

# SOI DOG

October 2019

post



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www.soidog.org



# The kids take centre stage

Throughout September 2019, *Soi Dog's Humane Education team* organised activities with eight different schools around Phuket, and took the message of animal welfare to over 1,600 children.

- Ban Talat Nuea school
- Ban Nabon school
- Wat Rattivanaram school
- Wat Kittisangkaram municipal school, Karon
- Ban Aow-Nam-Bor school kindergarten
- Ban Koh Naka school
- Vichit-songkram school
- Phuket PALS (Phuket Academic Language school)

Watlattiwanaram School's kindergarten also visited the Soi Dog sanctuary during that period in order to broaden their views on animal welfare and emphasise the responsibility that comes with keeping pets.



Each of the activities focused on kindness towards pets and stray animals, animal welfare and the five freedoms. These are the basic values we focus on in our educational presentations – 1/ Freedom from hunger and thirst, 2/ Freedom from discomfort, 3/ Freedom from pain, injury and disease, 4/ Freedom from fear and distress and 5/ Freedom to express normal behaviour.

Basic animal body language signals are also taught. These provide essential understanding of dog behaviour to prevent potential animal bites and scratches. Important information about Rabies is also included as a key component to the syllabus.

After the teachings, the students answer a quiz on subjects they have learned about and are given the opportunity to show that they have a willingness to display compassion and an understanding of the basic rights of both their pets and stray animals.

The programme is growing all the time and the new education centre being constructed at Soi Dog will take it to the next level.



*K'Film hosts education sessions at Baan Talat Nuea school and Ban Nabon school and K'Mabel pictured at Karon Kindergarten.*



# One, two, free donations!

With the festive holiday season just around the corner, now is as good a time as any to get online and get shopping.

Now, we don't want to advocate shopping for shopping's sake. After all, we encourage everyone to Adopt. Don't Shop. But you can't adopt the kind of things we're talking about shopping for. This is shopping with a difference.

Have we mentioned the word shopping yet? Ok, enough.

Now for the interesting bit....

Soi Dog Foundation is a registered non-profit in the United Kingdom (Soi Dog UK CIO – reg.no: 1176305) and if you're doing online shopping at any of the listed outlets through the easyfundraising website (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>) then you can raise money for Soi Dog simply by shopping (there's that word again).

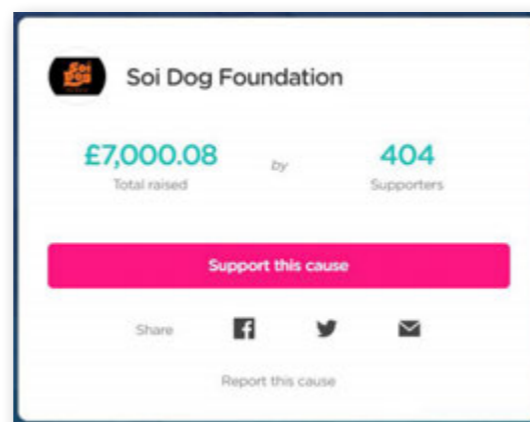
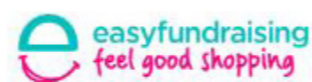
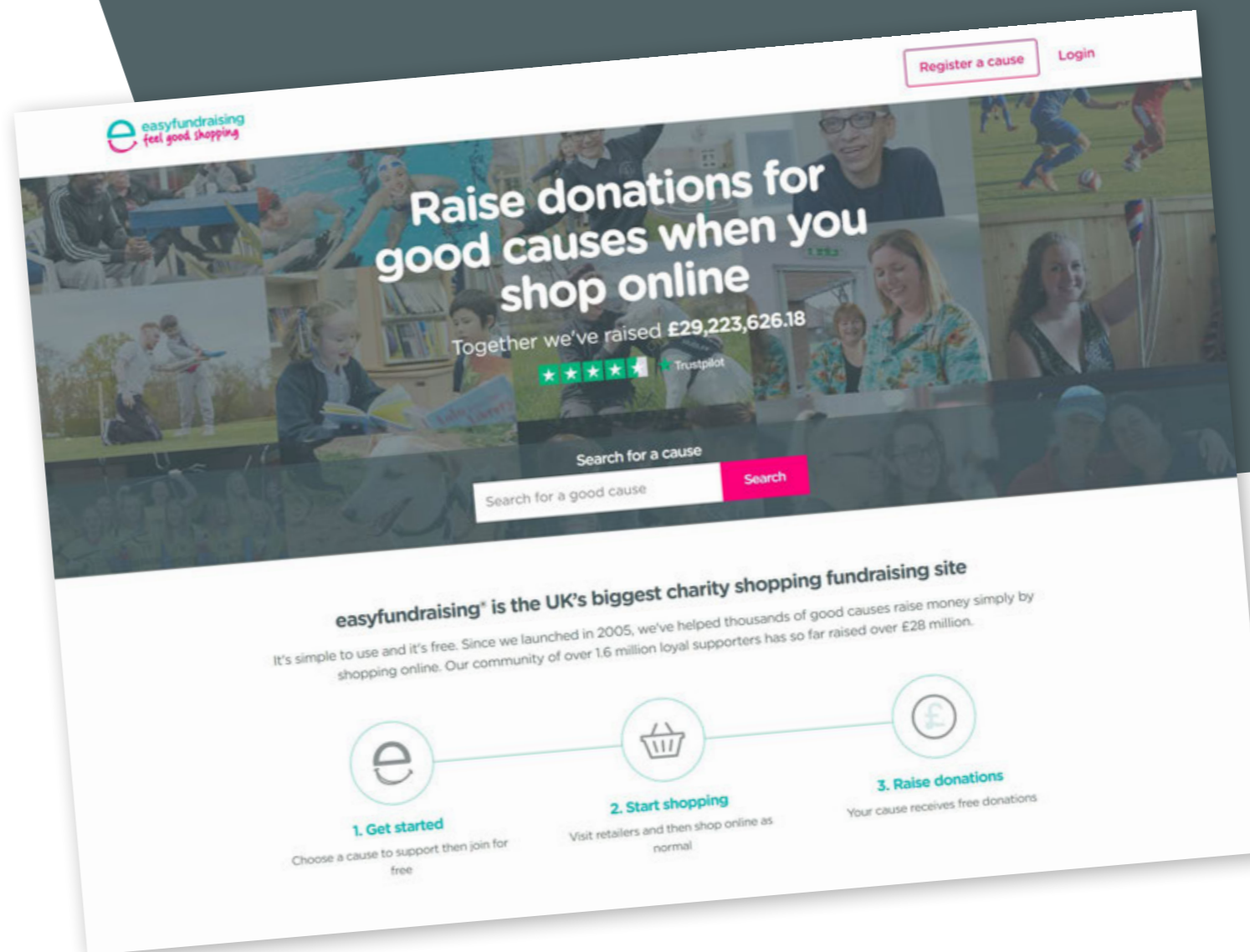
So, how does it work?

