

SOI DOG

July 2021

post



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

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Made for all seasons
– for the shy, the outgoing,
the energetic and
the elderly

Aether's journey

Every dog or cat that arrives at Soi Dog is special. Some arrive scared, and some arrive inquisitive. All of them, though, have two things in common: they don't know how they got here or what the future holds for them.

Thankfully, your support provides them with the best of whatever it is they need – treatment, shelter, devoted care and, as you hope for in the case every animal, a loving home at the end of it.

Last year, despite all of the difficulties presented by the pandemic, you enabled over 700 dogs and cats to find their forever home.

One of them is a dog called *Aether*. Rescued in May 2019, underweight, limping and suffering with a horrific maggot-infested wound on his front paw.

Aether joined the long list of dogs and cats hoping for a place to one day call home.

Here, Aether's new humans – *Ian and Corinne* – tell the story of a journey that spans 19 months, from rescue to forever home.

The story of a big, friendly teddy bear

Ian Schofield and Corinne Lacaze

Frankly, I blame beach WiFi for starting all of this. Corinne and I have been visiting Thailand for many years on holiday. We love the welcome, the people, the weather and the resorts. If you've been then you don't need an explanation.



Aether, a pitiful sight when he arrived at Soi Dog in 2019.





Your amazing support enables the rehabilitation of thousands of dogs like Aether every year.

The time came around fast. We stayed in nearby Nai Yang, took the 'Soi Dog bus' and arrived for our first day volunteering. We had our induction then spent the afternoon in the enclosures with our dogs. I was in A1, Corinne in A2.

In January 2019, we were in Phuket equipped with a rental car and a plan to see some parts of the island not generally on the tourist list. We were laying on sunbeds in our resort enjoying the beach, and I was checking TripAdvisor for places we could go in the car. 'Soi Dog Foundation' came up.

We both grew up with dogs, but being in full-time work (Corinne is a hair colourist and trichologist, and I am an outside broadcast engineer for a TV company) we had convinced ourselves that having a dog was not a responsible life choice.

Well, we thought, it couldn't hurt to go and have a look – the reviews are all so good. Off we went the next day, arriving around 4pm. The shelter begins to quieten down at this time of day, after the volunteers have gone and the dogs are back in their enclosures. We were given a tour by the visitor team and were blown away by the story of how Soi Dog got to be where it is now. Then came the fateful line: "We welcome lots of volunteers. You can come and spend time with us if you want".

That was it. We immediately booked our 2020 holiday to come back and help.

Within the first few minutes, Aether came to introduce himself to me with a lick on my arm and was always a pleasure to walk the whole time we were there. I shared volunteer responsibilities with 'Aussie Paul' who was from Melbourne. Paul had already told me what a lovely boy Aether was and, apart from the rather common trick of laying down on his walks to prolong the experience, he was the perfect dog and made a big impression on me. Corinne had her own favourites in A2 and even gained a 'Soi Dog tattoo' after falling with a dog and scarring her knee (I think she's quite proud it's still there!)

When our time volunteering ended, and seriously pondering adopting Aether, we left Soi Dog for Khao Lak with a tear in our eye and spent the week wondering if we could make it work. We couldn't stop thinking about him, so we hired a car and drove back to Phuket to meet Gina from the Soi Dog adoptions team to discuss the possibilities.

It's hard to say exactly why we chose Aether. In fact, I don't think we did. I think he decided we were going to be his people. Every animal at Soi Dog deserves a home, but there was something about Aether.





He can use 'sad face' and 'giving a paw' very effectively. We had no idea of his history or why he was missing a toe, but seeing the pictures of his condition on arrival and recovery had us totally committed to adopting him. Together, we decided that we could do this and returned to the UK to work with *Sarah*, the volunteer UK adoptions manager, who took us through the UK approval process, which all went well.

By this time, though, Covid had blocked any possibility of his mid-May arrival. Adding to this were Aether's health complications. He was showing worrying signs of anaemia, and Soi Dog's medical director *Dr. Ala* warned us he may never fully recover from his tick-borne *E. canis* infection.

We questioned ourselves about the sense of it all and the cost of getting him from Thailand to the UK, but we had made him a promise of a home, so that was that!

In October, great news came. The experience that Soi Dog's veterinary team had with

choosing alternative treatments had worked and they gave him the all clear to fly. But now there were no flight volunteers! We considered making a lightning return trip to Thailand to collect him, but UK quarantine and travel restrictions blocked every opportunity. We were also getting concerned with how Brexit was going to affect animal importations. After lots of back and forth and working with the Soi Dog logistics team, Aether eventually made it onto UK soil, arriving just before Christmas – perfect.

Now Aether has been with us a few months, it's hard to think of the house without him in it.

We registered him at a locally recommended vet. Aether introduced himself to the vet within the first month after eating the end of sock from the laundry basket. Fearing we had broken our new dog, we rushed him there for an injection to make him sick since a sock in the intestine can be bad. Happily for Aether, the injection wasn't needed, but less happily for Corinne's car seat, he was sick on the way there. *Michael* the vet marked on Aether's record "terrible scavenger". Dog parents looked ashamed; dog looked totally at ease with his new title.

He gets involved in everything. He goes to work either with me or to Corinne's salon. When I go for Covid tests for work travel, he comes too. He's even been on our garage roof by climbing through an open window! Since my car is unsuitable for Aether, and Corinne's is only a three-door, we took him to Essex and bought him a Fiat Panda, which he loves. He can't walk past it without wanting to hop in for a ride!





