SOI DO October 2021

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

The Search for Kong

A wall to remember P.16

The sound of kindness
P.02

Seasonal shopping to save lives

P.06

Model citizen: Thai celeb comes to the rescue of suffering street dog

P.09

Taking root in the City of Good People P.13

Facts, not fear: Celebrating World Rabies Day 2021





The sound of kindness

Chutima Srisawang

Social media has significantly changed how we spend our leisure time, with many of us using it religiously to keep in touch with friends and family, to stay informed about world events or simply to be entertained. What's amazing about social media is that you never know who might come across your content and feel inspired. The impact of a post, a share, a like or a tag can be huge.

Soi Dog's social media page, for example, recently caught the eye of the *Bhiromphakdi* family who own the well-known Boon Rawd Brewery here in Thailand. Upon reading our rescue stories, they were moved to make an incredibly generous donation of an ultrasound machine (worth over 430,000 THB or 13,000 USD). *Ms. Chitpas Kridakorn* – heir of the Bhiromphakdi family and member of the Thai House of Representatives for the Democrat Party – even came to our clinic in Bangkok to deliver the machine herself back in July.





If that wasn't enough, Giss Marketing Co. Ltd. and Gize Co. Ltd – an importer and distributor of equipment for livestock farms and vet clinics – donated over 500,000 THB (15,000 USD) worth of ultrasonography equipment and stainless steel tables to our Phuket shelter in September.

The importance of this much-needed ultrasound equipment cannot be understated. With a real-time look at the internal organs of our rescued animals, our vets are now able to detect and diagnose health issues with greater ease and potentially save many more lives as a result.

Our thanks go to the Bhiromphakdi family, to Giss Marketing Co. Ltd. and Gize Co. Ltd and to you, our supporters, who follow and donate towards our work. Your unwavering support ensures that our commitment to helping street dogs and cats goes from strength to strength.



Adoption corner: The tripawd edition

Meet the soi dogs looking for their forever homes

Vanessa Jakoby

Lamu

For the first year of his life, Lamu roamed the beaches and streets of Phuket as a stray. It wasn't much of a life, and it got even worse one day in 2018 when he met with a terrible road traffic accident. He was rushed to Soi Dog where our vets amputated his left hind leg which had been injured beyond repair.

Although Lamu has made wonderful progress and moved past his scary ordeal, he's still a little shy and unsure around new people. But with time, he shows signs of trust and comfort by asking for affection and pulling his signature move of rolling in the grass while kicking his three legs in the air!

This boy may be wary to begin with, but once you win him over, you'll see he's a total goofy sweetheart. Will you give him a chance?



Reungjai

Like Lamu, *Reungjai* was badly injured after being hit by a speeding car. As well as losing a leg, she suffered a fractured pelvis and was left doubly incontinent by the impact. She was just a few weeks old at the time.

Truly one of the most joyful dogs at the shelter, Reungjai refuses to let her awful ordeal bring her down or stop her from living her life to the fullest. In fact, her name translated to English means "high spirits"!

Although relatively small in size, Reungjai makes a big impression, and she's bound to take up your whole heart. Enquire today if you can offer this sweet girl the life she so deserves.

P.S. If you aren't in a position to adopt Reungjai, you can still do something amazing for her by becoming her sponsor **here.**



ESTIMATED AGE: 4 years

LIKES:

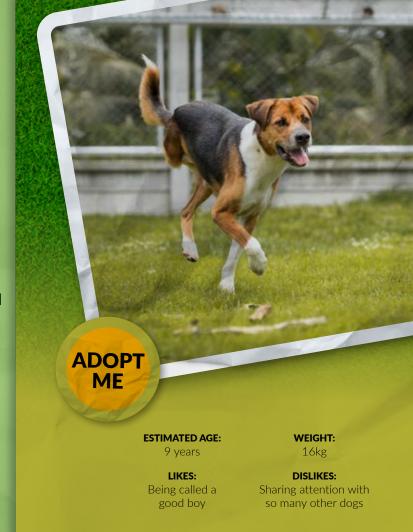
DISLIK Dund Feeling

Splashing around in water 13kg

DISLIKES:
Feeling cold

WEIGHT:





Killrain

Yet another victim of a hit and run, *Killrain* was brought to Soi Dog with damage to his hips and hind legs in 2019. Sadly, it was too late to save his right hind leg, and it was amputated as soon as he was fit enough for surgery.