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause.

How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. The retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you".

You can do it from a laptop directly to their website (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>) or use their mobile App and then select the retailer of your choice – From John Lewis to eBay, Argos, Next and Groupon... ALL the big UK supermarkets, travel companies, insurance companies, restaurants and more – basically pretty much anything you can buy online.

The website and app are really easy to use. You click on that first and then select the retailer you want to buy from. This takes you directly through to that retailer's website. The prices



are exactly the same and you do not have to pay a commission. The donation is paid entirely by the retailer.

There are 3,751 outlets to choose from and, so far, over £28 million has been raised for thousands of community groups, schools, sports clubs, small and large charities across the UK.

Easy!

This isn't a new thing. Soi Dog has been registered with easyfundraising for quite some time. Enough time for a league table to have developed which shows the most prolific shoppers for our foundation. If you are reading this and recognise your name on that list, give yourself a huge pat on the back because your consumer addiction now has a guilt-free element – it's helping Soi Dog and we can't thank you enough!

Want to join the competition? Get yourself on that league table and start raising free donations for the foundation.

Since Soi Dog is an international organisation, it didn't seem fair that we restrict the opportunity of raising free donations to just the UK. So, who's heard of Amazon (the website, not the rainforest)?

## Top Supporters

1	Amanda M.	£392.10
2	Anonymous	£342.51
3	Victoria J.	£224.48
4	Paul J.	£224.15
5	Susanne H.	£218.83



# amazon smile

Already use Amazon? How about using Amazon Smile!  
The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of your purchase  
automatically donated to us!

You shop. Amazon gives.



Thought so.

But, have you heard of Amazon Smile? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as found on the mother site, *Amazon.co.uk* or *Amazon.com* in the US. The difference is that when customers shop through Amazon Smile, the company will donate .05% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers – in our case, Soi Dog Foundation!

Amazon Smile is a separate platform and you must log in to that in order to make your purchase, with donations coming to Soi Dog.

Sometimes you get a pop up when you go in to Amazon on a mobile device to ask if you want to go over to Amazon Smile to purchase. If you always select yes, then you will open up the option of donating to Soi Dog while you shop.

There have been, for example, 216 purchases made in the 7 period of Sunday 13th October through Saturday 19th October, all generating small donations to Soi Dog. Previously, 752 purchases were made in September which directly benefitted the foundation.

