

SOI DOG

March 2020



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

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Poppy blossoms in her new Texan home

Kerrie Thompson, Poppy's adopter

In recent months, my husband, *Blake*, and I decided it was time to rescue another dog. I adopted my first dog, *Kwanjai*, from *Soi Dog* in July of 2016. I chose *Kwanjai*, a tripawd with one eye, nine teeth and a scarred tail, because she was in her senior years and seemed so mentally and physically broken. I, too, had been at a very low point in my life. I felt if I rescued something just as damaged as I felt, we both could help each other. Kwan quickly became my best friend. She was only with me for three very short years, but man did we make those years count. Though she still suffered from PTSD until her last days, she passed finally knowing what unconditional love was and how to be a dog.

When Kwan's time was up, I felt like a piece of me was lost. How do you go about living when the thing that helped save your mental health is no longer there? One week she was running, and the next she could barely breathe on her own. It was all out of nowhere and a complete shock.

About a month later, I walked out into our backyard. It was a bright, sunny day. There was a breeze in the air that stopped me as I walked out into the grass. The sound of the flowers and trees swaying caught my attention. Tears began to fill my eyes.



Poppy settled into life with her pawrents Blake and Kerrie almost immediately.





Snuggling, running, chasing
and playing with toys are among
Poppy's new favourite pastimes.



These types of days were Kwanjai's favorite because she was able to lay in flower gardens (she was obsessed with smelling flowers) catching their aromas as the wind carried the scent to her rough but cute little nose. I felt this moment was a sign from Kwanjai that it was OK to love again. I felt her presence all around me. I recalled one of the things that Soi Dog co-founder *John Dalley* said to me when Kwanjai passed, that sometimes the best way to remember a fur child is to open our hearts to another one. Immediately I picked up the phone and called my husband to tell him I wanted to pay tribute to Kwanjai and rescue another dog from Soi Dog. That evening we curled up on the couch and began going through all the dog profiles. We came across sweet Poppy. If her story wasn't already enough to want to give her the best life possible, her name was Poppy, a flower. That was all the sign I needed.

We instantly put in a request for more information, and as luck would have it, we were chosen to adopt her. There were weeks of interviews which seemed like a lifetime due to the time difference between us and Thailand. Because I had been through the process before, I was accustomed to the steps and careful procedures that Soi Dog takes when selecting a furever home. Weeks had passed waiting on getting a flight volunteer to bring Poppy to Texas. We were unsure how long it would take, then I got one of the best messages ever from the president of the outreach team in the US for Soi Dog Foundation just days out from mine and Blake's wedding. She had seen the tribute video I made for late Kwanjai and knew of Poppy's story. She asked if she could use her miles to fly me across the world to get Poppy myself. I quickly told her that that was a lot and wouldn't be able to do that for just myself.

She sweetened the pot by suggesting me taking more dogs back to the US with me. How could I say no to that?! Best wedding gift ever! On December 29th I flew out of Houston, Phuket bound. Around 30 hours later I landed and was on my way to the Soi Dog Foundation. It was pretty surreal because I had never been to the foundation before.

Poppy on arrival to Soi Dog
back in April 2019.



The last time I was in Phuket was in 2015, and I sadly had not known about Soi Dog just yet. As soon as I arrived, I was greeted by volunteers and staff. From the get-go I felt as if I had already met everyone. To be honest, this culture, or family rather, was something that drew Blake and I to rescue from Soi Dog again. When Kwanjai passed the amount of support we received was none like any other we had ever experienced. We Soi Dog supporters get it. There's something special about bonds between humans who love animals so much.

I was speechless when I first saw *Poppy*. She took my breath away by her beauty and presence. We immediately bonded, and I knew from then on that she was going to fit right in with our new little family. For the following couple of days that I was in Thailand I could not stop thinking about her. Finally, the day came to take her with me to the airport. We all loaded up as *Poppy, Whitney, Linos* and myself said our goodbyes to some of the best people at Soi Dog, people who I will never forget.

Once we touched down in Houston, the partner rescue group for Whitney and Linos were there along with Blake and a news team. They had gotten the word out about the sweet pups and were wanting to cover a small story on it. They hadn't even been on US soil for an hour before becoming famous. Blake and I loaded Poppy's crate in my Jeep and drove into the sunset.

From that night on, Blake and I continuously tell each other how lucky we are. In the short amount of time that Poppy has been with us, it truly feels like we have had her for years. Some of her favorite things include snuggling, playing with the same small squeaky squirrel toy, jumping in our bed to sleep with us, playing chase outside, giving kisses, going on runs, and that is just the beginning of it.

