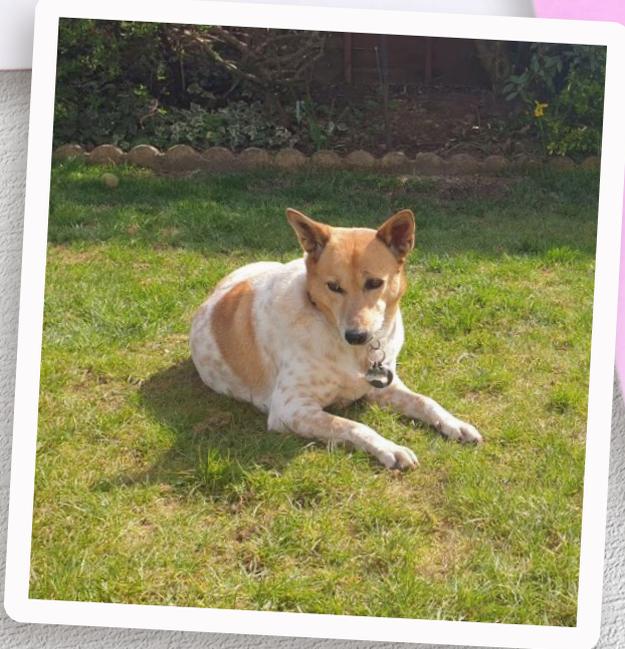


WILLOW

Willow was one of thousands of dogs rounded up in response to an exaggerated rabies scare in northern Thailand. We found her at an overcrowded makeshift government facility and brought her to our Phuket shelter for safety in 2019.

It wasn't long before Willow's sweet, gentle nature caught the attention of an adopter – a lady who met her while volunteering at the shelter. Due to travel restrictions, it was a year before they were able to be reunited at her home in Nottingham, UK. But that magical day finally arrived in February, and it was worth the wait.

Willow's adopter is retired and therefore has plenty of time to devote to her. Willow is now enjoying plenty of cuddles, long walks in the countryside and stealing her sister *Remmy the Rottweiler's* bed for afternoon naps.



“ I don't know for sure if she remembers me, but she immediately started enjoying her welcome cuddles and kisses [when she arrived]. She is the sweetest little lady and follows me just about everywhere. ”



Good mews

Joining Willow on her journey to the UK in February were four fantastic felines who also had a long but worthwhile wait to meet their forever families.



CHAAIM

Black beauty *Chaaim* came to Soi Dog back in 2019 with fractured hind legs, the result of a cruel and deliberate attack. Fortunately, with surgery and plenty of rest, she made a full recovery.

Chaaim – which means “liquorice” in Thai – got her time in the spotlight as part of our Black Cat Appreciation campaign on social media in August 2020 and quickly caught the eye of a cat-loving couple in Seaton. After almost two years at the shelter, she left to join them and their six fellow rescue kitties at their home which boasts cat trees and toys in every room and a huge outdoor catio to explore!

“
Chaaim is so sweet, affectionate and energetic. She follows Hu (our Yulin cat) around quite a bit as he's one of the youngest and most active. I'm hoping they'll be good company for each other.
”

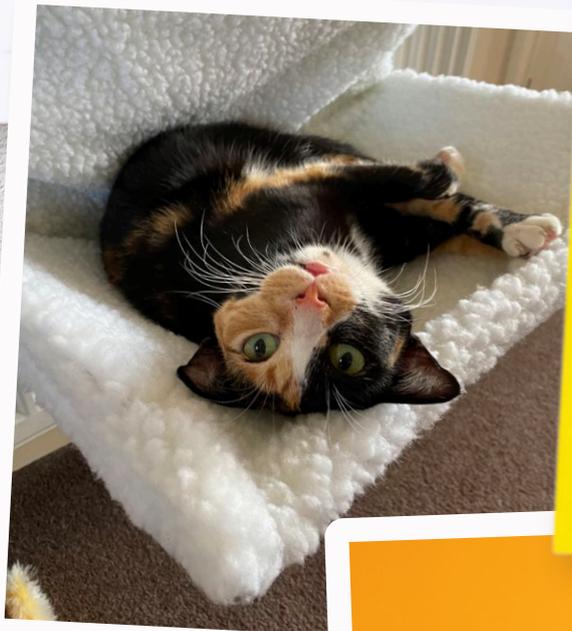


PAILIN

Like far too many street animals in Thailand, *Pailin* was the victim of a road traffic accident. The impact left this calico cutie with a pelvic fracture, which healed with the help of our vets, and a permanent head wobble which only made her cuter!

Pailin's adopters stumbled upon her while browsing our website. They'd recently lost one of their cats to cancer and were looking to honour her memory by adopting another, and it was love at first sight with *Pailin*.

Since joining them in West Yorkshire, she's been a constant source of entertainment, from hour-long zoomies around their house to her fascination with watching TV.



“She seems really relaxed and happy. She loves to run around and jump on things and chase her toys, so I think she's really enjoying herself, and we absolutely adore her. We couldn't ask for a better cat!”





MOMOJANG

Momojang was also hit by a car, and in his case it sadly cost him one of his hind legs. But he adapted well, and it didn't stop him from running, playing or even navigating the shelves of our cattery.

Momojang called Soi Dog home for close to two years. On account of travel restrictions and his fluctuating health, half of that time was spent waiting to travel to his adopter in Wales.

When he finally arrived, it didn't take him long to settle in despite his wary nature. He quickly learnt to enjoy lots of fuss from his adopter, the company of his five kitty siblings and the sweeping views of the countryside seen from their very own catio!