He loves cheese and ham. He hates vegetables and actually pulls a face when tasting them. He loves a yoghurt pot to lick, and he loves the children next door where he stays if we are out. He visits our friend's care home to see the residents and has worked out that if giving a paw gets a biscuit then a double paw should surely be worth two biscuits.

To think we helped by giving him a home may not be accurate. He has given us so much while asking for so little. The Soi Dog trap caught us, but we are so grateful for that and feel so lucky to be part of the Soi Dog family.

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

From a starting point of being afraid of the TV, he now totally owns the sofa and loves to sit between us and snore while we watch. His bald patches from skin infections and on his elbows from laying on concrete are growing over. The signs of how hard street life can be are slowly fading.

People say dogs are like their owners. It's true. He loves the sofa, hates getting wet and loves his tummy and sleeping. He is basically us but with fur and a tail.

He is such a goofy chap. He walked into a lamppost when distracted looking at crows, and he loves to see the horses, sheep and cows who live in the fields nearby. He has discovered the joy of a good stick, and his best friend on walks is *Graham*, an older man who always has biscuits in his pocket for him. Aether now wants to meet anyone who looks like Graham. He now checks everyone he meets for biscuits just in case.



Adoption corner

Meet the soi dogs looking for their forever homes

Vanessa Jakoby

Salina

aka Speedy Bunny

Salina arrived at Soi Dog when she was just two months old after being hit by a car. The nature of her injuries meant her left hind leg had to be amputated, but she adapted well and only needs the support of a wheelchair on longer walks.

Despite a tough start to life, Salina is a joyful pup who's full of curiosity for the world around her. Whether she's on two wheels or three legs, she races around like there's no tomorrow – stopping only for treats or cuddles.

Salina's vibrant personality is far too big for the four walls of a shelter. Will you show her another side to life? Her doggie bags are packed, she's waiting by the gate and she's ready to go!



ADOPT ME

ESTIMATED AGE:
1 year 10 months

WEIGHT:
12kg

LIKES:
Lap cuddles

DISLIKES:
Sharing the limelight



Namdange

aka The Sweet Guy

Namdange is named after a sugary Thai drink because he's just so sweet! His past, however, leaves a sour taste. He was found skinny and depressed on the streets with patchy fur and a chronic case of cherry eye. Fortunately, he recovered well at the shelter and found his smile again.

At the ripe ol' age of 10, Namdange is classed as a senior dog, but he likes to shake that label off. He has the enthusiasm of a dog much younger than his years and loves to take long walks where he can sniff out everything in his path.

Namdange has called Soi Dog home since 2018, but he hasn't lost hope that someone like you will choose him and love him for the rest of his days.

ADOPT ME



ESTIMATED AGE:
10 years 8 months

WEIGHT:
19kg

LIKES:
Any and all attention

DISLIKES:
His daily eye drops

Kongo

aka Mr Full-of-Beans

It's suspected that Kongo was abandoned.

He was found wandering aimlessly up and down a beach, unfamiliar to locals in the area. He didn't adjust well to this new coastal life and soon found himself with a horrifying injury to his leg which needed emergency treatment at the shelter.

Kongo's pinky toe couldn't be saved, but that doesn't stop this active and energetic boy from doing, well, anything! He loves to wrestle with rope toys, roll in the grass and spin in circles when he sees people he knows, all the while wearing his winning smile.

If you can match Kongo's energy and give him the fun life he craves, please get in touch.

This happy boy truly deserves a place in your heart.

ADOPT ME



ESTIMATED AGE:
4 years 5 months

WEIGHT:
18kg

LIKES:
Making new friends

DISLIKES:
Waiting in line for the off-lead area



Gill's legacy shines on

Nayomi Gunaratna

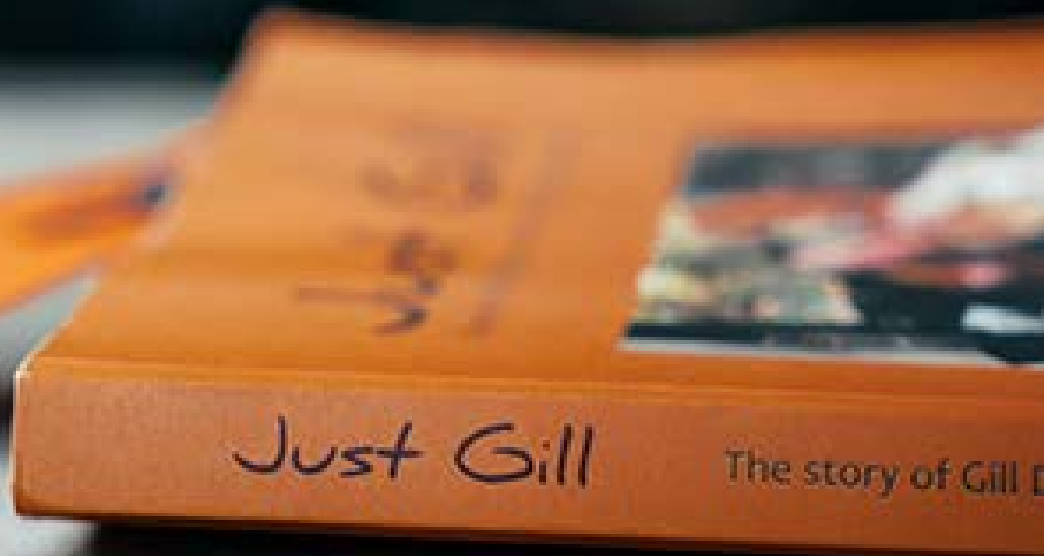
In May, we were thrilled to share the news that *Just Gill* – the story of our late, great co-founder Gill Dalley – had won the People's Book Prize 2020/21 under the non-fiction category.