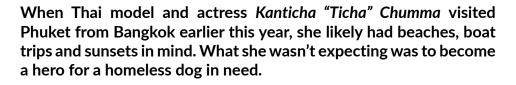
Since becoming a member of the three-legged club, Killrain has been determined to prove it's no barrier to living a fun and fulfilling life. He loves exploring the world around him on walks and playing in the off-lead area, and he can outrun his four-legged friends any day of the week!

Happy and confident by nature, this tricolour tripawd is almost always wearing a cheeky grin here at the shelter. But we know he'd be even happier in a home of his own. Will you be Killrain's reason to smile?

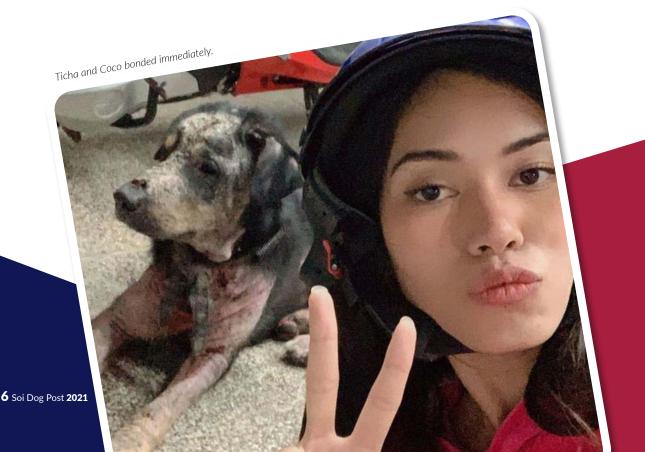
Model citizen

Thai celeb comes to the rescue of suffering street dog

Vanessa Jakoby



Ticha encountered the dog – who she named *Coco* – on the streets of Patong. Once a bustling tourist hub, Patong has sadly become something of a ghost town since the pandemic. With fewer people around to care for and report sick and injured animals, Coco had gotten in bad shape. A severe case of mange had caused huge patches of his fur to fall out, and he was constantly itching his sore skin.





Ticha spent some time with Coco, buying fresh water for him to drink and trying to feed him grilled chicken from a nearby street vendor. When it was time for her to leave, he chased after her motorbike for as long as he could. Feeling heartbroken and helpless, she took to Instagram to share Coco's story and ask for help.

"It was so dramatic. I was tearing up when he ran after us," she wrote to her 1.5 million followers. "How do I help him? I can't adopt him... With this mange skin disease, do I take him to the vet or is there a number I can call? Oh my tears are flowing. How can I help Coco?"

Ticha's followers advised her to contact Soi Dog, which she did, and we sent our community outreach team out to Patong. While searching for Coco, the team met *Boonsueb*, the owner of a souvenir shop and a feeder of the street dogs in the area. She helped our team locate Coco and even lent a hand giving him medicine and bathing him in the weeks that followed. Together, Ticha and Boonsueb helped fund Coco's care, including his neuter surgery and vaccinations.

As you can see, Coco made an incredible transformation, and he continues to be cared for by Boonsueb. Whenever Ticha returns to Phuket, she makes sure to pay the pair a visit.

Recounting her experience on her most recent visit, Ticha said, "I was tearing up as we drove away, but I promised to come find him the next day. We drove around looking for him three days in a row, but Coco never showed up.



All smiles on Patong's infamous Bangla Road.

I reached out to Soi Dog as my followers advised me to. I got a message back from them regarding helping out Coco, and they kept me updated about his condition. I was so thankful to know that he's doing well and has Boonsueb looking after him.

When I returned to Phuket, the first moment I saw Coco, I was shocked because I could hardly recognise him. His fur had grown back, and he looked so much better. When he saw me, he came over and snuggled with me. It lifted my heart to see that he never forgot us.

I'd like to say that, while we might not be able to save dogs like Coco ourselves, we can at least support organisations like Soi Dog who work to help street animals. It would be great if we all contributed a little. Small help from us added up together could make a big difference in the lives of street dogs like Coco."



Chutima Srisawang

People

With a third wave of Covid-19 hitting Thailand hard this year, we've seen near-constant curfews, restrictions and lockdowns implemented across the country. Despite this, our mobile clinic teams have continued their hard work to neuter and vaccinate as many street dogs and cats as possible, even when that means wading through lakes, clambering under buildings and sliding down hills to catch them!

