

SOI DOG

December 2021

post



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



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www.soidog.org



Weathering the storm

Your generosity provides 100+ tons of food relief to flood-hit provinces

Chutima Srisawang



“Thailand is identified as one of the ten most flood-affected countries in the world” and “Thailand ranks ninth on the Global Climate Risk Index for ‘severe weather events’” – two news headlines that demonstrate climate change is real and so close to our lives.

Among Thailand’s natural hazards, floods are the most devastating for the country’s economy and the wellbeing of its citizens. Also severely affected are dogs and cats who need help just as much as we do when disasters strike.

Our mission to assist dogs and cats affected by natural disasters has seen us out on the front lines after the 2011 and 2012 Bangkok floods, the 2019 Ubon Ratchathani floods and last year’s flooding in Nakhon Si Thammarat, to name a few. With your support, we were once again able to lend a paw helping dogs and cats affected by flooding in 2021.





Flood alert

In September, tropical storms *Lionrock* and *Kompasu* hammered various parts of Thailand. As a result, the country's central region saw significant rainfall which, along with rising sea levels, resulted in flooding in many areas.

As the waters rose, Soi Dog Foundation was contacted by local authorities in the provinces of Ayutthaya and Sing Buri for assistance for more than 3,000 starving dogs and cats.

We launched an emergency appeal, and your response to that appeal was nothing short of outstanding. You helped to provide over 2,000 bags of dog food and 230 bags of cat food to local tambon administration organisations (OrBorTor) in the flood-affected areas. The food was then distributed to stray animal feeders at temples, mosques, schools and dog shelters as well as to struggling pet owners. Our staff had to paddle boats of food to some owners who had found themselves and their animals stranded.





One particularly heartbreaking story was that of *Aunt Boonsong*, a villager from Bang Ban district in Ayutthaya, who was forced to take refuge on the second floor of her house with her dog *Foo* for more than a week. Another was that of a family in Sing Buri who had received survival supplies from their local OrBorTor but were running out of food for their nine cats who were stranded alongside them in their submerged house.

“We have to blend canned fish with rice each meal so everyone feels full,” said the father of the family. “So I’m pleased Soi Dog spotted me. There must be others in the region who are struggling with their pets and have no food.”

And he was right.

Help flowed faster than the floodwater

“On our first visit, we hardly saw the tip of the iceberg,” explained Soi Dog's Community Relations Manager *Sakdapol Thongjan*. Even when the water receded, street animals were unable to find food, and owners were unable to feed their pets. It was a real dual crisis.”

As Sakdapol helped distribute food, he took the opportunity to talk to flood victims, through which he learnt of more communities that hadn't been reported to be in need of pet food. As a result, an additional 20+ tons of dry food was shipped, with the provinces of Nakhon Ratchasima and Nonthaburi added to the list.



In total, more than 100 tons of dog and cat food was provided to 6,000 dogs and 8,000 cats between September and November 2021 – a monumental effort only made possible by your incredible support.

The majority of the affected animals are routinely cared for by locals in the area, and most are sterilised, vaccinated and healthy. They simply required food in order to survive throughout this challenging period.

Storms come and go, but your care and support for the dogs and cats of Thailand is a steady constant. Thank you once again. You truly made the difference between life and death for these helpless animals.



Soi Dog's Community Relations Manager, Sakdapol Thongjan, delivers dog food to a grateful local resident.



Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

Sponsor one, save many

Amy Bryant

Aylin

aka Mrs Mohawk

The first thing you'll notice about Aylin is her Mohawk hairdo.

Our carers regularly give her a short back and sides as she's doubly incontinent and this style helps keep her clean and comfortable. We think it might catch on...

Aylin's incontinence was caused by a deep wound on her back end, inflicted during her time on the streets. The wound also affected her tail which had to be partially amputated. A joyful girl by nature, she'll wag what remains of her tail at anyone who takes the time to meet, greet, fuss and play with her.

Please consider becoming Aylin's sponsor so that she and her friends can continue to receive the food, shelter, medical care (and haircare) they need.



**SPONSOR
ME**

Likes:

Being the first dog in her enclosure to go for a walk every day

Dislikes:

Getting her fur dirty





Cuddles

aka The Tenderhearted Tabby

Like Aylin, Cuddles had to have his tail amputated on account of a chronic wound.

However, this turned out to be the least of his problems. He was also anaemic, had numerous old fractures and tested positive for the incurable feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukemia (FeLV).

While Cuddles' health is much improved these days, his FIV and FeLV diagnoses restrict his chances of being adopted, so it's likely he'll call Soi Dog home for the rest of his days.

With your sponsorship, you can ensure that those days are the very best they can be for Cuddles and his fellow rescues too.

Think kibble, high-quality care and all the feather toys a tenderhearted tabby boy could ask for.



" SPONSOR ME "

Likes: Affection (we didn't call him Cuddles for nothing!)

Dislikes: Thinking back to his time on the streets

Tana Chard

aka TC the Tripawd

Tana Chard was barely out of puppyhood when he was the victim of a terrible road traffic accident that damaged the joints in his left front leg, leaving it permanently bent. To restore his mobility and relieve his pain, his leg was amputated.

Tana Chard has fully adjusted to life as a tripawd now, and his physical recovery is long behind him. However, he remains extremely fearful of strangers, so his emotional recovery continues with the help of our dedicated behaviourists.

While you may never meet Tana Chard, you can do something amazing for him by becoming his sponsor. He'll be in touch from a distance (just the way he likes it!) with regular updates, photos and a special video at Christmas.



" SPONSOR ME "

Likes: Tasty treats from the behaviour team

Dislikes: Strangers and loud noises





Three cheers for volunteers

Sam McElroy

Thailand is famous, among other things, for temples, tuk tuks, Thai massage and tip-top hospitality.

Well, volunteering at Soi Dog Foundation brings its own versions of all of these. We are a temple for dogs and cats, we offer a volunteer transport pick-up service, your feet will get a guaranteed 10,000-step, solid-ground massage and we will make you feel very welcome while you're doing it!



“It” is all about walking, playing and socialising with dogs and cats, enriching their lives and performing a vital role in preparation of them becoming adoptable. Ok, you may have to pick up the occasional poo and brush the odd bushy tail but, by and large, it's the fun stuff that you get to do!