Founded in the UK, the People's Book Prize is a literary competition that spotlights emerging writers and their new, undiscovered works with the aim of providing them with equal opportunities and recognition in the marketplace.

Dozens of publications were nominated under fiction, non-fiction and children's categories, and the winners were chosen by the general public who cast their votes online. Voting was open all the way from December 2020 until the end of April 2021, and the winners were announced in the first week of May.

Just Gill's success was made possible by people like you, supporters of Soi Dog Foundation, who were moved by the raw emotion that soars through every chapter.

Published just last year by Victorina Press, *Just Gill* has so far seen over 3,000 copies sold and shipped all over the globe, from the UK to the USA, South Africa, Japan and Brazil. At its core, the book is a semi-autobiographical account of how an ordinary person can change the course of the world and leave a monumental legacy behind. Written by Gill's husband and fellow co-founder *John Dalley* with chapters from her best friend *Donna Freelove* and excerpts from her personal diary, it offers a glimpse into the workings of Gill Dalley who, despite her life's achievements, always insisted she was "just Gill".



Gill touched everyone she met with her stubborn determination, selflessness and love when she was alive, and she continues to touch those of us who weren't so lucky to have met her in person through the pages of this book. Each word brings you closer to her pain, joy, trials and triumphs both as a person and as the co-founder of Southeast Asia's largest animal welfare organisation.



What stands out more than anything is the courage and bravery of Gill. A true legend.
— Carol Wilcox



“

Beautifully written, heartwarming page-turner, just couldn't put it down.
— Lesley Milne

The People's Book Prize awards ceremony couldn't be held in person on account of the pandemic. However, you can watch co-authors John and Donna accept the award virtually [here](#).

To purchase your copy of *Just Gill*, [click here](#). All profits from the sale of the book will go towards Soi Dog's efforts to rescue and rehabilitate the injured street dogs and cats of Asia.



They gave up everything to save the abused dogs and cats of Thailand. Truly inspirational.
— Annie Wong



A woman with brown hair and sunglasses is smiling and holding a small black and white dog. She is wearing a bright green t-shirt. The background shows a scenic view of mountains under a blue sky with light clouds.

Walking challenge goes Stateside

Nayomi Gunarathna

Since the start of the pandemic, we've all had to learn to navigate the world virtually and build connections in a whole new way.

If something can be done with an app, we're now embracing it with all our might!

Nonprofits like Soi Dog Foundation are no exception. Last year, we held our first-ever virtual fundraiser – the July Dog Walking Challenge in the UK – which made use of the Facebook fundraiser feature. This was followed in September by a 10-day virtual event in Canada known as Mutt March – Shake It Off which created a buzz on social media. Both were great successes and helped raise vital funds during one of the most challenging periods in Soi Dog's history.

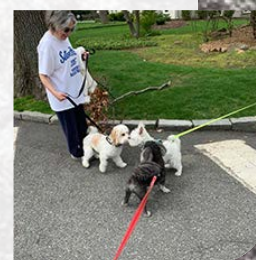
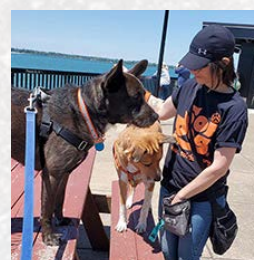
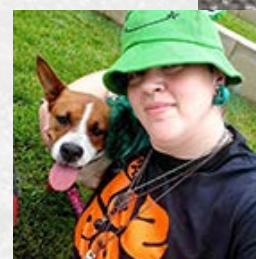
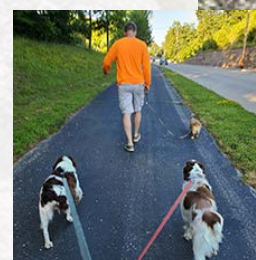
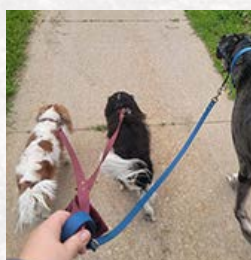
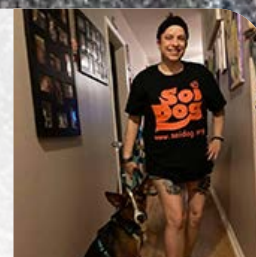
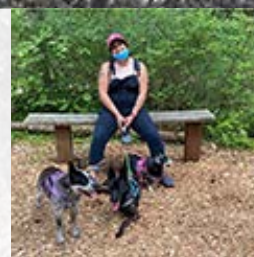
With the UK and Canada crossed off the list, we still had one big frontier to conquer: the USA! So this year, we set our sights on our very first Stateside virtual fundraiser.





Organised by the Soi Dog USA volunteer team, the June Walking Challenge tasked dog-loving US residents with walking 30 miles in 30 days during the month of June to raise funds for Soi Dog. It didn't matter where you walked (whether on sidewalks, in backyards, around city squares or up mountains) or who you walked with (whether alone, with your dog or even, as we saw, with a flock of ibis cheering you on!), as long as participants set up a Facebook fundraiser and covered a total of 30 miles by the end of the month.