In July, we got the green light to launch a new team in Surat Thani, which means the "City of Good People" in Thai. The team is the ninth of its kind and has been set up to help manage the street dog and cat populations and stem the spread of infectious diseases in what is the largest of Thailand's southern provinces.

There are currently three teams operating in the south of Thailand: one in Nakhon Si Thammarat, one in Phang Nga and now one in Surat Thani. The long-term goal is to cover the entire southern region, with a particular focus on free-roaming and feral dogs in more remote areas.

"Surat Thani is well known for its tourism. There are lots of businesses and a lot of families living there. There's also a huge number of stray dogs, so we have a lot of work to do," said *Dr. Tuntikorn Rungpattana* (*Dr. Oob*) who was recently promoted to CNVR Director – Thailand at Soi Dog.



The new mobile team was given a warm welcome by officials in the province, including the Head of the Surat Thani branch of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) and the Mayor who both paid a visit to the clinic on its first day of operation to show their support.

"I'm grateful to the DLD for collaborating with Soi Dog Foundation," said Head of the Surat Thani DLD *Mr. Daecha Jitpirom.* "We share the same goal of achieving long-term change in the stray animal issue and eliminating rabies in a humane way."

Soi Dog has worked closely with the Surat Thani DLD since 2017 when we established our first mobile clinic on Koh Samui and assisted animals displaced by severe flooding in southern Thailand in the same year.



 $\label{precomplex} \textit{Pree has come such a long way - physically, emotionally and geographically too!}$

The purpose of our mobile clinics is of course to carry out our programme of CNVR (Catch I Neuter I Vaccinate I Return). However, in the process of doing so, our teams often encounter sick and injured dogs and cats in need of treatment. As they have limited space and resources, these cases must be transferred to our shelter in Phuket.

Pree is one such case. Found by our Surat Thani team, he was suffering from a chronic skin condition, severe malnutrition, a tick-borne disease and anaemia. With barely a patch of fur left on his skinny and wounded body, he was the very picture of neglect. Pree was in need of intensive treatment, so after some initial care from the team, he was driven the three hours – or 200 kilometres – to our shelter in Phuket.

A three-hour road trip may fly by for most, but in animal rescue, it's an intense journey in which every minute counts. A vet accompanied Pree the whole way to keep a close eye on his condition and administer treatment where necessary. Fortunately, he made it safely to the shelter where he's slowly but steadily recovering.

It's only because of supporters like you that our rescue and CNVR efforts can continue to expand. As of the end of September, over 2,000 dogs and cats had been neutered and vaccinated by the Surat Thani mobile team, bringing Soi Dog's all-time total to over 615,000 – an incredible figure made possible by your incredible support. Thank you!

Faces of the Soi Dog sponsor programme

Sponsor one, save many

Amy Bryant

Aro

aka Mr Look-but-don't-touch!

Poor Aro was chased out of his territory by local residents wielding knives and threatening to poison him. Fortunately, he ran into the path of a kind Samaritan who called Soi Dog for help.

Although you'd never guess from his ear-to-ear grin and friendly disposition, Aro is highly sensitive to touch, and it takes time for him to feel fully comfortable around people. This means he needs an adopter who can get to know him and earn his trust here at the shelter before taking him home.

While Aro waits for that special someone to come along, you can do a wonderful thing for him by sponsoring his ongoing care. By doing so, you will be helping many hundreds of other shelter animals too.



Wanjeab

aka Miss Wobbles

We first heard about Wanjeab after a member of the public reported an abandoned kitten with a shaky head and a wobbly walk.

Shortly after arriving at the shelter, our vets diagnosed her with a neurological condition. They also diagnosed her with feline leukemia (FeLV) which makes her lifespan uncertain and means she will likely live out her days here at the shelter.

Fortunately, she gets to spend those days in her own special quarters in the Soi Dog offices – away from the kitties who don't quite understand her kooky movements and surrounded only by staff who shower her with love every day.

You can show Wanjeab some love too by becoming her sponsor today.



Augusta has called the Soi Dog shelter home for almost all of her life.

She arrived as a scared and sickly twomonth-old pup, and before we knew it she was the happy and healthy seven-year-old senior you see here.

Augusta has always been extremely shy by nature. However, with the help of our behaviour team over the course of many years, her confidence has grown and so has the list of humans she trusts.

Like Aro, Augusta must bond with an adopter at the shelter before she can join them in their home. But until that magical day arrives, she needs your support to continue receiving food, shelter, regular medical care and ongoing behavioural therapy.