If you've been before, you'll know exactly what we're talking about. If you're curious about visiting for the first time, read all about volunteering at Soi Dog **here**. Drop us an email at **volunteering@soidog.org** to talk to our team today or just go ahead and book your trip now!



A new era of dog contraception?

Chutima Srisawang

The overpopulation of stray dogs is a major concern throughout the world, particularly in developing countries, and each government has its own strategy for dealing with the problem.

Sterilisation is currently the most humane and effective method of reducing the number of animals on the streets, and that's why it's always been at the forefront of Soi Dog Foundation's work. A record-breaking 650,000 dogs and cats across Thailand have been sterilised and vaccinated by Soi Dog since 2003, and it's all because of people like you that this incredible number has been achieved.

But imagine how wonderful it would be if, in the future, there was a more accessible and affordable alternative to sterilisation surgery. An alternative that's just as safe but less costly and less time intensive. A pill, for example.



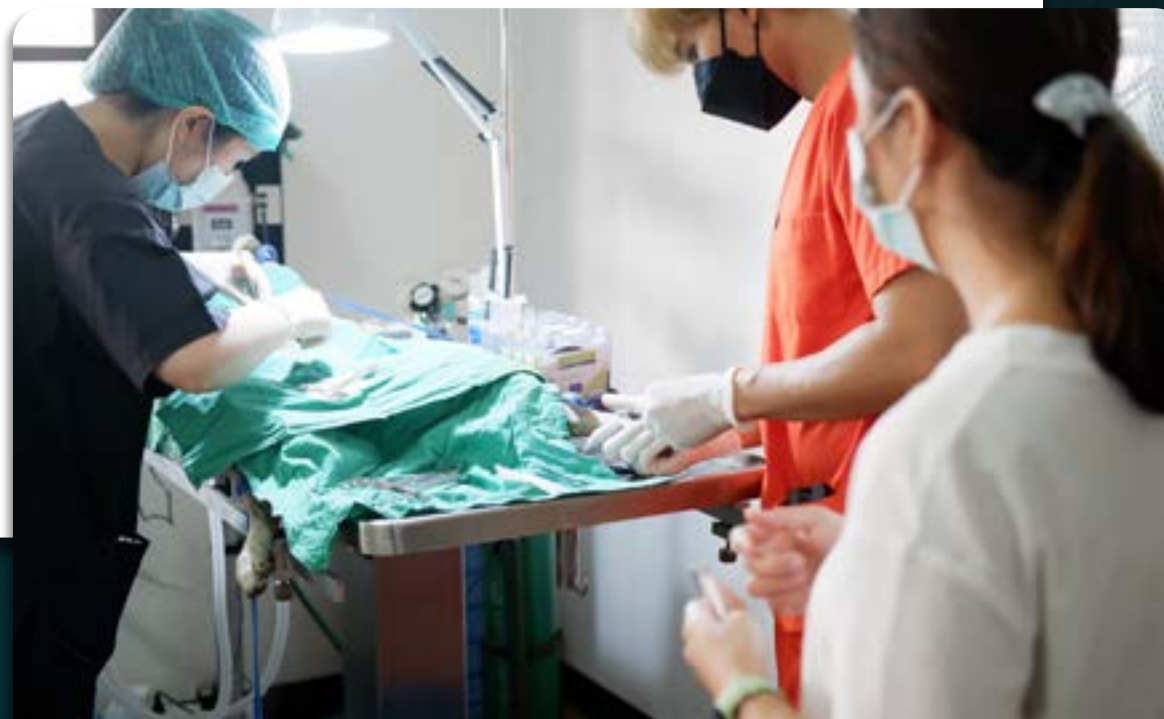


Collecting blood samples.

Larinthorn Udomthanaisit, a PhD student at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Veterinary Science (Vet Chula), is currently researching such an alternative through her "study of canine reproductive proteins associated with the development of oocytes". The focus of the study is on the proteins responsible for fertilisation and pregnancy in the fallopian tubes of female dogs.

Since 2010, only three papers in the global research database have looked at proteins in the reproductive system of female dogs. Findings show that the formation of egg cells (oocytes) after ovulation is a crucial component in determining whether or not the dog will fertilise. However, scientists are yet to determine what causes the egg cells to expand.

"If we can figure out which proteins cause egg cells to expand," explained Larinthorn, "then we may be able to create anti-fertilisation drugs or hormones. We might find a new method of population control that does not require sterilisation surgery. If we can block or halt proteins from doing their job, the egg maturation process would be disrupted, and those female dogs would be unable to reproduce."



With your support,
Soi Dog spays/neuters
over 11,000 dogs and
cats every month.



In support of this study, Soi Dog will be collecting ovaries, uteruses, endothelium cells and blood samples from 60 of the dogs we encounter through our large-scale spay/neuter programme and passing them to Larinthorn and her team for examination. Research is expected to take a year to generate accurate results.

Spay/neuter surgeries, which have a high operational cost, and contraceptive injections, which can cause dogs to develop endometritis (inflammation of the uterus which can be fatal), are currently the most commonly used methods of dog contraception in Thailand. This study is therefore a critical first step in the development of a safe, effective and economical hormonal pill alternative.

We applaud the innovation of Larinthorn and her team and wish them the best of luck in their study. Whatever the result, we are glad to see that the future of Thailand's stray animals is brighter in the hands of the next generation.

Bangkok Clinic Manager Dr. Mint (left) and Bangkok General Services Manager Oum (right) meet with Larinthorn (second from right).



ADOPTION CORNER:

The black dog edition

Meet the soi dogs looking for their forever homes

Vanessa Jakoby



ADOPT ME

ROCKER

Rocker has been with us since 2016 when he was brought in with a fractured leg and a wounded neck, likely the result of a road traffic accident. It didn't take long for him to bounce back and, although he's now much older, he's no less cute than when he first arrived!

Rocker is the very definition of a people dog; he opens his heart to everyone he meets without question. Intelligent and fun-loving by nature, he lives life to the fullest all day every day.

During his five years at Soi Dog, Rocker has graced our social media feed a whopping 22 times and even hit the headlines of a newspaper in the UK in his search for a home. (Read all about it [here!](#)) But despite all of this publicity, and despite everything he has to offer, he's still at the Soi Dog shelter. Will you be the one who finally welcomes him home?