Poppy is extremely loving, calm, and obedient. I can really tell that she is so grateful for the second chance at life she was granted when she was brought to Soi Dog. I look at her now curled up on my legs at the end of the bed as I write this and am still in complete awe of her comeback. It seems she has adjusted faster than we could have ever imagined into this new life of hers. If this is how she is just a couple weeks after her move, I cannot wait to see what future years bring us with her. Thank you to all who make miracles like Poppy possible.



Kerrie and her beloved Kwanjai.

**IF YOU CAN'T ADOPT, FOSTER. IF YOU CAN'T FOSTER, SPONSOR.
IF YOU CAN'T SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER. IF YOU CAN'T VOLUNTEER, DONATE.
IF YOU CAN'T DONATE, EDUCATE.**

Soi Dog hit hard by Covid-19

Sam McElroy

The emergence and subsequent spread of Covid-19 has thrown the world into turmoil, and non-profit organisations will inevitably be some of the hardest hit. Our mission to alleviate the suffering of dogs and cats is facing its biggest test since the 2004 Asian tsunami.

How has Soi Dog been affected?

Adopted animals are unable to fly to their forever homes due to travel restrictions and must therefore stay at the sanctuary until flights resume. But with new animals in need arriving every day, this puts the sanctuary at real risk of overcrowding. Every spare area is being considered for conversion to extra run space.

The sanctuary is temporarily closed to visitors and volunteers which is affecting donations and merchandise sales. Fortunately, our staff have pledged to continue to work as normal, meaning life-saving work continues at our dog and cat hospitals.

Sterilisation services normally offered to owned pets have been temporarily suspended in order to restrict the number of people coming into the sanctuary. Our mobile sterilisation teams in Bangkok and Nakhon Sri Thammarat are doing everything they can to keep their projects going, but their movement is becoming increasingly restricted.

How is Soi Dog responding?

An emergency campaign was launched in March to raise the necessary funds to build extra kennels within the main runs, to develop other small areas to convert to new dog runs and to repurpose some existing structures to house more dogs and cats. Construction has already begun on this. Funds will also be used to cover the cost of the additional food and medicine and general upkeep that come with the increased population.

Soi Dog co-founder *John Dalley* has written to the heads of the World Health Organisation, the Office International Epizootique and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations directly, urging them to use their influence to ban the sale and slaughter of all live animals at open markets, such as the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan where Covid-19 is believed to have originated.

We have also put a message in the press encouraging communities to look out for the stray animals in their neighbourhoods who are likely to find themselves without their regular sources of food and fresh water. 11 tonnes of dog and cat food was also provided to feeders across Phuket, just before the island-wide lockdown was implemented.

Staying positive

There are some benefits in all of this. Our Behaviour and Enrichment Team have been helping out with socialisation and dog walking. This means they are able to get closer to so many dogs that they would otherwise not have had the chance to.

The Visitor and Volunteer Coordinator Team have also been helping with dog socialisation and walking, as they don't have their regular commitment of taking care of visitors and volunteers.

The enforced omission of visitors and volunteers, and the general calm that the sanctuary is experiencing during this period, has been beneficial to many of the dogs who struggle in the normal, hectic environment. Dogs who usually shy away from the buzz of the average day are already showing signs of coming out of their shell.

And our supporters around the world have, as always, been incredible. Their support is ensuring we stand by our commitment to never turn our backs on a homeless animal, even in these dire circumstances.

'Tis the sea-sun: Soi Dog makes it a Christmas to remember

Nicole Bellamy

While Christmas at Soi Dog may look a bit different, the classic Christmas spirit and holiday joy was felt by all of our two, three and four-legged creatures at Soi Dog.

The festivities commenced when the volunteers arrived at the sanctuary. One by one they stepped off the songthaew, not knowing what the Visitor and Volunteer Coordinator Team had in store. To their surprise (and to the dogs' surprise) the volunteers were told they would begin this glorious day with a walk on beautiful Mai Khao Beach with a dog of their choice.





Black Panther making a splash.

Ten lucky dogs were harnessed up and decked out in festive attire to show off their Christmas spirit. For many of them, this was their first taste of life outside of the sanctuary, and boy did they love it. On the way down to the beach, there were big smiles, wagging tails and of course lots of ears flapping in the wind.