Thank you to all who shop via Amazon Smile and - if you don't already – what are you waiting for?

Visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> (UK) or <https://smile.amazon.com> (US) to start raising free money for Soi Dog.



## Vietnam F1 petition races to 875,000 signatures

**The Soi Dog Vietnam campaign launched in July with the creation of an online petition calling on the Formula 1 group to help us expose the dog meat trade in Vietnam and, in particular, Hanoi – the so-called dog meat capital of the country.**

An estimated 700 dog meat restaurants are active on a daily basis in the city and with Formula 1 set to hold their first Grand Prix there in April 2020, we see this as a great opportunity to highlight the shameful trade whilst the eyes of the widely-supported motor racing world are turned to Hanoi.

To date, the petition is almost 880,000 signatures strong and we hope it will help



provide the leverage needed to influence officials in the city to effect a ban on dog meat and the consumption of it.

The mayor of Hanoi, *Nguyễn Đức Chung*, is keen to show the city in a more favourable light and the world needs to support this by signing the petition and help encourage a full ban. You can add your name to the petition here <https://bit.ly/2J7IMy3>



# Happy Birthday, John Dalley

Oh what a night, late October two thousand nineteen, was a very special time for him, what a man, oh what a night...

**You're only 70 once.** So we decided, for the man who has given so much, it was time to give something back.

We had fun, we had food, we had laughter, we had drink, we had songs, we had singing, we had lavish surroundings, we had cake, we had a trip down memory lane and we circumnavigated the globe in an audio-visual spectacle of happy birthday messages from almost every continent on the planet.

We haven't even mentioned the unique renditions (utter dismantling) of classics like 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' and 'New York, New York'... Check out the photos and see if you can guess who was Elton and who was Kiki !

Huge thanks must go to the Splash Jungle resort in Mai Khao for providing the venue (for free!) and our local Old Mai Khao restaurant for putting on such a fantastic spread of food on a tight budget.

Contributions from managers and board members enabled us to provide the food and a few drinks for the 100 attendees and the use of a 7m X 5m giant screen on which to play music and show birthday videos added further impact to the already stirring presentation.

Whilst the birthday messages were the highlight of the evening, mention must also be given to the floral gifts presented to John by the Burmese contingent – a truly touching moment.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a memorable night for Soi Dog's co-founder.**



From top left; large group photo of attendees, one of Soi Dog's longest serving and loyal employees – P'Thep – presents John with his birthday cake, organised by our own little superstar – K'Apple, two imposters try to convince the audience they are the real deal, John holding his emotions together during video presentations, John accepts flowers from his Burmese fan club and two revellers show the effects of a few shandies.





# Spay/neuter number surpasses 350,000

**Exactly 1 year ago, in October 2018, Soi Dog smashed through the 250,000 barrier for number of animals neutered. At the same time, a monthly record was broken when over 8,000 animals were neutered for the first time in our history.**

Fast-forward 12 months, and records have tumbled even further. We saw a new monthly record set in July when 11,782 dogs and cats were neutered.

The 11,000 number was exceeded again in August. This has all contributed to the monumental achievement of 350,000 procedures carried out by Soi Dog and SDF-funded CNVR projects across Thailand.

The addition of team 6 in Bangkok, who commenced work in July, has helped the continued exponential rise of this figure during the second half of 2019.

The total, currently at 87,768 for 2019, has already beaten 2018 grand total with three months to spare and means we should easily break 100,000 for the calendar year.

Congratulations to all animal rescue officers, vets, vet nurses and anybody else directly involved with the CNVR programme. You are creating history and changing the future, all at the same time.

## Sweet

# 16



### Soi Dog Foundation turned 16 in October!

The millennial inception of Gill and John Dalley and Margot Homburg, begun to help alleviate the suffering of dogs and cats in Asia in 2003, has grown faster than the average child and reached the magical age of sixteen without a hickey in sight.

Like many teenagers, it has experienced its rough times, endured growing pains and squeezed a few spots along the way. It's taken mum's car without consent and stolen dad's beer when he's not been looking. But - as in life - the child who perseveres, gets their head down and focuses on their goals is probably going to become a success.

Follow your dreams, never give up, show the passion and drive and take a few risks - invariably, it will pay off in the end.

With combined hard work and determination, we can see Soi Dog flourish into the future. Together we are stronger.

**Happy Birthday SDF !**







น้ำท่วมอุบลราชธานี ถ่ายเมื่อ 11 กันยายน 2562 โดย ©PhotoDroneDrone

Catastrophic flooding on an unprecedented level in Ubon, following the overflowing of the river Mun.