ESTIMATED AGE:
9 years

WEIGHT:
26kg

LIKES:
Showering people with kisses

DISLIKES:
The difficult decision of which toy to play with



ELOPHY

Elophy was brought to Soi Dog in 2016 when she was a puppy, along with her five fellow littermates and her mum. They'd been living together at a construction site, but they weren't welcome there and needed a place of safety.

Elophy's siblings were all adopted while they were still puppies, and her mum finally found her home in Canada earlier this year. But Elophy is still at the Soi Dog shelter, five years on, waiting for her turn. As a result of her tough start to life, she can be shy, but that slowly disappears when she's around people she knows she's safe with. (Treats help too!)

If Elophy's velvet ears and charming underbite have caught your eye, and you believe you can offer her a home where she'll feel confident, accepted and loved, please enquire today!



ADOPT ME

ESTIMATED AGE:

5 years

WEIGHT:

19kg

LIKES:

Giving her curly tail a wag when she's happy

DISLIKES:

Loud noise and crowded places



LOTOS

We first met Lotos in early 2020 after a kind lady spotted him limping outside a supermarket with an injured paw and called us for help. No one knows exactly what had happened to him, but his paw was so cut and swollen that one of his digits had to be amputated.

Fortunately, Lotos' recovery was a speedy one (just like him), and he hasn't looked back since. He's a "come on, let's go!" kind of dog who enjoys taking long walks, chasing tennis balls and, as we recently discovered, swimming! While he isn't always so keen on other dogs, he loves people and knows how to make his human friends feel special.

Lotos has been at the shelter for almost two years now – far too long for such a big, bright and beautiful boy. Can you offer him the loving home and adventurous life he craves?

ESTIMATED AGE:

4 years

WEIGHT:

25kg

LIKES:

Jumping up to greet people

DISLIKES:

When humans fake throw the ball

ADOPT ME



Covid-19

makes an unwelcome arrival at the shelter

Sam McElroy



Two vet nurses meet an animal rescue vehicle at the main gate to receive animals for treatment.

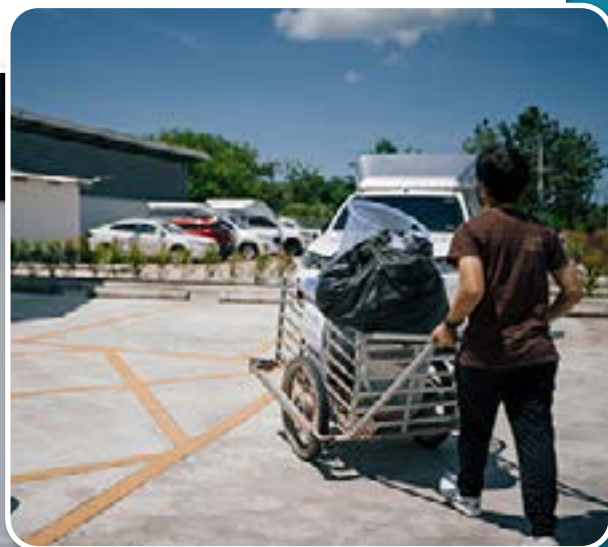
Cases of Covid-19 have rapidly been on the rise in Thailand throughout the year. Whilst the effects on stray animals and your support for them has been well documented, we feared it would only be a matter of time before we saw the virus reach the Soi Dog Foundation shelter. Those fears materialised at the beginning of October, with many positive cases surfacing among staff.



SHELTER CLOSURE

We swiftly made the decision to close to visitors and volunteers on October 6th and temporarily suspended our on-site sterilisation clinic, reassigning the staff who work there to cover vital areas where they were urgently needed.

We created a bio-secure environment for 62 Covid-negative staff who offered to stay at the shelter 24 hours a day from October 6th-27th to care for the 1,400+ dogs and cats currently living in enclosures or receiving treatment in our dog or cat hospitals.



Purchasing officer Nuan pushes a trolley loaded with tins of cat food and another of dirty laundry.

A whole set of new processes were implemented in order to keep the shelter operating, which included:

- No access to the shelter from the outside
- Restriction of movement of personnel between areas within the shelter
- Allotted locations for staff staying overnight
- Our main stores became the hub of everything – the main delivery point and the main distribution point for everything that needed to come into the shelter and every item that was required inside on a daily basis
- The handling of the daily food distribution, tins of food and bags of dry kibble
- The managing of 12 tons of hospital and shelter laundry
- The supply of cleaning agents and materials
- New cat litter
- New medicine deliveries
- Staff food deliveries (breakfast, lunch and dinner each day)





An aerial view of a food delivery at the main gate.

In the first seven days of the lockdown, a few positive cases were reported from within the shelter. The affected staff isolated from others and were transported to an approved quarantine facility. (It is the rule in Thailand that individuals who become infected with Covid-19 must be transferred to a government-approved facility for a 14-day period of quarantine). Further cases were also reported among staff who were already off-site. In total, 25 cases were found among Soi Dog staff between October 2nd and October 18th.



Admin assistant Apple helps load up for a dog food delivery.



Shelter carers receive a dog food delivery.



CONTINUED OPERATION

During this period, our animal rescue officers continued to respond to calls about dogs and cats who required medical assistance, and our skeleton hospital staff worked around the clock to ensure the continuous treatment of both existing and new cases which continued to come in.

We fulfilled our commitment to community animals by continuing with our community outreach programme and our mobile sterilisation projects across Thailand. At the same time, thanks to your overwhelming support, we continued with our emergency response to feed the animals affected by the monsoon flooding in central Thailand.

The lockdown of the shelter presented many logistical challenges, but our Covid-19 response plan, which was devised at the start of the pandemic for just such circumstances, worked exactly as intended. We received a visit from the local public health authority on October 15th, and they gave encouraging feedback on the protocols we had implemented and offered their full advisory support.

On the evening of October 27th, following the 'all clear' from a testing sweep of everybody by the local health authority, the staff who had committed and devoted themselves to Soi Dog for three weeks were finally able to return to their families and to their normal lives, and the phased reopening of the shelter began the following morning.

LESSONS

The closure taught us many things. Above all, though, it reaffirmed to us that the core of essential staff we have here at the shelter care deeply enough to go above and beyond what is expected of them to ensure the animals under our care always receive the care and attention they need and deserve. There are bonds between carers and their dogs and cats, an overwhelming sense of responsibility shown by vets and vet nurses and a dedicated support staff in stores and laundry who are part of the whole Soi Dog team who provide the backbone to the daily routine of the shelter.