Again, one by one they stepped out of the songthaew. A few dogs were confused and unsure at first, but it didn't take long for the confusion to fade, leading to pure excitement. Once they felt the salty breeze in their fur and sand in between their paws,

they were hooked! Who needs a white Christmas when you can soak up the sun with stunning doggos?

The question remains, who had a better time: the dogs or the volunteers? It's too hard to tell!

Christmas means something different to everyone, but this Christmas meant the world to these homeless animals. The gifts of love, happiness and adventure were given that day. All in all, it was a Christmas to remember!

Animal rescuers join Soi Dog to create a better Pattaya

Chutima Srisawang

In December, **Falko Duwe**, a dog-loving Pattaya expat, together with **Dr. Kwanchai Chaipum**, a veterinarian who has been neutering dogs in the area for a number of years, hosted an appreciation party plus a small workshop for local dog rescuers and feeders at August Restaurant.

Staff from Soi Dog were invited to the doggie forum where they spoke about animal welfare and the progress made in neutering dogs in Pattaya and shared some practical animal handling tips. Other hot topics included rabies and the Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return process. The aim was to arm attendees with facts and knowledge so that they as animal ambassadors can spread correct information and "sing the same song" in the community.

Over 3,800 dogs have been neutered in Pattaya since Soi Dog's project began there in August 2018. Soi Dog will continue to support in the city in 2020, funding the neutering and vaccinating of 200 free-roaming dogs a month.



New volunteer page goes live

Sam McElroy

A screenshot of the Soi Dog Volunteer Booking Form. The form is titled "Volunteer Booking Form" and includes a "DONATE NOW" button. It contains a thank you message and instructions for booking a volunteering trip. The form includes fields for "Start date", "End date", "Hotel name", and "Hotel location". There is also a section for "Volunteering Dates" and a "Submit" button.

December saw the new volunteer page go live for the first time. In the last edition of the Soi Dog Post, we announced that the online booking form had been launched in October and this new information page has been populated with all the information you could ever need before embarking on your volunteering trip to the sanctuary. It also includes a button on the page to take you straight to the booking form.

So far, almost 250 volunteers have used the online system, designed to streamline the booking process and cut down on time spent on administration. Whilst computers are no good with dogs and cats, they are good at ensuring we can devote more time to helping animals without compromising the standard of reply to our wonderful volunteers.

Visit www.soidog.org/volunteer to take a look.



Tails of a fosterer: An interview with Khun Gib

Dee Nordlander

Following in the footsteps of Soi Dog's infamous kitten lady (Khun Pan), Kamonrat Sankhamkon (Khun Gib), our client service coordinator, has cared for 70-80 neonatal kittens and hospice cats in the past three years – the most rewarding years of her life, she says.

K. Gib knew from a young age that her love for orphaned animals must have been for a reason. Growing up, she always took pity on the stray dogs and cats living around her area. However, there were two life-changing incidents that made her question her ability to care for animals. The first time was when she fostered a purebred dog that was abused and abandoned by her friend's neighbour. Although her family was against it, she still took him in and named him *Pizza*.

She was a young student at the time and admitted she had no former education in animal welfare. Despite loving and caring for *Pizza*, she was unaware that he needed to go to the vets for vaccinations. One day, after 6-7 years together, he suddenly dropped to the ground, gums pale and body lifeless. She rushed to a nearby vet clinic, but it was too late. He passed away in her arms. After that, she vowed to never have a pet of her own.

Sixth months passed, and K. Gib encountered the second incident that horrified her until this very day. She was feeding a young stray kitten that wandered around her house. She kept a

K. Gib has always felt an affinity for animals.





small bowl filled with cat food outside the compound. Sadly, someone poisoned the food with a pill called ya buea, also known as strychnine, a strong poison used as a pesticide. As heartbroken as she was, she knew that it wasn't her fault. Despite her unfortunate experiences, her compassion for homeless dogs and cats never wavered.

After graduating college, she focused on her job and didn't care for any dogs or cats. Despite her deep-rooted fears, she wanted to be around animals, particularly to take care of the ones in desperate need. In early 2017, she applied for a position in Soi Dog's Front Office Team and got the job. She mentioned that it felt like the perfect fit and that she was where she was meant to be.