And for the strays who live around Ubon, their usual areas of habitation were made inaccessible by the floodwater and many of them found themselves isolated, with no access to food. We launched an appeal on September 19<sup>th</sup> and have since sent a team there to assess the situation on the ground.

Whilst there, we met *Ms.Orathai Saisena*, a lady who had taken in around 60 of the affected dogs and is now looking to either find their original owners or seek new homes for them.

We have donated salas to provide shelter for the homeless dogs now, ironically, from the burning sun which scorches the dry area which was surrounded by the rising water level.

Soi Dog has also sent one of the Bangkok mobile teams to the area to provide care and treatment and much-needed sterilisation and vaccinations for the street animals who reside there.

The effort is ongoing and, as mother nature dictates, the needs of the animals change there on a weekly basis. With a couple of months of the monsoon rains still remaining, the threat to their surroundings hasn't yet subsided but for now, at least, the immediate threat to the homeless dogs is relatively under control and so CNVR becomes the primary mission.

Salas donated thanks to the fundraising appeal, spay and neuter in progress at a mobile clinic and a canine heroine, providing sanctuary in her home to some of the displaced dogs.

# #SaveUbon

## Soi Dog launches a disaster appeal to save dogs caught up in the flooding in Ubon Ratchathani.

**Ubon Ratchathani in Eastern Thailand has recently experienced some of the worst monsoon flooding for many years, with hundreds of people displaced and many homes ruined.**

Alongside the humanitarian crisis comes the plight of hundreds of stray and domestic animals. Many people fled their homes and salvaged what they could. Unfortunately, for some of them, this meant having to leave their pets behind.





# Rooting for Soi Dog at Portland Veg Fest

Soi Dog USA President Janis Rosenthal has been at it again! In the last edition we brought you the news that Janis and some of her US Soi Dog accomplices had been busy fundraising and building awareness of Soi Dog in various parts of the United States.

Well, Pacific Northwest's finest was back at *The Oregon Convention Center, Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard* on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October hosting a merchandise booth at Portland Vegfest, accompanied this time by friend and fellow Soi Dog supporter – Paula Sendar.

Thanks to *Marjon Tondravi* for the beautiful Halloween-themed collars and bow ties. Other volunteers at the event were former Soi Dog adoptions coordinator in Phuket, *Natasha Halici-Rowland*, joined by *Julie Lampros* and *Jill Rowland*. The event raised almost \$1000 USD and saw 75 people sign up for mailings.

The event, which saw over 100 commercial exhibitors and over 30 non-profit exhibitors, is held annually and attracts some other big names in animal non-profit organisations, like *Sea Shepherd* and *PETA*.

To quote Martin Luther;  
**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”**

Thank you, Janis, for not being silent and flying the Soi Dog flag once again.

*Paula & Janis at Portland Veg Fest, Oregon, US.*



*Gary Numan, The Roundhouse, Camden, London - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

# Talking ‘bout a<sup>®</sup> evolution

**Gary Numan just began his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour and guess what? Once again, he invited Soi Dog to collect donations at his gigs!**

Collections on his last tour, spanning 2017 and 2018, amassed an amazing 18,000 USD for Soi Dog.

September 1979 saw the god of synth pop perform his first tour opener in Glasgow. This time around, Gary celebrates 40 years of touring with his (R)evolution tour which started in Dublin on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and continued all around the UK, culminating in a double-header at The Roundhouse in Camden, London on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

In September, in honour of Gary, we named an off-lead area in honour of him and his wonderful fans, the Numanoids. Telekom stripes and the words ‘Numanoids Garden’, For Dogs from a Broken World’ now adorn the area and we hope Gary and his family will visit soon to check it out for themselves.

Thank you Gary for your continued support of Soi Dog Foundation – you’re always welcome in Phuket.



*(L-R) Donna, Rosie May, Maureen, Liana and Sammy, collecting at Gary's Birmingham O2 Institute gig, 19<sup>th</sup> October.*



*An off-lead area sign, dedicated to Gary Numan and his family and the generous Numanoids who've donated so much over the past 2 years.*



# Phuket Vegetarian Festival

Sep 28<sup>th</sup> – Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

Our Humane Education team, K'Film and K'Mabel, attended Phuket Vegetarian Festival and hosted a Soi Dog booth with the mission of raising awareness amongst locals.

The 10-day festival (Nine Emperor Gods Festival) happens once a year, during the ninth lunar month, and is one of the most auspicious events on the island. Weeks before the festival events start, yellow Chinese flags bloom on every possible roadside and intersection, especially near Chinese temples.

The festival main event then starts and a multitude of worshipers, all dressed in white or yellow, gather in every shrine for the first event marking the opening of the ceremony: the giant bamboo pole rising, meant to invite divinities to



come down to earth. The devotees wear bright and very ornamented outfits, and then you are set for a full week of firecrackers, parades, piercings, and of course, vegetarian food.