“
He's a lovely, gentle boy
with his big soulful eyes.
I'm so happy he's finally
here with us!

”





ALANNIS

Abandoned on the streets as a kitten, *Alannis* was brought to Soi Dog for her safety back in 2019. Despite her good health and stunning looks, this tortie girl somehow struggled to find a home. But her luck changed when the son of a former Soi Dog adopter got in touch looking to add a feline friend to the family.

After more than a year-and-a-half at the shelter, she joined him and his family – which includes two cats and a Soi Dog rescue dog – on the Isle of Wight. She soon made herself at home by hopping into her cat hammock and even doing a bit of redecorating by taking some of the posters off the walls, much to everyone's amusement!

If you're interested in adopting a soi dog or cat, please visit the "Adopt" tab on our website www.soidog.org

“
Alannis has made herself
right at home with all
the other animals in the house.
She's very energetic and
has used the house as a race
track on several occasions!
”



Saturday, what a day, rockin' all week with you!

Sam McElroy

Volunteers have always provided the backbone of support when it comes to socialising and exercising dogs at the shelter. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, with lockdowns and travel bans affecting the numbers able to come and volunteer, we had to think of new ways to give our dogs the enrichment that they desperately need.

Soi Dog staff whose jobs have been affected most by the pandemic – mainly our team of four visitor and volunteer coordinators – have been walking dogs from Monday to Friday, but for many others with busy day jobs, it's not always possible to help out.

There are now almost 800 dogs in outside enclosures at Soi Dog who are walked on a daily rotational basis, and this represents a big challenge!

Historically, Soi Dog has always been closed to volunteers on the weekends. Under normal circumstances, when the shelter is teeming with lots of wonderful helpers, Saturdays and Sundays allow for a period of calm. The place can be eerily quiet, but this enables some of the more shy dogs to relax a little. Then it's back to Monday madness with regular walking and lots of life and laughter with volunteers.

For now, we remain closed to volunteers on the weekends, but we recently started inviting staff to attend on Saturday

Marketing Administrator
Vanessa and sponsor dog Madahva.



Saturday morning squad.





Public Relations and Marketing Officer Oum takes a break with Kraibaan.

mornings to help out with some of the essential socialising and exercising activities in their spare time.

Typically, around 12 members of staff – who don't get the chance to socialise with dogs because of their hectic weekly workloads – come to the shelter between 9am and 12pm walk around 100 dogs. Because of this, Saturdays have become happy days for some of our senior and special needs dogs at the sanctuary!

Saturday walking club has become 'a thing', and the dogs just love it! It gives some of our office staff the opportunity to connect with the animals they don't see during the week, but more importantly it frees up some extra time for the regular weekday walkers and allows the faster rotation of walking – ultimately meaning that dogs receive more walks each week.

We long for the day when international volunteers return. But until then, our dogs are safe in the hands of local volunteers and, on Saturday mornings, some of our devoted staff.



Is Spay the way? Is neuter the future?

Nayomi Gunarathna

What a year 2020 was for our spay and neuter programme. Thanks to your incredible support, 121,707 animals had passed through the programme by the close of the year which brought Soi Dog's all-time total number of animals neutered and vaccinated to over half a million! You made history, and we couldn't help but feel immensely proud.

In the run up to this enormous milestone, we undertook a survey to measure whether our spay and neuter programme (also known as CNVR – Catch | Neuter | Vaccinate | Return) is truly making a difference. Numbers are one thing, but we wanted to ensure they were producing meaningful results.

Our team in Bangkok therefore took to the streets in the latter part of the year for some well-planned-out data collection of the capital's free-roaming dog population. We also reached out to dog and data-loving animal welfare consultant and Director of ICAM Coalition (International Companion Animal Management) *Dr. Elly Hiby* who helped crunch the numbers, assess the results and really dig into the impact the programme is having in Bangkok.



Methodology

The 2020 data was compared with baseline data collected back in 2016, shortly after the launch of our CNVR programme in the capital.

The initial 2016 survey covered 600 kilometres of Bangkok streets in order to estimate the density of the dog population (by counting the number of dogs in each area) and get an idea of their quality of life by recording their body condition score (whether they looked malnourished, whether they had skin issues, whether the females were lactating, etc).

Along with a repeat collection of this data in 2020, the team in Bangkok went the extra mile and gathered data concerning rabies control and management to assess the impact of the vaccination element of our programme too.

Through an online survey, we also collected information about community attitudes towards street dogs and whether CNVR had in any way altered those attitudes.



Results

Both the animal welfare survey and the attitude survey were extremely interesting and yielded some important insights into the efficacy of our CNVR programme which has seen over a quarter-of-a-million animals neutered and vaccinated in Bangkok to date.

Some key findings included:

- The greatest reduction in street dog population was seen in areas where Soi Dog has held mobile CNVR clinics. Dog density in these areas has reduced by 20%.
- The number of lactating females has drastically reduced from 25% in 2016 to less than 1%.
- The overall welfare of the dogs observed has improved. The number of emaciated dogs decreased from 21% to 6%.
- The number of dog positive rabies cases has reduced. The same can be said for other animals, including cats and cows.
- Attitudes towards street dogs, as well as the care people showed these dogs, have improved over the last few years. Although we do not have baseline data to compare this with, it's clear that with fewer dogs competing for territories and food sources, they're perceived as less of a 'nuisance' to people. In turn, people are more inclined to sympathise with them and show greater care for their wellbeing.