Likes:Distracting office staff



Dislikes:

Fast movements as they make her head even wobblier!



Likes:

Walkies with her behaviourist and best friend Eve



Dislikes:

Strangers visiting her enclosure

FACTS, NOT FEAR Celebrating World Rabies Day 2021



Nayomi Gunarathna

Rabies is a killer disease that has lived among us for over 4,000 years and currently claims around 60,000 human lives a year – even more in the form of dogs, cats, raccoons, bats, cows and other mammals. While it has been eradicated in the majority of the developed world, it continues to lurk in poorer nations such as those in Africa and Asia.

World Rabies Day was inaugurated 15 years ago on September 28th to help raise awareness of the disease and enhance efforts to prevent it. September 28th is significant as it marks the anniversary of the death of renowned French chemist and microbiologist *Louis Pasteur*. Among Pasteur's many notable contributions to science was his development of a rabies vaccine which led to the first infected human being saved from the disease in 1885. The patient was a nine-year-old boy who had been mauled by a rabid dog.

Rabies is transmitted via the saliva of infected animals, usually through bites and scratches. The virus then propagates along nerve tissue from the wound to the brain and affects the entire nervous system. Symptoms can be very distressing, from uncontrollable itching around the site of infection, to paralysis of the muscles

(especially around the throat which disables the ability to swallow and drink, leading to its most common association of a fear of water), to excessive production of saliva (leading to foaming at the mouth).

While rabies can affect all mammals, the main threat to human populations comes from domestic dogs as they are the vectors who have the closest contact with us. This is one of the key reasons our relationship with dogs has been strained, particularly in developing countries.

Although rabies claims tens of thousands of lives every year and directly affects people's livelihoods, and although we have the tools to prevent it, many countries have failed to prioritise national programmes to eradicate it.



Facts, not fear

Fear, misconception and misinformation about rabies and its prevention date back hundreds of years and have undoubtedly hindered its elimination. With this in mind, the World Rabies Day theme this year was "Facts, Not Fear", with a focus on:

- 1. Fear caused by rabies, the fear people experience when encountering rabid animals and the fear that people live with in communities plagued by rabies.
- 2. Fear people may experience when infected with rabies.
- 3. Fear caused by fake news or myths about rabies making people afraid of vaccination, making people afraid to get their animals sterilised or vaccinated and making people believe in ineffective treatments for the disease.

Proper dissemination of facts about rabies is vital in raising awareness of the disease, understanding the scale of it, finding solutions to combat and, ultimately, eliminating it.

Dogs - the problem and the solution

When fear conquers facts, innocent animals across the world face immense cruelty as a result. For example, the inhumane and ineffective widespread culling of dogs continues to be used as a "solution" to their overpopulation and in the hopes of evading rabies.

Here in Thailand just a few years ago, thousands of dogs were rounded up in response to an exaggerated rabies scare. While the dogs weren't killed, they were forced to live in appalling conditions and very soon started dying of starvation and of diseases like distemper spread by overcrowding. Such dire situations could be easily avoided if pets and community dogs were vaccinated. These dogs would in fact help stem the spread of rabies through herd immunity.

This is why we are continually pursuing and expanding our CNVR programme which ensures that community dogs are not only sterilised and vaccinated but also released back into their home territory (if it is safe for them to be). Communities feel safe knowing the dogs in their area are protected, and the established presence of dogs in an area prevents new arrivals.

For information and resources about rabies and its prevention, visit **rabiesalliance.org**

RABIES: FACTS







Seasonal shopping to save lives

The only place to get your official Soi Dog merchandise

Nayomi Gunarathna

After a difficult few months, we know you're looking for reasons to celebrate, and this festive season is bound to be a cracker.

We've spruced up our merchandise store, and we're ready to take your orders today and help you to spread seasonal cheer all across the world.

Visit our store *here* and start adding exclusive Soi Dog-themed items to your basket today. Spoil your friends and family and give back to the street dogs and cats at the same time.

Choose from a vast array of clothing and accessories, from scarves and beanies to keep you warm, umbrellas to keep you dry, hoodies to match the colour of the season, pretty mugs to sip that Christmas brew from, travel essentials for your perfect getaway and even items for your pets – our store's got something for anyone, anywhere!

We also offer virtual gifts which come directly to the Soi Dog shelter and are put straight to use. You can even have a personalised certificate sent to your loved one to let them know you've donated a gift in their name and made a difference to the life of a homeless animal in the season of giving.