Although technically a USA fundraiser, we did have a few non-US residents taking part in this year's challenge, one of them being none other than our co-founder *John Dalley*. John participated in the UK and Canada challenges last year from within the grounds of the Soi Dog shelter, but for the USA challenge, he wanted to try something different, something that hadn't been done before...





The shelter is located exactly a mile away from Mai Khao beach, a beautiful, quiet stretch of coastline, and John decided to complete his miles using this route, walking to the beach and back four times a week. Of course, no walk is complete without a woofster, so he was accompanied by two lucky Soi Dog rescues on each of his walks as well as one of our visitor and volunteer coordinators.

The coordinators handpicked the lucky dogs that accompanied John, choosing those who they felt were brave and confident in new situations. This was the first time these dogs had left the shelter grounds since they arrived, so it was important that coordinators selected dogs who would be up for the challenge. They chose well; all were super troupers who treaded the tarmac with a mixture of gusto and nervous excitement.

John recorded a video blog of his walks and shared them on his own fundraising page which proved to be popular, particularly if the dogs accompanying him were long termers, volunteer favourites or adopted dogs waiting to fly to their new homes.

By the end of the challenge, an incredible \$103,109 USD had been raised through 1,149 fundraisers! We are so thankful to everyone who took part and those who donated too. At a time when we are facing one crisis after another – from Covid-19, to distemper outbreaks, to the recent ban on dog imports into the USA – these funds will go a long way in ensuring that we can continue to be there for the homeless dogs and cats who need us.



CDC dog ban

spells the end for dogs finding loving homes in the US, for now

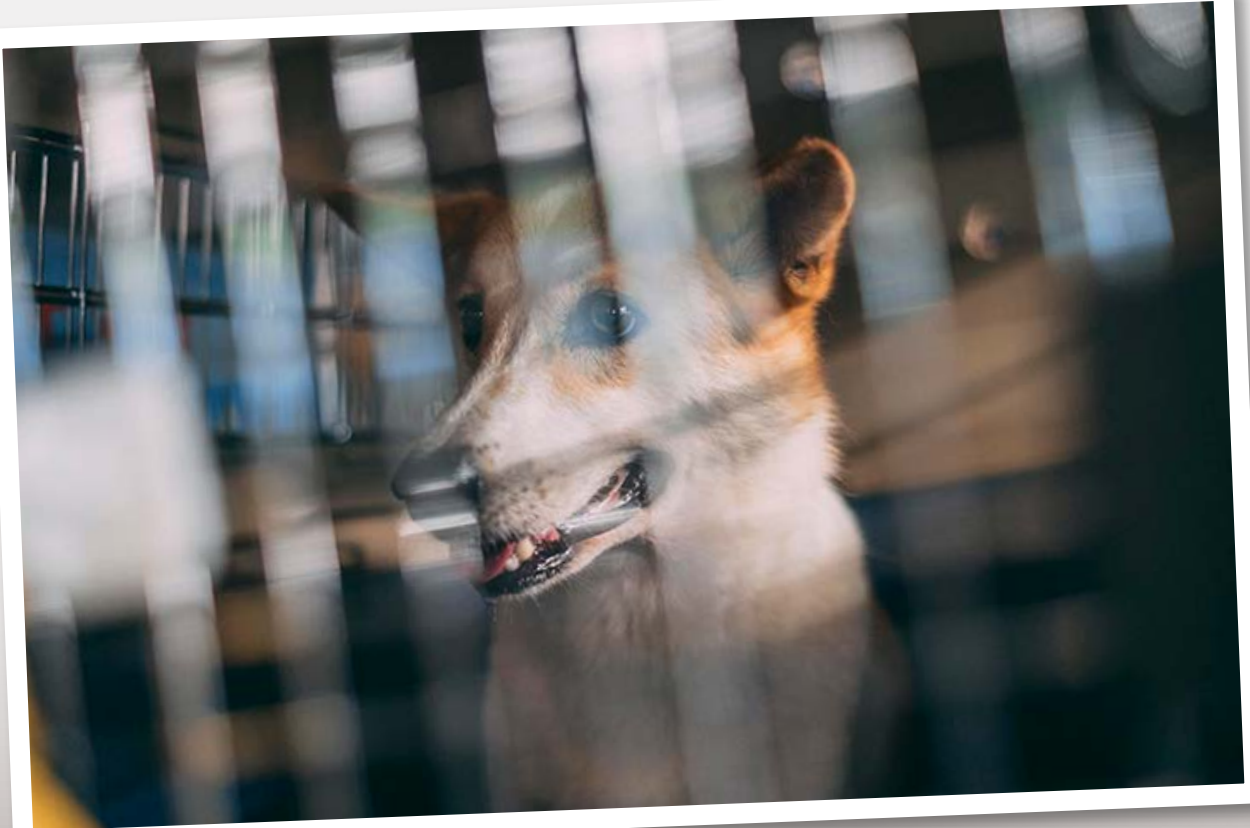
Sam McElroy

In June, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a temporary ban on the importing of dogs into the United States from a list of over 100 countries deemed high risk for canine rabies. This is disastrous news for potentially hundreds of soi dogs hoping to find their forever home with families in the United States.

The CDC said the “temporary action is necessary to ensure the health and safety

of dogs imported into the United States and to protect the public’s health against the reintroduction of canine rabies virus variant (dog rabies) into the United States”.

According to the CDC, there has been “a significant increase in the number of dogs that are being imported and presenting fraudulent or falsified rabies vaccination certificates”.