Conclusions and challenges ahead

Even though there's been a huge increase in the number of neutered animals in Bangkok, two key points must be factored in if we are to see a stabilisation of – or even an end to – the street dog population:

1. While the breeding capacity of the dogs has significantly reduced, they may be living longer as they are enjoying a better quality of life. Therefore, the density of dogs in areas Soi Dog has held mobile CNVR clinics may not initially decrease as steeply as might be expected. However, maintaining a CNVR programme even after 80% of the population has been neutered will ensure that it's kept under control, and a decline in numbers will eventually be seen.
2. The free-roaming dog population is also affected by the abandonment of once-owned puppies and adult dogs. It's therefore important to identify the causes and sources of abandonment and tackle these at a policy level.



Thank you!

A huge thank you to Dr. Elly Hiby who guided our team with the data collection, analysed the results and provided valuable recommendations for the programme going forward. The survey's results and the subsequent report are the first of their kind conducted on such a large scale and will provide a wealth of data for future dog population management projects, not just in Thailand but elsewhere in the world too.

Our thanks also go to Dogs Trust Worldwide who so generously fund half of our CNVR programme in Bangkok. And of course, thank YOU for your unwavering support which is truly making a difference on the ground here in Thailand. We hope you will join us as we strive for the next milestone: a million animals neutered and vaccinated by 2024.



**To walk the streets
of Bangkok,**

see the survey in action and hear from the people behind it, watch our special World Spay Day video ***here***.



Paw and order

Chutima Srisawang

Soi Dog Foundation is grateful to have the support of a number of local establishments here in Phuket, with cafés, restaurants and hotels making space on their countertops for our donation boxes.

In February, a very different kind of establishment joined this list. Can you guess which?

It was a police station! But not just any ordinary police station. This one is packed full of cat-loving paw enforcement officers.

The station, which serves the sub-district of Cherng Talay, is home to four different kitties. First through the door was *Covid* who joined the force in March last year just as the pandemic was taking hold in Thailand. He was in bad shape, so the officers contacted a local street animal carer named *Jen* who ensured he received the treatment he needed at the vets before returning him to the station.





Tao Tao posing in return for donations.



Police reporting for duty.

Covid must have spread the word that there was free kibble for the taking at the station because along came *Ma Kin*, *Police* and *Tao Tao* in quick succession! *Ma Kin* was brought into their custody after her owner was sentenced to jail, *Police* was found next to the deputy director's car as a young kitten and *Tao Tao* simply wandered in one day and decided to make the station her new home.

All four cats are neutered, vaccinated and even have their own personalised collar tags. The officers feed them and keep an eye on their health, while *Jen* pops by occasionally to clip their nails and clean their ears and eyes.



While the cats haven't caught any purrpetrators yet – they sleep on the job most of the time – the officers report that they're still great colleagues to have around as they give the station a relaxed feel and are always ready to welcome visitors.

Among these visitors are Soi Dog's community outreach staff who pass by from time to time to check on the cats. The officers decided to add a donation box to the station after seeing their work and the work of Soi Dog at large. The box now has pride of place on a clerk's desk for all to see.



Covid performing a vehicle search.



Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

Sponsor one, save many

Amy Bryant

Dreambun

aka Miss Smiles

Dreambun, her three sisters and her mum were all brought to Soi Dog after we received reports that they were unwelcome and unsafe in their territory. She was just a few months old at the time.

Dreambun is all grown up now, but the trauma of those early days has stuck with her and made her fearful of new people. Nevertheless, she keeps smiling and has her pretty white paws crossed that there's a family out there for her somewhere.

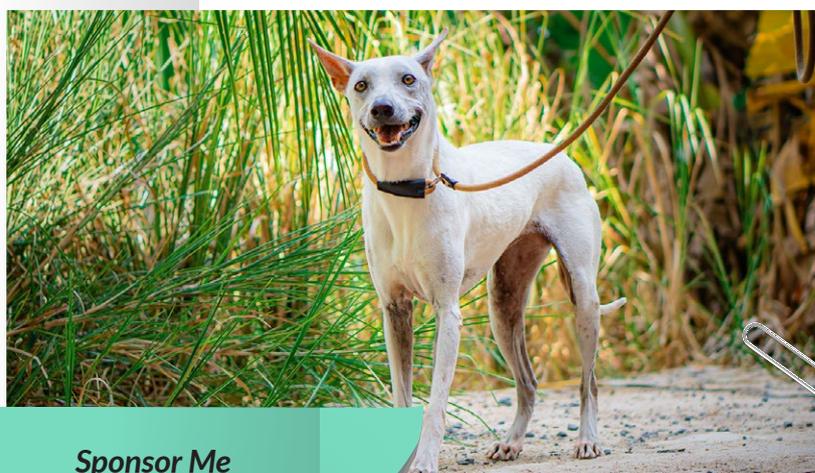
If you choose to sponsor Dreambun, she'll be in touch with regular updates and photos and a special video at the end of each year.



Rolling around in the grass



Strangers



Sponsor Me



Pichai

aka Speedy P

Pichai is one of the few breed dogs at the Soi Dog shelter. This playful pittie was once someone's pet until they decided they no longer wanted him and abandoned him in an empty house.

Despite his tough exterior, Pichai is a sensitive boy who was deeply affected by this experience and chooses human company carefully as a result. But with the ongoing support of our behaviour team, he's slowly expanding his social circle and learning to trust again.

By becoming Pichai's friend and sponsor, you will help not only him but over 1,400 other animals currently in our care as well.



Burning all his extra energy in the off-lead area



Other dogs coming too close



Sponsor Me



Sponsor Me

Naeramit

aka The Magician

Naeramit was rushed to Soi Dog by a local man who found him by the side of the road with a ruptured eyeball and a fractured jaw, likely the result of a road traffic accident.