A year into her time with Soi Dog Foundation, *K. Pan* (kitten lady) was overwhelmed with kittens requiring intensive care. So, as a collective decision, the front office employees agreed to help foster them, learning from K. Pan's self-taught experience. When there were many fostering requests coming in, K. Gib would offer to help. She would foster neonatal kittens during their critical stages (without their mothers). In certain cases, she had to move the IV (fluids) bag to her home in hopes of saving them. Her life automatically revolved around the kittens' feeding, sleeping and toilet time. She became obsessed with making sure she did everything possible to save the kittens. The hardest and saddest time for her would be losing some to feline viruses or diseases. But the happiest moments would be when she was able to hand them back to the sanctuary knowing that they were healthy and ready to be placed in a home.

Not only would she foster kittens and vulnerable cats herself, she also scouted out other potential local fosters. Ideally, Soi Dog prefers the local community to take in the strays due to the limited

Cuddles with soi cat Momojang.





Permchok and Permsap, K. Gib's rescue kitties.



capacity at the sanctuary. She grew to notice certain telltale signs from individuals coming in with the cats and would request their help fostering the animals, assuring them that Soi Dog would be available for emergencies or any questions that may arise. She would mention that fostering isn't forever, and once the cats were healthy again, they would come in for sterilisation and either stay at the cattery or return to the area where they were picked up, so long as there were community feeders around.

When asked what the main takeaways from her experience as a foster parent were, K. Gib said, "I'd like to share two important points: 1) Educate yourself! Make sure that you know all the responsibilities that come with caring for a dog or cat. Loving them is not enough. You need to provide the proper medical care which includes vaccinations, sterilisation and preventing other common diseases, such as heartworm, tick-borne diseases and skin diseases. 2) If you are able to come to Soi Dog, please do! Not only to bring animals in for care but to learn how to help the homeless dogs and cats around your area. After all, humans and animals have the right to live in this world together, cohesively."

K. Gib proudly adopted two cats, *Permchok* and *Permsap*, that she had rescued, risking her own life to save them when they were kittens in the middle of a busy road. She mentioned that they were cats without any distinct colour who were deemed as plain-looking to some and unlikely to be adopted. Because of this, and the fact that she felt real attachment towards them, she knew it was her time to finally become a fur mummy again. She's now unapologetically loving and caring for all stray cats and dogs – the way she always intended it to be.

Up to scratch: Soi Dog supporter handcrafts furniture for our felines

Amy Bryant

If you've visited the cattery recently, you'll have no doubt heard the "scritch, scritch, scritch" of happy cats testing out their new scratch trees and giving themselves a good manicure in the process.

These inventive scratching posts were built and donated by *Markus Engler*, a Soi Dog supporter, cat lover and semi-professional triathlete from Switzerland who flies to Phuket periodically to train at a nearby health and sports resort.

Markus was inspired to create the trees after taking a tour of the sanctuary on his last visit to the island. He wanted to make a donation he could see the direct impact of, so he collected some tree trunks, door mats and rope and set to work in a space at the back of our store facility. This wasn't Markus' first go at creating feline furniture. His two lucky kitties back home have their own floor-to-ceiling cat condo that he carefully designed and built himself.

Introducing the trees into each suite was a joy to behold. Some cats scratched, some climbed, others were content with just sitting on the platforms at the top and surveying the cattery, but all were impressed. Even the fussiest of felines approved.

Markus' visit served to remind us that Soi Dog supporters are surely some of the most generous and creative around. We say a huge thanks to Markus and wish him luck with his next Ironman!



Markus hard at work (above).
Soi cat Neono gives her seal
of approval (below).



Dutch school fundraises for doggie wheelchairs

Nayomi Gunarathna

Students of Onze Lieve Vrouwenlyceum Breda School in the Netherlands recently fundraised for Soi Dog Foundation and collected an impressive 732.55 EUR (24,645 THB).

Dutch volunteer and Soi Dog Netherlands Education Office's organiser *Annerieke Claassen* presented the cheque to our Operations Director *Sam McElroy* upon her visit to the sanctuary in January.

These funds will be used to cover part of the cost of wheelchairs for some of our doggies, including a very special girl called Guligo.

Guligo has been at Soi Dog Foundation for over two-and-a-half years. She was the victim of a road traffic accident that left her with a fractured pelvis and leg.

Guligo has come so far, and she'll be able to go even further with the help of her wheelchair



The hardest part of Guligo's recovery was learning to trust strangers. She thrived on human affection only from those who she was familiar with, which made it difficult to find her a forever home. During her time with us, Guligo has not only received physical therapy but behaviour therapy as well. Our Behaviour and Enrichment Team has worked closely with her, and she has slowly started to trust strangers.