The blanket ban came into effect on July 14 and will be in place for an initial 12-month period. It brings to an abrupt end the US arm of Soi Dog's adoption and partner rescue programme that has found homes for over 700 dogs since the beginning of 2018.

Soi Dog co-founder *John Dalley* MBE said, "Soi Dog fully understands the severity of rabies and the risk it poses to both animal and human health. To hear of organisations and individuals who do not share our understanding and who attempt to circumvent important disease control measures by supplying incomplete, inadequate or fraudulent documentation is disheartening. Such practices undermine the very purpose of the mission that supporters of Soi Dog enable, to see a world with no stray dogs and the elimination of rabies."

He continued, "Soi Dog Foundation exceeds the proposed requirements for dogs to be eligible for a USA import permit. All animals in our care are microchipped, neutered and given appropriate vaccinations. We would fully support any decision by the US to begin requesting rabies titer tests and note their efficacy in helping to eliminate the disease in countries that require them. The UK, for example, has not reported a single human case of rabies from animals other than bats for over a century. Soi Dog Foundation is well versed in the process of acquiring rabies titer tests as we regularly import dogs to countries in Europe where such tests are a mandatory requirement."

It would make perfect sense, and tick all of the necessary boxes, if the US were to implement mandatory titer testing for all animals entering from overseas.



A letter to America

We would like to thank the thousands of you who have already signed in support of an open letter we wrote to the Chief of Quarantine and Border Health Services at the CDC. In it, we highlighted the kind of measures that could be taken that will not only protect the human and animal population but continue to allow hundreds of healthy dogs to find their loving homes in the US.

We are yet to receive an official response from the CDC, but our petition continues to gather names. You can add yours [**here**](#).

Stampede to the States

Following the CDC's announcement, you answered our call when we asked for your help in raising enough funds to send as many dogs to the US before the ban came into effect.

We are thrilled to announce that because of you, **86** dogs were able to travel to the US in time to beat the ban. They arrived at partner rescue organisations across the US in early July from where they will soon find loving homes thanks to the kindness you have shown in supporting their plight and the love and dedication of Soi Dog's partner rescue organisations.



Clambering for cargo space

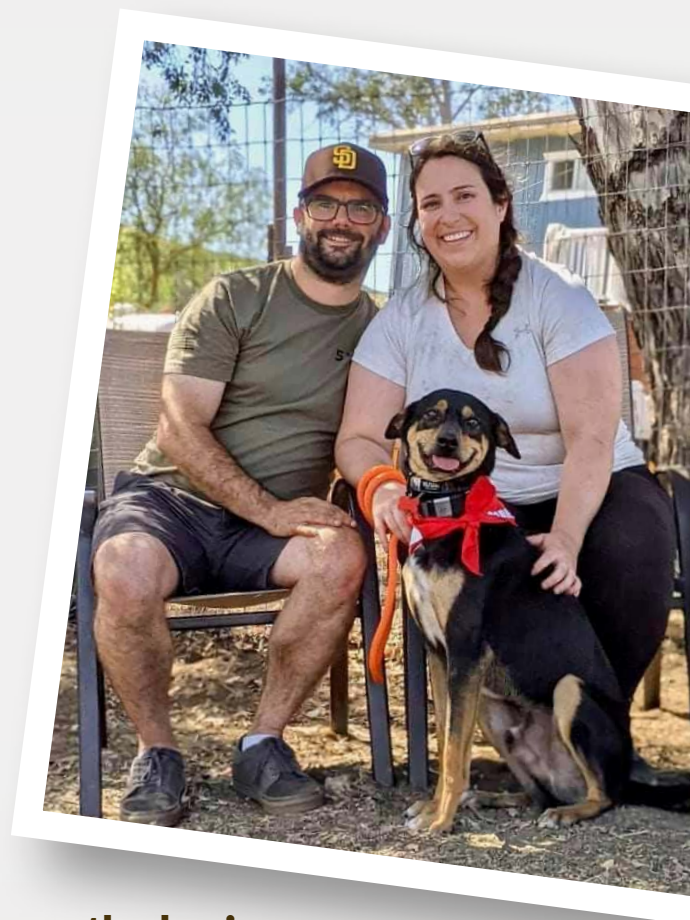
The logistics behind such a mass exodus are complicated. To send just 10 dogs overseas is a meticulous process, from vaccination booklets and pre-flight health checks to correct travel crate sizing and documentation. To complete it in such a short space of time for 86 dogs is challenging. However, the biggest variable is the battle in the pecking order for available space in the cargo hold of the aircraft upon which they will travel.

With Covid-19 limiting the number of flights, cargo space is at a premium, and we have seen competition from electronics and food companies amongst others. The airlines, if forced to choose, award the space to the highest bidder which has pushed the price of cargo travel higher.

Why your support is so vital

The current average cost to send a dog from Thailand to the US via cargo is \$2,500 USD. The dogs who travelled were only able to do so because of the resounding support you gave. When they needed you the most, you were there for them every step of the way!

The measure of happiness and sense of hope you have provided for these dogs is unquantifiable. We simply cannot do it justice in words. Therefore, we'll let the dogs do the talking.



Hope on the horizon

Just prior to the publication of this newsletter, we received news that an amendment had been proposed to the House of Representatives which would give the CDC 3 million USD to streamline their dog importation programme. This was cleared by the House Rules Committee on July 27 and hopefully signifies a step in the right direction in enabling the continued safe passage of rescue dogs into the United States.