With so many people taking to the streets during this period, it provides a great opportunity to showcase Soi Dog's Education Programme and invite people to learn about our mission and the animal welfare values we try to teach.







## Visitors & Volunteers find a new home



It's not just dogs and cats we rehome at Soi Dog – we uncovered a bright new home for our visitors and volunteers when the long-awaited move to the new V&V Centre happened on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

The new building, part of the major expansion work at Soi Dog over the last 18 months, sits on the site of the old volunteer area (pre 2017) next to the Dog Hospital.

The area comprises a reception counter, televisual Soi Dog films including videos of all of our sponsor dogs, a new merchandise display area, a fully enclosed changing cubicle for trying on some of the many Soi Dog clothing lines, new information displays showing all visitors every part of the Soi Dog mission and activities. A smart, stainless kitchen for volunteers to use for drinks and food. An extensive seated volunteer area which opens out onto a shaded outdoor area overlooking the lake. Open sides on the North and West edges of the building to allow in light and



provide a view of the soon-to-come Walk of Love and the area even boasts a shower room and its own toilets!

Gone are the days of everybody queuing for the lavatory in the cat hospital. Oh yes, we have treated our volunteers and visitors to a male and female toilet with wash hand basins and a mirror!

It is hoped that increased comfort, a more professional looking merchandise display area

and information at people's fingertips will all contribute towards increased merchandise sales and even greater interest in spending a bit more time here and, hopefully, gaining more in sponsorship, adoptions and learning more about all things Soi Dog!

Somebody once said *"The future's bright. The future's orange"*.

They weren't wrong.

## Volunteer online booking system

**New building – new online booking system. October saw the launch of a new online booking system for volunteers.**

This means that when a new volunteer emails [volunteering@soidog.org](mailto:volunteering@soidog.org), they are met with a response from our VVC team to thank them for their enquiry and to give them a link which takes them directly to an online booking form.

The new system has enabled the capturing of information in a digital format. It links to our volunteer management system and populates the required fields, meaning time is saved on manually inputting the information sent by the prospective volunteer.

Next to come will be the all new volunteer information page which will contain a clickable version of this link. Just a small example of the changes in store for the Soi Dog website.

It turns out our IT department are more useful than just fixing bugs and running cables.

Volunteering at Soi Dog has never been easier. The hardest part is leaving when your visit is over!

## New shady spot on walking track thanks to Melanie Northrop

**Returning volunteer Melanie Northrop joined us in August and had a special donation up her sleeve.** While she was here Melanie noticed that, despite the east side of the Soi Dog sanctuary having various tree-covered areas providing much-needed respite from the hot sun, the area to the west of the offices was lacking a substantial shady spot.

She has very kindly covered the cost of a new sheltered area on the dog walking track near off-lead areas 1 and 2, complete with natural, treated hardwood vertical supports, a traditional bamboo leaf roof, a super 3-seater concrete bench and some lovely plants which now adorn either side of the area. The icing on the cake for Melanie is that she also paid for a bench plaque which now carries the names of her beloved departed pets, Bella and Conner.

Thanks for your lovely contribution Melanie.





John Dalley, pictured back row, right hand side.

## Oob and JD's date with Royalty

On World Rabies Day, September 28th, SDF co-founder **John Dalley** was honored by and received an audience with **HRH Princess Chulabhorn** of Thailand on behalf of **Soi Dog**.

He accepted an award from *Thailand's Ministry of Public Health* for Soi Dog's work towards eliminating rabies in Thailand.

Also in attendance was *Bangkok Director of Animal Welfare, Tuntikorn Rungpatana (Dr.Oob)*, presenting HRH with Soi Dog's Little Orange Book, which explains our history, our mission, our philosophies and programmes. The Princess doesn't personally accept many gifts at occasions like this so it was a delight when she stepped forward to receive the book and took it away with her to (hopefully) read later.

While rabies has not yet been eradicated in Thailand, Soi Dog's intensive and ongoing rabies vaccination programme has greatly helped to minimise outbreaks.

The event provided an opportunity to showcase to esteemed guests, government departments and like-minded organisations the work Soi Dog is doing, as well as the gratifying moment with *HRH Princess Chulabhorn*.



Dr.Tuntikorn Rungpatana (Oob) presents the Soi Dog Little Orange Book to Princess Chulabhorn.