She has an affectionate side waiting to come out, and we hope that once she has her own wheelchair, she will be able to experience more of life and learn that the big bad world isn't so big or bad after all.

Huge thanks to the students at Onze Lieve Vrouwenlyceum Breda. Your donation will truly transform the lives of some very deserving dogs.





Spreading his roots

Sam McElroy

In December, we received a visit from a quite unique guest.

Mr Ryan Tree, a musician and animal awareness activist from the US, came to visit Soi Dog on Christmas Day and joined the traditional Mai Khao Beach trip with 10 lucky dogs and their volunteers.

This, in itself, is nothing unique. What is completely different about Ryan is that he drove himself and his rescue dog, Nixie, in his car, all the way from Arizona to Thailand!

His mission to spread awareness about animal welfare has seen Ryan supporting various non-profit organisations along the way, and his trip to Thailand wouldn't have been complete without a stop off in Phuket to come and see us.

Thanks, Ryan, for hanging out with us and for pledging your support of Soi Dog in the future.

Having left Arizona in July 2019, Ryan's trip continues and, at the last count, had reached day 220 and included countries like Lithuania, Mongolia and China on the epic journey.

Check out [@ryantreefoundation](#) on Instagram to read about his adventures.



Soi Dog Education Office aims high

Nayomi Gunaratna

Initiated by Soi Dog Foundation supporter *Annerieke Claassen* in the Netherlands, the Soi Dog Education Office aims to incorporate the new age sustainability paradigm set out by the United Nations with Soi Dog Foundation's ideals to make the world a better place for humans, dogs and cats here in Thailand.

Although it is at its initial stages, the project hopes to join forces with the *Utrecht University of Applied Sciences (HU)*, one of the largest higher education faculties in the Netherlands, by incorporating the UN sustainability goals into the curriculum of primary and secondary schools.



The programme will provide young people the opportunity to engage and demonstrate social responsibility by volunteering for organisations such as Soi Dog Foundation and make a sustainable difference to the world through animal welfare.

Contributions by Dutch students to Soi Dog Foundation is nothing new. Over the years, the *American International School of The Hague* has raised funds for various aspects of Soi Dog Foundation, including

Annerieke (right) with two students and her soi dog Senna.



the construction of various dog enclosures and our first cat hospital here in Phuket and billboards discouraging the dog meat trade in northern Thailand.

The Soi Dog Education Office will further these contributions as the programme develops and expands to incorporate major universities and schools all around the Netherlands.

Here's how some of the students who have already joined the Soi Dog Education Office described their experience:

"The reason why I am helping Soi Dog to grow in the Netherlands is that in summer 2019, I experienced the reality of stray animals in the Dominican Republic. It was terrible to see how many dogs and cats suffer because they do not get enough food or care. I asked myself how I can contribute to make a change. However, Soi Dog appeared as a choice in our Honors program at the HU. After a meeting with Annerieke, I realised that Soi Dog is exactly what I was looking for to make a positive impact on stray animals". – *Julia Derenko*, 22-year-old Creative Business student at HU in Utrecht.

"We are going to raise money for [neglected and abused] dogs... by making posters... If we have collected the money, we will send it to Soi Dog. For example, they will buy dog houses, dog toys and dog leashes." – *Kaya and Marieke*, 13-year-old high school students from Utrecht.



"[We chose Soi Dog as one of our annual projects] because it is a very beautiful and unknown goal in the Netherlands. Many pupils make a nice trip with parents but mainly come to tourist places, so they have no idea that life looks different for many animals than for their favourite domestic dog or cat. Knowing the problem and contributing a bit is therefore incredibly valuable if you ask me". – *Sara Laurijssens*, teacher at *Onze Lieve Vrouwenlyceum Breda School*.

As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." And that includes the lives of the animals we share our planet with.

We salute Annerieke and the rest of the Dutch team for their continuing support and wish them the best of luck in their endeavours in creating awareness and spreading the message of Soi Dog to the younger generation in the Netherlands.

Spreading the word.



Karhus finds his winter wonderland

Amy Bryant

Karhus isn't your typical soi dog. How this lovable purebred Alaskan Malamute found his way to Thailand remains a mystery, but he was brought to the Soi Dog sanctuary in June 2016 by a tourist who found him chained up and abandoned in a shop driveway.

A gentle giant with gorgeous golden eyes and the fluffiest of coats, Karhus quickly won the hearts of staff, volunteers and our supporters around the world. He was also a hit with local expat couple *Heather* and *John* Gow who welcomed him into their family here in Phuket in August last year.