Although Naeramit's name means "*transformed by magic*" in Thai, it was in fact surgery and treatment that helped transform him into the healed and happy tabby he is today!

Sadly, Naeramit has feline leukemia (FeLV) which makes his lifespan uncertain and means he's unlikely to find a home despite his magical qualities.

Shelter residents like Naeramit require ongoing food, shelter, medical care and love. And you can help to provide that to them by becoming a sponsor.



Head and ear scratches



Manicures and pedicures



March for the FIVs

Nayomi Gunarathna

In March, Soi Dog Foundation had a social media takeover by our **FIV+ (feline immunodeficiency virus) cats** who wanted to bust some myths, share some facts and bring to light the challenges facing the underdogs of the rescue cat world.

Dubbed #FIVAwarenessMonth, the idea was to draw attention to this misunderstood group of cats as well as introduce our followers and supporters to a few of our adoptable FIV+ residents.

Now, FIV is not to be confused with FeLV (feline leukemia virus). While the two viruses are similar in that there's no cure for either, they both affect cats worldwide and they can both be the underlying cause of death for cats who do get infected, they are vastly different in how they're transmitted and how they affect cats. There is also no effective vaccine for FIV, while there is for FeLV.



Soi Dog

FIV+ CAT AWARENESS MONTH

Myth: 

Cats who are positive for FIV do not live for long and are not suitable for adoption.

Fact: 

FIV+ cats can live just as long as non-infected cats and the majority don't show any clinical signs of infection.



FIV+ = pawsitively adoptable





FIV+ CAT AWARENESS MONTH

Myth:

FIV is contagious to humans and other animals.

Fact:



FIV is only passed from cat to cat via deep bite wounds. On rare occasions, it's passed from an infected mother cat to her kittens during birth or lactation.



FIV+ = pawsitively adoptable



MODE OF TRANSMISSION

FIV is similar to HIV (human immunodeficiency virus); however, it only affects the *felidae* family (all species of cats from lions, to cheetahs, to fishing cats, to domestic cats). The virus is passed on mostly through deep bite wounds (not through grooming or sharing food and water bowls – which is how FeLV is passed on). Since such aggressive bites are common between rambunctious tom cats during the mating season, most FIV+ cats we come across tend to be unneutered males.

As its name implies, the virus attacks the very cells that help mammals fight off disease: white blood cells. Specifically in the case of FIV+ cats, it infects T cells which is where the virus multiplies. However, the replication process is very slow and, if the cat is in good health to begin with, they can go for years with no signs of infection, initially fighting off the replication process and therefore keeping the spread of infection under control.

FIV+ cats are common all around the world and, in the Western world, make up anywhere between 1-5% of the cat population. However, in some other parts of the world, including Thailand, the numbers are as high as 15%. This is largely due to a lack of spay and neuter programmes.



FIV+ cats at Soi Dog

Before a cat is made available for adoption at Soi Dog, they are tested for FIV using a SNAP test. Since the virus can take time to infect the cat's body, a second test is done six months later. If the cat is definitely positive for FIV, they will live separately from non-FIV cats in their own special suite of the cattery.

Soi Dog is currently home to around 25 resident FIV+ cats – with even more receiving treatment at our cat hospital – and the numbers keep steadily rising every year. The majority are admitted to the shelter after meeting with road traffic accidents or becoming the victims of cruelty or neglect. As they are also fighting FIV, it could be said that these cats have faced the worst circumstances of any other group of cat at Soi Dog.



How YOU can help FIV+ CATS

Get involved in a local spay and neuter programme

to reduce the stray cat population in your area and therefore the spread of viruses like FIV.

Educate your community about FIV and create awareness.

Volunteer, sponsor and donate to organisations like **Soi Dog Foundation** who rescue and care for FIV+ cats.

ADOPT! FIV+ cats in animal shelters are very often overlooked for adoption. Consider giving a home to an FIV+ cat.



FIV+ = pawisitively adoptable



Adopting an FIV+ cat

As well as bringing awareness to the disease, we also wanted to show that FIV+ cats are pawsitively adoptable! Sadly, FIV+ cats are often last on an adopter's list when considering a cat for adoption, even though they can live long and happy lives just like non-FIV cats.

We made sure to offer our social media platforms to a few of our healthier and stronger FIV+ kitties who are able to fly overseas should the right home come along. Some of them are still available for adoption, and you can meet them [here](#).

With the number of FIV+ cats in our care increasing, it's becoming even more important to highlight the cats who are adoptable and therefore should not be stuck inside a shelter for the rest of their natural lives. In fact, the shared shelter environment is likely to reduce their lifespan far more than if they were to live in a home where they're less stressed and therefore less susceptible to secondary infections.

**Help FIV+ cats. Adopt. Donate for their care.
Adopt. Spread the word.**



FIV+ cats can live just as long as non-infected cats when provided with adequate and proactive care.

The majority don't show any clinical signs of infection.

They are perfect as indoor cats.

They are the underdogs of the cat world, and most rescues euthanise them as they are often considered unadoptable.



FIV+ = pawsitively adoptable

Why you should adopt an FIV+ CAT





Soi Dog mobile clinic sets up on Samui

Nayomi Gunarathna

NO TOURISTS IN SIGHT, BUT THE DOGS KEEP MULTIPLYING ON THE ISLAND OF KOH SAMUI.

During this never-ending pandemic, we've all been dreaming of the places we want to visit as soon as travel becomes possible again. Perhaps Koh Samui, one of Thailand's most scenic and famous islands, is on your list?