# The kitten savior

by Nayomi Gunarathna

**Before Hannah Shaw, aka The Kitten Lady (@kittenlady), became an internet sensation for making fostering kittens look cool and hip with her 1 million followers on Instagram, for years Soi Dog Foundation silently - but just as effectively - has cared for countless neo-natal and vulnerable kittens.**

This has been made possible by Soi Dog's very own feline superhero, *Khun Chuanpis Ketpituknon (Pan)* aka Soi Dog's Kitten Lady. She lives in Kok kloy and has been helping Soi Dog for over 5 years, fostering and caring for young orphaned kittens on a full-time basis.

She talked to us about how she became our dedicated neo-natal kitten fosterer and what it's like to foster these tiny lives on a daily basis.

Back in the day, she cared for and fed the street dogs near her house. Eventually, they figured out where she lived and began to follow her back home, until her neighbours started complaining (we've heard that story, far too many times)!



It was around that time, about 12 years ago, she first heard about Soi Dog and contacted us to try and get her pack of street canine companions neutered which started her relationship with the foundation. When she found injured animals, she started to bring them in for treatment.

So how and when did the kittens come into the picture?

One day, in 2014, our (now) *Community Outreach project manager, Reggie*, asked her if she could help to foster 7 puppies who needed urgent care. And there began her fostering career, learning everything about kitten/puppy care from scratch.

The interesting thing about The Kitten Lady is that she never owned cats or kittens before she started fostering SDF kittens; the classic tale of human meets cat - you don't choose these felines, they just choose you and by the time you realise what's happened, they have stolen part of your life and suddenly, although you hate to admit it, you actually like cats!



When asked her how many kittens she has fostered over the last 5 years she burst into laughter, shaking her head saying “I really don’t know because there have been far too many to remember, more than I can keep count. Probably hundreds”!

She fosters multiple litters at a time and the most she had in one go were 20 kittens. Now that’s a LOT of kittens.

They may be cute but come feeding time, well, they are little Tasmanian devils in disguise! So we can only imagine the battle she must have faced trying to pander to their uncanny baby like cries and avoid those sharp and tiny but mighty claws.

Current pets.

With dozens and dozens of kittens coming into her home, you’d think her house is filled with cats (a crazy cat lady?). But, surprise surprise, she has only had one cat of her own during this whole time - her beloved *Priew* - a Soi cat who became a ‘foster fail’ over a year ago. She also has three street dogs she took in to become part of her family.

Sadly, *Priew* passed away from a premature heart disease in September, just weeks after her husband had succumbed to an illness he battled against for some time.

Listening to *K’Pan* talk about *Priew* is tear-jerking. The emotion in her voice tells you just

how much *Priew* meant to her and her whole family. “She was so special in so many ways and I will always remember how *Priew* sat by my husband’s side when he was ill”.

She proudly showed us a laminated picture of *Priew* she keeps in her car as a memory wherever she goes.

In spite of the sadness and grief she has experienced during the last few months, *K’Pan* was quickly back at the Soi Dog shelter picking up yet another new litter of hungry and needy foster kittens that had been abandoned. Time and newborn kittens do not wait for you to grieve your own personal tragedies. “Having the kittens helps me to cope with my recent, personal loss”.

To foster or to fail.

So, we had to know, how does she feel bringing the kittens back to the shelter and handing them over once she’s helped them get through the most vulnerable stage in their life?

“Every time I have to give up kittens, sadness overwhelms me. I love them like my own and it will never be easy to let them go but over the years I have learnt to better handle giving them up, knowing that this means I can keep even more kittens alive and give them a fighting chance”.

Fostering is not for everyone. Giving them up is one of the hardest things every single foster

faces and you will only know how heart-crushing that is if you have to live through that experience.

When you’ve kept something alive that is so tiny, weighing just a few grams and can sit snugly in your palm - their whole future is your responsibility - it’s tough to say goodbye.

There are many diseases that affect neo-natal kittens and there is a high mortality rate. So apart from keeping them away from those nasty feline viruses, there’s the waking up every few hours a night to feed them which means you start to feel a strange maternal instinct building up inside you. And, to the primitive side of your brain, it makes no sense to give up something you’ve loved and cared for and sacrificed your days and nights to keep alive watching them grow up and survive against all odds.

Being able to do this on a regular basis for years and years takes a somewhat super-human strength.

We can only thank *K’Pan* from the bottom of our hearts for her unwavering commitment to the Soi kittens she’s kept alive through the years and, we hope, the many more she will continue to help give life to.

Locals like *K’Pan* typify what Soi Dog Foundation is: An entity that respects and values every individual cat and dog that comes into its care.







# Pinup Doll raises vital Soi Dog funds in Australia

**Australian pin-up doll and Soi Dog supporter, Katie Hall, has just completed a fundraiser for Soi Dog in New South Wales.**

Katie's support for Soi Dog has seen her raising funds over the last 3 months and she has organised various activities along the way.