However, it quickly became clear to them that Karhus simply wasn't built for the tropical Thai climate, and it was time to introduce him to cooler climes where he belongs.



Karhus: from tropical Thailand to the cool climes of Canada.



The couple contacted us in December to help relocate Karhus to Alberta, Canada, where they spend much of their time. Flying this 40-kilogram Malamute halfway around the world was no mean feat, but our logistics coordinator found a way, and Karhus arrived safe and sound in January this year.

Finally home, Karhus settled in almost immediately, bounding around in the deep snow, exploring igloos and working out what all his fur is for! Never was a dog more deserving of feeling the fresh snow between his paws than Karhus, and we are thrilled to see him thrive in his new home and his true habitat.



THE GILL DALLEY SAN

FOR SICK, INJURED AND VULNERA
STREET DOGS AND CATS



A superstar stops by

Chutima Srisawang

On the last day of 2019, Soi Dog welcomed Thai actress, model and singer Mo Monchanok Saengchaipiangpen, who dropped by during her holiday in Phuket for a guided tour of the sanctuary.

She showed a keen interest in our work – and resident puppies – during the tour with Volunteer Coordinator Khun Karn and even supported us by purchasing one of our tote bags. With an Instagram following of over 1.5 million, we hope she can help spread the word!



November and December education activities:

Rounding off the year in style

Sam McElroy

The Soi Dog Education wagon rolled on into November and December, stopping at various districts along the way.

Education reach grew considerably during 2019, and another eight schools and kindergartens were the recipients of the Soi Dog Education Programme during the last two months of the year.

Children from *Ban Ko En School, Mueang Patong Kindergarten, Ban Thumthanakarn Kindergarten, Ban Kuansean Kindergarten, Thachatchai School, Ban Naithon, Ban Natto Kindergarten and Ban Tuayang Kindergarten* all benefitted from the animal welfare message being taught in their school or at the sanctuary in Mai Khao.

Plans to grow the programme further will continue into 2020 and beyond. Some say that 2020 is the future, but we believe it is now the present and that these kids are the real future of animal welfare in Thailand.

In 2019, the education team reached a total of 7,368 children between the ages of 4 and 12.





Sometimes one just will not do:

Lamia joins Alfie

in Houston

Nayomi Gunarathna

**AS OUR FAVOURITE ADAGE GOES,
“ONCE YOU’VE HAD A SOI DOG, YOU LONG FOR MORE.”**

In 2019, that’s exactly what happened with *Terra* and *Brad* when they came back during their volunteer stint at the sanctuary looking for their next soi dog.

They wanted to pick a dog who was unlikely to find a home in their senior years or due to health issues. You might remember from previous Soi Dog Posts that they chose *Alfie*, the godfather of the A2 run, our 32kg charmer. Alfie flew to the USA in January and settled in quickly, as if he had always lived with the family. His furrytail ending remained one of our firm favourites.

Doggie duo: Lamia and Alfie.





Lamia stretches out and claims her place on the sofa.

But the story does not end there. We were all taken by surprise when Terra got in touch again to say they were happy to add another overlooked soi dog to the family. They chose *Lamia*.

Lamia came to Soi Dog in March of 2017. She was likely abandoned by her previous owner and was found scared, hungry and suffering a painful skin condition.

Lamia was quite a character, with her undying affection for chosen staff members and love of walking around the sanctuary with her favourite toy in her mouth. Even though there were volunteers and a few people interested in her, somehow nothing really worked out for Lamia. The odds were stacked against her ever finding that perfect home. As well as being a pitbull, she was black and sometimes shy.

But Lamia's luck changed when she joined Terra, Brad and the family in October 2019. She had some learning to do, though!

"...She didn't understand at first how to be part of a family. But wow did she figure it out! She has a beefy tough guy exterior which allows her to get out and enjoy running through the large fenced in wooded area near our home, but then afterwards she snuggles up and wants so very much to be loved like the baby girl she is. With her passion for life and giant heart, she reminds me a little bit of me," explained Terra.

"We are so grateful to be able to have these dogs join our family. Watching their transformations, and witness their openness to change, new beginnings, to forgiveness and to love is an inspiration to us daily".

Alfy and Lamia's story for us has also been a source of inspiration and a story of love as well as proof that every dog has a family for them. Sometimes love takes time.





www.soidog.org



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

Gill Dalley
1959-2017

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