It is your support that makes possible the devotion and level of care that we are able to provide to the animals who need it most. There will be more challenges to navigate in the future, but we know that with you by our side, we can overcome all of them.



Trade of Shame

in the land of Squid Game

Nayomi Gunarathna

South Korea has been creating a buzz with its contribution to international arts and culture in recent years, like comedy thriller *Parasite* and Netflix hit series *Squid Game*. Along with K-pop sensation BTS – who have taken the world by storm with their boyish charm and synchronised dance moves – the country has made waves across the global entertainment industry.

What many of the fans fascinated by South Korean culture may not be familiar with, however, is another of the country's lucrative industries – an industry defined by blood and screams of pain: the dog and cat meat trade. Beneath the glitter and the stardom, South Korea tries its best to hide this barbaric trade which inflicts excruciating suffering on an untold number of innocent animals every year.

The trade in South Korea sees dogs bred on farms for their meat.



Geongang here is one of 28 dogs rescued from the Bucheon slaughterhouse raid. He is now safe and receiving treatment for heartworm and a fractured front limb.



The trade remains a paradox within the country's society, with younger and educated generations disgusted by the practice and older generations questioning the reasoning behind banning it, claiming it is part of Korean culture.

In order to support the fight against this trade, Soi Dog Foundation recently joined forces with ARK119 (Animal Rescue Korea 119), a rescue group known for shutting down dog meat farms and slaughterhouses across South Korea. The group are also involved in raising awareness of the trade and amassing the support of local volunteers and animal lovers on their week-long rescue missions, particularly during the summer months when the slaughter of dogs is at its most prolific.

During a raid in the middle of 2021, ARK119 shut down a slaughterhouse in the city of Bucheon and rescued 28 dogs who were minutes away from being killed. ARK119 approached Soi Dog to seek help and, thanks to your support, we are financing the treatment of these dogs who are now safely under the protection of the group. Many of them have sustained serious injuries, such as broken and fractured bones, and will require months of rehabilitation both physically and emotionally before they're healthy again and ready for adoption.

This isn't the first time Soi Dog has helped victims of the dog meat trade in South Korea. In 2018, in collaboration with local rescue group CARE (Coexistence of Animal Rights on Earth) and with your support, we were able to fund the treatment of over 100 dogs dumped by farmers in the city of Hanam. At the same time, we launched an advertising campaign on billboards and buses in major cities such as Seoul which helped to create awareness of the brutality of the trade among the younger and educated urban population.



HOW TO SAVE A MILLION DOGS

Exact figures are unknown, but it's estimated that between 1-2 million dogs fall victim to the meat trade in South Korea every year.

While the trade persists in nearby countries such as Vietnam and China, South Korea differs in one aspect: it's the only country where dogs are purposefully farmed for meat. Dogs are bred using intensive farming methods in appalling and filthy conditions, posing a health hazard to both animals and people with the constant threat of spreading zoonotic diseases. As with other countries known for the trade, the meat farmers also take animals abandoned by owners, those bought from pet shops and strays wandering the streets.

Wherever they come from, whether they're bred and farmed or snatched from the streets or from homes, these animals endure untold pain and suffering at all points of the trade – crammed into small cages and transported long distances in the heat to meat markets before being slaughtered in some of the most brutal ways known.



The roots of the dog meat trade in South Korea are unclear, but it's thought to have originated in the 15th century in response to

a famine that led people to consume whatever was available to them. With many homeless animals around, a radical culture of culinary cruelty began.

Similarly obscure is the origin of the unsubstantiated claims about the health benefits of eating dog and cat meat and how the quality of the meat improves when the animal is exposed to extreme pain and fear through beatings and boiling alive.





THE LAW

In a landmark hearing in 2018, a court ruled that killing dogs in order to sell and eat their meat is illegal in South Korea. In addition, the current Animal Protection Act prohibits the slaughter of dogs for food and contains sections against the killing of animals by brutal means such as those employed in the trade. The law also forbids animals being killed in public areas such as open streets as well as in front of other animals of the same species. The trade often violates public health codes, and it is based on these violations that ARK119 has been able to shut down some of these farms.

However, the trade still exists in a legal grey area. Authorities also find it easier to turn a blind eye to the suffering and brutality involved than deal with the repercussions of shutting down the trade due to the backlash from traders.

Shutting down farms and rescuing the dogs also continues to present major obstacles. As we have seen, post-rescue care determines the success of a raid. Without sufficient veterinary care, financial aid and shelter for the rescued animals, even the most optimistic rescue missions may ultimately end up being unsuccessful.

In recent months, both President *Moon Jae-in* and Prime Minister *Kim Boo-kyum* have raised the possibility of implementing a total ban on the trade and announced the launch of a taskforce dedicated to considering such a ban. Positive news, but if the past has taught us anything, it's that words are cheap and, until implementable laws and a long-term plan for the animals in current farms are introduced, the trade will continue for a long time to come.



LETTING THE LOCALS TAKE THE LEAD

Soi Dog is proud to have spearheaded an end of the horrific dog and cat meat trade here in Thailand, but we were only able to achieve this with the support of local communities of animal lovers and the authorities. It's essential that local activists and rescuers take charge in the same way in South Korea if we are to truly see an end to the trade as well as an improvement in animal welfare in general.

Our aim is to continue supporting groups like ARK119 – who carry out impressive work on the ground in the face of extreme danger – by providing them with the funds required to care for rescued animals and aid rehoming locally and overseas.

But this alone will not end the trade. No matter how many farms and slaughterhouses are shut down, ruthless traders will find a way to meet the need. This is why Soi Dog stresses so strongly the need for local communities to lead by example, discourage demand and lobby for laws to end the trade.

While South Korean stars walk the red carpet, brave activists and animal rescue organisations such as ARK119 risk their lives saving dogs from torture and death. They may not get the praise or media attention they deserve right now but, together with your support, we hope that one day the true heroes of South Korea will be given due recognition for their efforts to end this despicable trade of shame.

To support our outgoing fight against the dog meat trade in South Korea, click [**here**](#).