It's been on ours too, but not for the beaches, the viewpoints or the dive spots. Instead, we've had our minds set on a much-needed spay and neuter clinic to manage the island's ever-growing street dog and cat population.

Last year, we were approached by Koh Samui locals requesting our help in organising a spay and neuter programme as the number of animals on the island has exploded. As the population has risen, so have the instances of cruelty and neglect, so the need to take action was becoming increasingly urgent.







With no consistent spay and neuter programmes in place, the dog and cat population has exploded on Samui.





Despite the many obstacles presented by the pandemic, we were able to launch the clinic in early February. Our mobile team wasted no time and had neutered and vaccinated over 1,800 animals by the close of March. The team will be based on Samui until the end of July and will be neutering and vaccinating as many animals as possible in order to stabilise the population and improve their overall welfare.

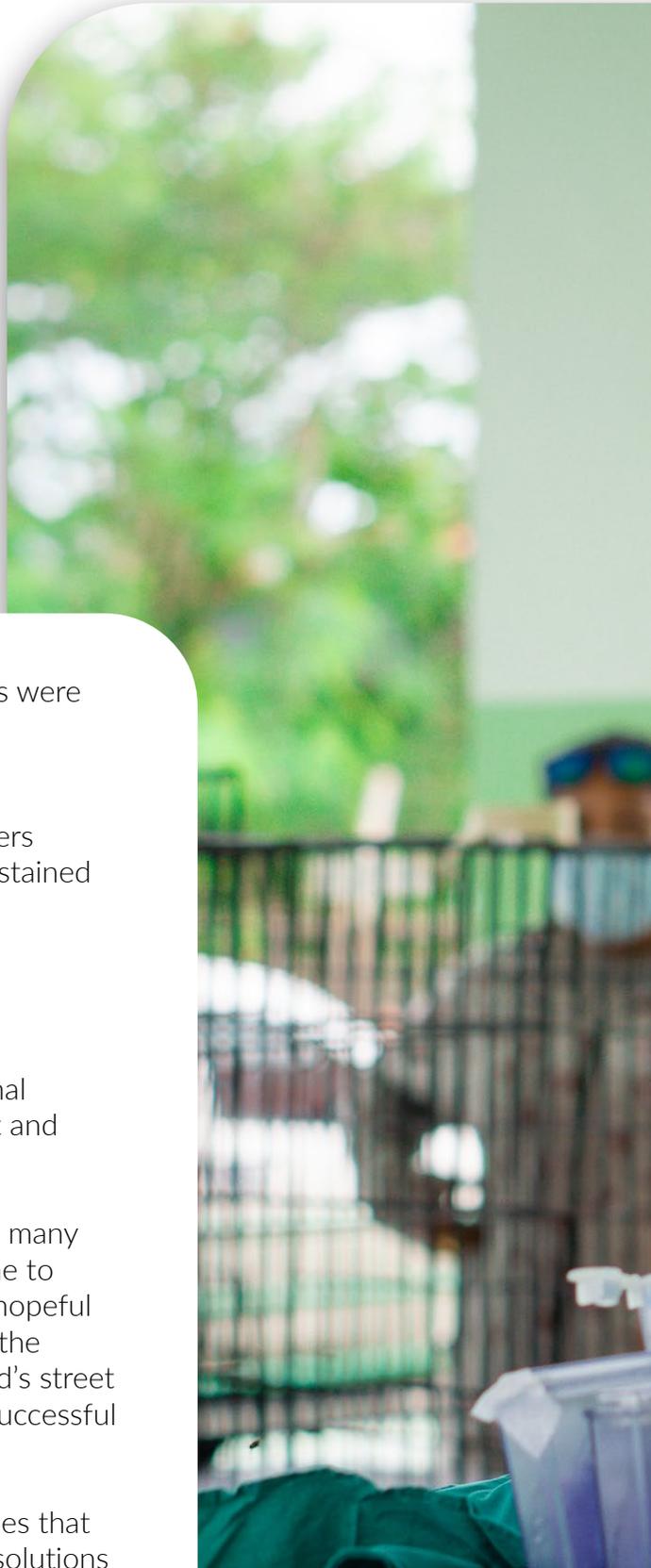
Soi Dog carried out a similar project on Samui in 2017/2018 and managed to neuter and vaccinate over 7,500 dogs and close to 500 cats. However, with no structured maintenance plan in place, it didn't take long for the population to hit a peak again.

This time, our animal welfare team decided not only to neuter and vaccinate the animals but also to empower the local community by sharing knowledge about managing a successful spay and neuter programme.

In December 2020, prior to the launch of the clinic, Soi Dog therefore organised a workshop which brought together Koh Samui Municipality, other animal welfare organisations and a number of the island's animal-loving locals and expats. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the issues facing the free-roaming dog and cat population and propose possible solutions.

Puppy love.





In addition to the clinic, several objectives were identified during this workshop:

- To work in unison in an organised and structured manner, bringing all stakeholders together to carry out a long-term, self-sustained spay and neuter programme;
- To gather a census on the island's dog population; and
- To prevent and take action against animal cruelty with the help of local government and police.

The workshop was warmly received, with many of the attendees assisting us when it came to setting up the clinic in February. We are hopeful that, with the continued collaboration of the community, the management of the island's street dog and cat population will be far more successful this time around.

It is only with the help of local communities that we can find long-lasting and meaningful solutions to curbing the overpopulation of free-roaming dogs and cats, and we hope the beautiful island of Samui will lead by example.