She raised a huge part of the funds through a raffle she organised.

She collected donations at The Miss Soda Rock Pageant at Soda Rock Diner in Melbourne, VIC. She held a Vintage Love Market at Buninyong Town Hall in Victoria and.....

She staged a 'Royal Dog Wedding' inside St.Kilda Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. A mock wedding, purely for the purposes of raising funds for charity.

We're thrilled to announce that Katie has raised \$3,143 AUD for the foundation.

Katie will head to ChromeFest next week. ChromeFest is a three-day event held at The Entrance, Central Coast, New South Wales and is a tribute to classic American autos, hot rods, rock n roll, and rockabilly. It features three days of non-stop free entertainment and displays, over 70 market stalls, dance demonstrations, dance workshops, vintage glamour fashion parade, and a Pinup Doll Competition – Pinup Doll Australia. Charity fundraising is the heart and soul of Pinup Doll and collectively the organisation has raised over \$25,000 for charity so far this year.

**Follow Katie on Instagram@misskatiekaleidoscope.**

**Thanks for Supporting Soi Dog Foundation, Katie.**



Soi Dog Summer Ball 2020 will be held at Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, Northampton Town Centre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

If this year's spectacle was anything to go by then it is well worth the ticket price of £65 per person or £600 for a table of ten. All proceeds go directly to Soi Dog Foundation, as always.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of the organising committee, the set-up costs were kept to the complete minimum this year and exactly the same will happen again next year.

We'd love to break the 2019 total of £15,000 raised for Soi Dog. With your help, we are sure we can do it. Early sell-out of tickets will aid this and enable the organisers to focus on creating another bumper event for Soi Dog Foundation.

Rooms in the hotel are available to make your evening one of comfort and relaxed intoxication without the need to travel anywhere afterwards. Prices are £75 for double room with breakfast and £70 for a single room.

For Soi Dog Summer Ball 2020 tickets and information please contact [maureen@soidog.org](mailto:maureen@soidog.org)

**For hotel reservation: contact directly on +44 (0)1604 739988, ask for Ruth or The Events Team and quote the code SOID 250720.**



@misskatiekaleidoscope and with @scarletsoda, teaming up for the Miss Soda Rock Pageant held in South Yarra, Sep 7<sup>th</sup>.

## The early bird catches the worm

**Soi Dog's UK Summer Ball 2019 was a huge success and, in the last issue of The Soi Dog Post, we promised you that plans were already under way for next year's event.**

We're thrilled to announce that the venue and date for the event have now been secured. The



# It's only 1 straw, said 8 billion people!

By Nayomi Gunarathna

**Soi Dog Goes Green (SDGG) initiated a used plastic straw collecting campaign around the Phuket shelter in late September.**

Collected plastic straws will be sent to the *Diocesan Social Action Centre* in Chanthaburi who manage the project. The project itself involves collecting used and unused straws which will be cut into smaller pieces and used as pillow fillers for elderly, poorly and the bed-ridden. Approximately 1 kg of straws are needed per pillow.

Straws will be collected until the end of December which leaves us with approximately 3 months to make our contribution.

Several collection points were set up around the shelter; in a couple of the offices and the volunteer area, encouraging staff to be a part of this collection. Straws will be cleaned and sent to the Diocesan Social Action Centre at the end of the year.

The commitment by some of the volunteers and staff towards the project has been truly commendable.

However, to emphasise, the idea is NOT to encourage the use of plastic straws but to make the best of a bad situation by reducing landfill and pollution. The number of straws that have been collected so far gives a reality check as to the amount that are used on a daily basis and the extent of our out-of-control addiction to single-use plastic items.



Research says that it will take about 200 years for a plastic straw to fully decompose. <https://www.scitecheuropa.eu/plastic-straws/92269/>



DISACC (Chanthaburi)

Last year, a report showed that the fast food chain *McDonalds* used 1.8 million straws per day across its outlets in the UK alone. Several extrapolations were done, factoring in UK's fast food industry outlets (not including pubs, independent restaurants or consumption at private gatherings and parties), and the total figure was a mind boggling 4.4 billion straws/year and that was just the conservative estimate. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-43825197>)

However, it doesn't matter how staggering the stats are because most of us do not think twice about using a straw (or any of these tiny plastic monsters). It is even more frustrating in Thailand, where it's almost impossible to try and stop restaurants from giving a straw and it is not always based on your lack of Thai language skills either. It has just become a part of a worldwide culture of throw-away and convenience.

Good news on the toxic horizon is that big corporations like *McDonalds* and *Starbucks* are aiming to cut down on providing straws and other plastic items from their outlets within a couple of years. Hopefully there will be international laws cutting them off at the production line.