Drastic Plastic

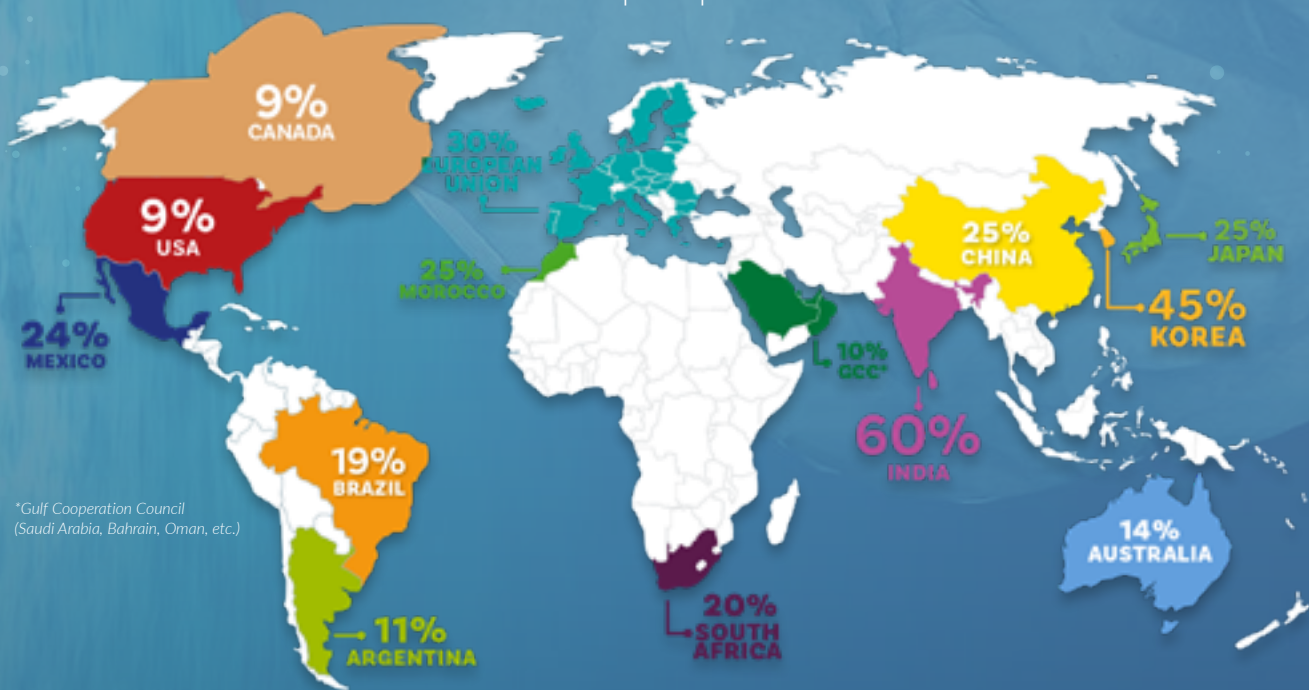
The recycling initiative changing the lives of dogs

Sam McElroy

When you think of recycling, you think primarily of the benefits to the environment: the reusing of materials that would otherwise be wastefully discarded into landfill, clogging up our precious earth and negatively impacting not only the fragile ecosystem but affecting present and future generations of humans and animals alike.

Well, sometimes, the benefits of recycling can even be enjoyed in the pocket! Projects around the world incentivise recycling fanatics with cash rewards for their environmental efforts. 'Containers for Change' in Queensland, Australia, is one such scheme.

The world has a long way to go in the area of recycling, but schemes like Containers for Change, available in WA and QLD, represent another positive step. They pay 10c Australian (7c US) for the return of plastic or glass bottles and aluminium cans to their depots, at bag drop locations, reverse vending machines and even pop-up drop-off points.



PLASTIC RECYCLING WORLDWIDE

India is the country that recycles its plastic waste the most, with a 60% rate. It is followed by South Korea (45%) and the European Union (30%). In the United States, the plastic recycling rate is only 9%.

Source: British Plastics Federation





Five large sacks of bottles and cans, ready to be recycled.

The scheme got a couple of Soi Dog supporters from Mount Isa, Queensland, interested in collecting as much plastic and aluminium as possible. They spend their weekends working hard to collect recyclables and, during one weekend in September, they spent two days sorting 5,000 bottles and cans to turn into \$500 AUD cash.

The best thing about it is that they didn't do it for their own reward, they did it to donate towards the care of rescued dogs at the Soi Dog shelter in Phuket!

Inspiration to donate to Soi Dog comes from a will to make a difference in animals' lives. And, having read about the individual struggles of some of Soi Dog's rescued animals, the couple wanted their hard-earned recycling cash to go directly towards the treatment and rehabilitation of three special soi dogs in particular: one of which is a double front-leg amputee who you may remember from an appeal back in August – *Mirko*.



In 2020, our vet team performed over 1,100 different surgeries, ranging from mass removals and hernia repairs to enucleations and, in the case of Mirko, leg amputations. They are only able to do so thanks to the support received from donors just like our recycling heroes down under. Their support, along with that of all of you who donated towards Mirko's lengthy and complex rehabilitation, helped her through her critical surgery and subsequent aftercare. Mirko can now look forward to the acquisition of prosthetic legs which will help her to live as near a normal life as possible.

There are two obvious winners here: the environment and the animals in need at Soi Dog. When you consider the impact of projects like this, there are unlimited possibilities. The perfect reason to research recycling opportunities in your area and start making your own double impact today! Just search "cash for recycling schemes near me" to find out more.

If you are in QLD or WA in Australia and wish to learn more about how this particular recycling scheme could earn you money to help save the lives of dogs and cats in Asia, visit www.containersforchange.com.au



Mirko recovers from horrific injuries to her front legs and now awaits prosthetics.



CNVR UPDATE:

From the biggest cities to the tiniest islands

Chutima Srisawang

Despite ever-changing rules and restrictions, our mobile clinic teams have been working hard to continue their work neutering and vaccinating as many free-roaming dogs and cats as possible as part of our CNVR (Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return) programme.

A Soi Dog mobile clinic team on the way to Coconut Island.



GETTING BACK TO IT IN BANGKOK

With the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions in Bangkok, our mobile clinic teams have been able to resume operations in the capital, beginning with Lam Phak Chee temple on the outskirts. They are of course maintaining the highest level of cleanliness (as they're accustomed to doing when performing surgery) and practicing social distancing for the sake of staff health and the safety of the communities they visit.

One of our teams were recently called to Bang Aor community in Khet Bang Phlat, northwest of Bangkok, to capture a particular pack of dogs for sterilisation and vaccination. The village chief informed the team about the dogs and their growing number of newborn puppies, who were all living on an abandoned four-acre plot of land, and asked for our help to neuter them.