Taking Action for Animal Health

Chutima Srisawang

Today, more than 75% of all new human infectious diseases emerge from animals – a truly alarming statistic. These diseases, such as Covid-19, SARS, rabies and Ebola, cause severe and destructive loss, and there's no time like the present to eradicate them and ensure no more emerge.

With this in mind, Soi Dog Foundation has joined the Action for Animal Health (A4AH) coalition which is calling on governments and international agencies to prioritise strong animal health systems in order to prevent another pandemic.

Formally launched on May 20 2021, the coalition brings together NGOs, research institutes, multilateral organisations and others with expertise in animal health, human health, environmental health and related fields. Together, A4AH is urging change through five pillars of action:

- To fill in the gap in veterinary medications and immunisations;
- To encourage community participation and equal access to animal health services;
- To increase the quantity of animal health workers and their capabilities;
- To improve disease surveillance among animals; and
- To enhance collaboration for the One Health approach.



As an organisation that currently vaccinates over 100,000 animals a year, Soi Dog fully understands the importance of immunisation in preserving animal health and welfare standards while also protecting humans from zoonotic diseases. In many nations, however, the accessibility of vaccines remains an enormous challenge.

“As an example, rabies is a zoonotic illness that can be completely eradicated with vaccines – assuming they are available and affordable,” explained Soi Dog’s Director of Animal Welfare *Dr. Alicja Izydorczyk* during the virtual launch event. Executive Director of Dogs Trust Worldwide *Dr. Karen Reed* added that every nine minutes someone dies from rabies, a disease that is entirely preventable.

Governments and international agencies must realise that the health of humankind is dependent on the complex connection we have with the animals we rely on every day. Animals and the health systems that protect them are more important than ever to humanity's security, economic and social wellbeing, and without decisive change to prevent other diseases from jumping the species barrier, future pandemics are inevitable.



Action for Animal Health

A matter of weeks after its official launch, A4AH joined the G7 summit and was pleased to see leaders accept the Carbis Bay declaration which lays out steps for countries to take in order avoid another pandemic, including One Health, a new animal vaccine manufacturing and innovation centre in the UK and assistance for the most vulnerable countries. Hopefully, there will be further commitment made at the G20 summit later this year.

To find out more about A4AH, and to join the coalition as an individual or organisation, [**click here.**](#)



Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

Sponsor one, save many

Amy Bryant

MAZAKI

aka The Tongue-out Tabby

Mazaki is the latest addition to our sponsorship programme. He came into our care after his jaw was fractured in a road traffic accident and he was left unable to eat or drink.

When he was strong enough, Mazaki underwent life-saving surgery to repair his jaw. However, it couldn't be returned to its exact original position, and so his distinctive tongue-out pose was born!

Mazaki has feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) which sadly hinders his chances of finding a forever family. Fortunately, this sociable boy is content with making lots of friends at the shelter instead.

Will you be Mazaki's friend and sponsor?
Your support will ensure he and his fellow sheltermates get the continued care they need.

SPONSOR ME



Pulling the goofiest faces



When all nearby laps are occupied





PALOKA

aka Disney Dog

This shaggy-haired gent is Paloka. He was brought to Soi Dog for treatment for a severe ear infection and fractures to his hip and pelvis – signs of a tough life spent on the streets.

Paloka is affectionately referred to as a “Disney dog” by our co-founder on account of his good looks which wouldn’t be out of place in a cartoon film!

Usually, a dog so handsome and sweet would find a home in no time. Unfortunately, though, Paloka has chronic kidney disease and needs ongoing care at the shelter to keep him looking and feeling his best.

You can help provide that care for Paloka and many more dogs like him by becoming his sponsor today.



Afternoon naps in the sun



When it's time for a haircut

SPONSOR ME



TIMOR

aka Timmy Tall Ears

Timor was found living at a viewpoint with three other dogs. With no one to feed or look out for them, the pack were brought to the shelter for their safety.

We'll never know what Timor faced during his time the streets. However, it undoubtedly left a mark on him as he remained terrified of strangers for many years.

With the help of our behaviour team, he's come a long way, but he has further to go before he's ready to join a home of his own. As he ages, he's also in need of additional treatment, such as support for his kidneys.

To continue receiving medical and behavioural care, dogs like Timor need sponsors like you.



Taking baths and giving high fives



Too much hustle and bustle

SPONSOR ME



Creatures great and small

Amy Bryant

The Soi Dog Foundation shelter is located in the sleepy village of Mai Khao, away from the bustling tourist towns commonly associated with Phuket. The village has, for the most part, managed to hold onto its wild side, so it's not uncommon to see buffalo grazing in rice paddies, lizards moving through the long grass, turtles swimming in the lakes and more. From time to time, therefore, wild and unusual animals temporarily end up in our care.

Here are just a few of the creatures great and small whose lives you have touched with your support, perhaps without even knowing!

BIRDS

Once or twice a month, our vets will need to treat a chicken for shock after they've hopped over the shelter wall and unexpectedly come face-to-face with an excitable dog in our off-lead areas! Fortunately, they usually only require a few hours' rest in an oxygen cage to calm down before being returned to their home next door. However, if they become injured, our vets will prescribe a course of antibiotics and the birds will be fostered until they're healthy and healed.

Just last month, a young red-wattled lapwing was found in one of our off-lead areas. It had somehow become separated from its mother on the other side of the wall. Our vets checked the little one for any signs of sickness or injury before reuniting it with its mother who showed her thanks with a grateful squawk.



The baby lapwing was in shock but fortunately unhurt.