Layanfive for the White House

Nayomi Gunarathna

In February, we announced the candidacy of Soi Dog rescue Layanfive for the highest honour a cat can have: the First Feline of the White House!

Layanfive – now aptly renamed *Dreamer* – has been dreaming of taking up a role there ever since he was a homeless kitty on the streets of Thailand. So when the new incumbents of the White House announced they were looking for a cat to join their family, he jumped at the chance.

Dreamer is currently with our partner rescue organisation *Homeward Trails Animal Rescue* in Washington DC. Situated just a few meows away from the White House itself, his dream of being a role model for underprivileged and misunderstood rescue animals has never been closer to reality.

Dreamer's campaign strategy is being organised by our regional Soi Dog USA team who have been asking our supporters to take to social media and cast their votes for Dreamer in the hopes it will catch the eye of the *Biden* family.

So why should you vote for Dreamer to be the next First Feline?

Once a beaten-down street cat, Dreamer is well equipped to handle the tough world of pawlitics and the demands on his purrrsonal life. He's even willing to compromise on nap time in pursuit of the American dream.



In his role as First Feline, Dreamer promises to serve and be a beacon of hope to fellow felines (and even canines) everywhere by bringing awareness to the everyday issues facing companion animals across the world. And no one knows these issues better than Dreamer who survived on the streets for two long years and even lost a leg in the process.

With his difficult past behind him, Dreamer is ready to take the world by storm with his emerald eyes, tabby charm and tripaw prowess.

Please join us in asking the President of the United States to consider this fantastic feline to be his kitty confidant, emotional destresser and most trusted counsel and advisor.

You can support this noble cause by writing to the White House and tweeting @JoeBiden and @drbiden, mentioning @POTUS and @FLOTUS.

For a better world for homeless animals, vote Dreamer. No dream is beyond reach if we work together.

For autographs, photos and interview opportunities with Dreamer, please contact his agent at Homeward Trails [here](#).



Rescue at your fingertips with RightBaan

Chutima Srisawang

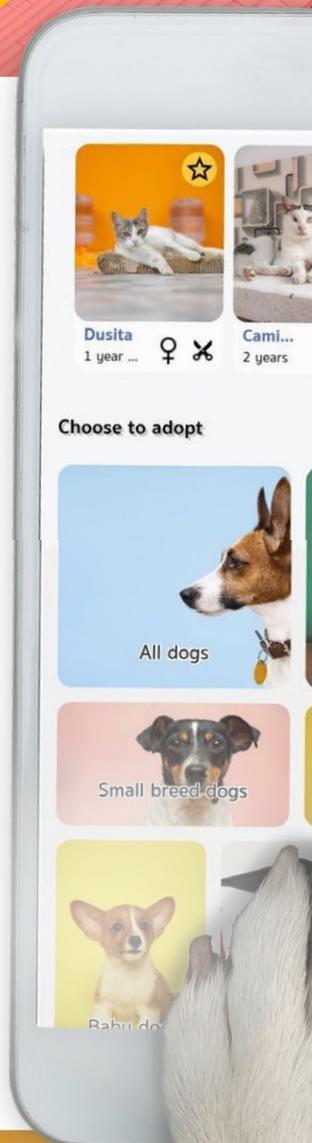


They say there's an app for everything these days. And now there's one to help rescued animals in Thailand find their forever homes!

Designed by four veterinary students at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok as part of their senior project, *RightBaan* is a brand-new web application that's giving dogs and cats across the country a platform for adoption. The word "RightBaan" holds two meanings in Thai – "homeless" and "right house" – a perfect fit for the application's function.

In January, we took RightBaan up on their kind offer to list some of our adoptable dogs and cats on the application, and it's been a great success so far. Soi Dog is the most popular search on the application, and enquiries have been flooding in.

"We've received an overwhelming number of adoption enquiries through RightBaan – more than 10 people per





animal,” said Soi Dog local adoptions coordinator *Daecho “Danny” Sangthong*. “The enquiries come directly to us, and we sift them carefully to find the most suitable home for each of them.”

Adopters are able to filter by category and find detailed information about each animal, including their gender, estimated age, personality and background. This allows them to find their new fur friend easily without necessarily having to visit the shelter, saving time for both the adopter and the shelter. The application is also set up to accept donations for the shelters it represents.

“I think RightBaan is making a difference to people’s mindset towards adopting animals from shelters,” added Danny. “They feel more comfortable and find it easier to select the right dog or cat for their family.”

The future of rescued animals is now at your fingertips, and that future is looking bright.



The latest SCOOP from the shelter

Chutima Srisawang

Nothing is better than delicious ice cream on a swelteringly hot day. And thanks to 4 Paws & A Pair, our dogs and cats recently got to experience this for themselves!

Based in Bangkok, 4 Paws & A Pair produce natural, homemade ice cream specifically for dogs and cats, and in January they donated 50 tasty tubs of it to our rescued animals. The donation followed a successful Christmas fundraising campaign – “Cup of Happiness” – on our Thai Facebook page which saw the company provide a scoop for every 99 baht donated to Soi Dog during the festive season.

When the ice cream arrived at our shelter in Phuket, it was gratefully lapped up by some of our senior and special needs residents. With flavours including carbonara gelato, lickin’ liver pâté and minty fresh dog kiss, they were spoiled for choice! It’s hard to explain just how much they enjoyed it, so we’ll let the photos do the talking instead.





Thank you to everyone who donated and to the team at 4 Paws & A Pair for giving our dogs and cats a sweet experience that will still stay on the tips of their tongues for many months to come – maybe even until next Christmas!