Capturing so many dogs in such a large space is challenging but, always looking to develop new and creative solutions, the team found a way. They installed a 'trap wall' (a large trap capable of comfortably holding around 10 dogs at once), placed food inside, let the dogs enter the trap naturally (avoiding the need to chase them through the jungle), closed the door and voila! Once captured, the dogs were taken to our Bangkok clinic to be neutered and vaccinated and then returned to their territory where they continue to be fed and cared for by locals.

Neutering and vaccinating dogs in a neighbourhood in this way helps to humanely reduce the population and create herd immunity to stop the spread of diseases like rabies. It also improves the relationship between the animals and the local community, helping them coexist harmoniously.



*Mobile clinic at
Lam Phak Chee temple.*



*The trap wall
at Khet
Bang Phlat
proved to be
a success.*



ISLAND HOPPING

Following a hiatus in the middle of the year due to Covid-19, our Phuket mobile clinic team were also able to resume work in mid-December. Their first stop: Coconut Island. Located off the east coast of Phuket and only accessible by boat, the 1,000-acre island is home to many feral, difficult-to-catch dogs. It's expected to take the team just over a week and a half to neuter and vaccinate all of these dogs, and they should be back in Phuket by the time this newsletter goes live!

Our team also returned to Khai Nai, an island in Phang Nga affectionately known as "cat island", in December to check on its feline residents as a follow-up to our sterilisation and vaccination drive there at the end of 2020. They tended to several of the island's cats who were showing signs of flu, and they neutered a small number of unsterilised cats.

Another day, another island! We have also been lending a hand on Koh Kood (Koh Kut), an island 40 kilometres off the coast of Trat province, just north of the Cambodian border. The island is home to hundreds of free-roaming dogs as well as a small dog shelter managed by the local administration. We've run CNVR projects on Koh Kood since 2016, and this marked our fourth project there. In total, we've neutered and vaccinated over 200 dogs, most of which are in good health.

Sadly, in November, we received a report of a dog in the shelter dying of distemper. The virus spread quickly, and it wasn't long before nearly 100 dogs across the island were infected. We therefore provided over 800 combination vaccines to the free-roaming dog population as well as owned pets, and our veterinary team travelled there to provide treatment to the infected dogs.

Three of Koh Kood's 800+ dogs getting their combo vaccines.

A Khai Nai cat receiving treatment from Dr. Win.



Soi Dog's Community Relations Manager *Sakdapol Thongjan* used this as an opportunity to spread the message that sheltering is not the long-term solution to managing the street dog population.

"The intention to care for those dogs is impressive, but shelters are costly and difficult to manage," he explained. "Putting lots of dogs together without giving them adequate vaccinations and boosters or taking care of them properly spreads disease."

The distemper outbreak, we hope, will act as a breaking point, convincing authorities to reconsider their decision to shelter dogs in this way.

The story of Koh Kood doesn't end there. Our time on the island also saw us rescue a dog named *Tiger* who was brutally attacked with a machete after biting someone's chicken. Found crying out in pain in the jungle with a deep wound in his back, he was transferred to our Bangkok clinic for treatment and is now safe at our shelter in Phuket.

A police report was filed to the deputy commander of Koh Kood district who found that *Tiger's* sibling experienced similar cruelty but was fortunate enough to be rescued by a kind local woman. She has been helpful in providing information to the police, and investigations are ongoing to find the perpetrator of these crimes.



Tiger before.



Tiger today.

As always, we truly appreciate your continued support which makes everything you've read here possible. From the biggest cities to the tiniest islands, your help has made a significant difference in the lives of thousands upon thousands of street animals.



Working to give, giving to change lives

Sam McElroy

In addition to the amazing help given by you, the wonderful donors and supporters of Soi Dog Foundation from across the globe, we are also very lucky to be supported by several businesses who donate to Soi Dog throughout the year. Further to this, they help spread the message of animal welfare and Soi Dog's work on their websites and social media platforms.

We are grateful to all who donated by way of company profits during 2021 and hope for an even better year for the animals who will need you in 2022.

Here are just a couple the businesses who have made a significant difference to the lives of dogs and cats in Asia by committing their support this past year.



Gorski Landscaping

Based in the west of New York state, improving the kerbside appeal primarily in the towns of Cheektowaga, Williamsville and Buffalo, is Gorski Landscaping.

Specialising in hard landscaping, landscape installations, premium lawn care and seasonal clean-ups, Gorski landscaping have been making their local neighbourhoods look fabulous for over a decade and have been supporting wSoi Dog since 2020 by making donations directly from their business.

Owner and founder *Tom Gorski* is an avid animal lover and is as passionate about making a difference to the lives of voiceless animals as he is about manicured lawns and a neatly pruned shrub. He is also the proud owner of a Shiba Inu named *Buddy* who he takes everywhere with him – even on his landscaping jobs!



“I try to interact Buddy with customers all the time, especially the elderly,” explains Tom. “It’s important for customers to know who we are and what we stand for. We stand for the rescuing of animals from abuse and neglect, and that’s why I wanted to support Soi Dog and do it in a way that not only makes customers feel comfortable choosing us for their landscaping services but educates them about the work that Soi Dog are doing too.”

Soi Dog is hugely grateful for the support that Gorski Landscaping provides and for the work they do to help animals.

Visit gorskilandscapingny.com to find out more or, if you’re in the Buffalo area, call 716-380-0680 for a free estimate, knowing that they will be donating 3% of their fee directly to Soi Dog!



fetch[™]

COFFEE ROASTERS

Fetch Coffee Roasters

Located in the city of Portland, Oregon, USA, famous among other things for the Saturday Market in the historic Chinatown district, its thriving art scene, the Five Star Food Trucks and the Hoyt Arboretum, is Fetch Coffee Roasters – a family-owned, coffee-lovers paradise.

If you’re a fan of quality roasts, you will know that Portland’s coffee is some of the best in the USA and Fetch Coffee Roasters serve the best in Portland!

On a daily basis at their shop on Southeast Bybee Boulevard, they source, roast, brew and talk about coffee and work solely with specialty coffee. They are always striving to roast for new flavour profiles that people will enjoy. Among the roasts available in the shop and on their online store, you will find bags of coffee beans with such names as Muddy Paws, Zoomies and Dog Park Half-Caff – probably unsurprising given founder and owner *Sarah Witter’s* love of dogs. You see, Fetch Coffee Roasters came from a passion for great coffee and a love of all things canine.