WILD CAT

In early 2019, Soi Dog made national news after we took in a young leopard cat who had been hit by a car not far from the shelter. We named him *Happytiger*.

It was a unique and challenging case as this one-year-old wild cat was not only suffering from injuries inflicted by the accident but also pneumonia, bacterial enteritis and a fever, not to mention that he was completely blind. We can only imagine how confused he must have felt to be in our shelter.



Our vets brought Happytiger round from his coma and did their very best to treat his many medical issues, but unfortunately he succumbed to them after 10 days in our hospital. Although he didn't make it, he was at least kept safe and free from pain and given a fighting chance.

Leopard cats like Happytiger are a protected species in Thailand

TURTLES

Once a year or so, an injured Malayan snail-eating turtle will find its way into our care, often after being found by our shelter's lake. In one memorable case, our vets were able to successfully repair a turtle's cracked shell using acrylic. In most cases, though, the turtle will need to be transferred to the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) for specialist care.



In 2019, our co-founder *John Dalley* made local news after freeing a weak and injured hawksbill sea turtle from a homemade crab trap on the beach. After untangling the turtle and placing it in a bucket of seawater back at his home, the turtle was transferred to the PMBC.

As well as becoming tangled in the net, it was later discovered that the poor turtle had also ingested plastic.



GOATS

In recent months, our community outreach team have been lending a hand with a herd of eight goats who were found living in squalor, with overgrown hooves and only rubbish to eat. The team regularly pass by on their rounds to trim the goats' hooves and provide them with fresh fruit, pellets and hay.

While the goats are being cared for off-site, we have had a hoofed animal in the shelter itself: a horse! The owner of the horse – a local barber named *Tony* – kindly trotted her to the shelter one morning so we could see how one of our rescue dogs, *Jaiyen*, would interact and whether he would therefore be a good match for a family with horses.

Jaiyen and his new equine friend were introduced on either side of a fence at first and then face-to-face, all under the close supervision of our behaviour manager. Fortunately, the meeting went without a hitch.

No kidding!



It's not uncommon for our behaviour team to test a dogs' reaction to other dogs or cats, but this was a first!

Of course, Soi Dog was founded to help the street dogs and cats of Thailand, and that's where our focus will always remain. However, when other weird and wonderful members of the animal kingdom come through the shelter gates, we could never turn a blind eye.



Paradise LOST

Fighting for the rights of dogs in Mauritius

Nayomi Gunarathna

The small island of Mauritius is a gem of a destination for sun worshippers from around the world. Nestled between Africa and South Asia, it's known for its unparalleled beauty, biodiversity and also for the long-gone dodo.

Over 1.3 million tourists – the majority from France and the UK – visited Mauritius in 2019 alone. But in between the wealth and the flashy hotels, this tiny nation has guarded an evil secret for years...

While Mauritius is home to many species of flora and fauna, it's also home to over 200,000 dogs. Some are owned, some are stray and some are free-roaming, crossing the boundary between the two. At any given time, there's an estimated 75,000 stray dogs wandering the island.

Given that most countries with stray dogs have populations in the millions, you might think that 75,000 doesn't seem like much. That it would be manageable. That implementing humane methods to curb the population should be fairly easy.

However, for years, each ruling party in Mauritius has been deploying one of the most outdated, ineffective and barbaric methods of controlling the stray dog population: by catching and killing them – with the use of lethal injections.

In the past, some major players in the animal welfare world have cried in outrage and released exposés about the situation. Footage from undercover investigations revealed how the captured dogs were held in “kill rooms” and injected with lethal drugs by untrained pound workers in front of the other dogs. Instead of an instant death, most of the dogs were left twitching in mid-paralysis before being taken away to mass burials.

Following the media's reporting of these investigations, in 2018 a pilot spay and neuter programme was initiated by international animal welfare organisation HSI with the aim of sterilising the free-roaming dog population. However, around a year later, the government halted the programme without explanation.



Mauritius' catch and kill policy sees dogs caught in nets, flung into vans and taken to the pound where they're brutally killed by lethal injection to the heart.



In late 2020, shocking images were released to the media of starving dogs in Mauritian pounds eating fellow dead and dying dogs, proving that the policy of “catch and kill” was still very much in place. A huge outcry followed, particularly from the International Animal Welfare and Protection Coalition (IAWPC) who have been championing an end to catch and kill in Mauritius for decades.

Soi Dog Foundation, which is also part of the IAWPC, was asked by The Marchig Trust to step forward and assist the animal welfare organisations in Mauritius. Soi Dog has a long-standing relationship with the Trust, and we were keen to help, despite being many thousands of miles away.

Using our expertise in raising awareness of animal welfare issues and garnering public support to tackle them, we financed a digital awareness campaign baring the dark secrets this tropical paradise hides behind its palm leaves and sandy beaches. We also launched a global petition so that animal lovers like you all over the world could voice their opposition.

With over 200,000 signatures at the time of writing, the petition not only acts as a plea for the Mauritian government to implement a more sustainable and humane method to tackle the stray dog problem, it also provides proof that the world will not stand quietly by as such terrible crimes are committed against other sentient beings.

While the petition circulated on social media and gathered vital signatures, a letter was sent by the UK Parliament’s All-Party Dog Welfare Advisory Group (APDAWG) to the Prime Minister of Mauritius. In the letter dated April 2021, chair of the group *Dr. Lisa Cameron* formally requested that the Mauritian government consider replacing the outdated catch and kill policy with “a more sustainable ‘National Comprehensive Humane Dog Management Programme’ in conjunction with the Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) and supported by the IAWPC”.