The possibilities are (almost) endless, and with items carrying the desirable Soi Dog logo, and 100% of money raised from every purchase going directly towards saving the dogs and cats of Asia, not only are you raising much-needed awareness of Soi Dog but you are also helping towards the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of thousands of dogs and cats.

Thank you so much for your support.

Visit **shop.soidog.org** or hit the **links** in this article.

(To beat the mad rush and avoid postal delays, make sure to place your orders as soon as possible!)



In the dappled shade of one of the dog exercise areas at the sanctuary in Phuket sits the Soi Dog Foundation Wall of Remembrance. Home to some very touching dedications to lost pets and loved ones, it serves as a unique and lasting way of remembering somebody special – two, three or four-legged.

The wall overlooks a grassy exercise area frequented by Soi Dog volunteers and their daily canine companions and provides the perfect backdrop for them to take time out and indulge in moments of reflection and contemplation, to pause and read heartfelt messages amid the playful space in which shelter dogs can unleash, unwind and let loose.

Among the memorial plaques that adorn the wall are emotional reminders in many languages as well as images of special pets and people remembered, forever to hold a place as part of the fabric of the Soi Dog sanctuary. Your dedication will be in great company, with Soi Dog alumni and a message of memorial to Soi Dog co-founder *Gill Dalley* among them.



Displayed in a tranquil corner of the shelter, Wall of Remembrance plaques are a beautiful memorial for friends, family or beloved pets.



Soi dog Jonita standing proudly in front of the wall.

These symbols of remembrance are not particular to animals adopted from Soi Dog who have passed over the rainbow bridge and whose owners have chosen to mark their lives with a dedicated plaque, but for the commemoration of any loved one.

Plaques come in different sizes and are individually tailored to meet your requirements. They can be chosen for a pet you dearly miss, for a loved one you wish to honour or as a thoughtful gift for a friend or family member who may be missing that special influence in their life.

Once the design and installation of your plaque is complete, you will be sent a lovely photograph of it. And you are invited to come and view your plaque first-hand at the sanctuary, where we welcome visitors all year round.

If you like the idea of honouring a lost family member in this way, or devoting a place on the Soi Dog Wall of Remembrance to friends or family, please visit the Soi Dog online store *here* for more details.

All proceeds from the sale of plaques go directly towards Soi Dog programmes, including the rescue, rehabilitation and sheltering of stray dogs and cats in Asia.

The Search for Amy Bryant

Earlier this year, we put out a call on social media for new or gently used kongs for our **rescue dogs.** The rubber fetch/chew/puzzle toys are hugely enriching for our dogs, particularly those who live in kennels separate from other dogs. However, they aren't so easy to get your paws on here in Thailand.

We called, and boy did you answer! Within a matter of weeks, boxes of kongs in all sizes and colours of the rainbow started to arrive at the shelter from supporters across the world. Some even contained bonus donations of treats, snuffle mats and other fun toys for our dogs to enjoy.

We could wax lyrical about how thrilled our dogs were to receive their treat-filled kongs, but Jake's happy, curious face (below) says it better than we ever could!





- 2. Purchase your items, remove all packaging and price tags and pack securely in a parcel.
- 3. If you'd like confirmation when your parcel has arrived, please email info@soidog.org prior to shipping with a photo of your parcel.
- 4. Ensure that the customs declaration reads "Donated supplies for charity. Not for resale."
- 5. Ship your parcel to:

Soi Dog Foundation 167/9 Moo 4, Soi Mai Khao 10 Mai Khao, Amphur Talang Phuket 83110 Thailand

You can also donate gifts virtually via our merchandise store **here.** Our virtual gift range includes vaccines, sterilisation kits, dog treats and slip leads, and personalised certificates are available if you're purchasing the gift(s) in someone's name.

Soi Dog returns to Phuket Stray Dog Shelter

Sam McElroy

On July 28th, in collaboration with the Phuket Provincial Office of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) and a number of local volunteers, Soi Dog Foundation carried out annual vaccinations of all dogs at the Phuket Stray Dog Shelter.

As part of a monumental one-day effort, almost 750 dogs were vaccinated at the shelter – also known as the government dog pound – against six diseases, including rabies, distemper and parvovirus. Bravecto was also dispensed to around 16 dogs with severe skin problems. Weeks later, we returned to provide the tick and flea treatment to the remaining dogs.