So, the choice is yours. To be a plastic chewing monster or be one of the better Earthlings out of the 8 billion and say "Enough is enough" to single-use plastics.





# Nakhon Phanom survivor update.

by Nayomi Gunarathna

**We welcomed 30 more dogs from Nakhon Phanom in September, bringing the total number of dogs brought to Soi Dog for rehoming to over 180.**

In April 2018, due to an exaggerated rabies scare in the region, 3000 dogs were impounded in makeshift, sub-standard conditions in a facility in the Nakhon Phanom area, northern Thailand. Due to the lack of resources to manage such a large group of dogs - the subsequent spreading of contagious diseases and the lack of food available - nearly 2500 had died before Soi Dog became alerted to the crisis.

We carried out preliminary health checks and administered urgent first aid and vaccinations on the dogs who had survived and have since been bringing them to Phuket to join our Partner Rescue programme. 100 of them, who were chosen for adoption by our Partner Rescues in the USA and Canada, have left the sanctuary over the past 12 months.



Murphy was a shy but sweet boy who was found in appalling conditions and was in the first group of dogs that came to us in November 2018. He was chosen by The Barking Lot, one of our main partner rescues in San Diego, California, and after 9 weeks at the SDF shelter, time which was used to assess him medically and behaviourally, he travelled to the Golden State.

Murphy then hit the jackpot and found himself a forever home and, hopefully, has no memories of the Nakhon Phanom hell-hole he once found himself in.

Thanks to The Barking Lot for taking Murphy and thank you to Soi Dog supporters and donors for giving Murphy and countless others a happy ending to an otherwise a real-life horror tale.

30 of the dogs still in Phuket are reserved for different partner rescues and are waiting to fly soon while the remainder are being promoted for adoption with various of our other partner organisations.

A few of the staff members who were directly involved with the rescue operation from the beginning were left with haunting images of dying dogs lying in their own waste and suffering from transmissible diseases. It was described as 'hell on Earth' and we are so grateful for all who helped in a myriad of ways to save these dogs from an inevitable demise of unimaginable suffering, especially as some of them were pets who have never known a life without their human counterparts.

So, it is only fair to showcase one of those extremely lucky dogs who was destined to doom but whose life was turned around 180 degrees thanks to those compassionate people who supported the rescue of him and many others in the last 18 months or so.



Murphy, in a sorry state at Nakhon Phanom in 2018 and now, living a world of love and enjoying the best sleep of his life in California.







# Online merchandise has got something for everyone.



You could say the **Soi Dog Online Merchandise Store** is the **John Lewis of the animal rescue retail range**. Or the **Walmart of doggy fashion**. Whichever label you wish to choose, there's no denying that the store appeases the consumer demands like no other.

From hoodies and beanies, to aprons and wallets – we've got you covered this coming festive season.

New ranges were launched recently and the classic Soi Dog Christmas cards are back by popular demand – featuring artwork from *@queenoftheselcouth*, whose piece 'Oxytocin Angels' was up for auction at this year's Soi Dog UK Summer Ball.

Check out the beanies, baseballs and boomerangs (Ok, we don't have boomerangs yet but we do hope you'll keep coming back to the Soi Dog online store and stocking up on all things black and orange).

The hotly anticipated Soi Dog Calendar 2020 is a must-buy for any stocking. It includes some amazing photos of the very lucky, adopted Soi Dogs and cats from across the world and a special selection of some of the shelter animals still waiting to find their forever homes.

But remember folks – Soi Dog is for life – not just for Christmas. And merchandise is available all year round. 100% of sales go directly to Soi Dog Foundation.

<https://soi-dog-foundation.myshopify.com/>





# Mobile clinic updates

For the third quarter of 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> July - 30<sup>th</sup> September) total spay/neuter numbers for the Phuket mobile clinic were 1,526 dogs and 299 cats.

Well done to all team members on achieving these great figures.

The clinic continues through November at three different locations.



Here are the planned locations of the mobile clinics for the weeks to come.

LOCATION	START DATE	END DATE	LOCATION
CHERNGTALAY	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	OrBaTor's Office
SRISUNTHORN	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Municipal Office

See opposite the locations of the Bangkok mobile teams

LOCATION	START DATE	END DATE	DISTRICT
WAT KOH SUWANNARAM	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	15 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Sai Mai
WAT YANG	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	Suan Luang
WAT CHEE PHA KAO	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Mueang Samut Sakhon
WAT PUNTUWONG	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Mueang Samut Sakhon
WAT THAM CHOT	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Ban Phaeo District
CHAIMONGKHON SUBDISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Mueang Samut Sakhon

**Remark:** Opening hours ; Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 16:00 hr. even on the Public Holiday  
Closed on weekend





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