“We want to help make your world a little happier with a great cup of coffee,” says Sarah. “We are also highly committed to the ongoing need dogs have around the globe to be cared for and treated with love and compassion. That’s why \$1 USD of every bag we sell, as well as a portion of every coffee drink purchased from our coffee shop, goes directly to carefully selected dog shelters and other organisations dedicated to helping dogs in need.”

Describing her reasons for choosing to support Soi Dog through her business, Sarah is clear.

“If I could do anything in the world with my time, it would be to help dog rescues and to volunteer at Soi Dog. So starting a business that included offering contributions to dogs in need was my way of finding a workaround to this. Because I have been a long-time supporter of Soi Dog personally and have seen the incredible impact they make, it was an easy decision to make Soi Dog part of this plan.”



Fetch Coffee Roasters have been donating to Soi Dog Foundation since 2018 and telling their customers all about us, highlighting the valuable work that they and their patrons are contributing towards. Sarah's support goes even further than the regular donations she makes from her business because she is also the proud adopter of *Bangchee* – a beautiful trippawd girl who spent over two-and-a-half years at Soi Dog between 2017 and 2020 – who now rules the roost at the home of the roast. Despite her missing leg, Bangchee never struggles to espresso herself and makes Sarah feel every day like every latte thing is gonna bean alright.

On adopting from Soi Dog Foundation, Sarah said, "I was so impressed with their screening process and the education Soi Dog provided on what it means to adopt a former street dog. It really prepared us as much as it could have for her arrival. Bangchee has a very different personality to dogs we know here in the US, so it was helpful to understand that before we met her."

Sarah speaks with such love for Bangchee: "She is absolutely wonderful and we couldn't imagine our lives without her now. She is silly, affectionate and very stubborn, and we love her with all our hearts. Once we start giving her back rubs she doesn't want us to stop and it has forced us to slow down and spend more time just enjoying her."



Bangchee on guard with Sarah's other rescues, Joey and Penny.





Enjoying a laze in the park.



And to add proof to the saying “you can take the dog out of the street, but you can’t take the street out of the dog”, Sarah says “Bangchee still wants to walk in the main street on our daily walks. I suspect she thinks we’re crazy to walk in the small streets [sidewalks] when the nice big streets are right next to us!”

It’s fair to suggest that Sarah fell headlong into the Soi Dog adoption trap. What happens is we set the trap, we lure you in and we let our dogs finish the job! The rest, as they say, is usually history. Such is the power of a soi dog!

Fetch Coffee Roasters and Soi Dog’s business partner programme is less about history, though, and more about helping to shape the future for former street dogs like Bangchee.

To join in with Fetch Coffee Roasters’ support of Soi Dog, you can buy roasted coffee online, buy in the shop or even pre-order your brew online. If you’re in Portland, drop by to say hello and help dogs in need by grabbing yourself a fresh pot and supporting this great small business on a mission to give back.

Visit **fetchroasters.com** to learn more.



Fundraisin' all over the world

Nayomi Gunarathna

Although it's been another particularly tough year for everybody, and also for us here at Soi Dog Foundation, we continue to make strides in rescuing vulnerable street animals and providing them with the best care possible. But we couldn't carry out this life-saving work without individual donors, businesses and volunteers who are passionate about Soi Dog's mission.

While Soi Dog operates solely in the region of Southeast Asia, we are incredibly lucky to have the support of many hardworking volunteers all across the world who tirelessly spare their time and energy in various ways to spread the word about our work.

Here are just a few examples of how our regional support teams in Canada, the USA and the UK have been busy raising funds and awareness for Soi Dog in recent months.



Mutt March 2021 – A Pawsome Future

Soi Dog Canada – a passionate team made up of former adopters, volunteers and animal lovers – held their second virtual Mutt March event in October, raising well over \$27,000 CAD.

With pandemic restrictions continuing to prohibit group gatherings and physical events for the second year in a row, the ever-creative team organised another memorable virtual worldwide fundraiser. Mutt March 2021 – A Pawsome Future focused on the importance of education in bringing an end to animal suffering. As well as supporting our programmes – with a special focus on our humane education programme – a portion of the donations are helping to fund four different spay and neuter programmes in Canada too.

Held for 10 days between October 20th-30th, the fundraiser tasked participants with completing 10 fun challenges, including creating memes to encourage adoptions, carving pumpkins and letting out the biggest doggie howls possible! For the more traditional fundraisers, the event also included a 10-kilometre walk.

As the event was open to anyone anywhere, we had supporters from the USA join in too. Soi Dog co-founder *John Dalley* also took part from Thailand, walking 10 very special dogs who have undergone extreme cruelty or suffered severe injuries because of neglect. (Some of them are now available for adoption, and you can meet them [here](#).)

The most impressive participants of each challenge won some exciting prizes from Mutt March sponsors, though everyone was a winner in our eyes!





Sonoma County Veg Fest

Over in the USA in September, we were fortunate enough to have soi dog adopter *Morgan Vukelic* representing us at the annual Sonoma County Veg Fest.

Morgan ran a stall at the festival in Santa Rosa, California, which provided information about Soi Dog's vital work here in Asia, including our fight against the dog meat trade in the region. The stall attracted hundreds of people, including potential supporters, volunteers and even other local organisations such as Dharma Voices for Animals who share our determination to end the dog meat trade. This was what Morgan shared with us afterwards:

“Oh my gosh, we had THE BEST TIME! It was amazing. It was a little smaller than the last time, but our table was still packed the whole day. It was nonstop. I must have talked to more than 100 different people. It was just amazing. So many people interested in learning about Soi Dog and wanting to support us - I'm just beaming with happiness, it was fantastic. I feel like I was able to reach so many good people, what a gift! Exhausted but just bursting with joy. It was an amazing event, full of amazing people, and feel like I really got Soi Dog out there.”

Huge thanks to Morgan and all of our volunteers in the USA who are constantly looking for new ways to spread the word about Soi Dog across the States.



The Great Gatsby Masked Ball

Across the pond in the UK, the Great Gatsby Masked Ball, organised by Soi Dog UK's Director of Events, the wonderful *Maureen Hodgson*, took place at the Hilton Hotel in Northampton in November and was attended by 140 animal-loving musketeers and their VIDs (very important dogs).