Oreo

gets her big break

Chutima Srisawang

Oreo at our Bangkok clinic.

One day you're a street dog, invisible to the world. The next, you're rubbing shoulders with celebrities! That's what happened to soi dog Oreo who was adopted by well-known Thai TV drama producer Suangsuda "Maenoo" Chalampee in January.

Named after her cookie-and-cream-coloured fur, Oreo is originally from Prachinburi, a near three-hour drive east of our clinic in the capital. Undeterred by the journey, one of our long-term volunteers brought her all the way to the clinic in November last year after finding her with a wound on one of her hind legs that needed urgent care.

The wound was so severe that our vet team initially thought they'd have to amputate her leg altogether. But Oreo has a fighting spirit and, after weeks of treatment, she managed to pull through on all four paws.





Suangsuda (left) fell in love with Oreo after reading her story online.

Oreo's luck didn't end there. A post shared online about her story happened to catch Suangsuda's eye and she got in contact straight away to enquire about making Oreo a part of her family. With the help of our volunteers, the pair were united at Suangsuda's home soon after.

We're keeping our eyes peeled for a cameo appearance by Oreo on our TV screens any day now!



Putting the fun in fundraising

Nayomi Gunarathna

Did you know that there are everyday ways to help the street dogs and cats of Thailand and beyond? Wherever you are in the world, you can do so much to raise funds every single day of the year – one dollar, one pound, one franc, one peso, one baht at a time.

Here are just a few ways to get involved.

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is Amazon's non-profit initiative designed to help you support your favourite charitable organisation every time you shop, at no extra cost to you. Through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of all eligible purchases you make will be donated to your chosen charity (Soi Dog we hope!)

AmazonSmile is currently available to our supporters in the UK and the USA. To sign up:

1. Visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk or smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Select "Soi Dog UK CIO" or "Soi Dog USA" as your preferred charity to receive donations
4. Start shopping!

Every time you shop through AmazonSmile from that point on, a donation will come to the animals you care about. It's a win-win.

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Easyfundraising

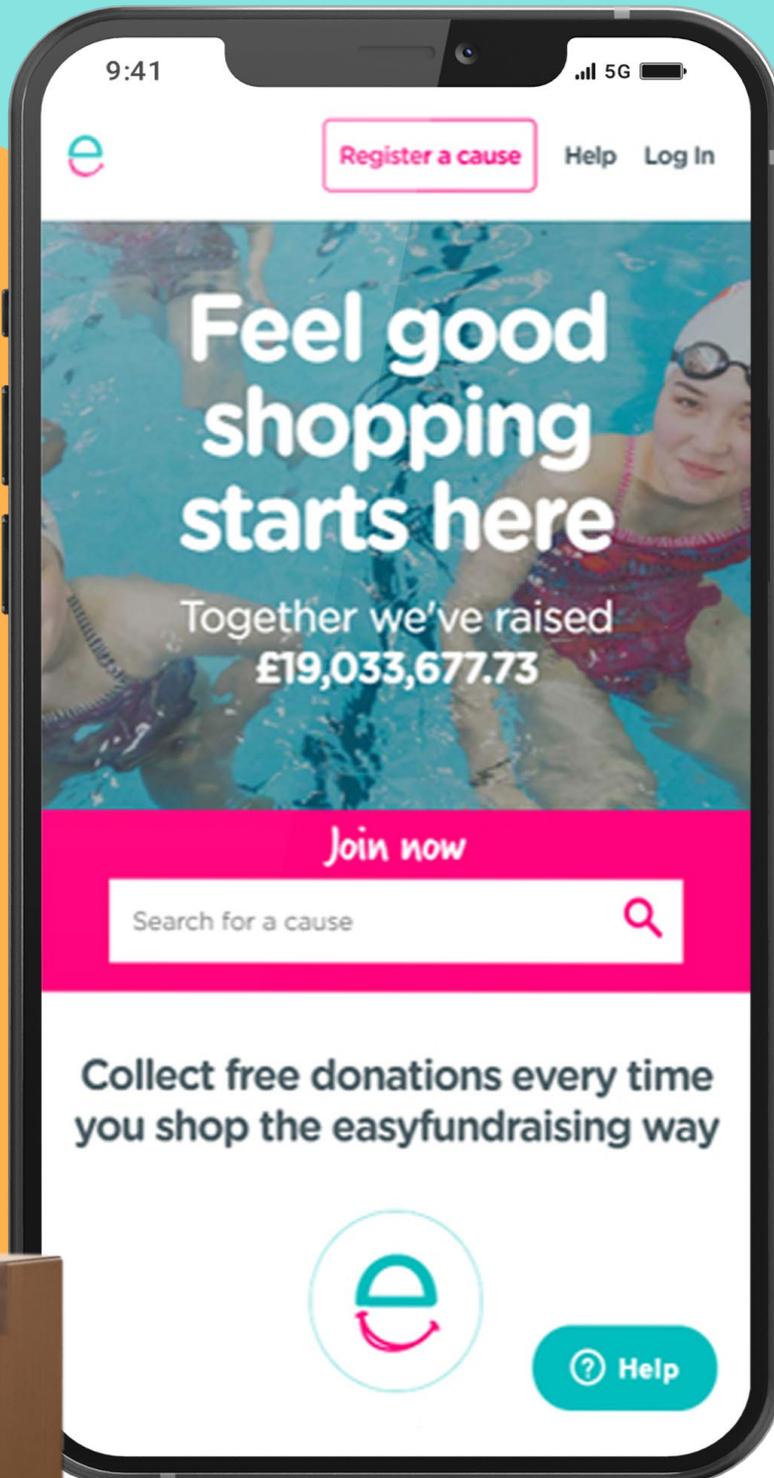
Another one for our UK supporters is *Easyfundraising*. The site connects over 4,000 retailers and has raised over 35 million GBP for causes across the UK, making it the country's largest charity shopping site.