Mr. Tawin Sawangsin, the newly instated head of the Phuket DLD, attended the vaccination drive and expressed his support for the collaborative effort being taken to improve the welfare of the dogs at the shelter.

"The team here have been doing everything they can to look after these dogs; however, when more and more dogs arrive, taking care of them all is a huge undertaking," he said. "With the help of Soi Dog and volunteers, these dogs will receive better care, and all of the work here will be more effective which the DLD is willing to support."

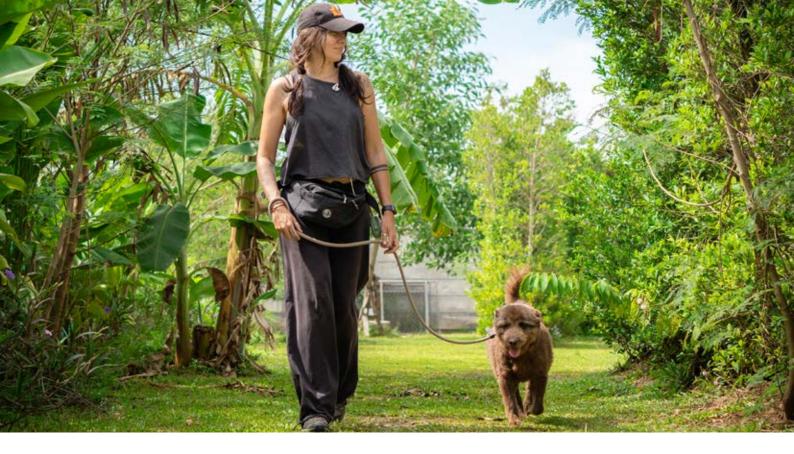




Vaccinations not only stem the spread of disease within the pound but, with the dogs fit and healthy, it also increases their chances of being adopted.

It was thanks to Mr. Tawin that Soi Dog and local volunteers were permitted to re-enter the shelter after it was closed to external assistance in January, citing Covid-19 restrictions. The vaccination drive therefore marked a positive step forward.

Our veterinary team, community outreach team and animal rescue officers have since resumed their regular work at the shelter to ensure that all dogs housed there are neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, protected against ticks and fleas and treated for any other health issues. The teams – who last year alone administered over 4,600 treatments on-site and admitted over 250 pound dogs to the Soi Dog hospital for further care – are looking forward to continuing to support the shelter for the benefit of the dogs who call it home.



SOIDOG NEEDS TO TO

Sam McElroy

Thailand is finally opening up to international

tourists. The entry protocols have been relaxed and, from November 1, for citizens of certain countries like the UK, the US and Germany, not only will it be much easier to get into the country, it will be much easier to come to Soi Dog Foundation and volunteer!

Volunteering is all about walking, playing and socializing with dogs and cats, enriching their lives and performing a vital role in preparing them for adoption.

Basically, all the fun stuff!

So if you've been before and can't wait to get back to see the dogs and cats, and spend time in the lush tropical surroundings of Northern Phuket, book your visit now!

Or, 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!





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.

Give a car, make a difference!

Nayomi Gunarathna

Last year, we announced our partnership with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services), enabling our North American supporters to make a big and bold gesture and donate their unused vehicles to Soi Dog by visiting careasy. org/nonprofit/soi-dog-foundation-usa or calling 855-500-RIDE (7433).

Well, the trend has crossed the Atlantic and is now available to our supporters in the UK! We've partnered with Giveacar in the UK so our British supporters can donate their used or even not-so-used vehicles and fundraise for Soi Dog at the same time. It's simple and hassle free.

Step 1: Get in touch with Giveacar by visiting *giveacar.co.uk/charities/soi-dog-uk-cio* or calling 020 7736 4242, selecting or mentioning Soi Dog UK CIO as your cause.

Step 2: Giveacar will arrange free collection of your vehicle from anywhere in the UK.

Depending on its condition, it will then either be auctioned or sold for scrap.

Step 3: Proceeds from either the sale or scrap metal of your vehicle will be donated by Giveacar directly to Soi Dog, and you will receive a receipt.

Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise which has partnered with over 1,800 charities and raised over four million GBP since its founding in 2010.

They accept cars, light vans, motorbikes and caravans. It doesn't matter the mileage, whether they're roadworthy or even if they've suffered an MOT failure. The Giveacar ethos is that every vehicle is worth something and that donating it is the best way to make a real difference. Remember: one man's trash could just save the life of a street dog or cat!



LEAVEA 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