Hosted by *Jagger* and *Woody* from Heart Radio, who never miss a Soi Dog UK event and who kept the crowd entertained all night, and with some amazing cakes provided by *Rosie May*, who also happens to be the daughter of Soi Dog Thailand CEO *Louise Rose*, the ball was great fun and a great success too. Over £7,300 GBP was raised and shared equally between Soi Dog and local charities Wolfies Legacy in Wales and The Dog Team UK.

The Soi Dog Summer Ball – Soi Dog UK's signature annual fundraiser which was unfortunately cancelled for two consecutive years due to the pandemic – is back on track and will take place on July 23rd 2022 at the Park Inn Hotel in Northampton, with a guest appearance from *Jo O'Meara* of pop group S Club 7! Tickets are nearly sold out, so hurry and get yours by contacting Maureen at maureen@soidog.org



Picture perfect

Sam McElroy

A fun and rewarding project took place in the United States in the fall.

Founded by CEO of Jordan Winery and rescue dog lover *John Jordan*, California-based non-profit organisation John Jordan Foundation (JJF) – who ordinarily invest in programmes and system change initiatives that improve quality of life for our most vulnerable fellow citizens – wanted to donate \$5,000 USD in celebration of Soi Dog Foundation’s work with homeless animals and help raise awareness and exposure by creating a photo contest on Facebook.

We proudly partnered with them for this one-off event to create a matching campaign to raise much-needed funds to support the animals at our shelter here in Thailand.



THE JOHN JORDAN FOUNDATION

The “perfect photo” contest was open to animal lovers all over the world and drummed up a fantastic response, with so many of you joining in with the photographic fun.

- The challenge: Post a picture of your pet on Facebook, tagging **Jordan Winery** and Soi Dog Foundation.
- The reward: For every photo of a furry friend posted, JJF pledged \$5 USD to Soi Dog.

Happily, we achieved the collective target of 1,000 photos and reached the \$5,000 goal which helped provide shelter, treatment and care to animals in need.

One of our favourite photos was of soi dog *Jaiyen*, pictured below with his adopter *Enny*, who is now happily living in the US! You can see more of the great photos shared by dog (and cat) owners by searching **#jordanwinerydogs**.

Our huge thanks goes to this amazing foundation who help so many disadvantaged humans but, on this special occasion, focused their generosity towards the stray animals of Asia.

Jordan





A Christmas tradition continues

Amy Bryant

It can be challenging to get into the festive spirit here in Thailand. 32 degrees is far too hot for mulled wine and Christmas jumpers, and the price of an imported mince pie will make your eyes water... At Soi Dog Foundation, though, we've forged our own tradition to help us all feel merry: the Christmas beach walk.

Keen readers of the *Soi Dog Post* and followers of our Facebook feed will likely be familiar with the walk. Simply put, a group of our rescued dogs take an exciting trip to nearby Mai Khao Beach every year to experience the sand and the surf, and it's a gift we could never tire of giving.

This time around, 25 lucky dogs joined in the festivities which took place on Christmas Eve. Our visitor and volunteer coordinators carefully chose the dogs who joined, selecting those they felt were brave enough to embrace this brand-new adventure.





Harnessed up and happily sporting Santa hats and tinsel (okay, they didn't last long...), the dogs hopped onto the Soi Dog songthaew (bus), not knowing where they were headed but sensing that something special was on the way...

Also along for the ride were some of our wonderful volunteers who gave up their time so that our dogs could feel the sand between their paws and the ocean breeze in their fur – a novel experience for most of them.

There was sand digging, sea splashing, crab hunting, seaweed sniffing, sun bathing and plenty of tail wagging, and a memorable time was had by all.

It is only thanks to you that these dogs – and many thousands more – are able to live healthy, happy and enriching lives. Your support is a gift to them not only at Christmas but all year round. Thank you.



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.

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.

Even better, Easyfundraising is kindly offering 1,000 GBP to Soi Dog if we can increase our supporter base by 1,000 new supporters between now and March 31st, 2022! And every time you refer someone to the site, you receive a £5 GBP referral offer. So hurry and join Easyfundraising today and make sure to add Soi Dog as your preferred charity.



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) or www.smile.amazon.co.uk



Facebook fundraisers

If you're not into shopping online, 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.



CARS



North American supporters, if you want to make a big and bold gesture, how about donating an unwanted vehicle to Soi Dog with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services)? CARS arrange collection and valuation and carry out all transactions on the owner's behalf. Donations are tax deductible too. Visit our partnership page at careasy.org/nonprofit/soi-dog-foundation-usa or call 855-500-RIDE (7433) to get involved.

Giveacar



The option to donate a vehicle is also available to our supporters in the UK through Giveacar. Whether you're donating a car, light van, motorbike or caravan, Giveacar make it easy by handling everything for you. They even offer free collection from anywhere in the country. To get started, visit our partnership page at giveacar.co.uk/charities/soi-dog-uk-cio or call 020 7736 4242.



Send an e-card, save a life!

Nayomi Gunarathna



Did you know that approximately 6.5 billion greeting cards are purchased in the USA alone every year, with the total annual retail sales estimated to be between \$7 and \$8 billion USD?

With the average lifespan of a greetings card being a few days – or a season or two if it's truly sentimental – imagine if you could use some of that money to help street dogs and cats and save the planet at the same time.

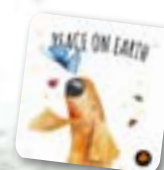
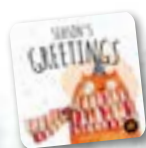
Well, you can! Thanks to *Don'tSendMeACard*, you can still send beautiful and fun cards to your loved ones, all the while donating the cost of buying and sending a physical card to help save street dogs and cats.

Choose from a fantastic (not to mention super cute) range of animated Soi Dog Foundation e-cards for all sorts of occasions. Here's how it works:

- Visit www.dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/soi-dog-foundation-usa
 - Choose from a range of designs
 - Compose your e-card
- Donate the cost of buying and sending a physical greetings card and hit send

E-cards are kinder to the planet, they save you time, money and energy and they're an easy way to donate effortlessly to Soi Dog all year round and from anywhere in the world.

Send an e-card and save a life today.
Check out the full collection **here**.



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



www.soidog.org