Thanks to this letter, as well as growing international pressure, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security in Mauritius the *Hon. Maneesh Gobin* replied in May 2021 stating that “no stone will be left unturned to champion the cause of animal welfare in Mauritius” and in no uncertain terms that “the ‘catch and kill’ programme is now something of the past”. He also welcomed APDAWG’s proposed programme which he intended to “follow up with the relevant institutions”.

Following this communication, a crucial discussion took place between Mauritian government representatives, the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare, the IAWPC and the WVS. In June 2021, a formal proposal to implement the programme was submitted by the WVS for approval.

We welcome these discussions and cautiously await their outcome. One thing that’s for certain right now, though, is that Mauritius is aware that the world is watching, and the only way forward is to end the brutality and embrace the international offers of support to set up a sustainable stray dog management programme.

We want to thank you, our donors and supporters, who took the time to sign the petition. The initial positive action we’ve seen demonstrates the power of your collective voice. Please continue to share the petition as the appeal will continue to run until we see the programme implemented effectively.

*Add your voice and spread the word **here**.*



Dogs in a Mauritian pound, unaware of the fate awaiting them.



Made for all seasons

– for the shy, the outgoing,
the energetic and the elderly

Sam McElroy

**Work came to a completion on
various infrastructure projects
at the Gill Dalley Sanctuary in June.**

Dodging the heavy rainstorms typical of the monsoon season, and making the most of the dry spells in between, finishing touches were made to a block of four brand-new dog enclosures, four new exercise areas for dogs and five special care kennels for some of our brave amputees and disabled dogs. Not to mention the refurbishment of one of the senior dog enclosures – all made possible by the support of people like you.

Let loose

Last year, your support enabled the acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to the sanctuary. Having already filled every available square metre on the existing land, our dogs so desperately needed the extra space.

The addition of four off-lead areas there sees vital exercise areas for the shelter dogs to enjoy. Having previously shared just two such areas among hundreds of sanctuary dogs, the new spaces are a welcome feature and allow for prolonged enrichment for even more of our deserving dogs.






New enclosures

Designed with input from the Soi Dog animal welfare and behaviour teams, we built four new enclosures on the new land. Each has become home to eight or nine dogs. Aimed at benefitting those who struggle adapting to a living environment with 25 others, these new enclosures provide something different. We hope that by housing fewer dogs together it will allow the shyer ones to flourish and some of the solitary ones to better cope in their interactions with other dogs.

Equipped with additional internal kennel space and the obligatory 'sala' (defined in Thai as "an open, shaded pavilion used as a meeting place"), the new enclosures have just welcomed their first inhabitants who cautiously explored their new environment.



Special care for some very special dogs

Now home to some very special dogs, the new 'special care' kennels are officially open and occupied. The kennels, which include a sheltered and secluded sleeping area to the rear, each come complete with their very own garden and provide something that these dogs have not had the luxury of before – a grassy patch upon which to roll, sniff and laze in the sunshine to their heart's content, whenever the mood takes them.





Golden oldies

When you've lived a lifetime on the streets, with the hard ground under your paws and the hot sun blazing almost non-stop on your back, you deserve something better in your senior years. For the senior dogs at Soi Dog, three 'oldie' enclosures give them that something better.

One of those enclosures has just had a makeover. Located in a shady setting with views over nearby water, the refurbishment consists of new walls and fencing, a new roof structure and private kennel space and a lush, grassy finish (we're trying hard not to make this sound like the perfect retirement home!)

Fascinating fact: 138 dogs at the shelter are aged 10 years or over.

Some of the stronger ones live in the main enclosures with other, younger dogs. However, the majority reside in designated senior dog enclosures where they will likely see out their days in peace and relative tranquility.

There's life in the old dog yet, as they say. And, thanks to you, it's a life worth living.



Lending a paw during a ruff patch

Chutima Srisawang

In previous issues of the *Soi Dog Post*, we've brought you news of the amazing support we receive from a number of international schools here in Thailand. To see student participation in raising awareness and donations through fundraising activities for animal welfare initiatives is hugely encouraging. One such school, based in Bangkok, is NIST International School. Their student-run 'WOOF' club - which stands for Welfare Of Our Friends - have supported Soi Dog through thick and thin for a number of years now.

In April, during a third wave of the pandemic here in Thailand, WOOF reached out to see how we were faring and to offer us their Covid Relief Fund - a very generous 30,000 THB (945 USD). The fund was quickly put towards shelter essentials such as food, vaccines and surgical spay and neuter kits.

We want to say a huge thank you to WOOF for their continued dedication in raising funds for our cause and awareness of the plight of street animals at large.



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.



AmazonSmile

Shop as you would on Amazon, instead just do it through AmazonSmile and see 0.5% of your eligible purchases donated to Soi Dog at no extra cost!

Available on Amazon US and UK sites. For free sign-up, visit [smile.amazon.com \(US\)](https://smile.amazon.com) or www.smile.amazon.co.uk



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



Moving Forward Together
a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

CARS

North American supporters, if you want to make a big and bold gesture, consider donating your unused vehicle to Soi Dog with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services).

CARS take care of everything for you!
Donations are tax deductible too.

Visit
<https://careasy.org/nonprofit/soi-dog-foundation-usa>
or call 855-500-RIDE (7433).



Facebook fundraisers

If you're not into shopping online and don't have an unused vehicle to donate, 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.



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