Retailers include Tesco, Argos, Boots and John Lewis as well as all major UK supermarkets, travel companies, insurance companies and restaurants – all of whom will donate between 0.5% and 10% of your purchase to us.

To get started:

1. Sign up via their website **www.easyfundraising.org.uk** or through their app
2. Select “Soi Dog Foundation” as your cause
3. Start shopping!

If you're browsing for that important birthday gift, or simply shopping for essentials, you can make a street animal happy with Easyfundraising. Just remember to always start your shopping via the Easyfundraising website or app.



CARS

North American supporters, don't feel left out! We have something extra special for you. If you want to make a big and bold gesture, how about donating your unused vehicle to Soi Dog with CARS?

CARS (*Charitable Adult Rides & Services*) is a US-registered charity that has returned more than 300 million USD to their non-profit partners over the past 18 years through vehicle donations in the USA and parts of Canada.

To get involved:

1. Visit our partnership page at careasy.org/nonprofit/soi-dog-foundation-usa

or

2. Call 855-500-RIDE (7433)

CARS arrange collection and valuation and carry out all transactions on the owner's behalf. Donations are tax deductible too.

Whether it's a car, truck, RV or even a boat, whether it's brand-new, secondhand or been driven way past the intended mileage, all motorised vehicles are eligible to be traded in to raise vital funds for Soi Dog.





Facebook fundraisers

If you're not into shopping online and you don't happen to have a garage full of unused vehicles to donate, you can still create a buzz and fundraise virtually by setting up a Facebook fundraiser.

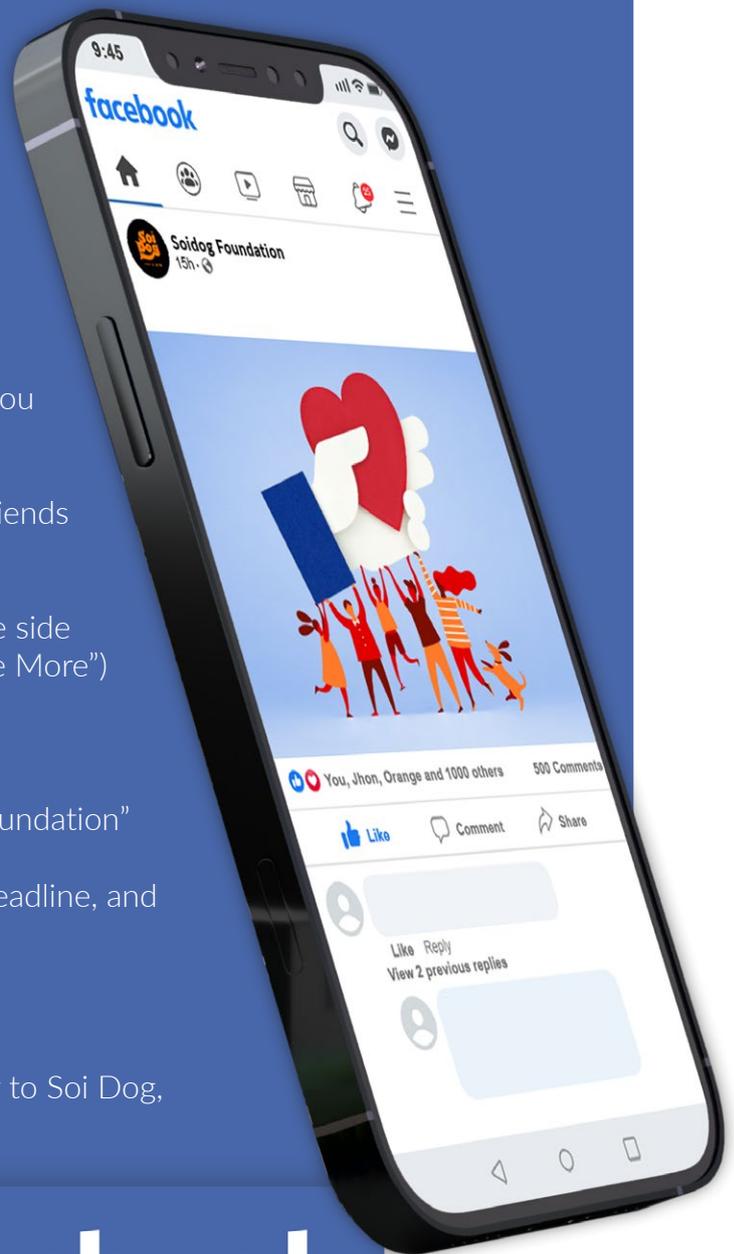
To check if Facebook fundraisers are available in your country, [click here](#).

You can turn anything into a fundraiser for the dogs and cats you love at Soi Dog, from birthdays to fun runs to that bucket-list trek you always planned.

It's easy to set up a fundraiser and ask your friends and family to donate. Here's how:

1. Click  "Fundraisers" in the menu at the side of your newsfeed. (You may need to click "See More")
2. Click "Raise Money"
3. Select "Charity" and search for "Soi Dog Foundation"
4. Add information, such as your target and deadline, and choose a cover photo
5. Click "Create"

Facebook will transfer collected funds directly to Soi Dog, so there's no hassle or transfer fees for you.



facebook





Gill Dalley
1959-2017



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

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

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

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

